



MAR 22 1999

Ref: 54024

Joe and Barbara Rodrigues

[REDACTED]
Penticton, British Columbia

V [REDACTED]

Dear Joe and Barbara Rodrigues:

I am responding on behalf of the Caucus regarding the materials you sent, and your request for the Lovaas method of therapy for your son, Jeremy who is autistic.

As you are aware, a lawsuit was filed in BC Supreme court by the Auton family of Surrey under the *Class Action Act of British Columbia*. As this case is now before the courts, I am not at liberty to comment on the materials you sent to me.

I would like to clarify that the Ministry has moved through a transition process in finding child care for children with special needs. Individualized funding by child care authorizations in Special Needs Day Care has been transferred to a contracted agency who will provide supported child care.

I also understand the Children's Commission has accepted, for review, your complaint relating to your disagreement with the Ministry's decision not to provide individualized funding for the Lovaas method of therapy for Jeremy.

The Children's Commission has a mandate to review complaints about services for children provided by or through the Ministry for Children and Families and a mandate to assist parties in the resolution of complaints.

I understand you are receiving respite benefits through the At Home Program. As well as the At Home Program, the Ministry for Children and Families provides a broad range of services to children and youth with Autism including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language development, audiology, child and youth care workers, homemakers, home support and supported child care.

... /2

Ministry for
Children and Families

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Location:
Parliament Buildings, Victoria

Joe and Barbara Rodrigues

Page Two

The Ministry provides a range of other supports for families and children/youth with special needs including children with autism, and will continue to do this at the regional level based on each child/family situation, their support needs and available resources.

Thank you for writing to advise me of your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Lois Boone
Minister

pc: Honourable Glen Clark
Premier

NDP Caucus

Lynn Middleton
Team Leader
Community Living Services