

BACKGROUNDER

Milgaard Inquiry to date

August 15, 2005

General

- The Commission was established by the Minister of Justice on February 20, 2004. The Honourable Justice Edward P. MacCallum of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench was appointed as Commissioner.
- The public hearing of the Commission began on January 17, 2005. At that time, the Commissioner set 108 hearing days. Ten parties were granted full standing before the Commission, 8 of which received funding.
- On March 7, 2005, two additional parties applied for standing and both were granted by the Commissioner. Of those parties, one applied for and received funding.
- Currently, 12 parties have standing before the Commission and 9 of those parties receive funding.
- As of close of hearings on June 16, 2005, the Commission heard evidence from 74 witnesses over 53 hearing days, producing a 10,843 page transcript of proceedings.
- On August 15, 2005, the Commission announced the addition of 32 days to the public hearing schedule to accommodate the remaining 60 or more witnesses who have yet to testify.
- The Commission expects the public hearing to run for 137 days and to hear testimony from nearly 140 witnesses.

Documents

- The Commission received over 54,000 paper documents (325,000 pages) from parties with standing. Each piece of paper was scanned and coded by Commission staff and a searchable electronic document database was developed.
- Within the document database, over 9,000 names are mentioned in relation to the Milgaard matter. From this, the Commission developed a list of approximately 335 potential witnesses. In July 2005, the witness list was narrowed to approximately 140 potential witnesses. To date, the Commission has interviewed well over 200 people.

Budget

- The government initially allocated \$2 million in funding to the Milgaard Inquiry based on certain assumptions surrounding the number of funded parties, approximate start date, number of hearing days, etc. Over time, the Commission has been able to better define the scope of work, the schedule, and the relative participation of funded parties in order to more accurately estimate the level of spending.
- To date, the Government of Saskatchewan has provided the Commission with \$4.7 million in funding. As of July 2005, the Commission has spent just over \$4 million.
- It is difficult to provide a precise estimate of future costs, however, the Commission is currently forecasting total expenditures of \$7.7 million. The distribution of costs follows:

Counsel fees and disbursements	75 %
Other contracts	8 %
Hearing room expenses	7 %
Travel expenses	5 %
Office expenses	3 %
Staff salaries	2 %