

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Court rules in parents' favour

VANCOUVER • The provincial government's failure to fund early treatment for autistic children is discrimination, a B.C. Supreme Court judge has ruled. The B.C. government's refusal to pay for the highly effective but expensive Lovaas treatment through Medicare violates the Charter of Rights, Justice Mary Ann Allan said in a ruling released yesterday. Four parents sued the province on behalf of their autistic children for being refused the behavioural therapy. The Crown argued alternative treatments were available.