

Who do we help?

The Representative supports children and youth receiving designated services or programs provided or funded by government, including services under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, early childhood development or child care, addiction services for children, mental health services for children, services under the *Adoption Act*, services under the *Youth Justice Act*, and services under the *Community Living Authority Act*. It also includes additional services or programs prescribed by regulation under the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, including:

- a) children and youth in care
- b) young people under a youth agreement
- c) young people in custody
- d) children and youth with special needs
- e) young people transitioning to adulthood



Where are our offices and how can you contact us?

Toll-Free: 1-800-476-3933

E-mail: rcy@rcybc.ca

Website: www.rcybc.ca

Head Office – Victoria

Suite 201, 546 Yates Street

Victoria, BC V8W 1K8

Fax: 250-356-0837

Northern Office – Prince George

1475 10th Avenue

Prince George, BC V2L 2L2

Fax: 250-561-4624

Lower Mainland Office

M12 - 4277 Kingsway

Burnaby, BC V5H 3Z2

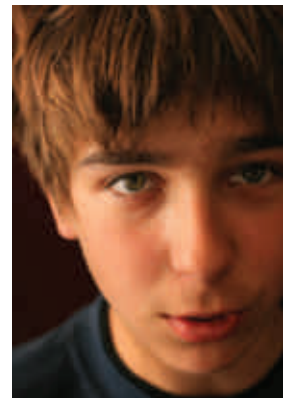
Fax: 604-775-3205



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Representative for Children and Youth



The Representative for Children and Youth supports B.C. children, youth and families who need help in dealing with the child welfare system, and advocates for changes to the system itself.

Responsibilities of the Representative include advocating for children and youth, protecting their rights, and helping to improve the system of support for children and youth, particularly those who are most vulnerable.



The Representative advocates for vulnerable British Columbians under 19 years of age, and is particularly concerned that young people in government care do well. This includes children in foster homes, group homes, in the home of a relative under a government program, or in youth custody. These children and youth face greater challenges than those in the general population, especially related to health and education.



The Representative for Children and Youth is an independent Officer of the Legislature and does not report through a provincial ministry.

The Representative's work includes

Advocacy

Supporting BC Children and Youth

Every child and youth in British Columbia has the right to be healthy, safe, educated and to be heard. The dedicated team of advocates who work with the Representative for Children and Youth are committed to providing information, advice and support to vulnerable young people under 19 years of age, and the adults who call on their behalf, who need help with services or programs provided or funded by government.



Most importantly, advocates are there to ensure the rights and interests of children and youth are protected and upheld, and their voices heard and considered by decision-makers.



Monitoring

Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Children and Youth

The Representative monitors, evaluates and does evidence-based research relating to government-funded programs and services, in order to make recommendations to improve their effectiveness. Ensuring children and youth have access to quality services and programs to support their health, safety, education and well-being is a significant focus of the Representative for Children and Youth.



Reviewing and Investigating

Critical Injuries and Deaths of Children and Youth

If a child or youth receiving reviewable government services dies or suffers a critical injury, particularly where abuse or neglect may be factors, the Representative for Children and Youth may conduct a review. These reviews identify issues and result in public recommendations aimed at helping to prevent similar injuries or deaths in the future.