

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BY SONNY PARHAR
KOSTECKYJ & PARHAR TRIAL LAWYERS

Sonny Parhar is a graduate of the Sauder School of business at the University of British Columbia. After obtaining his Bachelor of Commerce degree at UBC and working briefly in commercial real estate appraisal he moved to Ontario to study law at the University of Windsor. He then worked for the law firm of McDonald & Hayden in Toronto where he completed his articles and was called to the bar in Ontario. He successfully applied and was called to the bar in BC that same year and began his law career with the established Vancouver firm of Thompson & Elliott in the areas of personal injury, family law, commercial litigation and real estate. In 2010, Sonny incorporated Parhar Law Corporation and co-founded the law firm of Kosteckyj & Parhar. His practice is mainly focused on plaintiff's personal injury law and family law.

The executive officers, staff and membership volunteers have continued to be busy over the past several months working on preparing for the anticipated regulations which will become the framework for the new motor vehicle accident "caps" and Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) schemes created by the Provincial government.

I, along with members of our executive, have continued to meet with government to convey our strong opposition and dissatisfaction with the regime that they intend to implement. Our TLABC sub-committee chaired by Treasurer John Rice prepared a further paper in July 2018 concerning TLABC's opposing view to the intended judicial standard of review at the CRT, which was followed with a face-to-face meeting with government on this issue.

Given the vast scope of authority this government has delegated to the CRT (cases under \$50k; minor injury threshold determinations; liability rulings and part 7 coverage findings), and the serious impact these decisions will have on ordinary British Columbians, TLABC has proposed that the new legislation should be amended to allow meaningful and independent judicial oversight.

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Additionally, TLABC staff have been doing a significant amount of research and study on legal aid and wrongful death act related issues and meeting with various stakeholders on these issues over the past several months so that continued committee work in these areas can proceed as planned this Fall.

Finally, I am also pleased to announce that we are at record membership numbers and continue to grow as an organization. It has been a challenging 10 months, and the organization has remained committed to our mission statement and the causes about which our members feel strongly. ✓



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