



COALITION AGAINST NO-FAULT IN BC

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RE: Fighting the Attorney General's Civil Liability Review

CANF MEMBERS FIGHT BACK – A CHRONOLOGY

On November 25, 2002, The Coalition Against No-Fault (CANF) issued a press release in an early attempt to fight against Minister Plant's plans. The release related to recent government legislation that the coalition viewed as the first example of a "far-reaching plan that seeks to destroy rights, deny compensation and insulate the powerful, i.e. government and big business." The release also advised the media and public about the serious dangers connected to the Attorney General's Civil Liability Review (CLR) as a whole.

The same day (November 25, 2002), the coalition distributed the first of several letters to its community contacts. It was the first attempt to rally support for a battle against the Attorney General's plans in these areas. Of greater importance, the coalition identified the situation as an even larger threat than the prior fights (ending in 1997 & 2001) against no-fault auto insurance. Those battles - both fought and won – were confined to matters of rights and compensation pertaining to car insurance. CANF warned that the current battle, if lost, will be far more devastating than the consequences of no-fault auto insurance.

On February 17, 2003, CANF issued a community alert advising its contacts that coalition members were working "to stop Attorney General Geoff Plant from making a big mistake." Accompanying the alert was an article from Vancouver Sun columnist Ian Mulgrew. In his column (January 18, 2003), Mr. Mulgrew asserted that the government's "rush to change our liability laws" is happening "because the usual suspects – big banks, insurance companies, major corporations and governments – don't like the cost of responsible citizenship."

On March 5, 2003, the coalition issued another alert. This one followed the Attorney General's release of the summary of CLR responses. Again, CANF warned its contacts about the dangers contained in the review. The coalition expressed specific concern that "Attorney General Geoff Plant and his government are moving ahead with plans that will destroy rights, deny compensation to victims and insulate already powerful organizations." The latter concern mirrored the comments of columnist Mulgrew. Along with this alert, the coalition sent another of his columns to its community contacts. This one (February 24, 2003) centred on the issue of child sexual abuse, with direct

reference to allegations of terrible and widespread criminal acts many years ago at Brannan Lake School, near Nanaimo. The headline of his column read: "Plant plan would close door on compensation for abuse victims."

On March 5, 2003, CANF also wrote a letter to Members of the Legislative Assembly. This letter urged MLAs to consider the harmful effects of the changes proposed in the Attorney General's review.

Mulgrew wrote another column on March 17 that provided a glimpse of Plant's plans. In an interview with Mulgrew, the Attorney General advised that changes to legislation are coming in matter of "weeks and months, not years."

Indeed, that has been Minister Plant's plan despite the fact his consultation process has been criticized by many as being unfair and incomplete.

On March 24, 2003, CANF issued a community alert to draw attention to the Minister's comments in that Mulgrew column. The matter was becoming an urgent one.

By April 15, 2003, CANF issued another community alert. This one referred contacts to recent newspaper articles in Delta and Surrey that drew attention to the issue of joint and several liability. The information related to a leaky-condo development that the municipality of Delta's lack of proper action contributed toward. The case is highlighted on this website, see (link): *The Delta Case*.

On April 29, 2003, CANF sent another letter to all MLAs in the province. Among other things, CANF advised that its membership is growing daily due to widespread concerns about the devastating changes being considered.

Indeed, CANF has grown steadily since calling for support. To date, 73 organizations have come together to fight against the government's plans regarding proposed changes to BC's laws of civil liability.