

# Clipped correspondence between Kennedy, Cameron released by Liberals

**T**erse letters and e-mails between Justice Minister Jerome Kennedy and Supreme Court Justice Margaret Cameron were released Wednesday by the Liberal party.

In the correspondence — sent between Feb. 28 and June 20 — Kennedy and Cameron go back and forth on the need for an extension of time and resources for the inquiry she's presiding over.

**Commission  
of Inquiry**

The inquiry is looking into why 386 breast cancer patients received inaccurate results on hormone receptor tests between 1997 and 2005. The tests are used to determine treatment options for the cancer patients.

In the letters, Cameron tries to explain the need for the extension, while Kennedy repeatedly asks for reasons why it's necessary.

In Kennedy's response to Cameron's initial letter mailed on Feb. 28, he asked for more specific reasoning for the extension, saying he will have to prove that the extension is "in the public interest," he writes. "It would be beneficial to our analysis if you could provide reasons for this anticipated increase."

Cameron provides three sets of explanations of the budget and numbers of witnesses and why the numbers had increased throughout the letters. In response to Kennedy's needing proof that the extension was in the public's interest, she replied that "by coincidence," counsel recently discussed the Ontario Law Reform Commission, Report on Public Inquiries, stating that group noted how "difficult" it can be to guess how long an inquiry can take.

"That has been the case for this Commission," she wrote.

But it's clear Cameron was also worried about government's perception of the inquiry and how that perception was being relayed to the public.

In the first letter from Cameron to Kennedy, dated Feb. 28, 2008, she writes that she's not required — or permitted — to examine case evidence or provide an opinion on whether patients had died as a result of errors in their testing.

"However, in a recent press conference ... the Minister of Health ... seems to have suggested that the Commission would do just that. I believe it would be better if a public correction of this misunderstanding were to come from Government rather than the Commission."

In her June 19 response to Kennedy's letter that said the province did plan on granting the extension — but that he would still need more information — Cameron said any attempt to limit fees for counsel would appear to be an attempt to interfere with the independence of the commission. She also complained about Premier Danny Williams' public statement, which included incorrect billing information for commission lawyers, and asked for a public retraction.

In the final letter, dated June 20, Kennedy said government had no choice but to provide the full amount of legal fees.

"We have no intention of interfering with the independence of the commission. For the same reason, government is prepared to grant your request for an extension."

Meanwhile, the Liberal opposition, which released the documents, is welcoming the premier's testimony at the Cameron Inquiry. Justice critic Kelvin Parsons says he thinks the premier's testimony will provide information about who knew what and when.

He says he's pleased the process has been able to proceed "without restriction or interference," but points out that Kennedy and Williams have both criticized the inquiry throughout the process.

"I am hopeful that his testimony on Tuesday will provide some greater insight into his government's actions, or lack thereof, throughout this process," Parsons says.

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The correspondence between government and Justice Cameron is available at: [www.liberaloppositionnl.com](http://www.liberaloppositionnl.com)