

Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia

Synopsis of evidence led *in camera* on March 4, 2021

Before the Honourable Austin Cullen, Commissioner

[1] One witness testified *in camera* on March 4, 2021 pursuant to Ruling #28, which directed that two witnesses could testify subject to cross-examination, but with special measures in place, including a direction that the evidence be heard *in camera*, and that it only be used in participants' submissions, in a synopsis released shortly after the testimony, and in the final report, "providing that in no case will any reference to the witnesses' testimony reveal any identifying information."

[2] In Ruling #28, I specifically directed that the *in camera* evidence would not be used to ground any findings of misconduct about any person. Its use would be limited to illustrating the human toll of money laundering.

[3] As it turned out only one witness was called under the direction of the special measures. The witness' testimony centred on the impacts visited on the former spouse and children of an avid gambler who became indebted to several unsavoury persons involved in making large loans, with stringent repayment terms, to needy gamblers.

[4] The witness testified that the witness and the witness' children received uncomfortable attention and were exposed to intimidating conduct from one or another of the unsavoury lenders. The witness described one of the lenders making various attempts to use the witness' assets to pay off the gambler's debts.

[5] The main focus of the evidence was that the witness and the witness' children suffered a significant emotional and financial toll over some years as a result of the arrangement between the gambler and the unsavoury lenders, and the resulting tactics used to attempt to achieve re-payment from the gambler's former spouse.