



BC ASSOCIATION *of*
SOCIAL WORKERS

BC Association of Social Workers
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SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS CALL FOR MORE YOUTH SERVICES

(Vancouver) BC's social work association supports the call for more services for youth who engage in non-suicidal self-injuries, many of whom are in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

"The BC Representative for Children and Youth's report presents a clear and evidence-based call for more supports for youth who self-injure" said BC Association of Social Workers President Michael Crawford. "The resources available to these youth are poorly coordinated, underfunded, and inadequate."

The report reviewed the files of 78 youth between the ages of 13 and 18. Almost half of the youth were First Nations yet First Nations people make up only 8% of BC's population. The youngest youth was 10 years of age and one youth presented to hospital emergency rooms 67 times within two years.

"Representative Jennifer Charlesworth has identified significant gaps in service for youth who self-injure and her recommendations need to be seriously considered by the provincial government, particularly the Ministry of Children and Family Development" said Crawford. "These are complex situations and these youth have a range of social, psychological, and physical health problems that require the coordinated involvement of various professions and a trauma-informed practice."

The Representative's report calls for intensive and sustained interventions with youth who self-injure including increasing the number of community-based mental health programs, hiring more practitioners, and developing culturally relevant treatment approaches.

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A Way to Cope – Exploring non-suicidal self-injuries in B.C. youth
<https://rcybc.ca/reports-and-publications/>