Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Use of Ministry of Children and Family Development resources

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Ms. Conroy,

I am very disturbed that my tax dollars are going towards situations like this:

http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/

There are children dying under the care and supervision of the Ministry. All these resources were used to investigate and put restrictions on a parent who was obviously doing a very good job.

This is unacceptable - what do we need to do to make sure such ridiculous circumstances stop happening? How do we keep such superfluous tattling from adding to the already over-burdened staff? This goes beyond eschewing common sense.

If I may be so bold as to suggest a weighted checklist. To illustrate; over X number of points, no need for further monitoring or stipulations, but the file is kept. Under Y number of points warrants help to guide the parenting. Under Z number of points warrants immediate action. . Surely once the case worker reviewed the home situation, there was a point where they were satisfied that the children were in no danger and were actually very well taken care of and extraordinarily well-adjusted and capable.

Utterly ridiculous handling of this - yet I do not blame the case worker. They were working under rules that make for a lot of fitting of square pegs into round holes.

What do you need from me - taxpayers as a whole - to fix this waste?

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 6:36 PM
To: MCF Info MCF:EX
Subject: Transit Article

Hello,

I find the decision to tell Mr. Crook that his children can't take the bus by themselves due to some douchebag complaining.

What are we? A nanny state? Can we not teach our children to be independent?

Your branch is so fucking stupid and ridiculous. If you actually cared about parents and families you would drop this issue and this investigation.

However, I know you won't because you're all stupid idiots. You all deserve to lose your jobs.

I hope all of you have complaints put in about your children. You people are so irresponsible and undeserving.

Fuck all of you.

I don't want a political beat around the bush "oh, we have to investigate and please keep in mind we are looking into it".

That's the douchebag response. Well, I guess you would send that back, as you're all douchebags.

I hope none of you find peace, love, and happiness and you're all shunned and ridiculed.

Hell, you're ridiculed enough. You don't know how to do anything or what's right or wrong. This is what happens when you have idiots like you and the complainant who are so out of touch with reality. You're all probably old, too. Senior citizens and older people have ZERO place in our society in an investigation or making life altering decisions.

Stop being so out of touch. You don't even care that this gentleman is trying to teach his children to be independent and good, functioning members of society.

Go OD on East Hastings. The world would be better off without people like you fucking with everyone's lives.

Fuck you all.

Sent from my iPhone 7

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 4:50 PM
To: MCF Info MCF:EX
Subject: Regarding the five children using the bus set up by their dad

I just want to say that regarding this father in Vancouver trying to get his kids to and from school as a single parent, it is absolutely ridiculous your "cover your butt tactics" can come in to play in this situation.
I hear more and more ridiculous mandates coming from Child protective services, it seems like this is becoming more of a nanny state than it ever has before. Covering your butt, this has to stop and commonsense has to rule!
Instead of towing the line that disregards "Commonsense" where is the line?
A ridiculous concerned citizen should sometimes just be told what they are....."upon looking into your complaint we have found nothing wrong"
Is this hard to do?

s.22

Sent from my iPhone

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX; Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: Re: MCFD policy re kids under 10

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Conroy, Mr. Eby, and Mr. Heyman,

Further to my previous emails (see below), I note that this matter has also received coverage in Toronto: https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/09/07/riding-the-bus-a-rite-of-passage-for-many-unsupervised-children-keenan.html.

This passage from the article sums up well the frustration that I and many other parents are feeling as we try to raise our children to be confident and independent:

"But more than that, I think we also closely supervise our children at almost all times because that is what is expected of us as parents today — we fear the judgment and scorn of those around us. And I especially fear the power of the state child protection agencies if some random busybody were to call them and tell them our kids went to the park at the end of the block by themselves. The stranger danger I fear most is not kidnappers, it's holier-than-thou whistleblowers who might call authorities to complain about my parenting.

In that last respect, Crook's case seems to show the fear is justified. And it's outrageous. How to parent your children — when to give them responsibility and freedom and how much — is a personal and difficult decisions. It's one that, in the absence of actual neglect or endangerment, should be left to parents, not dictated under threat by authorities."

