



## To All Employees of the Community Living Society

August 31, 2006

## Working Together to Redress Wage Disparity

On Friday, August 18, 2006 a CLS delegation met with the Acting Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development. Todd Stewart, Board Chair, Tom Wong, Board Treasurer, Ken Sherlock and I had the opportunity to discuss our concerns about the length of time it is taking for the government to approve funding increases for non-union agencies so that we can increase your wages.

We were told that this issue is of priority for the government and with the unfortunate timing of summer recess and vacations has taken longer than expected to process. We were given assurances that the matter will be resolved very soon and so we are very hopeful that we will hear good news sometime in September.

We are continuing our pressure on the government and have written to the new Minister for Children and Family Development, Tom Christensen to ensure he is up to date on our concerns as he takes over his new responsibilities. We have also written again to the Minister of Finance, Carole Taylor. This information has all been updated on the CLS website [www.cls-bc.org](http://www.cls-bc.org).

In addition to our own efforts, CLS has joined together with a number of other non-union agencies and formed a new coalition called **Respect ALL Community Services**. The link to the website where the members of this coalition are collecting and sharing information is:

[www.spectrumsociety.org/RespectAll/default.aspx](http://www.spectrumsociety.org/RespectAll/default.aspx).

The coalition has sent a letter to Minister Christensen outlining our collective concerns. As well, we have written to Vaughn Palmer, political reporter for the Vancouver Sun, asking him to assist us by writing an article highlighting the

issues. Please watch the newspapers for any articles that support our cause and give the opportunity for dialogue through letters.

The Coalition's next step is to work on scheduling a meeting with Minister Taylor who, as well as being Finance Minister, is Chair of the Treasury Board and Chair of the Public Sector Employer's Council. We will keep you posted as to the outcome of these efforts and any others the Coalition engages in.

BCACL and Family Link have both offered to write to government on our behalf.

I'll continue to send these updates and both the websites included here will be regularly updated for your information as well. As you can see, we are not alone and this issue is important to many employees as well as your Board and management. We will keep up these efforts on your behalf until we are successful.

Thank you again for your patience and trust in this process. We will succeed! If you have any thoughts, questions, or suggestions please call me.

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