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PWAC INTERVENING ON BEHALF OF WRITER DEREK FINKLE

The Professional Writers Association of Canada has joined with Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE), the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ), PEN Canada and The Writers Union of Canada (TWUC) as official interveners in the Robert Baltovich trial now being heard in a Toronto courtroom.

PWAC's intervention is on behalf of Toronto writer and editor Derek Finkle, who has been subpoenaed by the court to turn over all of his research materials for the book **No Claim to Mercy**. Mr. Finkle wrote the book about the original Baltovich trial, and it contains information attained through confidential interviews with various sources, including the accused.

PWAC supports Mr. Finkle's contention that neither the prosecution nor the defence should use his confidential work; and rather that agents of the court should present their own investigative work at trial. Mr. Baltovich remains free on bail as he appeals his controversial earlier conviction in the murder of Elizabeth Bain.

"A writer working within an established principle of a separate and free press," says PWAC Executive Director John Degen, "is being forced to choose between respecting the courts and protecting his career. As a society, we should refuse to subject our journalists to such unfair pressure."

The hearing on the subpoena continues on February 19th, and PWAC will be present in support of Mr. Finkle.

PWAC, established in 1976, is the national organization representing 600 professional freelance writers and journalists in Canada.

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