



# Statement

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October 1, 2008

## REPRESENTATIVE CELEBRATES FOSTER FAMILY MONTH

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my personal thanks to all foster parents in B.C., in honour of Foster Family month. The safe harbour you provide for children is tremendously important in their lives, as well as to society as a whole, and I commend you for your efforts.

Many children in care have experienced some trauma in their young lives. They need every ounce of support we can offer them. In fact, their success in life often depends on it.

My office works with foster families most often through our advocacy function. A child-focused advocacy strategy is an important part of children's support systems. That strategy is developed at government discussion tables. However the role you play in the daily lives of these children is what counts for them.

It is in the interest of every British Columbian to ensure that foster families are supported. Our future and the future of our province lie with our children. Together we can level the playing field for our vulnerable children and we must take whatever steps necessary to ensure that their soft voices are heard and their rights upheld.

My staff and I are deeply committed to supporting you in your role as foster parents.

Thank you again for your countless efforts on behalf of the children of British Columbia and I wish you the very best in the future.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond  
Representative for Children and Youth, British Columbia