



Media Information for the Public Hearings

Purpose of the Public Hearings

- The Commission inquired into the events that led to Elizabeth Wettlaufer's offences and the surrounding conditions and circumstances that allowed those offences to occur. The Public Hearings are designed to present the results of these inquiries to the public and to give the Participants the opportunity to examine, challenge and add to these results.

Dates and Times of the Public Hearings

- The Public Hearings will take place during the weeks of June 5, 11, 18, 25, July 16, 23, 30, August 6 and September 24, 2018.
- **The first day of the Public Hearings is Tuesday, June 5, 2018.**
- Generally, the Public Hearings will run from Monday through Thursday in any given week. However, they will run on Friday June 8, 22, August 10, and may run on other Friday's.
- The hours of the Public Hearings are from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with short morning and afternoon breaks. The hearings may run later than 4:30 p.m. to accommodate witnesses and the calling of evidence.

Location

- The Public Hearings will be held in Courtroom 201 of the Elgin County Courthouse, located at 4 Wellington Street in St. Thomas, Ontario.
- Courtroom 205 will be set up as a media room, and will be equipped with a simultaneous feed of the Public Hearings and wifi.

Anticipated Witnesses

- A list of anticipated witnesses for the upcoming hearing week, will generally be posted the Friday before each hearing week, beginning Friday, June 1, 2018.

Please note that the witnesses called and the order in which they are called is subject to change without notice.

Exhibits

- Exhibits entered at the Public Hearings will be uploaded to the Inquiry website on a new webpage entitled “Exhibits.”
- Each morning of the Public Hearings, reporters will have access to USB keys containing the anticipated exhibits for the day’s proceedings. Reporters shall not make use of or refer to any exhibits unless and until they are admitted into evidence. At the end of each hearing day, reporters must permanently delete or destroy copies of exhibits that have not been entered into evidence.

Webcast

- The Public Hearings will be webcast live. Webcast recordings will remain available until the end of the Public Hearings.
- Beginning June 5, 2018, the webcast will be accessible via a link on the Inquiry homepage.
- Up to three cameras will be used in the Courtroom for webcasting – one focused on the witness, one focused on counsel, and one wide-angle shot.

Interviews

- The Commissioner, as a sitting Judge, does not give interviews. All questions are to be directed to Mark Zigler, Co-Lead Commission Counsel. Please contact Mark at: mzigler@kmlaw.ca.
- Witnesses are not to be interviewed until their testimony is completed.

Transcripts

- Transcripts of the daily proceedings will be posted on the website the following morning by 9:00 AM.
- Transcripts will be accessible via the Transcripts webpage.

Photography, Audio & Video Recording

- Photography inside the Courtroom is permitted only at the start of the Public Hearings through arrangements with Peter Rehak, the Inquiry’s Director of Communications and with the Commissioner’s leave. Thereafter, photography inside the Courtroom is only with the permission of the Commissioner.
- Photography elsewhere in the Courthouse is not permitted at any time.
- Audio and video recording is not permitted anywhere in the Courthouse, including the courtrooms.

Use of Electronic Communication Devices in the Hearing Room

- The use of electronic communication devices - all computers, personal electronic and digital devices, and all phones - is only permitted in the Hearing room in silent or vibrate mode.
- Talking on electronic communication devices is not permitted in the Courtroom while the Public Hearings are in session.

For more information please contact the Inquiry's Director of Communications, Peter Rehak at peter.rehak@longtermcareinquiry.ca or Commission Counsel, Rebecca Jones at rjones@litigate.com.