

August 4, 2015

Ms. Erin Breen
Simmonds +Partners Defence
Suite 300,
233 Duckworth Street
St. John's, NL A1C 1G8

Dear Ms. Breen:

RE: Police shooting death of Mr. Donald Dunphy, Mitchell's Brook, NL

Thank you for your letter of June 19, 2015

Please be assured that your concerns relating to this investigation are taken seriously by me and my colleague, the Hon. Darin King, Minister of Justice and Public Safety. We would, however, reiterate that in our respective Ministerial roles it would be improper for us to directly intervene in an ongoing police investigation. Having said that, and having regard to the gravity of the comments expressed by you and your client, we asked our Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General, Paul Noble, QC to broach these matters with the Commanding Officer and Criminal Operations Officer at the RCMP.

Mr. Noble as you may know has extensive knowledge of police investigation techniques and methodologies and, like yourself, appeared as Counsel before the Lamer Inquiry. He has reported back to us that he is satisfied with the explanation received from the RCMP concerning the manner in which investigators have dealt with the eyeglasses and the bullet. And, with all due respect to your views, he also disagrees with your earlier characterization that the investigation is being tainted by tunnel vision.

I appreciate my reply may come as a disappointment to you. However, I would ask that you reconsider your views at least as it relates to the role of retired Justice Riche. I encourage you and your client to meet with him to discuss and document your concerns and perceptions.

Again, I appreciate you taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

FELIX COLLINS
Attorney General

cc. Hon. Darin King
Minister of Justice and
Public Safety

Tracy Hardy
CO "B" Division