Action No.: 2001-03986 E-File Name: CVK24BRAVIM

Appeal No.:

IN THE COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF ALBERTA JUDICIAL CENTRE OF CALGARY

BETWEEN:

MARK BRAVI, Litigation Representative of the Infant Plaintiff DANTE RUPERT BRAVI and MARK BRAVI and HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA

Plaintiffs

and

CAMERON BALLY, as Litigation Representative for THE ESTATE OF RYAN PETER DOEDEL, DECEASED, and ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Defendants

and

INTACT INSURANCE

Third Party Defendant

PROCEEDINGS

Calgary, Alberta February 22, 2024

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1	Proceedings taken in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta, Courthouse, Calgary, Alberta	
2 3		
	F.1. 22.2024	
4	February 22, 2024	Afternoon Session
5 6 7	Applications Judge Farrington	Court of King's Bench of Alberta
8	J.D. Allchurch	For M. Bravi, Litigation Representative of the
9		Infant Plaintiff D. Bravi, M. Bravi, and His
10		Majesty the King in Right of Alberta
11	N. Peermohamed	For Rocky View County
12	(No Appearance)	For C. Bally as Litigation Representative for
13		The Estate of Ryan Peter Doedel, Deceased
14	(No Appearance)	For Intact Insurance
15	C. McGiverin	Court Clerk
16		
17 18	THE COURT:	So walve got Mr. Doomnohamed and Mr.
19	Allchurch.	So we've got Mr. Peermohamed and Mr.
20	Ancharch.	
21	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Good afternoon, Sir.
22	WIK. ALLETTORCH.	Good atternoon, Sir.
23	THE COURT:	What I usually like to do on these is have the
24		hat gives the respondent an hour or so to respond
25		e are about 4:00 and see what we need in terms of
26	any further submissions.	
27	•	
28	Mr. Peermohamed? Good morning. Or	afternoon, I guess.
29		
30	Submissions by Mr. Peermohamed	
31		
32	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Afternoon, Sir. Your Honour, Nabeel
33		nt/applicant Rocky View County. My friend, Derek
34	_	iffs/respondents. We have Dan Downe, who's
35		rer, and my colleagues Mavy Mangat and Courtney
36	Chrusch are just from my office observ	ing.
37	This is our application for summons dis-	missel under Dule 7.2. We submit the claim against
38 39	•	missal under Rule 7.3. We submit the claim against despite all the material before the Court, this case
40	•	whether the County is liable for not having a speed
41		which the county is hable for not having a speed which Road 242. We submit section 533 of the
	min sign for westerna danie on to	The second section of the

Municipal Government Act immunizes the County from any liability for the presence or absence of any signage, and that's per Steele at tab 13 paragraph 166.

Now, if you read the claim as a whole, you will see the base allegation is the County should have had a speed limit sign, and not having one up is what caused the accident. The plaintiff's relying on the report of John Morrall to say, at paragraph 21 of their brief, that the road now complies with the design guides because of a speed limit sign and various other signage. That's it. According to their expert, that's all the County needed to do in order to not be negligent. However, there is statutory immunity for any damages caused by the lack of signage. As a result, the plaintiffs' claim has no merit.

There were signs in existence at the time of the accident, but not speed limit signs, and these were on the paved portion of the road going westbound and leading to the private driveway. There's three points that are important for the Court to consider: causation, section 533, and section 532. So first let's talk about causation.

The police noted the vehicle was travelling at a high rate of speed. That's at the police report at Exhibit D to Steven Hulsman's affidavit. The driver went off the road to the right with no attempts to brake. That's Exhibit D, page 13. The questioning evidence of the plaintiff shows the accident was caused by driver error. That's at Exhibit G, pages 18 to 21 and 27. Now, the signs that existed on the road at the time before the accident are on the map at Exhibit L. There was a stop sign, a "No Through Traffic" sign, and a "Texas gate" sign. So in any event, despite no requirement to have a speed limit sign and no liability for not having a speed limit sign, we submit having a speed limit sign would not have made a difference.

The police noted the vehicle was travelling at a high rate of speed. The police would have known this was an unmarked rural road and would know that the speed limit was 80 kilometres per hour. And if they indicated high rate of speed, the Court could take judicial notice they meant over 80 kilometres per hour. Mr. Doedel was speeding, and a sign would make no difference to avoid the accident. Now, the expert report of Timothy Leggett says the vehicle went straight and did not even attempt to turn. So even if the Court accepts the vehicle left the road at 75 kilometres per hour, which is what their expert says, the accident was caused by driver error. Mr. Doedel missed the turn completely.

Let's now talk about the proper interpretation of section 533. Now, the plaintiffs say in their brief that the 2004 Ontario case of *Ouellette* - that's at tab 10 of their brief - they say that case informs the interpretation of the Alberta MGA, but that is not what was done in the 2010 case of *Steele*, which is at our case -- our brief tab 13. At paragraph 166, the Court provided the exemption for the City's liability for not erecting a No Parking sign. So section 533 is not to be interpreted as protecting the City if the sign causes injury. That's what my

friend says. We submit it is to protect the City from liability where the allegation is a lack of signage caused the injury. That is how the Court today should interpret section 533 to provide the County here immunity from liability for the plaintiffs' damages.

Now, my third and final point is the plaintiffs are alleging the road was in a state of disrepair to attract liability under section 532 of the *Municipal Government Act*. The gentle curve of the road is private property. That's uncontroverted. The County could not do anything about that. The County is not obligated to make a private driveway straighter. Now, the plaintiffs cite *Pyke v. Calgary*, 2023 ABCA 304. I have a copy for the Court.

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. PEERMOHAMED: This decision came out relatively recently, after briefs were exchanged and -- and filed. But both my friend and I will be relying on this case, and we think it's informative. It clearly clarifies the interpretation of section 532 and 533. So the Court of Appeal said at paragraph 46 --

18 THE COURT: 36?

20 MR. PEERMOHAMED: 46.

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THE COURT: Okay, 46.

