



**Greater  
Vancouver  
Community  
Services  
Society**

**GVCSS APPLAUDS FUNDING INCREASE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING BC**

\$52 million added to budget of agency supporting adults with developmental disabilities

**VANCOUVER, BC (May 7, 2009)** – The Greater Vancouver Community Services Society (GVCSS), a non-profit agency which has provided comprehensive home support and community living services to the elderly, the physically and developmentally disabled, and other socially disadvantaged people in the community since 1972, today applauded the provincial government for increasing Community Living BC's 2009/10 budget by \$52 million.

The increase, announced by Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development, on April 1, includes almost \$40 million for new and expanded adult services for people meeting existing eligibility criteria and an additional \$2.6 million to improve eligibility criteria for CLBC services.

"We're pleased to see the provincial government is listening and responding to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families," said GVCSS President Lynn Carter. "Every day we see the difference CLBC-supported programs make in the lives of British Columbians."

GVCSS is also hopeful that the additional funding provided in this year's provincial budget will generate the construction of geriatric housing units to address the immediate needs of aging British Columbians who cope on a daily basis with profound physical and developmental disabilities.

The Community Living Department of GVCSS operates homes for adults with developmental disabilities in Vancouver, North Vancouver and Richmond. The homes are typically family-sized and accommodate four to six adults. Each home is staffed and organized to meet the particular, individual needs of the people who live there. Along with the staff, who are primarily responsible for ensuring that the individual's daily needs are met, other professionals such as doctors, psychologists, and CLBC facilitators, are also involved in the resident's lives.

"Our objective is to help each individual achieve their potential to the best of their ability," said Ron McLeod, GVCSS Executive Director. "By providing a supportive group home setting and involving our residents' families and friends in their progress and development, we're helping integrating adults with developmental disabilities into the community, and we're very proud of that."

For more information on the Greater Vancouver Community Services Society, visit [www.gvcss.bc.ca](http://www.gvcss.bc.ca). For more information on Community Living BC, visit [www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca).

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