

**NOVEMBER 2, 2006**

## **CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY**

### **PART OF PHASE 2 – A PROPOSED ACTION RESEARCH AGENDA**

#### **CIRCULATED FOR CONSULTATION**

The Advisory Panel has conducted a series of informal and productive meetings with parties and interested people in Cornwall about several aspects of Phase 2. The Commissioner, Normand Glaude, has now received preliminary advice from his Advisory Panel about initial Phase 2 research in part, based on this consultation and on the views of the Advisory Panel. The next step is to give both parties and the public information on the part of Phase 2 that includes initial action-oriented research and to ask for comments. Specifically, it is time to talk about:

- The overall approach to the Phase 2 research agenda;
- Specific ideas that are currently being considered.

These activities in Phase 2 are only one part of building the right environment for healing. There are many other activities and relationships to build, but some of these proposed activities can be a significant part of the larger picture.

#### **OVERALL APPROACH**

There are many possible research areas or activities, so to set priorities we need to have key criteria. The key questions for deciding on what research activities to undertake in Phase 2 are all based on the desire to have a real impact on people's lives. That is the kind of activity people have said is needed. The questions used to set research priorities are:

1. Is the action practical and likely to help people who have been affected by childhood sexual abuse?
2. Will the action increase understanding of the impact of child sexual abuse?
3. Will the action provide tools to prevent childhood sexual abuse?
4. Will the action provide tools to help families and professionals help children who experience sexual abuse?
5. Will the action provide tools for professionals and friends and family in helping those with a history of childhood sexual abuse?

6. Will the action help people in Cornwall to be involved in the right solutions for their own community?
7. Will the actions be of value to other communities who may be looking to Cornwall for a positive example of how to do things in future?
8. Will the actions give the Inquiry the kind of information it needs to make excellent workable recommendations for the future?

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

Just asking – and answering – these questions is not enough. This is because part of the approach that has to be taken is to ask the people in the Cornwall community about the best way to go ahead with Phase 2 – what would work or not work, what is necessary for success, or what is going to prevent success.

Processes so far have involved:

- Conducting a series of meetings with everyone who cares about what should happen in Cornwall in the future – those who want help, and those who want to give help;
- Listening to what is said and try to design processes which work for as many people as possible, avoiding “one size fits all”;
- In addition, because the discussions and actions in Cornwall could be an inspiration for other communities, thinking about building ways of bringing professionals, parents and community leaders to Cornwall to benefit as well;
- Taking additional time for consultation with people in Cornwall on this and other pieces of Phase 2 – and then taking practical action.

Meetings to date helped the Panel think through their approach to better match the needs expressed, and to adopt many exciting ideas in the action research envelope. The Panel hopes to build on these ideas over time.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF ACTION RESEARCH</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSED PROCESS</b></p>
<p>1. Identification of promising practices from many places in healing programs for children, adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.</p> <p>Indication of differences in best practices based on age and sex or other factors.</p>	<p>Draft summary of promising practices paper will be posted to the website and circulated to all parties.</p> <p>Final paper, improved by comments, will be posted to the website and published in edited or complete form in the Inquiry’s papers.</p>

<p align="center"><b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF ACTION RESEARCH</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PROPOSED PROCESS</b></p>
<p>Identification of best practices in supporting staff in various institutions who deal with child sexual abuse and historical childhood sexual abuse in their professional capacity.</p>	<p>If there is public interest, there will be a public workshop or series of workshops to present ideas and to engage in professional and community discussion. These would include good examples in the Cornwall community itself.</p>
<p>2. Identification of promising practices from many places in treating perpetrators or in ensuring there is no re-offending.</p>	<p>Draft summary of the promising practices paper will be posted to the website and circulated to all parties.</p> <p>Final paper, improved by comments, will be posted to the website and published in edited or complete form in the Inquiry's papers.</p> <p>If there is public interest, there will be a public workshop or series of workshops to present ideas and to engage in professional and community discussion.</p>
<p>3. Compile recommendations of other Inquiries, inquests or specialized reports in respect of child sexual abuse and institutional response.</p> <p>Identify recommendations that were implemented or partially implemented and those that have apparently not been implemented.</p> <p>If any public reason has been given for declining to follow a recommendation, identify this.</p> <p>Where possible, indicate outcomes of implementation.</p>	<p>A workshop of interested professionals would be held regarding the progress and failures of past recommendations and to debate whether certain recommendations that are not implemented should still be implemented.</p> <p>Themes for Workshops: What has improved and what remains to be done? Why are we not making progress? What are the areas where progress has been made? Are there ways to re-think old recommendations so they can work?</p> <p>Draft paper will be circulated to parties and posted on the website.</p> <p>Parties and public may make comments on draft paper. Summaries of comments will be provided to researcher and posted on website.</p> <p>Final paper will be posted to the website and the paper published in summarized or complete form in the Inquiry's papers.</p>
<p>4. Cornwall needs assessment in respect to addressing child sexual abuse and adult survivors. Could include key demographic, social and economic indices and a social profile</p>	<p>Key community agencies and groups and representation of the City of Cornwall will be asked for their views. This will only proceed if there is</p>

