



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

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

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Victoria, B.C.
V8T 4M2

via email: letters@timescolonist.com

Dear Editors:

We are writing to express our congratulations on winning the 2011 Michener Award for meritorious public-service journalism. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation for your dedication in working with the community to publicize the crisis in the community living sector.

The BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG) was established in 2010 by family groups, advocacy organizations, unions, and service agencies. As a result of our efforts, and that of the families struggling to access supports and services through Community Living BC (CLBC), there have been some positive developments.

There is still a long way to go, but the accomplishments to date are in large part due to Lindsay Kines and Les Leyne's dedication and hard work informing the public about BC's community living crisis. Their extensive and ongoing coverage of group home closures and program cuts in the face of the Province's repeated assertions to the contrary has been remarkable. Because of their work, people with developmental disabilities and their families finally felt they were being listened to and that their stories were being told. They felt emboldened to speak out and when they did, the Province was compelled to respond.

Your winning of the Michener Award is very well deserved and epitomises journalism at its best: truth, accuracy, and sensitivity. We credit your work for significantly increasing public awareness about the crisis in BC's community living sector, and for improving the lives of some of the individuals most seriously impacted.

BC-CLAG is continuing to work for systemic change so that the developments to date are translated into meaningful change at the individual level, ensuring that all CLBC clients have the supports they need. We look forward to your continuing interest in this community. Thank you and congratulations again for all you have done for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

Jane Dyson,
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities, on behalf of the BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

Cc: Lindsay Kines: lkines@timescolonist.com
Les Leyne: lleyne@timescolonist.com

Mailing address: BC-CLAG c/o BCCPD #204 – 456 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3