

## **Press Release**

### **Nova Scotia Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors**

**Issued: February 11, 2022**

The Nova Scotia Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“the Board”) released its decision today regarding a wrongful cremation that occurred at Forest Haven Memorial Gardens, Sydney. The Board has revoked Mr. Joseph Curry’s funeral director license effective immediately. Mr. Curry will no longer be permitted to conduct business, carry on the duties, or act in the capacity of a funeral director.

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Board held an inquiry into allegations of professional misconduct and non-compliance with the *Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act* and Regulations in relation to a wrongful cremation that occurred at Forest Haven Memorial Gardens and to investigate the role of the licensed funeral director, Mr. Curry, who conducted the cremation.

The Board is responsible for licensing and regulating, funeral directors and embalmers. This includes disciplinary action relating to professional misconduct. Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services is responsible for licensing funeral homes and crematoriums.

“Nova Scotia licensed funeral directors and embalmers are held to the highest standards of the profession, ensuring that families in their care are at all times treated with dignity and respect. Errors resulting in a wrongful cremation are rare occurrences that have an irreversible outcome and significantly compound the loss the affected family is experiencing,” said Co-chair Lisa Smith.

Fellow Co-chair Elizabeth Alguire stated, “moving forward the Board of Registration wants to prevent future instances of wrongdoing in relation to the transfer and final disposition of human remains. The Board of Registration will collaborate with Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services to review the processes and procedures related to cremation, chain of custody and identification procedures, potential for the regulation of transfer services, and changes to continuing education requirements for all licensed funeral directors and embalmers.”

A copy of the decision can be found at: <http://www.nsbrefd.com>

If any person is concerned about unprofessional conduct of a licensed director, they are encouraged to contact the Board of Registration through the Board website at <http://www.nsbrefd.com/>.