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Hon. David Eby, Q.C.
Attorney General
Vancouver-Point Grey
Room 232 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Eby,

Re: BC Government introduced 'minor' injury Bill
including Psychiatric Conditions.

This letter is to provide you with a brief medical information about Psychiatric Conditions following MVs and express my opposition to the above-mentioned Bill.

It is important to note that as a Psychiatrist in private practice and at the VGH I see Psychiatric patients before and after they settle their cases with ICBC.

To introduce myself, I am a Medical Practitioner, licensed to practise Medicine in the province of British Columbia in Psychiatry. I am an active staff member at the Vancouver General Hospital and have a private practice in Vancouver. I am a Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, at the University of British Columbia. I am a member of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, the Canadian Academy of Psychiatry and the Law as well as the Canadian Psychiatric Association. I am also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

I am a member of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia. I have had extensive experience working in forensic psychiatry and have been qualified as an expert witness in psychiatry in British Columbia Supreme Court and prepared Medico-Legal Reports for Defense and Plaintiffs for many years.

In my clinical opinion, it would be detrimental to the public interest and well being if even for to purpose of litigation all Psychiatric conditions would be considered "minor injuries." Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 5th. Edition (DSM-V) diagnostic criteria and text are primarily designed to assist clinicians in conducting clinical assessment, case formulation, and treatment planning. DSM-V is also used as a reference for the courts and attorneys in assessing

the forensic consequences of mental disorders. When used appropriately, diagnoses and related information have been used by the courts in their determinations. If this process is changed and simplified, then a significant number of patients following MVAs would not have adequate resources to return to their previous level of cognitive and psychological functioning becoming a major burden on our health system. Therefore, this proposed change would transfer responsibility for the care of these patients from ICBC to the public. In the absence of adequate resources, significant number of patients suffering from MVA related injuries would be forced to prematurely return to any type of work and therefore, never recover psychologically.

In my private practice I continue treating patients many years following resolution of their litigations with ICBC. Some of these patients never completely recover and remain disabled regardless of the Court decision. However, in the cases of inadequate compensation for patient's psychiatric conditions, these patients deteriorate in their socio-economic status, sometimes become homeless and in some cases end up committing suicide.

In my clinical opinion, the BC Government introduced 'minor' injury Bill for Psychiatric injuries sustained in MVAs will have grave psychological and economic consequences on a significant part of our population.

Yours sincerely,



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