

NEWS RELEASE
ABA Support Network

For immediate release: September 17, 2009:

In response to MCFD's Announcement Regarding Changes to Autism Programs

At first glance it may seem to make fiscal sense to get rid of an "elite" program which costs \$5 million per year and offers limited services to very few families. However, the Minister's announcement of how that money is going to be reallocated does not address the real need of children with autism which is improved access to quality autism treatment.

For families running a high cost, home-based ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) program this \$2,000 is a drop in the bucket and has a limited effect when there are not enough quality service providers to fulfill their needs.

Children with autism and their families would be much better served if the Government focused on building capacity of quality ABA service in the province. \$5 million could create a University Chair in ABA with a focus on autism. This would make a lasting difference in the lives of all autistic children, not just in BC but across the country. This would also address the Government's concern of expanding quality services to rural areas as there would be a centralized training facility for well qualified ABA service providers.

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The ABA Support Network is a newly formed non-profit society that is based in Surrey, BC. Our mission is to improve access to quality Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) treatment and support in the home and in the community for children and adults who need it.