



BC ASSOCIATION *of*  
SOCIAL WORKERS

BC Association of Social Workers  
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## BC SOCIAL WORKERS SUPPORT CALL FOR MORE HELP FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF CARE

(Vancouver) BC's social work association is supporting the call for government to provide increased resources to youth aging out of foster care and to extend provision of those resources well into young adulthood.

"The BC government provides some resources to young people leaving foster care at age 19, however the resources are too few, access to them is inequitable, and they end in many cases well before the youth is able to be more self-reliant" said Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers. "Common sense and reflection back on our own transition from youth to adulthood supports the idea that these youth need more support and for much longer."

The Representative for Children and Youth in BC, Jennifer Charlesworth released "A Parent's Duty: Government's Obligation to Youth Transitioning into Adulthood" Tuesday, calling for the government to provide support to transitioning youth "that look much more like the diverse, long-lasting and highly individual supports that a parent provides as their own children grow into adulthood."

"The Representative's call for additional resources will be welcomed by social workers across the province who struggle daily to provide care to transitioning youth" said Crawford. "More dedicated transition workers are needed as well as affordable housing, mental health and addictions counselling; services that can stay with the youth well into their late-twenties."

The report is dedicated to the late Katherine McParland, a Kamloops-based social worker who aged out of care into homelessness and who dedicated her life to ending homelessness for youth.

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The BC Association of Social Workers is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice.