



Civil Resolution Tribunal

December 4, 2020

Attention: Health professionals/MRPs

Dear Doctor:

**Re: Request for Expressions of Interest
CRT Roster of Independent Health Professionals**

As of April 1, 2019, the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) has jurisdiction over motor vehicle injury disputes \$50,000 and under. These can include disputes about accident benefits, disputes about whether an injury is a “minor injury” as defined by the *Insurance (Vehicle) Act*, and disputes about damages and liability.

Motor vehicle injury disputes require the CRT to make decisions on medical issues. Those decisions may include the cause and diagnosis of the injuries, the duration and nature of the impacts, the disabilities created by the injuries, and any restrictions or limitations on the injured party’s activities and employment.

To assist the CRT in making decisions, CRT members can order that an independent medical examination (IME) be completed, either on request of a party to the dispute or on the CRT’s own initiative. Under the CRT Rules, the CRT Chair may establish a roster of independent health professionals who are willing and qualified to provide an IME in a motor vehicle injury dispute.

I am writing to inquire whether you are willing to be placed on this roster, so you will be eligible to serve as an independent health professional when requested by the CRT.

If your name is included on the roster, a CRT member may select you to complete an IME in a dispute, based on your area of specialization. The CRT would then contact you and provide you with information about the nature of the request, including the proposed fee. You could then accept or decline to provide the IME in that dispute.

If you accept the request, the CRT will provide you with the terms of reference for the IME. The terms of reference are set by a CRT member and will specify the questions to be answered in the IME report, the format for the report and the time frame for completing it. The terms of reference may also include any evidence or information the CRT member wants the independent health professional to consider. The IME report will include: a) your expert opinion on the questions posed in the terms of reference; and b) any comments or explanation about the basis for that opinion.

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Although independent health professionals may prepare their reports based only on a review of medical evidence and information, the CRT Rules allow the independent health professional to require the injured party to attend for an examination before preparing the report.

The CRT will disclose the independent health professional's report to the parties to the dispute and they will have an opportunity to make submissions on it before the CRT makes its decision. The CRT may request that the independent health professional clarify the opinion or report, or specific aspects of it.

One or more of the parties to the dispute will be responsible for paying the fees and expenses charged by the independent health professional for preparing the report. The CRT expects that the fees and expenses charged by an independent health professional to prepare an IME will be proportional to the effort required to comply with the terms of reference. However, in accordance with Section 5(1)(a) of the Accident Claims Regulation, there is currently a \$2,000 limit on the amount that a successful party can recover for those costs. Therefore, the CRT will only approve an independent health professional's request to charge fees and expenses of more than \$2,000 in exceptional circumstances.

Independent health professionals will normally act alone in providing an IME report to the CRT. Once the CRT has selected an independent health professional to prepare an IME, the task cannot be delegated.

If you are willing to be considered for the CRT's roster as an independent health professional, please complete and return the enclosed form (*Expression of Interest to Provide Independent Health Professional Assistance or Advice to CRT*) and return it to the CRT by email, mail or fax at your earliest convenience:

Attention: IME Co-ordinator
By email to: IME@crtbc.ca
By mail to: Civil Resolution Tribunal
PO Box 9239, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9J1

Please include your resume and a sample of a redacted medical report or other sample of your writing with your Expression of Interest.

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Please note that completion of an Expression of Interest does not guarantee that you will be included on the roster. Independent health professionals will be screened to ensure they have the necessary qualifications, including membership in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the College of Psychologists of British Columbia. The CRT must also ensure that independent health professionals who provide IMEs do not have any real or apparent conflicts of interest and there are no circumstances which may give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias.

Final approval of additions to the roster of independent health professionals will be made by me, as CRT Chair. There is no deadline for submitting an expression of interest in the roster, but I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for considering acting as an independent health professional for the CRT.

Yours truly,

Shannon Salter
Chair