



News Release

Report on the Education of Children in Care Reveals Discrepancies and Recommends Action by Government and Schools

Vancouver, BC (May 29, 2007): An in-depth study of children and youth in care of the government shows they are not achieving the same educational outcomes as children who have never been in care. The report contains a list of recommended corrective measures for government and the school system.

The study "Health and Well-Being of Children in Care in British Columbia: Educational Experience and Outcomes," was issued today by the Representative for Children and Youth, in partnership with the Provincial Health Officer. The report examines the educational outcomes of 32,186 school-aged B.C. children in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development between April 1, 1997 and November 1, 2005.

"There is no reason why children in care should not have the same attention devoted to their hopes, dreams and aspirations that we, as parents, do for our own children; and as the state ought to do as well, as the prudent parent," said Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth. "However, children in care are also known to have generally poorer outcomes than children who have never been in care, and that has to end. This report card is aimed at revealing the discrepancies, recommending action, and establishing a baseline against which to measure progress."

"Education is important to all children." said Dr. Perry Kendall, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer. "With 12 years of schooling we should be able to say with certainty that children at risk get the best start they can from us."

This report is the second in a planned series of joint special reports on the health and well-being of children in care in British Columbia. The first report, released in September 2006, presents data on health services utilization and mortality.

-30-

Contact:
Bruce Leslie Poitras
Communications & Stakeholder Relations
Office of the Representative for Children and Youth
Mobile: 250-217-4718