

January 17, 1999

Lynn Middleton, Team Leader
351-740 Carmi Avenue
Penticton, B.C. V2A 8P9

Dear Ms. Middleton:

RE: Community Living Services for Children Survey

Someone in error, sent us a form requesting us to fill out a survey of services/supports that we should be receiving for our son Jeremy. Obviously they are unaware that our son receives NO support of any kind from your office. I was also wondering if you were not aware that the woman picketing your office is my wife?? She is also protesting around the community to raise awareness of our son's plight and your offices' neglect in helping him. In the event that you may have missed it, I am taking the liberty of enclosing our pamphlet for you to read.

I would also like to point out that according to your mandante **'to provide support services to children and youth with special needs so that they can reach their maximum potential'** you are in direct violation of that mandate concerning our son.

I also find it ludicrous that you are wasting time and resources conducting a survey when you have shown that you do not listen nor care about the concerns or needs of our child which we have gone to great lengths to express. You are in fact, ignoring Jeremy's Doctors written letters which clearly outline what is required for him to treat his autism. We are aware of many regions in the lower mainland whose regional offices have renewed the 'in home daycare' funds for their families involved in the Lovaas treatment program. These regional offices also take the time to read the data, attend conferences and become informed on the Lovaas program and the amazing gains that all autistic children make with this treatment program. In this area, it would seem that you take the opinion of those so-called professionals whose egos are so fragile, they do not wish to explore treatments that really work for autistic children and instead prefer to sacrifice the future of all Okanagan children diagnosed with autism for their own selfish reasons. I am not sure if you are aware but this treatment option was intentionally kept from us by two professionals involved with our son. By doing so, they delayed treatment for Jeremy by ten months. In terms of early intervention, that is almost a lifetime.

My wife believed and trusted in the professionals and the system to help our son and it did not. That mistake will not be made again. Our son is showing progress that is nothing short of miraculous with this treatment and we feel that your Ministry should be helping towards his independence and be helping him reach his maximum potential. It is our son's right. Jeremy deserves nothing less than the opportunity to achieve.

Sincerely,

Joe Rodrigues

cc: Rick Thorpe, MLA
Nancy Bell, Children's Commission
Rick Childerhose, ROO
Doug Hughes, CAM
Darcy Nord, Social Worker
Tammy Gilmour, Survey Coordinator