



www.parentsupportbc.ca

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond  
Representative for Children and Youth  
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October 29, 2009

Dear Mary Ellen.

We are pleased to advise you that you have been awarded the Bill McFarland award for 2009 by the Parents Support Society of BC.

The Bill McFarland Award was established by BC Parents in Crisis Society (now Parent Support Services Society of BC) in 1997. Over his 50 year career, Bill McFarland was instrumental in the development of progressive programs, policies and services for children and their families.

Bill McFarland was an advocate for children throughout his life and social work career. Among his achievements, Bill was a founder of the Alberta Foster Parents Association, the National Federation of Youth in Care Networks, and Parents in Crisis Society of BC. In addition, he was a member of the Berger Commission, a consultant to the Gove Inquiry, and was a recognized expert on the Young Offenders Act. Bill was appreciated by all who worked with him for his integrity, compassion and tireless efforts toward the care and welfare of all children. This award honours his memory and his tireless efforts for the care and welfare of all children. From 1998 to 2001 the award was presented to an individual or group to recognize significant contributions in the field of child abuse prevention. In celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Parent Support Services Society of BC (PSS), we re-introduced this award in 2009 and sought nominations for:

- Outstanding devotion to the prevention of child abuse over a long period of time, and/or;
- Efforts related to a project which is making a lasting mark in the area of child welfare.

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Your nominees (including some grandparents raising grandchildren) told us how very approachable and supportive you have been and how important your position is to their families and to the goal of protecting children. They wished you to know that all your staff, contacted by them or their children, consistently provided kind and respectful service.

We are delighted to recognize you on this our 35th anniversary and in memory of Bill McFarland. All of us here at Parent Support Services Society hold you and your office in the highest regard and certainly recognize your "tireless efforts" to prevent child abuse and bring attention to the harsh and unjust realities that face too many children and families in our province.

We would like to present this award to you at our 35th Anniversary Open House here in Burnaby during the afternoon and evening of November 25th, 2009. If that day works for you please let us know the ideal time and we will accommodate that. If other arrangements must be made for the presentation please let us know. We know how very busy you are.

We hope to speak with you soon regarding the presentation as well as to confer regarding a press release from our office regarding the award.

Congratulations! We look forward to November 25th and the opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Sincerely

Cheryl MacDonald  
President of the Board

Carol Ross  
Executive Director

**Creating a world where children and families are nurtured, valued, and safe.**

**Celebrating 35 Years of Helping Families**

**\*2009 Agency award winner for  
Distinguished Service to Families  
by the B.C. Council for Families\***