

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 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 • Infant Development Program 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 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

June 07, 2007

Ms. Wenezenki-Yolland
Comptroller General
PO Box 9413 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9V1

Dear Ms. Wenezenki-Yolland,

Thank you for your May 1 2007 response to our letter regarding federal transfers to BC for early learning and child care (ELCC), and in particular the \$86 million in federal transfers received by the Province of BC in 2006/07 related to the cancellation of the Bilateral Agreement on ELCC (2005). Your letter states "*the absence of any restrictions on how the funding had to be used required the province to recognize the full amount as revenue in the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Under our current legislative framework the MCFD does not have the ability to carry forward funding into future years.*" This information has several implications, including confirmation that the Province of BC has provincial authority to make its own decisions about child care funding levels for 2007/2008 and future years. Of course, provincial expenditures are subject to the parameters outlined in the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act.

Since we first wrote to Minister Taylor on March 13, 2007, Minister of State for Child Care Linda Reid has stated in the estimates debates that the 2006/2007 one-time-only expenditures related to federal transfers are now estimated at \$95.7 million. Given your responsibility for the overall quality and integrity of the government's financial management and control systems, and given that Minister Reid references her work with you regarding the amount of \$40 million of these transfers (Hansard, May 30 2007 excerpts attached)) First Call's Early Childhood Roundtable asks that you please provide:

1. A full accounting of the \$95.7 million in one-time-only expenditures made in 2006/2007, including the name of the recipient, the amount received, the purpose for which the expenditure was made, and how that purpose meets the criteria of providing "transitional funding to the organizations most (a)ffected by the federal government's cancellation of ELCC and invest(ment) in programs that support the objectives of early learning and child care."

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2. Information on the administrative process (e.g. RFP, direct award, etc) utilized to decide on the amounts of, and recipients for, these expenditures, along with the rationale for the process chosen.
3. An outline of the mechanisms in place to ensure that the public reporting of these expenditures demonstrates accountability for the goals outlined in your May 1 2007 letter and highlighted in point 1 above.

Finally, we note that the 2007 federal budget includes a new federal child care transfer from which BC is expected to receive approximately \$33 million this year (2007/08). Please could you advise as to the nature and extent of any restrictions on how these funds have to be used?

We would appreciate your earliest attention to this request.

Thank you in anticipation,

Michael Goldberg
Chairperson

Copies: Hon. Carole Taylor, Minister of Finance
Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Representative for Children and Youth
Ms. Kim Carter, Ombudsman