



December 15, 2015

Mr. Tom Christensen, Chair  
Community Living BC  
1200 West 73rd  
Vancouver, BC V6P 6G5

Dear Mr. Christensen:

**Re: Follow-up to Our Meeting with You and Megan Tardif on November 27, 2015**

First, FamilyNet offers our sincere thanks to you and Megan for our recent meeting. We truly appreciated your attentive listening and openness to discussing our concerns. Following is a brief review of the discussion and our recommendations for solutions.

**CLBC Board of Directors**

We expressed concern that the board is largely made up of people with finance or business backgrounds who have little or no experience with people with developmental disabilities. We suggest an increase in the number of family members, parents and self-advocates on the Board of Directors. We will follow-up on your suggestion that we seek out individuals who can bring this essential component to the Board.

**Monitoring and Safeguards**

We have serious concerns about the personal safety for individuals, particularly in residential settings where safeguards are absent. The present accreditation and monitoring processes are not adequate. We urge CLBC to institute a multi-layered approach to monitoring and safeguarding individuals.

**The Facilitator/Analyst/Navigator Structure**

We shared the frustration that parents and siblings report in dealing with the unnecessarily complicated and confusing structure put in place by CLBC. We strongly urge CLBC to fix the dysfunctional system of facilitator/analyst/navigator by considering the coordinating role of the Social Worker prior to the inception of CLBC.

**CLBC Regional Advisory Committees**

We discussed the need for a mechanism for CLBC to receive input and feedback from family members, agencies and community members. The regional advisory committee system that was put in place some time ago appears to work in some areas, and is non-existent in others. Many family members do not know of the existence of these committees, are not given an opportunity to give feedback, and receive no information from representatives who sit on RACs. We strongly urge CLBC to create an advisory

process that welcomes input from family members and provides feedback on issues raised.

### **The Need for a Variety of Residential Options**

FamilyNet believes that a range of residential options is necessary to properly meet varied needs. Group homes, individualized funding, supported independent living and home share are all important options. We also know that a person's support needs may increase or decrease over time, and this needs to be recognized. We ask that CLBC continue to maintain a range of residential options that will best serve people in varying stages of independence over their lives.

### **Transition from Children Services to Adult Services**

We discussed the risk of disrupted services as children transition between ministries. We noted the importance of coordination and collaboration with all ministries to ensure smooth transitions from children's services to adult supports.

### **Summary of Recommendations Arising from the Meeting**

- Increase the number of family members and self-advocates on the CLBC Board
- Institute a multi-layered approach to monitoring and safeguarding individuals
- Fix the dysfunctional system of facilitator/analyst/navigator by considering the coordinating role of the Social Worker prior to the inception of CLBC
- Create an advisory process that welcomes input from family members and provides feedback on issues raised
- Recognize and continue to maintain a range of residential options that will best serve people in varying stages of independence over their lives
- Work collaboratively with other Ministries to ensure smooth transitions from children's services to adult supports.

In addition to these points of discussion, we want to emphasize again **the very real concerns of senior parents regarding future support for their loved ones when they are gone**. Residential supports, in particular, are best instituted before the situation becomes an emergency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to bring our concerns and recommendations to you, and your interest in continuing this dialogue. We will continue to bring issues and successes to your attention, and we also look forward to hearing from you as changes are made. We wish you and your colleagues a very happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Linda Derkach, President  
BC FamilyNet Society