

Teen battles back

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A 14-year-old girl who has been in a coma since she was struck by a van in November has started showing tentative signs of recovery.

Angeline Burleigh was transferred Tuesday from Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital, where she was treated in the trauma centre, to the Metropolitan Campus of Windsor Regional Hospital. She is under the care of neurosurgeon Dr. Balraj Jhawar.

'Slightly responsive'

"Her physicians are describing her currently as being slightly responsive," family lawyer Greg Monforton said Thursday. "She still has a tracheotomy tube inserted, although she is not currently on a respirator."

The Grade 9 Century high school student was hit while crossing Tecumseh Road West at California Avenue to join some friends around 11:15 a.m. on Nov. 30.

Windsor police have said no charges will be laid in the accident.

But Monforton said his office is still interviewing witnesses and investigating the circumstances of the incident for a possible lawsuit. He said his investigation is about three-quarters complete.

"I don't want to make any pronouncement on the investigation until it's complete," Monforton said. "But certainly everything we've learned so far has caused us to continue the investigation."

An Angeline Burleigh trust fund has been set up at the CIBC branch located at 6800 Tecumseh Rd. E.

In the meantime, Monforton said the family must figure out how best to care for their loved one.

"Plans are underway to transfer her either home or to a long-term facility," he said. "Her injuries were so devastating. And everyone's response to injuries of this severity is unique. So it's difficult to know how things will turn out, but I would say there is quiet optimism."