

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:15 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Cc:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: foster care report

Tracy-- give me a ring on cell pls and thanks. 250 812 0495

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 4:28 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

I spoke to Karen Johnston a while ago and I've since spoken to my editors. While we're not going to run the Q and A, we would still like to interview the provincial lead for young adult services and/or have her name.

To be clear, we're not going to run the Q and A from the critic for children and family development either.

Thanks,  
Tracy

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 2:03 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Cc:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange); Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Would you mind just giving a call to Karen? She left a message on your voice mail and just wants to ensure that this information meets the needs of your senior editors and that you'll be printing the minister's QA. Her cell number is 250 812-0495.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

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**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** February-20-14 1:47 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange); Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thanks, Jeremy, for getting back to us.  
Lori.

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 12:50 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)

**Cc:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange); Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Lori,

The position is full time and is in regular contact with the Public Guardian and Trust, YWCA, Adoptive Families Association and the Federation of Youth in Care Networks as well as cross government work. These relationships are key to developing programs such as Strive, the tuition waiver, the Family Youth Partnership in addition to the ongoing engagement efforts being undertaken by the Ministry.

Social workers work with youth to plan for their transition and to ensure youth are aware of the supports and services available to them once they become adults.

While it's accurate to say that youth agreements and independent living arrangements end at 19, youth agreements can transfer into agreements with young adults for school, treatment or other mental health supports. Agreements with young adults can cover up to three eight-month semesters until the youth is 24.

Youth formerly in care, on youth agreements or independent living also have access to other supports such as the Strive program, tuition waivers and employment programs that help them transition to adulthood.

Karen Johnston, my director, will be calling you shortly to discuss.

Thank you,  
Jeremy

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**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>]

**Sent:** February-19-14 4:40 PM

**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)

**Subject:** FW: foster care report

Hi Jeremy,

I am working with Tracy Sherlock on the Vancouver Sun series on the age youth "age out" of Foster Care. I am following up on an email Tracy sent you earlier today.

We just had a meeting with two senior editors who do not think we can run Minister Cadieux's Q&A answers.

We have two concerns:

1. Regarding the provincial lead: We have spoken to four agencies who work with youth after they have transitioned out of foster care, and none has had any direct contact with this person nor have they even heard of the position. Before we consider mentioning her role in our newspaper, can you please tell us her name, whether this is a full-time position (or whether she performs other duties for the ministry), and a list of projects she has worked on besides Strive and the post-secondary tuition waivers. (We have spoken to people involved in the post-secondary tuition waiver initiative, and they are unaware of someone with this title at MCFD.) Can we please request an interview with this person about how the work she is doing to help foster children transition out of care and into adulthood.
2. Regarding our question about the benefits of a graduated transition program to help guide former foster children up to age 24, part of your answer was:

"There are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements and Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition age up to 24."

Our research indicates that YAs and Independent Living arrangements end at 19, so it's not clear how that helps youth transition out of care to age 24. (We acknowledge AYAs are available to this age group, but only for a limited time frame – 2 years – and with specific restrictions.)

Although we won't be running the Q&A, we would appreciate more information that addresses these apparent contradictions in your Q&A answers.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Lori and Tracy.

(Could you please respond to both our email addresses to ensure continuity.)

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Subject:** FW: foster care report

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 2:24 PM  
**To:** 'Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX'  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi again Jeremy

I have a few more questions. Regarding this answer:

3. What do you think the benefits would be of a graduated transition program for youth in care that extends to age 24?

There are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements and Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition age up to 24.

We link young adults with cross-ministry services such as financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs and work with the FBCYICN (Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks) to support youth transitioning to adulthood.

Youth Agreements and Independent Living arrangements end at age 19, correct?

Regarding the provincial lead – is it possible for you to tell me her name? Is the lead for youth and young adult services' strategic initiative a full-time position or does this person have other duties?

Thank you.

Tracy Sherlock

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 3:58 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Yes, Tracy. This can be attributed to Minister Cadieux.

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** February-14-14 3:49 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thank you. Can this be attributed to Stephanie Cadieux? We may need to add it to the Q and A for clarity.

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 3:46 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Here are the answers to your questions: So is this a person? Have they been hired? When was this position created? Have they come up with any suggestions for improving the current situation?

The lead for youth and young adult services' strategic initiative has been in the position since June 2013 and it is focused on strengthening the service standards.

An example of an initiative she has played a key role in would be the partnership with the YWCA Metro Vancouver on the Strive project to help support youth transitioning from care gain the life and work skills they need to become independent. Another would be work done with a variety of public post-secondary educational institutions such as Vancouver Island University, towards fee waivers for children in care.

She continues to collaborate with MCFD staff and partners in other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

I hope this works for you.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** February-14-14 3:30 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

I don't understand why it is taking so long to get these answers. If the minister is going to refer to something in her answers, it should be pretty easy to get more information on what it is. We can't go with the Q and A as is, without more information about this.

Any update?

Thanks,  
Tracy

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 9:56 AM

**To:** 'Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX'  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thanks Jeremy. Could you clarify what Stephanie means by this:

We've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

We haven't heard of this – could you explain what it is?

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 9:52 AM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Joanne Whittier would be the person to contact. [Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca)  
Thanks,  
Jeremy

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** February-12-14 9:32 AM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy  
Who is the best media contact at the ministry of social development and innovation?

Tracy

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:49 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Here are Minister Cadieux's responses to the six questions that you had sent to Karen. Below, you will also find the ministry's response to your other three questions.

**1. Ontario and 19 American states have extended support to kids in care to age 21? Why isn't B.C. doing the same?**

B.C. already matches or exceeds many types of supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. But, there is always more we can do and that's why we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

**2. What should the B.C. government do to better support youth in care after age 19 given that, compared to youth from more traditional families, they are much more likely to be poor, homeless, arrested, struggling with an addiction and without a high school diploma?**

A number of programs and services exist across government to support youth transitioning from care that include housing options, addictions counselling and education assistance. We need to ensure young people are aware of services that are already available and help them access those services.

Our Strive pilot with the Vancouver YWCA is an example of the kind of programs that we think might provide the additional supports some kids transitioning require. It is a recognition of the different levels of life and work skill supports needed by some young people to be successful in attaining independence.

**3. What do you think the benefits would be of a graduated transition program for youth in care that extends to age 24?**

There are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements and Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition age up to 24.

We link young adults with cross-ministry services such as financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs and work with the FBCYICN (Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks) to support youth transitioning to adulthood.

**4. We live in a society where young people live at home and receive financial support from their parents much longer. At what age do you think it is appropriate for a young person to leave their family home and be forced to find an alternate source of financial support?**

Just like for kids who live with their birth families, kids aging out of care exhibit a range of independence readiness and needs for support after high school. They all take different paths to self-sufficiency.

Acknowledging that for kids aging out, the supports a family often provides to a young adult aren't available, we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

In our experience, not all youth who age out of foster care want continued contact with a social worker. Instead, many have asked for more independence and support in accessing assistance that allows them to move into adulthood. For example, Agreements with Young Adults can help youth who were in care upgrade their education or help with living expenses or health care.

**5. Ontario experts say a cost-benefit analysis shows for every \$1 spent supporting a youth after they have aged out of foster care (in Ont. 21) the government would receive an estimated \$1.36 in return over the course of the person's working lifetime. How can the government ignore this cost benefit?**

Programs and supports offered between provinces are not uniform and outcomes are not uniform either.

B.C. looks at cross-jurisdictional comparisons of programs and we already match or exceed many supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. Our focus is ensuring transitions are smooth and that kids aren't left to navigate the system of comprehensive supports on their own.

**6. The government makes a solid investment in foster kids up to 19. How is cutting them off abruptly at 19 a good use of that initial investment?**

Through a variety of government programs and partnerships, we offer supports that allow young people from care moving into adulthood to acquire additional life skills, education and financial supports up to the age of 24. We need to ensure young people are aware of available services and help them access those services.

Your other three questions:

**2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this? Do we track this type of information?**

Because youth who have aged out of care are over the age of majority and being served by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has no legal authority to collect data that indicates their reason for qualification.

**Ontario refers to a lifetime average of 55 months spent accessing their income assistance system. Does BC have similar statistics?**

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation tracks monthly income and disability assistance statistics:

<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/research/index.htm>

**Do people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities generally stay on Income Assistance for life?**

Many people receive disability assistance long-term. They remain a recipient of assistance until their circumstances change (for example, they find employment, they get married and now have income above the disability assistance level). There are many reasons why people leave assistance and it depends on individual circumstances.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,

**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: February-06-14 1:20 PM

To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: foster care report

Well by Tuesday would be good

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From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [[Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)]

Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 1:08 PM

To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)

Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Still working on the answer to your question regarding the report. I'm also looking into answers to your newest questions. I understand the sooner, the better; but, do you have a more specific timeframe for these three questions?

Kind regards.

Jeremy

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: February-06-14 12:18 PM

To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

Any luck with the question below?

Also, I have two more questions for you. Sorry.

We're trying to do a cost-benefit analysis using an Ontario report as the foundation. They refer to a lifetime average spent accessing Ontario's income assistance of 55 months. Do we have any similar statistic here?

Also, am I wrong to assume that people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities would generally stay on Income Assistance for life?

Thank you.  
Tracy Sherlock

From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:51 PM  
To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
I'm looking into this for you.  
Thanks,  
Jeremy

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
Sent: February-04-14 4:31 PM  
To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy  
I have a question about this report.  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf)  
It's on page 59. In the bottom right hand corner, it says that 2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this?

Thank you.  
Tracy

From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:09 AM  
To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Statistics on educational outcomes for children in care are now included in the performance and strategic management reports found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports_publications.htm). The last report October 2012 – March 2013 can be found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf), with educational outcome statistics beginning on page 58.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,  
Jeremy Uppenborn  
Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications  
250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f) [jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca) <<mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>>

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
Sent: January-28-14 4:01 PM  
To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
Subject: foster care report

Just want to know if this report has been updated ...

