

MAY 15 **Joggin for the Noggin**
Joggin for the Noggin, held in Ashbridges Bay in Toronto, is an annual fundraising run supporting the SickKids neurosurgery department. It also serves as a celebration of life and recovery for Jillian Jacques, and other children who have been helped by the dedicated neurosurgeons at SickKids Hospital. In 2012, Jillian underwent two surgeries at SickKids to remove an infection on the surface of her brain, which ultimately saved her life. This family friendly event will hold both a 1km and 5km run for participants.

MAY 21-22 **OTLA 2015 Spring Conference**
The OTLA 2015 Spring Conference is being chaired by Dale Orlando and Patrick Brown of McLeish Orlando and Christine Murray and Jennifer Bezaire. 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”.

JUNE 7 **PIA Law Strides for Change – 5k Run in Support of MADD Canada**
As a member of the PIA, we are proud to sponsor the MADD Canada PIA Law Strides for Change 5K run, being held at JC Saddington Park in Mississauga. This event supports Chapters and Community Leaders in their efforts to educate the public about the dangers of impaired driving and to help victims in their communities. Enjoy a health and safety fair, kid’s zone, tribute and survivor area and much more.

JUNE 10 **11th Annual BIST/OBIA Mix & Mingle**
The Brain Injury Society of Toronto and the Ontario Brain Injury Association is once again co-hosting the “must attend” BIST/OBIA Mix & Mingle this year. Over the past ten years, this event has been very successful in raising awareness of brain injury, as well as raising funds to support the ongoing programs BIST and OBIA have to offer.

JUNE 11 **PIA Law Practical Strategies Conference: Rehabilitation Challenges of the Invisible Injury**
The firms of PIA Law are pleased to present the annual PIA Law Practical Strategies Conference. The conference will allow participants to discover the impact of the latest legal decisions on rehabilitation practices, increase awareness of the invisible injury and discover emerging trends in diagnosis and treatment, and to network with leaders in the field.

AUG 17 **Beach Blast**
McLeish Orlando will be attending the second annual Beach Blast, a charitable beach volleyball tournament in support of individuals living with an acquired brain injury. The winner of this friendly competition receives the coveted golden brain trophy! Donations and proceeds from the event will go to various ABI support groups in the Greater Toronto Area.

OCT 3 **BIST 5K Run, Walk & Roll**
After its success over the past four years, the Brain Injury Society of Toronto will once again be hosting this annual event at Sunnybrook Park. The BIST 5K Run, Walk and Roll works to raise awareness of brain injury and to fundraise for the programs and services provided by BIST.

NOV 11-13 **2015 Acquired Brain Injury Provincial Conference**
We are proud to be a Platinum sponsor of the 2015 Acquired Brain Injury Provincial Conference presented by the Ontario Brain Injury Association, in collaboration with the participation of community associations. This year’s conference theme is: Innovate Integrate Motivate, and will consist of two days of multidisciplinary educational sessions and distinguished keynote speakers.

THE fine PRINT

SUMMER 2015

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When the Liberals announced in their budget that they were “Building A Fair Society for all Ontarians” they must not have been including the disabled. No wonder the Ontario Brain Injury and Spinal Cord groups are up in arms. The Wynne government has proposed the largest benefit reduction in the history of Ontario auto insurance. Over one million dollars in medical and care benefits will be taken from those suffering catastrophic injuries, such as quadriplegia, paraplegia, amputations, and severe brain injuries. The sting is even worse when the government received a report from Professor Lazar and Professor Prisman of the York Schulich School of Business which stated “we estimate that consumers in Ontario may have overpaid for auto insurance by between \$3 and \$4 billion for auto insurance over the period 2001 to 2013”.

For the last two decades, the government has

met and consulted with the legal, insurance, and medical/rehabilitation communities in order to balance the issue of profits and the need to treat auto victims fairly. This is by no means an easy task. In 2010, Ontario catapulted to being one of the provinces receiving the least in medical benefits for minor injuries, which comprise the majority of car accident injuries. One justification given by the government was that they needed to cut benefits to this class of injuries so that funds would be available for those who were in most need, the catastrophically injured. In fact, in 2010 they expanded the definition of catastrophic so that people who suffered an amputation of only one limb could qualify for the increased benefits.

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McLeish Orlando Named Top 10 by Canadian Lawyer

McLeish Orlando is proud to announce that we have been named one of 2015’s Top 10 Personal Injury Law Firms by Canadian Lawyer Magazine. We have received this recognition once again alongside the other two members of the Personal Injury Alliance, Thomson Rogers and Oatley Vigmond. Canadian Lawyer Magazine is an award-winning publication that uses this ranking to recognize firms who show integrity in their field and demonstrate a particular commitment to excellence. We congratulate the other firms selected and are proud to share in this prestigious award.



