

Moms on the Move (MOMS) - BC families supporting people with special needs

Press release:

Rally to save autism early intervention programs!!

Moms on the Move (MOMS) and Families Fighting Autism Intervention Reductions (FAIR) are co-hosting a rally to appeal directly to Langley residents to help us convince their MLA, Children's Minister Mary Polak, that cutting vital services to BC's most vulnerable children is the wrong thing to do.

Families hurt directly by these cuts will travel to Langley from Vancouver Island and other BC communities for the rally. MOMs families and other community supporters will join the action to help them distribute leaflets that explain their children's plight directly to the people of Langley.

When: Friday, November 6, 2009, starting at 9:30 am

Where: Mary Polak's Langley Constituency office,
20611 Fraser Highway, Langley

Why?

Early intervention works! EIBI programs have decades of proven research behind them. They significantly reduce the burden on public schools/special education and life-long social services. ([EIBI Fact Sheet](#))

BC can afford these programs! Last week, Minister Polak personally informed families during a meeting that she has sufficient funding in her budget to save these programs and that cutting them is her choice because she thinks the increasing incidence of autism makes them unsustainable!

This is not just inhumane, but short-sighted and foolish. The costs of BC's EIBI programs have been stable since their inception in 2001 - provincial autism costs have increased drastically in other areas, not EIBI. And the additional lifetime costs for a single child who needs EIBI and doesn't get it are more than twice as much as the potential savings from cutting the entire provincial EIBI program! **BC taxpayers will pay far more by cutting these programs!**

Polak's choice = Campbell's broken promise: In 2005 Premier Campbell promised to build the best system of supports in Canada for children with special needs and children at risk. He reiterated that promise just months ago in the Throne Speech. **Instead of cutting vital programs, BC needs to invest in expanding intensive early intervention to all children who need it!** Alberta, for example, spends twice as much on autism as BC does, despite having fewer children, and has not cut early intervention despite a provincial deficit twice as large as BC's.

MOMS and FAIR will be appealing to the people of Langley help us send a strong message to Minister Polak and Premier Campbell: BC can't afford to cut these programs!

In addition to the rally, MOMS and FAIR are inviting the public to support this action by telephoning, emailing or writing Mary Polak to encourage her to do the right thing for BC's children with autism and for other children with special needs who are being denied vital, proven and life-changing early intervention.

For more information:

Contact **Dawn Steele, MOMS** at 604 874-1416 or dawns@telus.net

Visit **MOMS:** <http://MomsNetwork.ca>

Visit **FAIR's** FaceBook group '**Reverse the EIBI funding cuts!**' which now has 1,300 registered supporters!