



British Columbia Women's Institute

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March 30, 2021

Honourable Michael Farnworth
Solicitor General of British Columbia
Box 9010 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9L5
PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

BCWI Resolution on Water Cremation/Aquamation

Dear Honourable Michael Farnworth:

Further to our letter written February 23, 2021 regarding the British Columbia Women's Institute resolution in support of legislative amendments to enable Alkaline Hydrolysis/Aquamation in B.C.

As the pandemic continues its pervasive grip on the world, the growing sense of urgency to react, adapt and pivot to meet the evolving needs in all sectors, including the funeral/ deathcare industry, is causing our perspectives and priorities to change. Combine this with the unrelenting and, in many cases, devastating negative effects climate change and pollution is wrecking on the natural world we live in, it may feel daunting to know where to turn our focus.

The B.C. Government has created a program called CleanBC <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/> with a program specifically created to support reducing pollution from industry. The funeral industry/deathcare has not been factored into this plan, despite the basic fact that end of life services are a necessity for all British Columbians and currently our cremation rate far outpaces our burial rate.

The public needs to be able to have cleaner and greener cremation options from its funeral/deathcare industry, as we already have with burial options (green burial versus conventional burial). 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.

You state in your June 26, 2020 letter that:

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

Women interested, informed and involved in building a better tomorrow

What has been the outcome of these discussions? Are we any closer to having Water Hydrolysis/Aquamation recognized in B.C.?

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

BD/bb

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