



July 18, 2016

Ms. Seonag Macrae, CEO  
Community Living BC  
700 – 1200 West 73<sup>rd</sup>  
Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5

Dear Seonag:

**Re: Home Share Model of Residential Support**

The FamilyNet board met recently to discuss concerns regarding the home share model given it is the main residential option for people with developmental disabilities.

While many of these issues have been expressed to you in the past, we feel they are even more important with the growth of the home share model. Following are our major concerns:

**Monitoring and Safeguards**

The safety and well-being of people living in a home share situation is paramount. A comprehensive monitoring and safeguarding program that includes formal and informal monitoring, unscheduled visits and the development of unpaid friendships for residents are all essential elements to ensure safety and security.

**Careful Placement**

Time taken to ensure a desirable placement that respects the individual's wishes, with input from their family, is critical.

**Full Disclosure**

Home share providers must be provided with all the resident information needed to ensure the placement is successful in the longer term.

**Training for Caregivers**

Over the past 30 years, agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities have provided initial and on-going training for their staff. This has been an absolute essential to ensure quality support. The same is true for home share providers.

**Caregiver Respite**

Even though there is the intention that a placement in home share will provide a family-like setting for the individual, caregivers will need a break. The lack of respite for caregivers will almost certainly lead to a breakdown in the placement, with the resident once again losing their home.

**Emergency Support**

From time to time, crises will happen. Essential supports include immediate respite, medical and behavioural support on a 24 hour basis.

**Increased Support as Needs Change**

As individuals age, their needs will change. Re-assessment and additional supports will be needed when and if people develop dementia, behavioural issues or higher medical needs.

**Recognize that Home Share is Not for Everyone**

We know that there are many individuals whose support needs are such that they are best served in a staffed residence. Just as group homes are not right for everyone, neither is the Home Share model.

We look forward to hearing about CLBC's plans for addressing these important issues. Meaningful planning and placement will go a long way to ensuring longer term, safe and successful living options for individuals with developmental disabilities, and will increase confidence in this residential model by family members and friends.

Sincerely,

Linda Derkach, President  
BC Family Net Society

cc: Faith Bodnar, Inclusion BC