

**BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2015**

The British Columbia Association of Social Workers urges Action on Findings in *Growing Up in B.C.-2015*

Growing Up in B.C.-2015, a five-year follow-up to the *GUIBC -2010* report, is a well-researched document that examines health and well-being outcomes for children and youth. The Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall produced a document that is clear and compelling in its findings and supports necessary policy and practice changes.

The findings that one-third of children are not ready to enter school; 60% of children in care are not graduating; and Aboriginal children continue to be over represented in the child welfare system, call out for government commitment to change.

The BCASW recommends that the B.C. Government:

- 1) create an inter-ministerial approach to the creation of social policies to meet the gaps identified in the *GUIBC* report. The establishment of a B.C. Social Policy Framework is a first step;
- 2) establish a Provincial Poverty Reduction Plan;
- 3) engage with Aboriginal leaders and communities to address the over representation of Aboriginal children in foster care.

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