



## NEWS RELEASE

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Public Guardian and Trustee

### **PGT comments on Representative for Children and Youth audit findings**

**Vancouver** – The Public Guardian and Trustee, Catherine Romanko, has issued the following statement in response to the [Representative For Children and Youth](#) report entitled “Much More than Paperwork – Proper Planning Essential to Better Lives for B.C.’s Children in Care – A Representative’s Audit on Plans of Care”.

The report was released to the public earlier today. In it, BC’s Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, presented findings from an audit about the Ministry of Children and Family Development on plans of care for children and youth who are in continuing care of the province.

“After reviewing the Representative’s report, I am concerned by the audit findings to the extent that they may impact the interests of our child and youth clients in continuing care,” said Ms. Romanko. “I have spoken to the Representative and support the intent behind her recommendation directed at the Public Guardian and Trustee.”

Through its Child and Youth Services division, the PGT currently acts as property guardian for 4,949 BC children and youth. Most are in continuing care of the province.

In her report, the Representative has recommended the PGT – as property guardian for children in continuing care – review her audit findings and assess whether the Ministry of Children and Family Development’s failure to adequately plan for children and youth in care presents any potential or real risk of harm.

“My office is currently considering how the PGT’s legislated authority applies to this type of situation,” said Ms. Romanko. “We are committed to taking action on the Representative’s recommendation to the extent allowed by our mandate.”

Under the BC’s guardianship legislation, the PGT is responsible for protecting the legal and financial interests of children and youth in continuing care of the province. Its [annual child and youth guardianship services report includes](#) data on critical incidents reports involving children in continuing care.

#### **About the Public Guardian and Trustee**

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. 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 has a fiduciary duty to represent the interests of its clients and is independent of government in its case related decision making. For more information see the PGT Annual Report at [www.trustee.bc.ca](http://www.trustee.bc.ca).

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