

## Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX

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**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2015 1:02 PM  
**To:** Sandur, Parveen MCF:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lalari, Terry MCF:EX  
**Subject:** RE: IN Updates Request

Ok – will get to this through next week – in addition to getting the Paige response written. kj

**From:** Sandur, Parveen MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, October 9, 2015 12:58 PM  
**To:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lalari, Terry MCF:EX  
**Subject:** IN Updates Request

Hi everyone,

Not sure how many of these you are already aware of but need updates to the following IN's:

s.13

Thanks,  
Parveen

# NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	PENDING
<b>1</b> Adoption Awareness Month National Down Syndrome Awareness Week (1-7) Domestic Violence Prevention Month	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Adoption Council of Canada Summit (Ottawa)	<b>5</b> SN - Adoption Council of Canada Summit (Ottawa)	<b>6</b> FYI – Workplace Bullying Launch (BC Place) for Be More Than a Bystander (JTST)	<b>7</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS:</b> s.13  <b>ISSUES PENDING:</b> s.13  <b>FYI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intl Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women JAG (Nov. 25)</li> <li>Phase 3 – BC Early Years Centre expansion (Nov. TBD)</li> <li>Cities Fit for Children Provincial Summit runs Nov. 12 to 13 Vernon</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Remembrance Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> s.13	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> National Child Day <a href="#">Link</a>	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> s.13	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>						

# DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	REMARKS
		1	2	3	4	5	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS:</b> s.13  <b>ISSUES PENDING:</b> s.13  <b>FYI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Day of Remembrance &amp; Action on Violence Against Women in Canada - JAG(Dec. 6)</li> <li>Report on child and youth health in BC – HLTH (Dec. 1-11)</li> </ul>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	
27	28 STAT	29	30	31			

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

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 5:01 PM  
**To:** Bawa, Reg R MCF:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Dicks, Beverly J MCF:EX; Easton, Joan E AGRI:EX; Fulton, Barry J MCF:EX; GCPE Communications - Children and Family Development; Glover, Hannah GCPE:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Kamper, Carolyn J MCF:EX; Lalari, Terry MCF:EX; MacLean, Debbie MCF:EX; Massey, Christine MCF:EX; GCPE MCFD Media Requests GCPE:EX; Minnings, Anne C MCF:EX; Sandur, Parveen MCF:EX; Scheiber, Alex MCF:EX; Shields, Trish MCF:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; van Marum, Karen GCPE:EX; Watts, Robert J MCF:EX; Wiens, Sandy M MCF:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Wright, Martin P MCF:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: MCFD wrap-up -- Oct. 20, 2015

### **RCY report**

Outlet/reporter: Globe & Mail; Vancouver Sun; CKNW; Tyec; Roundhouse Radio

Issue: Response to RCY 'Paige' report

Minister responded to reporter questions by teleconference.

### **RCY Report**

Outlet/reporter: Province, Dan Fumano

Issue: timing of response to report

GCPE sent transcript of minister from scrum today

"We've actually been trying to get this out for some weeks. But as per protocol, in order to do that, we need to be able to brief the representative. And we had a briefing scheduled, which got moved, and unfortunately, or thankfully, she was very gracious in allowing us to go ahead and release this before she's had a full briefing. She's seen the materials, but hasn't had the opportunity to discuss them fully with staff. I appreciate that it was important that we be able to get this out, as we have said we would by the end of September, beginning of October. So we went ahead and did that, and I understand some of the concern everybody was busy yesterday. In your field, certainly, but the work of the ministry doesn't stop and we're here in the House this week, and I wanted the opportunity for this information to be out before we sat through this week so that the questions could be asked and dealt with fully. "

### **RCY Report**

Outlet/reporter: Global, Rumina Daya

Issue: laws around reporting child protection concerns?

GCPE directed reporter to <http://www.bclaws.ca> and outlined specific clause in *CFCSA*

## **Misc Bill**

Outlet/reporter: Fairchild, Cindy; Vancouver Sun, Lori Culbert

Issue: forthcoming changes to AYA program

GCPE responded:

- There are a number of programs and services across government to support youth who are transitioning from care – services that include housing, addictions counselling and help with the costs associated with a post-secondary education or career training.
- We offer Youth Agreements, Independent Living arrangements, as well as Agreements with Young Adults, which can extend the transition period up to age 24.
- Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) provide financial assistance to youth formerly in care or on a Youth Agreement to upgrade their education or take part in a rehabilitative program. More than 1,950 young adults have benefited from AYA since the program was established in 2008.
- If passed, an amendment to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*, introduced Oct. 20, 2015, will enable the expansion of the Agreements with Young Adults program, allowing the ministry to extend the duration of agreements and raise the age limit. The amendment will also enable agreements to be used for life skills programs, in addition to the current educational, vocational and rehabilitative programs.
- Currently, AYAs last for up to six months at a time. The total of all AYAs cannot be more than 24 months and cannot extend past a recipient's 24th birthday.
- We should be in position to announce specific details regarding the program expansion/extension in early 2016, after we have put forward an order in council.
- Enhancing supports to young adults from care is a priority for government and this is one important step that will help us improve the Agreements with Young Adults program and make it available to more young people from care.

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### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Paige Response**

***Ministry of Children and Family Development***

**Oct. 19, 2015**

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#### **Government response**

##### **Q1. Where do we go from here?**

- I think it starts with understanding why these young people end up on the DTES in the first place. Some come down for a weekend, for experimentation, and that's where it ends. We find them and get them home.
- Others come to find family, be with family and slip into a lifestyle that is then hard to escape. Their family and social connections are on the Downtown Eastside and, even if they are in ministry care, they return to the DTES because it's their community.
- If you couple that with mental health challenges, addiction and sometimes a deep-seated mistrust of adults, you can see the kinds of complex issues that need to be navigated when helping high-risk youth.
- The key is catching those youth when they're ready to get help because all of the services we can offer are voluntary.
- We can't force a youth into treatment. We can't force them to stay in a foster home. We can't force them not to have people in their lives who take them down the wrong path.
- But we are there – it's our job to be there – when they are ready to take help.
- We've tightened up on our ability to do that. We've got the right people at the table more often to track the movements of our high-risk youth more effectively. We've got clearer lines of communication and discussion between decision-makers who – when we have to think outside the box to help a young person – have the authority to try something new.
- As an example: one of the gaps we've recognized is housing. Youth need a safe place to stay while they're getting off of drugs and/or alcohol. Right now, you have to be sober to be admitted to safe housing. We need to think about this as we move forward and we are.

##### **Q2. So to be clear – your response to the Paige report is to remind MCFD staff and service providers of stuff they should already be doing as part of their jobs? Through roadmaps, handbooks, letters, and a rapid response team made up of existing people. Are you kidding?**

- Across government, we're changing the way we do things as a result of what we've

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learned from Paige's life.

- There is a collective responsibility that must be reinvigorated, and the first and most important step has been to bring together decision-makers to collaborate on solutions that might not yet exist within our system.
- Government actions and commitments in response to the RCY report put us in position to make changes for the better –ensure we do more, as a province, to prevent children and youth from succumbing to a life of hopelessness and addiction.

**Q3.Paige, AG, AM, NL, Carly and Desmond – all youth who had contact with your ministry and ended up dead at an early age. How will you fundamentally change the way you help youth through a response plan that has no teeth and no money attached to it?**

- We recognize there is more we can do to support youth and young adults from care, and I can tell you that MCFD is committed to reviewing our transition policies, including helping to ensure former youth in care have safe, appropriate living arrangements.
- Our task going forward is to facilitate transitions by making sure young people are aware of the services that are already available and by helping them access those services.
- The 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.

