



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

A provincial network of service, support, and advocacy organizations, family groups, & other community living stakeholders

July 28th, 2011

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041 Station Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

*via email: premier@gov.bc.ca
Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca*

Dear Premier Clark:

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter dated July 5th requesting an urgent meeting between yourself and representatives from the BC-Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG) to discuss the crisis in our province's community living sector. The BC-CLAG appreciates your acknowledgement of the importance of this issue and its impact on adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

Your July 7th reply indicated that a representative from the Minister of Social Development's office would be contacting our group "directly." After an additional three weeks, this has not happened. We phoned the Minister's office on July 22nd about your letter and were told that scheduling is difficult at this time of year, but that someone would contact us on July 25th. Unfortunately we were not contacted. This response is particularly frustrating, since the BC-CLAG sent two letters previously (March 15th and June 8th) to the Minister to request a meeting.

Furthermore, the Minister's office has attempted to schedule meetings with several BC-CLAG member organizations rather than meet with our group collectively. In several cases, our members respectfully declined the meeting invitation, indicating that they preferred to meet as part of the BC-CLAG. Some asked that the appointment time reserved for their organization be allocated to the BC-CLAG, but their requests were not acknowledged.

The crisis in BC's community living sector is escalating. And, over the past several months, the BC-CLAG has emerged as a respected voice representing self-advocates, families, service and support providers. We urge your office to schedule a meeting with us, at your first opportunity, so that we can work together to address this growing problem.



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

A provincial network of service, support, and advocacy organizations, family groups, & other community living stakeholders

Sincerely,

Jane Dyson, Executive Director
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

Faith Bodnar, Executive Director
BC Association for Community Living

Darryl Walker, President
B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union

Cyndi Gerlach & Dawn Steele, Co-administrators
Moms on the Move

Anita Dadson, President
BC Family Net Society

Alanna Hendren, Executive Director
Developmental Disabilities Association

Michael J. Prince, Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy
University of Victoria