
From: O'Toole, Sean
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:52 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Jason Noseworthy (Jason.Noseworthy@redcross.ca); Arsenault, David;
'Ancel.Langille@redcross.ca'
Subject: Suggested Amendments to Bill No. 7

Dear Law Amendments,

I am writing regarding suggested amendments to Bill No. 7.

I am a Canadian Red Cross volunteer and have been for 11 years. This is a volunteer position like those in the fire service, we respond after the fire has been put out to assist those affected. We respond to personal disasters and as well as municipal or multiple municipal disasters when the need arises that those most vulnerable Canadians need us most. There are several provincial civil servants that volunteer with the organization and have been involved in deployments domestically and internationally. All of which take vacation time to respond. We as secondary responders do experience the effects of dealing with clients that have experienced death, loss of a home, a community or the sense of their own safety. The clients we deal with on a daily, weekly and monthly basis are dealing with a variety of critical incident stresses in their own lives. Myself and many others have had group and peer debriefing after critical incidents after dealing with very emotional clients. I have seen firsthand the toll that this can take on ourselves as volunteers, the waves of the emotion that have taken their toll. Will this stress take its toll of those volunteers and even Red Cross staff with ever increasing natural disasters, we may not know until they have gotten to a point they are unable to work? We won't know that potentially until it affects on one of our Red Cross family and are diagnosed with PTSD.

I ask the Law Amendments Committee to include a secondary responder definition to include staff and volunteers involved in Disaster Management with the Canadian Red Cross.

Thank you,

Sean O'Toole
Emergency Response and Personal Disaster Assistance Supervisor
Disaster Management Volunteer
Cape Breton Emergency Response Team
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