This is the report:  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)



This is the list of reports that shows them for several years:

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>

Thank you!

--

Tracy Sherlock

Education Reporter

The Vancouver Sun

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Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3

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Cell: 604.818.3090

Email: [tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com)<<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>>

Twitter: @tracysherlock

[cid:image001.png@01CF233B.857936F0]<<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/>>

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) <tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2014 2:44 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Series will now start Feb. 21. It has six parts.

Thank you for the head shot. I think the questions about the provincial lead are extremely crucial.

Thanks,  
Tracy

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2014 2:37 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Here is a headshot of Minister Cadieux for you to use. Still working on getting you something regarding your last question.

Just wondering: Are you still planning to start the series tomorrow? Also, how many installments are you and Lori planning?

Thank you,  
Jeremy

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com]  
**Sent:** February-12-14 9:43 AM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy  
Is there a current head shot of Stephanie we can use with this?  
Thanks,  
Tracy

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:49 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

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B.C. already matches or exceeds many types of supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. But, there is always more we can do and that's why we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

- 2. What should the B.C. government do to better support youth in care after age 19 given that, compared to youth from more traditional families, they are much more likely to be poor, homeless, arrested, struggling with an addiction and without a high school diploma?**

A number of programs and services exist across government to support youth transitioning from care that include housing options, addictions counselling and education assistance. We need to ensure young people are aware of services that are already available and help them access those services.

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- 5. Ontario experts say a cost-benefit analysis shows for every \$1 spent supporting a youth after they have aged out of foster care (in Ont. 21) the government would receive an estimated \$1.36 in return over the course of the person's working lifetime. How can the government ignore this cost benefit?**

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Your other three questions:

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I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,

**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

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Sent: February-06-14 1:20 PM

To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: foster care report

Well by Tuesday would be good

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Hi Tracy,

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Kind regards.

Jeremy

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Thank you.

Tracy Sherlock

From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:51 PM  
To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

I'm looking into this for you.

Thanks,

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To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Statistics on educational outcomes for children in care are now included in the performance and strategic management reports found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports_publications.htm). The last report October 2012 – March 2013 can be found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf), with educational outcome statistics beginning on page 58.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,

Jeremy Uppenborn

Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications  
250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f) [jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)<<mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>>

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
Sent: January-28-14 4:01 PM  
To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
Subject: foster care report

Just want to know if this report has been updated ...

This is the report:  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)

This is the list of reports that shows them for several years:  
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>

Thank you!

--

Tracy Sherlock  
Education Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Suite 1 – 200 Granville St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3  
Office: 604.605.2685  
Cell: 604.818.3090  
Email: [tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com)<<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>>  
Twitter: @tracysherlock

[[cid:image001.png@01CF233B.857936F0](#)]<<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/>>

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) <tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 4:37 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

So is this a person? Have they been hired? When was this position created? Have they come up with any suggestions for improving the current situation? No one I've spoken to has mentioned this before – it's the first I've heard of it.

Thanks,  
Tracy

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 4:33 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Here is a bit of an explanation regarding your last question.

The provincial lead for Young Adult Services is focused on improving outcomes for older youth who are in care, living independently or on youth agreements and young adults aged 19 to 24. They work with MCFD staff and collaborate with other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

Hope this helps. I'm also tracking down a head shot of Minister Cadieux for you to use and should have it for you shortly.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com]  
**Sent:** February-12-14 9:56 AM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thanks Jeremy. Could you clarify what Stephanie means by this:

We've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

We haven't heard of this – could you explain what it is?

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 9:52 AM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Joanne Whittier would be the person to contact. [Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Joanne.Whittier@gov.bc.ca)  
Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** February-12-14 9:32 AM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy  
Who is the best media contact at the ministry of social development and innovation?

Tracy

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:49 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Here are Minister Cadieux's responses to the six questions that you had sent to Karen. Below, you will also find the ministry's response to your other three questions.

**1. Ontario and 19 American states have extended support to kids in care to age 21? Why isn't B.C. doing the same?**

B.C. already matches or exceeds many types of supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. But, there is always more we can do and that's why we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

**2. What should the B.C. government do to better support youth in care after age 19 given that, compared to youth from more traditional families, they are much more likely to be poor, homeless, arrested, struggling with an addiction and without a high school diploma?**

A number of programs and services exist across government to support youth transitioning from care that include housing options, addictions counselling and education assistance. We need to ensure young people are aware of services that are already available and help them access those services.

Our Strive pilot with the Vancouver YWCA is an example of the kind of programs that we think might provide the additional supports some kids transitioning require. It is a recognition of the different levels of life and work skill supports needed by some young people to be successful in attaining independence.

**3. What do you think the benefits would be of a graduated transition program for youth in care that extends to age 24?**

There are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements and Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition age up to 24.

We link young adults with cross-ministry services such as financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs and work with the FBCYICN (Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks) to support youth transitioning to adulthood.



4. **We live in a society where young people live at home and receive financial support from their parents much longer. At what age do you think it is appropriate for a young person to leave their family home and be forced to find an alternate source of financial support?**

Just like for kids who live with their birth families, kids aging out of care exhibit a range of independence readiness and needs for support after high school. They all take different paths to self-sufficiency.

Acknowledging that for kids aging out, the supports a family often provides to a young adult aren't available, we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

In our experience, not all youth who age out of foster care want continued contact with a social worker. Instead, many have asked for more independence and support in accessing assistance that allows them to move into adulthood. For example, Agreements with Young Adults can help youth who were in care upgrade their education or help with living expenses or health care.

5. **Ontario experts say a cost-benefit analysis shows for every \$1 spent supporting a youth after they have aged out of foster care (in Ont. 21) the government would receive an estimated \$1.36 in return over the course of the person's working lifetime. How can the government ignore this cost benefit?**

Programs and supports offered between provinces are not uniform and outcomes are not uniform either.

B.C. looks at cross-jurisdictional comparisons of programs and we already match or exceed many supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. Our focus is ensuring transitions are smooth and that kids aren't left to navigate the system of comprehensive supports on their own.

6. **The government makes a solid investment in foster kids up to 19. How is cutting them off abruptly at 19 a good use of that initial investment?**

Through a variety of government programs and partnerships, we offer supports that allow young people from care moving into adulthood to acquire additional life skills, education and financial supports up to the age of 24. We need to ensure young people are aware of available services and help them access those services.

Your other three questions:

**2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this? Do we track this type of information?**

Because youth who have aged out of care are over the age of majority and being served by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has no legal authority to collect data that indicates their reason for qualification.

**Ontario refers to a lifetime average of 55 months spent accessing their income assistance system. Does BC have similar statistics?**

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation tracks monthly income and disability assistance statistics:  
<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/research/index.htm>

**Do people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities generally stay on Income Assistance for life?**

Many people receive disability assistance long-term. They remain a recipient of assistance until their circumstances change (for example, they find employment, they get married and now have income above the disability assistance level). There are many reasons why people leave assistance and it depends on individual circumstances.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,

**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: February-06-14 1:20 PM

To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: foster care report

Well by Tuesday would be good

---

From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [[Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)]

Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 1:08 PM

To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)

Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Still working on the answer to your question regarding the report. I'm also looking into answers to your newest questions. I understand the sooner, the better; but, do you have a more specific timeframe for these three questions?

Kind regards.

Jeremy

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: February-06-14 12:18 PM

To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

Any luck with the question below?

Also, I have two more questions for you. Sorry.

We're trying to do a cost-benefit analysis using an Ontario report as the foundation. They refer to a lifetime average spent accessing Ontario's income assistance of 55 months. Do we have any similar statistic here?

Also, am I wrong to assume that people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities would generally stay on Income Assistance for life?

Thank you.

Tracy Sherlock

From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:51 PM

To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)

Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

I'm looking into this for you.

Thanks,

Jeremy

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: February-04-14 4:31 PM  
To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

I have a question about this report.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf)

It's on page 59. In the bottom right hand corner, it says that 2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this?

Thank you.

Tracy

From: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:09 AM

To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)

Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Statistics on educational outcomes for children in care are now included in the performance and strategic management reports found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports_publications.htm). The last report October 2012 – March 2013 can be found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf), with educational outcome statistics beginning on page 58.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,

Jeremy Uppenborn

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f) [jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)<<mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>>

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: January-28-14 4:01 PM

To: Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

Subject: foster care report

Just want to know if this report has been updated ...

This is the report:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)

This is the list of reports that shows them for several years:

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>

Thank you!

--

Tracy Sherlock

Education Reporter

The Vancouver Sun

Suite 1 – 200 Granville St.

Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3

Office: 604.605.2685

Cell: 604.818.3090

Email: [tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com)<<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>>

Twitter: @tracysherlock

[[cid:image001.png@01CF233B.857936F0](#)]<<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/>>

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) <tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 6:51 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Got it, that's great, thanks. I was wondering about that.

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 6:49 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

You are correct on the first part about distinction, Tracy. Only those who were in permanent care are eligible to apply for YEAF.

However, on the second part, kids who are in permanent care wouldn't switch to a youth agreement. They would go on independent living. It is a contract with their social worker that has similarities to a youth agreement but is based on a different legal framework because they are in continuing custody.

If you need more information, I will have to follow up with my program staff on Monday. Does this help?

Jeremy

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com]  
**Sent:** January-31-14 3:28 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thank you , Jeremy. Regarding this answer:

If they were previously on a Youth Agreement, they could also receive \$3,000-\$5,000 a year in tuition supports.

Is the distinction there that kids previously on youth agreements can't get YEAF to cover tuition? YEAF is only for those who were in permanent care, right?

What about kids who were in permanent care, but then switch to a youth agreement?

This isn't super important, I just want to make sure I understand how it works. Thanks again.

