

Mr. Tones, Mr. Lanoha

My name is Mike Pearson. In 2011, I partnered with Brian Fitzpatrick to fight your appeal of the WorkSafe BC fine in the death of his son, Sam Fitzpatrick.

I spent the next ten years in that fight.

I hope you know this stuff by heart.

Sam was killed in 2009 at the Toba Montrose IPP project.

The Kiewit corporation was fined 250,000 CDN dollars for the careless disregard for Sam's life.

When your mega corporation appealed the miniscule fine... Brian and I went to war against you. (I hope you realize that's what started that whole unnecessary fiasco)

Brian Fitzpatrick asked the RCMP to investigate Sam's death... which (I hope you know)... they did.

The first time that the RCMP looked at a workplace death as a crime.

And... a crime it was.

Before too many words get in the way of my message... here's what I want from you two.

Sam's brother, Arlen is the only surviving member of the family.

During the legal fight, Sam's stepdad died. Brian Fitzpatrick died in 2017. Sam's mom died shortly after.

Arlen can't believe that our justice system couldn't even get Kiewit to court.

Arlen is a broken man.

His co-workers that witnessed Sam's death are negatively affected for life. Scores of workers are still traumatized.

What I want ... is for you to apologize to Arlen.

Be men. Be leaders of business. Be human.

Apologize to a man that worked for you and lost everything he loved.

Your company worked extremely hard to skate away from responsibility for Sam's death.

Do you want to rebuild your reputation in BC? Apologize to Arlen Fitzpatrick for his loss and years of suffering.

That's a start.

You can stop reading the rest.

Apologize to the man for what your corporation put him and his family through.

Here's why I'm writing to you several years after the criminal case folded.

I worked with Sam, Arlen and Brian Fitzpatrick on the Sea to Sky Highway project.

I was a blasting superintendent.

The Fitzpatrick boys were hard-working, fun-loving guys. Stellar employees. Beautiful people.

When the news came out that Sam was killed, the story from workers on the site was that excavator operator Jesse Taylor dropped the boulder while sorting rock above Sam's drilling position.

Photos of the site show the 345 excavator sitting amongst blast rock boulders that look exactly like the 2 meter rock that killed Sam.

Shockingly similar to the boulder that Jesse lost control of the day before...the one that nearly hit the crew below...and did hit the hoe drill.

Less than 24 hrs later... despite a safety stand down...ground workers were placed below two working excavators on a very steep slope.

The definition of careless disregard for human life.

Gerry Karjala was put in place by Dick Colf. Dick Colf was an abusive tyrant. He worked overtime to destroy the reputation of Kiewit for his own personal glory.

He gave Karjala permission to be an abusive tyrant.

Tim Rule got on board with the " my way or the highway" management style.

Chris Dandurand was a completely ineffective project manager with more concerns for cigarette butts on the ground than worker safety. ( He was on the RCMP list to be charged, as was machine operator Jesse Taylor...)

The Toba Montrose project was a wild west shit show.

The plane crash. The helicopter crash.

75 ! Vehicle accidents on 23 km of dirt road...!

Helicopter rescue of a lost engineer.

Machine related accidents. Rock fall accidents. Unreported blasting accidents.

The loss of many senior level Kiewit staff...they left because they were trying to get away from the chaos and carnage.

When the Jimmy Creek project started ( Toba Inlet also)...all the safety briefing photos were of Kiewit accidents at Toba Montrose...as examples of what not to do.

*When Brian Fitzpatrick died in 2017, I assumed his role in relationships with the RCMP, the BC prosecution service, the media and government.*

*I partnered with USW boss Steve Hunt and activist/ journalist Tom Sandborn to represent Brian's wishes and continue the battle.*

*I spent years fighting for Brian's cause.*

*We all ...gave everything to help Brian's fight against the Kiewit corporation.*

*For my friend, Brian Fitzpatrick, I'd do it all again.*

*All that legal fight, all the media coverage since 2017...that was me.*

*Repair your reputation, rebuild trust in the Kiewit corporation.  
Man up, and go apologize to Arlen Fitzpatrick.*

*This happened on your watch.*

*It makes the 1980's bid rigging scandal look like Saturday morning cartoons.*

*Disregard your lawyers advice. Show leadership and courage...go and apologize to the man.  
If you had a drop of humanity, you'd write him a cheque too.*

*Just think for a second about how things would have gone if you did this in 2009.*

*Start the healing. Start the rebuilding process.*

*Mike Pearson*