

to me, ENV

Brenda Devauld, President
British Columbia Women's Institute
Email: bcwi@bcwi.ca

Dear Brenda Devauld:

Thank you for your June 15, 2020 letter advising that the British Columbia Women's Institute (BCWI) has recently passed a resolution in support of legislative amendments to enable alkaline hydrolysis in British Columbia.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is aware that emerging technologies, such as alkaline hydrolysis, are being developed to provide environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional burial and cremation. As indicated in the BCWI resolution, changes to the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* (CIFSA), which governs the handling and disposition of human remains in the province, would be needed to allow alkaline hydrolysis to be used in British Columbia. The CIFSA currently permits disposition only by burial of human remains or cremated remains, entombment of human remains, or inurnment of cremated remains. Disposition of human remains through other methods, such as alkaline hydrolysis, are not currently permitted under the CIFSA.

Ministry staff are conducting research on this issue, however permitting the use of alternative methods for disposition of human remains is a complex issue. Before government can amend the CIFSA to enable the use of alkaline hydrolysis there are many considerations to assess, such as: environmental impacts, local government zoning, worker safety, operator training and licensing, respectful handling of human remains, and public health issues. In addition, a variety of stakeholders such as the BC Funeral Association, independent funeral directors, municipalities, Consumer Protection BC and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, have an interest in this issue.

The ministry has initiated discussions with stakeholders about alkaline hydrolysis, as we continue to consider the feasibility of allowing the practice in British Columbia.

Thank you for sharing BCWI's position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc. Honourable George Heyman