



**Jay Chalke, QC**

**Mr. Chalke was appointed Queen's Counsel on December 15, 2006.**

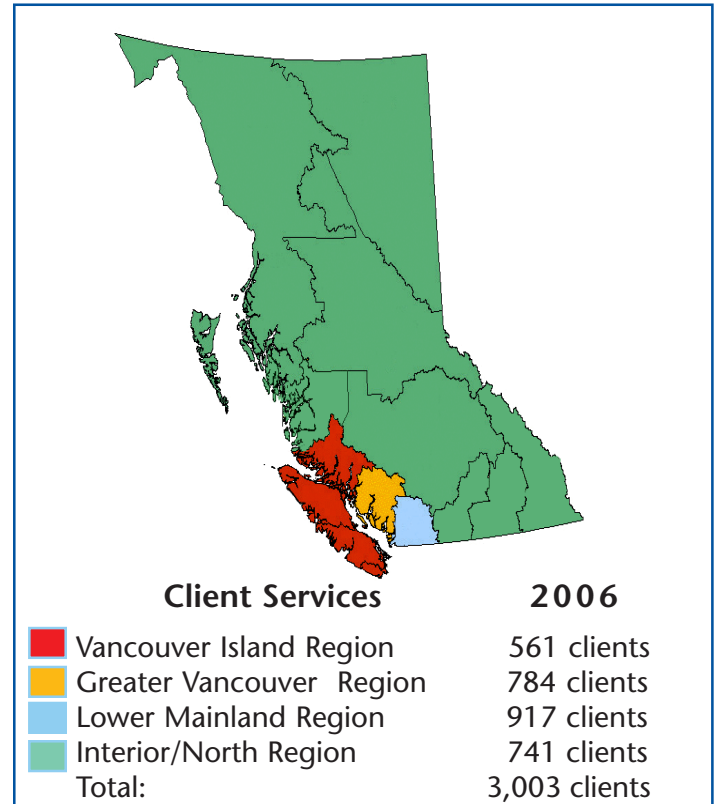
## Message from the PGT

I am pleased to present the seventh annual issue of "Reaching Out", our Services to Adults newsletter. This edition contains useful information on our services and participation in the community.

In addition, this issue of the newsletter has information on compensation to former residents of institutions and Indian Residential Schools, as well as an update on proposed legislation to modernize adult guardianship law in British Columbia.

In 2006, the PGT started a major initiative to improve our client service by updating our client information management system. Inside you will find details of this new CASE system - Client Administrative System for Excellence.

With this newsletter we are also distributing our latest publication "Year at a Glance". It summarizes the more detailed report on all the work we did this past year, the 2005-2006 Public Guardian and Trustee Annual Report. If you would like to have a copy of the full Annual Report, please contact your Case Manager or go to the Publications page on our website at [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca).



I hope you enjoy this issue of Reaching Out and I invite your comments on what information you'd like to see in upcoming issues. I also welcome any feedback you may have with respect to our services.

## Client Administrative System for Excellence

Starting this February the PGT is changing the way it manages client information. A new computer software system called CASE - Client Administrative System for Excellence - has been developed and will replace the client information parts of a system we have been using for nearly 20 years. The new system will help the PGT provide all our clients with the best possible service.

CASE will improve how information is maintained, accessed, and used by PGT staff. It has helpful features that will make it easier for us to communicate with you and your caregivers. And because CASE will reduce the time it takes to access your information, we will be more efficient in responding to any questions you have about our services.

The PGT has been working hard for over a year to get CASE ready. We are very excited about ways CASE will help us improve our service and be more responsive in meeting your needs.

## Did you know?

**The PGT's goal as Committee of Estate is to maximize client independence and work with clients to ensure they retain control of financial and legal decisions as they are able.**

## BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund

In May 2003, the BC Government announced the creation of the BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) was deposited into the fund to be distributed to former residents of Woodlands, Tranquille, Glendale and the Endicott Centre. The Victoria Foundation was given responsibility for distributing the funds under the direction of a Trust Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of parents and former residents of the institutions. The Victoria Foundation began distributing the funds in August 2006 by mailing out cheques for \$510 per person.

The Legacy Trust Fund is a goodwill gesture recognizing that life was difficult in these institutions. The intent of the fund is to help people do something that they might not be able to afford to do otherwise. These funds are for the enjoyment of former residents and everyone is encouraged to see that former residents use this money for something that has meaning for them. This approach is consistent with the wishes expressed by the vast majority of former residents, family members and others who participated in consultations about the Legacy Trust Fund over the past three years.

The PGT is pleased that over 460 of our clients received Legacy Trust funds this year. We're aware of many wonderful stories about how these funds have been used. Some people have travelled, some have made unique purchases, some have simply upgraded their wardrobes, and others are saving for something special.

If you have received a payment from the Legacy Trust Fund and haven't yet decided how you'd like to spend it, you are invited to give your Case Manager a call to discuss the possibilities.