**Q4.What is the case review of files of dead youth supposed to accomplish?**

- Every case is different, just as every child or youth is unique.
- The case reviews offer lessons into ways we can improve practice and policy to better support vulnerable young people in B.C., and on the DTES in particular.

**Q5.Your own staff on the DTES say what is needed is more youth workers on the street – eyes and ears on the ground. Why isn't that part of this response?**

- Last November we announced an additional 200 front-line FTEs for child protection.
- Ministry staff revisited the allocation of staff within Service Delivery divisions to ensure that each Service Delivery Area (SDA) – including Vancouver/Richmond, which services the DTES – received an equitable share of overall staff and, critically, an equitable share of the additional 200 child-protection staff.

**Q6.What about secure care? Isn't that what Paige needed?**

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- The B.C. government is committed to providing the most appropriate services for people suffering from addictions in British Columbia, and we welcome any ideas on how we may be able to improve these.
- Within the court system, judges may recommend addiction treatment to take place within a youth custody facility as part of a youth's sentence or may order participation in treatment as condition of community supervision.
- This includes placement in one of four community residential substance abuse treatment programs funded by the Ministry of Health.
- In addition, in certain circumstances under the *Mental Health Act*, individuals with both mental health and addiction issues may be admitted to a psychiatric facility for assessment and treatment if they pose a clear danger to themselves or others and are suffering from a mental disorder.
- It is widely agreed that voluntary services – such as detox, residential treatment, and outpatient addictions and/or mental health counselling – are the most effective means of addressing addiction issues, which are often concurrent with mental health problems.
- Going beyond the limitations of currently available options (i.e. through the justice system, the *Mental Health Act*, child protection legislation and voluntary services) would require the enactment of specialized legislation authorizing the involuntary detainment of youth.
- This would require establishing specialized and expensive new facilities and programs. The potential costs and benefits of such an approach must be carefully considered.

**Q7. The Minister recently said she was less interested in looking at extending foster care to 24 and more interested in permanency and adoption yet according to this plan you're looking at it. What is going on?**

- Programs and supports offered between jurisdictions are not uniform and outcomes are not uniform either.
- We've examined jurisdictions across Canada to see how our services to youth who age out of our care stack up against what they offer. We meet the grade in every instance but know we can do more and we will do more.
- And looking at cross-jurisdictional comparisons of programs provides insight to help us improve services here in B.C.
- Our focus now is on ensuring transitions are smooth and that kids aren't left to navigate the system of comprehensive supports on their own.
- We know there are benefits to graduated transition programs, which is why we have established Youth Agreements as an out-of care option and Independent Living Agreements for young people in care. We also offer Agreements with Young Adults, which enables us to provide financial and social supports to former youth in continuing



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care or on Youth Agreements up to the age of 24.

- We link youth and 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.

**Q8. Police are doing an investigation regarding the duty to report after being pushed by the RCY to do so. Why did it take her to intervene before the ministry got its act together on promoting the duty to report?**

- Service providers and the public have a legal duty to report to MCFD, not only suspected cases of direct child abuse or neglect, but also any concerns about a child's safety or well-being where the child's parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child. This includes circumstances in which a child or youth may be engaged in high-risk behaviour or self-harm.
- Service providers can't ignore their duties – and, by and large, they do not. Over the past 12 months, health-care professionals reported more than 6,700 child protection incidents provincewide. Doctors can be disciplined by the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons if they fail to report a case of child abuse.
- I can't speak to the nature, motivations or specific details of any RCMP investigations.
- I can tell you, however, that MCFD has been holding meetings with stakeholders and is launching an awareness campaign to remind service providers of their duty to report child – and youth – protection concerns.

**Q9. Isn't there a public campaign on duty to report? Why did you only reach out to stakeholders?**

- Last year, less than 5% of all child protection incidents were reported by a co-worker, friend or neighbour. The vast majority of reports were instead made by service providers.
- Our focus is to remind those professional who have the most contact with vulnerable young people of their legal duty to contact MCFD any time they have reason to believe a child – or a teen – is need of protection.

**Q10. What services and supports are available for at risk youth in the Downtown Eastside?**

- Vancouver Youth Services North – located on Cambie Street – provides child protection intake and assessment, referrals, guardianship services, youth agreement program, repatriation, youth support services and emergency supports to help youth meet their basic needs.
- The office is co-located with alcohol and drug counsellors, outreach mental health services, youth forensics, an alternate school, a life skills/employment program for

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youth justice-involved youth and a Yankee 20 team that provides a joint police/social work response to high-risk, missing or sexually exploited youth aged 12-18.

- The office also hosts weekly Reconnect meetings, which bring together outreach workers and other service providers to coordinate intervention strategies to assist high risk youth.
- The social work team at this office is very dedicated and very experienced. They have chosen to work in this social work environment because they believe they can make a difference there.
- The ministry also funds a number of agencies that provide resources and support for at-risk youth in the Downtown Eastside. For Example:
  - Annual funding of \$1.7 million to the Urban Native Youth Association, which offers programs and direct one-to-one services for Aboriginal youth and families, including a transition to adulthood program for youth aged 16-18.
  - \$1 million to the Urban Native Youth Association in 2005 for development and planning of their Native Youth Centre.
  - The ministry-funded Directions Youth Services Centre provides services and support to at-risk youth 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides an extensive range of services to homeless and at-risk youth up to age 24, including food, housing support, employment support, outreach services, referrals to other service providers and assistance with repatriations, as well as a transition to independence program.
  - To reach out and link at-risk youth with supports, we have created programs like Inter-Regional At-Risk Youth Link (I-RAYL) for vulnerable young people who are drawn to popular social hubs at Sky Train stations.
- Youth throughout Vancouver also have access to or support from:
  - **Youth shelters** – three staffed voluntary residential programs for youth who are absent from home and need a temporary safe place to stay. Referrals are accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  - **Youth Supported Housing Sites** –
    - **Directions Supported Housing Program** with 10 individual self-contained suites for youth aged 16-19 who are referred by a MCFD or Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society (VACFSS) social worker for youth at risk of homelessness.
    - **Broadway Fraser Building** with 30 self-contained supported housing suites allocated to you under 24 years (10 are allocated for youth involved with MCFD or VACFSS). Co-located with the Broadway Youth Resource Centre.
  - **Strive (YWCA)** – a 12-week program for youth aged 17-24 who are transitioning, or have transitioned, out of care and are not in school or working. Participants

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are provided with personalized coaching, workshops, volunteer placements, work experience and education planning. They also receive help with budgeting, paid job training and are connected to community resources.

- **Day programs** – Through a partnership between the Vancouver School Board and MCFD, there are eight day programs available to MCFD or Delegated Aboriginal Agency-involved youth who have been unsuccessful in, or unable to access, a mainstream or alternative Vancouver School Board program. Offers academic secondary-school programming, as well as social, life and vocational skills development.
- **C.U.E. program (PLEA)** – a supported life skills and employment program for youth who are justice-involved.
- We are also working to address the root causes of the issues these young people face – which can include mental health challenges and problematic substance use.
- The ministry invests approximately \$93 million annually to address child and youth mental health and substance use challenges.

### Rapid Response Team

**Q11. This rapid response team amounts to little more than a repackaging of resources that were already in the DTES – resources that failed Paige. How is this an adequate response?**

- What we know, from the Paige report and from our own experience, is that there are a lot of services in the DTES but they operate in silos. This means our first focus, in order to make a difference quickly, was to bring the service providers together.
- We all talked strategically about how we can do a better job serving these high-risk kids, and we all agreed that we needed to be more collaborative in doing that.
- Currently membership of the core Rapid Response Team consists of representatives from Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, Vancouver Police Department, Watari Counselling & Support Services and Ministry of Children and Family Development staff.
- This group is supported by a three-tiered structure of advisory groups.
- Membership continues to grow, as the formalized selection of individuals to represent several other groups/organizations is still in the process of being finalized.
- Everyone at the table is focused on services and focused first on meeting the needs of the highest-risk youth.
- Here is how the RRT works:
  - They meet at least weekly to review and triage the individual service needs of the youth that have been referred to them.
  - They ensure that each youth has an up-to-date safety plan in place and that the

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services for these youth are prioritized and provided in a collaborative and timely manner.

