



Mission Association for Community Living (MACL)
“Building Bridges Together”

December 3, 2009

Hon. Rich Coleman
130 – 7888 200th Street
Langley, BC V2Y 3J4

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The Mission Association for Community Living is angry at your government’s decision to repeal sections of the Community Living Authority Act. Specifically, removal of the guarantee of people with disabilities and family members being on CLBC’s governing board is another large step away from the original vision of the crown agency.

Furthermore, with no consultation with the community and no notice given to community stakeholders this impending change is even harder to accept.

To quote BCACL President Rory Summers “to say that it’s not important to have people with disabilities or family members making decisions that affect their lives is to attack the core principles of community living”. We concur with that assessment.

CLBC defines itself as an organization that recognizes “individuals with developmental disabilities and their families... are in the *best* position to understand what their needs are and how they should be met.” It is absolutely imperative that people with developmental disabilities and families are represented on CLBC’s board of directors.

Of course, governments are elected and have the power to make legislative changes as they see fit. However, on behalf of the board of the Mission Association for Community Living, let me add while that power rests with your government it is time-limited and there are always consequences for such actions.

Sincerely,

Bob Ingram, President
Mission Association for Community Living

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