

- Ministry of Health staff met with 3 representatives from the Boys and Girls Clubs. Carrie Wagner-Miller, Pacific Regional Director Boys & Girls Clubs, Canada, Carolyn Tuckwell, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Coast BC and Diane Entwistle, Okanagan Boys & Girls Club.
- Boys & Girls Clubs provide a variety of services and programs to aprox. 50,000 children and youth in BC. There are 101 Boys & Girls Clubs in BC.
- Boys & Girls Clubs mission is to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life.
- Boy & Girls Clubs offer licensed and unlicensed child care programs from birth to school age. Community need drives the types of programs offered.
- Boys & Girls Clubs see challenges in meeting the needs of communities for children who “age” out of typical licensed child care settings (ie Out of School Care age is up to 12 years) and are at risk of potentially unsafe and unsupported environments in these formidable years where children are finding where they fit in and choosing early life experiences and directions.
- The *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* defines a child to be under the age of 13.
- Health Authority Community Care Licensing Programs are interpreting the need for Boys & Girls Clubs to be licensed and unlicensed differently across BC, allowing some programs to “fly under the radar” and provide care that should probably be licensed, however if the program were to be licensed it would limit the programs ability to meet the need of children in the in between ages of being a child and being a youth (ie 11, 12, 13, 14 years old).
- Boys & Girls Clubs supports the basis of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* to ensure the health and safety of those who are vulnerable, however would like to be able to provide more options for families and communities by offering drop in type programs with flexibility in regards to children’s age mixes where children are in the in between ages of being a child and being a youth.
- Boys & Girls clubs would like to find a solution to the barrier of the age of a child as defined in the Act and are supportive of a drop in concept being licensed or unlicensed.
- Boys & Girls Clubs representatives will be sending Ministry staff more information regarding their program accreditations, health and safety standards and policies in regards to children and youth programs.