

**Victoria Times Colonist, September 7, 2000**

## Help denied

My 3½-year-old grandson is autistic. Benjamin is a beautiful little boy who will grow up in B.C. with a handicap because the government will not honour a court ruling giving his parents the option to provide the best possible care for this child.

On July 29, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that the Ministry of Health should pay for Lovass Therapy for Autistic children. The government had 30 days to appeal. On Aug. 29 the B.C. government appealed this judgment.

This treatment is the most effective one for our children. It is funded in Alberta with amazing results. This is why parents should have the right to choose this treatment for their children.

Ben's daddy is a hard-working man who does his best to provide for his family. Ben's mommy is an at-home mom (decision made when family started). Ben has a little sister. She was on the way before Ben was diagnosed with autism, otherwise she might not have been here so soon.

What future does Benjamin have here in B.C.? Should he have to leave because he is autistic? What resources are there for his parents? If they give up on Ben and let the province decide on his future, who will win? Ben? This child is not a recall item that can be sent back because it is defective.

This is not a Communist country where the state decides what future each person will have. Please help us as hard-working taxpaying citizens get the help we so sorely need, not for us but for the future of our little Benjamin.

If the government is responsible for monitoring our children, it must be done right, with respect for the parents.

B.F. Faubert,  
Victoria