I look forward to hearing from you,

s.22

On Thu, Sep 7, 2017 at 10:33 AM, s.22 › wrote:

> Dear Ms. Conroy, Mr. Eby, and Mr. Heyman,
>
> Further to my email of yesterday (see below), I note that the BBC is now reporting that the BC government says it is "illegal" for children under 10 to be unsupervised. I look forward to hearing from you in a public clarification that this is not the case.
>
> http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-41178021
>
> Sincerely,
> s.22

(Initially sent in error to the wrong email for Mr. Eby.)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: s.22
Date: Wed, Sep 6, 2017 at 1:46 PM
Subject: MCFD policy re kids under 10
To: JAG.Minister@gov.bc.ca, david.eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca, katrine.conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca, MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca, "Heyman.MLA, George" <george.heyman.mla@leg.bc.ca>

Dear Mr. Eby, Ms. Conroy, and Mr. Heyman,

I am writing to you as Attorney General, MCFD Minister, and my MLA respectively. I write in regard to an issue arising out of this article: https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-man-ordered-to-stop-letting-his-children-take-city-bus-to-school/article36180815

The article is about a man who allowed his children to ride the bus. My concern is not about the specific family; my concern is that the MCFD seems to have developed a blanket policy that children under 10 should never be unsupervised anywhere for any length of time. As I understand it, this policy is based on a legal opinion that is based on an interpretation of this case: http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/15/16/2015BCSC1658.htm. As I read the case, it does not support a blanket prohibition on children under 10 ever being unsupervised. I am very opposed to the MCFD taking such a stance.

My husband and I make decisions about what our children are able to do based on their individual personalities and capabilities. s.22 . Should we be worried that if we let him walk s.22 to and from our local school, after determining that he has the sense and ability to safely do so, we may be reported to MCFD and investigated by social workers? Children need to learn how to function independently in the world; a restrictive MCFD blanket policy would arbitrarily circumscribe children's independence and deprive them of experiences they are perfectly capable of achieving on their own. How can we expect to raise confident self-sufficient children if we live in an atmosphere of paranoia and a fear of being reported to the authorities?

I hope that this policy will be clarified publicly very soon, as there is already anecdotal evidence that the story has had a chilling effect on people allowing their children to bike or walk to school: https://twitter.com/lailayuile/status/905474328413716480. Please, in the interests of sensibility and healthy families, review MCFD's approach and make it clear that parents have every right to determine what their children are capable of, and when.

s.22 and I have seen that many other people are also troubled by this issue. MCFD has so many more important and necessary things it can and should be doing, rather than forcing parents to restrict their children's independence. Please publicly clarify your policy so that we can raise our children to be confident independent young people without fear of MCFD repercussions.

Thanks for your attention to this matter,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:47 PM
To: Minister, AG AG:EX; Eby.MLA, David LASS:EX; Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX
Subject: MCFD policy re kids under 10

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Eby, Ms. Conroy, and Mr. Heyman,

I am writing to you as Attorney General, MCFD Minister, and my MLA respectively. I write in regard to an issue arising out of this article: https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-man-ordered-to-stop-letting-his-children-take-city-bus-to-school/article36180815

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My husband and I make decisions about what our children are able to do based on their individual personalities and capabilities.s.22 Should we be worried that if we let him walk s.22 to and from our local school, after determining that he has the sense and ability to safely do so, we may be reported to MCFD and investigated by social workers? Children need to learn how to function independently in the world; a restrictive MCFD blanket policy would arbitrarily circumscribe children's independence and deprive them of experiences they are perfectly capable of achieving on their own. How can we expect to raise confident self-sufficient children if we live in an atmosphere of paranoia and a fear of being reported to the authorities?

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Thanks for your attention to this matter,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:23 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Kids commuting alone

Minister Conroy,

Having just read this http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/, I feel the need to write in to express my concerns. I'd echo the issue of fostering independence in children that was made by the author. I also want to highlight the sub theme of our bias toward car culture and parent's choices to use sustainable transport being frowned upon now where in previous generations they were the norm. We should be using public transport more not less. Low income families need transport options, and a parent bussing both ways to drop kids before going to work by bus is not an option in terms of time. Kids can be trained to make responsible decisions alone, and should be. Parental discretion has to be relied upon where there are no other causes for concern.

This article also causes me fear as a parent. It's understood that any contact from the ministry is tantamount to being found guilty because your discretion and freedom is never the same again, regardless of outcome. This parent was questioned by one anonymous stranger in one narrow area of his parenting and ended up having his discretion and autonomy removed in many aspects. As someone who was already worried about judgement by strangers who don't understand what they are seeing, I am troubled. I commute with my kids by bike, which some people consider unsafe despite the statistics to the contrary. s.22

s.22

s.22 I agree that concerns should be followed up. But it should be possible for a family to walk away unscathed when the kids are safe. There are different ways to parent. The car is not the only or the safest way. Societal perceptions of risk and manifestly wrong. When kids can do it safely, they should be allowed progressive responsibility, including being alone.

Please don't write me back. Let your junior analysts do something productive. I am certainly not asking for comment on the specific case.

s.22

Sent from my iPad

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Sullivan.MLA, Sam LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Cc: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development re: Adrian Crook

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hon. Katrine Conroy
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Dear Minister Conroy,

I send this letter to strongly protest the investigation launched by the Ministry of Children and Family Development against Mr. Adrian Crook, and family. Mr. Crook is an exemplary father and citizen of Vancouver who contributes to the development of progressive, healthy communities. Adrian Crook is well known for advocacy of responsible parenting and is universally admired for the excellent job he is doing as a father. His opinion is sought after by the media and he has a wide following for his blog 5 Kids 1 Condo. Mr. Crook is a hero to many people who champion sustainable living. It is quite frankly, outrageous that his parenting skills should be questioned in this way.

