



Fred James
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April 18, 2017

Mr. Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor – 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Wruck:

**RE: Project No. 1598907
British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Salmon River Diversion Ceasing of Operations Application**

BC Hydro writes in compliance with Commission Order No. G-49-17 to provide, as Exhibit B-2 copies of Appendix B as published in the following news publications:

Campbell River Mirror	April 5, 2017
Comox Valley Echo	April 7, 2017
Comox Valley Record	April 4, 2017
North Island Gazette	April 5, 2017
Province	April 2, 2017
Vancouver Sun	April 1, 2017
Victoria Times Colonist	April 1, 2017

For further information, please contact Geoff Higgins at 604-623-4121 or by email at bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

Yours sincerely,

Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer

af/ma

April 18, 2017
Mr. Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Salmon River Diversion Ceasing of Operations Application

Enclosure



JOCELYN DOLL/CAMPBELL RIVER MIRROR

Shirley Bond, minister of jobs, tourism and skills training, announces \$184,000 in funding for SD72 to purchase new trades equipment.

SD72 receives \$184,000 in trades equipment funding

Skilled trades students in the Campbell River School District will benefit from a three-year, \$15-million investment by the B.C. government to support youth-trades programs with the purchase of new trades-training equipment.

School District 72 is receiving \$184,201 over the next three years for the purchase of equipment including table saws, plasma table cutters and jointers.

"I believe this, that if you train people closer to where they live, they are more likely to stay there and provide you with the critical work force that you require going forward," said Shirley Bond, minister of jobs.

The Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program will see \$7.5 million dispersed during the current

school year to school districts throughout B.C. The remaining \$7.5 million will be distributed in 2017-18 (\$4 million) and 2018-19 (\$3.5 million) school years.

Over the three-year program, more than \$9 million of the total \$15-million fund will be distributed to B.C.'s 42 rural school districts.

This investment in rural communities supports the recently announced "Building on our Rural Advantages: B.C.'s Rural Economic Development Strategy."

The strategy outlines the Province's long-term vision to ensure British Columbians in all regions have the opportunity for well-paying jobs and a high quality of life in their community.

The Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program is designed to increase participa-

tion and successful completion of youth trades programs and the number of students that continue on to further trades-training programs, ensure school districts have safe and appropriate modern trades equipment to support the delivery of trades-training programs, and gain a better understanding of current inventory and future need for youth trades equipment in each district.

More details on the funding are available online at campbell-rivermirror.com

WOOD STOVES & INSERTS

WOOD STOVES
Phone 830-WOOD (9663)
151 Dogwood, Campbell River

Public Notice



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- Register as an interested party
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WHAT'S ON In the Comox Valley

7 FRIDAY

EVERGREEN CLUB FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE • Try something new instead of staying home on a Friday night! You will not be disappointed with the live music from Double Play. Always a fan favorite! Dancing is from 7:30pm to 10:30 pm with our usual coffee and cookie break at 9pm. Dance takes place at Courtenay Recreation's Florence

Filberg Centre downstairs in the Rotary Hall. Evergreen members are just \$7 at the door and non-members are \$9. FMI call the Filberg Office at 250-338-1000.

FIDDLE FEST • Friday night, April 7th, Toronto's Andrew Collins Trio, (fiddle, bluegrass, folk, swing) will kick off FiddleFest at the Big Yellow Merville hall. \$15.00 adult/ \$10.00 youth. Tix at the door; Long & McQuade; Blue Heron Books. Saturday, April 8th, from 10:30am to 2:30pm, FiddleFest musical workshops in fiddle, guitar, mandolin, \$5.00 each at Big Yellow Merville hall.

COMOX LEGION DROP IN DARTS • Fridays 7.30 toe line.

COURTENAY LEGION • Meat draws every Friday, 5-7 pm.

COMOX LEGION • Meat draws every Friday, 2 p.m. Open to all Legion members and signed in guests.

