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January 31, 2014

The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux
Ministry of Children and Family Development
PO Box 9057 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Cadieux,

The BC Schizophrenia Society is currently in the process of reviewing recommendations relating to mental illness made by the BC Coroners Service. As an organization dedicated to supporting families coping with mental illness and its devastating effects, the BC Schizophrenia Society has a keen interest in recommendations that can improve responses to mental illness within the health and justice systems.

I am writing to inquire how the Ministry of Children and Family Development has responded to the recommendation noted below:

Inquest held at Western Communities Courthouse in Colwood, BC December 12th to 16th, 2011 into the death of Hayden Blair Kozeletski (File No. 2010:1007:0110)

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/schedule/archive/2011/docs/jury-findings-kozeletski-dec-16-2011.pdf>

Recommendation:

That an inter-ministerial liaison be appointed to assist families in navigating the mental health system in British Columbia.

Coroner's Comments: The jury heard evidence that when Hayden began to demonstrate emotional distress in conjunction with her sexual abuse disclosure, several agencies became involved with the family which caused confusion for the family. The agencies had mandates which were in some ways similar but dissimilar and it became unclear for the family as to who was there to help Hayden and how.

I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to receiving a response by February 28, 2014.

Sincerely,

Dave Halikowski
BC Schizophrenia Society Chair