McLeish Orlando LLP is pleased to announce the following events:

- **March 25th**: MADD Canada National Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving
  - The member firms of PIA Law will broadcast an open forum to provide practical strategies to assist health care professionals in meeting the needs of their clients, getting paid, and dealing with “incurred”.
  - Free Practical Strategies Webinar: Auto Insurance Open Forum for Health Care Professionals
  - We are proud to sponsor Hamilton Health Sciences 22nd Annual Conference.
  - The theme this year is Inter-system Collaboration: Building Innovative Networks that Support Individuals with ABI. The conference will feature national and international experts in brain injury rehabilitation.

- **March 21-22**: OTA 2015 Spring Conference - Driving to Success: Maximizing Your Auto Case
  - This year’s OTA 2015 Spring Conference is being chaired by Patrick Brown and Drake Orlando of McLeish Orlando and Christine Murray and Jennifer Beneze. It will be held over two days at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. John McLeish will present a paper entitled “Not Limiting Your Claim to Policy Limits: Strategic Decision”.

- **March 14th**: Partners In Trauma Conference
  - McLeish Orlando is pleased to sponsor the annual one-day conference hosted by the Regional Trauma Program at Hamilton Health Sciences Centre. Delegates will gain knowledge in an effective and educational program which reviews current, evidence-based practice guidelines in the initial resuscitation of both the adult and pediatric trauma patient.

- **March 1st**: 22nd Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury
  - We are proud to sponsor Hamilton Health Sciences 22nd Annual Conference. The theme this year is Inter-system Collaboration: Building Innovative Networks that Support Individuals with ABI. The conference will feature national and international experts in brain injury rehabilitation.

- **March 1st**: OTRP Day Conference
  - McLeish Orlando is pleased to sponsor the annual one-day conference hosted by the Regional Trauma Program at Hamilton Health Sciences Centre. Delegates will gain knowledge in an effective and educational program which reviews current, evidence-based practice guidelines in the initial resuscitation of both the adult and pediatric trauma patient.

- **March 1st**: OTLA 2015 Spring Conference - Driving to Success: Maximizing Your Auto Case
  - This year’s OTLA 2015 Spring Conference is being chaired by Patrick Brown and Drake Orlando of McLeish Orlando and Christine Murray and Jennifer Beneze. It will be held over two days at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. John McLeish will present a paper entitled “Not Limiting Your Claim to Policy Limits: Strategic Decision”.

- **March 1st**: OTA 2015 Spring Conference - Driving to Success: Maximizing Your Auto Case
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For more information on upcoming events please visit: www.mcleishorlando.com
McLeish Orlando supports Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program

McLeish Orlando is proud to support The Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry program. On October 8th, the lawyers and staff of McLeish Orlando volunteered their time at the Law Society of Upper Canada’s cafeteria to help support some of the neediest residents in our city. The Toronto Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program has provided hot, healthy community meals to Toronto residents in need since 1998. This important year-round program, provides more than 100,000 meals a year.

Ontario Passes Bill 15 But Who Really Benefits?

On November 20, 2014, the Ontario Liberal government passed Bill 15. The title of this new law is Fighting Fraud and Reducing Automobile Insurance Rates. With Bill 15, the Ontario Liberal’s are delivering increased profits to insurance companies and perhaps lower premiums to Ontario drivers. Unfortunately, the higher profits and lower premiums are being delivered on the backs of the most significantly injured innocent accident victims in Ontario. Part of the cost savings to insurers is being achieved by reducing the interest rate that insurers pay on awards for pain and suffering in a lawsuit from 5% per year to the current rate of 1.3%. Keep in mind that only innocently injured accident victims are entitled to receive damages in a lawsuit. Furthermore, only the most seriously injured people in the province are entitled to receive an award for pain and suffering.

In order for an innocently injured person to receive an award from the Court for pain and suffering, the person must satisfy a judge that they have suffered a permanent and serious impairment of an important physical, mental or psychological function.

In the Community

War on Tobogganings

The case involved a tobogganer who tobogganed into a hidden ditch on a hill. The city knew the ditch was there and the city’s records indicated that city officials knew the ditch posed a danger to people using the hill. Notwithstanding this knowledge, the city took no action to eliminate the risk of people using the hill, getting injured when they hit the ditch. The parties agreed to have a retired judge arbitrate the case. The arbitrator found the City of Hamilton responsible. The City of Hamilton appealed the arbitrator’s decision and the court found the arbitrator’s decision binding. It is uncertain if the result would have been different had the case proceeded to trial rather than arbitration. If there is a war on tobogganing, it is not because of lawsuits.

Inez Martincevic: Working to Get Better Together

Inez Martincevic found herself in the Emergency Department of Toronto Western Hospital in October of 2011 after her back hyper-extended during a trapeze exercise class called Jukari. Unable to move her legs and in extreme pain, her worst fears crossed her mind—paralysis.

The neurosurgeon who treated Martincevic diagnosed her with a contusion, a bruise on her spinal column and deemed surgery unnecessary. Her spinal cord injury was treated for nine days in acute care before she was transferred to Toronto Rehab’s Lyndhurst Centre for almost 3 months of inpatient spinal cord rehabilitation.

“When I went to rehab, I couldn’t stand and had been suffering severe bowel and bladder issues,” said Martincevic. “I was provided with a great understanding of my injury and the team was proactive in discussing my rehab goals.”

During Martincevic’s outpatient therapy, she was invited to participate in the UHN Spinal Cord Lean initiative. The goal of this initiative is to ultimately deliver better, more effective and efficient care to patients who have experienced a critical spinal cord injury. Martincevic, eager to help improve care at UHN, was excited to join the initiative.

“I participated in Lean because it was an opportunity to speak on behalf of patients and families who have had much more devastating injuries and may have more barriers to the health-care system than I,” said Martincevic, who is a clinical dietitian at The Hospital for Sick Children.

As a first step to the UHN Spinal Cord Lean initiative, teams were brought together from acute care, rehab, and the community partners to map out the entire patient experience. This helped point out areas that could be improved. Janet Newton, Senior Clinical Director, Brain and Spinal Cord Rehab Program, Toronto Rehab. “One of our early successes was the creation of a standard process that allows us, in minutes to identify which patient is appropriate to transition from acute to rehab. Before, this took days!”

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“Bringing the Toronto Western and Toronto Rehab teams together has been eye opening on both sides,” said Tess Devji, Spinal Cord Rehab Lead, Toronto Rehab. “It has allowed us to address language inconsistencies - for example, how we both define ‘medically manageable’ or ‘rehab ready.’” Communication, standardization, minimizing inconsistencies, and improving processes were all areas addressed together by the teams.

To date, Toronto Western and Toronto Rehab have implemented 112 improvements and continued to make changes through 11 rapid improvement events. “Part of the Lean experience is learning how we can work together, especially during important transition points,” said Joanne Zee, Senior Clinical Director, Brain and Spinal Cord Rehab Program, Toronto Rehab. “One of our early successes was the creation of a standard process that allows us, in minutes to identify which patient is appropriate to transition from acute to rehab. Before, this took days!”

UHN has seen both quantitative and qualitative improvements since Lean was implemented:

- 13% reduction in total length of stay for acute and rehab patients
- 4-day average reduction in ALC (Alternate Level of Care) days
- Higher patient satisfaction

For more information on the UHN Spinal Cord Lean Initiative, visit www.uhn.ca.