Tracy

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 3:26 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Here are the answers to your questions below:

1. Does the 1,350 figure stated for the number of youth who have received YEAF funding include some youth more than once, i.e. if they got four years of funding, would they be counted four times? Or, is it 1,350 individual young people that received funding at some time?

The 1,350 referenced for YEAF is a count for individual youth; not the count of bursaries.

2. In the Coast Capital Savings news release on post-secondary supports for young people transitioning out of care ([https://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/About\\_Coast\\_Capital\\_Savings/Press\\_Advertising/News\\_Releases/Jan22,2014/](https://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/About_Coast_Capital_Savings/Press_Advertising/News_Releases/Jan22,2014/)), it says the Agreements with Young Adults program is a \$5 million program. Is that per year?

The \$5 million funding for the Agreements with Young Adults program is per year.

3. How much funding do the young adults who are in Agreements with Young Adults get? Even an approximation would help. Is it about \$1,000 per month?

On average a young adult on an Agreement with Young Adults gets \$1,000-\$1,400 a month. If they were previously on a Youth Agreement, they could also receive \$3,000-\$5,000 a year in tuition supports.

Kind regards,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-31-14 3:08 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy  
We're looking at starting the series on Feb. 14, but that is not set in stone.  
Tracy

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 2:11 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,  
Touching base to let you know that I should have something for you soon.

Just wondering: I know that Lori has talked to the minister and we've provided a bit of information to both of you. Any idea on when you plan to publish?

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-30-14 4:37 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thanks.

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:36 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

First bullet under Quick Facts...

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/12/university-dream-a-reality-for-young-people-in-care.html>

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-30-14 4:23 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Which news release? I don't see that on the one I'm quoting from from last week.

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:17 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

I'm following up with staff on your first two questions but I can confirm that AYA started in 2008 – from the quick facts section of the news release.

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-30-14 4:14 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi again Jeremy – one more question – when did AYA start? Was it 2008?

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:07 PM  
**To:** 'Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX'  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Jeremy

I have a couple of other questions, with no major rush for an answer.

1. This was quoted in the news release when the Coast Capital fund for education was announced, Jan. 22.

The Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF) is available to young people, aged 19-24, who were in the permanent care of the ministry or a delegated Aboriginal agency before adulthood. Eligible students can receive bursaries of up to \$5,500 once per educational year, up to a maximum of four times, for tuition, books, fees or living expenses while studying at designated post-secondary and vocational institutions. Since the creation of YEAF in 2002, the ministry has contributed more than \$10.3 million to support 1,350 youth to receive a post-secondary education.

My questions about this:

- Does the 1,350 youth figure include some youth more than once? i.e. if they got four years of funding would they be in there four times? Or is it 1,350 individual young people that received some funding at one time?

2. This was also from that same news release: In addition, more than 1,700 young adults have benefitted from the ministry's Agreements with Young Adults (AYA), a \$5-million program that supports young people aged 19-24 who are transitioning out of government care and into adulthood.

My questions about this:

- Is it \$5 million per year?
- How much do the young adults get? Even an approximation would help. Is it about \$1,000 per month?

Thank you.

Tracy Sherlock

--

**Tracy Sherlock**

Education Reporter

The Vancouver Sun

Suite 1 – 200 Granville St.

Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3

Office: 604.605.2685

Cell: 604.818.3090

Email: [tsherlock@vancouversun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouversun.com)

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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX [<mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:09 AM

**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)

**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Hi Tracy,

Statistics on educational outcomes for children in care are now included in the performance and strategic management reports found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports_publications.htm). The last report October 2012 – March 2013 can be found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf), with educational outcome statistics beginning on page 58.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Kind regards,



**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]

**Sent:** January-28-14 4:01 PM

**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Subject:** foster care report

Just want to know if this report has been updated ...

This is the report:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)

This is the list of reports that shows them for several years:

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>

Thank you!

--

**Tracy Sherlock**

Education Reporter

The Vancouver Sun

Suite 1 – 200 Granville St.

Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3

Office: 604.605.2685

Cell: 604.818.3090

Email: [tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com)

Twitter: @tracysherlock



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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2014 11:57 AM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange); Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: foster care report

Thanks, Karen.  
Appreciate the opportunity to interview the deputy.  
See you tomorrow.  
Lori.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 11:13 AM  
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
Subject: RE: foster care report

Hi Karen  
Yes, it will be me and Lori.  
Noon is fine. We are on the 8th floor. If you call me 604-605-2685 or Lori 604-605-2573 when you're here, we will open the door.

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX [<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 8:15 AM  
To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Subject: Re: foster care report

Tracy- we can do noon tomorrow at your office. I'll be with the DM. Will we talking with both you and Lori? Kj

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2014 1:55 PM  
To: Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
Subject: Re: foster care report

Let me check w/ our DM. Kj

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 2:04 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lalari, Terry MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX; Reddy, Brandon CFD:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Vancouver Sun, Daphne Branham  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### Suggested response:

- The safety and well-being of a child is always the ministry's first priority.
- Removal of a child is only considered if there is concern about the family's ability to safely provide care.
- The ministry makes every effort to keep families together. In a case where there are reports of abuse or reported concerns of abuse, the ministry would investigate.
- In the case of a removal, the ministry must appear before the courts within seven days and provide sufficient evidence to justify bringing a child into care. A Judge makes the final decision about whether a child should remain in care or be returned to the parents.
- Due to privacy laws, we cannot comment further.

---

**From:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-17-14 1:17 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lalari, Terry MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX; Reddy, Brandon CFD:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** MEDIA REQUEST - Vancouver Sun, Daphne Branham

Reporter/Outlet: Vancouver Sun, Daphne Branham

Deadline: 3:30pm

Background: Reporter is doing a story (to be published tomorrow) about a 17 yr old who would like to come into foster care. She claims to have been staying in a youth shelter for 3 months and does not want to go home because she fears for her safety. She claims that her social worker continues to only tell her to go home.

Recommendation: Looking into it...

### Sheldon Johnson

Manager, Media Relations and Issues Management  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
250-213-5811

**Outlet/reporter:** Vancouver Sun, Tracy Sherlock – [tsherlock@vancouversun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouversun.com), 604 818-3090

**Deadline:** Tuesday, Feb. 11

**Issue:** More follow-up on reporter's ongoing research into youth transition, experiences and outcomes for former youth in care.

Reporter wants to run a Q&A segment with Minister Cadieux and opposition critic each providing responses (60-word max) to the same questions:

**1. Ontario and 19 American states have extended support to kids in care to age 21? Why isn't B.C. doing the same?**

B.C. already matches or exceeds many types of supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. But, there is always more we can do and that's why we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

**2. What should the B.C. government do to better support youth in care after age 19 given that, compared to youth from more traditional families, they are much more likely to be poor, homeless, arrested, struggling with an addiction and without a high school diploma?**

A number of programs and services exist across government to support youth transitioning from care that include housing options, addictions counselling and education assistance. We need to ensure young people are aware of services that are already available and help them access those services.

Our Strive pilot with the Vancouver YWCA is an example of the kind of programs that we think might provide the additional supports some kids transitioning require. It is a recognition of the different levels of life and work skill supports needed by some young people to be successful in attaining independence.

**3. What do you think the benefits would be of a graduated transition program for youth in care that extends to age 24?**

There are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements and Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition age up to 24.

We link young adults with cross-ministry services such as financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs and work with the FBCYICN (Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks) to support youth transitioning to adulthood.

**4. We live in a society where young people live at home and receive financial support from their parents much longer. At what age do you think it is appropriate for a young person to leave their family home and be forced to find an alternate source of financial support?**

Just like for kids who live with their birth families, kids aging out of care exhibit a range of independence readiness and needs for support after high school. They all take different paths to self-sufficiency.

Acknowledging that for kids aging out, the supports a family often provides to a young adult aren't available, we've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

In our experience, not all youth who age out of foster care want continued contact with a social worker. Instead, many have asked for more independence and support in accessing assistance that allows them to move into adulthood. For example, Agreements with Young Adults can help youth who were in care upgrade their education or help with living expenses or health care.

5. **Ontario experts say a cost-benefit analysis shows for every \$1 spent supporting a youth after they have aged out of foster care (in Ont. 21) the government would receive an estimated \$1.36 in return over the course of the person's working lifetime. How can the government ignore this cost benefit?**

Programs and supports offered between provinces are not uniform and outcomes are not uniform either.

B.C. looks at cross-jurisdictional comparisons of programs and we already match or exceed many supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care. Our focus is ensuring transitions are smooth and that kids aren't left to navigate the system of comprehensive supports on their own.

6. **The government makes a solid investment in foster kids up to 19. How is cutting them off abruptly at 19 a good use of that initial investment?**

Through a variety of government programs and partnerships, we offer supports that allow young people from care moving into adulthood to acquire additional life skills, education and financial supports up to the age of 24. We need to ensure young people are aware of available services and help them access those services.

Also, reporter submitted three further inquiries. See below, with suggested response in **bold**:

1. 2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this? Do we track this type of information?
  - **Because youth who have aged out of care are over the age of majority and being served by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has no legal authority to collect data that indicates their reason for qualification.**
2. Ontario refers to a lifetime average of 55 months spent accessing their income assistance system. Does BC have similar statistics?
  - **The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation tracks monthly income and disability assistance statistics: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/research/index.htm>**
3. Do people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities generally stay on Income Assistance for life?
  - **Many people receive disability assistance long-term. They remain a recipient of assistance until their circumstances change (for example, they find employment, they get married and now have income above the disability assistance level). There are**

**many reasons why people leave assistance and it depends on individual circumstances.**

Further questions from the reporter along with the responses:

**Q. Could you clarify what Stephanie means by this? We've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.**

The provincial lead for Young Adult Services is focused on improving outcomes for older youth who are in care, living independently or on youth agreements and young adults aged 19 to 24. They work with MCFD staff and collaborate with other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

**Q. So is this a person? Have they been hired? When was this position created? Have they come up with any suggestions for improving the current situation?**

The lead for youth and young adult services' strategic initiative has been in the position since June 2013 and it is focused on strengthening the service standards.

