



# COALITION AGAINST NO-FAULT IN BC

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## **BC COALITION AGAINST NO-FAULT WARNS THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S RAPID PLANS TO CAP AUTO INSURANCE COVERAGE**

The Coalition Against No-Fault in BC (CANF) is alarmed at the provincial government's fast-moving plan to introduce legislation in this session that will harm innocent victims of automobile accidents. Bill 35 will give automobile leasing companies a special deal by capping their liability to seriously injured innocent victims to \$1 million. It is estimated that one third of vehicles on BC's roads are leased.

"This change means that people whose accident-related losses exceed the cap of \$1 million will be left unprotected and will need to fend for themselves to cover the costs of their future care," said Peter Maarsman, President of CANF.

"It is well-documented that the cost for long-term care for people who are seriously injured often reaches the multi-million-dollar range," said Margaret Birrell, Executive Director of the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and CANF Vice-President.

Under the current law, automobile leasing companies share responsibility with negligent drivers for all harm and losses caused by their vehicles. The courts recently ruled that leasing companies are the owners and therefore liable for costs of injuries to innocent victims.

"Why is the government favouring one set of owners of automobiles over another? It appears they have succumbed to a well-orchestrated national campaign by the leasing companies to the detriment of the general public," added Birrell.

CANF represents community groups across the province, including many representing British Columbians with disabilities. It has been at the forefront of successful efforts to prevent the introduction of no-fault auto insurance in BC since the mid-1990s.

"Bill 35, which has passed Second Reading in the legislature, will bring in caps to claims. This will introduce a central component of no-fault auto insurance," stated Maarsman. "This backward piece of legislation is being rushed through, buried in statutory amendments introduced by the Attorney General."

Capping insurance coverage to protect the financial interests of automobile leasing companies is offensive. The Coalition Against No-Fault calls on the Premier to withdraw this legislation in order to protect **all** injured and disabled British Columbians.

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