



**BC Association  
for Community Living**

*Supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: GOVERNMENT QUIETLY TURNS ITS BACK ON VULNERABLE YOUTH**

**New Westminster, B.C., July 23, 2008** - The BC Association for Community Living (BCACL) is deeply concerned by recent changes made by the provincial government to the regulations of the Community Living Authority Act, in regards to I.Q. eligibility requirements. This is the Act and regulations that guide the work of Community Living BC (CLBC), the crown corporation that is responsible for supports and services to people with developmental disabilities in BC.

Faced with a second court case filed by the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) on behalf of a youth who did not meet CLBC's eligibility criteria based on I.Q., the provincial government has changed the regulation to enshrine an I.Q. of 70 or below as a criterion for receiving services. The change was made without any community consultation or notice.

This effectively means that those youth with significant social or behavioural issues – in particular young adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or autism who have an I.Q. over 70 and who require individualized support – are left to fend for themselves. Too often this is resulting in youth being forced to leave a safe home and at worst, the criminal justice system becomes the default support system.

Community advocates have been unanimously urging government, across all ministries, to move away from traditional psychological assessment tools that focus on I.Q. and to develop mechanisms that effectively and equitably assess individual needs. Instead of resolving the issue, the government, with the stroke of a pen, has removed any hope of recourse for families who are desperate for services for their young adult children. This is devastating for many families.

“This regressive step by the government is only a further example of the sweeping changes that happen behind closed doors, without any community consultation and at the expense of those most vulnerable,” says Laney Bryenton, BCACL Executive Director. “It is completely unacceptable that vulnerable youth will be denied the services they so desperately need to achieve independence.”

- 30 -

**Media contact:**

**Danielle Kelliher**, Director of Communications

Tel: 604.777.9100, ext 527

dkelliher@bcacl.org



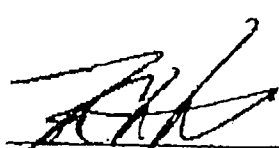
**PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL**


Order in Council No. **610**, Approved and Ordered **JUL 18 2008**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lieutenant Governor

Executive Council Chambers, Victoria

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that the Community Living Authority Regulation, B.C. Reg. 231/2005, is amended as set out in the attached Schedule.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Children and Family Development

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Member of the Executive Council

*(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)*

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section:- Community Living Authority Act, S.B.C. 2004, c. 60, s. 29 (2) (b)

Other (specify):- OIC 469/2005

## SCHEDULE

- 1 *Section 1 of the Community Living Authority Regulation, B.C. Reg. 231/2005, is repealed the following substituted:*

### Definitions

- 1 In this regulation:

"Act" means the *Community Living Authority Act*,

"DSM-IV-TR" means the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision*, published by the American Psychiatric Association in 2000;

"qualifying practitioner" means a person who is

- (a) either

(i) a psychologist, or

(ii) a psychological associate

registered with the College of Psychologists of British Columbia and licensed to practice in British Columbia, or

(b) a psychologist certified by the British Columbia Association of School Psychologists.

- 2 *Section 2 is amended by adding the following definitions:*

"adaptive functioning" has the same meaning as used in the description of "mental retardation" as set out in the DSM-IV-TR;

"impaired adaptive functioning" means adaptive functioning that, when evaluated by a qualifying practitioner, is determined to be a contributing factor as required in making a diagnosis of "mental retardation" within the meaning of the DSM-IV-TR; .

- 3 *The following section is added:*

### Developmental disability

- 2.1 For the purposes of the definition of "developmental disability" in section 1 of the Act, intellectual functioning that, when tested according to one or more standardized intelligence tests by a qualifying practitioner, attains a score of 70 or less is a prescribed criterion.