



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Public Guardian and Trustee
of British Columbia

PGT Releases 2010/2011 Child and Youth Guardianship Services Report

VANCOUVER – The Public Guardian Trustee of British Columbia (PGT) today released the third annual report on its child and youth Guardian of Estate services, detailing challenges and actions for improvements to Guardian of Estate services.

Continuing a commitment made by the PGT to report on Guardian of Estate services, the release of the *Child and Youth Guardianship Services Report 2010/2011*, describes the PGT's role in BC's child welfare system. As Guardian of Estate, the PGT is responsible for overseeing the legal and financial interests of children who have been placed in the custody of the Province.

"As the complexities of service delivery continue to evolve, the PGT remains committed to enabling the best outcomes for children in continuing care" said Catherine Romanko, Public Guardian and Trustee.

The report includes several actions for improvements to Guardian of Estate services such as continued collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Representative for Children and Youth to further improve the quality of critical incident reporting and the ongoing commitment of the PGT to continue to advocate for children under provincial alternative care arrangements who have no other party to protect their legal and financial interests.

"These children are unlikely to have a parent or private guardian who is able to act as Guardian of Estate and so the legal and financial interests of these children remain largely unattended." said Romanko. "This gap in protective services available to vulnerable children in care continues to exist and must be addressed."

The report also addresses other issues such as financial literacy support for children and youth in care and the related issue of the ongoing management of RDSPs and RESPs for these children.

The report examines 672 critical incident reports involving 487 children that were submitted to the PGT in 2010/11 and describes the type of incidents, persons alleged to have harmed the children and actions taken on their behalf.

[Child and Youth Guardianship Services 2010/11 Report](#)

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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.

The PGT's 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. The PGT 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 \$860 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 [2010/2011 Annual Report](#) on its website at www.trustee.bc.ca.