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CHIEF CORONER

March 24, 2016

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Lisa Lapointe  
Chief Coroner, Office of the Chief Coroner  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Metrotower II  
800 – 4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Dear Lisa Lapointe:

**Re: Coroner's Inquest into the death of Angie Robinson:**

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 2016, in which you provided a copy of the Verdict at Inquest concerning the death of Angie Robinson which occurred in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, on April 3, 2014. The situation that led to the inquest was tragic and my condolences remain with the family.

Following careful consideration of the jury's recommendations the attached Action Plan has been developed. The Coroner's Inquest into the death of Angie's son Robert Robinson also resulted in recommendations directed to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and an Action Plan has been developed in response to those recommendations as well.

The attached Action Plan includes in part the relevant planned and completed actions taken as a result of the comprehensive case review that was completed by the Provincial Director of Child Welfare in the Fall of 2015. In addition:

- A stand-alone team for Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) is now operational in the North West service delivery area of MCFD.
- MCFD is planning to develop a practice audit process for CYSN service delivery as part of the expansion of the quality assurance program.
- One of the goals in the MCFD 2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan is to improve and strengthen services to Aboriginal children, youth and their families by increasingly reflecting an indigenous perspective in policies, practices and services.

I would like to thank the BC Coroners Service and the jury for their work on the inquest and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Cadieux  
Minister

Attachment

pc: Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare, MCFD

Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

Office of the  
Minister

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## ***Ministry of Children & Family Development Action Plan in Response to the Coroner's Inquest for Angie Robinson\****

*\*The Coroner's Inquest Jury directed 6 of 10 recommendations to MCFD*

Coroner's Inquest Jury Recommendations	Completed Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
Ensure transportation issues are addressed separately from autism and other special needs funding for families in rural and remote communities where travel is required to access services.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) program, financial and other policy relevant to transportation issues.</li> </ul>	Fiscal 2017/18
Ensure transportation costs and availability are part of respite planning for children and youth with special needs when respite services are outside of their home community.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive CYSN service and planning tool has been developed. This tool is currently being piloted and will be adjusted to reflect policy direction regarding travel.</li> </ul>	March 31, 2017
Ensure families with children and youth with special needs are aware of advocacy services such as the Representative for Children, and Youth and Inclusion BC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ministry has an Advocacy Protocol with the Representative for Children and Youth.</li> <li>Curriculum developed and addresses the role of advocacy, integrated case management planning, support to parents and caregivers in accessing information on training, programs and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers.</li> </ul>	Fiscal 2016/17
Ensure Child and Youth Special Needs Social Workers establish client lists to update caregivers with information and training on an ongoing basis.			
Ensure Child and Youth Special Needs Social Workers provide assistance to caregivers in accessing funding and completing necessary paperwork.			

Coroner's Inquest Jury Recommendations	Completed Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
<p>Ensure caregivers of special needs children, living with conditions such as mental health issues or domestic violence, are assessed to determine appropriate support needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November, 2015 Community Services Manager met with all CP, CYSN, Guardianship and Resource staff in Prince Rupert to review:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The importance of CYSN staff utilizing the Priority Service Tool with families; and,</li> <li>○ Engaging and supporting parents in high stress circumstances to navigate support services</li> <li>○ Engaging with Aboriginal communities to support safety and long term planning.</li> <li>○ The duty to report in the context of CYSN involvement</li> <li>○ The BC Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors;</li> <li>○ Clinical consultations with Directors of Practice and consultants in complex cases;</li> <li>○ Role of Advocacy (Representative For Children and Youth Advocacy Agreement &amp; Inclusion BC)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In November, 2015 the Prince Rupert Ministry staff and community partners participated in a one day Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) training provided by the Community Coordination for Women's Safety Program and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence in collaboration with the RCMP. ICAT is a structured approach and formalized training in risk assessment and information-sharing in domestic violence situations across community agencies and law enforcement.</li> <li>• As of December 2015, all staff in the Northwest Service Delivery Area, including Child Protection and Child and Youth with Special Needs staff, received the mandatory ministry on-line Domestic Violence training.</li> <li>• The goal for the Safe Relationships, Safe Children (SRSC) initiative is to create health care and child-service systems that promote child well-being through the identification of risk and responsiveness to the needs of children and families affected by parental mental health problems/challenges, problematic substance use and/or intimate partner violence. This initiative is underway in 22 communities with expansion planned in 2016/17.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Northwest Service Delivery Area Child Protection staff will attend mandatory Ministry in-person Domestic Violence training.</li> <li>• MCFD, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, to expand SRSC implementation, inclusive of Aboriginal Communities—explore possible expansion to Prince Rupert.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implementation of SRSC Training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Fiscal 2016/17</p> <p>Fiscal 2016/17</p>