An example of an initiative she has played a key role in would be the partnership with the YWCA Metro Vancouver on the Strive project to help support youth transitioning from care gain the life and work skills they need to become independent. Another would be work done with a variety of public post-secondary educational institutions such as Vancouver Island University, towards fee waivers for children in care.

She continues to collaborate with MCFD staff and partners in other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

Further feedback from the reporters with responses below:

**I am working with Tracy Sherlock on the Vancouver Sun series on the age youth "age out" of Foster Care. I am following up on an email Tracy sent you earlier today. We just had a meeting with two senior editors who do not think we can run Minister Cadieux's Q&A answers.**

**We have two concerns:**

**Regarding the provincial lead: We have spoken to four agencies who work with youth after they have transitioned out of foster care, and none has had any direct contact with this person nor have they even heard of the position. Before we consider mentioning her role in our newspaper, can you please tell us her name, whether this is a full-time position (or whether she performs other duties for the ministry), and a list of projects she has worked on besides Strive and the post-secondary tuition waivers. (We have spoken to people involved in the post-secondary tuition waiver initiative, and they are unaware of someone with this title at MCFD.)**

**Can we please request an interview with this person about how the work she is doing to help foster children transition out of care and into adulthood.**

**Regarding our question about the benefits of a graduated transition program to help guide former foster children up to age 24, part of your answer was:**

“There are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements and Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition age up to 24.”

**Our research indicates that YAs and Independent Living arrangements end at 19, so it’s not clear how that helps youth transition out of care to age 24. (We acknowledge AYAs are available to this age group, but only for a limited time frame – 2 years – and with specific restrictions.)**

**Although we won’t be running the Q&A, we would appreciate more information that addresses these apparent contradictions in your Q&A answers.**

Response:

The position is full time and is in regular contact with the Public Guardian and Trust, YWCA, Adoptive Families Association and the Federation of Youth in Care Networks as well as cross government work. These relationships are key to developing programs such as Strive, the tuition waiver, the Family Youth Partnership in addition to the ongoing engagement efforts being undertaken by the Ministry.

Social workers work with youth to plan for their transition and to ensure youth are aware of the supports and services available to them once they become adults.

While it’s accurate to say that youth agreements and independent living arrangements end at 19, youth agreements can transfer into agreements with young adults for school, treatment or other mental health supports. Agreements with young adults can cover up to three eight-month semesters until the youth is 24.

Youth formerly in care, on youth agreements or independent living also have access to other supports such as the Strive program, tuition waivers and employment programs that help them transition to adulthood.

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2014 5:37 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

Thanks

On Feb 7, 2014, at 5:25 PM, "Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX" <[Grant.Kerr@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Grant.Kerr@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Sheldon,  
Sorry, haven't been keeping everyone in the loop. These have been approved by our MO and shared with Shawn.  
Have a great long weekend.  
Cheers,  
Grant

Grant Kerr  
Public Affairs Officer/ Communications  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
Government of British Columbia  
Ph: 250 387-5635, c: 250 216-2496

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**From:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-07-14 5:06 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

Thanks very much Grant. If you can get MO approval for those responses, that would be great.

---

**From:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-07-14 3:04 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

Hi Sheldon,  
Have talked to Darren about this as I know Jeremy has gone for the day. We don't track stats on either of these, though, as you know, CFD does for the initial question. Here's what we could provide on



background. If you wanted to use background, highlighted, for second Q we'd have to get blessing of our MO. Please let us know.

Thanks,

A couple of Vancouver Sun reporters are doing a large piece on transitions for youth from government care. We have been responding to questions for them for a couple of weeks now. They are keying in on the number of youth from care who go on income assistance when they turn 19. For outcome purposes, MCFD tracks the number of youth from care who qualify for persons with disabilities (though we don't track as to why). The reporters have seen in one of our performance management reports that 2/3 of youth in care who go on income assistance also qualify for PWD. This has them asking the following questions which I'm hoping you can help with the answers for:

- They refer to a lifetime average spent accessing Ontario's income assistance of 55 months. Do we have any similar statistics at SDSI? (And if that is tracked, is there an average of people coming out of care?)
  - For monthly income and disability assistance statistics, please follow this link: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/research/index.htm>
- Reporter wants to know if people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities would generally stay on Income Assistance for life?
  - Many people receive disability assistance long-term. They remain a recipient of assistance until their circumstances change (for example, they find employment, they get married and now have income above the disability assistance level). There are many reasons why people leave assistance and it depends on individual circumstances.

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2014 4:37 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

OK, can you send me your whole package of what you're sending to Sun asap so we can share that to provide the context our MO is going to want.

---

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-07-14 4:35 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

Thanks Grant

We've sent to our MO as FYI

Would you be able to seek approval from your MO for those two responses? If they're o.k. with those, we're likely to use them.

---

**From:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-07-14 3:57 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

Hi Shawn,

Have talked to Darren about this as I know Jeremy has gone for the day. We don't track stats on either of these, though, as you know, CFD does for the initial question. Here's what we could provide on background. If you wanted to use background, highlighted, for second Q we'd have to get blessing of our MO. Please let us know.

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2014 5:26 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

Hi Sheldon,  
Sorry, haven't been keeping everyone in the loop. These have been approved by our MO and shared with Shawn.  
Have a great long weekend.  
Cheers,  
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**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: re: Van Sun media request and income assistance questions

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**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
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**To:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
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**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
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Ph: 250 387-5635, c: 250 216-2496

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2014 3:08 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Media request

I've talked with Martin and he is fine with us sending Tracy the second bullet.

- Because youth who have aged out of care are over the age of majority and being served by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has no legal authority to collect data that indicates their reason for qualification.

Did you want this run by the MO?

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**From:** Wright, Martin P MCF:EX  
**Sent:** February-06-14 2:19 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media request

Jeremy, data for conditions qualifying for PWD is not available in ICM (the applications are scanned into ICM so the data cannot be extracted into a file) so we won't be able to identify the breakdown of conditions for our former CYIC. SDSI are looking into doing this manually in ICM (1 client at a time) but if this is done at all it will take some time to complete. We do know that PWD is a benefit designed to compensate IA recipients (assets under \$2,000) or people with assets under \$5,000 for having one or more of the medical conditions listed below that increase their cost of living. These additional costs are not covered by the health care system.

Currently there is a disability review underway, SDSI GCPE have messaging on PWD, they are expecting your call. Martin.

### **Infectious and parasitic diseases**

- 1.0 Other
- 1.1 HIV
- 1.2 AIDS
- 1.3 Hepatitis
- 1.4 Hepatitis C

### **Neoplasms**

- 2.0 Neoplastic disorders - other
- 2.1 Lip, oral cavity & pharynx
- 2.2 Digestive organs & peritoneum
- 2.3 Respiratory & intrathoracic organs
- 2.4 Bone, connective tissue, skin and breast
- 2.5 Genitourinary organs
- 2.6 Leukemia

### **Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and immunity disorders**

- 3.0 Endocrine disorders - other
- 3.01 Immune disorders - other
- 3.02 Metabolic disorders - other
- 3.1 Thyroid disorders
- 3.2 Diabetes

### **Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs**



#### 4.0 Other diseases of the blood

##### 4.1 Anemia

##### 4.2 Hemophillia

#### **Mental disorders**

##### 5.0 Other mental (please specify)

##### 5.1 Delirium, dementia & amnestic & other cognitive disorders

##### 5.2 Schizophrenia & other Psychotic disorders

##### 5.3 Mood disorders

##### 5.4 Developmental disability

##### 5.5 Anxiety disorders

##### 5.6 Somatoform disorders

##### 5.7 Personality disorders

##### 5.8 Substance-related disorders

##### 5.9 Pervasive developmental disorders

##### 5.10 Eating disorders

#### **Diseases of the nervous system & sense organs - Neurological**

##### 6.0 Neurological disorders - other

##### 6.1 Epilepsy

##### 6.3 Brain tumors

##### 6.4 Parkinson's disease

##### 6.5 Cerebral palsy

##### 6.6 Paraplegia

##### 6.7 Quadraplegia

##### 6.9 Other paralysis

##### 6.10 Myasthenia Gravis

##### 6.11 Muscular dystrophy

##### 6.12 ALS

##### 6.13 Alzheimer's disease

##### 6.14 Huntington's Chorea

##### 6.15 Friedreich's Ataxia

##### 6.16 Multiple sclerosis

#### **Diseases of the circulatory system**

##### 8.0 Cardiovascular - other

##### 8.1 Ischemic heart disease

##### 8.2 Recurrent Arrhythmias

##### 8.3 Valvular heart disease

##### 8.4 Congenital heart disease

##### 8.5 Cardiomyopathy

##### 8.6 Chronic venous insufficiency

##### 8.7 Peripheral arterial disease

##### 8.8 Cerebral vascular accident

#### **Diseases of the respiratory system**

##### 9.0 Respiratory disorders - other

##### 9.1 Cystic fibrosis

##### 9.2 COPD

##### 9.3 Asthma

##### 9.4 Emphysema

#### **Diseases of the digestive system**

##### 10.0 Digestive disorders - other

##### 10.1 Peptic ulcer

##### 10.2 Chronic liver disease

##### 10.3 Cirrhosis

##### 10.4 Crohn's disease

##### 10.5 Colitis

#### **Diseases of the genitourinary system**

##### 11.0 Genitourinary disorders - other

##### 11.1 Kidney disease

#### **Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue**

##### 12.0 Skin disorders - other

##### 12.1 Psoriasis

#### **Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue**

##### 13.0 Musculoskeletal system - other

13.1 Lupus  
13.2 Rheumatoid arthritis  
13.3 Arthritis  
13.4 Osteoporosis  
13.5 Ankylosing spondylitis  
13.6 Degenerative disc disease  
13.7 Scoliosis  
13.8 Fibromyalgia  
13.9 Scleroderma  
**Congenital anomalies**  
14.0 Congenital anomalies - other  
14.1 Chromosomal abnormalities  
14.2 Fetal alcohol syndrome  
14.3 Thalidomide syndrome  
14.4 Spina Bifida  
**Injury and poisoning**  
15.0 Injury and poisoning - other  
15.1 Traumatic brain injury  
15.2 Amputations  
**Other conditions**  
16.0 Other  
16.1 Chronic fatigue syndrome  
16.2 Sleep apnea  
16.3 Environmental sensitivities

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**From:** Wright, Martin P MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2014 1:00 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media request

We're working with SDSI on this Jeremy, I hope to have some detail on the PWB being accessed by our former clients either today or tomorrow. I'll have more information on progress and timelines this afternoon - hold-off on the bullets for the moment

Sent from my iPad

On 2014-02-06, at 12:51 PM, "Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX" <[Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Martin,  
Based on our conversation yesterday morning, have you been able to ascertain whether or not the data is available for what the reporter is looking for? Or should we use the following bullets as a response?  
Your input into the bullets is also welcome.

