



# Bringing Out the Best for Women



## Building Safer Communities for Women and Children

*We're working to make our communities safer by supporting transition houses, victims' services, counselling and crisis lines that protect women and children. The province has:*

- ▶ Increased annual funding to Transition Houses and other programs providing direct services to women and children escaping violence by \$12.5 million annually, an increase of over 33 per cent. This is the largest funding increase in over ten years.
- ▶ The Province provides \$45.5 million annually to 61 transition houses, 17 safe home programs, as well as second-stage housing and counselling services for women and children, providing over one million hours of services every year.
- ▶ Provided \$100,000 to support Violence is Preventable (VIP) project linking elementary and high school students with counsellors and programs to ensure young people impacted by domestic violence receive the support services they require.
- ▶ Continued counselling programs like Stopping the Violence, through which 5,000 women received counselling, and Children Who Witness Abuse, which provided counselling to over 1500 children and more than 700 caregivers.
- ▶ Introduced a new provincewide crisis line to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ▶ Funded 32 new victims' services programs and protected funding for current services.
- ▶ Provided an endowment for a new Domestic Violence Relief Fund with the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC to provide loans to women leaving transition houses to purchase shares in co-op housing.
- ▶ Increased health and safety for women in the Downtown Eastside, with a focus on prevention, safety and long-term supports, and funded housing and support for women in crisis.
- ▶ Created a Women's Service Directory, a comprehensive listing of provincial services for women.

## Expanded Health Services for Women

*B.C. is focusing resources to meet women's health needs. Improved access to services ranging from mammograms to midwifery will improve the health of B.C. women. The province has:*

- ▶ Maintained funding to provide 230,000 mammograms in 2003.
- ▶ Supported funding for student spaces and start-up costs at UBC's four-year midwifery program, and sponsored a bursary program for student midwives that encourages skilled health professionals to work in underserved communities.
- ▶ Introduced Fair PharmaCare to help families with low incomes, including women and seniors, pay for prescription drugs. Up to 280,000 B.C. families will pay less than they did in the past.
- ▶ Assisted women and their newborns to stabilize and withdraw from substances, by supporting a tertiary maternity care centre at B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre.

## Expanding Child Care Support



*The government will provide \$48 million annually for operating funds for child care providers, creating 25,000 more child care spaces eligible for funding.*

# Bringing Out the Best for Women

## Increased Child Care Resources

*We're committed to giving children the best start in life by ensuring women and families have more options for safe, affordable and accessible child care services. B.C. has:*

- ▶ Introduced a \$48-million child care operating funding program that is available to 4,500 licensed providers.
- ▶ About 1,400 centres and family-based providers will be eligible for funding for the first time. The program expands the number of child-care spaces eligible for funding to 70,000 from 45,000.
- ▶ Ensured that child care subsidy funding is targeted to parents who need it most, to help them participate in the workforce or obtain training or education.
- ▶ Committed, with the federal government, more than \$70 million in funding increases over the next three years for programs under the Early Learning and Child Care agreement.

## Maximizing self-sufficiency



*By increasing support for job training and placement, B.C. is helping women to move out of poverty and greatly improve their earning power.*

## Maximizing Self-Sufficiency

*We're dedicating resources for post-secondary education, business loans and health supports that help women lead independent, successful lives. The province has:*

- ▶ Budgeted more than \$110 million a year for job training and placement programs to help people become self-reliant. Surveys show women who've left income assistance are typically earning 2.5 times what they received on assistance.
  - ▶ These programs include the Bridging Employability Program that provides women who have experienced abuse with pre-employment counselling and life-skills support, to help them achieve employment and independence.
- ▶ Doubled the First Citizens Fund to \$72 million. Thirty-five per cent of businesses receiving the loans are owned by women, and 75 per cent of those accessing the fund's student bursaries for post-secondary education are women.
- ▶ Provided funding to support more substance abuse counsellors in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and assist young aboriginal women with issues like safety, trauma, abuse, anger and access to health services.
- ▶ Supported measures that enhance aboriginal post-secondary programs, aboriginal language preservation, early childhood development and child care services.

# Bringing Out the Best for Women

## Violence Against Women

### Women's Services Directory

[www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens\\_services/directory/](http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens_services/directory/)

### Stopping the Violence

Victoria: 250 356-9340

[www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens\\_services/stopping-violence/](http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens_services/stopping-violence/)

### Transition Houses

**in an emergency, call 911 and ask for the police**

The inside front cover of the Telus phone directory lists transition houses in your community. To find the victim services nearest you, call:

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 563-0808

(24 hours a day, seven days a week)

[www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens\\_services/transition-houses/](http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/womens_services/transition-houses/)

### B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs

Vancouver: 604 633-2506

[www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org)

### B.C. Institute Against Family Violence

Community Resources

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 563-0808

(24 hours a day, seven days a week)

[www.bcifv.org/resources/commres.html](http://www.bcifv.org/resources/commres.html)

## Family Services

### Adoption

Toll-free: 1 877 ADOPT-07 (1 877 236-7807)

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/)

### BC Housing

Program and information line: 1 800 257-7756

[www.bchousing.org/applicants/](http://www.bchousing.org/applicants/)

### BC Employment and Assistance

[www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/publicat/ft/bcea.htm](http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/publicat/ft/bcea.htm)

### Family Maintenance Program

[www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/publicat/bcea/fmp.htm](http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/publicat/bcea/fmp.htm)

### Family Justice Services Information Line

Vancouver: 604 660-2192

Toll-free provincewide: 1 888 216-2211

### Child Care Resource and Referral Program

[www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/childcare/childcar/cc\\_resourc.htm](http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/childcare/childcar/cc_resourc.htm)

### Child Care Subsidy Program

[www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/publicat/cc/ccsubsidy.htm](http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/publicat/cc/ccsubsidy.htm)

### Child Care Operating Funding Program

Toll-free provincewide: 1 888 338-6622

Victoria: 250 356-6501

[www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/childcare/childcar/grant\\_op\\_fund.htm](http://www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/childcare/childcar/grant_op_fund.htm)

### At Home Program

(to assist parents with the costs of caring for a child with severe disabilities at home)

Toll-free provincewide: 1 888 613-3232

Victoria: 250 387-9649

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at\\_home/](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/)

### Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

[www.gov.bc.ca/mcaaws](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcaaws)

### Ministry of Children and Family Development

[www.gov.bc.ca/mcf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf)

### Ministry of Human Resources

[www.gov.bc.ca/mhr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mhr)

## We want your input

Women contribute to every aspect of our quality of life – owning and operating 37 per cent of our small businesses and holding key roles in our province's academic, business and public life.

Our government is working hard to support all women in the pursuit of new opportunities.

I welcome your input and invite you to contact me for more information on our initiatives to strengthen services and programs for women.

Gordon Campbell  
Premier

E-mail your comments to: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)