

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE J. deP. WRIGHT
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

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THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO P7A 4B3



L'HONORABLE JUGE J. deP. WRIGHT
COUR SUPÉRIEURE DE JUSTICE

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August 6, 2008

Canadian Judicial Council
Place de Ville B, 112 rue Kent Street
Suite 450
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0W8

Dear Sir:

Re: Inquiry Committee Regarding
The Honourable Mr. Justice Paul Cosgrove

I have known Mr. Justice Paul Cosgrove since shortly after my appointment to the District Court of Ontario in October, 1985. In those days the District Court, in the District of Thunder Bay, consisted of three judges. We functioned in a geographically isolated location which was immense in area but small in population. Because of the potentially incestuous nature of the Bench and Bar in Thunder Bay all the appointments to the Bench had been made from the community of Sault Ste. Marie which is over 600 kilometres distant. Nevertheless, from time to time cases would arise where we felt it was better to have an "outside" judge preside. We were always sensitive about the judges we asked to sit on such cases or who, for reasons of their own, wished to sit in our District.

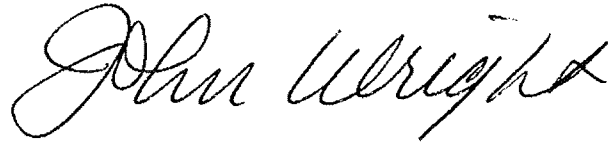
Mr. Justice Cosgrove was one of those judges whom we were comfortable asking for assistance and who would accommodate us by coming to Thunder Bay to sit when the need arose. As far as we were concerned he handled the cases assigned to him with dispatch and in a professional manner. I remember, in particular, a very lengthy and difficult custody case involving a local Assistant Crown Attorney which he handled for us. (Unfortunately, in retrospect, the decision was against the Assistant Crown Attorney.)

Of course, we tried to monitor the Bar's impression of the "imported talent." The consensus seemed to be that Cosgrove, J. approached issues compassionately but that he would brook no nonsense. Since the three resident judges attempted to do the same the Bar was apparently not discomfited by his style. He is a man with a deep sense of justice who is not overawed by the Bureaucracy or those highly placed in the Executive. In short, he exhibits the finest qualities of the Irish.

Over the years I have had occasion to sit for Mr. Justice Cosgrove in Brockville. I have never detected any dissatisfaction with his judging style amongst the local Bar.

On one occasion when I was sitting in Ottawa Mr. Justice Cosgrove appeared and offered his services, having completed his work in Brockville which is 110 km distant. This was above the call of duty and, I understand, is typical of the man.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Wright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "John Wright".

JW/mls