8 SATURDAY

BLACK CREEK COMMUNITY CENTRE'S ANNUAL WOODLAND EGG HUNT • Saturday April 8th, between 12 noon and 2:00pm; Black Creek Community Centre, 2001 Black Creek Road, Black Creek. Entry by donation with proceeds supporting the Black Creek Community Association. Additional parking at the Black Creek Community Church. For more information, to volunteer or donate visit Facebook "Black Creek Woodland Egg Hunt 2017" or call the BCCA Office 250.337.5190 www.blackcreek-cc.com

EASTERN STAR FASHION SHOW • Saturday, April 8, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Evergreen Seniors Lounge, Filberg Centre, Courtenay. Sandwiches, dessert, tea or coffee. Door prizes, fashions by Sharon-on's on Fifth St, fun, strawberry shortcake. Tic kets \$12 each. Sponsored by Courtenay Star Charitable Society (Florence Chapter No. 53, O.E.S.)

CONTRA DANCE • Saturday, April 8th, 7:30pm, Contra dance with Andrew Collins Trio and the Funtime Fiddlers at the Big Yellow Merville hall. Adults are \$10.00 and youth are \$5.00. FMI: seabankmars@shaw.ca.

BIKE SAFETY RALLY • Saturday, April 08, 2017 There will be a Bike Rally to promote Bike Safety in honour of Paul Bally: Drive Safe, Ride Safe. It will start at the Fanny Bay Hall at 3pm where we will ride South to Paul Bally's Road Side Memorial, turn around and head North to City Hall in Courtenay. There is a 2nd departure location at Royston for those who prefer a shorter ride. At City Hall there will be snacks and a collection box for the Bike Coalition to go towards Bike Safety. Speeches about Paul and Bike Safety are planned to start around 4:30, once participants have arrived. Please join us to promote Bike Safety, contact Dominique on Face Book: Ride for Paul Bally, ph# 250 890 9330 or email: mcgrady@shaw.ca

STUDIO/GALLERY OPEN HOUSE • Artist Judi Pedder. Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, 317 Torrence Road, Comox. 250-339-7081 www.judipedder.com

9 SUNDAY

AMIGOS AT THE MEX PUB ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS • Gord Kruger and his Amigos are switching days. Starting this Sunday, April 2 the guys will be in The Mex Pub every Sunday from 2pm 'till 6pm for you dancing and listening pleasure. The Amigos appreciate your past Saturday afternoon support and invite you and your friends to now join them on Sundays for the same great afternoon. The band will offer dance music with a great mix of country, rock and pop hits of years gone by which will include many of your old favorites. The Mex Pub offers a great dance floor along with a superb beverage and food menu. Join your friends at The Mex for a great Sunday Afternoon.

10 MONDAY

CUMBERLAND FOREST AGM • April 10th. Please join us for the 2016 AGM of the

Cumberland Community Forest Society on Monday April 10th, 2017 at 7 pm at Riders Pizza at 2738 Dunsmuir Ave in Cumberland. We'll have an update on the past year and the exciting path ahead, board elections, donor recognition and more. All welcome.

CRIBBAGE • Every Monday night, 7:00, at the Royston Hall, corner of Old Island Highway and Royston Road.

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LADIES AUXILIARY DROP-IN BINGO • Comox Legion Ladies Auxiliary Drop-in Bingo, upper hall. Doors open 6 pm, bingo 7 p.m. All money goes to charities. Free coffee and tea.

11 TUESDAY

"THE PROMISE OF PARADISE, UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA" • Lecture and book signing with author Andrew Scott. Presentation begins 7pm at the Courtenay and District Museum. Tickets \$6 (plus GST). Advance tickets recommended. FMI and to purchase tickets: 250-334-0686 ext. 5.

COMOX VALLEY GENEALOGY GROUP • Meets on April 11th, 2017 at 7p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1901 20th St. Courtenay. Researching your ancestors...join our group and we can help with tips and locations and web sites to search. Everyone Welcome. FMI..Marlene 250-334-3080

COMOX VALLEY WOOD CARVERS • If you are interested in any type of wood carving please join us at the Royston Community Hall every Tuesday from 9:30 AM to 3 PM for a day of carving and learning about carving. No experience necessary. FMI call Al at 250-331-0156 or Jim at 250-339-5350.

