Uictoria Times Colonist, Sept. 16, 2000

Government view of autism arrogant

Re: The denial, by the provincial government of Ministry of Health payment for Lovass Therapy for autistic children.

Not too long ago UBC lost a leading scientific researcher who moved to Alberta due to this denial of funding — and most of his staff followed him.

In recognition of the extremely beneficial results from early intervention in treating childhood disorders, the United Kingdom educational system is now *required* to have at least one specially trained teacher available should they have a dyslexic child enrolled.

This was a direct result of a court case in which parents took legal action against a school board for not recognizing, and assisting with special teachers, a dyslexic student.

The parents were awarded substantial damages and the court ordered that such specially trained teachers be made available as required.

They now are. The same should apply here in B.C. to autism.

The sheer arrogance of this government in filing an appeal against a ruling requiring it to provide appropriate treatment for autism is beyond belief.

> Pat B. Philip, Nanaimo.