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OMBUDSMAN SEEKING RETAILER INPUT

VICTORIA – B.C. Ombudsman Kim Carter announced today that she is offering an opportunity for retailers to provide input as she continues her investigation into the lottery process in British Columbia.

“Our investigative team has spoken with members of the public and with key officials at the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) during the course of this investigation,” said Ms. Carter. “Retailers are an important part of this picture and I want to ensure that my office offers the opportunity for input from all involved stakeholders.”

BCLC’s retailers are being advised of this and they and their employees have the opportunity to electronically send their comments and suggestions to the Ombudsman’s Office. The Ombudsman hopes to receive all responses by Friday, March 30, 2007.

The Ombudsman announced in December 2006 that her office was investigating the steps that the BCLC takes to ensure that the lottery process is fair for the public. Specific areas to be addressed include:

- Processes that the BCLC has in place to monitor lottery retailers’ participation in lotteries
- BCLC processes that ensure individuals presenting winning tickets are the valid purchasers
- Checks and audits conducted to ensure compliance with BCLC processes

Ms. Carter expects to report publicly on the BCLC investigation this spring.

British Columbians who have concerns or complaints about administrative fairness or how they have been treated by BCLC or other public agencies can write to the Ombudsman’s Office, complete an online complaint form at www.ombudsman.bc.ca, or telephone 1-800-567-3247.

The Ombudsman’s Office is British Columbia’s independent voice for fairness. It investigates complaints about public authorities, including provincial corporations, boards and commissions, and looks into their administrative actions and processes to ensure transparency and accountability.

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