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<p>using, where available, existing material.</p> <p>Assessment may test awareness and attitudes as well as needs.</p> <p>Work will include quantitative and qualitative assessment tools, including interviews with community leaders.</p> <p>While both girls and boys and men and women will be addressed, there should be elements that focus on boys and men.</p> <p>Assessment should include needs of families and professionals and institutions in the community.</p> <p>Assessment will also deal with the needs of alleged and convicted perpetrators and their families.</p>	<p>support and involvement from the community.</p> <p>An important part of the process is to engage the people of Cornwall in solutions for Cornwall. Consideration will be given to forming a community group or working with existing groups to give advice to ensure Cornwall perspectives.</p> <p>Ideas for process will be first posted to the website and circulated for discussion.</p> <p>Facilitated discussions will be held with various groups in Cornwall and – depending on response – groups may be combined.</p> <p>Elements of assessment will be posted on the web as and if developed (e.g. questionnaires).</p> <p>The draft assessment will be posted to the website and circulated to parties.</p> <p>Community meetings will be held to present results or could be presented in smaller working group.</p> <p>The final paper will be summarized and included in the Inquiry’s report papers.</p>
<p>5. Support for people who are survivors who want to help survivors, and support for professionals who work in the difficult and sensitive area of child sexual abuse and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.</p>	<p>A pilot mentorship training program for about 10-15 individuals who feel ready to mentor someone else who has experienced sexual abuse. Professionally run and coordinated, this activity can allow those “who have been there” to safely and effectively help someone else. Follow-up will be done to see how those who attended benefited and whether they went on to mentor someone else.</p> <p>Workshops on burnout and secondary trauma for professional staff. After the first workshop, participants will be asked to indicate how to make the workshop even better – for smaller communities, for example, or to reflect specific Cornwall issues.</p>
<p>6. Parent Workshop</p>	<p>Workshop for parents – practical tools to deal with sexual abuse and children addressing:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to create more safety and prevent abuse.</li> <li>• How to respond if your child/other relative or friend of your child discloses abuse so that harm is reduced.</li> <li>• How to help friends and family cope with childhood sexual abuse.</li> <li>• How to talk with older teens about what they can do to help those who may disclose to them.</li> <li>• Development of written reminders or tip sheets; could consider educational CD in partnership with community.</li> </ul> <p>Could include survey of what parents want to know and what they learned. Preference would be to run workshop with a community participant steering committee.</p>
<p>7. Professional Workshops: The Adult Survivor Specialist.</p>	<p>Workshops for professionals who want to gain more knowledge and understanding of addressing the needs of both male and female survivors of childhood sexual abuse, bringing in experts in the field.</p> <p>Practical approaches from those practicing in the area would be given.</p> <p>The work would include a survey on usefulness for professionals, what additions to make in future. Preference would be to run this workshop with a community participant steering committee.</p>
<p>8. Legal and ethical implications of apology or expression of regret in civil cases.</p> <p>Review of material from a variety of sources indicates that one reason apologies or expressions of regret may not occur is concern</p>	<p>Could be included in workshops on promising practices in healing programs.</p> <p>There may be a panel discussion/seminar among legal and other experts and those who want to address the impact of apologies, and those who</p>