12 WEDNESDAY

TOASTMASTERS • Develop your communication and Leadership skills for greater self confidence and personal growth. Visit Comox Valley Toastmasters at Lewis Centre (Lewis Park) on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00. For further information, contact Angela Kroemer at 250-650-4182.

CENTERING PRAYER • St. John the Divine is pleased to announce they will be offering Centering Prayer on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm. All are welcome. St John the Divine Anglican Church is located at 579 5th street in Courtenay. Please enter through the main church doors facing Harmston.

DROP-IN MEDITATION • For beginners or seasoned meditators. Every Wednesday evening Lucas leads a meditation based on Self-Inquiry "Who am I". 7pm to 8pm, at the Tibetan Centre 407A 5th Street at England in Courtenay (in Basement of Rawthentic Eatery). Fees based on \$\$ donation, split between the Food Bank and the Tibetan Centre. Info call Lucas at 250 792 3165, Everyone welcome.

14 THURSDAY

THERAPEUTIC RELAXATION PROGRAM FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING CHRONIC PAIN OR ILLNESS • Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., Nursing Centre, 615 10th St. Free. Sponsored by the Nursing Centre. FMI: Carolyn Howard. Pacific Therapy and Consulting, 250-338-2700.



British Columbia
Utilities Commission

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3L: Development company previously set up gates to block traffic flow to Stotan Falls

Continued from Page A1

The district was ordered to consider 3L's application in a "manner consistent with the mandatory process" set out in the RGS.

The CVRD then filed an appeal with the BC Court of Appeal, but lost.

The RGS establishes that 90 per cent of future growth in the Valley be directed to core areas

(Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland), Settlement Expansion Areas adjacent to municipalities, and three settlement nodes of Mount Washington, Saratoga Miracle Beach and Union Bay. The remaining 10 per cent is for rural areas. 3L lands are mostly rural with a small corner located in an SEA.

The Court of Appeal directed the CVRD to set up a committee

to review 3L's application, and to prepare a report on whether the application is a minor or standard amendment to the RGS.

The CVRD board would then need to decide whether or not to approve proceeding with the application to amend the RGS.

The district says 3L has, on at least two occasions, indicated it is reviewing its options but is not ready for its application to be

reviewed by the board.

In an email, 3L said this is not accurate.

In 2013, the CVRD board rejected an offer from 3L to purchase the property for \$9 million, saying the proposal is not in sync with the RGS.

The rejection prompted 3L to enforce "No Trespassing" signs and temporarily block traffic flow on Comox Logging Road by

closing two sets of gates on Duncan Bay Main. A Save Stotan Falls Facebook page appeared shortly thereafter, as did a protest at the falls.

"There are other roads in the area that provide access to the residents and to the recreational opportunities," said Ann MacDonald, the CVRD's general manager of planning and development services.

Capsule: Cumberland Museum helped out

Continued from Page A3

The children are instructed to leave their finds where they discovered them, so that other people can explore and discover as the group did and get inspired as well, noted Thomson.

With help from the museum, the group created a capsule in a clear, plastic container.

"Our program is child-led, so we don't tell kids what to do in our program, so in this case they had their choice of what they thought is significant (to put in)," said Thomson.

"I think it'll be a variety of things from toys, to old cards and photographs to pictures they did, to

things they use everyday at home - something that will last into the future."

The museum also had a guest visitor attend the event at the park, to speak to the children about the history of the area, and what it looked like 100 years ago. They also took a field trip to the museum to learn more, added Wilson.

"It is such a wonderful learning opportunity, connecting curiosity about the past to both the present day and the future," said Anna Rambow, Cumberland Museum and Archives outreach co-ordinator. "Perhaps we will hold a reunion in 50 years."

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Thanks for joining us on this journey.
Celebrate with us!

