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THE SUPREME COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE LAW COURTS
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Media Statement - Supreme Court Record Access Policy

I am pleased to announce that the Supreme Court Record Access Policy will be posted to the Court's website on Monday, February 14, 2011 and will be implemented on February 28, 2011.

British Columbia's court system is based on fundamental principles of openness and accessibility. These principles reflect society's interest in providing for public scrutiny of its key institutions, including the court, so that there can be confidence that these institutions are functioning as they should.

The general rule in Canada is that court proceedings are open to the public, including media, except in those rare circumstances where statute requires, or a judge orders, that a proceeding or part of a proceeding be held in private. Similarly, as a general rule, court documents are a matter of public record unless a legislative provision or order of the court restricts public access.

The Supreme Court Record Access Policy sets out guidelines for public access to the court record. The Access Policy is divided into four parts:

- Part I:** General Principles
- Part II:** Access to the Court File
- Part III:** Access to Audio Recordings of Court Proceedings
- Part IV:** Procedures for Access Applications

The Access Policy will continue to evolve over time as required by advances in technology and other factors.

February 11, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Bauman'.

Robert Bauman
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court