

BC INSTITUTIONAL LEGACY TRUST FUND UPDATE – July 31, 2006

BACKGROUND

In our June update, we announced that MCFD was completing the process of identifying and verifying the names and addresses of former residents Woodlands, Glendale, Tranquille and Endicott Centre in preparation for the distribution of Legacy Trust Fund cheques. This process has now been completed for the purpose of the initial mail-out to the former residents.

UPDATE

LTF Cheque Distribution Has Begun!

As representatives of the Advisory Committee for the BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund (LTF), we are pleased to join the Victoria Foundation in announcing the distribution of the Fund to former residents of Woodlands, Glendale, Tranquille and Endicott Centre.

Cheques will be distributed beginning today, July 31, 2006. It is expected that the mail-out will continue for the next several weeks. Former residents should receive their LTF cheques by the end of August 2006. All eligible recipients will receive a \$510 one-time payment from the LTF fund.

Purpose and Use of the LTF Funds

The LTF Advisory Committee is made up of former residents of the four institutions and family members of former residents. The committee feels strongly that the option of distributing these funds equally among all surviving former residents provides the greatest benefit to the greatest number of former residents in the most timely and respectful process possible. We feel that this approach acknowledges the dignity of former residents and empowers them by giving choice and flexibility in how they use these funds. This approach is also consistent with the original intent of the Fund and with the wishes expressed by the vast majority of former residents, family members and others who participated in consultations about the Legacy Trust Fund over the past three years.

The Legacy Trust Fund is intended as a goodwill gesture in recognition that life was difficult in the institutions. The intent is to enable people to do some things that they might not otherwise be able to afford to do. These funds are for the enjoyment of former residents and the Advisory Committee encourages everyone to try to ensure that former residents are supported to use this money for their own identified purposes.

LTF Funds Exempt from Affecting Benefits Payments

The Advisory Committee and other interested parties have worked to ensure that these funds will not affect the benefits of individuals who may receive income assistance. Along with their LTF cheques, former residents will receive a letter from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA), confirming that receiving a Legacy Trust Fund payment will not affect the benefits of individuals who receive income assistance.

The MEIA letter is attached to this update for your information.

If you know of an LTF cheque recipient who experiences any problems related to their benefits, please contact Lori Seay at BCACL 604-875-1119 (collect calls accepted).

Former Residents Who Do Not Receive a Cheque by August 31, 2006

It is possible that some former residents may be missing from the initial mailout of cheques. Some funds have been held back for any former resident who may come forward or is identified as not having received their cheque. As these people are identified and their names verified as former residents, grant cheques will be mailed to them by the Victoria Foundation up to the end of December 2006.

If you know of someone who is a former resident of one of the four institutions who has NOT received a cheque from the Legacy Trust Fund by August 31, 2006, we ask that after the August 31st date you either send an email to anita.nevistic@gov.bc.ca or call toll-free to 1-888-387-3354 with the following information about the former resident:

- Full legal name
- Actual date of birth
- Current mailing address including postal code
- Current telephone number and,
- Where known, the name of the institution – Glendale, Woodlands, Tranquille or Endicott Centre where the person resided including the dates they lived there

PLEASE NOTE:

- **The toll-free line will ONLY be operational after August 31st, 2006.**
- **Please wait until after this date to identify former residents who have not received LTF cheques.**
- **When you call the toll free number, you will hear a recording asking you to leave a message with information about the former resident who has not received a cheque.**

We appreciate any assistance in ensuring that all former residents receive their grant cheque.

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, self-determination and choices of the former residents.

The Advisory Committee will distribute another Legacy Trust Fund update by early September.

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