Come join in the fun on **Friday, April 7** from **9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** at 585 England Ave, Courtenay

Refreshments will be served.

7 DAYS & MORE DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT HAPPENING
SEND YOUR INFO TO EDITOR@COMOXVALLEYRECORD.COM
Subject Line: 7Days Maximum 75 words

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Supports boosted in rural towns

As part of the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan, the province is investing more than \$1.5 million to continue to expand and strengthen supports for those affected by domestic violence in B.C.

B.C. Housing will receive \$250,000 to help with transportation costs for women and children fleeing violence to gain access to the transition and safe houses in rural and remote areas of the province.

The Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) will receive \$350,000 to create and train

more Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs) in B.C., and to support existing ICATs with further training throughout the province. ICATs are made up of a team of front-line responders — usually with representation from police, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and community organizations — who work together to support victims in high-risk domestic violence cases.

— *Gazette Staff/B.C. gov't news release*



TYSON WHITNEY PHOTO

The Town of Port McNeill will provide the Museum with \$13,000 in taxpayer money but will not take on its bookkeeping.

PORT MCNEILL

Museum asks town to take over bookkeeping

The Port McNeill Heritage Museum also requested \$13,000 in funding

TYSON WHITNEY
reporter@northislandgazette.com

The Town of Port McNeill has declined a request from the society that operates the Port McNeill Heritage Museum (PMHM) to take over its bookkeeping.

“The museum board is concerned about rising costs and budget restrictions from ever-increasing inflation,” wrote PMHM secretary Lois Williams in a letter to town council. “As a board we try to streamline and maximize efficiency in an effort to reduce costs at every opportunity.”

The museum’s 2016 costs for payroll and bookkeeping were \$708.

The museum has also asked the town for \$13,000 in funding from the 2017 town budget.

Williams asked council to review these expenses, and “perhaps the town can see an opportunity here to make more efficient use of funds.”

“I think we have to be careful with this money that we’re handing out,” said Coun. Graham MacDonald. “I think we are moving ahead on the museum, but people need to start to recognize we can’t just keep doling money out. This budget for \$13,000, I’d like to see it go down.”

Town treasurer Dan Rodin said the museum’s budget in 2015 was \$17,000 and in 2016 it was \$11,000, so the amount tends to fluctuate yearly.

“The largest amount of the funds that go to the museum is for the staffing of it,” said Mayor Shirley Ackland. “It appears the society isn’t as robust as it should be. It looks like they need to have some members that have a vision for some marketing... We had our 50th anniversary last year and there wasn’t a huge amount of people attracted to the museum.”

Coun. Shelley Downey then spoke in defence of the society.

“This museum is not located curbside, it’s blocked by brush and there’s very little visibility,” said Downey.

She added she supports the \$13,000 request, “but this time next year there has to be more recognition of what it’s going to look like going forward.”

Rodin spoke next about the bookkeeping issue, stating the town would have to put the society on a separate payroll, which would “cost us what it’s costing them. It’s not something the town could absorb without paying for it.”

Ackland agreed, saying the town “can’t take over the bookkeeping because of the costs.”

As for the \$13,000 in funding, Rodin said it’s already been listed in the budget.

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Bombardier defends executive pay hikes after public outcry

MONTREAL – Bombardier was doing damage control Saturday in the face of an uproar over a hefty increase in compensation to senior management, but the company's explanations didn't satisfy all its critics.

Bombardier issued an open letter explaining the company's compensation policies and called it "inappropriate" to compare the 2016 compensation to that of the previous year.

Bombardier must compete with firms globally to recruit and retain talent, stated the letter from Jean Monty, head of Bombardier's human resources and compensation committee. It also contended 75 per cent of compensation for most senior Bombardier executives is based on meeting performance targets and is not guaranteed.

Compensation for the Montreal-based manufacturer's top five executives and board chairman Pierre Beaudoin was US\$32.6 million in 2016, up from US\$21.9 million the year before.

Monty's letter said pay comparisons between 2016 and 2015 are misleading because some of the executives started with Bombardier only part way through 2015.

