



Ian Munroe
Vice-President, Employer,
Industry, and Worker Services
WorkSafeBC
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Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

June 25, 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. 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.

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 April 18, a WorkSafeBC representative suggested during a recorded province-wide sector teleforum that the expectation was that a decision might be made as soon as possible 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.

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.

If we were able to deliver similar results in BC, care providers would be in a better position to re-direct funding to front-line seniors care.



Together, we have an opportunity to reduce workplace injuries in BC's continuing care sector. Yet, WorkSafeBC has chosen to delay making a decision about our application until at least this Fall.

Based on our discussion, it remains unclear why WorkSafeBC would delay a decision that could enhance the health and safety of workers.

The SafeCare BC application was submitted on behalf of the sector under a clear set of rules and guidelines. To have those rules changes mid-stream, has led the BCCPA to wonder if WorkSafeBC has been working in good faith in this process.

Unfortunately, your decision could significantly 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 delay the approval of SafeCare BC, an employer-funded and operated organization committed to reducing workplace injuries.

In order to assist us in determining next steps, we are seeking written confirmation that you are unwilling to reconsider your 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 to all 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,

Daniel Fontaine
CEO