

# Inquest into Cumberland case urged

JON WILLING  
Sun Media

The Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa is formally asking Ontario's Attorney General to hold a public inquiry into the city's most expensive trial ever.

The "Cumberland case" ended earlier this year with murder charges against Richard Mallory, Robert Stewart, James Sauve and Richard Trudel stayed and taxpayers left with the multi-million-dollar tab from the failed prosecutions.

In a recent letter to Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant, the association says, "it must seem, to the public, quite a shocking proposition that four men could be in custody for so long without ever receiving a proper trial."

Mallory, Stewart, Sauve and Trudel were accused in the 1990 deaths of Michel Giroux and his girlfriend Manon Bourdeau.

In the case of Sauve and Trudel, a judge threw out the charges in January, citing abuse of process and unreasonable delay. The decision led to the staying of proceedings against Stewart and Mallory.

The men spent 15 to 16 years each in jail as their cases crawled through the legal process.

The association says the most "troubling" of all the issues in the cases was the evidence the Crown relied on, specifically from jailhouse informants.

Officials in the attorney general's office couldn't be reached last night.

In an interview yesterday, Stewart said he's "finally" happy to see the association's support thrown behind a public inquiry.

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Justice Paul Cosgrave  
looked into our case and  
Ms Elliott's some lead  
investigator Lyle MacCarles,  
was in charge of both  
cases

19/4  
loops  
1/3  
Edmont 15/0  
Calga 7/3  
Vancouver 15/3  
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22/12

# Province rules out inquest

## Cumberland case closed

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The attorney general's office won't hold a public inquest into the Cumberland case, and that's its final answer.

"There will not be a public inquiry in this matter," ministry spokesman Brendan Crawley said yesterday. "These cases have been exhaustively reviewed by both trial and appellate courts in Ontario."



GIROUX  
Murdered



BOURDEAU  
Girlfriend

Letters, like one sent by the Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa this month, look as though they won't compel the ministry to budge.

The association is asking Attorney General Michael Bryant to hold a full public inquiry into the failed prosecutions of Richard Mallory, Robert Stewart, James Sauve and Richard Trudel.

The four men, originally accused in the 1990 deaths of Michel Giroux and his girlfriend, Manon Bourdeau, had their murder charges stayed earlier this year.

Courts cited abuse of process and unreasonable delays in staying the proceedings.

It ended up being Ottawa's longest-running and most expensive trial ever, costing prosecutors more than \$23 million. The cost of a public inquest, on top of what has already been spent, wasn't a consideration for the ministry.

"It's the ministry's position that there's nothing further to be gained by a public inquiry into this matter and that the time has come to bring some finality to these proceedings," Crawley said.

The association representing Ottawa lawyers says residents deserve to know how the trials proceeded with so many judicial errors.

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Who  
killed  
these  
two  
people!