- An information-sharing agreement with Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation allows the Ministry of Children and Family Development – for outcome purposes only – to track the number of youth from care who qualify for the persons with disability supplement to income assistance.
- However, because these youth are over the age of majority and being served by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has no legal authority to collect data that indicates their reason for qualification.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Wright, Martin P MCF:EX  
**Sent:** February-04-14 8:43 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Herring, Mona S MCF:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media request

We don't track this Jeremy. PWD is a program intended for short-term assistance (though applicant can reapply). SDSI will be able to provide the reporter with details of the PWD program in general. Martin.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2014, at 4:47 PM, "Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX" <[Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Martin,  
I've provided the reporter with the link to the performance management and strategic operation reports page and she now has a further inquiry....

I have a question about this report.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf)

It's on page 59. In the bottom right hand corner, it says that 2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this?

Do we track this type of information?

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Wright, Martin P MCF:EX  
**Sent:** January-28-14 8:22 PM  
**To:** Herring, Mona S MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; MacIsaac, Scott A MCF:EX; Wale, James MCF:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media request

Hi Mona and Jeremy.

This particular report has been replaced by the semi-annual performance management report which includes educational outcomes for all CYIC. Please refer the reporter to that link on our website. Should the reporter have a specific question we'll look into it. Martin.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 28, 2014, at 5:45 PM, "Herring, Mona S MCF:EX" <[Mona.Herring@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mona.Herring@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Jeremy, the second link is to a report I believe is from Martin's shop – Scott has been the author.

Mona Herring,  
Director  
Child Welfare Policy  
Policy and Provincial Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Phone: 250 356-2777 Fax: 250 356-2995

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:31 PM  
**To:** Herring, Mona S MCF:EX  
**Subject:** Media request

Hi Mona,

A reporter is doing an article on experiences of children in continuing care in B.C. She wants to make sure she is referring to the latest facts and statistics. She has visited the publications portion of MCFD's website (<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>) and is wondering if the latest year for statistics is 2010-11 ([http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)) or if there is a more recent report that hasn't yet been posted that we could provide.

Do you know if this is the most recent report outlining these statistics?

I'm looking to get back to the reporter no later than early tomorrow afternoon.

Thank you,

**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2014 1:38 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Income assistance questions

Hi Jeremy,  
We can help but will work on this tomorrow.  
Thank you,  
Grant

Grant Kerr  
Public Affairs Officer/ Communications  
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation  
Government of British Columbia  
Ph: 250 387-5635, c: 250 216-2496



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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-06-14 12:57 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Income assistance questions  
**Importance:** High

Hi Grant,  
A couple of Vancouver Sun reporters are doing a large piece on transitions for youth from government care. We have been responding to questions for them for a couple of weeks now. They are keying in on the number of youth from care who go on income assistance when they turn 19. For outcome purposes, MCFD tracks the number of youth from care who qualify for persons with disabilities (though we don't track as to why). The reporters have seen in one of our performance management reports that 2/3 of youth in care who go on income assistance also qualify for PWD. This has them asking the following questions which I'm hoping you can help with the answers for:

We're trying to do a cost-benefit analysis using an Ontario report as the foundation. They refer to a lifetime average spent accessing Ontario's income assistance of 55 months. Do we have any similar statistic here?  
Also, am I wrong to assume that people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities would generally stay on Income Assistance for life?

I've explained to Lisa and she can help you with context, if needed.

Thank you,

**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:20 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

I found this report on your website.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)

On page 95 it lists support payments for foster homes, as of 2009. Can you please tell me if those rates are still valid and, if not, could you please provide me with a similar chart showing the current rates?

**Could you also please provide me with a similar chart for the rates government pays to support older kids in care with youth agreements? I assume there is also an accelerated scale for these YAs, depending on the need (or level) of each teen?**

**I don't need this for overnight, but if it's possible to get the answers on Wed that would be great.**

Thanks,  
Lori.

**Lori Culbert**  
Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Suite 1 – 200, Granville St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3  
Office: 604.605.2573  
Email: [lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 3:13 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Educational experiences of kids in care - Deadline ASAP

Approved.

---

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 02:05 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Educational experiences of kids in care - Deadline ASAP

Pls review – suggest this is pretty factual info - kj

Karen,  
For your review before I send it to Valerie.

Further requests from the reporter:

1. Does the 1,350 figure stated for the number of youth who have received YEAF funding include some youth more than once, i.e. if they got four years of funding, would they be counted four times? Or, is it 1,350 individual young people that received funding at some time?

**Recommended response:** The 1,350 referenced for YEAF is a count for individual youth; not the count of bursaries.

2. In the Coast Capital Savings news release on post-secondary supports for young people transitioning out of care ([https://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/About\\_Coast\\_Capital\\_Savings/Press\\_Advertising/News\\_Releases/Jan22\\_2014/](https://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/About_Coast_Capital_Savings/Press_Advertising/News_Releases/Jan22_2014/)), it says the Agreements with Young Adults program is a \$5 million program. Is that per year?

**Recommended response:** The \$5 million funding for the Agreements with Young Adults program is per year.

3. How much funding do the young adults who are in Agreements with Young Adults get? Even an approximation would help. Is it about \$1,000 per month?

**Recommended response:** On average a young adult on an Agreement with Young Adults gets \$1,000-\$1,400 a month. If they were previously on a Youth Agreement, they could also receive \$3,000-\$5,000 a year in tuition supports.

Thanks,  
Jeremy



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**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Sent:** January-29-14 9:41 AM

**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX

**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Reddy, Brandon CFD:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Subject:** MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Educational experiences of kids in care - Deadline ASAP

**Outlet/reporter:** Vancouver Sun, Tracy Sherlock – [tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com), 604 818-3090

**Deadline:** Preferably ASAP but no later than noon Jan. 31

**Issue:** Reporter is doing an article on educational experiences of children in continuing care in B.C. She wants to make sure she is referring to the latest facts and statistics. She has visited the publications portion of MCFD's website (<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>) and is wondering if the latest year for statistics is 2010-11 ([http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)) or if there is a more recent report that hasn't yet been posted.

**Suggested response:** Statistics on educational outcomes for children in care are now included in the performance and strategic management reports found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports_publications.htm). The last report October 2012 – March 2013 can be found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf), with educational outcome statistics beginning on page 58. Refer reporter to these links.

Thanks,

**Jeremy Uppenborn**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications

250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)

[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

**Outlet/reporter:** Vancouver Sun, Tracy Sherlock – [tsherlock@vancouversun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouversun.com), 604 818-3090

**Deadline:** Preferably ASAP but no later than noon Jan. 31

**Issue:** Reporter is doing an article on educational experiences of children in continuing care in B.C. She wants to make sure she is referring to the latest facts and statistics. She has visited the publications portion of MCFD's website (<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>) and is wondering if the latest year for statistics is 2010-11 ([http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)) or if there is a more recent report that hasn't yet been posted.

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Further requests from the reporter:

1. Does the 1,350 figure stated for the number of youth who have received YEAF funding include some youth more than once, i.e. if they got four years of funding, would they be counted four times? Or, is it 1,350 individual young people that received funding at some time?

**Recommended response:** The 1,350 referenced for YEAF is a count for individual youth; not the count of bursaries.

2. In the Coast Capital Savings news release on post-secondary supports for young people transitioning out of care ([https://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/About\\_Coast\\_Capital\\_Savings/Press\\_Advertising/News\\_Releases/Jan22,2014/](https://www.coastcapitalsavings.com/About_Coast_Capital_Savings/Press_Advertising/News_Releases/Jan22,2014/)), it says the Agreements with Young Adults program is a \$5 million program. Is that per year?

**Recommended response:** The \$5 million funding for the Agreements with Young Adults program is per year.

3. How much funding do the young adults who are in Agreements with Young Adults get? Even an approximation would help. Is it about \$1,000 per month?

**Recommended response:** On average a young adult on an Agreement with Young Adults gets \$1,000-\$1,400 a month. If they were previously on a Youth Agreement, they could also receive \$3,000-\$5,000 a year in tuition supports.

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

Could I please add one more request. Regarding the cost of the YAs, is it also possible to say how much the government spends, on average, each year to support each child with a YA? I.e., factor in the cost of social worker salaries, etc. I am trying to get a sense of what the government spends each year to support a teenager in foster care. And the payment given to teens on YAs to cover their bills wouldn't reflect the total cost per teen, right? There would be additional costs to the government for SW salaries and other overhead?

Thanks again.

Lori.

---

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX [<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:21 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

We're on it Lori - kj

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-14-14 4:20 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

I found this report on your website.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)

On page 95 it lists support payments for foster homes, as of 2009. Can you please tell me if those rates are still valid and, if not, could you please provide me with a similar chart showing the current rates?

