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BC ASSOCIATION *of*  
SOCIAL WORKERS

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#### BC SOCIAL WORKERS WELCOME REPORT CALLING FOR SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES FOR YOUTH

The BC Association of Social Workers welcomes today's report by BC Representative for Children and Youth Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth and her recommendations calling for more accessible services.

"The Representative's report includes the voices and experiences of youth who are calling for more services" said BCASW President Michael Crawford. "Dr. Charlesworth's findings also reflect the experiences of social workers across BC who work with vulnerable youth through social and health agencies."

The report provides a unique look into the world of youth substance use in BC through data collected in focus groups and through surveys. The Office of the BC Representative for Children and Youth also reviewed 154 substance-related critical injuries and deaths reported to their office during 2017.

"This is a comprehensive report with solid recommendations" said Crawford. "Youth will be well-served if the Ministers of Health, Mental Health and Addictions, and Children and Family Development take the Representative's recommendations seriously."

The BCASW particularly supports the recommendations aimed at creating youth-specific harm reduction services and those calling for the development of culturally relevant and safe services and supports for First Nations, Indigenous, Métis and Inuit youth, their families and communities.