

Provincial & Regional Partners:

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 Childcare 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
Childcare Advocacy Forum
Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC
Coalition of Childcare 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 • 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
Westcoast Childcare 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

September 11, 2007

Mr. S. Ahmed
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Services and Executive Financial Officer
P.O. Box 9738 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
V8W 9S2

Dear Mr. Ahmed,

Thank you for your quick response to our request for detailed information relating to the federal funding for childcare and the related \$95.7 million in one-time only expenditures made in the fiscal year 2006/2007.

In reference to your response letter of August 3, 2007, we have three questions for which we would appreciate further clarification in order for us to report to the community on these issues:

- i) In your letter you state that MCFD will provide a full accounting of these expenditures by March 31, 2008. Given that these expenditures are already included in your government's 2006/2007 public accounts, we do not understand why the community needs to wait for one year to understand how government spent the funds.

Our community is therefore once again requesting a complete list of all disbursements made with the \$95.7 million.

- ii) In your letter you state *'expenditure was provided through grants in response to a publicly identified need for enhancements to existing services, training and other costs associated with existing programs.'*

Our members would appreciate more information on how these needs were identified and how the

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public was involved or informed in their identification. We trust that this can help explain how, in a chronically under-funded field like childcare, existing services that are also in need simultaneously received cuts to their ongoing funding.

- iii) In the Comptroller General's Core Policy and Procedures Manual, section 4.3.14. Transfer Payments: point 7 states that *Transfer payments must be managed in a manner that:*
- *is open and transparent to the public*
 - *provides for government independence and objectivity*
 - *provide adequate administration and documentation...*

We request an explanation from MCFD about how the disbursement of these one-time only grants met these requirements.

As you can see, many questions that relate to this funding are still unanswered. The child serving community feels that it is important to have a full accounting of these designated dollars as they directly impact many services and programs.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Sincerely

Michael Goldberg
Chair First Call BC

- cc Ms. C. Wenenzenki-Yolland, Comptroller General
Ms. M E Turpel-Lafond, Representative for Children and Youth
Ms. K. Carter, Ombudsman
Hon C. Taylor, Minister of Finance
Hon. T. Christensen, Minister MCFD
Mr. A. Markwart, ADM Provincial Services
Ms. L. O'Byrne, Director of Early Years and Special Advisor to Minister of State