I respectfully request that your staff issue an apology and rescind the Safety Plan. I understand that staff have a difficult job in dealing with negligent parents but I can assure you that this is the furthest away from such a scenario.

Regards,

Sam Sullivan, CM
MLA Vancouver-False Creek

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 7:04 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; CC Minister MCF:EX; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; James.MLA, Carole A LASS:EX
Subject: Helicopter Government
Attachments: ban bus ride.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

7 September 2017

Dear Premier, Ministers and Critic

Surely this must be an early April Fools joke!?

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has prohibited a father from allowing his 4 eldest children ages 7 to 11 to ride the [public] bus to school unsupervised.

This is sheer nonsense.

According to news reports, this father has taken all necessary steps to ensure their safety by:
-practising the route with them
-accompanying them to the boarding bus stop
-verifying the destination stop is at the school
-giving them GPS enabled cellphones
-ensuring a safe and secure means of transportation

Rescind this ban.

s.22

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/09/07/riding-the-bus-a-rite-of-passage-for-many-unsupervised-children-keenan.html

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 10:31 AM
To: ag.minister@bc.gov.bc; Minister, MCF MCF:EX; Heyman.MLA, George LASS:EX
Subject: Fwd: MCFD policy re kids under 10

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Conroy, Mr. Eby, and Mr. Heyman,

Further to my email of yesterday (see below), I note that the BBC is now reporting that the BC government says it is "illegal" for children under 10 to be unsupervised. I look forward to hearing from you in a public clarification that this is not the case.

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-41178021

Sincerely,
s.22

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From: s.22
Date: Wed, Sep 6, 2017 at 1:46 PM
Subject: MCFD policy re kids under 10
To: JAG.Minister@gov.bc.ca, david.eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca, katrine.conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca, MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca, "Heyman.MLA, George" <george.heyman.mla@leg.bc.ca>

Dear Mr. Eby, Ms. Conroy, and Mr. Heyman,

I am writing to you as Attorney General, MCFD Minister, and my MLA respectively. I write in regard to an issue arising out of this article: https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-man-ordered-to-stop-letting-his-children-take-city-bus-to-school/article36180815

The article is about a man who allowed his children to ride the bus. My concern is not about the specific family; my concern is that the MCFD seems to have developed a blanket policy that children under 10 should never be unsupervised anywhere for any length of time. As I understand it, this policy is based on a legal opinion that is based on an interpretation of this case: http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/15/16/2015BCSC1658.htm. As I read the case, it does not support a blanket prohibition on children under 10 ever being unsupervised. I am very opposed to the MCFD taking such a stance.

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confident self-sufficient children if we live in an atmosphere of paranoia and a fear of being reported to the authorities?

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s.22 , and I have seen that many other people are also troubled by this issue. MCFD has so many more important and necessary things it can and should be doing, rather than forcing parents to restrict their children's independence. Please publicly clarify your policy so that we can raise our children to be confident independent young people without fear of MCFD repercussions.

Thanks for your attention to this matter,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: The rights of parents and children - revised

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Same as the previous one only she added her mailing address at the bottom.

Cheers,

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine
Subject: The rights of parents and children - revised

Dear Ms. Conroy,

I am writing to you with the hope that you, as newly elected and appointed Minister of Children and Family Development, can right a great wrong in this province. Today a story is circulating on Social Media about a Vancouver dad who admirably worked with his children- aged 7-11 -to be independent and responsible transit users. He has since been investigated by the Ministry and been forced, under threat of losing custody, to refrain from allowing the children to access transit without adult supervision. Here is the link:
http://www.freerangekids.com/dad-teaches-his-kids-to-ride-the-bus-now-cps-tells-him-they-cant-even-go-outside-alone-till-age-10/

This decision follows, and was based on, a disturbing BC Supreme Court decision from 2015 when a judge ruled that children under 10 cannot be safely left at home.
http://www.freerangekids.com/no-latchkey-children-under-age-10-british-columbias-supreme-court-rules/

s.22

The trend of using catastrophic thinking rather than real research, statistics, and best parenting practices is dangerous and incompetent. Children are being denied their rights to develop independence, experience age appropriate risk taking, and basic problem solving skills, and that is unforgivable. Parents are being denied the right to teach important skills in independence during age appropriate windows, which leaves middle and high school children dropped into the abyss of trying to learn these skills too late - when their hormones and brains are focused on acquiring an entirely different set of skills. Helicopter parenting, which is quickly revealing itself to be a failed experiment, has become legislated. This is also unforgivable. I believe you have the power to change this.