<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF ACTION RESEARCH</b>	<b>PROPOSED PROCESS</b>
<p>regarding the consequences for civil liability.</p> <p>At the same time, it appears that in healing, timely apologies or expressions of regret are important.</p> <p>A review of the law on the connection between liability and apology could provide useful background and greater certainty.</p> <p>If there appears to be a trend in the law, or ideas for legislation changes, say what these could be.</p>	<p>want to say why they matter (or don't matter).</p> <p>Draft paper will be posted to the website and circulated to all parties.</p> <p>Parties and public may make comments on the draft paper. Summaries of comments will be provided to researchers and posted on the website.</p> <p>Final paper will be posted to the website and published in summarized or complete form in the Inquiry's papers.</p>
<p>9. Assessment review of Counselling Support at the Cornwall Public Inquiry Counselling.</p> <p>Counselling Support has a scheduled review in January 2007 to decide if it should continue past March 31, 2007 and/or be changed.</p>	<p>The views of those getting counselling and those who are providing it will be sought, as well as policy and financial review.</p> <p>Parties and members of the public will be asked for their views, the public via the website. Information about counselling (statistics, expenditures, etc.), will be provided.</p>

**YOUR VIEWS WILL MATTER. THROUGH MEETINGS AND OUR WEBSITE, WE WILL BE ASKING YOU – ARE THESE GOOD APPROACHES? WHAT ELSE? WE WILL LISTEN AND GOOD IDEAS WILL PROCEED TO GETTING DONE.**

**PLEASE RESPOND WITH COMMENTS ON WHETHER THIS RESEARCH SHOULD PROCEED AND ON ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISION BY NOVEMBER 24, 2006.**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2006**

## **CORNWALL PUBLIC INQUIRY**

### **PROCESSES & CRITERIA FOR PARTY RESEARCH – PHASE 2**

Party research can have a useful role in promoting informed discussion and analysis of policy issues and ensuring a good diversity of viewpoints. It can supplement research commissioned by the Inquiry.

Parties to the Cornwall Public Inquiry may put forward proposals for research to be conducted by parties and funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Cornwall Public Inquiry. This would be part of the Phase 2 activities of the Inquiry. Phase 2 of the Inquiry focuses on processes, services or programs that will encourage community healing and reconciliation in Cornwall.

All research that is funded under these arrangements through the Cornwall Public Inquiry will be circulated to all parties and made public in draft form through posting to the Inquiry website at [www.cornwallinquiry.ca](http://www.cornwallinquiry.ca). All parties and the public may make comments on that draft research, and a summary will be provided to the researcher. A decision to incorporate any changes in the final version of the paper is that of the researcher.

Party research proposals should:

- Relate to processes, services or programs that would encourage community healing and assist the community of Cornwall to move forward;
- Avoid duplication of research already being undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the Cornwall Public Inquiry; \*
- Not include normative conclusions or submissions.

The research proposals should include the following elements:

- Identification and description of the research to be done;
- An indication of who would undertake the research;
- An outline of research activities with deadlines;
- Cost of the research, including fees and related costs;

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\* The proposed initial research agenda under Phase 2 has already been provided to parties and the public for comment.

- Indication of any expectations related to workshops, seminars or other consultation that is contemplated; and
- Any other information regarding the proposed research that would assist in its evaluation.

**Research can include conventional reports or papers but also encompass a combination of action research and reporting. A consultative and collaborative approach is a positive factor in any research proposal under Phase 2, as is the involvement of the people in the community and people who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.**

Parties will be asked to establish that the research would not otherwise be carried out in the absence of additional support provided through the Cornwall Public Inquiry.

Research proposals will be reviewed by the Advisory Panel of the Cornwall Public Inquiry and recommendations made to the Commissioner, Normand Glaude. The Commissioner will review all proposals and the Advisory Panel's recommendations. In turn he will make recommendations to the Government of Ontario regarding funding of party research proposals. The Panel may work with parties to suggest revisions to a proposal to make it a better fit with the research needs, or to ensure adequate information.

**Deadline for party research proposals: January 9, 2007**

The current intention is to respond to proposals for party research in February 2007.

**Please provide three (3) copies of your research proposal by January 9, 2007 to:**

**Colleen Parrish  
Director of Policy  
Cornwall Public Inquiry  
709 Cotton Mill Street  
Cornwall, ON K6H 7K7**