

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

My name is Martin Hanna. I am a lawyer from Belfast and I practice in the area of asbestos related diseases. A few years ago I came to Toronto to see a number of clients who were victims of these diseases. They had been exposed to asbestos back in Belfast many years ago before they emigrated to Canada but some 30-40 years later had been diagnosed with one of these horrible diseases. Fortunately I was introduced to three individuals, Messrs O'Loughlin, Straney and Benson who invited me to come onto their radio shows to put the message out that if there were others out there who had been diagnosed with one of these diseases and they had been exposed to asbestos back in Belfast, there was a lot we could do for them. Following those radio appeals I have spoken to many more victims who came forward and I have been able to help and continue to help them in the form of submitting substantial compensation claims on their behalf. Most of them simply didn't know they were entitled to anything back home because they had left so long ago. It

was in no small measure due to Eamonn, Hugo and Frankie putting the word out on their radio shows that these unfortunate individuals were able to contact me and their claims commenced. I have just returned from Toronto and met with yet more victims. The incidences of these dreadful conditions in this part of the world, is frightening. During my recent visit I learned that the lads were three of four joint Irish Persons of the year (I have not had the pleasure of meeting Colm O'Brien, the fourth recipient.)

On my behalf and on behalf of all those individuals who learned of their entitlements back home on the radio, I would like to thank the three of them very much indeed for their contributions and to congratulate them on this auspicious honour bestowed upon them by their fellow countrymen. The Irish community in Ontario is indebted to these three musketeers for their humour, entertainment and sense of community. Well done and thanks!

Martin Hanna