**Could you also please provide me with a similar chart for the rates government pays to support older kids in care with youth agreements? I assume there is also an accelerated scale for these YAs, depending on the need (or level) of each teen?**

**I don't need this for overnight, but if it's possible to get the answers on Wed that would be great.**

Thanks,  
Lori.

**Lori Culbert**  
Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Suite 1 – 200, Granville St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3  
Office: 604.605.2573  
Email: [lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)

[vancouversun.com](http://vancouversun.com)

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 9:38 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Thanks, Sheldon! I ended up getting Karen's correct email yesterday.  
But I got the wrong email address from the government media contacts pdf on the newsroom.gov.bc.ca site.  
I've cc'd Karen so she knows.

Cheers,  
Lori.

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX [<mailto:Sheldon.Johnson@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 5:59 PM  
To: Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
Subject: Re: Foster care/youth agreement questions

She is. One small addition need in the address:

[Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)<<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>>

On Jan 14, 2014, at 4:18 PM, "Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)"  
<[lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)<<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>>> wrote:

Hi Sheldon,  
I tried to send this email (below) to Karen but it bounced back.  
Is she no longer the main contact for MCFD?  
Thanks,  
Lori.

From: Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:16 PM  
To: 'karen.johnston@gov.bc.ca'<<mailto:karen.johnston@gov.bc.ca>>  
Subject: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

I found this report on your website.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)

On page 95 it lists support payments for foster homes, as of 2009. Can you please tell me if those rates are still valid and, if not, could you please provide me with a similar chart showing the current rates?

Could you also please provide me with a similar chart for the rates government pays to support older kids in care with youth agreements? I assume there is also an accelerated scale for these YAs, depending on the need (or level) of each teen?

I don't need this for overnight, but if it's possible to get the answers on Wed that would be great.

Thanks,  
Lori.

Lori Culbert  
Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Suite 1 – 200, Granville St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3  
Office: 604.605.2573  
Email: [lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)<<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>>

<image003.png>

vancouver.sun.com<<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/>>

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:22 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Thanks!!

---

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX [<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:21 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

We're on it Lori - kj

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-14-14 4:20 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

I found this report on your website.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)

On page 95 it lists support payments for foster homes, as of 2009. Can you please tell me if those rates are still valid and, if not, could you please provide me with a similar chart showing the current rates?

**Could you also please provide me with a similar chart for the rates government pays to support older kids in care with youth agreements? I assume there is also an accelerated scale for these YAs, depending on the need (or level) of each teen?**

**I don't need this for overnight, but if it's possible to get the answers on Wed that would be great.**

Thanks,  
Lori.

**Lori Culbert**  
Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Suite 1 – 200, Granville St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3  
Office: 604.605.2573  
Email: [lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 3:21 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Yes. I'll be making a request to speak with the minister in a week or so but for now am just gathering info and doing interviews in Vancouver.

We are looking at B.C.'s policy of foster kids "aging out" of care at age 19, vs places like Ontario and several US states where foster kids maintain the same access to services until 21 (Ont) and up to 25 (some states).

I've been on your website researching the difference between youth agreements vs kids in foster homes. And that's why I've asked for the numbers -- to get a sense of how much it costs to have a child in a foster home and a child collecting a YA.

If you have any other documents/research that pertains to the cost of fostering and/or the aging out process, that would be super helpful.

Thanks,  
Lori.

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX [<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 3:16 PM  
To: Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
Cc: Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
Subject: Re: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Sure thing Lori. I'm looping in Shawn on my team who I believe is about to send you the first round of info you requested. For context- are you able to share with us what kind of story your working on as there may be additional info we can provide?

Kj

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 3:06 PM  
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
Subject: RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

Could I please add one more request. Regarding the cost of the YAs, is it also possible to say how much the government spends, on average, each year to support each child with a YA? I.e, factor in the cost of social worker salaries, etc. I am trying to get a sense of what the government spends each year to support a teenager in foster care. And the payment given to teens on YAs to cover their bills wouldn't reflect the total cost per teen, right? There would be additional costs to the government for SW salaries and other overhead?

Thanks again.  
Lori.

From: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX [<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:21 PM  
To: Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)

Subject: RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

We're on it Lori - kj

From: Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>]

Sent: January-14-14 4:20 PM

To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

Subject: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

I found this report on your website.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)

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Could you also please provide me with a similar chart for the rates government pays to support older kids in care with youth agreements? I assume there is also an accelerated scale for these YAs, depending on the need (or level) of each teen?

I don't need this for overnight, but if it's possible to get the answers on Wed that would be great.

Thanks,  
Lori.

Lori Culbert  
Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Suite 1 - 200, Granville St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3  
Office: 604.605.2573  
Email: [lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)<<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>>

[[cid:image001.png@01CF1203.591DC9C0](#)]

vancouver.sun.com<<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/>>

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 3:23 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,  
Good to see you today.  
Thanks for trying to line up an interview with the minister for next week.

Going through my emails, it looks like I still have two outstanding requests:

1. if there is no scale for the YAs, can you please tell me how many foster children had a signed YA with the government in your last fiscal year and what the total budget was? Then I can determine an average annual cost per recipient
2. Regarding the cost of the YAs, is it also possible to say how much the government spends, on average, each year to support each child with a YA? I.e., factor in the cost of social worker salaries, etc.  
(I am trying to get a sense of what the government spends each year to support a teenager in foster care. And the payment given to teens on YAs to cover their bills wouldn't reflect the total cost per teen, right? There would be additional costs to the government for SW salaries and other overhead?)

Thanks very much.  
Lori.

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 11:32 AM  
**To:** 'Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX'  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Thanks.

---

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX [<mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 4:38 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Lori,  
The 2009 rates are still valid today, yes.

Gathering info for you on the rest of your request.

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** January-15-14 3:35 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Shawn,

Thanks for the email.

Regarding the foster care rates, it is safe to assume, then, that those 2009 rates are still valid today? (Ie, the doc showed the rate increases between 2007 and 2009, so I just want to confirm that the rates have not changed since 2009.) Secondly, if there is no scale for the YAs, can you please tell me how many foster children had a signed YA with the government in your last fiscal year and what the total budget was? Then I can determine an average annual cost per recipient.

Thanks,  
Lori.

---

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX [<mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 3:26 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Lori,

Regarding your earlier request:

- Current foster care rates, effective as of 2009, are shown on page 95 of the Child and Family Development Services Standards [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)
- There is no set rate for Youth Agreements. Funding is based on an assessment of individual need.

Cheers,

**Shawn Larabee**  
*Government Communications and Public Engagement*  
*Ministry of Children and Family Development*  
250 356-0543  
[Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** January-15-14 3:16 PM  
**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Cc:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Sure thing Lori. I'm looping in Shawn on my team who I believe is about to send you the first round of info you requested. For context- are you able to share with us what kind of story your working on as there may be additional info we can provide?

Kj

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

Could I please add one more request. Regarding the cost of the YAs, is it also possible to say how much the government spends, on average, each year to support each child with a YA? Ie, factor in the cost of social worker salaries, etc.

I am trying to get a sense of what the government spends each year to support a teenager in foster care. And the payment given to teens on YAs to cover their bills wouldn't reflect the total cost per teen, right? There would be additional costs to the government for SW salaries and other overhead?

Thanks again.

Lori.

---

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX [<mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:21 PM

**To:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun)

**Subject:** RE: Foster care/youth agreement questions

We're on it Lori - kj

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) [<mailto:lculbert@vancouversun.com>]

**Sent:** January-14-14 4:20 PM

**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Foster care/youth agreement questions

Hi Karen,

I found this report on your website.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp\\_caregiver\\_support.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/sp_caregiver_support.pdf)

On page 95 it lists support payments for foster homes, as of 2009. Can you please tell me if those rates are still valid and, if not, could you please provide me with a similar chart showing the current rates?

**Could you also please provide me with a similar chart for the rates government pays to support older kids in care with youth agreements? I assume there is also an accelerated scale for these YAs, depending on the need (or level) of each teen?**

**I don't need this for overnight, but if it's possible to get the answers on Wed that would be great.**

Thanks,

Lori.

**Lori Culbert**

Reporter

The Vancouver Sun

Suite 1 – 200, Granville St.

Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3

Office: 604.605.2573

Email: [lculbert@vancouversun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouversun.com)

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## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 3:57 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

Yes, can attribute to Minister.

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 3:16 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

Any word on this?

---

**From:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-13-14 4:40 PM  
**To:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX; Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

With edits:

- The lead for youth and young adult services' strategic initiative has been in the position since June 2013 and it is focused on strengthening the service standards.
- An example of an initiative she has played a key role in would be the partnership with the YWCA Metro Vancouver on the Strive project to help support youth transitioning from care gain the life and work skills they need to become independent.
- Another would be work done with a variety of public post-secondary educational institutions such as Vancouver Island University, towards fee waivers for children in care.
- She continues to collaborate with MCFD staff and partners in other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-13-14 3:20 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

I should also mention the reporter informed me today that the six-part series is slated to begin on Feb. 21.

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-13-14 3:10 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

Hi Valerie,

In response to a previous question, we sent this to the reporter yesterday:

The provincial lead for Young Adult Services is focused on improving outcomes for older youth who are in care, living independently or on youth agreements and young adults aged 19 to 24. They work with MCFD staff and collaborate with other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

The reporter came back with the following:

So is this a person? Have they been hired? When was this position created? Have they come up with any suggestions for improving the current situation? No one I've spoken to has mentioned this before – it's the first I've heard of it.