Beaudoin though, issued a statement late Friday saying he asked the board of directors to reduce his compensation for last year to 2015 levels.

Beaudoin said he took the step because public trust is important

to Bombardier and he was also concerned the issue has become a distraction from the work employees at Bombardier are doing.

However, Beaudoin's voluntary pay cut, which Bombardier said will amount to roughly US\$1.4 million, was labelled by some critics as an insufficient measure.

"Mr. Beaudoin is member of a billionaire family that controls the company. So no, a sacrifice of a million dollars doesn't change anything," said Aaron Wudrick, the director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

The Quebec government gave Bombardier roughly US\$1 billion in 2016 while the federal government recently announced a \$372.5-million loan package for the firm's CSeries and Global 7000 aircraft programs.

A spokesman for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents some 4,500 Bombardier workers, called Beaudoin's decision "a step in the right direction."

David Chartrand said the bonuses could be seen as disrespectful to workers, especially since Bombardier is eliminating 14,500 jobs by the end of next year.

"They say that they need us to tighten our belts and need sacrifices from the employees, it's a little disrespectful to ask that from the employees when they give themselves these kinds of bonuses."

— *The Canadian Press*

Prime minister promises to make an April Fool out of Friends star

OTTAWA – The prime minister got in on the April Fools' Day spirit with a lighthearted tweet aimed at former Friends star — and Justin Trudeau classmate — Matthew Perry.

Trudeau and the actor, who played Chandler Bing on the sitcom, both attended Rockcliffe Park Public School in Ottawa.

In an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel's late night talk show last month, Perry recounted his memory of beating Trudeau up when they were students.

On April 1, Trudeau tweeted that he wouldn't mind revisiting the brawl.

"I've been giving it some thought, and you know what, who hasn't wanted to punch Chandler? How about a rematch @MatthewPerry?" he wrote.

Trudeau's principal press secre-



JUSTIN TRUDEAU

tary Gerald Butts confirmed that it was a joke after People Magazine appeared to take the prime minister's tweet seriously.

"Gotcha, @people. #poisson-davril," Butts tweeted about the People article on Trudeau's tweet on the magazine's website, which made no mention of April Fools' Day.

— *The Canadian Press*

B.C. Hells Angel gets 18 years in cocaine plot

Sentence is longest ever in province for member of notorious biker gang

KIM BOLAN

Longtime Hells Angel David Giles was sentenced to 18 years Friday — the longest ever handed out to a B.C. member of the notorious biker gang — for his leading role in a conspiracy to smuggle half a tonne of cocaine into B.C. almost five years ago.

Giles, 66 and in ill health, breathed heavily in the prisoner's box as B.C. Supreme Court Justice Carol Ross read out her reasons.

"Considering the nature of this transaction, the quantity of drugs involved, the intention for it to be an ongoing venture, Mr. Giles' role and Mr. Giles' personal circumstances, I have concluded that the fit sentence is 18 years," Ross said.

She gave Giles almost seven years credit for his time in pre-trial custody, for a net jail term of 11 years, one month.

Giles was convicted last fall of conspiracy to import cocaine,

conspiracy to traffic and possession for the purpose of trafficking after he and associate Kevin Van Kalkeren brokered a 2012 smuggling deal with police posing as South American drug lords.

Van Kalkeren pleaded guilty on the eve of his trial last year and got a 16-year sentence.

After months of negotiating and a \$4-million down payment, 200 kilograms of purported cocaine were delivered to a Burnaby warehouse on Aug. 25, 2012. Police swooped in, arrested Giles, Van Kalkeren and six others.

Giles' lawyer Paul Gill had argued for a lower term because his client is critically ill with liver disease and needs a transplant.

And he said Van Kalkeren was the real leader of the conspiracy, putting up all the cash and introducing Giles to the undercover cops.

At one point he told the police that Giles was "the worldwide president of the Hells Angels" —

a position that doesn't exist, Ross said.

