

February 12, 2025

Premier David Eby
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Eby,

Re: Verdict at Coroners Inquest regarding the death of Florence Girard and the Position Statement on Access to Health and Coordination of Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

We are reaching out to urge you to attend to the BC Coroner's Inquest recommendations regarding the death of Florence Girard, which were released on January 24, 2025. Inclusion BC and the BC CEO Network fully support the spirit and intent of these recommendations and ask the provincial government to show immediate leadership by investing the necessary resources to implement them without delay.

Fully funding community living supports in BC ensures that people with disabilities can live safely, access critical services, and participate fully in their communities. Adequate resources are urgently needed to systematically address the serious concerns highlighted in the Coroner's Inquest. We strongly believe that the upcoming budget should prioritize the critical funding gaps identified and bring security and stability to those who receive Community Living BC-funded support and services.

Two of the 13 recommendations addressed the serious and ongoing challenges regarding the coordination and access to essential health care services and supports for people with an intellectual disability in BC.

1. Immediately reinstate the Provincial Medical Consultant position at CLBC. (recommendation #12)
2. Immediately increase the capacity of Health Services for Community Living to better provide ongoing health care planning and reduce the wait time to access services for health care plans for individuals. (recommendation #13)

The BC CEO Network and Inclusion BC not only support these recommendations but also emphasize that they align with the concerns raised in our [position statement](#), which was sent to [Minister Dix on February 7, 2024](#).

The Community Living sector has consistently advocated for these essential improvements and has provided clear evidence of the urgent need for a cross-government approach to support. Now, the Coroner's Inquest into Florence Girard's tragic death has reinforced these same calls for action.

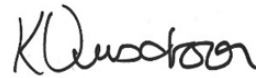
We are currently stuck in a cycle of managing crises instead of achieving long-term solutions. It is time for the provincial government to break this cycle and act. We urge you to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing concrete and decisive action to respond to the recommendations. The upcoming budget must provide sufficient resources and funding to respond to the needs of people with intellectual disabilities in BC so they can receive the care and support they deserve.

The BC CEO Network and Inclusion BC are committed to collaborating with CLBC and the provincial government to implement the changes required to restore the confidence of people with intellectual disabilities, their families, and the public in the service system.

Sincerely,



Brenda Gillette, Chief Operating Officer
BC CEO Network



Karla Verschoor, Executive Director
Inclusion BC

Inclusion BC is a non-profit provincial organization advocating for the rights and opportunities of children, youth, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to live and participate as full citizens in their communities. We are supported by a federation of members consisting of people with disabilities, families, 65 member organizations, and four affiliate organizations, all working together to build inclusive communities across our province.

BC CEO Network is a non-profit association with 125 member organizations across the province. The role of the Network is to provide a collective voice for social service sector organizations across BC and promote effective and efficient business practices and leadership development. All members provide supports to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through contracts with Community Living BC.

Cc:

Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Health

Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Ross Chilton, CEO of Community Living BC

Shane Simpson, Chair of Community Living BC