



Statement

June 9, 2016

Representative's statement in support of Premier's op-ed

I am extremely proud of the Premier for acknowledging in public her own experiences in today's *Vancouver Sun* op-ed. This is difficult and personal and she has found her voice now to speak out. It tells me that, even for somebody in high office, there is a pressure to keep quiet, forget or frankly pretend that all is fine when it is not.

The Premier wrote that she forgot about this and managed to recover and move forward with the supports in her life. In my own experience with the children and youth I work with, they need a strong, effective system of support and that means effective policing, child protection and immediate and longer-term support to address recovery and resilience. Hiding it is never the answer because it comes back to haunt you later in life when you realize you could have helped so many others or stopped others from being victims.

During the past 10 years, I have worked with vulnerable children and families dealing with sexual violence and witnessed their struggles to obtain help from our child welfare system. I hope the Premier will join me in addressing long overdue improvements required to that system.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
Representative for Children and Youth