- Referrals of youth that are deemed to be of high risk to the RRT are received from existing youth servicing agency and groups.
- The coordinated focus of the RRT provides assistance to the youth in accessing the services and resources that they require, while at the same time supporting the youth's family / worker to make longer-term arrangements for the young person.
- On September 22, 2015 the initial weekly meeting of the Rapid Response Team occurred.
- Let's not forget that these services are all voluntary. The key to helping youth like Paige is knowing where they are and continually reaching out to them and seeking the window of opportunity where they actually want help.
- This model is designed to help us track these youths' movements better so that when they're ready to accept help, we're there and can act quickly.
- This takes collaboration among all the people who come into contact with a high-risk youth—whether that's police, doctors in the ER, staff in youth shelters and detox programs or youth outreach workers who walk the streets of the DTES checking in on the 'regulars'.
- The RRT doesn't stop there. The Paige report talks about systemic issues in the DTES and now we have high-level administrators of key organizations – like MCFD, the City, health authority, other government agencies like housing – who can make decisions to beef up services or who have access to senior decision-makers with the authority to act quickly to find a solution for a youth that might not yet exist systemically.

### **Q12. How much is this model costing?**

- At this point, we are amalgamating existing services into a coordinated team.
- This team is focused on service-delivery. If the team identifies other service needs or gaps, they will bring this forward to the senior representatives of the organizations.
- This is why it is important that we have both a group focused on the needs of the kids on the ground, and a higher-level group looking at systemic problems.

### **Q13. So, essentially, your 'new' model has been put in place to get people to do their jobs?**

- To be clear, the people working on the DTES with some of our most high-risk youth are some of the most dedicated and experienced people in their fields. We owe them a debt of gratitude for doing work that many don't have the ability or desire to do.
- They do their jobs each and every day, around the clock. While we're sleeping they are

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on the streets looking for and reaching out to youth. When we're celebrating Thanksgiving with our families, they are in car 86, maybe, looking for a kid who is in an SRO where they shouldn't be; on the weekends, they are in the ER or helping a youth detox. Their commitment is beyond questioning, frankly.

- What the model gives them is a better collaborative structure to work within and a place to go when systemic barriers get in the way of good service.

**Q14. There are agencies on the DTES – advocates like Scott Clarke – that say they've been left out of the loop. These are people who are on the front lines of helping youth on the DTES. It sounds like you don't have the right people at the table?**

- Our immediate issue is to focus on the highest risk youth: youth who may be needle addicted, sexually exploited and/or homeless. The organizations we needed to connect to first were those that provide direct services to the high-risk youth in the DTES.
- Other agencies working on the DTES will, of course, be brought in and we welcome broader participation in the initiative.
- Currently membership of the RRT consists of representatives from Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Housing, Vancouver Police Department, Community Agency outreach staff, and Ministry of Children and Family Development staff.
- Membership of the Team continues to grow, as the formalized selection of individuals to represent several other groups / organizations is still in the process of being finalized.
- In addition to the organizations connected to the individual members of the Rapid Response Team, the advisory groups have representation from City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services, Provincial Health Services, Providence Health, First Nations Health as well as representation from 6 other community service providers, allowing for a truly integrated and coordinated community-based approach to high-risk youth.
- Our next task will be to reach out to other organizations that provide upstream services, address systemic issues or provide prevention services.

**Q15. How many kids are high risk youth on the DTES. The RCY says it's in the 100's – you say 10 are at the highest risk. How can there be such a difference in how MCFD sees this vs. how the RCY sees it?**

- We are focusing on the highest-risk 10 right now: youth who are needle-addicted, homeless or sexually exploited.
- This is not to say that there are not other high-risk youth; there are.
- We estimate 40 to 50 youth are high-risk, and not all are in care, but they are all living in or frequenting the DTES. Our model will work to address the service needs of all of these youth.

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### **Q16. How will you measure the team model's success?**

- We are working on an analytical framework for this that will start by doing a more thorough search of models throughout North America. The RRT, as it exists today, is not the end of the story; it will continue to evolve to accommodate best practices and learn as we go.

### **Paige-specific**

#### **Q17. How did this happen?**

- This should never happen to a child or youth.
- Unfortunately, however, we come into families' lives when they are in crisis. Our involvement is often unwanted, not appreciated and even resented.
- The report chronicles contact with child welfare authorities in this ministry and other service providers over the course of many years – close to two decades. Legislation and policy changed significantly since then.
- It is difficult to say Paige would have been brought into ministry care and kept in ministry care as a result of those changes, but outcomes may have been different.
- We're there because we have a legal and moral obligation to help kids in crisis.

#### **Q18. It seems like Paige slipped through the system when she was a youth/young adult. Why? What are you doing differently?**

- I've acknowledged the network of support on the Downtown Eastside failed this youth. Services were there, but they weren't talking to each other as effectively as they could and she fell through our fingers.
- We're changing the way we do things as a result of what we've learned from Paige's life.
- We've brought in a rapid response team model that will follow the most high-risk kids (often IV drug users) more closely than ever before to find them, talk to them, encourage them to get help – even when they don't want to be found.
- We've reminded all service providers in the area – doctors, police, youth outreach workers – of their duty to report to us when they see a youth in crisis.
- We've examined jurisdictions across Canada to see how our services to youth who age out of our care stack up against what they offer. We meet the grade in every instance but know we can do more and will do more.
- And we will now automatically review each and every death of a 19-year-old who, in the

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past 12 months, had been in the ministry's care to refine our policies and practices where needed.

**Q19. The RCY says Paige's death at the time left no mark on the ministry. How do you respond?**

- This tragedy occurred in 2013. And while an individual case might not set a precedent in the way that causes fundamental changes in the ministry it can be the subject of a police and coroner's investigation.
- These agencies are partners of ours and we share information, look for trends and act wherever possible. Nobody wants to see another life lost on the Downtown Eastside – especially a young life.
- In this case, a mark has been left on the ministry. Because of what we've learned from this young woman's life – from now on – the director of child welfare will review the death of every youth aged 19 who was in the ministry's care in the previous 12 months.
- That's just one of the changes we're making to try to ensure another youth doesn't take the same path as Paige.