Please give this matter the attention it requires. The parents and children of British Columbia deserve better. Laws should be based on facts, accurate statistics, and a study of best practices- not on fear of litigation or the simple ability to imagine that a danger is likely rather than improbable.

I am including links to some resources ,s.22 I would love to meet with you as a community consultant to further discuss this important topic.

Thank you for your assistance and support,
s.22

http://www.freerangekids.com/crime-statistics/

http://www.heathershumaker.com/

http://www.balancedandbarefoot.com/

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:40 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: Overreach

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Over to you.

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine
Subject: Overreach

Minister:

I'm writing about your Ministry's backwards action detailed in this post and article. I'd encourage you to read them, investigate the case, take responsibility and intervene. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister of the Crown, the Ministry is responsible *through* you and I appeal to you to make things right, protect this family's rights and see that common sense wins the day. The Ministry's action to date is the definition of a bureaucratic mess and I hope you and your government will see it corrected.

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 11:40 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: Ministry of Children and Family Development

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Over to you.

Cheers,

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine
Subject: Ministry of Children and Family Development

Hello,

You have some serious problems at your agency! They sound like they are on a Witch Hunt! If even half of what is written in this article is true then the Ministry of Children and Family Development needs to be thoroughly investigated as I am POSITIVE they are breaking the law, or making it up as they go, more often than following it!

Best
s.22

http://www.metronews.ca/news/vancouver/2017/09/05/children-cannot-take-bus-alone-b-c-ministry-of-children-and-family-development.html

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: MCFD policy re kids under 10

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kids on the bus issue.

Cheers,

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:47 PM
To: JAG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Eby.MLA, David ; Conroy.MLA, Katrine ; Minister, MCF C MCF:EX ; Heyman.MLA, George
Subject: MCFD policy re kids under 10

Dear Mr. Eby, Ms. Conroy, and Mr. Heyman,

I am writing to you as Attorney General, MCFD Minister, and my MLA respectively. I write in regard to an issue arising out of this article: https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-man-ordered-to-stop-letting-his-children-take-city-bus-to-school/article36180815

The article is about a man who allowed his children to ride the bus. My concern is not about the specific family; my concern is that the MCFD seems to have developed a blanket policy that children under 10 should never be unsupervised anywhere for any length of time. As I understand it, this policy is based on a legal opinion that is based on an interpretation of this case: http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/15/16/2015BCSC1658.htm. As I read the case, it does not support a blanket prohibition on children under 10 ever being unsupervised. I am very opposed to the MCFD taking such a stance.

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Thanks for your attention to this matter,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 1:39 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: Giving Independence to Kids

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Over to you.

Cheers,

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine
Subject: Giving Independence to Kids

Dear Hon. Katrine Conroy,

By now I'm sure you've seen the news coverage about Adrian Crook's fight with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to let his kids ride the bus on their own.
http://globalnews.ca/news/3720643/b-c-childrens-ministry-says-dad-cant-let-school-age-children-ride-the-bus-on-their-own/

I find it ridiculous of the situation that Adrian and his family have been put in. We need to be encouraging kids to take more risks and gain independence. Researchers at UBC and BC Children's Hospital have recently launched a join initiative to get more kids engaging in risky play, which includes playing independent of adult supervision. According to their website FAQ https://outsideplay.ca/#/faq

"There has never been a safer time to be a child. The likelihood of a child in Canada getting kidnapped by a stranger is 1 in 14 million - the same odds as winning the lottery. It's also important to consider that the limits we would need to put on our children and their freedom to play in trying to avoid this very unlikely event can have an enormous impact on their development, health and wellbeing."

As a parent of a s.22 daughter, she's still many, many years away from travelling on her own. But when she's older, I'm hoping our laws will have changed to allow her to play and travel independently without risking the Ministry of Children and Family Development stepping in.

This is a great opportunity for the NDP to show some leadership and give some guidance to the ministry staff or pass a law that allows parents to give their kids more independence.

Sincerely,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: Fact Free Parenting

Over to you.

Cheers,

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
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Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
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Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

-----Original Message-----
From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 3:08 PM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine <Katrine.Conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Fact Free Parenting

I am writing about an article I read online regarding a recent decision by the Ministry to compel a father to cease allowing his children to take public transportation to and from school. The article can be read here: http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/

As you probably know, the Ministry works to "deliver inclusive, culturally respectful, responsive and accessible services that support the well-being of children, youth and families." according to the website.

The recent decision by the Ministry outlined in the article flies in the face of this mission. Teaching children independence and self reliance is one of the most important steps in developing well adjusted and capable citizens. The steps taken by the father surely indicate that he is acting in the best interest of both his children and society as a whole.

