



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

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

PRESS RELEASE:

Core values lost CLBC board admits – Time to listen to stakeholders' unanimous recommendations to address systemic community living crisis

For immediate release: November 18, 2011

In an interim report released today, the Board of Community Living BC (CLBC) reiterated that the organization has “lost sight of its core values,” yet offers few concrete solutions to fix the systemic problems and lack of supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

“The interim report released today validates what B.C. Community Living Action Group partners have been saying for months: CLBC has lost its way. The Minister also says that adults with disabilities should be returned to the centre of decision-making, which is encouraging,” says BC-CLAG partner Faith Bodnar. “So now is the time for community living partners to be fully heard. The government must implement the sector’s unanimous recommendations to properly address the crisis in community living.”

“All BC CLAG organizations continue to hear from families and providers that nothing has changed, that the problems continue and that they are only expected to get worse without new funding or an independent advocate. The first step to solving the systemic issues in community living is an external review,” says BC-CLAG partner Dawn Steele.

The BC-CLAG recommendations emerge from a broad community dialogue launched in 2010 by all major community living partner groups, including families, self-advocates, service providers and support staff. The recommendations, which are further detailed in a BC-CLAG backgrounder document released today, include:

- 1. Immediately stop CLBC's budget-driven cuts to services and supports, pending a full external review;**
- 2. Commission a comprehensive external review of CLBC's mandate and operations;**
- 1. Immediately infuse community living sector with critical emergency and operational funding in the amount of \$70 million;**
- 3. Immediately establish an independent advocate for adults with developmental disabilities;**
- 4. Introduce provincial legislation setting out the inclusion rights and support entitlements of adults with developmental disabilities in B.C.;**
- 5. Regulate home sharing.**

BC-CLAG's backgrounder - “Practical solutions to stem BC's community living crisis” - can be downloaded from our website <http://communitylivingaction.org/>

About BC-CLAG: The BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG) is a network of self-advocates, families, support staff and agencies who support adults with disabilities. BC-CLAG includes: BC Association for Community Living, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, Moms on the Move, BC FamilyNet, BC Government and Service Employees' Union, Developmental Disabilities Association, Michael Prince (University Victoria), Health Sciences Association of BC, Hospital Employees' Union, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

More info: <http://communitylivingaction.org/>

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