604 660 2948

JUDGES CHAMBERS 01:40:47 p.m. 06–23–2011



FINALIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL TRANSCRIPTION REQUEST

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Adrienne G. Atherton, Staff Lawyer Municipal Insurance Association of B.C. 390-1050 Homer Street Vancouver, BC V6B 2W9 Phone Number: 604-683-6266 Fax Number: 604-683-6244 Contact Person: Rumelda Trudeau				
Facsimile Transmittal				
То:	Adrienne Atherton	Fax:	604-683-6244	
From	The Law Courts	Date:	June 23, 2011	
			8 pages	
☐ Will Follow by Regular Mail ☐ For Review ☐ ☐				
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Re: Carter v. Bains [NW S078068] Oral Jan. 19/10				
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3 /8

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June 1, 2011

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Phone Number:

604-299-3595 604-299-3545

Fax Number: E-Mail Address:

mceachern@shawcable.com;

melanie.mceachern@shawcable.com Contact Person:

Krystiana or Melanie

Ordering Party(ies) В.

[To be completed by the Ordering Party(ies) only] Press F11 Key to navigate forward through this Form - Press DELETE to remove this prompt.

Adrienne G. Atherton, Staff Lawyer Municipal Insurance Association of B.C.

390-1050 Homer Street

Vancouver, BC

V6B 2W9

Phone Number: 604-683-6266 Fax Number: 604-683-6244

Contact Person:

Rumelda Trudeau

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Required for appeal or

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Date: 20100119

5/8

Docket: S078068

Registry: New Westminster

Between:

Dawn Marie Cassandra Carter by her Guardian Ad Litem, Jean Mary Agnes Carter

Plaintiff

And:

Sukhvir Singh Bains, Raminder Kaur Bains and the Corporation of the City of New Westminster

Defendants

Before: The Honourable Mr. Justice Williams

Oral Reasons for Judgment

In Chambers January 19, 2010

Counsel for the Plaintiff:

No Appearance

Counsel for the Defendant City of New Westminster:

A. Atherton

Place of Hearing:

New Westminster, B.C.

Ordering Party Notations: [For Ordering Party use only]

JUDGES CHAMBERS 01:41:40 p.m. 06–23–2011



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Date: 20100119

Docket: S078068

Registry: New Westminster

Between:

Dawn Marie Cassandra Carter by her Guardian Ad Litem, Jean Mary Agnes Carter

Plaintiff

6/8

And

Sukhvir Singh Bains, Raminder Kaur Bains and The Corporation of the City of New Westminster

Defendants

Before: The Honourable Mr. Justice Williams

Oral Reasons for Judgment

No appearance for the Plaintiff:

Counsel for the Defendant City of New Westminster:

A.G. Atherton

Place and Date of Hearing:

New Westminster, B.C. January 19, 2010

Place and Date of Judgment:

New Westminster, B.C. January 19, 2010

- [1] THE COURT: This is a matter that comes before me on a Rule 18A application. The defendant Corporation of the City of New Westminster seeks to have the action of the plaintiff, Ms. Carter, dismissed and, as well, seeks costs pursuant to Rule 57. Notice of the application was provided to the plaintiff. I am satisfied that the plaintiff was appropriately served and has notice of today's proceeding. The plaintiff has been paged; there has been no response to the page.
- [2] I have heard the submissions of counsel for the defendant, City of New Westminster, and reviewed the evidence filed in support of those submissions. The action against the City alleges a number of propositions with respect to a dog being kept by a party named Bains on that party's own property which is adjacent to a green space owned and maintained by the defendant City.
- [3] The incident giving rise to the claim is a complaint by the plaintiff that in 2002 she was in the green space adjacent to Bains property. The Bains dog, which was chained or otherwise tethered in the Bains backyard, was able to get under a fence separating the Bains property from the green space and get outside the fence, albeit continuing to be restrained by the chain or tether. The dog evidently bit Ms. Carter.
- She has alleged that the City had prior knowledge of the dog's vicious nature and allowed the dog to be retained, or alternatively that the City did not ensure that the dog was properly restrained, muzzled or kept in accordance with the bylaws. She alleges that the City permitted the dog to enter the green space and pose a hazard; she alleges that the City failed to ensure that the Bainses repaired their fence. She alleges that the City failed to require that the Bainses ensure the dog did not escape; finally there is an allegation by the plaintiff that the City failed to require the Bainses to post signs or notices warning of the dog's vicious nature.
- [5] On the evidence before me, I am satisfied that the City's knowledge of this dog was scant in that there was only one prior incident. On that occasion, an animal control officer attended and dealt with a fight between two dogs. There was no reason on the evidence for the City's Bylaw Control Officer to conclude that this dog constituted a danger to the community or that the dog was likely to get off the

property. There is nothing here to support a conclusion that the City knew of deficiencies in the fence or the manner in which the dog was kept.

- [6] Accordingly, on the evidence, it is my conclusion that the allegations of the plaintiff that the City was in breach of its duty as the occupier of the green space and negligent thereby causing her injury or loss have not been made out. In the circumstances, I find that the action should be dismissed and I so order.
- The applicant defendant, City of New Westminster, in these circumstances, is [7] entitled to its costs and I order the City may recover its costs. I would, if I could, say something. I would recommend that this might be a situation where the City would give some serious consideration as to whether or not pursuit of those costs is something that could be discretionarily ignored, but obviously that is for the City's exercise of its own judgment.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Williams