24 MR. PEERMOHAMED: 4-6.

26 THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. PEERMOHAMED: I've highlighted the relevant portion that I'm relying on. So at paragraph 46, while referencing cases like *Malmas*, 2007 ABQB 648, and *Steele* with an 'E', 2010 ABQB 327, the Court of Appeal says section 533(a) immunizes a municipality from lack of -- sorry. Section 533(a) immunizes a municipality from lack of signage. The Court of Appeal in *Pyke* also distinguished *Housen* - that's the 2002 SCC 33 case, which the plaintiffs rely heavily on in their brief - because the protection of section 533 was not available to the municipality in *Housen*. And now at paragraph 47 of *Pyke*, the Court of Appeal says:

Section 533(a) operates to shield Alberta municipalities from liability for good faith decisions in relation to certain types of roadway infrastructure, including decisions about what to install and when, where, and how to install it.

So in today's case, there would be liability for the County if a sign they had installed had 1 fallen over and then the fallen sign was the cause of Mr. Bravi's injuries. But that's not what 2 happened here, so there's no liability on the County. There is no sign. No sign caused the 3 injury. The allegation is a lack of signage caused the injury. 4 5 6 Pyke also dismisses the analysis in Ouelette as inapplicable with respect to section 533, 7 and we submit the Court should do the same here. Well that is something that my -- my friends rely on heavily. So in conclusion, we ask the plaintiffs' claims as against the County 8 be dismissed because there is no merit to them in the face of the statutory immunities 9 afforded the County by the Municipal Government Act. Subject to any questions, those are 10 my submissions. 11 12 13 THE COURT: Mr. Hulsman's cross-examination, I thought I understood it to say that there was a 50 kilometre per hour sign at the time of the accident. 14 15 Do I have that wrong? 16 17 MR. PEERMOHAMED: Well, he had to clarify. So he --18 19 THE COURT: Okay. 20 21 MR. PEERMOHAMED: -- said he'll just need to clarify, and then if you look at undertaking number 5 --22 23 Okay, if you could tell me about that please? 24 THE COURT: 25 Yeah. Undertaking number 5 says those two 26 MR. PEERMOHAMED: signs that are depicted in the expert report were put in December 2018 - so a few months 27 28 after the accident. 29 30 THE COURT: Those are the "after" signs then. 31 32 MR. PEERMOHAMED: That's right. 33 34 THE COURT: Okay. 35 That's right. 36 MR. PEERMOHAMED: 37

debate about is the speed limit 50 kilometres per hour or 80 kilometres per hour on this

And then my other question is there is some

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THE COURT:

road?

MR. PEERMOHAMED: On a rural unmarked road, the speed limit is understood as 80 kilometres per hour. And I believe that's from the Alberta Government site. In the urban centres it's -- it's 50 kilometres an hour if it's unmarked.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Allchurch?

Submissions by Mr. Allchurch

MR. ALLCHURCH: Thank you, Sir. My friend was very brief. Much appreciated. Sir, I'll -- I'll deal, I guess, primarily with these -- the issues that my friend talked about as far as section 532(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* and then section 533(a) of the *Municipal Government Act*. Before that though, I just want to clarify that on -- on causation, we're relying on one thing my friend mentioned, which is Tim Leggett, the engineer, saying that the -- the vehicle left the road at 75 kilometres per hour. That's the only -- we don't -- unfortunately, Ryan Doedel died in this accident, so we don't have any information from him. So what we have is the engineer saying that the departure speed was 75 kilometres per hour, which is below the -- the unposted speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour.

The other thing is, as shown in my brief, at least as far as causation goes, this case is very similar to *Housen* in that the -- the expert evidence is that the -- the sharp corner coming up creates the hazard. This is John Morrall talking about human factors. So I wasn't going to spend a lot of time on causation because of the exit speed, which is below the speed limit and, I submit, very similar facts to *Housen*. I think though I do have to spend some time on both section 532 of -- of Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* and section 533(a).

So let me go get into that, but there's a few key facts I'm glad to hear my -- my friend -- to me, there was some confusion as to whether the -- there was a posted speed limit. Under section 106 of the *Traffic Safety Act* in the absence of signs, the speed limit on a rural road is 80 kilometres per hour. So -- but interestingly, after the accident it was lowered to 50 kilometres per hour, as my friend candidly conceded, in December 2018 because of this accident - this horrible accident - where Mr. Doedel was killed and Mr. Bravi was rendered a -- a -- a T10/L1 paraplegic. Fifty days after that, the 50 kilometre per hour signs were put in. So the speed is now 50 kilometres per hour.

So as far as -- as -- that's important, Sir, because we submit that the post-motor vehicle accident changes to Township Road 242 are relevant because they show what Rocky View County should have done before the motor vehicle accident. So as my friend correctly pointed out, the key facts from John Morrall, our road design expert, and not coincidentally

the road design expert in the Pyke decision, was that Township Road 242 now would pass -- would pass a -- a -- a road safety audit. So it now complies with Alberta Transportation's road safety design guides. But he also says it didn't at -- at the time that the accident occurred.

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So the -- and -- and that's -- that's really for two reasons that he states, and this is from John Morrall's affidavit. He says that Township Road 242 cannot accommodate speeds of 80 kilometres per hour because the geometry does not provide a safe stopping sight distance. So I just want to hand out, Sir -- and this -- this is from John Morrall's affidavit.

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11 THE COURT:

Just a question --

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13 MR. ALLCHURCH: I -- I can tell you where it's from, but yeah, go

ahead.

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16 THE COURT:

Yes, just a question. Let's say you've got a gravel road in Kananaskis country, and nobody puts up a sign. Does that mean you get to drive 80 kilometres per hour regardless because nobody put up a sign? Don't you have to keep the car on the road?

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21 MR. ALLCHURCH: Yes, and -- and I -- I don't think, Sir -- absolutely,

and I don't -- this is certainly not a case where we're trying to say that Rocky View Country is 100 percent at fault. I think if you see in *Housen*, if you read through it, in that case they weighed the lack of signage and said, Well, in this case the municipality is 35 percent at fault. So we completely agree that the driver certainly has some high duties on a road like this. It's 10:40 at night when this happens, so it's dark out.

