



Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Death of Donald Dunphy

NEWS RELEASE

New Information Results in Delay of Release of Reports and Phases of Inquiry

New Information

The Commission has received new information that has been forwarded to the RCMP. The RCMP has advised the Commission that this information requires further investigation. To avoid the possibility of tainting evidence, the RCMP has requested that the Commission delay the public release of the reports that were intended to be released today. It is hoped that this will not be a lengthy delay. Further information will be provided early next week.

Phases of the Inquiry

The Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Death of Donald Dunphy will proceed in two phases:

Phase 1 - Fact Finding Phase

The first phase will be a fact finding phase focused on the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the death of Donald Dunphy. This phase will proceed as a public hearing, with witnesses being called, examined under oath by Commission counsel, and cross-examined by counsel for parties with standing. It is expected that this stage will also include expert evidence.

Phase 2 - Policy Phase

The second phase will be a policy phase. The following issues will be examined during this phase:

1. Communications to the public or media by the police following serious incidents and during active investigations.

2. The use of social media in promoting the public's right to free expression and as a tool for critiquing government policy and action.
3. The monitoring of and response to social media by Government or the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and, specifically, the potential risk of such activities having a chilling effect on freedom of expression.
4. Use of Force by police including De-escalation Techniques, particularly in dealing with persons in crisis.
5. Policies and protocols of Government or the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary with respect to the security of the Premier and Cabinet Members.

The issues to be explored in the second phase may be expanded upon following the conclusion of the fact finding phase. The format of the second phase may include presentations by experts, paper presentations, or panel discussions.

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