



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

November 19, 2008

Ref: 179061

Melanie Filiatrault
President
BC Federation of Foster Parents Association
200 7342 Winston St
Burnaby BC V5A2H1

Dear Melanie Filiatrault:

We are writing to update you on the status of changes in ministry responsibilities that were announced last spring.

As you will recall, in June 2008 Government announced that responsibility for services for children and youth with special needs, currently provided by Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) will move to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and will be integrated with related services to children and youth with special needs and their families already provided by the ministry. At the same time, it was established that the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) would assume responsibility for CLBC, which will continue to be the service delivery agency for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

Over the last several months, staff in the two ministries and CLBC have been working together and preparing a transition plan that will ensure a seamless approach to service delivery and is fully integrated to serve children, youth and adults ... a process we now anticipate will be completed by October of 2009. We are managing this process jointly because we recognize that although there are multiple ministries involved, there is one service system for families and that an effective, thoughtful and coordinated approach is required to ensure a full continuum of services. A perfect example is the need to ensure effective transitioning for youth who may be receiving services through MCFD but may require adult services through MHSD or CLBC in the future.

MCFD recently began a consultation phase to inform service delivery planning improvements and this process will unfold at the provincial and regional level in the coming months. We encourage you to participate in consultations that occur in your community. As details are available, they will be posted on the MCFD Web site at: http://www.strongsafesupported.com/EN/special_needs/ MHSD and CLBC are also embarking on consultation processes and where possible, these will be joint efforts. Further information, when available will be posted at:
<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca> .

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As you might expect, changes of this magnitude take time and require a thoughtful approach with minimal disruption to families receiving services.

We thank you for your patience and for your input in this process. Sincerely,

Tom Christensen

Rich Coleman

Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

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Minister

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