

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 spring season continues to be a busy time at TLABC. As President, I have recently attended meetings with Benchers of our Law Society, attended the Young Lawyers Retreat in Squamish, BC, spoken at our last personal injury seminar, in addition to our ongoing weekly and bi-weekly meetings with our table officers and executive concerning current TLABC issues. The members of our Executive Committee continue to be in contact with government regarding our strong opposition to the proposed "caps" and Civil Resolution Tribunal legislation. This week, I have requested a meeting with Premier Horgan to re-enforce our position.

Recently, our executive team and I met with the executive from the CBA and their current President and Vice-President to share and discuss ideas concerning our respective organizations and how we deliver services to our members.

In late April, as anticipated, the government announced legislation concerning "caps" for injury claims and a proposed \$50,000 jurisdiction for the Civil Resolution Tribunal. The government also recently admitted that ICBC was "instrumental" in the process of developing the legislative reforms. TLABC continues to fight against any tort reform in this Province and supports the efforts of the ROAD BC Coalition which now consists of over 70 different groups and organizations. A successful protest and rally was held by ROAD BC in March, 2018 at the offices of NDP MLA Jagrup Brar and we are advised that further protests in opposition to the government's legislation are planned by ROAD BC in the weeks ahead in other ridings.

TLABC is deeply concerned that the Civil Resolution Tribunal will only add yet another layer of bureaucracy to the process of pursuing fair compensation for injuries in this Province. The Civil Resolution Tribunal was created only a few years ago, and was initially intended to work with British Columbians who have small claims or strata-related issues. TLABC is concerned that the tribunal, in its current form, has little expertise or demonstrated capacity to deal with complicated issues pertaining to road collisions or the health care of British Columbians.

Moreover, TLABC believes that only the Courts of British Columbia can ensure fairness and independence from government when adjudicating the rights of British Columbians to receive fair compensation for their injuries.

TLABC members remain united and committed to the cause of protecting the rights of individuals in this Province to be able to seek fair compensation and appropriate medical treatment for their injuries caused in motor vehicle collisions.

Our Criminal Law and Family Law Committees also continue to be active with legal aid funding reform and to assist our members in delivering high quality legal services to the public of British Columbia. Appropriate legal aid funding has been an ongoing issue for our association and we will continue to hold the government accountable for its election promises. ✓

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* Meta-study, EMDR effective for PTSD after MVAs: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2015.00213>