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## **2007-2008 Law Amendments Committee Annual Report**

### Message from the Co-Chairs

The Law Amendments Committee has experienced another very active year. The annual report will identify the work of the Committee over the past year.

We also thank the members of the LAC who are all very active members and who have supported us in the work of the Committee and in support of the CACP.

Clayton Pecknold  
Pierre-Paul Pichette

Co-Chairs  
Law Amendments Committee  
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

## **2007-2008 Law Amendments Committee Annual Report**

### **Mandate:**

To improve the laws affecting policing, exploring both legislative and non-legislative options for change.

### **Strategic Priorities/Objectives:**

- Committee profiling
- Increased participation at the Federal level in matters such as:
  - House of Commons and Senate Committee hearings
  - Collaboration with Federal, Provincial and Territorial Heads of Prosecution
  - Involvement in advisory group meetings
- Lawful access
- Disclosure
- Violence of Organized Crime
- Witness Protection Program

Concerning the interventions of LAC Committee, all members agree on the following points:

- We must stay neutral (politically)
- We must let know our position on law amendments, independently of the implied political party
- We must continue to defend our positions and choose the correct forum

### **Major Initiatives and Activities 2007-2008:**

- Continue the partnership with the Heads of Prosecutions
- Continue the involvement in Air India Commission
- Continue to follow Inter Provincial Police Jurisdiction (Bills to come)
- Keep Lawful access a top priority
- Continue to develop Bills, Briefs and Other Business, in order for members of the CACP to be able to track legal issues and positions pertinent to the CACP
- Keep policing concerns at the forefront of the decision making process on matters such as miscarriage of justice, disclosure and mega cases and organized crime.
- Continue to enhance direct member involvement in Parliamentary presentations and legislative consultations.

### **Important Dates 2007-2008:**

**August 2, 2007:** CACP Meeting concerning Air India;

**August 21, 2007:** Interviews on Court TV concerning Lawful Access and Disclosure;

**November 14, 2007:** Appearance before House of Commons Committee concerning Bill C-2;

**November 18, 2007:** Meeting with OCC and NSC concerning Air India;

**November 19, 2007:** Appearance before the Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight\*;

**November 26, 2007:** Appearance before the Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight\*;

**November 30, 2007:** Interview on CBC Radio Vancouver concerning Marking and Tracing Regulations;

**January 8, 2008:** Drafting of an article concerning Singh Case for the CACP 2007 Annual Review;

**January 25, 2008:** Meeting with Brian Saunders of PPSC;

**February 14, 2008:** Meeting with Justice Minister Nicholson;

**February 25, 2008:** Appearance before Senate Committee concerning Bill C-2;

**February 26, 2008:** Interview on CBC TV Montreal concerning Bill C-423;

**March 6, 2008:** Appearance before House of Commons Committee concerning Bill C-426;

**April 1, 2008:** Appearance before House of Commons Committee concerning Bill C-27;

**April 29, 2008:** Invitation sent to Mr Richard Wex, Assistant Deputy Minister (PSC), to attend our May Meeting;

**May 14, 2008:** Letter sent to Judge Wyant (Provincial Court of Manitoba) concerning Justice Efficiencies Committee.

\*While the evidence given by the CACP has touched on a wide range of concerns in policing, the CACP focussed his final submissions on two key points:

1. The changing nature of crime and the necessity for parallel legal changes at all levels.
2. The fact that before every mega-trial there is a mega-investigation.

In order to implement and give effect to these points, the CACP also submitted that the Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. The need for a Centre or Institute to systematically study mega-trials, mega-investigations, and related aspects of the criminal justice system.
2. The need for an enhanced pre-trial relationship between the Crown and police.
3. The need for greater security surrounding all aspects of mega-trials and investigations, but especially as it relates to witnesses.
4. The need for reforms to the law of disclosure.
5. The need for enhanced case management during mega-trials.
6. The need for legislation in the area of lawful access.

### **Dates/Overview of Meetings 2007-2008:**

The Law Amendments Committee met four times, in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. The Toronto meeting was a joint meeting with the Organized Crime Committee members.

The Co-Chairs of the LAC also attended the CACP Strategic Session on January 2008.

### **Main meetings:**

November 8-9, 2007 – Ottawa

January 17-18, 2008 – Montreal

May 26-28, 2008 – Toronto (Joint meeting with OCC members)

August 24-25, 2008 – Montreal

### **Next meeting to come:**

October 22-23, 2008 – Quebec City