



July 2002

West Kootenay Women's Association  
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Fax: 250-352-7100

Dear Stakeholder:

In conjunction with the public release of the government's three-year service plan, I am writing to tell you about changes to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services and how they affect the ministry's programs and services for women.

Detailed financial information will be available when the Minister of Finance presents the budget on February 19, 2002. However, the service plan summary outlines the ministry's priorities for women's services, and sets the context for our decisions.

As we developed our three-year strategic plan, we struggled to ensure that critical and immediate women's services would be maintained as fully as possible, despite the financial pressures facing government.

Stopping the Violence programs, including transition houses and counseling for women experiencing abuse and children who witness abuse, will continue.

Plans to launch a Centre for Workplace Excellence have been cancelled. In 2003/04, the Bridging Employability program will end. The following fiscal year, the ministry will discontinue funding to women's centres. By deferring this reduction to 2004/05, we are providing centres time to develop alternate plans for funding and service delivery.

During this period, we will work to enhance key program areas for women who are experiencing violence and abuse. We will be reviewing and making recommendations on the province's inventory of transition houses and emergency shelters. We are developing a safer communities strategy for women in provincial emergency shelters and transition houses.

The direction the ministry is taking reflects government's priority to invest in direct, essential services when faced with limited resources.

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

**Minister of State for  
Women's Equality**

Mailing Address:  
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Victoria BC V8V 1X4

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Cabinet approved the mandate, mission and core functions of the ministry on December 5, 2001. The ministry's core functions are to:

enable effective local government, aboriginal and women's services;  
ensure safety and standards;  
enhance citizen access to government;  
support services for communities and First Nations; and  
provide corporate services for the ministry.

To deliver these functions, the ministry will move from:

provincial control to local autonomy;  
direct delivery of programs and services by provincial government employees  
to delivery by communities and third parties;  
unfocused funding to performance-based funding; and  
provincial regulation to self-regulation and compliance monitoring.

A service plan summary showing the ministry's programs and services for the next three fiscal years can be found at [www.gov.bc.ca/mcaaws/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcaaws/) online.

The work you have done with such commitment is important in providing for the safety and security of women and children. We are willing, and understand the importance of, working together in continuing these commitments. We will be working with community organizations to deliver services in the most cost effective way possible. We will assist you in finding new ways of delivering services to the women of British Columbia.

Sincerely,



Honourable Lynn Stephens  
Minister of State for Women's Equality

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