

Sent: Mon 3/23/2015 9:46 AM
From: Minister, SDSI SDSI:EX <SD.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
To: Adrienne FirstCallBC <adrienne@firstcallbc.org>
Cc: McRae.MLA, Don LASS:EX <Don.McRae.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: 185589 Montani - SDSI Response

Ref: 185589

Adrienne Montani
Provincial Coordinator
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
Adrienne@firstcallbc.org

Dear Ms. Montani:

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 2015, regarding the exemption of family maintenance payments from the calculation of BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program clients' income. I am pleased to respond on behalf of my predecessor, Don McRae.

Work is now underway to determine the administrative, regulation and information technology changes required to implement government's direction and, more importantly, to ensure both clients and staff are well supported through this change. Further information will be made available as this work progresses.

As you know, the exemption for child support payments from income and disability assistance calculations takes effect on September 1, 2015. For the time being, program operations of the Family Maintenance Program of the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation will continue. At the same time, our government will ensure that resources continue to be made available to parents on income assistance to assist them in pursuing support orders from non-custodial parents.

I commend First Call for its work and dedication to speaking out on behalf of the vulnerable children and families of British Columbia.

Thank you again for writing, and I look forward to continued dialogue with First Call.

Sincerely,

Michelle Stilwell
Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation

pc: Don McRae, MLA, Comox Valley