



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 8, 2011

Public Guardian and Trustee
of British Columbia

BETTER INCIDENT REPORTING NEEDED **PGT Releases 2009/2010 Child and Youth Guardianship Report**

VANCOUVER – Improvements are required in the reporting of incidents involving injured children in continuing care said Jay Chalke, Public Guardian and Trustee in a report issued today.

“Reporting standards where children in care are injured have to be comprehensive and they have to be observed,” said Chalke. “The Ministry of Children and Families has enhanced its reporting to us over the last several years, however reporting can be further improved. Better information about an injured child means better protection of that child’s right to compensation.”

This recommendation is one of a number in the report on child and youth guardianship services provided by the PGT in 2009/10. The PGT is coguardian with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Service Agencies and is responsible for protecting the legal and financial interests of children in continuing care.

The report examines 585 critical incident reports involving 457 children that were submitted to the PGT in 2009/10 and describes the type of incidents, persons alleged to have harmed the children and actions taken on their behalf.

Another key recommendation focuses on the need for reform of the outdated framework governing guardianship services in British Columbia.

“Under new child protection practices almost half the children in care are in alternative care arrangements and they do not have access to the protection of an effective guardian for their legal and financial interests” said Chalke. “While improvements have been made for children in continuing care, I am disappointed with the lack of progress to address the legal needs of children in long term alternative care arrangements.”

The report further calls for organizations involved in child protection services to work together more effectively for the benefit of children in care. “Investing in our children is essential, especially when those children are placed in care,” said Chalke.

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[Child and Youth Guardianship Services 2009/10 Report](#)

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Indiana Matters

604.660.4474

imatters@trustee.bc.ca

BACKGROUND

The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* and providing services under numerous statutes.

Its mandate is to serve:

- Children and youth under the age of 19 by protecting their legal and financial interests;
- Adults who require assistance in decision making through protection of their legal rights, financial interests, personal and health care interests; and
- Deceased persons where there is no one willing or able to administer their estates, the estates of missing persons and the beneficiaries of personal trusts.

Its work with children and youth includes both its work as coguardian for children in continuing care and a range of services that could impact any child in BC.

Its work with adults includes services to persons suffering from dementia, mental illness or brain injuries and persons with developmental disabilities. It is also involved with prevention of abuse, neglect and self neglect of incapable adults. The PGT also administers estates of deceased or missing persons.

The PGT administers more than \$800 million of trust assets on behalf of its clients and exercises quasi judicial authority in specific cases. It has a fiduciary duty to represent the private interests of its clients and is independent of government in its case related decisions.

For further information see the PGT [2009/2010 Annual Report](#) on its website at www.trustee.bc.ca.