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There's no -- I'm not -- I'm not imputing any knowledge you have, Sir, of Springbank but believe me, there's no traffic -- there's no traffic lights out there. So certainly, this -- this is a situation we submit where the driver would bear the -- the lion's share of the liability, but we don't think that's -- we'd respectfully submit that doesn't mean that the County is completely not at fault, similar to in *Housen*.

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So Sir, I'm just passing you up --

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36 THE COURT: Sure. Thank you.

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38 MR. ALLCHURCH: This is just -- oh. This is just an excerpt from

39 John Morrall's affidavit.

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41 THE COURT: Sure, thank you. 1

2 MR. ALLCHURCH: 3 4 5

-- specifically, it's from the affidavit of John Morrall. It's Exhibit B, tabs 5 and 6. And the first -- I'll just go through the photos. The first photo just shows the new -- the now posted speed limit sign. That sign is about 1.5 kilometres east of where the collision occurred. The bottom sign shows the -- you can see -- it's not a very good photo, but there's a posted speed limit sign now for eastbound traffic on Township Road 242.

This isn't a new document or anything. It's just

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The next photo shows that there's a vertical crest, which is why you can't see that -- what my friend's described as -- as a gentle curve. You can't see it until you're -- you're close. The photo at the bottom shows these signs weren't there. That's -- that's admitted. But now, there's a 25 kilometre per hour advisory sign. There's a -- now there's a sharp left arrow signal. Now, and you can see in this -- it's better shown on the next photo, Sir. Now, there is two -- two left turn chevrons that are illuminated at night so you can see them when your headlights hit them.

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And now there is -- at the end, there's the checkboard sign with the sharp left corner, and now there's a flashing yellow light. It's solar powered, so it -- it warns -- and these -- these are all changes that laudably the Rocky View County made after the accident, but the reason they made them is important to what they should have done before the accident because what these new signs do is they warn drivers of the upcoming -- the accident itself, Sir, happened on the Township Road, so it's somewhat immaterial where the -- where this road actually goes. It goes on to Colpitts Ranch, but what it does is it warns motorists that this road's about to end and it's about to turn -- whether it's sharp or gently, I would submit under -- John Morrall says this corner can't be safely taken at more than 40 kilometres per hour.

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So it's incumbent upon Rocky View County to warn people of the dangerous state of this road. It's about to end, and it's about to be a corner that cannot be safely negotiated anywhere close to 80 kilometres per hour. So that's why these signs were installed, and the issue becomes more, Why weren't they installed before the accident? Sir, section 533(a) ...

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Yes. THE COURT:

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35 MR. ALLCHURCH: So, I just wanted to perhaps belabour the point on *Housen*, but the -- the cite that we're relying on in -- in *Housen* is paragraph 71. In -- in 36 Housen, paragraph 71, which is on page 280: 37

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The trial judge concluded that, on a balance of probabilities, Mr. Nikolaisen would have reacted and possibly avoided an accident, if he had been given advance warning of the curve. However she also

found that the accident was partially caused by the conduct of Mr. 1 2 Nikolaisen, and apportioned fault accordingly, with 50 percent to Mr. 3 Nikolaisen and 35 percent to the Rural Municipality. 4 5 So I -- I think, Sir, that hopefully answers your question as to what we're seeking today. 6 7 Yes. THE COURT: 8 Now, Housen was applied as -- as my friend 9 MR. ALLCHURCH: referred to in the -- the case of Pyke v. Calgary (City), and in Pyke I'd just like to refer you 10 to paragraph 13 of the -- of the trial decision. We'll also talk about the appeal decision, but 11 ... so in paragraph 13 of Pyke, the trial decision ... sorry, Sir, I'm just having --12 13 14 THE COURT: That's okay. 15 16 MR. ALLCHURCH: -- trouble finding the trial decision. There it is. 17 18 THE COURT: It's okay. 19 20 This is at the end -- so on top of -- top of page 7: MR. ALLCHURCH: (as read) 21 22 23 The duty to keep roads in a reasonable state of repair stated in Housen does not necessarily require the original design or construction defect 24 to be corrected if it can be mitigated in other ways (example, signage 25 or changes in speed limit). 26

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And Sir, that's exactly what happened here. This is a rural road. We certainly don't expect Rocky View County to -- to change the road or pave it or -- or even -- even curve it, but they at least have a duty to keep the road in a reasonable state of repair. It has to -- you have to warn people that it's about to end. So that's the wording we take from *Housen* that was applied in *Pyke*. Sir, there's really -- I guess there's two issues as to why this road wasn't in a reasonable state of repair. It's the fact that the speed limit was 80, not 50. At 80 kilometres per hour, obviously motorists don't have nearly the same amount of time and they're not warned of the impending hazard, and signage to warn motorists of the upcoming sharp left turn.

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So perhaps I've belaboured that enough, Sir. We submit that section 532 has been -- has been breached. I think probably the -- the issue that the Court is more interested in is section 533(a), and -- and we concede as -- as referred to in the Court of Appeal in *Pyke* that unlike in *Housen*, Justice Feasby must consider an additional defence, which is section 533(a) of

the Municipal Government Act. And he deals with this, Sir, at paragraph 104 of the trial 1 2 decision, which is on page 21. He writes that Municipal Government Act section 533(a) as it is written extinguish the liability of municipalities at common law for providing unsafe 3 road (sic), nor does it relieve municipalities from liability for failing to repair road 4 infrastructure under -- under section 532. 5 6 7 Sir, as you know, after we wrote our briefs the Alberta Court of Appeal released their decision in Pyke. It was released on October 24th --8 9 10 THE COURT: Right. 11 -- 2023. The Court of Appeal dismissed the City 12 MR. ALLCHURCH: of Calgary's appeal of Justice Feasby's decision, finding the City was liable in that situation, 13 and what the Court of Appeal wrote -- and Sir, this is in -- in Pyke -- do you have the appeal 14 -- do you have the appeal decision there? 15 16 17 THE COURT: I do, yes. 18 19 MR. ALLCHURCH: This is paragraph 45. 20 21 THE COURT: 45? Okay. Yes. 22 23 MR. ALLCHURCH: They say at 45: 24 25 We do not accept the City's argument that section 533(a) provides blanket protection from liability in any case implicating barriers, 26 27 medians, and curbs. 28 29 And then at paragraph 50 they say: (as read) 30 31 Having installed the barrier on the median separating the east and west bound traffic on Glenmore Trail, the City has (sic) a duty to keep that 32 barrier in a state of reasonable repair. 33 34 35 Above that Sir, on the same page, page 16, paragraph 47 I would submit properly describes section 533(a) as: (as read) 36 37 operating to shield Alberta municipalities from liability for good faith 38 decisions in relation to certain types of roadway infrastructure, 39 including decisions about what to install and when, where, and how

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to install it.

