



PRESIDENT'S REPORT BC FAMILY NET SOCIETY, AGM, DECEMBER 5, 2008

Family Net has experienced a very active time since our last AGM in November of 07. Subsequent actions and announcements by Government raised considerable concern, not only for our Society but for the Community Living Movement as a whole. These actions, outlined below, were undertaken without any meaningful consultation with the very people to be effected. The decision to redefine CLBC's service provision to only IQ 70 and under, thus leaving uncertainty for those in need with IQ's over 70, the return of children's service to MCFD, the proposed \$20 million building of a Centre for Autism, and the sudden move of CLBC to the new Ministry of Housing and Social Development all caused us to express our serious concerns. We wrote the Premier expressing our outrage at these developments to little effect.

Earlier in January, Family Net convened a meeting with other community organizations working on behalf of families and people with developmental disabilities to identify common concerns. Waitlists for receiving urgently need help from Infant Development through to planning for transition to adulthood were highlighted. Insufficient funding also became front and center. When we presented our brief to the Standing Committee on Finance in September we reiterated these ongoing realities that have been raised over so many years. We also met with the External Review Team, appointed by the government to present our thoughts about CLBC. We also met with CLBC staff to express our thoughts regarding the re-deployment of staff due to children services returning to MCFD. In particular we expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of the facilitator/ analyst positions and the importance of local presence in the delivery of services by CLBC.

We eventually were able to meet with Minister Rich Coleman last month to point out the frustration of families over the continual restructuring and lack of action regarding waitlist for transition to adulthood. We were assured that correcting this concern was one of his highest priorities. He also advised that IQ would no longer be used in assessing need and that this would address the IQ over 70 controversy.

Community concern has grown over this past year and we have been pleased to meet with others to address, in particular the crisis for families waiting for services. A consensus has developed and action on several levels is being planned, mindful that there will be an election in May of 2009.

We have experience a need to revise our Website and are in the process of doing that. Our Board has met the challenges presented this year with outstanding commitment and I cannot express my thanks enough to it for hanging in there through difficult times. Earlier this year we accepted the resignation of Secretary Karen Philipchuk with great regret. Her outstanding work on our behalf is clearly missed and we acknowledge her help preparing the mail out for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Dadson

Anita Dadson
President, BC FamilyNet Society