While Ross agreed that Giles' health had to be considered, she rejected the argument that he was subservient to Van Kalkeren while making arrangements for the massive drug shipment.

"Once Mr. Giles was recruited to the conspiracy, he acted as Mr. Van Kalkeren's equal partner and was treated by Mr. Van Kalkeren as such," Ross said.

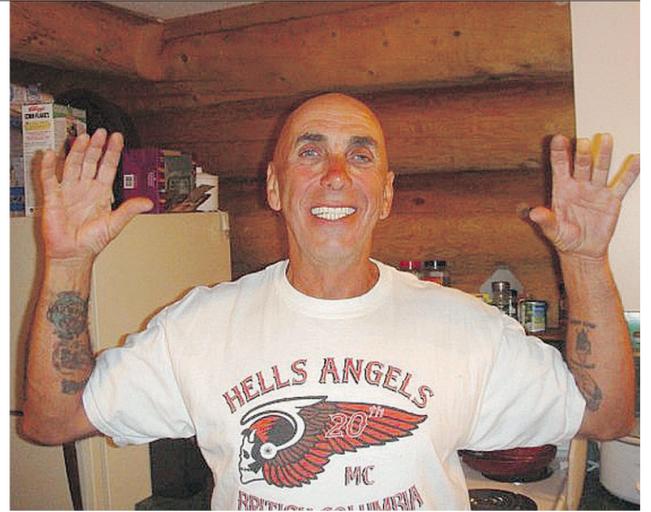
And Giles, who was vice-president of the Hells Angels Kelowna chapter at the time, "said his target was to take 500 kilos every three months," Ross noted.

"Mr. Giles repeatedly refers to his market, his buyers, his plans for the distribution of the cocaine."

Prosecutor Chris Greenwood had argued for a term of between 18 and 20 years for the frail, balding angel.

He said it was clear from what Giles said in intercepted conversations that he had been a major player in the drug trade for years.

Ross said some of Giles' comments were no doubt boasts to impress the undercover police. But she said the quantity of co-



Longtime Hells Angel David Giles, sentenced to 18 years in prison on Friday, is critically ill and needs a liver transplant. SUBMITTED

caine in the deal means "this was a conspiracy at the upper echelons of the drug trade."

Ross noted Giles' tough early life — born in Saint John, N.B., to an alcoholic mother who died early. He finished Grade 5 and was then "committed to a reformatory that has become notorious for abuse."

He went on to foster care and a life of crime, though his last conviction was in 1984 for trafficking.

He was acquitted after another major undercover police investigation in B.C. more than a decade ago.

Before Friday, the longest sentences handed to any B.C. Hells Angels were 15-year terms to Norm Cocks and Rob Thomas in 2014 for manslaughter in the 2011 beating

death of Kelowna resident Dain Phillips.

Also sentenced Friday was Shawn Womacks, convicted of possession for the purpose of trafficking after helping unload the cocaine on Aug. 25, 2012.

Ross said an appropriate sentence for Womacks was six years, given that he was only hired as labour and had struggled with addiction for years.

She said Womacks, 45, had offered "sincere expressions of remorse." And she said his criminal history, including an earlier trafficking conviction, all had their "genesis in his addiction."

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Public Notice



British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority – Salmon River Diversion Ceasing of Operations

On March 7, 2017, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority filed an application for permission to permanently cease operation at the Salmon River Dam Diversion facility located on Vancouver Island (Salmon River Diversion or Diversion). The proposed scope of the project includes removal of the timber-crib diversion dam, all mechanical equipment at the headworks, mechanical equipment at the downstream fish screen, the Patterson Creek flume portion of the canal and restoration and remediation work all as set out in the Application. The Salmon River Diversion was built in 1957–1958 and is located in central Vancouver Island approximately 30 km west of Campbell River. The Diversion begins approximately at the point where the Salmon River changes from a north-easterly to north-westerly direction. The Diversion redirects a portion of the water flow from the Salmon River through an approximately 3 km long concrete-lined canal to an unnamed pond. The water flow continues through an improved natural channel that leads from the pond to Brewster Lake. From Brewster Lake the water flow enters the Lower Campbell Reservoir where it is used to augment generation at the Ladore and John Hart generating stations.

