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New Trial for Ex-Judge, Jacques Delisle, Hailed by Innocence Canada

For immediate release

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TORONTO: Innocence Canada is elated by a federal decision today to grant a retrial to Jacques Delisle, a former judge who has served almost nine years in prison for a murder Innocence Canada believes he did not commit.

Innocence Canada lawyer James Lockyer said he is confident that fresh evidence will prove that Mr. Delisle was wrongly convicted of murdering his wife, Nicole Rainville.

Mr. Delisle - a judge of the Quebec Court of Appeal from 1982 - 2009 - was convicted on June 14, 2012 of first-degree murder in the death of Ms. Rainville.

The Quebec Court of Appeal subsequently ruled against an appeal of his conviction. The Supreme Court of Canada declined an application for leave to appeal.

"I never doubted Mr. Delisle's innocence," Mr Lockyer said. "It is terrible that he has been in prison for nine years. I hope he will be back with his family in the next few days. Minister Lametti has made a wise decision that serves the interests of justice."

Ms. Rainville was found dead in the couple's Quebec City condominium on Nov. 12, 2009. She was slumped on a sitting room sofa and had sustained a bullet wound to her left temple. Mr. Delisle, who arrived home from an outing to discover the tragic scene, immediately called 911 to report her suicide.

Innocence Canada - known at the time as Association In Defense of the Wrongly Convicted - adopted Mr. Delisle as a client in 2014, upon reaching a conclusion that he was innocent of the crime.

Much of the evidence at Mr. Delisle's trial centered on ballistics analysis from a gun found at the scene. Experts for the Crown testified that Mr. Delisle had fired the gun in such a way as to make it appear to be suicide. The Crown alleged that Mr. Delisle had grown weary of looking after his wife, who was debilitated from the effects of a stroke suffered two years earlier. The Crown also contended that Mr. Delisle was having an affair with his former assistant and wished to be free of his wife.

Mr. Delisle's defense was anchored in expert ballistics evidence Mr. Delisle could not have been the person who fired the gun; that Ms. Rainville had killed herself because she was depressed over the lingering effects of her stroke. To spare his family added trauma, Mr. Delisle elected not to testify at the trial.

In an application to the Department of Justice, Mr. Lockyer argued that proper reanalysis of the gun by independent ballistics experts would rule out the possibility that Mr. Delisle fired the weapon.

Mr. Delisle, who will turn 86 next month, will not be eligible for parole until 2037. He enjoys the strong support of his family members.

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