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March 15, 2019

**For Immediate Release**

It has been my distinct pleasure during the past few days to appear at a number of events in Kelowna and Kamloops to celebrate Social Work Week in British Columbia, honouring those who have dedicated their careers to helping children, youth and families.

The theme this year – *“Real People. Real Impact”* – couldn’t be more appropriate to describe this profession. Social workers are the foundation of our system of care in this province and the work they do is complex, difficult and often conducted under less than ideal conditions. We respect that, and we take the time this week to applaud their service to the most vulnerable children and families in B.C.

The skills and dedication that social workers bring to their jobs are deeply valued by our Office. We see evidence of that value every day in our advocacy work. Social workers are there to assist when there is a safety issue, a family breakdown, or a sudden serious mental health or physical illness that places children and families in crisis. They have chosen to work in child welfare, in permanency, in mental health, with children who have special needs and in other parts of the child-serving system because they want to do their part in upholding the rights of all children to be safe and supported.

During Social Work Week, we commend them for making that choice and for the passion and commitment they show throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth  
Representative for Children and Youth