

**Family Net  
President's Report  
November 14, 2012**

I am pleased to report on the activities of BC FamilyNet over the past year. As reported last year, we have continued to work closely with the BC Community Living Action Group (BC CLAG) in advocating for changes in the way services are delivered on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities and their families in this province. Concerns, as in the past, are as valid as before. While some recognition of the fact that CLBC had lost its way was admitted, there is really little visible progress in rectifying its failures.

Sadly, families are still facing serious road blocks in obtaining services regarding transition planning from MCFD Services to Adults. Funding is certainly one of the major reasons. A small program offering respite funding was started but it is seen as not really addressing the future needs as families become less able to continue caring for their loved one. Announced work training initiatives, while helpful for some, really do not address the reality of a person being able to obtain meaningful employment. Day activity programs continue to see cuts and while group home closures have been stopped, we have still witnessed attempts to close very costly resources resulting in serious upheaval in people's lives. These efforts have been attempted in a very insensitive manner, showing an uncaring attitude on the part of those entrusted with service provision in BC. Home sharing is still seen as the favoured option and calls for monitoring have not been adequately addressed. In addition to the above, we now have a new Minister in both main Ministries responsible for overseeing the delivery of services.

The decision to not have a sitting of the Legislature this fall has stalled some urgently promised programs such as including oversight of adults up to age 26 by the Advocate for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafonde. We are now about to witness a province wide consultation by the government regarding the service to our population. This is viewed with some skepticism as it is seen as a costly undertaking when funding is seen as a crucial part of the problems facing the services to this vulnerable population.

In many ways, this past year has been very frustrating for our board who have continued to see little progress in correcting the identified problems over the year before. We still are committed to advocating for improvements in services and will continue to work with other dedicated organizations. This year we have received assistance from BCACL in overhauling our Website and updating our pamphlet. In addition, we have access to their meeting room. Special thanks to Faith Bodnar and Charlotte Kates for their valuable assistance.

In closing, I wish to thank the board for its ongoing commitment and assistance over the past year.

Anita Dadson, President, FamilyNet