



Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support

October 14, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Support for Families Impacted by a Traumatic Workplace Fatality

The Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support (Threads of Life) is a national charitable organization that is dedicated to helping Canadian families who have been affected by a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease along their journey of healing. A family faced with a sudden workplace fatality will be grieving for the shocking loss of their loved one. However, unlike other families who mourn the passing of a loved one due to a long-term illness, these families will face the additional challenges of police and Ministry of Labour investigations, coroner's inquests and the legal process of court proceedings which can take up to two years.

Over the last five years, since our incorporation in 2003, families dealing with a traumatic workplace tragedy have shared with us their need to connect to a support association. *"People tell us it will get better; it will go away and I'm telling you they don't know. We think about Jim every day,"* says a father who lost his 27 year-old son as a result of a workplace tragedy in 2006.

We have enclosed a Family Support brochure which offers families in these traumatic situations an overview of our programs and services that can be of great support to them in the days and years ahead.

Threads of Life helps families by providing:

- A Family Support Program (the first in the world) which offers one-on-one peer support to Canadian families of workplace tragedy by trained Volunteer Family Guides who have also experienced their own workplace tragedy. They know what challenges families will be facing and can lend a caring and listening ear.
- Links to community support services.
- Advisory support regarding the workplace investigation and inquest process.
- Opportunities to connect with a welcoming network of other families who are living in the aftermath of a workplace tragedy to help them along their journey of healing.
- Opportunities to become involved with raising the awareness of the importance of injury prevention.

Would you please let families of workplace tragedy that come your way know that help is available? For more information on the programs and services of Threads of Life, please visit our website at www.threadsoflife.ca. Donor cards are also available through our website. If you would like to receive more copies of the enclosed brochure to distribute please call 1-888-567-9490. Thank you.

Sincerely

Shirley Hickman
Executive Director