**Q20. What do you say to the RCY's assertion that much of the problem is due to professional indifference among social workers and other service providers on the DTES?**

- I reject that description whole-heartedly.
- The men and women who serve youth in crisis on the Downtown Eastside are some of the most dedicated, experienced and longest-serving staff we have. They work the DTES because they want to – our office there has one of the lowest turnover rates in the province. They're there because they want to make a difference. They're working at night, on holidays and in some of the roughest conditions imaginable because they want to make a difference. They're working with clients who don't want them in their lives, quite often, and who don't trust adults period because all they've known growing up are adults who didn't take care of them or worse. These are social workers who sometimes want better for their young clients than those kids want for themselves.
- That's not professional indifference; that's commitment; that's dedication.
- As I said when the report was received back in May, I can accept, systemically, there was indifference. We are taking steps to change that. Not only here at MCFD, but also among the broader social and health-serving agencies that serve the DTES.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE**

### **RCY Paige Report – Government response Oct 19, 2015**

#### **Advice and Recommended Response:**

- **We're changing the way we do things as a result of what we've learned from Paige's life.**
- **We brought in a Rapid Response Team that will follow the Downtown Eastside's most high-risk kids (often IV drug users) more closely than ever to find them, talk to them and encourage them to get help – even when they don't want to be found.**
- **We've reminded all service providers in the area – doctors, police, youth outreach workers – of their duty to report to us when they see a youth in crisis.**
- **We've examined jurisdictions across Canada to see how our services to youth who age out of our care stack up against what they offer. We meet the grade in every instance but know we can do more and we will do more.**
- **And we will now automatically review each and every death of a 19-year-old who, in the past 12 months, was in the ministry's care to refine our policies and practices where needed.**
- **Some of this work is in direct response to the recommendations in the RCY's report and some – such as the rapid response model – goes above and beyond those recommendations.**
- **The Paige report talks about systemic issues in the Downtown Eastside, which is why our response includes engagement from partners across the health, education, justice, Aboriginal and child and family-serving service sectors**
- **There is a collective responsibility that must be reinvigorated, and the first and most important step has been to bring together decision-makers to collaborate on solutions that might not yet exist within our system.**
- **Government actions and commitments in response to the RCY report put us in position to make changes for the better –ensure we do more, as a province, to prevent children and youth from succumbing to a life of hopelessness and addiction.**



## **ADVICE TO MINISTER – CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE**

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- On May 14, 2015, the Representative for Children and Youth released a case-specific report of a young Aboriginal woman who was periodically involved with the ministry since the age of 3 and eventually died in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver of a heroin overdose at the age of 19 after aging out of ministry care.
- In the report, the RCY critiques the ministry's response to known dangers throughout the young woman's life as well as the ministry's failure to deliver a model of secure care.
- The report includes a general accusation of professional disinterest toward an Aboriginal youth – not only by MCFD, but by health care, police, housing services and other agencies and service providers who, at different times, were involved in the young woman's case.
- General themes of the report include:
  - MCFD policy and practice
  - MCFD policy and practice around Single Room Occupancy hotels and other dangerous living arrangements.
  - MCFD policy and practice with regard to high risk youth living in the Downtown Eastside
  - The availability and quality of services and supports for families with substance misuse issues.
  - The availability and quality of services and supports for Aboriginal children and families.
  - Collaboration between service providers and enforcement of the duty to report child protection concerns.
- The Ministry has developed an action plan responding to the recommendations that are feasible, with additional cross-ministry work in progress to respond to some of the significant findings in the report.
- The RCY office was briefed on progress July 13, 2015 and again, on the MCFD action plan, Oct. 19, 2015.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2015CFD0042-001742  
Oct. 19, 2015

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### **Government actions on RCY's 'Paige' report**

VICTORIA – A new Rapid Response Team, a review of all MCFD-involved young people living on the Downtown Eastside and a service-provider awareness campaign are part of government's operational response to issues outlined in the Representative for Children and Youth's report, Paige's Story.

"The Paige report talks about systemic issues in the Downtown Eastside, which is why a fulsome response requires engagement from partners across the health, education, justice, Aboriginal and child and family-serving service sectors," said Children and Family Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux. "There is a collective responsibility that needs to be reinvigorated, and the first and most important step is to bring together decision-makers who can collaborate to create solutions that might not yet exist within our system. That's part of what we are doing with our rapid response team."

"We also recognize that real and meaningful change on a systemic scale will be an ongoing process. To be successful, we need to examine – from the ground up – the way this province supports our most vulnerable young people."

Government is responding with immediate and longer-term steps to address the recommendations made in the 'Paige' report. Steps completed to-date include:

- A Rapid Response Team to allow service providers to reach out and directly address the needs and safety of the highest-risk youth in the Downtown Eastside.
- A review of all children and youth in care or receiving ministry services who reside in or frequent the Downtown Eastside.
- An awareness campaign to reinforce the duty of service providers to report to MCFD whenever a child or youth may be at risk of harm.
- Interviews with ministry staff to get their perspectives about the needs of high-risk youth and how best to serve this population.
- A policy roadmap to help front-line practitioners better understand their roles and responsibilities under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* and more effectively apply policies and standards when handling cases involving high-risk youth.
- A cross-jurisdictional review to explore services to young adults from care and inform service options in B.C. for high-risk youth transitioning to adulthood.
- A review of secure care models across Canada, with consideration to secure care as part of the cross-ministry work on Child and Youth Mental Health services in B.C.
- Revised policy to allow case reviews of fatalities of former youth in care up to 20 years of age who were in care until turning 19 years of age, and of any child or youth fatality that occurs while the young person is in the care of the director.

"I am buoyed to see that MCFD and government have begun to grapple with these important issues and that progress will be improved outcomes for these youth -- far too many of whom are Aboriginal children who have endured incredible journeys of hardship and who deserve our full attention," said Representative for Children and Youth Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond. "Government has also released details of its plan today, which is a step toward improved transparency."

"Our response to this report is just a beginning," said Cadieux. "The issue of supporting at-risk youth on the Downtown Eastside is more than a question of policy, practice or even legislation; it is a question of societal values. How do we address issues like intergenerational poverty? How do we reach out and help those who may not be receptive to service? How can we, as a province, do more to prevent children and youth from succumbing to a life of hopelessness and addiction? These are some of the issues we are grappling with and I believe we have put ourselves on the right track to make changes for the better."

Read government's response: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BG\\_Paige\\_Report.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BG_Paige_Report.pdf)

