



Ref: 229495

January 19, 2026

Adrienne Montani
Executive Director
First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society
adrienne@firstcallbc.org

Dear Adrienne Montani:

Thank you for your email of November 25, 2025, addressed to the Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Families, and me regarding your report on child poverty in the province.

I appreciate your continued dedication to eradicating poverty in BC, especially the valuable ongoing advice you provide as a part of my Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee. The findings you've shared underscore the ongoing challenges faced by particularly lone-parent households and communities with persistently high poverty rates across the province. I am encouraged by the significant impact government transfers such as the BC Family Benefit and the Canada Child Benefit, have had in reducing child poverty, while recognizing there is still much work to do.

Because this is so important, the 2024 Poverty Reduction Strategy focuses on reducing child and family poverty through actions such as improving access to affordable childcare, and increasing housing supports for low-income families. We are also working to make it easier for people to access all the benefits they are entitled to, including targeted outreach and digital tools, and continuing to collaborate with Indigenous partners to co-develop culturally appropriate solutions.

These measures, combined with advocacy for stronger federal programs like the Canada Child Benefit and Canada Disability Benefit, reflect our commitment to tackling the deep poverty experienced by lone-parent households and other groups most impacted by poverty, as highlighted in your report.

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We continue to advocate to the federal government to improve the Canada Disability Benefit so that it can truly achieve its intended poverty reduction goals. This includes urging them to increase the benefit amount and ensure that as many eligible people as possible receive the support through more streamlined application processes.

We will continue to report annually on how these measures are helping to reduce poverty in BC through our progress reports.

Thank you for your invitation to meet; I have asked my office to schedule.

With thanks for your ongoing advocacy and partnership,



Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Cc: Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance
Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Families