



BC Association of Social Workers
#410 – 1755 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 4S5

E: bcasw@bcasw.org
T: 604.730.9111

July 23, 2024
For immediate release

CHILD WELFARE MINISTRY MUST ADDRESS WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AND IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, BC SOCIAL WORKERS

(Vancouver) BC's professional association for social workers is calling on Children and Family Development Minister Grace Lore to immediately implement recommendations addressing chronic recruitment and retention problems.

"BC's Representative for Children and Youth Jennifer Charlesworth released a report today that calls on the BC government to immediately address a wide range of human resource issues within the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)" said Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers. "These issues and recommendations to improve the child welfare system were identified largely through a survey of child welfare workers and are grounded in lived day-to-day work experience."

The Representative's report calls on the government to adequately fund required staffing levels, support the health and wellbeing of staff, improve salaries to assist with recruitment and retention issues, refrain from criticism of staff performance without providing a context that includes staff shortages and excessive demand, and improve training and support for staff.

"Although the Representative supports mandatory registration for all social workers with the BC College of Social Workers, the report fails to address this issue adequately" said Crawford. "Treating social workers as professionals and having their practice supervised by a regulatory college has the potential to professionalize child welfare, address recruitment and retention issues, and enhance protection of the public through external oversight of social work practice."

The BC Association of Social Workers is engaged in a campaign to strengthen professional social work in BC by encouraging MCFD Minister Grace Lore to remove exemptions from Social Workers Regulation to protect the title of social worker and require all social workers to register with the BC College of Social Workers.

No Time to Wait – <https://rcybc.ca/reports-and-publications/>

- 30 -

Contacts:

Michael Crawford, MSW, RSW | President (he/him)

BC Association of Social Workers

&

Dianne Heath, MSW, RSW | Executive Director (she/her)

BC Association of Social Workers

BCASW is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Through CASW we support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. BCASW was incorporated in 1956 and has branches and members (including students) throughout BC.

BCASW acknowledges that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We also express appreciation to Métis and Inuit peoples across British Columbia.