



THE SUPREME COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2 February 2010

Office of the Chief Justice
Vancouver, British Columbia

Access to Court Records

Chief Justice Robert Bauman issued this statement today:

The incidents of apparent inconsistencies between Registries of this Court in granting access to court records reported by the Times Colonist newspaper are of concern to the Court.

We are looking into these incidents. Further, we are reviewing our access policies generally with the object of consolidating and updating them and making them more easily available to members of the public.

We agree that the Court's access policies should be consistent and consistently administered across the Province, subject possibly to exceptional local circumstances. We also agree that posting these policies on the Court's website is most sensible.

Finally, we note that for some time now, the Court has already been engaged in developing policies relating to access to the digital audio recordings of proceedings in the Supreme Court and in rationalizing the policies for alerting parties to the existence and details of publication bans pronounced by the Court.

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