

September 26, 1998

Mark McDonald, Office of the Ombudsman  
931 Fort Street  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 3K3

Dear Mr. McDonald:

**RE: Jeremy Rodrigues**

The local Ministry of Children and Families is once again denying my son support and funding. I am enclosing my recent correspondence and copies of attachments to you. Please note that Ms. Middleton did indeed call my home on Tuesday, September 15, 1998. At that time, Ms. Middleton said there was no longer "in-home day care". Although, I know for a fact that this is not true. I know of many parents whose funding was renewed for "in-home" day care in the months of July/August 1998. I was told that my girls would have to be hired and work through Supported Child Care. This would be unacceptable as we (my husband and myself) hire and train these girls. We fly the Consultant up from the States to train and update both the girls(therapists) and our son's program. They are therapists doing a Lovaas program of **treatment** for my son. They work for our son. The local MCF knew that when they first granted our contract in April of 1998 that this 'day care' money was going towards Jeremy's Lovaas Program, they also knew that in July 1988 when they sent me the fax stating that they would pay for the equivalent of a 'full-time aide'. They only reason they are denying me now that I can see, is that a fax was sent out from the MCF on August 26, 1998, conspicuously after a Class Action Lawsuit was filed against the Government, saying that they would no longer be renewing or granting funding for Lovaas treatment.

We have used the inadequate, grossly incompetent services supplied by this Government. We have watched in anguish for years while our son grew more delayed and more enraged with his inability to communicate, understand language or learn. We are seeing our son make amazing gains in the 4 \_ months that he has been involved in this program. We have used the professionals and the so-called early interventions that the South Okanagan has to offer and they don't work!

The Government has NOTHING to offer our son except for this support. By denying our son the only medically necessary scientifically proven treatment for his neurological condition, they are being negligent.

We are writing to you to ask for you to help in this very urgent matter. We thank you in advance for your help in looking into this injustice.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rodrigues

Joe Rodrigues