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Fighting for his life, and then losing the two people who were his reason to live: Matthew's Tragic and Inspiring Story

In the Community

McLeish Orlando Donates \$10,000 to Nepal Relief Fund



On April 25, 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake caused devastation in Nepal, where it displaced hundreds of thousands of individuals, killed over 8,000 and injured close to 20,000. Villages in several different regions in Nepal have been destroyed, rendering nearly 500,000 people without shelter. For those living in the midst of such

a tragedy, it was hard to imagine the situation getting any worse. However, on May 12, 2015, a second earthquake hit Nepal. This 7.3 magnitude quake once again caused damage throughout the nation, contributing to over 125 casualties and injuring over 2,500 people. Rescue and relief efforts were underway shortly after these disastrous events. The Canadian Red Cross has established a Nepal Region Earthquake Fund in order to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the earthquakes. The staff and lawyers of McLeish Orlando are proud to announce our \$10,000 contribution to the Red Cross relief effort, which will work to send desperately needed supplies and aid workers to Nepal and to establish mobile hospitals across the country. Further, for money donated to the Red Cross before May 25, the Canadian government has matched the entire total. We are pleased to support this organization and benefit the survivors in Nepal that need it most.

Support for Camp Dawn

McLeish Orlando is proud to announce our sponsorship of Camp Dawn this year. Camp Dawn was established in 2003 as a program of the Brain Injury Association of Chatham-Kent, by the collaborative effort of agencies, associations and survivors. Since 2003, Camp Dawn has provided adults living with an acquired brain injury with an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing weekend outdoors, while at the same time developing independence, expanding their social skills and meeting others who face similar challenges. Camp Dawn participants enjoy activities such as music and crafts, bingo, canoeing, fishing, high ropes courses and much more. The camp relies on sponsors in order to provide this unique experience to campers at a low cost and we are happy to be able to support such a fantastic cause. For more information about Camp Dawn, please visit www.campdawn.ca

When Matthew was only fifteen years old, he suffered a severe traumatic brain injury after being struck at high speed by a motor vehicle. Matthew was not expected to live. Despite this, his mother remained by his side when he was in the hospital, hopeful that her son would fight to survive. Optimism was soon replaced with relief, as Matthew eventually pulled through and was able to return home.

For Matthew, going home was more important than it is for most kids. He had been taken from his mother just nine months earlier by the Children's Aid Society. His mother, having suffered from depression, was desperately trying to have Matthew returned to her care when the accident occurred. His grandmother also attempted to have Matthew return home, however was once again unsuccessful. Unfortunately, Matthew had a very troubled relationship with his absentee father, and his mother and grandmother had been the only constant caregiver since he was born.

After being discharged from the hospital, Matthew returned home and started down the long road of rehabilitation with his community team. Matthew's ultimate goal was to become independent, by living on his own and having his own job. Matthew vowed to his mother and grandmother that he would one day reach his goal. Everyone who assisted Matthew on his rehabilitation journey described him as endearing and

inspiring; he was an ambitious survivor who was determined to succeed. During his recovery, Matthew's mother and grandmother provided him a home and worked with the team to assist in any way that they could.

In August 2012, Matthew's grandmother passed away. Tragically, 12 months later, Matthew's mother suddenly passed away as well. This left Matthew completely alone, without a place to live or with anybody to care for him. He was forced to leave his mother's home within days of her death. Matthew's rehabilitation team rallied to find him a new home that would provide the support and supervision that he needed to continue on his journey and reach his rehabilitation goals.

Today, Matthew is 21 years old and still thrives in a supported living environment. He continues to fight to overcome the various obstacles that come with a serious brain injury, however is motivated by the hope that he will one day fulfill the promise that he made to his mother and grandmother: to live independently. Now that the chapter on his lawsuit is closed and he has a settlement that will ensure that his future needs will be met, Matthew will always be remembered as a client who inspired all those that worked with him to never give up.

2015 Budget Hits Disabled Crash Survivors Hard With Little Consultation

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Who would have imagined 5 years later that the government would turn around and take a million dollars in benefits away from not only the single amputees, but those who are unable to use any of their limbs!

What is even more alarming is that the consultation process (that was afforded to those dealing with whiplash type injuries

in 2010) was never given to this group.

To work, the insurance industry needs to be profitable. But, how profitable? The Lazar report states that the 2013 return on equity for the average profitable insurance company was 17.5%.

The average Ontario citizen wants to drive a car and wants lowered premiums. But premiums are going down. The full impact of the 2010 changes has not

been fully realized. The new overhauled Dispute Resolution System will come into play in April 2016. This simplified and proportional system of dealing with benefits is expected to save millions in unnecessary costs and expense.

This part of the budget can only be described as an unnecessary and an unjustified attack on the dignity and independence of the seriously disabled.