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And for that proposition, they refer back to their own decision in *Southland Transportation* v. Calgary (City). And I do have -- it's a bit confusing, Sir, because -- I'll pass it up to you.

THE COURT:

Sure.

MR. ALLCHURCH: I've passed it to my friend, but he may not have had a chance to review. Just some history, Sir. That decision -- the *Southland Transportation v. Calgary (City)* is -- is actually just *Steele v. Burgos*. But this was -- there was a -- there was a summary dismissal application, which is what I'm about to discuss here, and then after that application was dismissed, the case went -- went to trial with Justice Jeffrey and is titled then *Steele v. Burgos*. So it's the same -- it's the same parties, but they weren't all parties to the appeal.

So in *Southland Transportation*, the Alberta Court of Appeal raised the issue of whether municipalities will have immunity in all cases where there is an absence of signage. So more on point than the issue of whether a sign has fallen down, such as in *Ouellette*. In this case, they do dismiss the City's summary judgment application, and if you look at paragraph 19 of *Southland Transportation*, the Court says that: (as read)

With respect, in our view the appellants raise genuine issues as to whether or not the City is entitled to immunity under section 533 in the circumstances of this case. It is not clear, or beyond question to us, that the immunity under section 533 arise (sic) in all cases where there is an absence of signage, if that absence is determined to arise from a failure to implement a policy decision, or otherwise is an operational decision or if the decision was made for ulterior purposes.

So the import of that, Sir, is it does seem looking back it's broader than just what's described in *Pyke* as good faith or bad faith because I don't think -- I -- I don't think we can approve bad faith on part of Rocky View County in this case, but I would submit that the test is a little broader than just good faith or bad faith. It's -- it's -- in this case, the Court considered whether the absence of signage is -- arises from a failure to implement a policy decision. So the Court of Appeal, as they do raise that issue, dismiss the City of Calgary's summary dismissal application. The matter then proceeds to trial, and Justice Jeffrey has to deal with this direction from the Court to consider whether the absence of signage is a policy decision, an operational decision, does it -- is there a way that 533 may not apply?

So then we proceed to *Steele v. Burgos*, and just -- the facts of *Steele v. Burgos* are somewhat important because the City in that case -- the -- the -- there's a child who runs out from a playground. He runs out between two parked Southland buses and is -- is struck

1 2 3 4 5 6	by a car and very badly very badly injured. So in that case, the the Southland buses are parked there. The City was supposed to have No Parking signs up but, for various reasons that I'll discuss, did not. So but interestingly in that case and this is paragraph 73 of <i>Steele v. Burgos</i> . In that case, Justice Jeffrey makes note - as I'm asking you to do, Sir - to he considers the fact that the City did install No Parking signs after the accident.		
7	So again to the extent that if you or my	friend are concerned about the the relevance or	
8	•	onduct, Steele v. Burgos stands for the proposition	
9	• •	ne Court. It's not determinative, but it should be	
10	_	and this is at paragraph 79. Do you have it there,	
11	Sir? It's it's it's our tab 15		
12	THE COURT.	01 1-4 4- 414	
13 14	THE COURT:	Okay, let me go to that.	
15	MR. ALLCHURCH:	I think it might be in my friend's brief as well.	
16		1 think to hinghi of in my miena i onto us went	
17	THE COURT:	Just a minute here.	
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19	MR. ALLCHURCH:	So so Steele and Steele v. Burgos is 2010	
20	ABQB 327. I'm referring to page 17 par	agraph 79.	
21	THE COLDT	O1 WI' 1 (1 ') (1 ' ' ')	
22 23	THE COURT:	Okay. Which tab in your authorities?	
24	MR. ALLCHURCH:	I had it as tab 15 in my	
25		1 1110 10 010 110 111 1111	
26	THE COURT:	Okay.	
27			
28	MR. ALLCHURCH:	brief, Sir.	
29	THE COLUMN	X7 20 d	
30 31	THE COURT:	Yes, it's there.	
32	MR. ALLCHURCH:	I'll just double check that. You have it there?	
33	MR. AEDONOM.	The fust double check that. Too have it there.	
34	THE COURT:	Yes.	
35			
36	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Okay.	
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38	THE COURT:	And I'll find	
39 40	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Okay	
40	WIK. ALLUNUKUN.	Okay.	
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THE COURT: Paragraph 79.

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MR. ALLCHURCH: 4

Right. 79 is just a description -- it -- there's quite a lengthy discussion because, if you recall, under Southland the -- the Court of Appeal is giving, I would submit, some direction to Justice Jeffrey as to what he has to consider. So starting at paragraph 79, he -- he -- we get into an issue of whether playground signs -- or no -- or No Parking signs are traffic control devices. In this case, Sir, the -- all the signs installed by Rocky View County after, we concede that they're -- they're considered traffic control devices. So they fit within the wording of section 533(a). And specifically in -- in Steele v. Burgos, I draw your attention to 113 and 114.

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In 113, Justice Jeffrey has to consider the City's rationale for not installing the No Parking signs and finds the City's decision to be reasonable. So it's not just a -- a -- he doesn't just look at section 533(a) and say, Okay, it's -- it's not blanket immunity. There has to be some consideration as to why the City didn't install the No Parking signs. So in this case, comparing it to ours, it's not -- it's -- my friend has conceded that there aren't signs there, but we still have to look at why aren't there signs, or there has to at least be an explanation given to attract the immunity under section 533(a).

