

WESTERN CANADA SOCIETY TO ACCESS JUSTICE

A Non-Profit Charitable Society (Reg. # 87068 4123 RR0001)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Thursday, June 15, 2006

Lawyer Cycles to Ottawa for Justice Reform

Prominent Pro Bono Lawyer Dugald E. Christie Rallies Canadians for Access to Justice

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (CANADA) – Local area lawyer Dugald E. Christie, 65, well known in the legal community for his constitutional challenge of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on legal services and as a strong advocate for low-income clients has announced that he will cycle across Canada this summer to raise awareness for access to justice and gather momentum for his proposed reforms to the Canadian justice system.

Offering the slogan “Let’s Reform the Justice System”, Mr. Christie is hoping to attract both members of the legal profession and average Canadians who have been hurt by their experiences in and out of the court system to advocate three goals, which Mr. Christie has dubbed the ABC’s of true justice: Affordable, Brief and Comprehensible. “Canadians have to focus on the reality: the ordinary person simply cannot afford the legal process, cannot wait the years that are necessary to get before a judge and cannot understand the horrific paperwork that is required. In short, Canadians do not have access to justice! Access to justice is the most important issue there is in Canada today!”

Mr. Christie is no stranger to the ABCs. He is the founder of the Western Canada Society to Access Justice, a *pro bono* legal services organization that operates 60 free legal advice clinics in British Columbia, staffed by over 400 volunteer lawyers. Furthermore, his claim that taxing legal services is a barrier to justice has succeeded in both the Supreme Court of BC and the BC Court of Appeal and is now on its way to Ottawa for a final decision by the Supreme Court of Canada. The tax garners millions of dollars for the provincial government and exponentially raises the rates of lawyers helping those most in need.

Mr. Christie will be visiting cities along his tour to collect signatures for his “Access Justice” petition which he plans to present to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa. He will also be making a presentation at the Canadian Bar Association’s meeting in St. John’s, Newfoundland. He plans to depart from Vancouver at the foot of Burrard Street near Canada Place on June 16 at 8:00 AM and arrive in Ottawa on August 10. He will then fly to the CBA National Meeting in St. John’s Newfoundland and bicycle back to Ottawa between August 14 and September 17.

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For more information or interviews, please contact:

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