**Media Contact:**

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
250 356-1639

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# OCTOBER 2015

				<b>1</b> <b>Foster Family Month</b> House Statement - Foster Family Month (MLA Hogg) NR-Fostering	<b>2</b> Coroner's Inquest - Jury deliberations & recommendations	<b>3</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NR - YFEF 1<sup>st</sup> Recipients (Coast Capital Oct-Nov)</li> <li>NR- Autism Research Project (Oct-Nov)</li> <li>NR- Standards &amp; Regs. for Autism Professionals</li> </ul> <b>ISSUES PENDING:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCY Report - Adoption Update (Oct.)</li> <li>RCY Report - Survey of child and youth substance abuse services (Date TBD)</li> <li>RCY Report - When Talk Trumped Service Update (Date TBD)</li> <li>RCY Report - Closure of Victoria Youth Custody Centre (Date TBD)</li> <li>RCY Report: Cyberbullying (Oct. 15-16 TBD)</li> <li>Pieces Report Public (TBC)</li> <li>Aboriginal Welfare Report- Dr. Cindy Blackstock &amp; RCY - October 8, 2015 5:30pm and 8pm: BCGEU, 4911 Canada Way, Burnaby</li> <li>JP has been set in the Court of Appeal before Madam Justice Bennett on October 1, 2015.</li> <li>Oct. 3, a panel will share personal stories focusing on youth anxiety, moderated by CBC's Gloria Macarenko 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 CBC Van</li> <li>Court Hearing Allan Schoenborn October 1</li> </ul> <b>FYI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADHD Awareness Week (14-24)</li> <li>Missing/Murdered Aboriginal Women Day (Oct. 4)</li> <li>PHO Report: The Health and Well-Being of Children and Youth in BC (HLTH Oct. 1-15)</li> <li>BCGEU - B.C.'s Child &amp; Family Welfare System - Campaign (Oct. 1-15 T&amp;C)</li> <li>Directors of Child Welfare meeting in Newfoundland September 29 to October 1, 2015 (Cory Heavener)</li> <li>HSG Homelessness Action Week (MNGO Oct 11-17)</li> <li>October 17th - United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2015 <a href="http://ow.ly/RKPSW">http://ow.ly/RKPSW</a></li> <li>NR/event/ceremony/webpost - Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework launch - (TBC)</li> <li>Victoria Foster Caregiver Appreciation event 11:00-2:00 (Oct. 14)</li> <li>South Fraser Foster Caregiver Appreciation event 11:30-2:30 (Oct. 22)</li> <li>North Fraser Foster Caregiver Appreciation event (Oct. 22 afternoon)</li> <li>Vancouver Foster Caregiver Appreciation event 5:30pm-11:00pm (Oct 22)</li> <li>The Forget Me Not Family Society 10th annual fall workshop with keynote speaker Ann Fessler, Oct. 24-25 (Adoption)</li> <li>NR - Celebrating more supports for street youth (Oct 8 - 10 HLTH)</li> <li>First Call Coalition Meeting Oct. 14</li> <li>The Road to a Poverty-Free BC Events (Oct. 14 Nanaimo - Oct. 15 Victoria - Oct. 20 Abbotsford - Oct. 21 Burnaby)</li> <li>Prevention of Violence against women/girls town halls - North Vancouver, Oct 21, &amp; Richmond, Oct 22</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <b>Mental Illness Awareness Week (4-10)</b>	<b>5</b> <b>National Family Week 5-11 (Proclamation)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> House Statement - World Mental Health Day (PSJT)  Event at Leg-MH/CYMH (MTL, PSJT) 9:00am  NR - Rapid Response Model on the DTES  RCY Report - Special report on MCFD staffing and workloads 11:00am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>World Mental Health Day</b>	
<b>11</b> <b>Every Girl Matters Day (Proclamation)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>ADHD Awareness Week (14-20)</b>  Youth Mental Health Forum (Oct 14 Coquitlam)  NYCU - Foster Family Month - Family Profile  SN-Long Service Awards (MCFD)	<b>15</b> NR-BG - Paige Response	<b>16</b> United Way Avenues of Change Guildford West Launch ~ Virk to Speak on MSC's behalf (11:00am)	<b>17</b>	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Federal Election Day</b>	<b>20</b> Event - Long-Serving Foster Parents (Legislature 10am-1pm)  NR - Misc. Bill - Paragraph in AYA	<b>21</b> FYI - Official Opening Tri Cities BC Early Years Centre (MLA Reimer TBD)  NYCU - Foster Family Month - Family Profile	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> NYCU - Foster Family Month - Family Profile	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>National UNICEF Day - (Proclamation)</b>	

## Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX

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**From:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:47 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response

Thanks, Carleen.

---

**From:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:45 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response

Thanks! I've added notionally at 2pm, will confirm as soon as I'm able.

---

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:43 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response

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**From:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:41 PM  
**To:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response

Yes, I can do 2pm or 2:30, your preference. Can you please send me your draft release?

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**From:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:40 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response

We'd like our release to be as tight as possible to the briefing, given media interest, etc.

Looking at tomorrow's list. . . it's a heavy day. Could we either send ours at 2pm or 2:30? Looks like most of the NRs will be out by 2:15.

Thanks,  
Kirsten

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**From:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:31 PM  
**To:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response

Thanks Kirsten -- I can find you a time tomorrow, however I will note it is quite busy tomorrow. Would you prefer Friday?

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**From:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Safarik, Melissa GCPE:EX; Croft, Robyn J GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Burns, Heather B GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Paige response

Hi All,

The RCY is being briefed from 1-2 tomorrow, so we're hoping to issue our NR-BG at about 2pm. Does that work corporately?

Thanks,

**Kirsten Lauvaas**  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Ph: 250 356-1553 | Cell: 250 213-5572

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

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**From:** Sieben, Mark MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:11 PM  
**To:** Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Scheiber, Alex MCF:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Paige response- release date

Let's give Rep's office a heads up then.

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 14, 2015, at 2:02 PM, Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX <[Cory.Heavener@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cory.Heavener@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Meeting is tomorrow form 1-2 pm.  
Action plan just being signed off....can get it to you shortly.

---

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:33 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Scheiber, Alex MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Paige response- release date

Alex? Cory? Time of briefing? And have you signed off on the action plan so that we can use it as a backgrounder?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:30 PM  
**To:** Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Scheiber, Alex MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Paige response- release date

Here is the draft news release for review.  
What time is the briefing tomorrow?

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**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:24 PM  
**To:** Cadieux, Stephanie MCF:EX; Sandur, Parveen MCF:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Lalari, Terry MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Paige response- release date

Now that 16x9 is done and rcy is getting briefed tomorrow..I suggest we release the NR and Backgrounder right after that meeting. Shawn...get the materials into final signoff pls. And pls notify JAG, Educ and Health to be ready w/ their responses to Recs in that report as we will only be able to speak to ours. Kirsten can help w/ that if u wish. Kj

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.



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

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**From:** Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:53 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Paige response

Hi All,

Karen was with Minister in Vancouver this morning to tape a segment for 16x9 that will air in a couple weeks. Topic is Paige's story. RCY has also been interviewed.

There's a briefing with RCY tomorrow – we're trying to confirm time with ADM – and we'd like to release our NR/Backgrounder after that. Once we know when the briefing is, we'll be in touch with Carleen about timing, and will share materials.

Will also loop in EDUC/HLTH/JAG.

Thanks,

**Kirsten Lauvaas**  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Ph: 250 356-1553 | Cell: 250 213-5572

## Response to RCY Report

- Like anyone who has read this report, I was horrified by the incredible hardships this young woman endured during her life and by the tragic nature of her death.
- From the moment she was born, she faced obstacles few of us can imagine or comprehend.
- The Representative's report details how this young woman suffered one misfortune after another until she eventually succumbed to the cruel realities of substance abuse and life in one of the most dismal corners of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- There is no tougher challenge for social workers and there are no easy solutions in cases like hers where we see a deep history of intergenerational poverty, violence and addiction.
- The fact remains that despite the dedicated and well-intentioned efforts of ministry staff and repeated involvement throughout this young woman's life by a number of organizations and professionals, the system ultimately failed to keep her from harm.
- The result is unacceptable.
- There was clearly not enough contact and coordination among those who were in touch with her.
- No one saw the whole picture.
- Services were fragmented.
- The task before us all is to learn from what's happened and find ways to improve how we serve families like hers.
- My ministry can't do it alone.

- It will take an increased commitment by, and collaboration with, service providers across the health, justice, education, child welfare and Aboriginal-service sectors.
- I've asked my deputy to broaden the discussion already occurring among ministries about how to improve outcomes and services for youth to include health authorities, practitioners, police and others.
- I'm sure the Representative's recommendations will inform that work going forward.
- But we need to go a step further than the recommendations in this report.
- We need to take a look at the service delivery model on the Downtown Eastside – one that reaches out to find youth and brings the right services to them.
- There are unique circumstances on the Downtown Eastside that deserve a unique response.
- We have existing models we can draw from.
- Our downtown office already hosts weekly Reconnect meetings, which bring together outreach workers and other service providers to coordinate intervention strategies to assist high risk youth.
- Our new approach will simply expand on that model – seeking more input from each of the partners involved in the life of a high-risk youth.
- It's a trend we see across government.
- For example, Vancouver Coastal is redesigning health care services in the Downtown Eastside to focus on integrating care and linking non-clinical services, such as social services and housing.
- The Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative brings together local divisions of family practice, specialist physicians, patients and

their families, representatives from Interior Health, the Ministry of Health, MCFD, the Shared Care Committee, the Practice Support Program, non-government organizations and clients, families and caregivers to work together and address CYMH issues at the community, regional and provincial levels.