Suggested response:

- The lead for youth and young adult services' strategic initiative has been in the position since June 2013 and it is focused on strengthening the service standards.
- An example of an initiative she has played a key role in would be the partnership with the YWCA Metro Vancouver on the Strive project to help support youth transitioning from care gain the life and work skills they need to become independent.
- Another would be work done with a variety of public post-secondary educational institutions such as Vancouver Island University, towards fee waivers for children in care.
- She continues to collaborate with MCFD staff and partners in other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

Bev, Mark Armitage and Sheldon Johnson have approved.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** February-12-14 1:53 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

Hi Valerie,

The Vancouver Sun reporter has come back with the following:

Thanks Jeremy. Could you clarify what Stephanie means by this:

We've designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services to focus on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24.

We haven't heard of this – could you explain what it is?

Michelle Wywrot, Mark Armitage, Sheldon Johnson and Bev Dicks have approved the following as a response. You fine with this?

- The provincial lead for Young Adult Services is focused on improving outcomes for older youth who are in care, living independently or on youth agreements and young adults aged 19 to 24.
- The provincial lead works with MCFD staff and collaborates with other ministries, non-government organizations, educational institutions and the private sector to explore ways to better support young adults transitioning from care or youth agreements, up to age 24.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX

**Sent:** February-11-14 4:32 PM

**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

See Minister's approved edits.

## Valerie Richmond

Chief of Staff to the

Honourable Stephanie Cadieux

Minister of Children and Family Development

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX

**Sent:** February-07-14 4:29 PM

**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX

**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Reddy, Brandon CFD:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Subject:** MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Youth transitions/outcomes - Deadline Tuesday

**Outlet/reporter:** Vancouver Sun, Tracy Sherlock – [tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com), 604 818-3090

**Deadline:** Tuesday, Feb. 11

**Issue:** More follow-up on reporter's ongoing research into youth transition, experiences and outcomes for former youth in care.

Reporter wants to run a Q&A segment with Minister Cadieux and opposition critic each providing responses (60-word max) to the same questions – **see document attached.**

Also, reporter submitted three further inquiries. See below, with suggested response in **bold**:



1. 2/3 of the former kids in care qualify for persons with disabilities supplement to IA. Is there any more information about this? Is this mostly fetal alcohol syndrome or what is the reason that they usually qualify for this? Do we track this type of information?
  - **Because youth who have aged out of care are over the age of majority and being served by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has no legal authority to collect data that indicates their reason for qualification.**
2. Ontario refers to a lifetime average of 55 months spent accessing their income assistance system. Does BC have similar statistics?
  - **The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation tracks monthly income and disability assistance statistics: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/research/index.htm>**
3. Do people who qualify for Persons With Disabilities generally stay on Income Assistance for life?
  - **Many people receive disability assistance long-term. They remain a recipient of assistance until their circumstances change (for example, they find employment, they get married and now have income above the disability assistance level). There are many reasons why people leave assistance and it depends on individual circumstances.**

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX

**Sent:** January-30-14 4:54 PM

**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX

**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Reddy, Brandon CFD:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX

**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Educational experiences of kids in care - Deadline ASAP

Reporter has come back on the response below with the following:

1. This was quoted in the news release when the Coast Capital fund for education was announced, Jan. 22.

The Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEOF) is available to young people, aged 19-24, who were in the permanent care of the ministry or a delegated Aboriginal agency before adulthood. Eligible students can receive bursaries of up to \$5,500 once per educational year, up to a maximum of four times, for tuition, books, fees or living expenses while studying at designated post-secondary and vocational institutions. Since the creation of YEOF in 2002, the ministry has contributed more than \$10.3 million to support 1,350 youth to receive a post-secondary education.

My questions about this:

- Does the 1,350 youth figure include some youth more than once? i.e. if they got four years of funding would they be in there four times? Or is it 1,350 individual young people that received some funding at one time?
- 2. This was also from that same news release: In addition, more than 1,700 young adults have benefitted from the ministry's Agreements with Young Adults (AYA), a \$5-million program that supports young people aged 19-24 who are transitioning out of government care and into adulthood.

My questions about this:

- Is it \$5 million per year?

How much do the young adults get? Even an approximation would help. Is it about \$1,000 per month?

Here is the news release the reporter refers to: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/12/university-dream-a-reality-for-young-people-in-care.html>

Recommended response: GCPE following up with program staff.

Thanks,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** January-29-14 9:41 AM  
**To:** Richmond, Valerie D MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Bates, Christina MCF:EX; Reddy, Brandon CFD:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** MEDIA REQUEST - Tracy Sherlock - Vancouver Sun - Educational experiences of kids in care - Deadline ASAP

**Outlet/reporter:** Vancouver Sun, Tracy Sherlock – [tsherlock@vancouversun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouversun.com), 604 818-3090

**Deadline:** Preferably ASAP but no later than noon Jan. 31

**Issue:** Reporter is doing an article on educational experiences of children in continuing care in B.C. She wants to make sure she is referring to the latest facts and statistics. She has visited the publications portion of MCFD's website (<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>) and is wondering if the latest year for statistics is 2010-11 ([http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education\\_report\\_dec\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/education_report_dec_2012.pdf)) or if there is a more recent report that hasn't yet been posted.

**Suggested response:** Statistics on educational outcomes for children in care are now included in the performance and strategic management reports found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports\\_publications.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/reports_publications.htm). The last report October 2012 – March 2013 can be found here: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/mcfd\\_opsm\\_mar\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/mcfd_opsm_mar_2013.pdf), with educational outcome statistics beginning on page 58. Refer reporter to these links.

Thanks,  
**Jeremy Uppenborn**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Ministry of Children and Family Development Communications  
250 356-1739 (o) | 250 812-5731 (c) | 250 356-3007 (f)  
[jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jeremy.uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)

### **Available supports and services**

- B.C. has already taken steps to match or exceed the types of supports and services other jurisdictions offer to post-majority youth who have been in care – whether through the YEAF program, Agreements with Young Adults and our work with the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks.
- There are also a number of programs and services available to young people through other government ministries, such as the Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities Initiative, or through the various financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs offered to youth and adults through other ministries.
- We know we can better assist young people in accessing those services that are already available.
- That's part of what the STRIVE project – a \$250,000 partnership between my ministry and the YWCA – is all about. It will connect young people to available services and will help support young adults in the 16 to 24 age group who are transitioning from care to successfully gain the life and work skills they need to become independent.
- Workshops will build knowledge of financial literacy, time management, decision-making and problem solving. The project will also include mentorship by youth who have successfully transferred out of the foster system.
- Starting soon, STRIVE will be delivered at the YWCA Career Zone Youth Centre at Granville and Drake in Vancouver.

### **Achieving independence**

- With respect to systems in other jurisdictions that keep young people in care after the age of 19, it has been our experience that not all post-majority youth want continued contact with a social worker.
- Instead, what many have asked for is more independence and support in accessing assistance that will allow them to move into an adult life. This is reflected in our statistics:
  - Of the 532 youth who aged out of government care between April and December 2013, the largest subset, almost 30 per cent (159 individuals), were already in independent living situations – including those on Youth Agreements.
  - Only 1 per cent (8 individuals) of were in regular family-based foster care (i.e., living with an approved family that provides care for up to six children in care of varying ages and usual developmental needs).
- The principle at work here is supporting young adults to become independent. Extending the age that someone stays in foster care is not a guarantor of successful independence.

### **MCFD steps to support successful youth transitions**

- Our government is committed to ensuring that young people in foster care have the appropriate supports in place to transition into adulthood and lead healthy, productive lives.

- Based on consultations with over 1,400 participants through our residential review process and feedback from the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, several key recommendations were brought forward – and the ministry has made great gains in addressing those.
  - We designated a provincial lead for Young Adult Services, who is focused on improving outcomes for young adults aged 19 to 24 who are in care and living independently or on youth agreements.
  - We created a Provincial Youth Engagement Working Group and have established youth engagement leads in many B.C. communities. The goal is to ensure the voices of young people are heard and considered and that they are meaningfully involved at every level of decision-making that affects their lives.
  - We established an Agreements with Young Adults working group to increase staff knowledge of policies and services, improve consistency in the administration of the program across the province, and explore links to related opportunities.
  - We developed a new Care Plan for children and youth with a heightened focus on permanency planning.
  - We provided \$15,000 to the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks to develop youth-friendly resources that will give young people information about care plans and how to participate in their own planning process with members of their team.
  - \$50,000 of additional funding has been provided to the Federation to enhance their Dream Fund bursaries and Transition Kits, which offer financial support to young people interested in career training or educational opportunities.
  - A project is underway in the Lower Mainland that involves working with young people to design a youth-friendly exit interview process for youth leaving care and on youth agreements.
  - \$500,000 in funding has been provided to the Adoptive Families Association to reach out to former youth in care to inform them about and help connect them with services. The AFA will also be helping to develop accessible young adult-friendly support tools.
- Collectively, these steps are helping provide young people with the tools, knowledge and support they need in order to successfully transition out of government care and become independent adults.

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Culbert, Lori (Vancouver Sun) <lculbert@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 10:04 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Interview and info

Hi Karen,

Thanks for your voice mail message.

Yes, Wed 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm works great for an interview with the minister. Best number to reach me is 604 605 2573.

Thanks.

I did receive the info/stats on Friday. I had a quick look at them. Will have a better look at them today and will let you know if I need any clarification.

Thanks,

Lori.

