



November 22, 2018

Delivered by email: AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

THE HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, Q.C., M.L.A. AND ATTORNEY GENERAL
Room 232
Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister,

RE: ATTORNEY GENERAL STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT, 2018 (BILL 57)

We are writing to you regarding the *Legal Profession Act* (LPA) amendments you introduced this week in the proposed *Attorney General Statutes Amendment Act, 2018* (Bill 57).

We represent the Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch (CBABC) Family Law Working Group (FLWG), composed of all 7 of the CBABC Family Law Sections. Our members are experts in all aspects of family law including: separation and divorce, guardianship and parenting time; mobility and child abduction issues; child and spousal support; property division; adoption, child protection, common law and same-sex marriages. Our expertise encompasses various ADR methods of resolving issues such as family law mediation, arbitration and collaborative law. Our submissions to you reflect the views of the members of the FLWG only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CBABC as a whole.

Our members are committed to the access to justice goals of Bill 57 – specifically the issues of financial and geographical access to legal advice - however we are concerned about the haste in which Bill 57 has been introduced without a proper opportunity for meaningful consultation with the experienced and committed family law practitioners who work daily with clients. Bill 57's LPA amendments will have a significant impact for all of British Columbians. We are concerned that if Bill 57 is enacted without proper consultation there may be unintended consequences and that the goals of providing access to justice may not be met.

In addition, the Law Society of BC's Annual General Meeting, which will consider a member resolution regarding family law legal service providers, is scheduled for December 4, 2018.

The Law Society is still engaged in a wide-ranging consultation on family law legal service providers. That consultation ends December 31, 2018. For several months, our Working Group has been working diligently researching and preparing comprehensive written submissions to the Law Society.



As a result, we are asking you, before the session ends November 29, 2018, to propose to the Legislative Assembly, that the *Legal Profession Act* amendments in sections 25 to 90 of Bill 57 be tabled so that proper and meaningful consultation can take place.

Sincerely,

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