

Prince George Public Meeting Summaries

Date: November 14, 2019
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (approximately)
Venue: Ramada Plaza Prince George
Presentations: 3

Contents

- 1. Introductory Remarks 1
- 2. O.M. 1
- 3. N.V..... 1
- 4. G.L. 2
- 5. Senior Commission Counsel, Brock Martland, Q.C. 2
- 6. Ruth Atherley 2
- 7. Closing Remarks 2

1. Introductory Remarks

The Commissioner welcomed the attendees and spoke to the purpose of convening a public forum, namely, to obtain the views of representative communities about the scale and nature of money laundering throughout the province of British Columbia. He spoke to the Commission’s broad mandate, and the limitations imposed on the Commission by its terms of reference and enabling legislation. The Commissioner emphasized that an essential part of the Commission’s role is to bring attention to the role money laundering plays within British Columbia and its attendant social and economic harms.

The Commissioner noted an ancillary benefit to investigating money laundering: that a greater degree of awareness amongst British Columbians might render it more difficult to accomplish. The Commissioner remarked that the Commission is currently at the stage of reviewing studies and news reports, conducting interviews and making document requests, all of which will lead to and inform evidentiary hearings planned to take place in 2020.

2. O.M.

O.M. raised concerns that the Commission’s work will have little effect. He provided his view that enforcement agencies, both federal and provincial, subject to significant cutbacks, have and continue to fail to act in respect of money laundering. O.M. emphasized that this issue is particularly prevalent in casinos. He requested that the Commission pursue its objectives in a straightforward manner to avoid further circumvention of the law and delay.

3. N.V.

N.V. is an Insurance Advisor with the Province of British Columbia in Prince George. As someone who must take annual anti-money laundering training, he spoke to the simplicity of discovering money

laundering techniques. He noted his hope that the Commission will, in light of the whistleblowers and media exposure, take effective action against money laundering in British Columbia.

4. G.L.

G.L. requested that the Commission clarify the nature of its work.

5. Senior Commission Counsel, Brock Martland, Q.C.

Mr. Martland provided an overview of the Commission's current and planned work. He gave examples of other commissions of inquiry, including the Braidwood and Frank Paul Inquiries. Mr. Martland reiterated the Commission's commitment to transparency and openness, and its desire for continued community input.

6. Ruth Atherley

The Commission's Director of Communications, Ruth Atherley, finished the public meeting by providing examples of communications received by the Commission from concerned British Columbians. These communications consisted of information in respect of:

- a. real estate;
- b. misuse of ports of entry, including the Vancouver ports;
- c. the need to investigate provincial and federal ministries, agencies and Crown corporations;
- d. the lack of policy, due diligence and attention by certain financial institutions regarding international wire transfers;
- e. the potential for money laundering through trust accounts; and
- f. methods of payment and deposit in British Columbia casinos.

7. Closing Remarks

Mr. Martland concluded the public meeting by inviting the attendees to visit the Commission website to stay apprised of developments, submit further information and view summaries of public meetings that have taken place throughout British Columbia. He invited the attendees to approach him after the meeting with any relevant information, and thanked them for their time and interest.