

## **Fwd: Preview - MLA Eby, can your constituents count on you?**

2 messages

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX** <[Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)>  
Date: Tue, Jul 25, 2023 at 7:58 PM  
Subject: RE: Preview - MLA Eby, can your constituents count on you?  
To: [admin@intheirname.ca](mailto:admin@intheirname.ca) <[admin@intheirname.ca](mailto:admin@intheirname.ca)>  
Cc: Minister, AG AG:EX <[AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>

Dear Mr. Pennie:

Thank you for your email regarding the modernization of wrongful death laws. We appreciate your taking the time to write on behalf of the BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society. Please be assured that your message was relayed to Premier Eby and his senior staff for their information upon receipt.

On your behalf, we have also shared your message with the Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

*Office of the Premier*

cc: Honourable Niki Sharma

Sincerely,

*Office of the Premier*

cc: Honourable Niki Sharma

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**From:** Michael-James Pennie <[admin@intheirname.ca](mailto:admin@intheirname.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:28 AM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <[Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Preview - MLA Eby, can your constituents count on you?

Dear Premier Eby Office Staff,

I am forwarding the below email which went out to all MLAs this morning contextually for your records.

This is concerning the modernization of BC's wrongful death laws which continues to remain unaddressed by your office and this government.

We are hopeful for a change in attitude and approach from your office concerning the value of human life and access to justice in our province.

Sincerely,

Michael-James Pennie

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## Michael-James Pennie

President - The BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society

**intheirname.ca**  
The BC Wrongful Death  
Law Reform Society

*Focused on solving the biggest human rights crisis in British Columbia*

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Marketing Email Preview Send <[noreply@hubspot.com](mailto:noreply@hubspot.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jun 27, 2023 at 5:19 AM  
**Subject:** Preview - MLA Eby, can your constituents count on you?  
**To:** <[admin@intheirname.ca](mailto:admin@intheirname.ca)>

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Dear MLA Eby,

This is [Michael-James Pennie](#), President (volunteer & donor) of The BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society ([intheirname.ca](http://intheirname.ca)) writing to you.

I wanted to let you know about the success of our Mothers for Justice Memorial Walk to Premier David Eby's office on May 13, 2023, which your constituents either attended or provided support towards.

The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness of the fact that BC is the last province in Canada—and one of the last in the G7—to modernize its wrongful death laws. Human life is presently worthless in our province under the condescendingly named *Family Compensation Act* for those who do not meet the discriminatory criteria of being a breadwinner with young dependent children.

We received excellent coverage from [Global](#), [CTV](#), [CBC](#), [CityTV](#), [Hamyari Media](#), and the [Cloverdale Reporter](#).

It was, however, noted that Premier Eby refused to acknowledge the families or provide a statement to media. By Monday morning, all of the photos of our wrongfully killed loved ones were ripped down from his constituency office window.

Media was deferred to the AG office, which released a statement, that was also reiterated in the [Vancouver Sun](#) article I was interviewed for this past weekend:

*"In a statement, the Ministry of the Attorney General said, 'Grieving families need better support when there is a wrongful death.' The ministry is 'working to update the family compensation act to give families an opportunity to address the injustice they have faced.'"*

I wanted to let you know that the AG office's statement is completely out of touch with what

every family has been asking for in the past 25+ years.

The word "support" has never been uttered by a single family. The only words and phrases I have ever heard from a family's mouth after their loved one was killed and they were denied access to justice under the *FCA* are as follows:

*'Truth', 'justice', 'accountability', 'having our day in court', 'public record', 'righting a wrong', 'dignity', 'financial penalty against wrongdoers', 'making sure it doesn't happen to others', 'deterrence', 'safety incentives', 'compensation for our immeasurable loss of care, guidance, love, affection, companionship, and having our lives destroyed'.*

The families affected through this lived experience want the *FCA* repealed and replaced with our drafted *Wrongful Death Accountability Act (WDAA)*, which includes these [5 key tenets](#) (see *Appendix A*).

I've worked with volunteer law students for the past several years researching wrongful death legislation from across Canada. We cherry-picked the best aspects from each of the provinces. We've had some of the brightest legal minds in the human rights community look this over and they all feel strongly that this is long overdue.

It is time to shed the colonial-era relics of our province's past and actually bring forth a modern standard of human dignity and legislated protections under the law that will value all individuals in our province.

Many of you claim to be defenders of human rights, although unfortunately, you cannot claim to do so, unless human life has value under the law and there is legal remedy to enforce that right when wrongfully killed.

All surviving families deserve access to the independent judiciary, to be able to retain legal representation on a contingency basis—a model which doesn't discriminate socio-economically—and to have their day in court.

I am calling on you MLA Eby, to write a letter of endorsement to Premier David Eby and Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of repealing the *FCA* and replacing it with our drafted *WDAA*, inclusive of the [5 key tenets](#) the families have demanded.

Vancouver City Councillor Pete Fry got this endorsement [passed at the UBCM in 2021](#). [MLA Routley endorsed this in 2021](#). As did [MLA Mercier](#) and [MLA de Jong](#).

All of these aforementioned MLAs have 'A' grades in our [MLA report card system](#) as a result, which will allow us to educate the public in advance of the next election.

MLA Eby, can the families and I count on you to support your constituents and endorse human life having value and legislated protections under the law?

I look forward to your action concerning this matter and I would appreciate if you cc me with any endorsement correspondence with Premier Eby and Minister Sharma at [admin@intheirname.ca](mailto:admin@intheirname.ca).

Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

Michael-James Pennie, President

[The BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society](#)

The BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society, 1140 - 4720 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia V5H 4N2, Canada,  
(604) 409-4504

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attachment and any reply copy.

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**Michael-James Pennie** <admin@intheirname.ca>

Wed, Jul 26, 2023 at 10:14 AM

To: web <web@intheirname.ca>

As per previous email PDFs attached.

[Quoted text hidden]

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**2 attachments**



**The BC Wrongful Death Law Reform Society Mail - Fwd: Preview - MLA Sharma, can your constituents count on you?.pdf**

275K



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