



LIEUTENANT-GÉNÉRAL L'HONORABLE ROMÉO A. DALLAIRE, (RET.)
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October 16, 2015

Hon. Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs,
Tourism and Skills Training
Minister Responsible for Labour
Room 138
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4 shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca

Re: Work Safe BC and the recognition of work related mental injuries for first responders

Dear Minister Bond,

I hope this note finds you well. It has come to my attention that many first responders in British Columbia continue to seek equal treatment when it comes to compensation for Mental Health Injuries suffered over the course of their employment under the Work-Safe provisions. To be considered equal, the WSBC legislation would require the inclusion of a presumption clause and other relevant policies under the legislation.

Both the causes and debilitating impact of the physical and mental injuries suffered by first responders in the course of their duties are usually the same, it is important that they receive equal and fair treatment through government policy.

Including a presumptive clause in the WSBC legislation would not only bring BC system in line with those of Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, and New Brunswick, it would also go along way towards keeping the faith with those who risk their lives on daily basis to protect and care for our communities.

It is my understanding that a significant number of organizations, including the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Canadian Centre for Police and Emergency Services as well as You Are Not Alone PTSD BC, have made similar petitions to you in this regard. I join my voice to theirs in the hope for a swift and effective resolution to this matter.

I look forward to a positive resolution of this issue.

LGen the Honourable Romeo Dallaire (Ret'd)