



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ref: 157347

DEC 07 2006

Anita Dadson President
BC FamilyNet Society

Dear Ms. Dadson:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2006, following our meeting on October 4, 2006, regarding community living. I enjoyed meeting with you and appreciated the valuable information exchange. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Since my appointment as Minister of Children and Family Development, I have been busy learning about the vast range of services available for children and families. Our meeting has been very helpful in increasing my understanding of the key issues in community living. I also appreciate the time you took to meet and discuss "your concerns with the Community Living British Columbia (CLBG) Board on September 19, 2006. It is essential that both the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and CLBC understand the concerns of organizations like yours. The work you have done to clarify and document your key issues will assist us greatly.

With respect to the Residential Options Project (ROP), I want to assure you and your organization that CLBC and this government remain committed to meaningful choice, person-centred services and the continued operation of licensed group homes. In addition, it is my understanding that phase two of the ROP is to include a review of family care homes to ensure that individuals in all residential services are living in their choice of residence.

With respect to the issues you raise regarding the independence of this project, I understand that this ROP is separate from the operational system, reporting directly to the CEO. It employs two senior managers from the community along with a mix of experienced community and CLBC staff to facilitate the interviews. In the event that FamilyNet is advised that a family or trusted advisor is not being included in discussions to determine the appropriate residential option for an individual, please advise both my office and CLBC's board.

The mandate of this project is to both assure government that individuals are in placements of their choice and that the funds provided to CLBC are being used to meet the needs of all individuals and their families requiring assistance. Any cost savings made through this project will remain with CLBC to facilitate supports and services to those individuals currently waitlisted.

**Ministry of
Children and Family
Development**

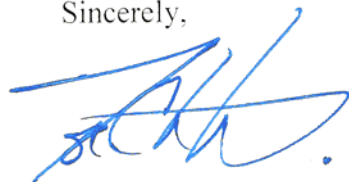
Office of the Minister

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There are many pressures facing CLBC. MCFD continues to work with CLBC to ensure full understanding of where the money is spent and whether or not it does best meet the needs of individuals and their families. I can assure you that MCFD and CLBC staff will continue to work collaboratively to address the challenges ahead. .

Thank you again for writing, and I look forward to your continued involvement as we work together to build the best possible system of supports for people with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Christensen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Christensen
Minister

pc: Lois Hollstedt, Chair, Community Living British Columbia