



June 23, 2009

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Room 156, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Premier,

As a social service agency that provides services to over 11,000 children, youth and families per year from Vancouver to Hope we are very concerned about the government's freeze on providing camp subsidies to children and youth receiving income assistance.

It is vitally important that these children and youth have an opportunity to participate in structured "fun" summer programs. Many of the programs that are available now bridge that learning gap between school ending and returning. A head start for many of these kids, who are disproportionately struggling with school, is an investment that will pay off for them. It's fun too, something that makes life a little more meaningful. Living poor is a struggle that is not of their making and we shouldn't make these children pay an even higher price. In addition, we know that camp leads to positive mentoring opportunities, enhanced resilience as youth discover their strengths, prevents youth from being "at loose ends" and thereby drifting into trouble, as well as offering many over-burdened single parents and parents of children with special needs a badly needed break prior to facing another school year.

Budget choices are difficult but camp fees are not the place to look.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Mass". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ian Mass, Executive Director

A CARF accredited not-for-profit agency / www.pcrs.ca

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