



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Adam Olsen MLA  
Saanich North and the Islands


Dear Minister Simpson,

Access to community services is a challenge for many living in the Gulf Islands. The previous government chose to eliminate the availability of a worker from your ministry from Salt Spring Island. This ministry worker was available at Salt Spring Island Community Services one day a week and was provided by the Duncan office. Community members have informed our office that this worker was valued in the community and often saw long line ups for service when they came to the island. The absence of a ministry worker on Salt Spring means that people receiving services such as income assistance have to pay out-of-pocket for ferry and bus transportation to Victoria to see a worker.

This decision has made it especially challenging for single parents and people with disabilities to speak to someone in-person when needed, putting undue stress and pressure on people that face multiple barriers.

I am hoping that you might be able to reassess the decision to remove the ministry worker from the island.

HÍ SW KE,

  
Adam Olsen

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Adam Olsen MLA  
Saanich North and the Islands

Dear Minister Simpson,

A significant gap in our welfare system has come to the attention of our office. As you now, the welfare age in British Columbia is 19. However, the age in which the government ceases the Child Tax Credit is 18, which puts parents who are caring for their children in a difficult financial situation. In particular, this affects parents supporting their children who are struggling with addiction or mental health issues that are not covered by disability. Many children cannot live independently and need the family support, but do not receive any financial support until they turn 19.

We recognize that parenting does not end when a child turns 18. For parents whose children depend on them financially, this is a gap that puts them and their children under financial hardship.

I ask that you look at this gap in our system and consider how the government can bridge this gap so that families do not lose support with no option to apply for adult supports for a year.

HÍ SW KE,

Adam Olsen

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Adam Olsen MLA  
Saanich North and the Islands

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Minister Simpson,

I am writing to you today to express my concern about access to dental services for persons with disabilities. Currently people receiving disability assistance are entitled to up to \$1,000 over two calendar years for dental services, with additional funding for children in families on assistance.

Unfortunately this amount is not nearly enough for consistent dental services, and when combined with the affordability crisis our province is facing people on disability assistance are left being unable to afford the dental services needed for long-term oral health.

I am glad that the government has increased disability payments starting in 2018 by \$100. This is an important step towards lifting many families out of poverty. I hope that you will look into further supporting these families by finding a way to increase the accessibility of dental services for those who need it.

HÍ SW/KE

Adam Olsen

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands

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