### Did you know?

**A Case Manager will bring an interpreter to meet with an adult client when it is important to have a personal discussion with the client.**



Cheryl with her new electric keyboard

### Legacy Fund Strikes a Chord

This past year, Cheryl became the happy recipient of an award of \$510 from the BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund. Cheryl has a great musical gift and plays regularly with a local group at her home. She has an assortment of instruments including a guitar and shakers.

Receiving this award has let Cheryl purchase an electric keyboard along with a stand and a bench. She is also thinking about getting a new puppy to replace Sally, her faithful companion of 10 years, who passed away last year.

We at the PGT are pleased for Cheryl and the other recipients of the BC Institutional Legacy Trust Fund. We hope all recipients can use the money as Cheryl has done to bring a little extra joy to their lives.

### Did you know?

**Cash held for most clients is invested in a Premium Money Market Fund which earned an average of 4.48% interest in 2006.**

## Adult Guardianship Update

Last spring the government introduced a bill to modernize and update the way adult guardianship is dealt with in British Columbia. This bill, known as Bill 32, the *Adult Guardianship and Personal Planning Statutes Amendment Act, 2006*, was put on hold after concerns were raised about the part of the bill that deals with instructional advance directives for health care.

In the fall, the government held meetings to talk more about advance directives. Advance directives let people give written instructions to health care providers about the kind of medical treatment they want, or don't want, to receive if they become incapable.

Whatever the government decides to do about advance directives, the PGT is hopeful that the parts of Bill 32 that deal with court and statutory guardianship in particular, will be reintroduced and passed as soon as possible.



**Perry Krogfoss and Louise Callahan attend the Vanderhoof Seniors Fair**

### Did you know?

**There are two ways the PGT can be appointed Committee of Estate for an adult:**

**(1) by the Supreme Court of British Columbia after a judge has considered the sworn opinion of two medical doctors, and**

**(2) by Certificate of Incapability issued by a Director of a Mental Health Facility or Hospital Psychiatric Unit.**

### June 15, 2006 – the First Ever World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

A few people with a vision can make a difference. Volunteers with the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse decided a World Day was needed to bring attention to the world-wide tragedy of elder abuse. With no money, but with a great deal of determination, they made it happen. They even had a conference at the United Nations in New York City, which Alison Leaney, a PGT staff member, attended and gave a presentation.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was welcomed by many countries, as well as many communities across Canada.

Provincial and territorial proclamations to raise awareness and to help stop abuse of seniors were issued by BC, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon. In BC, 34 city councils supported the World Day.

Awareness raising activities included: seniors' fairs and picnics; conferences and workshops; awareness cafes; school presentations; awards thanking people working in the senior abuse prevention field; public awareness campaigns; highway banners; newspaper articles; creation of a multicultural quilt to honour seniors; awareness breakfasts for business people; displays; poster blitzes; and media coverage.

Myles Clay, Manager, and David Marr, Regional Consultant, of the PGT's Vancouver Island Office spoke at a World Day event in Victoria sponsored by the Victoria Community Response Network (CRN). Victoria was one of more than 20 CRNs in BC that held a World Day event.

A Photo Album from the World Day is on the internet, at <http://www.cnpea.ca/virtualphoto%20album.htm>

## Indian Residential School Settlement Update

In May 2006, the Minister responsible for Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada announced approval of the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement includes: a Common Experience Payment for all eligible former students of Indian residential schools; an independent assessment process for claims of sexual or serious physical abuse; measures to support healing; commemorative activities; and the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Minister also announced an Advance Payment Program for eligible former Indian residential school students who turned 65 on or before May 30, 2005. The PGT has already forwarded applications on behalf of 17 clients who may be eligible for an advance payment as the deadline for the Advance Payment Program was December 31, 2006. We will hear back on these applications later in the year.

The PGT is continuing to identify clients who may be eligible for the Common Experience Payment Program. To date we have identified twenty-eight (28) clients who may be eligible to make a claim.

As soon as the program has been fully approved by the courts and a process for submitting formal claims has been created, the PGT will follow up with applications on behalf of those clients who may be eligible for the Common Experience Payment.

### Did you know?

**The PGT monitors over 2000 private committees.**

If you have any questions about the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement please contact your case manager.

### Did you know?

**Client Services serves over 400 new clients every year.**

## 2006 IN REVIEW

### Number of Clients

At December 15, 2006, Client Services had 3,003 adult clients.

### Client Funds

At December 31, 2006, the PGT managed approximately \$228 million worth of financial assets (not including real property) for adult clients.

### Health Care Decisions

The PGT received over 745 calls regarding health care issues. Over 270 of these calls were about obtaining a substitute maker for a major health care procedure.

### Investigations

The PGT carried out approximately 70 investigations per month into reports or allegations of financial abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults.

### Presentations

STA staff gave more than 40 presentations throughout British Columbia to community groups, health care providers, and public agencies.

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