

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Legal Research Project



December 20, 2007

in partnership with



University
of Victoria

To: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG); Health, Education and Social Service Providers; Government of British Columbia Officials; Members of Parliament and Supporters of GRG

RE: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Legal Research Project

I am pleased to introduce the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Legal Research Project*, and wish to formally express appreciation to the Law Foundation of British Columbia for the funding provided to this worthy cause. Co-chairing this initiative are the Parent Support Services Society of BC and University of Victoria, School of Social Work. A Legal Advisory Team, comprised of honorary grandparents, lawyers, educators and social workers, guides our project. I write to request your participation in the important research and information to be gathered in the months to come.

Stats Canada's 2006 Census confirms that 65,000 children are being raised by their grandparent(s), without the parent residing in the home. In British Columbia, this amounts to 9,940 grandchildren. Nearly 50% of these family situations involve one grandparent solely raising their grandchild(ren). These figures only reflect formally reported GRG. In addition to the physical, emotional, financial and lifestyle demands GRG face, there are equally overwhelming **legal** complexities.

Our research will explore provincial laws and policies, as well as legal issues many GRG have identified already relating to: guardianship, daycare, respite, education, medical and special needs of grandchildren. We will create a legal resource booklet for grandparents, government officials, legal advocates, family service agencies, emergency personnel, health and education professionals to broaden awareness around the legal issues GRG face and outline assistance available to date.

Your experience and insights will significantly contribute to this project's success. In February and March, we will host several discussion forums. Invitations and details on dates and locations will be sent out in January and posted at our website: <http://www.parentsupportbc.ca/grandparents.html>. This is just one example of how you can participate; there are many other ways for learning and information exchanges relating to this project. I welcome you to contact me toll-free or via e-mail (as listed in the right-hand margin), or through open discussion in your local GRG Support Circles offered through Parent Support Services.

On behalf of all GRG Legal Research Project members and myself, we send our very best wishes to you and your families.

Kindest regards

Alvina Snell

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