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Next steps

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Get more information

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If you would like to review the material in hard copy, or if you have any other inquiries, please contact the Commission at the following contact information:

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Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Phone: 604 660 4700
Toll Free: 1 800 663 1385

Minister's husband not criminally responsible for attack

The Canadian Press

HALIFAX — The husband of Nova Scotia's immigration minister is undergoing a 45-day psychiatric assessment after being declared not criminally responsible for allegedly assaulting, threatening and choking his wife on New Year's Eve.

Chris Hansen of the Public Prosecution Service said Friday that Maroun Diab was deemed not criminally responsible after undergoing a psychiatric evaluation.

The results of the assessment will be provided to the Criminal Review Board, which will decide how to proceed, she said.

Diab had been released on a series of conditions in January, including one prohibiting him from having any contact with his wife, Lena Diab, and two other people. His lawyer, Mark Knox, said at the time that he was later admitted to hospital under the province's Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act.

He also faced two counts of threatening two other people.

Halifax police said he was arrested early New Year's Day after they received a call shortly before midnight from the Diab's home near Mount Saint Vincent University.

Lena Diab later described the incident as a "very tragic, sad, private and personal matter," and thanked the community for supporting her family.

Lena Diab, a lawyer and business owner, was appointed Nova Scotia's first female justice minister after winning office in October 2013, and was named to the immigration portfolio in 2015.

Under the Criminal Code, someone found not criminally responsible could receive an absolute discharge, a conditional discharge or be kept in hospital.



Owen Ross Gibson-Skeir, left, is escorted from provincial court in Halifax Friday. ANDREW VAUGHAN, THE CANADIAN PRESS

'As low as humanity gets'

Man gets 7 years for pimping out, sexually assaulting 14-year-old

MICHAEL MacDONALD
The Canadian Press

HALIFAX — His name was Owen, but he called himself Staxx — street-slang for a pile of money.

She was 14 when she met him online, at a vulnerable time in her life, and they talked regularly through Instagram and Snapchat. Eventually, the 20-year-old took her to meet his parents in East Preston, N.S.

Not long after, however, the sexual assaults, threats, violence and prostitution started.

In Halifax provincial court Friday, Owen Ross Gibson-Skeir, now 21, was sentenced to seven years in prison.

He was arrested a year ago and pleaded guilty in December to three charges — two counts related to human trafficking and one count of sexual assault.

"There is nothing more heinous, more offensive and degrading than the selling of children for sexual services," Crown attorney Catherine Cogswell told court. "That's as low as humanity gets."

When Gibson-Skeir was charged, an investigator in Halifax said it had been decades since

such a young victim of prostitution had come forward to seek help from police.

"Human trafficking is a combination of physical and emotional torture," Cogswell told the court. "How does a person recover from being bought and sold and emotionally, physically and sexually tortured? I'm not sure."

Gibson-Skeir declined to say anything when asked if he would like to address the court.

The young victim met Gibson-Skeir in late 2015, and by January of 2016 he was her pimp, the Crown attorney told court Friday.

For two months, the girl was forced into the sex trade by a man who described himself as a member of the Blood gang in East Preston, a half-hour drive east of Halifax, Cogswell said.

Gibson-Skeir took explicit photos of the girl, posted them on a website and arranged all of her liaisons — mostly at hotels and an apartment.

He took all of the money she earned, and she took to stealing food and clothing.

To keep her in line, he slapped her face, pulled her hair, slammed her against a refrigerator and

choked her so forcefully that it left his handprint on her throat, the Crown lawyer said.

As for the men the girl had sex with, they would often ask how old she was. "No one did anything about it," Cogswell said.

At one point, the girl was injured in a car accident, and hospital staff noticed she had been cutting herself. She was kept there for six days.

Her family tried to intervene, but she returned to East Preston with a cast on her arm.

