AUTO INSURANCE TALKING POINTS – FOLA 2020

BACKGROUND
In its 2019 budget, the province announced its Putting Drivers First blueprint for auto insurance.   The blueprint defined five goals:
1.   To put drivers first.
2.   To lower insurance costs.
3.   To increase consumer choice.
4.   To make the auto insurance market more competitive.
5.   Ensure that those hurt in car accidents received faster access to treatment and care.

In September, 2019, the Ministry of Finance published two consultation papers seeking questions from various stakeholders.   Those consultation papers addressed two specific issues:
1.   a Care, Not Cash default system for medical, rehabilitation and attendant care benefits, and
2.   reinstating the catastrophic impairment benefit limits to $2M.

FOLA'S POSITION
FOLA's submission regarding these proposals can be found here.

In short, FOLA's submission spoke against the government's Care, Not Cash default proposal but were in favour of reinstating the $2M limits for catastrophic injuries.

Other points:
FOLA strongly cautioned the government against doing what its predecessor governments had done over the past 30 years, specifically, tinkering with the automobile insurance system as a means of trying to reduce policy premiums.
FOLA urged the government to start from scratch by first determining what values it wanted in place for the people of Ontario in constructing an automobile insurance regime rather than making relative minor adjustments to the current system.
FOLA stipulated that neither of these initiatives will address any of the five goals set out in the government's Putting Drivers First blueprint.

WHERE WE ARE NOW
We have yet to hear from the government as to whether it is going to go ahead with a Care, Not Cash default system for non-catastrophic medical, rehabilitation and attendant care benefits or whether it is going to reinstate the $2M catastrophic limit.

We can only assume that the government has other ideas to address the goals in its blueprint but we have not been provided with any details.