



April 6, 2011

To the BC Community Living Action Group:

Thank you for your March 24, 2011 letter concerning your request for information regarding community living plans and budget.

I appreciate the introduction to the recently formed BC Community Living Action Group and I assure you that Community Living BC (CLBC) shares your commitment to full inclusion for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

Over the past year CLBC has been working collaboratively with service providers to review service levels and contracts to ensure financial accountability and better align services to meet individuals' disability-related needs.

Our work is about ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities live full lives and participate in community. We must be accountable for tax payers' dollars being spent appropriately and supports and services aligning with individuals' disability-related needs.

As the demand for CLBC supports and services continues to increase we must effectively manage our resources to support as many people as possible and deliver services in a fair and equitable manner. We have an obligation to look at new and better ways of meeting people's disability-related needs assisting them to live more independently in community. To achieve this, we work in partnership with individuals, families and others in the community living sector to look at international trends and best practice.

CLBC will continue to focus on working with service providers to shift our approach to provide services that augment what currently exists or what has been created informally in a person's life. The way we support people and the level of support may be adjusted to reflect the current need. This will be an ongoing process, disability-related needs, required service levels and the way services are delivered change over time. Savings found this past year have been reinvested to support new individuals who present for service. The majority of funds to be reinvested in new services have come from renegotiating contracts.

It is important to understand that group homes close for a number of reasons, including mortality, as older residents pass away, and individuals transitioning to more inclusive and independent options. Over the years, many individuals were placed in group homes that are able to live more independently and, subsequently, enjoy more social and community

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inclusion. If individuals move from a group home to another residential arrangement, the individuals maintain their connection to the agency through the transition and commonly continue to be supported by the same agency.

From March 31 to December 31, 2010, 33 group homes closed, this represents approximately 4% of existing group homes and 3% of group home residents around the province. The number of individuals who moved from group homes into other residential arrangements, such as home sharing, is comparable to previous years.

We are committed to working with our network of over 3,200 contracted service providers to transform the way services are delivered to allow for the greatest community inclusion and independence for the people we support. This will be our approach as we move forward.

CLBC has developed a monitoring framework to ensure that the services delivered by our contracted service providers meet the needs of the people we support while maximising the use of available resources. Monitoring includes a variety of activities designed to ensure that individuals have access to high quality services that promote full participation in community. Individuals, families, service providers, community partners and CLBC must work together to ensure that we are continuously collecting and using information to improve services.

Additional information can be found in CLBC's 2011/2012 – 2013/2014 Service Plan, available online at www.communitylivingbc.ca > Policies and Publications > Publications > Service Plans. The Service Plan contains information related to caseload growth, resource management, resource allocation and financial outlook and I trust it will promote a better understanding of CLBC's plans and budget.

While I cannot provide specific details of individuals or individual contracts, please see the answers to your questions below (numbered 1 to 6 for the purposes of this response).

1. CLBC supports eligible adults to live as fully and independently as possible in the community. We remain committed to fostering the growth of inclusive, supportive communities and annually review contracts to ensure services align with individuals' disability related needs and to ensure fair and equitable service delivery.
2. Information on our budget plan can be found in the 2011/2012 – 2013/2014 Service Plan, available on our website as referenced above. CLBC has an ongoing responsibility to review contracts to ensure financial accountability
3. Savings recovered to date have been reinvested to support new individuals who presented for service.
4. From March 31 to December 31, 2010 over 1,000 individuals with developmental disabilities have received new services and supports through CLBC.

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5. Any future savings will be reinvested to support new individuals who present for service.
6. CLBC has a number of ways to work with stakeholders to collect information about service quality: community councils, regional and provincial meetings with service providers and committees such as the Service Redesign Quality Assurance Committee established by CLBC and the BC Association for Community Living to collaboratively support and inform the service redesign process across the province. The Committee is working to ensure service redesign is implemented based on the principles of person centered planning and community inclusion.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours truly,

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