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To whom it may concern:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter in support for Left Behind by Suicide Inc. (not for profit) and in particular the project "Collateral Damage: Images of Those Left Behind by Suicide". I am a clinical psychologist who has spent much of my career practicing, teaching and writing about the prevention of suicide. I have had the honour to participate in suicide prevention advocacy as a long-time member of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention and former member of the CASP Board of Directors. I am also a Program Advisor to the Centre for Suicide Prevention and a member of the Provincial Advisory Board of the Ontario Association for Suicide Prevention.

The Collateral Damage Project conceived and created by Scott Chisholm has extraordinary potential in two related areas that have been repeatedly identified as critical to suicide prevention in Canada: public education and the reduction of stigma. The human impact of the project underlines one of the central themes of suicide prevention work: "Suicide is everybody's business". Scott Chisholm's care in the selection, combination and presentation of images and stories provides a compelling and emotionally safe context for dialogue about suicide in this country and what can be done to prevent it and to ease the damage it leaves in its wake.

David Schachter, a former Surgeon General of the United States, once said that "Most of the work of suicide prevention must occur at the community level, where human relationships breathe life into public policy". I believe that the Collateral Damage Project can help to evoke such relationships in Canadian communities, and to affirm for the thousands of Canadians affected annually by suicide that they are indeed part of a caring community.

I wholeheartedly endorse this eminently worthwhile effort in suicide awareness, prevention, and postvention.

Respectfully yours,

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