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So in this case, we -- we don't know why Rocky View County didn't install the signs after the motor vehicle accident. What Rocky View County has admitted is that they always follow the Alberta Transportation Highway Geometric Guides, and these are referred to in John Morrall's expert reports. And that's not a particularly dramatic admission, except that -- virtually every municipality in Alberta should be following the Alberta Transportation Highway Design Guides, but they didn't follow the Alberta Transportation Geometric Design Guides because what those guides say per -- per John Morrall is if you have a road that's -- first of all, if you have a road that's -- with -- with -- with this kind of not only a hill but then a sharp or gentle or -- it -- it ends at any rate - ends in a driveway - you have to warn -- you have to have a speed limit such that when drivers crest that hill, they have an opportunity to -- to -- to safely negotiate that turn.

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So the fact that Township Road 242 did not comply with the Alberta Transportation Highway Geometric Design Guides is evidence that it was not in a state of repair. That -not only that, but that Rocky View County, for some reason that we don't know, breached their duty. We don't know why they didn't do it until after. One of the things that -- that -that -- again, in my friend's brief and in the documents it's very clear -- and Rocky View County is -- is -- seems like a very laudable county in the sense that they have regular inspections of this road. They follow their own guidelines as to regular inspections, so you can't say that they didn't know about this. There's a grader going down there, you know, every 2 or 3 weeks. There's regular inspections as -- as mandated by their policy. And yet no one does anything until after the accident.

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2 It's a -- it's a clear hazard, and yet no one does anything, and then the actual fix is actually pretty simple. You lower the speed limit to 50. You put up a few signs. And this road goes 3 from -- as per John Morrall, goes from unsafe to safe, goes from complying with Alberta 4 Transportation's Geometric Highway Design Guides -- from not complying to complying. 5 So that, we submit, is -- is -- in that case, the -- we don't know why, but we have enough 6 7 here that it would be difficult, we would submit, just to grant summary dismissal without getting into more -- as Justice Jeffrey did in Steele v. Burgos, more as to why they didn't 8 follow the Alberta Transportation Highway Design Guides before the accident. They did 9

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12 The last case I want to refer you to, Sir, is -- is the Legare v. Acme case. I believe this is 13 tab 9 in our --

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15 THE COURT: Yes.

after. So we don't know now why. We may at trial.

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MR. ALLCHURCH: 18

-- in our brief. This is another decision from Justice Feasby. Fairly recent, Sir. It's a 2023 decision. I'll just check the dates on that. 2023 ABKB 145. And in that case, Justice Feasby at paragraph 19 -- at paragraph 19, Justice Feasby writes: (as read)

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Like in *Housen*, the present case is one where the original infrastructure had a design defect and thus was in a state of disrepair. [Following through in that paragraph, he ends by saying] The Village did nothing to address sewer state's -- state of disrepair until after the incident when the sewer line was replaced with larger diameter pipe that met the required standard.

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So -- and then at paragraph 15, turning one page back Sir. I don't know if you're there.

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31 THE COURT: Okay, yes.

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What he says in paragraph 15 at the top is a broad MR. ALLCHURCH: interpretation of the exemption from liability in Municipal Government Act section 530 which is the -- it's another one of the -- the exemption clauses. Not -- it's for -- it's for a system of inspection and repair, but similar to 533 in that it's another way for municipalities in Alberta to avoid liability. But he says that a broad interpretation of the exemption from liability in section 530 would render the imposition of liability in section 532 meaningless. So that's what we have, Sir, here is that -- I think it's virtually conceded that the highway is in a state of disrepair, only in the sense that the speed limit's too high and there's no warning for motorists of a sharp left -- or there is now, but there wasn't at the time. So at the time of the accident, despite saying that they always follow but Rocky View County did not follow the -- the Alberta Transportation Design Guides. Why? I guess we -- I guess we have to go to trial and find -- find out. But I would submit, Sir, that Rocky View County's application for summary dismissal should be dismissed.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Peermohamed, any reply?

Submissions by Mr. Peermohamed (Reply)

MR. PEERMOHAMED: Yes, very briefly, Your Honour. So it's not conceded that the road was in disrepair. We don't concede that. First, we have the straight road, which is the County's road. The curve to the left is part of the driveway that's owned by a private owner. That's not County property. We have no business putting up any signs, chevron or solar powered or whatever, on their property. Now, the reason it was done is because in the material, you'll see that it was done because the private owners told the County about it -- told the County about what they should be doing and the County relented and put that up at the private owner's request.

 But the County has no business going onto private property without that prompting, and certainly without that permission, and putting up signs that are now there. We don't need to go to trial for that. We have that. My friend is confusing a state of repair with signage. Signage does not dictate repair or disrepair, and that was clearly stated in *Pyke*. *Pyke*, the Court of Appeal said that the disrepair was caused by the build up of the snow and debris rendering that median useless, which launched traffic into the plaintiff. That's disrepair. Something resulted in a public work falling into a state of disrepair. We don't have disrepair here. We have a lack of signage, and the Court of Appeal in *Pyke* said a lack of signage is not disrepair, and so 532 doesn't apply. They specifically distinguished *Housen* and *Steele* and *Malmas* for that reason.

So those cases about lack of signage did not inform the analysis in *Pyke* of section 532. That's paragraph 46 and 47 of the Court of Appeal decision in *Pyke*. You can't use *Housen*. *Housen* was distinguished by the Court of Appeal panel in *Pyke*. 35 percent liability was attributed to *Housen*, but *Pyke* said that was done because *Housen* -- the municipality did not have the benefit of this defence - 533(a). So you can't attribute a *Housen* analysis to Rocky View County in this case. And then the case of *Algoma* talks about subsequent activities, subsequent remediation, and if the Court is going to use that against Rocky View County, that would send a policy decision -- or a message to the public that we should never remediate because it'll be used against us, and that's against public policy.

