



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

VIA E-MAIL: premier@gov.bc.ca

April 27, 2015

File No. 0400-20/15

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Clark:

Re: Presumptive Clause / WorkSafe BC

The District of Central Saanich Council recently received a presentation by Lisa Jennings, Paramedic and Founder of 'You Are Not Alone', requesting Council's support for proposed changes to WorkSafe BC legislation.

Council was advised that on February 19, 2015, five paramedics met with three MLAs to discuss the need for government to change the WorkSafe BC (WSBC) language to include a Presumptive Clause, "It is possible that within a first responder's duties, they will encounter horrific acts, and develop a mental health injury.", to add a two month deadline for WSBC to make a decision regarding a Mental Health Injury Claim based on one psychologist or psychiatrist report and immediate benefits.

In Canada, 6 paramedics, 2 Firefighters, and 13 Peace Officers committed suicide from January 1, 2015 until today's date, and those are only the ones that have been reported.

It is paramount that the Presumptive Clause and the above changes be added to the *Workers' Compensation Act*. It is primarily because of the delay of early treatment that such tragedies occur and to honour all of those in service who have taken their own lives. Those who had always been at the ready to help, putting their own lives on hold or themselves in danger, to take care of all of the people of British Columbia, no matter what the toll. And more importantly, to prevent any more lives lost.

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We are hopeful that a further meeting with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour will be arranged soon.

On behalf of the District of Central Saanich Council, I urge the government of British Columbia to authorize and enforce the requested changes to WorkSafe BC legislation.

Sincerely,



Ryan Windsor
Mayor

C: Maurine Karagianis, MLA – Esquimalt-Royal Roads
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