

Commissioner's Statement on Final Submissions and Media Access (Dec 7, 2004)

The deadline for final submissions in the Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry was yesterday, Monday, December 6, at 4 p. m. The Inquiry has received many submissions, comprising many hundreds, indeed thousands, of pages.

I want to take a few minutes to make a direction concerning media access to these submissions.

When I granted the city's request for an adjournment regarding the delivery of the submissions, I announced that our intention was to make the submissions received available to the public on our website shortly after we received them, and in any event we would try to have them up by the morning of Friday, December 10. We will do that. All submissions received will be posted on our website as early as possible Friday morning, but in any event no later than 9 a.m. All submissions will be made available to the public at the same time.

In the interim, I am directing that no one make their submissions available to the media before they appear on the Inquiry website.

I am making this direction for an important reason. One party to this Inquiry has encountered serious technical difficulties in the production of its submissions that has delayed the party's ability to provide them to me. In these circumstances, I believe it would be unfair if any submissions appeared in the media before the submissions of all parties have been filed. I am reluctant to interfere with the ability of parties to the Inquiry to conduct responsible media relations as they see fit. However in these unique circumstances it is necessary to do so to protect against any possible unfairness or appearance of unfairness. The media will have full access to all submissions on Friday.

Commission counsel will be notifying all parties by e-mail of this direction. To further protect against any appearance of unfairness, Commission Counsel will not be circulating the submissions among the parties until all have been received.