

FAIR Association of Victims for Accident Insurance Reform

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Sent by email to Premier Doug Ford: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

January 14, 2021

Meeting Request – Ontario Civil Juries System

Good afternoon,

FAIR (Fair Association of Victims for Accident Insurance Reform) is a grassroots not-for-profit organization of MVA (Motor Vehicle Accident) victims who have been injured in motor vehicle collisions and who have struggled with the current auto insurance system in Ontario.

Our members' lives, as a result of these MVAs, have been turned upside down by brain injury, loss of limbs, need for surgery and reparative therapy, long-term debilitating injuries, loss of time from work, loss of jobs and sometimes loss of independence.

We are writing to you to express support for Attorney General Doug Downey's review of Civil Juries in Ontario. This request for a meeting to discuss the serious situation for accident victims has become more urgent given yesterday's announcement by Chief Justice Morawetz that "the suspension of jury trials will be extended until May 3, 2021 at the earliest."

Please find attached our submission to the Ministry of the Attorney General in respect to the potential amendment to the *Courts of Justice Act* regarding civil juries.

Given the current state of civil litigation, the sizable backlog that existed before Covid-19, the very high costs associated with the entire process of using juries who will likely now be reluctant to attend in a court setting, we fully support having auto insurance litigation hearings without the use of juries. We think this should be a permanent change to the administration of justice going forward.

Quality of life hangs in the balance of these personal injury cases for auto accident victims. The point of private insurance is to protect the public purse from overuse so Covid-19 should not become another bonus for insurers because the more they delay, the more they can download onto our welfare and ODSP system.

We cannot afford, nor should we allow private auto insurers to take advantage of our courts by pushing up the cost of justice for car accident victims through increased legal costs and delays while undermining the fabric of timely justice to enhance their bottom line.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you virtually to discuss this important initiative at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Rhona DesRoches, Chair

Attachment: PDF letter to the Attorney General dated June 15, 2020

'FAIR – supporting auto accident victims through advocacy and education'