

March 23, 2015

Honorable Terry Lake, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Room 337, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Re: The Vancouver Island Association of Family Councils' recommendations on Family Council operations in B.C.

Dear Minister Lake,

I am writing to express support for the Vancouver Island Association of Family Councils' (VIAFC) recommendations on Family Council operations as outlined in their January 2015 "Proposal for Change."

These recommendations would improve the ability of Family Councils to contribute to the quality of care and well-being of residents in B.C.'s residential care facilities.

As the sole regional association of Family Councils in our province, the VIAFC is in a unique position to identify specific measures needed to ensure Family Councils are able to successfully fulfill their objectives of enhancing quality of life for residents and participating in decision-making processes that affect those residents.

Family Councils play a critical role in residential care facilities. Establishing regulations and policies that entrench opportunities for Family Councils in all B.C.'s residential care facilities, and requiring facilities to cooperate with the councils, is an important step toward ensuring Family Councils are able to contribute meaningfully and effectively in facilities across B.C.

I urge you to closely consider the VIAFC's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rick Turner, BC Health Coalition