



October 18, 2010.

Mr. S. Chisholm,
Left Behind by Suicide Inc.,
1085 Carrick Street,
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6L9

Dear Scott,

It was great catching up with you at the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference in Nova Scotia earlier this month. I was very impressed with the progress you have made with your project, "Collateral Damage" in only one year. When I met you at the CASP conference in 2009 we were all inspired by your video inviting survivors of suicide loss to participate in your photo project. This year, you already have a number of subjects you have photographed in your portfolio. I admire your drive and commitment to make visible the pain and loss experienced by those left behind by suicide.

I was deeply moved by the photos you displayed at the CASP conference. Your beautifully composed images framed alongside the words of each subject are attractive and thought-provoking. It seemed to me that the images and words complemented each other—I wanted to look at the photos, which were enriched by the text, and the words of each suicide loss survivor led me to study their photo more closely. I noticed that many people viewing your exhibit were drawn to look at each of your framed photographs—they didn't just glance at one or two and walk away.

I admire your commitment to speaking openly about suicide and suicide loss. Your practical, pragmatic recommendations to help prevent suicide are delivered calmly and sensitively. Your presentation skills support and strengthen the value of your photography project. Suicide is a difficult topic in many settings, and your photos and balanced presentations do much to make the subject accessible and acceptable to discuss.

I sincerely hope you can obtain funding to allow you to realize the full extent of your plans for the Project. Photographs of survivors of suicide loss from across Canada will demonstrate the impact of suicide from coast to coast. The inclusiveness of "Collateral Damage" will encourage communities and organizations from across Canada to display an exhibit of your photographs since they will recognize the relevance of your Project to themselves. Your

presentation and display will enable people to talk openly about suicide and encourage people with suicidal thoughts to reflect on the pain they could potentially cause their loved ones and seek help.

"Collateral Damage" has my support as an important project that will reduce the stigma surrounding suicide and contribute to suicide prevention by making it easier to talk about the tragedy of suicide loss. Best wishes in the full realization of your goals for this project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brasch, MD, FRCPC
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