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*SUBMISSION*

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Elliot Lake Commission of Inquiry  
2380 St. Laurent Blvd  
Ottawa, ON K1G 6C4

*SUBMISSION*

We are pleased to have the opportunity to make this very brief contribution to The Elliot Lake Inquiry.

Our perspective is that of a Legal Clinic, one of a network of such entities operating within the framework of Legal Aid Ontario.

As part of our work, we frequently deal with Property Standards issues as they pertain to the health, safety and overall well-being of tenants in our coverage area. We interact on a regular basis with the local municipal authorities in this easternmost part of Ontario, namely the City of Cornwall, and the counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

The Inquiry was convened as a result of a grievous tragedy, and its work may hopefully help to prevent such occurrences in the future. This is an important task. It is for this reason that we are emboldened to put forward these simple, but fundamental points:

- Proper application and enforcement of Property Standards regulations with respect to buildings, and most particularly, public buildings, requires regular expert monitoring, with special emphasis on response to complaints.

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- Most municipalities in Ontario simply do NOT possess the financial resources nor the expertise required to carry out this responsibility, despite the assertions of senior Ontario Ministry of Labour officials during the Elliot Lake incident.
- Providing the necessary resources and the needed expertise will cost money, and someone in a position of authority must be willing to clearly state that an obsession with public cost-cutting runs counter to any real possibility of hoping to avoid tragedies in the future.

Respectfully presented,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Etienne Saint-Aubin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Etienne Saint-Aubin, Director  
Barrister & Solicitor

ESTA:cd