1 2 3 4 5	because it wasn't a foreseeable hazard. There'd been no previous accidents, and that's clear in the evidence, the affidavit of Steven Hulsman and his cross-examination. Subject to any questions, those are my reply submissions.	
6 7	THE COURT:	Something I would like to do before we wrap up
8		s - I think it's the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i> - about the
9	default 80 kilometres per hour. Can somebody walk me through that? I don't know if that's	
10		_
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12	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Yeah, I think my
13	THE COURT	M D 1 1
14 15	THE COURT:	you, Mr. Peermohamed
16	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	I think Mr. Allchurch
17	WIK. I ELKWOTTAWIED.	1 tillik ivii. Alicharen
18	THE COURT:	or Mr. Allchurch.
19		
20	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	said it's it's section 106
21		
22	THE COURT:	Okay.
23	MD DEEDMOHAMED.	SAL Tunes Confirm And
2425	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	of the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i> .
26	THE COURT:	Let's have a look. I'd just like to see if there's
27	anything that I need to	Let's have a look. Ta just like to see if there's
28	only aming and a need to	
29	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Yeah, and Sir I
30		
31	THE COURT:	know about that section.
32	MD ALL CHAD CH	
33	MR. ALLCHURCH:	I I buried it in in tab 6. I put all the
3435	THE COURT:	Okay. Okay.
36	THE COOKT.	Okay. Okay.
37	MR. ALLCHURCH:	statutes as I was confused too. I put the
38		on 106, which says 80 kilometres per hour is the
39	maximum speed limit for a highway. Yea	·
40		

THE COURT:

So it's 106 of the Traffic Safety Act?

1 2 MR. ALLCHURCH: Yeah. 3 4 THE COURT: Just bear with me. 5 Yeah. 6 MR. ALLCHURCH: 7 8 THE COURT: Okay, thank you for your submissions. 9 Sir, can we just --10 MR. ALLCHURCH: 11 12 THE COURT: Yes? 13 I just need to clear something up. 14 MR. ALLCHURCH: 15 16 THE COURT: Sure. 17 18 MR. ALLCHURCH: And maybe --19 20 THE COURT: Sure. 21 22 MR. ALLCHURCH: -- maybe the Court's satisfied. I had understood 23 that -- no -- well, I -- I think it's conceded that the accident itself happened on Township -- or on Rocky View County property. I -- I had understood that the signs that were installed 24 were on Rocky View County's right of way, not on the private driveway which is -- the --25 the -- the accident -- the -- the vehicle never got onto the private driveway, and all the signs 26 that -- I'd understood all the signs were installed on -- on -- on the Township right of way, 27 not on the Colpitts Ranch. Maybe, Sir, you're satisfied on that, but I just wanted to make 28 29 sure that -- I'd understood that these signs weren't installed on private property. 30 31 THE COURT: Any comment, Mr. Peermohamed, on that? 32 33 So everyone's saying -- all the experts are saying MR. PEERMOHAMED: that the -- the -- the vehicle left the road tangentially to the curve. So it left off, and so the 34 curve itself is private property. It's a private driveway. Now, whether or not the sign itself 35 are installed (sic) on private property or not is not that clear. It's certainly not clear from 36 the pictures, and I don't think it's clear from the material. The material says that the signs 37 were installed at the request of the owners, who found out about this accident, and it was 38 39 done subsequently. So those are the pictures that you have in front of you. 40 41 They are inside the barbed wire fence, but they're on the land, not necessarily the road.

They could be in the -- in the right of way.

THE COURT: In the end, we don't have a survey that could tell

4 us with certainty. Is that --

6 MR. PEERMOHAMED: Not today.

8 THE COURT: That's fair to say?

9 MR. PEERMOHAMED: Yeah.

Decision

 THE COURT: Yes. Okay. Thank you, both of you, for your submissions. Very helpful as always. The briefs were well done and helpful. I'm in a position to give a decision. I reviewed the materials in advance. I considered the applicability of the cases. A lot of these cases, in my view, come down to the facts of individual cases, and I want to illustrate that a bit by walking through, for example, the

18 Southland case briefly.

Chambers judge at the beginning grants summary dismissal. The Court of Appeal reverses Justice Horner, and we have to remember it was a summary judgment case. It was pre-Hryniak, pre-Weir-Jones, pre-Hannam, and pre-the modern litigation climate as to how we're supposed to deal with summary judgment cases and determine issues summarily when we can and when they can be done with confidence based upon the record before the Court.

 And then when that case goes to trial, ultimately Justice Jeffrey appears to have found some potential issues but in the end exempts the City pursuant to the applicable section, 533(a) of the *Municipal Government Act*. In this particular case, we know there wasn't a posted 50 kilometre per hour sign, and 80 kilometres per hour is certainly the maximum speed pursuant to the *Traffic Safety Act*, but in my view that doesn't necessarily mean that there's a right to drive 80 kilometres per hour on any rural road in Alberta with impunity. And this is the most unfortunate accident. The pictures were horrible. It's tragic.

 But in the end, I think it's clear to everyone that speed was an issue here. And the experts say that. When you look at the materials, common sense says that - simply going too fast. And what the action is really about is responsibility for that speed. Is there a right to drive 80 kilometres per hour everywhere because the *Traffic Safety Act* makes that a maximum? No, I don't think so. When you look at the materials, look at the facts here, on its face - in my view - this doesn't appear to be a place where it was safe to drive 80 kilometres per hour.

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THE COURT: 40

MR. PEERMOHAMED:

I'd need to know the details of the formal order and determine the things like is it a genuine offer of compromise? When was it? I think

And then you get into some of the other issues such as the Municipal Government Act and the applicability that it may have on the facts before the Court. We've got a situation where signage meets the definition of a traffic control device. We've got a situation where the real complaint here -- and despite plaintiffs' counsel's eloquent articulation as to putting together the cases and going through them, in the end the argument amounts to not putting up a sign. It is not, in my view, a lack of maintenance issue. It's a signage issue. The Municipal Government Act expressly excludes liability for signage.

There may be some extreme circumstances of bad faith and those sorts of things that might not apply, but we don't have any suggestion of that here or any evidence to suggest that there's an issue of merit for trial based upon that. I think the Pyke case supports the arguments of the defendant here on the applicability of section 533(a), and no question it's a tragic, tragic accident. But in the circumstances, in my view, the municipal district is entitled to summary dismissal. I think section 533(a) protects it. It can't put signage everywhere, and as argued by Mr. Peermohamed, there was no indication of any other incidents of accidents at this location.