I am disappointed in the Ministry relying on faulty science in supporting their decisions. Bus travel is one of the safest ways we have to get around, and the Ministry is actually increasing the risk of physical injury to these children if they insist he drive them to their schools.

I implore you to look to the more progressive and forward thinking cultures in adopting future decsisions, notably the Japanese model mentioned in the article.

Thank you for your time,
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Greir, Brittany MCF:EX
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:18 PM
To: Costello, Taylore MCFD:EX
Subject: FW: Congratulations - you just officially made me ashamed of being Canadian!

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 11:10 AM
To: MCF Info MCF:EX
Subject: Congratulations - you just officially made me ashamed of being Canadian!

I just read about the officious, stupid, and probably illegal decision taken regarding the 4 children of Adrian Crook and their ability to do *__anything__* without adult supervision.
If my reading of the decision is correct, they cannot be alone at home or outside without adult supervision – although you *__also__* claim that in a suburb they would be *__supervised__* by neighbours, and then *__falsely__* claim they would not be supervised by neighbours in a condo.
You are basically deciding that every single child in that group: a) must do what all the others are doing and with their father, b) they do *__not__* have the same rights as other children their age, who are apparently allowed to undertake the same activities *__solely__* on the basis that nobody has brought that fact to your attention, and c) that your paranoia and "cover our asses" mentality is a valid reason to *__reduce__* the independence and negatively impact the development of these children.
I have watched this stupidity spread across the USA – on the grounds that "it's more dangerous now" when every single statistic shows the contrary. Why does one paranoid, delusional busybody have the right to completely alter the life of a good, well-run family, just because some government bureaucrat is so scared someone will come after them for not saying no to a perfectly acceptable and safe activity.
The best procedure to deal with these complaints? Just lose them – it's not like people wouldn't *__believe__* that a government department is incompetent enough to lose a case file – it's pretty much the default assumption for the competency level of the bureaucracy.
If it's *__so dangerous__* that you must prevent it in this case – why not have a law passed to make it illegal for everyone? Easy – because you know you'd have a rebellion on your hands and people would basically *__all__* treat you like the incompetent bureaucrats you are showing yourselves to be, and your authority would basically be *__zero__*. If it's *__not__* sufficiently dangerous to make it illegal – then why make *__effectively__* illegal in this specific case? (i.e. there are legal repercussions to not obeying your draconian and idiotic ruling)
I will be advocating to every parent I know to start questioning the government as to who has the ultimate authority over their children – the state or the parent? If it's the state, you'd better start getting ready to pay *__COMPLETELY__* to raise our kids, as you just became the defacto parents. If it is the parents – then unless you can show a *__real__* risk without resorting to fake data (you used some), flat-out lying (Age to be left alone in Ontario is not 16), and paranoid fear-mongering, *__and__* you can't explain why *__these__* kids can no longer go across the street, but their neighborhood children can, without resorting to the bureaucratic logic of "well, we said so" or "well, we haven't taken a decision on their case", expect yourself and your government to be taken to court for a range of charges including malicious abuse of children, incompetence, and mis-use of public funds – since you are spending *__our__* tax dollars to remove *__our rights__* and *__children's__* rights.
I can only hope that your own employees don't suddenly find themselves under investigation by your department because some*other* busybody decides that how you are raising *__your__* children is not what they like. Should that situation arise, would they get VIP treatment, or would you be willing to treat them like every other taxpayer, and then accept that they may have to come in late to the office due to the constraints your ruling put on them.
Cordially hoping *__someone__* in your ministry still has some working common sense left,
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: Children on Transit

Over to you.

Cheers,

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 7:11 PM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine
Subject: Children on Transit

Dear Minister Conroy,

I'm writing to voice my shock and disappointment at your Ministry's handling of the case of Adrian Crook and his children - see https://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/ and, by extension, all families who choose to raise their children in the wonderful urban environment that is Vancouver. I have never met Mr. Crook and although I feel that his children have been greatly harmed by the actions of your Ministry, I am mostly concerned about all children raised in urban environments, s.22

s.22 have chosen to raise our daughter in a wonderful location, accessible to everything we need without a personal vehicle. We already go for walks in our community s.22 every day and I look forward with great excitement to the time when my daughter can walk and I can begin to teach her about the world around her. She will learn the rules of the road, pedestrian rules and etiquette, and how to safely and proficiently travel by transit. When she is ready to do these things by herself she will. This will be our decision based on her maturity, ability, and confidence and I fervently hope that staff from your Ministry will not inhibit her personal development by mandating that she cannot be alone outside until some arbitrary age.

