

November 3, 1998

Child, Youth & Family Advocate  
Suite 2050, 200 Granville Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1S4

Dear Ms. Wall:

Thank you for your recent email and your thoughts about our efforts to advocate for our disabled son, Jeremy. I am writing today to request a letter of support from you regarding our efforts to provide medically prescribed autism treatment for Jeremy.

While we are supporters and members of Families for Early Autism Treatment of BC, and we appreciate their having donated space for our web page, it is only my husband and I who are struggling to get help for our son -- we are on our own up here against a malevolent MCF bureaucracy.

Since you indicated there is little you can do for us in the way of Advocacy for Jeremy, we would like to request something that will help us nonetheless: a letter of support from you stating something like, "The Lovaas autism treatment program that Jeremy has been in for the last 5 \_ months has produced great improvement in his autism and is vital to his future well-being", (please see Dr.'s letters attached). This type of support from you will be very helpful to continue the physician prescribed treatment program for Jeremy.

Please know that we are being bullied by Children's Ministry staff into using inadequate programs that do not work in the treatment of autism. We have first hand experience with this as our son's autism tragically worsened in these same ineffective, government approved, programs for two years. In contrast, Jeremy has made startling progress with Lovaas treatment. We finally have hope for his future as an independent, happy adult.

The workload I am under trying to fight for help for our son is like that of running a political campaign. In addition, I'm the case manager for our son's autism treatment program. My responsibilities include hiring, training and overseeing a team of therapists; evaluating and updating our son's treatment program; data collection; conducting weekly team meetings, and overseeing the preparation of therapy materials. In addition to case management responsibilities, I also have the very difficult parental responsibilities of caring for my autistic son outside of therapy. And then there is the "regular" load of taking care of our home and all the other daily routines involved in life. All this I do on my own for the majority of the time. These tremendous burdens are mine alone since my husband works out of town for weeks at a time. A letter of support from you will help lessen the burden - - I will not feel quite so alone in this struggle to save Jeremy's future.

Thank you again for your concern. I very much look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Rodrigues

Enc. Letter from Dr. M. I. deLevie  
Letter from Dr. R. McIntosh