- We know that the collaborative has successfully established and developed relationships between key stakeholders and partners that may not have existed.
- We're going to use what we've already learned and what we're continuing to learn to build a better approach – one where every professional that is connected to the most high-risk youth on the Downtown Eastside is invited to the table to share their expertise.
- I've asked the ministry to institute a rapid response team model for youth on the Downtown Eastside, so that we can catch kids as soon as possible before they become entrenched in the worst areas of the neighbourhood – areas that nobody deems fit for a child or teen to live in.
- To help youth, we have to hear about them.
- It shouldn't matter which professional or service provider is in contact with the youth.
- There are lots of services available; they need to come together.
- We'll be developing the team with input from current service providers – not only our own, but organizations that have relationships with the city, health services and police.
- Collectively we want to ensure:
  - there is common understanding of the need to contact MCFD when a child is in a high risk situation;

- that cases where we need to identify or locate a youth are escalated immediately;
  - and that, when a youth reaches out, the service provider in contact with them immediately notifies their rapid response colleagues so that all the youth's needs are met.
- We know from our staff on the ground that there are about 10-20 young people at any given time in the Downtown Eastside – like the young woman who is the subject of this report – where we know this kind of targeted and intensive response is needed...
  - ...keeping in mind those youth don't necessarily want to be found.
  - We need to know when those high-needs young people, intoxicated to the point of incapacity are picked up by police.
  - We need to know when a teenager goes to hospital due to drugs or intoxication and there is no parent to release them to.
  - We need to know when a young person is found at an SRO.
  - And we need immediate notification when a youth is being sexually exploited.
  - These are the contact points in the system that we need to better seize and act on.

\*\*\*

- I want to take a moment to clarify an important point about our involvement with youth in the Downtown Eastside, including those living in single-room occupancy hotels: we do not place kids in these areas.
- We do not check them into SROs for shelter and we do not leave them in dangerous situations.

- There aren't any "no go" zones for ministry staff.
- But we can and will serve youth better if they unfortunately end up on the Downtown Eastside.
- The real key is keeping them from ending up there in the first place.

\*\*\*

- People who read this report will wonder why this particular individual wasn't taken into care when she was young.
- I'm one of those people, frankly.
- I can't tell you today what the social workers who were working with her and her family 20 years ago saw, or didn't see; what they acted on or didn't act on.
- And I can't tell you that if she'd been taken into government care earlier she still wouldn't have ended up on the Downtown Eastside as a youth with her mother.
- What I can tell you is that, during this young woman's life, the Ministry was operating under different legislation, policies and programs than exist today.
- More information is collected now through assessment tools to inform decision making than existed twenty years ago.
- Under today's legislation and policies, ministry social workers would have had more practice tools and legal avenues to inform a plan of care that may have led to permanent government care at an early age.
- The *Family and Child Services Act*, which was in force between 1980 and 1996, was much less comprehensive than the current *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

- There is more guidance in decision making than in the previous Act.
- Also, the range of definitions for when a child 'needs protection' was considerably expanded.
- Second of all, in 2012 the Ministry introduced the Structured Decision Making Tools that are evidence and research-based and identify the key points in the life of a child welfare case, using structured assessments to improve the consistency and validity of each decision.
- We also re-established the office of the Director of Child Welfare to strengthen our oversight of the care of children.
- Specific to services for youth and young adults and downtown Vancouver, last year we established a partnership with the Metro Vancouver YWCA to run the STRIVE program.
- Through this program, youth and young adults who have been in government care receive hands-on guidance on life skills, like financial literacy, time management, decision making and problem solving that are key to living independently.
- It's impossible to know if these changes alone would have completely altered the outcome of this case, but we're confident they have strengthened B.C.'s child welfare system.
- The Representative's report recommendations have a part to play in our continued drive to strengthen the system.
- We are eager to talk with her and her team about them as that opportunity wasn't afforded us prior to the report going to print.
- And while we value the effort put into creating the recommendations, their timelines are unrealistic given the complicated nature of the subject matter and the numerous organizations and agencies involved.

- As always, our primary focus is to deliver front-line services to those children, youth and families in need.
- Drafting more reports won't have as much impact on the lives of kids as some of the actions we're committing to today.
- And when, despite our best collective efforts, we lose a youth, we need to do a better job of reviewing what went wrong so we can fix it.
- This young woman's death wasn't considered for a director's case review because the current legislation only allows the ministry to conduct such a review following the critical injury or death of a child or youth, not an adult.
- It's a deficiency that must be changed and it is one we will look to address.

\*\*\*

- I want to share with you with the words of one of the social workers who works on the Downtown Eastside with kids like the young woman who is the subject of this report.
- When asked about the most important thing she says to her young clients she replied,

*"I tell them, 'you don't deserve this. You deserve better. We want more for you.' And that's our problem: sometimes we want it way worse than they do."*

- These are not the words of a dispassionate, professionally indifferent social worker – as the Representative seems to suggest was the attitude of our staff who came in contact with the young woman in question.
- I reject that characterization and find it offensive, quite honestly.
- It has not been my experience in three years as Minister.



- And I know we share the common belief that, while we can't reach every kid, we can reach more.
- That's what I'm committed to— I'm committed to a more youth-centred and coordinated service delivery system on the Downtown Eastside.
- That work has been started.
- Today it continues with renewed resolve and tomorrow maybe we'll be able to show a vulnerable youth that they deserve more than life has offered them thus far.
- Thank you – I'll take your questions.

## Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2015 9:22 AM  
**To:** s.22  
**Subject:** RCY 'Paige' & duty to report

Hi Lawrie,

Please see the below ministry response. I just ask that you attribute in general terms to "the Ministry of Children and Family Development" or "a ministry spokesperson."

Cheers,

**Shawn Larabee**  
*Government Communications and Public Engagement*  
*Ministry of Children and Family Development*  
250 356-1639  
[Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca)

Service providers and the public have a legal duty to report to MCFD, not only suspected cases of direct child abuse or neglect, but also any concerns about a child's safety or well-being where the child's parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child. This includes circumstances in which a child or youth may be engaged in high-risk behaviour or self-harm.

This handbook ([http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child\\_protection/pdf/handbook\\_action\\_child\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/pdf/handbook_action_child_abuse.pdf)) outlines service providers' role in reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

As part of its response to the RCY's May 2014 report, the ministry will be launching an awareness campaign for service providers on the duty to report. Planning and coordinating took place over the summer and the ministry will be in a position to report out on that campaign and our other efforts to meet the RCY's recommendations, first to her office as required by protocol and then publicly as committed to, by the end of the month/early October.

Reports from health care providers could account for as many as 6,732 (just under 20%) of the child protection incidents reported last fiscal year. The table below shows a breakdown of child protection calls by caller type, with those that could include health care providers highlighted in yellow:

### Child Protection Incidents for Fiscal 2014/2015

Caller	Incidents	Percent of Total
	681	2.0%
Advocate	20	0.1%
Anonymous	774	2.3%
CYSN Worker	76	0.2%
Child/Youth	894	2.6%
Co-Worker	267	0.8%
Community Professional	2992	8.8%

Concerned Citizen	1489	4.4%
Counsellor	635	1.9%
Daycare	248	0.7%
ELMSD Service Provider	6	0.0%
Employer	7	0.0%
Ex-Spouse	996	2.9%
Foster Parent / Res. Caregiver	151	0.4%
Friend	572	1.7%
Health Professional	956	2.8%
Hospital	1443	4.2%
I&CS Worker	115	0.3%
MLA Office	2	0.0%
Mental Health Professional	368	1.1%
Neighbour	812	2.4%
Other Gov't Agency	199	0.6%
Other Ministry	199	0.6%
Parent	2576	7.6%
Police	11690	34.3%
Probation Officer	272	0.8%
Relative	1779	5.2%
School	3620	10.6%
Service Canada	2	0.0%
Support Service Provider	231	0.7%
<b>Total Closed CP Incidents</b>	<b>34072</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Book noon to 1pm tomorrow for a meeting

We'll need to start writing the paige update after and have draft comms material ready for a broefing with msc Mon. We go public thurs...that's the plan now.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Bond, Allison MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 2:33 PM  
**To:** Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW: QA\_'Paige' report\_Government response\_Oct 19 2015\_draft1

If Cory agrees I agree

**From:** Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 2:30 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: QA\_'Paige' report\_Government response\_Oct 19 2015\_draft1

Fine by me

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 1:28 PM  
**To:** Sieben, Mark MCF:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: QA\_'Paige' report\_Government response\_Oct 19 2015\_draft1

Hello,

Attached is our QA on today's Paige response. Most of this is language we've used elsewhere, but please let me know if you have any edits or concerns.

## Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

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**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Thanks!

Yep, the only thing that's changed since is a quote from the RCY in the news release.

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 1:43 PM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

We are good to go from our end.

The latest you sent me are the finals, right?

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 1:43 PM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Hi Sarah,  
Any word from that last person?

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 10:57 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Here is our almost final. Just waiting to hear back from one more person. I think it's probably good enough to share with the RCY.

Clean copy and copy with tracked changes attached.

Thanks,  
Sarah.

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 9:50 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff

GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Ok pls because we have to share on embargo to the rcy asap

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 9:31 AM

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

**Cc:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX; Beneteau, Nicole GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Hi All - we do apparently have some revisions we need to make. Will get them to you as soon as we can.

Sarah Plank

Communications Director | Ministry of Health

Government Communications & Public Engagement

Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: [sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 19, 2015, at 9:06 AM, Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX <[Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Good morning, everyone.

Just checking in again for any further changes to the 'Paige' response material for this afternoon

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 5:12 PM

**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX

**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Hi everyone,

Here are your near-finals for Monday. Please let me know if you have any further edits/additions.

Matt, Emily, Carleen -- are we o.k. to pencil this in as a Monday afternoon release?

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 4:36 PM

**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX;

Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX

**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Hi guys, I think we can make this happen for Monday. Attached is the almost final version. Most stakeholders have had a chance to review and okay. I do want to send it to my communications counterparts in the noted health authorities, so if we can aim for mid-day-ish on Monday so they have a bit of time to review, that would be most appreciated.

Do you want us to cut and paste the content into your backgrounder, or do you guys want to have control over that?

Sarah.

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:29 PM

**To:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX

**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

PO wants NR and Backgrounder to reflect a corporate response.....could be a status of each rec by ministry – whatever works. Monday is very much desired

**Matt Gordon**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
Government of British Columbia  
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

**From:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 12:24 PM

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

**Cc:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

The backgrounder is my only issue. I think that needs to reflect government and not just one ministry otherwise it begs the q about why we aren't answering that.

Is there an urgent reason that this has to be announced? Sorry, I don't have that context?

On Oct 16, 2015, at 11:52 AM, Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX <[Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Recognizing the challenge in pulling together a thorough response from program staff and getting their sign-off at this late hour, does it make sense to focus instead on including a few lines or a paragraph from each ministry in the news release and just leave the backgrounder as a stand-alone MCFD response?



As I understand, some ministries have told RCY they will be responding at a later date, some have responded already by letter, etc. and it's just MCFD that committed to any sort of action plan, as such.

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 10:12 AM

**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Will confirm that and let you know their timeline.

Sarah Plank

Communications Director | Ministry of Health

Government Communications & Public Engagement

Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: [sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 16, 2015, at 10:04 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX <[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Let's start with what are your staff saying is doable - then I'll consult with PO - wed is a no-go

**Matt Gordon**

**Assistant Deputy Minister**

Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations

Government of British Columbia

250 896.4923 mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 16, 2015, at 10:01 AM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi all, it's sounding like it will not really be possible to get you our final signed off response today, even possibly on Monday. We have quite a few stakeholders who have to be consulted on it, before we can call it final and good to go. How solid is the Monday release vs. the Weds. one that had been proposed?

Thx, S.

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

**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2015 8:59 AM

**To:** Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Good morning everyone,  
Just checking in to see how things are coming along as far as incorporating your respective ministry responses into the news release and backgrounder/action plan. As a reminder, we've been asked to have a draft ready for this afternoon so we can release on Monday.

To clarify: mostly, we need you to include your ministry's response in the action plan, which will become a "government" rather than just "MCFD" plan.

Here's a summary to help you find where your ministry fits in:

- Recommendation 1 is for MCFD in cooperation with JAG, EDUC, MARR, HLTH, Housing
- Recommendation 2 is for MCFD in cooperation with JAG, EDUC, MARR, HLTH, Housing (this is for the Rapid Response Team we announced earlier this month)
- Recommendation 3 is directed at AG, though MCFD has outlined its response
- Recommendation 4 is for MCFD, EDUC and FNEC
- Recommendation 5 is for HLTH and the FN health authority
- Recommendation 6 is for MARR, with support from MCFD and Justice

If your ministry's response is substantial, you can also feel free to add to or expand on the bullets in the NR.

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:56 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

We're good to go if everyone else is – standing by to fold materials into ours. kj

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:43 AM  
**To:** Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

We need to know timing asap... let them know the plans

**Matt Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
Government of British Columbia  
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

**From:** Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:43 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Been trying to push it.

On Oct 15, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
<[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Get timing of that happening please

**Matt Gordon**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
Government of British Columbia  
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

**From:** Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:41 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

My challenge isn't comms.

Our ministry response has not yet gone to either DM or MO for approval.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 15, 2015, at 10:37 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
<[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Direction from PO is that we address ALL recs corporately in release... not just MCFD... they want MSC to lead these responses vs multiple Ministers reacting. Can we ensure products are coordinated and we have one set of materials that address everything -- Qas/IN etc....

Note timing -- if this is for Monday we need to move quickly. Would like to be able to review materials with PO mid aft tomorrow. tks

Tks all

**Matt Gordon**  
**Assistant Deputy Minister**  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
Government of British Columbia  
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

**From:** Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:31 AM  
**To:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX; Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Could this be ready for Monday?

Carleen

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:27 AM  
**To:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Woolli  
**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Good morning all,

The latest direction on this – in discussion with our MO – is to aim for a release on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Please let us know if you have any edits, contributions or concerns.

Cheers

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 4:42 PM  
**To:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Attached is a draft news release outlining MCFD's response to the RCY's 'Paige' report and the draft action plan that will serve as backgrounder.

There are six recommendations in the RCY's report:  
Rec 1 affects multiple ministries, but response is led by MCFD  
Rec 2 is for MCFD with HLTH, City of Vancouver  
Rec 3 is for Attorney General around duty to report (though MCFD has included stakeholder awareness as part of its actions)  
Rec 4 is for MCFD with EDUC (and FNESEC)  
Rec 5 is for HLTH & FN health authorities  
Rec 6 is for MARR with support from MCFD and JAG  
**Shawn Larabee**  
*Government Communications and Public Engagement*

*Ministry of Children and Family Development*  
250 356-1639  
[Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca)

<BG\_Paige Report\_Oct 19 2015\_draft7.docx>

<NR\_Paige report update\_Oct 19 2015\_draft11.docx>

**Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:24 PM  
**To:** Cadieux, Stephanie MCF:EX; Sandur, Parveen MCF:EX; Sieben, Mark MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Lalari, Terry MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX; Lauvaas, Kirsten GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Paige response- release date

Now that 16x9 is done and rcy is getting briefed tomorrow..I suggest we release the NR and Backgrounder right after that meeting. Shawn...get the materials into final signoff pls. And pls notify JAG, Educ and Health to be ready w/ their responses to Recs in that report as we will only be able to speak to ours. Kirsten can help w/ that if u wish. Kj

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

## Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 4:08 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Karen, I've lost track...when is the news release?

