



NEWS RELEASE

GRANTS ALLOW CHILDREN TO REMAIN AT HOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Vancouver, February 15, 2007 – Seven BC families, who have children with developmental disabilities, have been awarded grants totalling more than \$230,000.

The \$30-million Family Independence Fund, provided by Community Living BC to Vancouver Foundation, provides grants through the Giving In Action Society to help families who have an adult or child with a developmental disability buy equipment, convert vehicles and renovate homes so loved ones may remain at home and gain greater access to their communities.

Approved by the volunteer committee overseeing the grants at their first grant review meeting, these families will now be able to make vehicle and home adaptations to improve access, mobility and quality of life for their children or family member.

“This grant has made our life simpler in caring for our son,” says Susan Gardner. “Andrew has an improved quality of life – he can enjoy a bath, he has more privacy and independence and as a family we have greater accessibility within our home. It is so nice to have!”

The first grant recipients have received anywhere from \$7,000 to \$50,000 to help cover the costs of keeping their child at home. The money will be used to purchase wheelchair accessible vans, tracking systems and make home renovations. They live in several different areas of the province: Abbotsford, Delta, Kimberley, Langley, North Vancouver, Port Coquitlam and Prince George.

“The Family Independence Fund will help families stay together,” said Lois Hollstedt, chair, CLBC Board of Directors. “It will assist individuals to have rich relationships with family and friends and realize full participation in community life.”

“Ensuring families have a strong system of support is one of our Government’s highest priorities,” said Tom Christensen, Minister of Children and Family Development and Minister responsible for CLBC. “These grants are the first of many to help families stay together within their home communities.”

Community Living BC is the Crown agency responsible for providing support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families in British Columbia. It has a board of self-advocates, family and community members, as well as staff located throughout the province. It believes that people with developmental disabilities and their families know best when it comes to their needs, goals and planning for the future.

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