



November 15, 2005

Dear Prospective Member,

**RE: INVITATION TO JOIN THE BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSOCIATION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & INTERVENTION  
(BCACDI)**

The BC Association of Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI), the only non-profit association which specifically advocates on behalf of children and youth with special needs and their families in this province, would like to invite you to become a member of the association. There is true strength in numbers as our association has proved in its effective advocacy initiatives on behalf of its member agencies with the provincial and federal governments. Some of the recent highlights of the initiatives and accomplishments of BCACDI include:

- Advocated for and received \$ 11 million in new funding for services for children and youth with special needs (CYSN) in 2004/05.
- Meeting with and presentation to Minister Dryden, federal Minister of Social Development re: additional funding for children and youth with special needs from new child care funding (\$633 million over 5 years) and existing federal funding sources.
- Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services outlining funding and programs requirements for CYSN for 2005/06.
- Meetings with and presentations to Ministers Hagen and Reid, MCFD, and Minister Thorpe re: services and funding for CYSN.
- Meetings with and presentations to Carole James, Head of the Official Opposition and Adrian Dix, MCFD critic re: services and funding for CYSN.
- Preparation of an election toolkit which was sent to every candidate in the provincial election in the Spring of 2005.
- Presentation on services for CYSN's to a committee of MLA's in Victoria.
- Meeting with and presentation by the Cross Ministerial Special Needs Integration Project Task Force at the BCACDI Provincial Meeting in Penticton.
- Presentation to the Health Employers Association (HEABC) advisory committee on preparation for collective bargaining for 2006.

BCACDI represents member agencies which provide diagnostic, intervention, behavioral and support services and programs for children and youth with special needs and their families. These agencies include child development centres, paediatric hospitals, community living agencies, and agencies providing services for clients with autism and other childhood developmental conditions. The benefits of belonging to BCACDI include:

- Ongoing advocacy for services for CYSN's with key federal and provincial officials and ministries.
- Regular communication and updates on services for CYSN's, government and political developments and BCACDI initiatives.
- Free access to three provincial BCACDI meetings per year including key speakers from government, professional bodies, advocacy organizations, academia and research institutions.

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## British Columbia Association of Child Development & Intervention

- Networking, planning and advocacy opportunities with other local and provincial member agencies.
- Membership in and representation on First Call and key committees such as the ECD Roundtable.
- Ability to access and advertise and post key position openings and events on the BCACDI website.
- Involvement in research initiatives with respect to CYSN's.
- Inclusion in membership and government surveys and publications on services and programs for CYSN's.
- Representation on key sector, government and labour relations committees.

It is vitally important to have all agencies and providers of services for children and youth with special needs working together to ensure that services and programs are adequately represented at the local, regional, provincial and federal levels. When we speak with one voice for children and youth with special needs and their families we are strong and we are heard at all levels of government. I invite you to join us in ensuring that services and programs for children and youth with special needs continue to be a priority for B.C.

**Please contact Bruce Sandy, Provincial Advisor at [bsandy@shaw.ca](mailto:bsandy@shaw.ca) or 604-461-8789 for information on how to join BCACDI.**

The Board of BCACDI and I look forward to having you as a member of the association in 2006. The next BCACDI provincial meeting and annual general meeting will be held in Vancouver on February 2, 3 and 4, 2006. We look forward to you and your Board members joining us there.

Sincerely,

*Glenda Prkachin*

Dr. Glenda Prkachin, PhD.  
President

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