



News Release

For Immediate Release
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REPRESENTATIVE TAKES CAUTIOUS APPROACH WITH REPORT ON YOUTH

VICTORIA – In a departure from usual practice, the Representative for Children and Youth has decided not to publicly release the detailed results of her investigation into critical injuries experienced by one youth receiving services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development out of concern for that youth’s well-being.

Instead, in releasing *Approach With Caution: Why the Story of One Vulnerable B.C. Youth Can’t be Told*, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond has provided the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and the public with a basic description of the investigation undertaken and the circumstances behind this decision.

“This report requires a uniquely cautious approach,” Turpel-Lafond said. “To publish a detailed report on what this particular young person has been through could increase the risk to this highly vulnerable youth. Therefore, the story cannot be told in full.”

Section 16(3) of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, calls for the Representative to report out on her investigations. This truncated report, which satisfies requirements of the *Act* while protecting the privacy of the subject, is available at <http://www.rcybc.ca/approachwithcaution>. A copy of the full, detailed investigative report has been provided on a confidential basis to senior MCFD officials so that organizational learning is possible.

“I have noted some things on which the ministry could improve upon but I also acknowledge the efforts of MCFD staff – my Office has had positive dealings with them as is evident in the manner in which this report is being handled. This report is not about casting blame. It is about what’s best for one youth in a cohort of those identified a year ago in the Paige report.”

The Representative requests that media and the public refrain from attempting to identify the youth who is the subject of this report out of deep concern for that youth’s well-being.

Interviews can be arranged with the Representative by calling or emailing the contact below.

Media Contact:

Jeff Rud
Communications Director
Jeff.Rud@rcybc.ca Cell: 250-216-4725