



Michael-James Pennie <michael@michaeljamespennie.com>

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**RE: Shout out for our cause**

1 message

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**Bentley Doyle** <bentley@tlabc.org>

Wed, May 3, 2017 at 11:48 AM

To: Catherine Adamson <catadam6@gmail.com>, Don Renaud <donrenaud@campbellrenaud.com>, Rita Mcdonnell <rita.mcdonnell@outlook.com>, Bob White <rwcanuck@shaw.ca>, Michael-James Pennie <michael@michaeljamespennie.com>, Faith Hayman <fhayman@haymanlaw.com>, Azool Jaffer-Jeraj <azool@dohmjaffer.com>

Thank you, Catherine, and hello to all of you!

Great to see your art is thriving, Catherine.

For your information, each of you, below is the question on wrongful death the Trial Lawyers Association of BC put to the main political parties, followed by the replies received from the NDP and the Liberals (the Greens haven't responded). It was part of a pre-election questionnaire.

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**WRONGFUL DEATH**

**New Legislation Needed for Families Seeking Justice; Replace the FCA**

Holding wrongdoers accountable for the harm they cause helps create a safer society. After innocent people are killed due to the reckless or negligent actions of others, their family members are only able to seek compensation for economic losses (e.g. income earned by the deceased). If the deceased did not have an income – which is often the case with respect to children, seniors and people with disabilities, i.e. people who do not work on a full-time basis – the ability to seek justice is minimal or non-existent. In contrast, if a person is injured but not killed, they are entitled to compensation for pain, suffering and loss of enjoyment in life. Therefore a perverse reality exists: It is cheaper for wrongdoers to kill than to injure.

The reality for surviving family members: They suffer their loved one's death, then the poor state of the law devastates them all over again. Children, seniors and people with disabilities should not be worthless in the eyes of the law!

**QUESTION 4:** If you win the upcoming provincial election, will you replace BC's archaic *Family Compensation Act (FCA)* with modern legislation as a means to properly address cases of wrongful death? Once implemented, a fair piece of legislation would enable family members to seek justice for such things as: loss of guidance, affection, care and companionship, as well as for mental anguish and other non-economic losses suffered after their loved ones are killed due to the wrongful actions (or inactions) of others.

**YES**  ..... **NO**

ANSWERS/COMMENTS SUBMITTED IN REPLY

## **NDP**

A: Yes. We agree that the Family Compensation Act needs to be overhauled. This statute is archaic, uncompassionate, and out of touch with modern realities, relationships, and values. We agree with the work undertaken by groups like the Trial Lawyers Association, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and others around amending this act, so there is legal recognition of the loss experienced by

families over the wrongful death of loved ones who are not primary income earners.

## **LIBERALS**

As your organization is aware through the consultations our government has conducted, we have been reviewing the *Family Compensation Act*. It is a complex area and we have received a great deal of feedback from stakeholders, families who have lost loved ones, and the general public. As a result of these consultations, no changes are currently proposed. If re-elected, we will continue to monitor the issue.

**From:** Catherine Adamson [mailto:[catadam6@gmail.com](mailto:catadam6@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2017 10:15 AM

**To:** Don Renaud <[donrenaud@campbellrenaud.com](mailto:donrenaud@campbellrenaud.com)>; Rita Mcdonnell <[rita.mcdonnell@outlook.com](mailto:rita.mcdonnell@outlook.com)>; Bob White <[rwcanuck@shaw.ca](mailto:rwcanuck@shaw.ca)>; Michael-James Pennie <[michael@michaeljamespennie.com](mailto:michael@michaeljamespennie.com)>; Faith Hayman <[fhayman@haymanlaw.com](mailto:fhayman@haymanlaw.com)>; Azool Jaffer-Jeraj <[azool@dohmjaffer.com](mailto:azool@dohmjaffer.com)>; Bentley Doyle <[bentley@tlabc.org](mailto:bentley@tlabc.org)>

**Subject:** Shout out for our cause

<http://wearts.ca/wordpress/we-artist-spotlight-catherine-adamson/>

Hello group,

I am working on a letter for MLAs but will wait until after the election as we are too close. Did not get more than three examples of filial piety, so will scrap that idea for now. In the meantime, check out the article link above.

Big art show this weekend at the West End Community Centre on Denman this Friday night 7 -9 pm, and Sat.& Sun. 12 - 5. Drop by to see some great art by Vancouver artists.

Will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Catherine