Gibson-Skeir told her she couldn't make any money like that, so the cast was pulled off.

The pain he caused that day marked a turning point for the girl, court heard. She returned home and the police were called.

But her ordeal wasn't over. "He became increasingly violent in his messages to her," Cogswell said, quoting from one text message that read: "You need to come back to your daddy."

When that didn't work, Gibson-Skeir demanded a \$10,000 exit fee, and he threatened the girl's parents by sending a picture of himself holding a handgun.

Judge Claudine MacDonald told the court the accused would

have received a longer sentence had he not pleaded guilty to the most serious charges.

Outside court, Cogswell said the conviction and sentencing was a first for Nova Scotia under the federal human trafficking law introduced by the previous Conservative government in 2014. That version of Canada's law on prostitution includes a mandatory-minimum sentence of five years for those convicted of prostituting anyone under 18.

Court heard he had a rough upbringing before he was sent to a foster home. The Crown said he started smoking marijuana and hanging out with men in their 20s when he was 12 years old. His criminal record includes 59 convictions as a young offender and an adult, including robbery and firearms offences.

His sentence was reduced to five years and six months to account for pre-trial custody.

On Dec. 21, 2016, the day he pleaded guilty to his crimes, Gibson-Skeir looked toward the victim as he was leaving the courtroom and made a gesture as if he was firing a gun in her direction.

He was later charged with uttering threats and intimidating justice officials, but those charges have yet to be dealt with in court.



Jayme Pasieka stabbed two men to death and gravely injured four others at a Loblaw grocery warehouse in 2014. EDMONTON POLICE, CP

No parole for 25 years for Edmonton warehouse killer

'Why did you have to stab him so many times?' the daughter of one victim asks

The Canadian Press

EDMONTON — The daughter of one of two men stabbed to death in a grocery warehouse confronted her father's killer Friday before he was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

Patricia Harris made a point of staring directly at Jayme Pasieka as she shared her rage and sadness in an Edmonton courtroom.

"I cannot understand why you murdered my father," she said in a loud and confident voice as she read her victim impact statement.

"Why did you have to stab him so many times? He was in so much pain. He was already bleeding out so much after eight, nine, 10 stab wounds from your Grim Reaper blades."

Pasieka, who suffers from schizophrenia, attacked and killed Fitzroy Harris, 50, and Thierno Bah, 41, at a Loblaw grocery warehouse where they all worked on Feb. 28, 2014. Four others were badly injured.

A jury this month found him guilty of first-degree murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Before the sentence was handed down, court heard from some of the victims' relatives.

Harris was asked to edit her statement before she gave it. Outside court, she said she removed parts in which she compared Pasieka to Satan.

Kiara Harris, 9, said her grandfather was a nice man who didn't deserve to die.

"Ever since my papa died there has always been an empty spot in me," she said in her hand-

printed statement read in court.

Djenaba Haidara, the wife of Bah, said their four children pine for the love of their father. One son has been so despondent, he attempted suicide.

"My son wants to die. He wants to be with his father," she said in statement read out in French.

Prosecutor Kim Goddard said the Crown did not ask that Pasieka's parole eligibility be doubled to 50 years because of legal rulings that have found sentences must take into account the effects of mental illness.

Pasieka, 33, stared into space during the hearing and showed no emotion when the sentence was handed down.

Outside court, Goddard said Pasieka will probably spend the rest of his life in custody.

Much of the case focused on whether Pasieka was capable of planning the attack and intended to kill his co-workers.

Pasieka testified that he had given up on life, was hearing voices and hoped that if he stabbed people, he would get the help he needed.

A forensic psychiatrist testified that Pasieka would have understood that inflicting severe injury on someone would have led to death. The psychiatrist also said Pasieka was capable of making choices.

Justice Donna Shelley of Court of Queen's Bench said she will recommend that Pasieka serve his sentence at the federal psychiatric facility in Saskatoon.

She expressed her condolences to the families for the tremendous amount of pain and anxiety they have suffered.

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