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 3:11 PM  
**To:** Dicks, Beverly J MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Their GCPE team signed off. Not our problem now. kj

**From:** Dicks, Beverly J MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 3:09 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

I know and not sure why she directed response to me. Hopefully Cory's office already had this info.

**From:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 3:07 PM  
**To:** Dicks, Beverly J MCF:EX; Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Honestly? Where has Laurel for the last five months? The NR and backgrounder has gone out

**From:** Dicks, Beverly J MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 3:03 PM  
**To:** Heavener, Cory R MCF:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Cory, assuming your office will respond to Laurel if you have concerns.

**From:** Nash, Laurel ABR:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:37 AM  
**To:** Dicks, Beverly J MCF:EX; Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Walsh, Taryn JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX; Holmes, Rachel ABR:EX  
**Subject:** Fw: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Hi. Marr should not be leading on recommendation 6.  
Thanks.

Laurel Nash  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Initiatives/Partnerships and Community Relations Division  
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
(o) 250 953 4004 (m) 250 508 1670  
Sent from my BlackBerry 10

**From:** Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:30 AM  
**To:** Cox, Monica ABR:EX; Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Nash, Laurel ABR:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX" <Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** "Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX" <Jeff.Groot@gov.bc.ca>, "Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX" <Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca>, "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>, "Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX" <Lisa.Leslie@gov.bc.ca>, "Woolley, Paul GCPE:EX" <Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>, "Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX" <Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>, "Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX" <Carleen.Kerr@gov.bc.ca>, "Woods, Emily GCPE:EX" <Emily.Woods@gov.bc.ca>, "Anderson, Bill GCPE:EX" <Bill.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Good morning all,

The latest direction on this – in discussion with our MO – is to aim for a release on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Please let us know if you have any edits, contributions or concerns.

Cheers

**From:** Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 4:42 PM  
**To:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Leslie, Lisa GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Kerr, Carleen GCPE:EX; Woods, Emily GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Draft NR/BG for tomorrow - 'Paige' report response

Attached is a draft news release outlining MCFD's response to the RCY's 'Paige' report and the draft action plan that will serve as backgrounder.

There are six recommendations in the RCY's report:  
Rec 1 affects multiple ministries, but response is led by MCFD  
Rec 2 is for MCFD with HLTH, City of Vancouver  
Rec 3 is for Attorney General around duty to report (though MCFD has included stakeholder awareness as part of its actions)  
Rec 4 is for MCFD with EDUC (and FNEC)  
Rec 5 is for HLTH & FN health authorities  
Rec 6 is for MARR with support from MCFD and JAG  
**Shawn Larabee**  
*Government Communications and Public Engagement*



*Ministry of Children and Family Development*  
250 356-1639  
[Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca)

## Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Shaw, Rob (Vancouver Sun) <rshaw@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 4:31 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: 8:30am - MSC's office Tue am - Paige report response

Ok sounds good

### ROB SHAW

Legislative Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Room 360, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V1X4  
Office: 250-953-5932  
Cell: 250-893-0841  
Email: [rshaw@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:rshaw@vancouver.sun.com)  
Twitter: @robshaw\_vansun

**THE VANCOUVER SUN**  
[vancouver.sun.com](http://vancouver.sun.com)

**From:** <Johnston>, "Karen GCPE:EX" <[Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2015 at 4:30 PM  
**To:** Rob Shaw <[rshaw@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:rshaw@vancouver.sun.com)>  
**Subject:** 8:30am - MSC's office Tue am - Paige report response

See you there – will have Wendy Stueck and NW dialing in from Vancouver too – Let me know if this works Rob. - kj

## Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX

---

**From:** Shaw, Rob (Vancouver Sun) <rshaw@vancouver.sun.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 3:16 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Government actions on RCY's 'Paige' report

On federal election day?!  
Ridiculous.

### ROB SHAW

Legislative Reporter  
The Vancouver Sun  
Room 360, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V1X4  
Office: 250-953-5932  
Cell: 250-893-0841  
Email: [rshaw@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:rshaw@vancouver.sun.com)  
Twitter: @robshaw\_vansun

**THE VANCOUVER SUN**  
[vancouver.sun.com](http://vancouver.sun.com)

**From:** Government of British Columbia <[GCPE.News@gov.bc.ca](mailto:GCPE.News@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2015 at 3:00 PM  
**To:** Rob Shaw <[rshaw@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:rshaw@vancouver.sun.com)>  
**Subject:** Government actions on RCY's 'Paige' report

For Immediate Release  
2015CFD0042-001742  
Oct. 19, 2015

Ministry of Children and Family Development

### NEWS RELEASE

Government actions on RCY's 'Paige' report

VICTORIA - A new Rapid Response Team, a review of all MCFD-involved young people living on the Downtown Eastside and a service-provider awareness campaign are part of government's operational response to issues outlined in the Representative for Children and Youth's report, Paige's Story.

"The Paige report talks about systemic issues in the Downtown Eastside, which is why a fulsome response requires engagement from partners across the health, education, justice, Aboriginal and child and family-serving service sectors," said Children and Family Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux. "There is a collective responsibility that needs to be reinvigorated, and the first and most important step is to bring together decision-makers who can collaborate to create solutions that might not yet exist within our system. That's part of what we are doing with our rapid response team."

"We also recognize that real and meaningful change on a systemic scale will be an ongoing process. To be successful, we need to examine - from the ground up - the way this province supports our most vulnerable young people."

Government is responding with immediate and longer-term steps to address the recommendations made in the 'Paige' report. Steps completed to-date include:

- \* A Rapid Response Team to allow service providers to reach out and directly address the needs and safety of the highest-risk youth in the Downtown Eastside.
- \* A review of all children and youth in care or receiving ministry services who reside in or frequent the Downtown Eastside.
- \* An awareness campaign to reinforce the duty of service providers to report to MCFD whenever a child or youth may be at risk of harm.
- \* Interviews with ministry staff to get their perspectives about the needs of high-risk youth and how best to serve this population.
- \* A policy roadmap to help front-line practitioners better understand their roles and responsibilities under the Child, Family and Community Service Act and more effectively apply policies and standards when handling cases involving high-risk youth.
- \* A cross-jurisdictional review to explore services to young adults from care and inform service options in B.C. for high-risk youth transitioning to adulthood.
- \* A review of secure care models across Canada, with consideration to secure care as part of the cross-ministry work on Child and Youth Mental Health services in B.C.
- \* Revised policy to allow case reviews of fatalities of former youth in care up to 20 years of age who were in care until turning 19 years of age, and of any child or youth fatality that occurs while the young person is in the care of the director.

"I am buoyed to see that MCFD and government have begun to grapple with these important issues and that progress will be improved outcomes for these youth - far too many of whom are Aboriginal children who have endured incredible journeys of hardship and who deserve our full attention," said Representative for Children and Youth Mary Ellen Turpeil-Lafond. "Government has also released details of its plan today, which is a step toward improved transparency."

"Our response to this report is just a beginning," said Cadieux. "The issue of supporting at-risk youth on the Downtown Eastside is more than a question of policy, practice or even legislation; it is a question of societal values. How do we address issues like intergenerational poverty? How do we reach out and help those who may not be receptive to service? How can we, as a province, do more to prevent children and youth from succumbing to a life of hopelessness and addiction? These are some of the issues we are grappling with and I believe we have put ourselves on the right track to make changes for the better."

Read government's response:

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BG\\_Paige\\_Report.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BG_Paige_Report.pdf)

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