



April 22, 2009

Minister John van Dongen
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9053
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

VIA FAX: (250) 356-8270

Dear Sir:

RE: Police involved death of Paul Boyd, Coroner Service and professional service investigation delays

I write to you on behalf of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association concerning the events following the police involved death of Paul Boyd in Vancouver on August 13, 2007.

In early April our office made inquiries to the Vancouver Police Department, Coroners Service of British Columbia, and the Criminal Justice Branch ("CJB") to determine what had become of Mr. Boyd's death investigation.

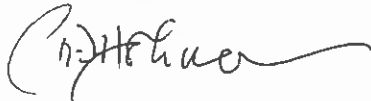
We have recently been notified by the Vancouver Police Department that their investigation file was closed in August of 2008, and that the file has been at the office of the CJB for charge assessment since then. We have contacted the CJB and been advised that no determination on criminal charges has been made to date. We have alerted your colleague, Attorney General Wally Oppal, to our concerns related to the CJB delay, and attach a copy of our letter to him, for your information and ease of reference.

In addition to the delay at the CJB, the Coroners Service has not yet determined whether or not to hold an inquest, and the Professional Standards investigation into the conduct of the involved officers pursuant to Part 9 of the *Police Act* has still not commenced.

Our office is extremely concerned about the inordinate delay in processing this file. We are particularly concerned because it appears that, given the uncertainty at the Coroners Service about whether or not to hold an inquest, that the recommendations of Commissioner Davies in the Frank Paul inquiry have not been taken to heart.

We encourage you to investigate this remarkable and continuing delay in the Coroners Service and the professional standards investigation, and to move swiftly to address this matter that threatens the confidence of the public in their police and justice system.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Holmes", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert Holmes
President

cc. Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner for British Columbia