Please, if you truly support children and families, direct your staff to step into situations when necessary and leave the rest of us to raise our children as best as we can, which includes being alone on transit when they're ready. In 2017 your staff should be relying on evidence, not unfortunate media-induced paranoia. I hope that you will see to it that our children can grow up with the same opportunity for independence that we had when we were young.

Yours truly,

--
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Greir, Brittany MCF:EX
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 2:19 PM
To: Costello, Taylore MCFD:EX
Subject: FW: Adrian Crook story

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 2:18 PM
To: MCF Info MCF:EX
Subject: Re: Adrian Crook story

Sir/Madam,

The BC Government officials responsible for banning Adrain Crook's children from riding the bus alone should be ashamed of themselves. They should stop harassing a good parent. Surely the province could use it's limited resources more wisely.

Sincerely,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: Conroy.MLA, Katrine LASS:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: FW: About childhood independence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Over to you.

Elaine Whitehead
Constituency Assistant to
Katrine Conroy, MLA
Kootenay West
#2-1006 3rd Street
Castlegar, BC V1N 3X6
Phone: 250 304—2783
Toll Free 1-888-755-0556
Fax: 250 304-2655

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 8:27 PM
To: Conroy.MLA, Katrine
Subject: Fwd: About childhood independence

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: s.22
Date: Tue, Sep 5, 2017 at 8:12 PM
Subject: About childhood independence
To: mcf@gov.bc.ca, 77000@gov.bc.ca, mcf.ccof@gov.bc.ca

Hello,

I recently read an article which stated that the official position of the MCFD was that children under 10 cannot legally be left unsupervised in or out of the home for any period of time, no matter how short. As an aunt to two strong young girls, and more generally as a member of a society with an interest in raising children well, this is extremely concerning to me.

s.22 I can see pretty clearly the difference in maturity between children who have been supervised constantly since birth and those who've had the time and opportunity to mature into their own selves. The MCFD position mandates helicopter parenting, which does nothing but generate young adults who are incapable of independence. Nobody wants to interview a job candidate whose mother fields calls or even shows up to interviews with them -- and the only way to prevent that is to allow kids to learn life skills at a sustainable pace. You can't expect adult independence to "turn on" instantly at age 18, nor can you expect

someone to be treated as a toddler from age 0-10 and then somehow build up all their "grown-up" skills from 11-18 and become a functional adult as of their 18th birthday.

s.22 I was left alone at home to babysit my s.22 brother, and even then I would say that more independence at that age would have helped me greatly in breaking into adulthood with less stress. While I understand that children are children and need to be treated with some care, it's also crucial to prepare them for adulthood. In my experience, "free-range" children are much more successful and happy than children of helicopter parents, who often have their independence stifled well into adulthood.

From what I read, there are many parents out there who are afraid to speak out against this ridiculous decision because there is a possibility that their own children will be taken away. s.22 I have a strong interest in the freedom of parents to raise their kids right, s.22 If this is an accurate description of the official MCFD position, it's an extremely toxic one, not just for individual families but our society as a whole, and it needs to stop. This might be a safe position for individual MCFD bureaucrats, but you're not helping Canada or Canadians as a whole by holding it. If it's not an accurate description of the MCFD position, then a press release and some improvements to employee training seem to be in order.

Please feel free to reply and forward as appropriate.

Thanks,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 9:55 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Cc: Mark.MLA, Melanie LASS:EX
Subject: Feedback about Adrian Crook case

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

s.22

Honourable Katrine Conroy

Minister of Children and Family Development

MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Melanie Mark

Melanie.Mark.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Conroy,

I'm writing to you about the lack of integrity and legitimacy that have observed in your ministry over the past several years. I feel compelled to speak up about the poor job that our province is doing in caring for children. I wish I had spoken sooner; I think that, like many British Columbians, I ignored the problems that face families that are less privileged than mine. Perhaps this collective shrugging of shoulders is what has allowed MCFD to uphold such a poor standard of care. I have great hope that, as a new minister, you will change this direction and demand better for the kids of BC.

The issue that has finally compelled me to speak up is the one of Adrian Crook and his five children who were learning to take the bus by themselves. Your ministry ruled against this father, who appears to have been very diligent in teaching his children independence and important life skills.

This issue concerns me for two reasons. The first is that I see a trend of governments throughout North America punishing parents for giving their children opportunities to gain independence. The ability to negotiate daily routines and solve problems in a variety of settings is imperative to the well-being of kids as they grow up. These skills, which will help them to stand up for themselves and get out of risky situations, can only be learned through practice. It appears that MCFD wishes to feed a culture of fear about unlikely immediate risks and wash their hands of large, long-term risks to an entire generation of kids. The precedent that has now been set by MCFD with this case will affect my child's development; how can I support the growth of her independence now that I know MCFD is prepared to punish my family for it?