And I agree with Mr. Peermohamed's submission that it's a slippery slope when you resort too heavily to the subsequent changes made, and that's something I remember from I think it was 2nd year law school in evidence - it was a railway case - the extent to which alterations can be used to prove negligence in the first place. And there's very clearly a public policy argument that holding them against the party acts as a disincentive to fix things. And I think that's a real concern here, particularly with something that's responsible for the public good such as a municipality as in this case. In my view, the case for some apportioning of liability against the municipal district isn't there, and I dismiss the action summarily against the MD. So that's my disposition.

Thank you, Sir, for that. I wish I could pull it up.

I just lost internet connection. I'd like to speak to costs.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. PEERMOHAMED: I understand the Court is not the forum for an assessment. A formal offer was issued relatively early on in the litigation. Can I prepare a form of order - subject to your comments - that not only is the summary dismissal application granted for the County but also double costs for every step taken after the formal offer was served are payable to the County forthwith?

1 2	we'd have to of course get into all of that	i.
3	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	In the meantime, can I
5	THE COURT:	Yes.
7 8 9 10 11 12	claims against it, and any notice of clai	prepare an order that simply says paragraph 1, ne County is granted with respect to the plaintiffs' m against co-defendant is dismissed as well. All And then paragraph 2, Costs may be spoken to at
13 14 15	THE COURT: the cross-claims, didn't it? As drafted?	Your application contemplated the dismissal of
16 17	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	I'm not entirely
18 19 20	THE COURT: today?	Did everybody know that that was on the table
21 22	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	I do need to check.
23 24	THE COURT:	Yes.
25 26 27	MR. PEERMOHAMED: of application in front of me either.	I don't I don't have my I don't have my notice
28 29	THE COURT:	Who made a cross-claim against your client?
30 31	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	I think it's both. I think
32 33	Mr. Allchurch, I don't know if you have	your pleadings binder in front of you, but
34 35	THE COURT:	Let's see.
36 37	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Yeah. My apologies, Your Honour.
38 39	THE COURT:	That's okay. Let me see what I can
40 41	MR. ALLCHURCH: bring the is it in the application?	Sorry (INDISCERNIBLE) I don't I didn't

1	MD DEEDMOMANTED	T. 11 1 W
2 3	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	It would be. Whoever was named as a
4	respondent.	
5	MR. ALLCHURCH:	I didn't bring it, sorry.
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7	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	No, no, that's okay.
8		•
9	MR. ALLCHURCH:	I just brought the briefs.
10		
11	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Most most likely and maybe maybe the
12	Court can double check.	
13	THE COURT	
14	THE COURT:	The only party that could have is the Estate,
15 16	right? The Estate of Ryan Doedel?	
17	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	That that's right. I think
18	WIR. I ELIGIOTI WILD.	That that S right. I think
19	THE COURT:	Yes.
20		
21	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Yeah, because I don't believe the SEF 44 insurer
22	has a is a third party - is not a claima	nt or a defendant. It certainly didn't bring a cross-
23	claim against the County, so there migh	t be a cross-claim with respect to the Estate. But I
24		You know, I think the form of order basically just
25	says the respondents' - apostrophe - clair	ms against the applicants are dismissed.
26	THE COUNT	
27	THE COURT:	Do you have a copy of the application handy?
28 29	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	That's what we've been looking for too.
30	WK. I EERWOHAWED.	That's what we've been looking for too.
31	THE COURT:	Okay. Oh. Oh no, I might have it here.
32	1112 0 0 01111	0 1111 J. 0 11. 0 11 110, 1 1111 g.11 1111 / 0 11 1111 0
33	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Okay.
34		•
35	THE COURT:	I might have it here. I think I do, just bear with
36	me. Yes, it says, Summarily dismissing	all claims against the County. So I think that's
37		
38	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	That's what my notice says.
39	THE COURT	V 7
40	THE COURT:	Yes.
41		

1 2 3	MR. PEERMOHAMED: listed as just	And I apologize. Does the are the respondents
4 5	THE COURT:	Let's see.
6 7	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	the plaintiffs?
8	THE COURT:	Respondents are listed as just the plaintiffs.
10	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Okay. So as a result of that and because the
11 12	Estate chose not to participate in these p order that says all claims against the Cou	proceedings, is it is it is it possible to get an
13	order that says an elanns against the Cou	mty are distinissed:
14	THE COURT:	Well, let's do this. Why don't we break for 10
15	minutes. I'll pull up a procedure card.	
16		
17	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Okay.
18		
19	THE COURT:	And I think that's the best way to do it.
20		
21	MR. ALLCHURCH:	And and Sir, given your given your ruling, I
22	* =	's preparing an order that, you know, summary
23		and perhaps this is why you need to break. I'm not
24	quite sure what to do on on costs in the	e sense that
25	THE COURT.	V
26	THE COURT:	Yes.
27	MR. ALLCHURCH:	was want to a solving a Dullack on Sandanson
28 29		we would be seeking a <i>Bullock</i> or <i>Sanderson</i> View County in the first instance, we'd be seeking
30	1 0	•
31	-	lient and also against the Estate of Ryan Doedel. ely they're at fault for this accident. So there is a -
	•	· · · ·
32	_	as far as and perhaps it doesn't directly involve
33		but there is an issue as to who should pay their
3435	costs.	
36	THE COURT:	It seems to me, subject to us sorting out this one
37	issue, the order should be dismissed. The	
38	issue, the order should be dishlissed. The	ciami s dismissed.
39	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Yeah.
40	Mill. ADDONOM.	1 Cuii.
41	THE COURT:	And if the parties can't agree on costs, they may

