

news

Soft tissue injuries from a crash can last a lifetime

This is the second column of a series I am writing to expose common arguments that some insurance adjusters make that are so lacking in logic, science and law that I consider them an attempt at cheating.

This one has to do with a willful blindness to the scientific reality that a percentage of those suffering soft tissue injuries in crashes will never fully recover from their injuries.

I say "willful blindness" because even orthopaedic surgeons, the medical specialty favoured by ICBC to provide

Achieving Justice

PAUL HERGOTT



"independent" opinions against injured victims, will agree with that scientific reality when cross examined.

This scientific reality is never shared with you. Instead, it is assumed that you will fully recover, which is thankfully the reality for a much higher percentage of injury victims. That assumption is bolstered by optimism

expressed by your medical doctor and others on your medical team.

Optimism is an important medical tool. The mind is a powerful healer.

The more optimistic you are about your own recovery, the more likely your optimism will be borne out. I am certainly not saying that your injuries and the symptoms you are feeling are "just in your head". No, they are very real. There is an established scientific interrelation, though, between the

psychological and the physical.

If the optimism is not borne out, though, it is unfair and hurtful to say: "You should be better by now". You absolutely wish that you were better by now. Certainly, the inattentive driver "should" not have crashed into the back of your vehicle. There's no concept, though that you "should" be better by now when you clearly are not.

By not enjoying a complete recovery, you have joined the unfortunate minority statistic of those for

whom an inattentive driver has permanently harmed.

It is also unfair to point to other occupants of the same vehicle, who joined the majority of crash victims in enjoying a complete recovery, as an indication that you should not still be having symptoms. That's as nonsense and hurtful as telling anyone contracting a disease that afflicts a minority of people that it's somehow their fault for joining that unlucky minority.

You are dealing with a bodily injury claims adjuster who, you

believe, has expertise in this stuff. He or she is a representative of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, a crown corporation, which you have paid insurance premiums to year after year. That inherent credibility causes those words to sow seeds of doubt in your mind about your entitlement to fair, financial compensation for your injuries and losses.

"Maybe there is something wrong with me that I haven't recovered," "Maybe there was something more that I could have done which

would have led to my recovery."

Those seeds of doubt help the claims adjuster to convince you to accept a level of compensation that is far below what is fair. It is a level of unfairness that I call cheating and it is every bit as distasteful in my view as those pathetic worms who try to cheat the insurance company.

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Carson Air, ROV make simulator possible

Support from two local companies will soon place future aviators behind the controls of a cutting-edge flight simulator at Okanagan College.

Carson Air has pledged \$125,000 to support the purchase and installation of a Redbird FMX flight simulator at the College's Kelowna campus.

"We hope this gift challenges and inspires many students, as they hone their skills and work towards careers as professional aviators," said Kevin Carson, president and operations manager of Carson Air.

The donation was announced at the opening of a training facility at the Southern Interior Flight Centre (SIFC) in the Carson Air Group's new hangar at the Kelowna International Airport.

The simulator purchase was also made possible by a donation of \$25,000 from ROV Consulting, a structural engineering firm based in Kelowna.

"It has been wonderful to watch the diversification in programming at Okanagan College over



At the ribbon cutting at YLW are (from left) Allison Ramchuk, development officer, Okanagan College Foundation; Sharla Visscher; Richard Visscher, president/CEO of ROV Consulting; Kevin Carson, president and operations manager Carson Air; Tracey Thompson, V-P Carson Air; Barry McGillivray, associate dean, Okanagan College School of Business; Kathy Butler, executive director, Okanagan College Foundation

the years," says Richard Visscher, president/CEO of ROV.

The event marked the 25th anniversary of the College's Commercial Aviation Diploma program and partnership with Carson Air's Southern Interior Flight Centre, which has graduated more than 300 commercial pilots.

Okanagan College's vice-president of education Dr. Andrew Hay said, "partnerships like these are absolutely

invaluable to our ability to deliver training that is attuned to the needs of industry and best positions our graduates to excel in their fields."

In addition to the financial contribution, Visscher also plans to work with the college to share his own flight knowledge and experience by mentoring students in the simulator.

"Having quality training available to our students locally, from my own field of Engineering to

Business to Commercial Aviation and so many others, means so much for our regional economy. I'm personally very excited to see students put their skills to the test in the simulator," Visscher said.

"It is a wonderful tool," adds Carson, "One that will help students train for a diversity of situations and conditions they'll encounter in the air."

The simulator is expected to be in use by next September.

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