The second reason that this concerns me is that I know how gravely MCFD is neglecting the children who really are in desperate need of help. If there are not enough resources to rescue kids who are being abused, neglected, and killed on the watch of MFCD, then why are there enough resources to go after a family whose kids have been taking the bus without incident? Why is our foster family system full of First Nations kids while First Nations parents and grandparents get no support to recover the parenting skills that were crushed by the residential school system and the sixties scoop? Why are parents in poverty scrutinized and punished instead of being given the resources they need to succeed?

I want to see a change in the direction of your ministry where the well-being of kids, both short- and long-term, is your only priority. I want to see your ministry supporting families to survive rather than undermining them. I trust that you will lead your ministry in a positive direction so that we can bring BC's shameful history of child welfare to a close and start a new chapter.

Sincerely,

s.22


Virus-free. www.avast.com

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 3:33 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Fact Free Parenting (fwd)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

---------- Forwarded message ----------
Date: Tue, 5 Sep 2017 15:08:04 -0700 (PDT)
From s.22
To: katrine.conroy.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Fact Free Parenting

I am writing about an article I read online regarding a recent decision by the Ministry to compel a father to cease allowing his children to take public transportation to and from school. The article can be read here: http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/

As you probably know, the Ministry works to "deliver inclusive, culturally respectful, responsive and accessible services that support the well-being of children, youth and families." according to the website.

The recent decision by the Ministry outlined in the article flies in the face of this mission. Teaching children independence and self reliance is one of the most important steps in developing well adjusted and capable citizens. The steps taken by the father surely indicate that he is acting in the best interest of both his children and society as a whole.

I am disappointed in the Ministry relying on faulty science in supporting their decisions. Bus travel is one of the safest ways we have to get around, and the Ministry is actually increasing the risk of physical injury to these children if they insist he drive them to their schools.

I implore you to look to the more progressive and forward thinking cultures in adopting future decsisions, notably the Japanese model mentioned in the article.

Thank you for your time,
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 12:20 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Children's freedom

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Re: http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/

Dear Katrine Conroy

I am writing in reference to the above article, in particular the assertion by MCF that children under the age of 10 must be under constant adult supervision. s.22 s.22 , I find this imposition by the state into parenting matters that are not a protection concern to be both an overreach of government power and a significant barrier to the development of initiative, independence and self-motivation in children. We have a generation of children who are already spending much too much time indoors, using technology and in organized and supervised activities rather than free and unsupervised play. Adding to that, this trend toward limiting parental choice in this matter seems both wasteful of our limited child protection resources and harmful to the very children it purports to protect.

This particular case highlights the problem of taking a single decision involving a case of possible neglect and using a sole factor (the age of the child) to determine risk to children in very different cases. As well, while this case features a family in a financial circumstance in which the limitations placed would not be a particular hardship, this could certainly set a precedent which could place less privileged families at risk of intervention by the ministry, even when no actual risk to the child can be demonstrated.

I urge your ministry to resist the trend to curtail the freedom of families to determine for themselves the level of independence their children are ready for. While there are always risks with any activity, it has been demonstrated over and over that children are more at risk with adults they know and trust than alone in public. Please instruct ministry staff to consider each case on an individual basis rather than assessing them based on arbitrary and fear based standards that do little to protect children.

I appreciate your consideration.

Regards,
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 5:27 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Children using public transit

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Katrina Conroy,

I have recently read in the news about a Ministry of Children and Family Development's decision to prohibit children under 12 from riding the bus without an adult, and specifically to prohibit the children of Mr Adrian Crook to take the bus to school. I am outraged at this ridiculous ruling for many reasons. As you know, public transportation is among the safest ways to travel and the back to school increase in car traffic decreases safety for all travelers and increases congestion and road rage. s.22
s.22

I am also deeply concerned about this trend towards promoting helicopter parenting and of micromanaging and discouraging families who are doing a good job of raising healthy, well adjusted children to become functional and competent adults. There is no fact based reason to keep children from developing the skills to get themselves to and from school and there is lots of evidence to show that young people (including adults) are being increasingly infantilized to the point where they are not able to function as adults by the time they are legally considered be adults. It is not possible to hover over our kids, escort them everywhere, do everything for them, and then suddenly expect them to take control of all aspects of their lives at once. Our ministry should be supporting and encouraging parents to help their children learn to take responsibility for themselves and their siblings.

Please do the right thing for our current families and our future adults and revoke this terrible decision to restrict child development and independence. I would encourage you and your department to study all the facts about both child development and the real dangers in our society and realize that capable young people using the safest transportation available to them is not a statistically significant source of risk.

Thank you for reconsidering.

