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January 31, 2014

Dr. Heidi M. Oetter, Registrar
College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia
300 – 669 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 0B4

Dear Dr. Oetter,

The BC Schizophrenia Society is currently in the process of reviewing recommendations relating to mental illness made by the BC Coroners Service. As an organization dedicated to supporting families coping with mental illness and its devastating effects, the BC Schizophrenia Society has a keen interest in recommendations that can improve responses to mental illness within the health and justice systems.

I am writing to inquire how the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia has responded to the recommendations noted below:

Inquest held at the Coroners Court in Burnaby, BC June 1st to 10th, 2009 into the death of Ross Alexander Allan (File No. 2008:0369:0149)

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/schedule/archive/2009/docs/verdict-allan-10-june-2009.pdf>

Recommendation:

That specific training and/or refresher courses be provided to physicians with respect to the legal test for committal under section 22 of the Mental Health Act.

Recommendation:

That physicians are reminded of the importance of obtaining collateral information from family and caregivers in the assessment process of patients being certified under Section 22 of the MHA.

I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to receiving a response by February 28, 2014.

Sincerely,

Dave Halikowski
BC Schizophrenia Society Chair