



# BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

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

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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

*via email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)  
[Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Christy.Clark.MLA@leg.bc.ca)*

Dear Premier Clark:

We are writing to request an urgent meeting between you and representatives of the BC Community Living Action Group to address the deepening and systemic crisis in our Province's system of community living supports.

For over a year now, BC CLAG partners have undertaken individual and collective actions to urge successive ministers and CLBC management to address the serious and unacceptable consequences of budget cuts/ underfunding and service redesign. In April, following extensive community consultation and research, we published our report: ***"Reaching out, Weighing in: Report on the Skills & (Dis)Abilities meetings to discuss the crisis in community living in BC."*** That report outlined a series of urgent actions required to mitigate the crisis. In early March, we requested a meeting with the new minister, and wrote again in June asking the minister to meet with BC-CLAG.

As we continue to receive new and disturbing details on the deepening crisis, we wish to emphasize the potential for very serious individual or family tragedies) coming to light. The appropriate authorities have been unable to respond effectively within the confines of their mandates to date, causing a troubling erosion of public confidence in government's ability to manage the situation. We therefore urge immediate leadership from your office to provide the direction and resources needed to address the systemic risks to human health, safety and wellbeing.

We offer you the full support of the broad community/stakeholder base represented by our partnership to help you forge an urgent solution and look forward to discussing this with you in person at the earliest possible opportunity, given the gravity of the situation.

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**