Sincerely,

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 3:09 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Children Taking Public Transit to Schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I was disappointed to read **that a Vancouver father who has spent two years training his children to take the city bus to school on their own has been ordered by British Columbia's Ministry of Children and Family Development to discontinue the practice**
The apparent messaging from your ministry is that public transit is unsafe and instead parents should drive their children to school is wrong. Instead your ministry should discourage the practice of driving to school (un-healthy, bad for the environment, anti-social, promotes inequality) and should instead promote walking, cycling and public transit (promotes healthy transportation options, promotes independence, promotes socializing, promotes equality)
I urge you to make it a priority to review this order and your ministry's policies on this issue

_____
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 4:48 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Children Riding the Bus

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Honourable Katrine Conroy,
I think the social worker is overstepping her bounds suggesting that children in a family together riding the bus to school is unsafe. I travel on the bus s.22 and can assure you that children are safe on the bus. Bus drivers are always helpful as are the riders. I think that the social worker handling the case in probably inexperienced with bus travel or she would not take a complaint such as she got seriously as riding a bus is in no way a serious threat to the children's safety. I think it is very dangerous that children are being given the message that the world is unsafe when it is not. This attitude does not prepare them to recognize true danger when they encounter it and actually erodes and destroys their instincts for safety. Statistics tell us the most unsafe place for children is in their own home or in groups with so called trusted adults. I think this kind of fear mongering is having a very detrimental effect on our children to the point that hovering parents are now considered to be a cause of youth suicide. Children growing up in an over protected environment have never had to cope with situations where they have had to use their own good sense and when set out on their own, they don't know how to survive. I think it imperative that as a society, we act as a community together to protect children and not operate under the very mistaken belief that we are protecting them by over protecting them based on unfounded fears. I hope that you quickly give assurance to these children that they are safe and capable of riding the bus to school safely as a family group.s.22
s.22 . We had great freedom as children and we gained the confidence we needed to feel safe and confident in the world. s.22 , I assure you that there are many, many children who are in greater need of intervention and support than these well cared for children. I suggest that you give careful review as to how to best deploy your resources to support children who need support and not waste it on healthy, well adapted children who are obviously loved and cared for by their father. Please, please take a stand on this over protection and understand that in the long run, it is causing huge problems with our young adults who do not know how to survive once on their own.
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 7:17 PM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Children on Transit

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister Conroy,

I'm writing to voice my shock and disappointment at your Ministry's handling of the case of Adrian Crook and his children - see https://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/ and, by extension, all families who choose to raise their children in the wonderful urban environment that is Vancouver. I have never met Mr. Crook and although I feel that his children have been greatly harmed by the actions of your Ministry, I am mostly concerned about all children raised in urban environments, s.22

s.22 to raise our daughter in a wonderful location, accessible to everything we need without a personal vehicle. We already go for walks in our community s.22 and I look forward with great excitement to the time when my daughter can walk and I can begin to teach her about the world around her. She will learn the rules of the road, pedestrian rules and etiquette, and how to safely and proficiently travel by transit. When she is ready to do these things by herself she will. This will be our decision based on her maturity, ability, and confidence and I fervently hope that staff from your Ministry will not inhibit her personal development by mandating that she cannot be alone outside until some arbitrary age.

Please, if you truly support children and families, direct your staff to step into situations when necessary and leave the rest of us to raise our children as best as we can, which includes being alone on transit when they're ready. In 2017 your staff should be relying on evidence, not unfortunate media-induced paranoia. I hope that you will see to it that our children can grow up with the same opportunity for independence that we had when we were young.

Yours truly,

--
s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From:	s.22
Sent:	Tuesday, September 5, 2017 4:53 PM
To:	OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc:	Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject:	Adult supervision needed at your Ministry of Children & Family Development
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Dear sir,

After reading this story it's apparent that your Ministry of Children & Family Development is out of control and is basing policy on emotion, not fact. I dare say they might be in need of adult supervision. I will be donating $100 to this man's legal fund and i hope the courts slam the fuck out this department. You should be quite embarrassed at the lack of fact based decision making going on in this department of yours. s.2

http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/

s.22

Lapthorne, Carmen MCF:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:40 AM
To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: 5kids1condo

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Re: http://5kids1condo.com/very-superstitious-how-fact-free-parenting-policies-rob-our-kids-of-independence/

Just wanted to add my voice in favour of ending helicopter parenting, and changing policies to allow parents to raise independent children. If I figure my s.22 child is responsible enough to take the bus or go to the corner store on their own, and have done my due diligence as a good parent, I shouldn't have to be worried about what the government will do about it. I appreciate that a tip may have forced the Ministry of Children and Family Development to investigate, but if that investigation shows no negligence (as it appears in the 5kids1condo case), why enforce helicopter parenting?

I realize there may be other issues at play other than what I've read about in the media, but assuming the story was correctly reported, that's my stance.

Thanks for reading,
s.22