

BC INSTITUTIONAL LEGACY TRUST FUND UPDATE – June 30, 2006

BACKGROUND

The BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund (LTF) was created by the provincial government through a Trust Agreement with the Victoria Foundation to benefit people who lived at Woodlands, Glendale, Tranquille and Endicott Centre. It is not intended to be compensation, but as a goodwill gesture in recognition of the difficulties experienced by many residents of the institutions.

As Co-chairs of the BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund Advisory Committee, we are pleased to present this update on the work of our committee and current plans for distributing the Legacy Trust Fund.

UPDATE

In our May update, we announced that the Victoria Foundation and the provincial government had agreed with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to distribute the Legacy Trust Fund equally among all surviving former residents of the 4 institutions. This will enable former residents to use the funds in ways that they choose to meet their own needs.

One of our primary concerns has been making sure that the lists of former residents are as complete as possible and that there is a process to make sure that any former resident who is left off of the list will still have the opportunity to receive funds from the Legacy Trust Fund.

During May and June, people from the Ministry have been completing the process of identifying and verifying the names and addresses of former residents. The Victoria Foundation has begun to enter the names of former residents into a data-base (a computer program) so that letters and checks can be sent out as soon as possible after the lists are finalized. Based on information currently available, it is estimated that there may be as many as 4,000 surviving former residents of the 4 institutions. The final number may be lower, but it is unlikely to be higher. We are not yet able to say for certain how much money each former resident will receive from the Legacy Trust Fund, but we think it will be in the range of \$400 to \$500.

During the month of July, we will work with the Ministry and the Victoria Foundation to:

1. Confirm the number of surviving former residents identified by the Ministry.
2. Make an estimate of the number of former residents who may be missing from the list.
3. Based on these numbers, determine the amount each former resident will receive from the Fund.
4. Begin distributing checks to former residents.

A letter will be included with the check, telling people about the Legacy Trust Fund and emphasizing that the funds are to be used according to the wishes of the former resident.

We are also seeking written assurance that Legacy Trust Fund payments will not affect former residents' Disability Benefits, and we hope to include information about this with the checks.

As we have noted, we expect that some former residents may be missing from the initial list of former residents. As these people are identified and their names verified as former residents, checks will be issued to them by the Victoria Foundation.

Anyone wishing to ensure that an eligible person they know is on the list can forward an email to the following email address: anita.nevistic@gov.bc.ca with the following information about the former resident:

- ? name
- ? date of birth
- ? current address and phone number and,
- ? (if known) the name of the institution where the person resided and when they lived there

The Advisory Committee will distribute another Legacy Trust Fund update during the month of July to announce the check distributions and outline the process for people who may be missed in the initial distribution of checks.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, we wish to thank everyone who has worked to ensure that the Legacy Trust Fund is used in a way that respects the rights and self-determination of the former residents.

*Sharron Billey and Len Zimmer, Co-Chairs
Trust Advisory Committee
BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund*