

# Bereavement Authority of Ontario

April 2015

## **Attention: Cemetery/ Crematorium and Funeral/ Transfer Services Licensees and Stakeholders**

As many of you may be aware, a single regulator for the bereavement sector is being established by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS.) This new regulator will combine the licensing and enforcement functions of the current Board of Funeral Services and the ministry's Cemeteries Regulation Unit (CRU) as part of a single Delegated Administrative Authority (DAA).

I am pleased to advise you that the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) has been established and is taking the steps necessary to achieve transition to a new DAA in collaboration with the ministry. As Chair of the board of directors for the BAO, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our progress.

The BAO is currently governed by an interim board of directors that includes representatives from industry, religious and municipal organizations, as well as individuals with ministry, DAA and consumer advocate experience.

Over the course of 2015, we will be consulting further with licensees and stakeholders across the bereavement sector to obtain input and feedback on the BAO. We feel it is vital to communicate with all of our future licensees and stakeholders to ensure that there is a good understanding of how this change will affect the sector. Attached are some frequently asked questions and answers about the BAO and the transition to the single regulator.

Should you have any questions, you can keep up to date on the BAO's progress by joining our mailing list. To receive electronic updates, please provide your e-mail address to the BAO at [info@bereavementauthorityontario.ca](mailto:info@bereavementauthorityontario.ca), so that we may add you to our email contact list.

I look forward to communicating with you again in the near future to report on the progress of the transition to the BAO.

Sincerely,

Tom Wright  
Chair  
BAO Board of Directors

Cc: Renu Kulendran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transformation and Strategic Operations  
Division, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services  
Michael D'Mello, Registrar Cemeteries Regulation Unit, Ministry of Government and  
Consumer Services  
Yves Berthiaume, Chair, Board of Funeral Services  
Douglas Simpson, Registrar, Board of Funeral Services