

December 12, 2006

WorksafeBC
PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 5L5

Attention: Douglas Enns, Chair
David Anderson, President and CEO

Dear Sirs:

I am writing with respect to the status of violence prevention programs in health care. As you know the Violence Regulation has been in effect for over ten years and health care continues to have a much higher percentage of claims attributed to violence than any other industry.

I believe you are familiar with a document sent to the CEOs of the provincial health authorities in November, 2005 by the Deputy Minister of Health. This document stated that the health authorities were expected to be in compliance with the Violence Regulation within one year. That year has now passed.

At this time, I would like to know the extent of monitoring done by WorksafeBC to ensure compliance in this regard. We hear of specific initiatives underway in various health authorities and are participating in some local and regional committees. However, we see the need for a "registry" or some other type of central repository which can track compliance.

Given that WorksafeBC is the legislated body to oversee this critical topic, I ask for your response as to how you intend to discharge your responsibility.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Cindy Stewart
President
HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION OF BC

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cc: Ian Munroe, Executive Director Operations
Betty Pirs, Executive Director Prevention

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bc: Lynn Beuckert, BC Federation of Labour

December 12, 2006

Gordon Macatee
Deputy Minister of Health
5-3, 1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8

Dear Mr. Macatee,

I am writing to request an update on the November 23, 2005 letter from then Deputy Minister Penny Ballem to all health authorities, detailing the Ministry's expectations regarding the implementation of violence prevention programs in health care. Specifically, Ms. Ballem notified these employers that they were expected to have programs in place which would comply with the *Workers Compensation Act* and Regulation within one year.

Ms. Ballem's "edict" was unprecedented and clearly indicated that the Ministry was aware that most health authorities were not in compliance the Regulation, despite the fact that it has been in place for more than ten years..

I have recently written to WorkSafeBC asking for their comment as to how compliance is being monitored, recorded and enforced. By way of this letter, I am also seeking an update from you as to how the Ministry is tracking the results of last year's letter of expectation and what, if any, action you are taking with those health authorities that are not in compliance.

Thank you for your timely response to this request.

Sincerely,

Cindy Stewart
President
HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION OF BC

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