



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

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

May 1, 2012

Hon. Stephanie Cadieux
Minister of Social Development
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Via email: sd.minister@gov.bc.ca;
Stephanie.Cadieux.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Re: Government's Response to the Status of B.C.'s Community Living Sector

Dear Minister Cadieux,

Thank you for your April 26 response to our letter of March 16, 2012. We appreciate the effort to outline your government's perspectives on the outstanding concerns that were brought to your attention. However, we had hoped for acknowledgement of the serious, ongoing challenges still facing BC's community living sector and the capacity and commitment that BC-CLAG brings to address and help resolve these challenges.

In our March 16 letter, we welcomed and applauded the first steps taken by your government in January 2012 to respond to the crisis in BC's community living sector, while also stressing the critical importance of meaningfully engaging community partners in your efforts to develop and implement sustainable solutions and to restore trust. We want the opportunity to help. We are therefore disheartened that your April 26 response offers no real opportunity for BC-CLAG to work with you and your government to advance solutions to the ongoing crisis.

The BC-CLAG partners have been working together and with the community at large for over 18 months to identify key challenges and develop consensus-based recommendations to restore confidence in BC's community living system. For over a year, we have repeatedly reached out in our effort to work together with your Ministry. BC-CLAG's unprecedented community partnership represents a unique and invaluable opportunity to harness community resources and leadership to advance the positive change we all know is needed and long overdue.

We know that hundreds more adults with developmental disabilities and their families from across BC will be seeking supports and services from CLBC in the upcoming months. Given the scope of the challenges, collaboration is critical if we are to make the lasting systemic changes that your government committed to in January 2012.

We respectfully request an urgent meeting with you so that we can be part of the development and implementation of a truly meaningful and robust community engagement process that will help your Ministry and the government shape solutions that are challenging BC's community living sector.

We look forward to your timely response.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Dyson, Executive Director
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

Faith Bodnar, Executive Director
BC Association for Community Living



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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

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: www.CommunityLivingAction.org*

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