

Provincial & Regional Partners:

Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
ACT Autism Community Training Society
Adoptive Families Association of BC
Affiliation of Multicultural Societies & Service Agencies
Alternate Shelter Society
Association for Community Education BC
ACT – Autism Community Training Society
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society
BC Assoc. for Child Development & Rehabilitation
BC Association for Community Living
BC Association for Play Therapy
BC Association of Child Care Employers
BC Association of Family Resource Programs
BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Programs
BC Association of Social Workers
BC Council for Families • BC Crime Prevention Association
BC Early Years Alliance • BC Farm Women's Network
BC Federation of Foster Parents Association
BC Government & Service Employees' Union
BC Institute Against Family Violence
BC Pediatric Society • BC Recreation and Parks Association
BC School Trustees Association • BC Teachers' Federation
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses
Boys & Girls Clubs of BC
Canadian Association for Young Children
Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division
Canadian Red Cross • Capilano Student Union
Cerebral Palsy Association of BC
Child & Family Counseling Association
Child & Youth Care Association of BC
Child Care Advocacy Forum
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Council of Parent Participation Preschools BC
Deaf Children's Society of BC
Dietitians of Canada, BC Region
Early Childhood Educators of BC
East Kootenay Childhood Coalition
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Federated Anti-Poverty Groups
Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks
Federation of Child & Family Services of BC
Fulcrum Project • Health Officers Council of BC
Infant Development Program of BC
Institute for Safe Schools of BC
International Dyslexia Association, BC Branch
Justice Institute of BC
Labour Environmental Alliance Society
Learning Disabilities Association of BC
Literacy BC • McCreary Centre Society
MOSAIC • Nisika Community Services
National Council of Jewish Women
Pacific Association of First Nations Women
Pacific Community Resources Society
Pacific Legal Education Association /PARCA
Parent Support Services Society of BC
Penticton & District Community Resources Society
Public Health Association of BC
Self Help Resource Association of BC
Social Planning & Research Council BC
Society for Children & Youth of BC
Society for Public Education of BC
Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society
United Way of the Lower Mainland
Vancouver Coastal Health – Population Health
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
Westcoast Family Resources Society
Working Group on Poverty • YWCA of Greater Vancouver

Community Coalition Partners: 100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Armstrong, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Delta, Duncan, Fraser North, Golden, Grand Forks, Houston, Kamloops, Kelowna, Langley, Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows, Port Alberni, Prince George, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Squamish, Surrey, Terrace, Vancouver, Vancouver Aboriginal Council, Vernon, Victoria, Williams Lake

November 30, 2007

Honourable Wally Oppal
Attorney General
Room 232
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Oppal,

Please see the attached letter to Minister of National Revenue Gordon O'Connor on the federal scooping of child support money to pay back taxes. We would like to thank you for speaking out on this issue and urge you to continue advocating for children and their parents who need to receive child support payments.

In addition, we would like to bring your attention to a related issue. We have heard from a lone parent who is not receiving any child support except for her ex-spouse's GST rebates. She knows that he is filing his income tax returns because she continues to receive the rebates, yet the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP) states that they have conducted a Family Search Program through your office using the information provided by his ex-spouse, including his date of birth, social insurance number, and mother's maiden name and cannot locate him. This mother's FMEP account is now over \$33,000 in arrears.

We urge your office to advocate on behalf of these families and improve communications with the federal government to ensure that child support payments are given priority over payments to Canada Revenue Agency. We also urge you to work to make sure that CRA information is available to the FMEP so that absent spouses who are filing tax returns can be located and held accountable to the children.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Adrienne Montani
Provincial Coordinator