



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

A provincial network of service, support, and advocacy organizations, family groups, & other community living stakeholders

BACKGROUNDER

For Immediate Release

August 31, 2011

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY LIVING SECTOR FUNDING IN BC

COMMUNITY LIVING BRITISH COLUMBIA (CLBC)

Following a \$77.5 million (12%) budget cut to adult community living services in 2003 (MCFD 2003/04-2005/06 *Service Plan*), the BC government established BC's *Community Living Authority Act* and its Crown agency, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC). The *Act*, introduced in the Legislature by the Minister for Children and Family Development Christy Clark, promised "better options and more opportunities" for adults with developmental disabilities, and a "safer, healthier and better quality of life." (*Hansard, May 19, 2004*).

ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY LIVING SECTOR FUNDING VS. DEMAND FOR SERVICES

Minister of Social Development Harry Bloy has stated emphatically that BC's community living "budget has not been cut"; rather, he claims, "we have increased our budget every year." (*Hansard, April 27, 2011*). An analysis of the percentage difference between the budget for Adult Community Living Services in 2002 and the provincial government transfer to CLBC in 2012, accounting for inflation, shows a zero percentage increase in funding over the past decade.

| Budget Year | Voted Appropriation | Estimates (\$000) | Consumer Price Index – Annual (2002 = 100) |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 2002/03 | Adult Community Living Services | 576,938 | 100 |
| 2005/06 | Adult Community Living Services | 524,664 | 106.3 |
| 2008/09 | Adult Community Living Services | 617,786 | 112.3 |
| 2012/13 | Community Living British Columbia | 680,997* | 118.4** |
| % change in Estimates (2002 to 2012): | | | 18% |
| Inflation (2002 to 2012): | | | 18% |

*2012/13 *Service Plan*

**Based on Budget 2011 forecasts for 2011, 2012.

Sources: British Columbia, *Estimates* (2002, 2005, 2008, 2011); BCStats; Ministry of Social Development, *Service Plan* (2011).

The operating budget for CLBC has remained static for all services (excluding the Personalized Supports Initiative). Over roughly the same time period, however, there has been a significant actual and projected increase in demand for adult community living services and supports; these increases are attributed, in large part, to youth to adult transition and funding transferred from the Ministry of Children and Family Services to Community Living BC.

| | 2003/04 Actual | 2012/13 Projection |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| Individuals eligible for CLBC services at year end | 9,277 | 14,781 |
| % increase (2003/04 to 2012/13): | | 59% |

Sources: CLBC, *Service Plan* (2010 and 2011).



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

A provincial network of service, support, and advocacy organizations, family groups, & other community living stakeholders

Further, government transfers to CLBC are currently frozen and are not expected to keep pace with either caseload increases (15%) or inflation (6%) over the next few years.

| Budget Year | Government Transfers* | Annual increase in individuals eligible for CLBC services (projected) | Consumer Price Index (forecast) |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | % increase | | |
| 2011/12 | 0 | 5.1% | 2.0 |
| 2012/13 | 0 | 4.8% | 2.0 |
| 2013/14 | 0 | 4.5% | 2.1 |

*Based on 2011/12 Budget, 2012/13 Plan, 2013/14 Plan.

Sources: CLBC, *Service Plan* (2011); Ministry of Finance, *Budget and Fiscal Plan* (2011).

Based on CLBC data and projections of community living service and support requirements, new investments of at least \$70 million are immediately required to address the shortfall from 2010/2011 and the estimated shortfall for the current fiscal year. An additional \$34 million is required in fiscal year 2012/13 followed by \$33.6 million in 2013/14.

| Budget Year | Annual % increase in individuals eligible for CLBC services (actual and projected) | Annual increase in number of individuals eligible for CLBC services (actual and projected) | Total funds required to address CLBC waitlists** |
|--|--|--|--|
| 2010/11 | 5.5% | 701 | \$35.3 M |
| 2011/12 | 5.1% | 688 | \$34.6 M |
| 2012/13 | 4.8% | 677 | \$34 M |
| 2013/14 | 4.5% | 668 | \$33.6 M |
| % change in Estimates (2010 to 2014): | | | \$137.5 Million |

**Based on average per person cost of \$50,300/year

Sources: CLBC, *Service Plan* (Feb, 2011); CLBC, *Annual Report* (June, 2010) Ministry of Social Development, *Service Plan* (2011). Figures do not include additional funds to address rising operating costs experienced by service agencies.

These figures are very conservative. Additional funding is necessary to address unfunded and rising operating costs at community agencies, across the province, that support people with developmental disabilities. Further, CLBC's "service redesign" initiative, which purports to reallocate \$20 million annually in cost recoveries to address new service requirements, has effectively stripped vital services and supports from current service recipients and represents only half of the yearly funding required.