



British Columbia Women's Institute

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February 23, 2021

Honourable Michael Farnworth
Solicitor General of British Columbia
Box 9010 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9L5
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Resolution on Water Cremation/Aquamation

Dear Honourable Michael Farnworth:

In reference to your letter dated June 26, 2020 in response to the British Columbia Women's Institutes resolution in support of legislative amendments to enable Alkaline Hydrolysis/Aquamation in British Columbia.

A recent CBC news story (on TV, radio and digital print media, January 11, 2021) highlighted the grim reality that due to increased deaths in Metro Vancouver from CoVid-19 and the opioid drug overdose crisis, mobile morgue trucks are now in position at some hospital locations to keep up with safely and properly sheltering the deceased. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/morgue-truck-bc-covid19-1.5865821>

While the COVID-19 pandemic is a relatively new crisis for the deathcare industry to be faced with, the opioid overdose crisis is not. That our systems are being pushed to the limit to keep up the dignified care that all deceased people deserve during these two crisis should be cause for concern for all, knowing that our death rates are projected to continue to climb, not go down. As the death rate in B.C. continues to escalate, our need for cleaner and greener end of life choices (and the lack thereof), is putting an embarrassing spotlight on just how far behind British Columbia is compared to other jurisdictions in Canada and the USA.

The deathcare industry in B.C. is uniquely situated in 2021 to be a leader in providing adequate, accessible and environmentally sustainable options to address both the terrible consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis. This can be achieved through adjusting the B.C. Regulations to allow Alkaline Hydrolysis/Aquamation, a proven cremation process that has 1/10 of the emissions that flame-based cremation has (BC's only current cremation offering).

Women interested, informed and involved in building a better tomorrow

We know change can be difficult to contemplate, let alone execute, particularly on a large scale. But, if we've learned nothing else during this pandemic it's that when we must, we can. We can provide B.C. Communities with cleaner and greener end of life options with the support and change that you, our provincial government, must engage in to make possible.

As this is a real concern in our Province we look forward to your immediate response.

Yours for Home & Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Devauld".

Brenda Devauld
BCWI President

BC/bb

Cc: Premier, John Horgan
Minister of Environment, George Heyman