

PART 7— THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS INVESTIGATION OF POLICE-RELATED DEATHS

A. Introduction

When a police-related death occurs, two types of police investigations may result. The first is a criminal investigation, to ascertain whether a police officer's action or inaction constitutes a criminal offence. I discussed this type of investigation in Part 6 of this report.

The second type of investigation that may result from a police-related death is a professional standards investigation, to ascertain whether a police officer's action or inaction constituted a breach of a professional duty. If such a breach is established, the officer will face internal disciplinary proceedings.

A professional standards investigation happened in the Frank Paul case, which I summarized in Part 4 of this report. In the pages ahead I will examine more broadly the legislative scheme for conducting professional standards investigations, beginning with the recommendations made by then-Justice Wally Oppal in his 1994 *Policing in British Columbia* about the handling of complaints against police officers. I will then outline the role of police departments in professional standards investigations, and the oversight role of the PCC, as set out in Part 9 of the *Police Act*.