



Ian Munroe
Vice-President, Employer,
Industry, and Worker Services
WorkSafeBC
PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

June 26, 2013

Dear Ian,

Further to our discussion, I am writing to express my deepest concern with respect to WorkSafeBC's ongoing delay regarding our application to establish a new safety association (SafeCare BC) for the continuing care sector. Together, we have an opportunity to reduce workplace injuries in BC. Yet, WorkSafeBC has chosen to delay making a decision about our application until at least this Fall. We strongly feel the delay is administratively unfair.

As you are well aware, there is demonstrated need for new and innovative tools to help prevent and reduce the frequency and severity of injuries among health care workers. Based on our discussion, it remains unclear why WorkSafeBC would delay a decision that could enhance the health and safety of workers.

Last year, WorkSafeBC encouraged us to submit an application to establish SafeCare BC. Based on this encouragement, we invested a significant amount of financial and human resources to develop and gain sector-wide support for our submission.

For the last nine months, we have repeatedly been assured a decision was imminent. In fact, as recently as last month, WorkSafeBC indicated that a decision might be rendered immediately after the election.

We worked under the assumption that you shared our interest in developing new tools to prevent workers from getting injured on the job.

If we were able to deliver similar results to those found in Alberta, BC care providers would be in a better position to re-direct resources to front-line seniors care. As has been demonstrated by the Alberta Continuing Care Safety Association, the results speak for themselves.

- Frequency rates have had slow progressions downward. From 2005 to 2011 injury frequency rates dropped from 5.91 lost time claims per 100 workers to 4.89.
- Workers' Compensation Board premiums have decreased by 34 per cent since 2007 (inception of the Safety Association).



- In 2007 in Alberta the average provincial premium rates for the long term care industry were \$2.25/\$100 of insurable earnings.
- As of 2013 the premiums are now \$1.53/\$100 of insurable earnings 32% reduction since 2007. One of the lowest rates for this sector anywhere in Canada.

I am concerned this lengthy delay could negatively impact the excellent working relationship the BC Care Providers Association has developed with WorkSafeBC over the years.

In fact, only a few weeks ago our new Anti-Psychotic Best Practices Guide funded by WorkSafeBC received national media attention and was extremely well received by care givers. It was an excellent example of how when you work in partnership, great things can result.

Given what has transpired with our application and the manner in which it was handled, we are currently considering all of our options – including withdrawing our application.

However, we are still holding out some hope that you will reconsider your decision to not immediately forward the SafeCare BC application to your Senior Executive Committee for their review.

In order to assist us in determining next steps, we are seeking written confirmation that WorkSafeBC is unwilling to reconsider its decision to delay the application review process. We trust you will be able to provide us with your response by no later than **Thursday, July 4, 2013**.

In the spirit of openness and transparency, we have shared the contents of this letter with representatives from the Denominational Health Association as well as other key stakeholders.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Fontaine'.

Daniel Fontaine
CEO

cc Diana Miles, Senior Vice-President
Worker and Employer Services (WES)