1	• • •	think that's the best way to deal with that, and let's
2 3	take a break.	
4 5 6 7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- you're probably already doing that - to the pull me a procedure card, and then maybe we'll
8 9	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Yes, Sir.
10 11	THE COURT:	Thanks everyone.
12 13	(ADJOURNMENT)	
14	THE COURT:	Okay. This is what I've got. First I want to test
15	· ·	y. I can tell "law firm PL". That's Pipella Law. And
16	-	and affidavit and the litigation rep documents, all
17	•	n there's a statement of defence on behalf of Ryan
18 19	help with who "SL" would be?	n rep, and that one is said to be filed by "SL". Any
20	help with who SL would be:	
21	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Oh, I don't know I don't oh, Sam Leung?
22		on, ruon om ruon on, sum zoung.
23	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Yeah.
24		
25	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Yeah.
26		
27	THE COURT:	Ah, okay. So that's Intact?
28	MD DEEDMOUANED	X 1 T 4 771 1 1 1 4 1 1 1 1
29 30	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Yeah, Intact. They don't go they don't have
31	THE COURT:	Yes.
32	THE COOKT.	165.
33	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Intact LLP or anything
34		, ,
35	THE COURT:	Yes.
36		
37	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	so they go with their individual lawyers there.
38		
39	THE COURT:	Okay. That makes sense. So that's Mr. Leung.
40 41	And what was have one Mr. Loung iggues	l a notice of claim against co-defendant against the

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side. Mr. Leung would have had notice of today's application.
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 2
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                                                He -- he would have had notice --
    MR. PEERMOHAMED:
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    THE COURT:
 5
                                                Yes.
 6
    MR. PEERMOHAMED:
                                                 -- and I believe indicated to our office they are
       not participating in this, but I -- I do recognize that the Estate has not been named as a
 8
       respondent formally on our -- on our notice of application. But I believe all parties were
 9
       served. You saw Mr. Downe here as counsel for the SEF 44 third party ...
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    THE COURT:
                                                I think the appropriate thing -- because everyone
       knew what was on the table today was the liability of MD of Rocky View, I think MD of
13
       Rocky View is no longer a defendant, and as such any notices to co-defendant either way
14
       are dismissed; yours, Mr. Peermohamed, against the Estate and the Estate's against yours.
15
       I think that's the appropriate way to handle it. I can't see a third-party notice. I don't think
16
       there was a third-party notice. I do see "order make third party", but that's a different kind
17
       of third party. That's the Insurance Act type third party, so that's not the third-party notice
18
       type of thing.
19
20
21
    MR. ALLCHURCH:
                                                And I think that was what Mr. Downe is -- is --
       he -- he issued the third-party notice.
22
23
24
    THE COURT:
                                                Yes.
25
26
    MR. ALLCHURCH:
                                                Yeah. Yeah.
27
28
    THE COURT:
                                                Yes. So I think we've got an order that says that,
       and I think the best way is if you can't agree on costs that you've got leave to set up a time
29
       to come and speak to them.
30
31
32
    MR. ALLCHURCH:
                                                And that's fine, Sir. I guess -- how are we dealing
       with -- like are the costs going to be payable by my client -- by -- by the plaintiffs, or are
33
       they going to be shared with Mr. Leung's client, the Estate of Ryan Doedel? That's I guess
34
       -- you know, maybe that's -- that's why I'm seeking a Bullock. I obviously want --
35
36
37
    THE COURT:
                                                Right.
38
39
    MR. ALLCHURCH:
                                                 -- them to pay --
40
41
    THE COURT:
                                                Yes. I think anybody --
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MR. ALLCHURCH:the costs, but I think Mr. Peermohamed would say, Well, in the first instance we certainly did oppose this application. Hink anybody who you want to pay costs needs to be involved in that discussion. MR. PEERMOHAMED: So I'll prepare a form of order for my friend's endorsement and then submit it to the Court. It'll say paragraph 1, The County's summary dismissal application is granted. All claims against the County are dismissed. THE COURT: Right. MR. PEERMOHAMED: And the County is no longer a defendant in this action, so its claim against the Estate is dismissed. And then if the parties can't agree on costs within 30 days, they can write to Your Honour THE COURT: Yes. MR. PEERMOHAMED: and then we can go from there. THE COURT: No, contact the Applications Judges' specials coordinator. I'd rather speak to them than do written arguments and all that. MR. PEERMOHAMED: Okay. MR. PEERMOHAMED: Okay. THE COURT: Pd rather just speak to them. MR. ALLCHURCH: Just for for efficiency's sake, Sir, do you want to set a date now? And then if if it might be that Mr. Peermohamed and I can agree on it, but if not, we could appear back in front of you. THE COURT: Probably not because I MR. ALLCHURCH: Okay. MR. ALLCHURCH: Okay. MR. ALLCHURCH: am not as good at scheduling as our scheduler is. MR. ALLCHURCH: Okay.	1		
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y	39		
41		MR. ALLCHURCH:	Okay.
	41		

1	THE COURT:	Okay? I think we're done. Here's your materials.
2	Thank you again for your submissions.	
3		
4	Thank you, madam clerk, for your assist	ance.
5		
6	And that would be how you initiate the	process and then probably what would happen is
7		starts the process of scheduling, and then when
8		anybody who's seeking costs or seeking any relief
9		you're asking that somebody else pay those costs,
10	so you'd want	
11	·	
12	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Yeah.
13		
14	THE COURT:	to do a little piece on that. Yes. Just so
15	everybody knows	1
16	•	
17	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Okay.
18		·
19	THE COURT:	who's going to show up and say what. Yes.
20	Okay. Thanks everyone.	
21		
22	MR. ALLCHURCH:	Thank you, Sir.
23		
24	MR. PEERMOHAMED:	Thank you, Sir.
25		
26		
27	PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED	
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Certificate of Record

I, Caitlyn McGiverin, certify that this recording is the record made of the evidence in the proceedings in the Court of King's Bench, held in courtroom 904, at Calgary, Alberta, on the 22nd day of February, 2024, and that I was the court official in charge of the sound-recording machine during the proceedings.

Certificate of Transcript I, Burgundy Howlett, certify that (a) I transcribed the record, which was recorded by a sound-recording machine, to the best of my skill and ability and the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate transcript of the contents of the record, and (b) the Certificate of Record for these proceedings was included orally on the record and is transcribed in this transcript. TYPE A TRANSCRIPTION, Transcriber Order Number: TDS-1054968 Dated: April 18, 2024