

MEMORANDUM

TO: Employees, volunteers and others working with or within the North Okanagan Hospice Society (“Hospice”)
FROM: Jay Hack, Davidson Lawyers LLP
DATE: May 16, 2022
RE: Hospice Policy PERS 4.52 (the “Policy”)

This memo is intended to introduce and explain the role of Davidson Lawyers LLP (“Davidson Lawyers”) under the Policy, commonly known as the “Whistle Blower Policy”.

Under the Policy, Davidson Lawyers has been appointed as an independent third party to provide employees, volunteers and others with a mechanism for anonymous and confidential reporting of alleged or suspected unethical or unlawful activities, without fear of retaliation.

Anyone wishing to make a report under the Policy may contact Hospice’s Executive Director, who will act in accordance with the Policy. However, it is understood that there may be instances in which a person may not want to make a report directly to the Executive Director or may otherwise want to protect their identity. In these cases, Davidson Lawyers has agreed to act as an independent, confidential contact for those wishing to make a report under the Policy.

If you wish to make a report under the Policy, and do not want to report directly to Hospice’s Executive Director, you can call Davidson Lawyers at 250-542-1177 and ask to speak with the lawyer that has been designated to take calls under the Policy. At the date of this memo, the designated lawyer is Jay Hack.

In making a call to Davidson Lawyers, you can be assured that your name and personal information will be kept confidential. We will not release your name or other personal information to anyone without your express consent or a Court Order (which we would oppose on the basis of solicitor/client privilege).

Davidson Lawyers does support Hospice and its work in our community. However, this support in no way affects our independence under the Policy, or changes our duty of confidentiality to you if you make a report to us under the Policy.

If you call Davidson Lawyers to make a report under the Policy, the first thing that we will do is ask you a little bit about the matter you are calling about, so that we can confirm that we are not already involved with the matter. If in the unlikely event that we are involved in the matter, we will tell you and make arrangements for you to call another law firm in Vernon to make your report. This is for your protection, as it ensures your anonymity.

In making a report, Davidson Lawyers’ role is to record your information and to pass this information to Hospice while at the same time protecting your identity. We are basically a conduit for information between you and Hospice; we cannot provide any legal advice to you in our role as independent contact under the Policy.

If you have any questions about the Policy or Davidson Lawyers’ role under the Policy, please feel free to discuss with the Executive Director or call Jay Hack at Davidson Lawyers LLP at 250-542-1177.

END OF MEMO