



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release  
May 14, 2007**

## **NEW DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH APPOINTED**

VICTORIA – New senior appointees to the Representative for Children and Youth’s office form the core of a strong team dedicated to helping improve the lives of B.C.’s children, said Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond.

“These outstanding individuals bring the expertise and wisdom we need to thoughtfully oversee the child welfare system and when necessary, help bring about change from an informed, child-centered perspective,” said Turpel-Lafond.

John Greschner will be B.C.’s new Deputy Representative for Children and Youth. He has held positions of Deputy Commissioner, Chief Investigator and Tribunal Chair of B.C.’s former Children’s Commission, and is currently Deputy Minister Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon.

Andrew Robinson is the new Deputy Representative for Advocacy, Aboriginal and Community Relations. A member of the Nisga’a Nation, he has held senior positions with the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the Nisga’a Lisims Government, and worked with B.C.’s Child and Youth Office and the First Nations Summit.

The Representative’s new Executive Director, Su-Lin Shum, has 18 years experience in policy development, program management and auditing in health and social services. She most recently served as Director of Performance Audits, and Director of Corporate Planning and Reporting, for B.C.’s Auditor General.

Turpel-Lafond said the selection of these individuals and all of her staff is guided by the Hon. Ted Hughes’ BC Children and Youth Review report. His report calls for her office to work in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration with the many components of the child welfare system, and to have a deep commitment to and understanding of children’s needs, especially the most vulnerable.

The Representative for Children and Youth is an independent Officer of the Legislature, who supports children, youth and families needing help in dealing with the child welfare system. She also advocates for changes to the system itself. The Representative will have offices in Prince George, Vancouver and Victoria.

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3 Backgrounders attached.

Media contact: Marg LeGuilloux  
Communications Coordinator  
250.888.8878