**Lori Culbert**

Reporter

The Vancouver Sun

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Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3

Office: 604.605.2573

Email: [lculbert@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:lculbert@vancouver.sun.com)

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[vancouver.sun.com](http://vancouver.sun.com)

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- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's budget for youth support services and agreements is \$36.7 million this year, an increase of nearly \$11 million since 2000-01.
- The ministry funds a range of youth services that include outreach workers, youth support workers, youth and family mediation, safe house and emergency shelter beds, transitional housing, youth agreements, support services to sexually exploited youth and post-majority services.
- Youth Agreements are an out-of-care alternative for youth between the ages of 16 to 18 that can provide residential, educational or other support services, and financial assistance to vulnerable youth through a Plan for Independence.
- The average direct payment to a youth on a Youth Agreement provincewide is approximately \$1,000 per month. Since the introduction of Youth Agreements in December 1999, more than 6,800 youth have received assistance.
- Youth who are in continuing care are not eligible for Youth Agreements; however, they have access to similar "supported independent living" through "Independent Living Agreements."
- Youth 17 and 18 years of age in need of assistance, who are not amenable to MCFD supports, can apply for adult income assistance through MSDSI, which can provide approximately \$610 per month.
- When any young adult leaves government care, we need to help set them up for success.
- One of the ways we're doing that is through the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEOF), a program that supports former youth in permanent care who are between the ages of 19 and 24 to engage in vocational training and post-secondary education.
- Since the creation of the YEOF program in 2002, \$10.3 million in bursaries has been distributed to more than 1,350 youth.
- The ministry also offers the Agreements with Young Adults program, which provides financial assistance to young adults, 19 to 24 years of age, who were formerly in care or on a Youth Agreement so they can upgrade their education or take part in a rehabilitative program.
- The program began in July 2008. Nearly 1,700 young adults have benefited since then.
- We also work closely with the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, which provides support, transition and advocacy services to youth in – and from – care, and youth receiving ministry services.
- Further, we often link youth with other services such as financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs through other ministries.
- The ministry is also an active partner in government's continuing efforts to create better transitions for youth/young adults with developmental disabilities through the Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities Initiative.
- In 2013, government expanded the Representative for Children and Youth's mandate so she can advocate on behalf of individuals who are transitioning to CLBC services, up to the age of 24.

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 8:48 AM  
**To:** Easton, Joan E MCF:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Vancouver Sun request

Thanks Joan

---

**From:** Easton, Joan E MCF:EX  
**Sent:** January-20-14 6:07 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Vancouver Sun request

By the way the include the edits received from Mark Armitage's area as well.

Regards  
Joan

---

**From:** Easton, Joan E MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 6:05 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Vancouver Sun request  
**Importance:** High

Hi Jeremy and Shawn  
These bullets have my approval.  
Regards  
Joan

---

**From:** Green, John K MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 10:15 AM  
**To:** Easton, Joan E MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Herring, Mona S MCF:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Vancouver Sun request  
**Importance:** High

Note: Jeremy Uppenborn is covering for Shawn Larabee, so approval bullets will go to Jeremy.

**John K. Green**  
*Child, Youth & Family Standards & Policy*  
*Integrated Policy and Legislation*  
**Ministry of Children and Family Development**  
2nd Floor 777 Broughton Street  
PO Box 9745 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9S3  
Phone: (250) 356-0746  
Fax: (250) 356-2995  
E-mail: [John.Green@gov.bc.ca](mailto:John.Green@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Green, John K MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 10:12 AM  
**To:** Easton, Joan E MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Herring, Mona S MCF:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Vancouver Sun request  
**Importance:** High

Hi, Joan. The latest version of bullets for your review and approval, with the understanding that GCPE will verify data, including \$10.3 M quoted for YEAF:

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's budget for youth support services and agreements is \$36.7 million this year, an increase of nearly \$11 million since 2000-01.
- The ministry funds a range of youth services that include outreach workers, youth support workers, youth and family mediation, safe house and emergency shelter beds, transitional housing, youth agreements, support services to sexually exploited youth and post-majority services.
- Youth Agreements are an out-of-care alternative for youth between the ages of 16 to 18 that can provide residential, educational or other support services, and financial assistance to vulnerable youth through a Plan for Independence.
- The average direct payment to a youth on a Youth Agreement provincewide is approximately \$1,000 per month. Since the introduction of Youth Agreements in December 1999, more than 6,800 youth have received assistance.
- Youth who are in continuing care are not eligible for Youth Agreements; however, they have access to similar "supported independent living" through "Independent Living Agreements."
- Youth 17 and 18 years of age in need of assistance, who are not amenable to MCFD supports, can apply for adult income assistance through MSDSI, which can provide approximately \$625 per month.
- When any young adult leaves government care, we need to help set them up for success.
- One of the ways we're doing that is through the Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAF), a program that supports former youth in permanent care who are between the ages of 19 and 24 to engage in vocational training and post-secondary education.
- Since the creation of the YEAF program in 2002, \$10.3 million in bursaries has been distributed to more than 1,350 youth.
- The ministry also offers the Agreements with Young Adults program, which provides financial assistance to young adults, 19 to 24 years of age, who were formerly in care or on a Youth Agreement so they can upgrade their education or take part in a rehabilitative program.
- The program began in July 2008. Nearly 1,700 young adults have benefited since then.
- We also work closely with the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, which provides support, transition and advocacy services to youth in – and from – care, and youth receiving ministry services.
- Further, we often link youth with other services such as financial supports, employment services, therapeutic and addictions programs through other ministries.
- The ministry is also an active partner in government's continuing efforts to create better transitions for youth/young adults with developmental disabilities through the Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities Initiative.



- In 2013, government expanded the Representative for Children and Youth's mandate so she can advocate on behalf of individuals who are transitioning to CLBC services, up to the age of 24.

**John K. Green**

*Child, Youth & Family Standards & Policy*

**Ministry of Children and Family Development**

Phone: (250) 356-0746

## Hayes, Dana GCPE:EX

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**From:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2013 4:30 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)  
**Cc:** Fillion, Corinna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: request for comment

Hi Tracy

See response below:

On average, 700 youth age out of care each year.

- We are working closely across government to provide young people with the tools and supports they need to give them the best chance when they transition to adulthood.
- We're also committed to improving the system of supports for children and youth in care and improving their experiences and outcomes – that's why we collaborated with the Federation of Community Social Services on a joint review of the system.
- As part of this review, the ministry completed consultations with over 1,400 participants, including foster parents and children in care, to review the foster care system.
- Those consultations have resulted in a three-year plan, now underway, to strengthen the system and improve outcomes.
- We are also focussed on strengthening supports, including transition services and life skills education, for current and former youth in care.
- We acknowledge that some young people who were formerly in ministry care may need further support beyond their 19th birthday. There are a number of programs across government available to assist these individuals:
- The ministry of Children and Family Development offers the Agreements with Young Adults program, which gives financial assistance to support young adults aged 19-24 who are former youth in care to upgrade their education or take part in a rehabilitative program. More than 1,200 young adults have benefited from the program since it was established in 2008.
- The Youth Education Assistance Fund, administered in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Vancouver Foundation, supports post-secondary education and training for former youth in continuing care. Since the creation of the fund in 2002, MCFD has contributed more than \$10.3 million to the program. As a result, more than 1,350 youth have received YEAF bursaries.
- The ministry also works closely with the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, which provides a variety of advocacy and support services for youth in-care transitioning to adulthood.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation launched the Family and Youth Partnership in April 2012, which focuses on helping young families and youth find work and a sustainable livelihood.

- As young adults leave government care, we need to help set them up for success. We are currently exploring options around how to provide greater support to these individuals through continuous relationships, earlier transition planning and greater flexibility.

On Nov 7, 2013, at 4:28 PM, "Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange)" <[tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com)> wrote:

Thank you!

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**From:** Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX [<mailto:Corinna.Filion@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:28 PM  
**To:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange); Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: request for comment

Hi Tracy, no problem. We'll be back to you tomorrow

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**From:** Sherlock, Tracy (VAN\_Exchange) [<mailto:tsherlock@vancouver.sun.com>]  
**Sent:** November-07-13 4:27 PM  
**To:** Filion, Corinna GCPE:EX; Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** request for comment

Hello

I'm working on an article about extending government care from the age of 19 to the age of 21. I have spoken to many people who think this is a good idea, but I would like a comment or an interview from your ministry to add into the story.

Anytime on Friday would be great.

Thank you.

Tracy Sherlock

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**Tracy Sherlock**  
Education Reporter  
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<image001.png>

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2013 1:33 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Sun request

- **We are working closely across government to provide young people with the tools and supports they need to give them the best chance when they transition to adulthood.**
- **We're also committed to improving the system of supports for children and youth in care and improving their experiences and outcomes – that's why we collaborated with the Federation of Community Social Services on a joint review of the system.**
- **As part of this review, the ministry completed consultations with over 1,400 participants, including foster parents and children in care, to review the foster care system.**
- **Those consultations have resulted in a three-year plan, now underway, to strengthen the system and improve outcomes.**
- **We are also focussed on strengthening supports, including transition services and life skills education, for current and former youth in care.**
- **We acknowledge that some young people who were formerly in ministry care may need further support beyond their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are a number of programs across government available to assist these individuals:**
- **The ministry of Children and Family Development offers the Agreements with Young Adults program, which gives financial assistance to support young adults aged 19-24 who are former youth in care to upgrade their education or take part in a rehabilitative program. More than 1,200 young adults have benefited from the program since it was established in 2008.**
- **The Youth Education Assistance Fund, administered in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Vancouver Foundation, supports post-secondary education and training for former youth in continuing care. Since the creation of the fund in 2002, MCFD has contributed more than \$10.3 million to the program. As a result, more than 1,350 youth have received YEAF bursaries.**
- **The ministry also works closely with the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, which provides a variety of advocacy and support services for youth in-care transitioning to adulthood.**

- **The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation launched the Family and Youth Partnership in April 2012, which focuses on helping young families and youth find work and a sustainable livelihood. Family and Youth Partnerships help link people to:**
  - **the Ministry of Health's Food Skills for Families program, which teaches budgeting and preparation of cost-effective, nutritious meals;**
  - **The Ministry of Health's farmers' market coupon program, which allows participants to exchange a voucher to buy select B.C.-produced foods at local farmers' markets.**
- **As young adults leave government care, we need to help set them up for success. We are currently exploring options around how to provide greater support to these individuals through continuous relationships, earlier transition planning and greater flexibility around file transfers to ensure services do not disappear when a youth turns 19.**