Current Date, 2010

Add your MLA Name & Address

Dear MLA Name:

As you may know, Woodlands School was a residential facility operated by the Province of British Columbia for mentally disabled children and adults. An investigation by the province’s former Ombudsman concluded that there had been widespread systemic abuse at the institution, which was closed in 1996. Many Woodlands survivors were physically, sexually and psychologically abused by staff and residents at Woodlands.

While the provincial government agreed to settle a civil court case with former students who suffered sexual, physical, or psychological abuse at Woodlands after August 1, 1974, it has left out about 500 survivors who moved out of Woodlands before that date.  Many of the survivors who are not being compensated are living in poverty.  The injustice of abandoning these fragile survivors is highlighted by the story of one former resident who was repeatedly sexually abused by a serial abuser at Woodlands but excluded from the settlement because he left the school only 10 days before August 1, 1974.

Adrian Dix and the BC NDP have already committed to compensating Pre-1974 Woodlands survivors should the NDP form the next government.

I am a constituent in your riding. I expect my tax dollars to be spent in a way that reflects my values.  It disappoints me that the government has abandoned the oldest, most fragile Woodlands residents who have waited the longest to have their abuse recognized.

I urge the Government of British Columbia to offer compensation to all victims of abuse at Woodlands, which it could easily do.  Just as the government arbitrarily accepted legal liability in 1974, it can and should extend compensation beyond 1974.

Sincerely Yours,

Your Name

Address & Contact Info

**CC: The Honourable Christy Clark, M.L.A.**

      Premier of British Columbia

**CC: The Honourable Shirley Bond, M.L.A.**

      Attorney General

**CC: The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, M.L.A.**

      Minister of Social Development