

FOR MORE INFORMATION

RELATED MINISTRIES

Ministry of Children and Family Development

In Victoria: 250 387-7027 • Toll-free: 1 877 387-7027
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

www.gov.bc.ca/hsd

USEFUL LINKS

Helpline for Children

310-1234 (toll-free, no area code needed, open 24/7)
Telephone device for the deaf: 1 866 660-0505
www.safekidsbc.ca

Seniors' Services

Toll-free Health and Seniors Info Line: 1 800 465-4911
www.gov.bc.ca/seniors

Representative for Children and Youth, BC

Victoria: 356-6710
Toll-free: 1 800 476-3933

Adoption

Toll-free provincewide: 1 877 ADOPT-07
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/index.htm

Child and Youth Mental Health

Telephone: 250 387-9749
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/index.htm

Foster Care

Fosterline: 1 800 663-9999
Outside B.C. call: 1 604 664-0124
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/index.htm

Child Care Programs and Support

(Including Child Care Subsidy)
Toll-free provincewide: 1 888 338-6622
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/index.htm

Youth Against Violence Line

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 680-4264 (open 24/7)

Children and Youth with Special Needs

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/index.htm

Autism Spectrum Disorder

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/index.htm

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



Every child in British Columbia deserves the chance to become a healthy, successful adult. To support B.C.'s children, we've targeted record funding towards children and youth.

We're helping children from newly immigrated families adjust in 20 school districts. We've doubled the number of subsidized childcare spaces and created 202 new StrongStart BC programs in communities across the province. More front-line staff are working with at-risk children and families, and we've significantly increased funding support for Children and Family Development since 2001. We're funding programs for children with special needs, and this includes funding for autism treatment.

B.C. seniors are living longer, more active lives. We've eliminated mandatory retirement in B.C. and are building new seniors' parks in our communities. New independent living options better meet seniors' needs, and help seniors stay in their own homes longer. Since 2001, we have opened over 6,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted-living units and supportive-housing units with home support across B.C. Almost 13,000 new and replacement beds and units have opened, replacing many that were unsuitable for complex care. Wait times for access to residential care have declined from up to a full year in 2001 to an average of less than 90 days today.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia



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SERVICE BC

(For information on any provincial government service or program)
Monday to Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 663-7867
Telephone device for the deaf (TDD) in B.C.: 1 800 661-8773
WWW.SERVICEBC.GOV.BC.CA

SIGN UP FOR THE PREMIER'S NEWSLETTER:
PREMIERSOFFICE@GOV.BC.CA

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:
E-MAIL: PREMIER@GOV.BC.CA

BUILDING THE FUTURE >>

**FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS
AND PEOPLE IN NEED**



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SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

We have provided greater certainty and protection for RRSP investments made with financial institutions. RRSPs and similar plans are now exempt from seizure by creditors, to match the protection given to investments made with insurance companies.

There is greater workplace flexibility for employers and improved savings opportunities for British Columbians approaching retirement age. Individuals can now work and contribute to their pension plans while simultaneously collecting a portion of their pension benefits. The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program has been improved and expanded, with 16,000 seniors' households receiving an average monthly payment of about \$150. B.C. introduced 4,000 units of subsidized assisted living for seniors. 900 social housing units are being upgraded with enhanced accessibility, improved safety systems, and day-to-day assistance.

MORE BEDS FOR B.C. SENIORS

We have modernized and improved care options and supports for seniors. There are more opportunities to live independently and more supports for those with complex needs. There are 12,865 new or replacement beds for seniors' care, including 6,061 net-new beds and units. The average wait time for residential care is less than 90 days.

Communities across the province have benefited from our commitment to providing a continuum of care for B.C. seniors. New facilities have opened in Campbell River, Coquitlam, Cranbrook, Houston, Duncan, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Prince George, Sooke, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria.



CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Province invests more than \$600 million annually on a range of intervention and support services for approximately 54,000 children and youth with significant special needs and their families.

Support for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder has increased to over \$120 million.

Child and Youth Mental Health

In 2003, B.C. became the first province to establish and fully fund a comprehensive Child and Youth Mental Health Plan.

The Crossing at Keremeos, a 42-bed long-term residential treatment centre for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18, celebrated its grand opening in 2009.

In 2005/06, the Ministry of Health Services provided \$6 million in new base funding to support health authorities to enhance youth-specific addictions treatment services.

Supporting Vulnerable Youth

Since 2002, the Youth Education Assistance Fund, which provides a \$5,500 bursary for post-secondary or vocational training to former B.C. youth in care, has helped more than 600 young adults.



Since 2008, Agreements with Young Adults has helped more than 300 former youth-in-care to finish high school, learn life skills and attend post-secondary or rehabilitative programs.

Helping B.C. Families

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is providing greater supports and services for vulnerable children and families.

Since 2001, the total budget for MCFD has increased 40 per cent and the number of frontline social workers has increased more than 21 per cent since 2005.

More than 90,000 child care spaces are funded throughout the province — an increase of more than 40 per cent since 2003.

In addition, more than 90,000 child-care spaces are funded throughout the province — an increase of more than 40 per cent since 2003, and child-care subsidies support approximately 50,000 individual children over the course of a year.

The Province created the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) in 2006, which provides more than 8,100 low-income working families with direct monthly cash assistance to help pay the rent, with an average payment of about \$350 a family each month.



Support For Aboriginal People

The Aboriginal Housing Initiative is developing approximately 200 units of off-reserve housing to create safe, secure and culturally appropriate housing for youth, women, elders and those struggling with addictions.

The threshold for the Homeowner's Grant has been raised to \$1.05 million and there is now no threshold for low-income seniors, people with disabilities or veterans.

We've also increased the Basic Homeowners Grant by \$100 to \$570 to help make home ownership more affordable.

