

ACT's Autism Manual for B.C.

Living and Working with Children and Adults with ASD

Chapter 6: MCFD SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Contributed by ACT - Autism Community Training information staff



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The “Introduction to ACT’s Autism Manual for B.C.” provides valuable context to this chapter. Download at: www.actcommunity.ca/autism-manual.

6 MCFD SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are a number of generic services for children with special needs, which children with ASD are eligible to receive. We provide this information in the hope that it is also helpful to parents supporting children with diverse special needs. While ACT's Information Officers have a more specialist knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorder we also welcome enquires from families looking for information on special needs services in general.

- Behavioral Support.
- Child and Youth Care Workers.
- Professional Support Services.
- Parent Support.
- Respite.
- Homemaker/Home Support Worker.
- Residential Services for Children in Care.
- Infant Development Program.
- Aboriginal Infant Development Program.
- Early Intervention Therapies Program.
- School-Aged Therapies Program.
- Supported Child Development Programs.
- At Home Program.
- Child Care Subsidy.
- Transition Planning to Adulthood.



Autism
Information
Database

"Like Google for Autism but Better!"

Throughout this chapter you will see AID links that connect to resources:
www.actcommunity.ca/aid-search/

ACT's Autism Information Database (AID) has over 2000 autism-related information and community resources. It is easy to search using keywords and postal codes, which saves time in finding B.C. resources. There are links to excellent international websites on a wide range of topics relevant to children, youth and adults with ASD and their families, which community professionals may also find helpful. ACT's staff has reviewed each of the resources we have included — our focus is on providing practical, useful resources that empower families and communities. Do you have a community resource to recommend for the AID? Go to www.actcommunity.ca/submit-resource/

Families can access some of these directly; for others, they must have a referral through the Ministry of Children and Families.

The key MCFD contact person for a family who has a child with special needs is the Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) worker. In addition to the Autism Funding Program, the CYSN worker supports families to access other MCFD-funded services listed above as well as other supports in the community. See the CYSN brochure more information: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/pdf/cysn_services_brochure.pdf.

Having a child with special needs puts significant pressure on a family. Especially in the early years, few families can cope without asking for help from their families and friends. They also need to communicate directly with their CYSN worker and make clear the needs of their child for services and supports beyond autism funding.

When the parent or guardian meets the CYSN worker to complete the Autism Funding Agreement, the CYSN worker may explain about other programs and supports. However, there is a lot of information for a family to process following a diagnosis of ASD. It may be better to meet at a later date to discuss other needs.

It is likely there will be times when a parent will have to advocate for their child with special needs. You may have to write a letter to your CYSN worker, outlining your need for support, especially if there is a waiting list for the service that your child requires. Chapter 8, “The Role of Parental Advocacy in Navigating the School System,” has information that can be applied to any situation where strong advocacy skills are needed, regardless of your child’s diagnosis. Above all, you want to avoid waiting until your family is in crisis. Having a properly developed plan, with adequate supports in place, is the best way to avoid a crisis!

The next section describes the following services:

- Family Support Services.
- Residential Services for Children in Care.
- Infant Development Program.
- Aboriginal Infant Development Program.
- Early Intervention Therapies Program.
- School-Aged Therapies Program.
- Supported Child Development Programs.
- At Home Program.
- Child Care Subsidy.
- Transition Planning to Adulthood.

In addition to the Parent’s Manual, ACT has several “foundation” videos available online. These give parents and community professionals essential information on:

- The Art of Advocacy
- Education, Integration, Inclusion
- Best Practices in Early Intervention

See AID Resource www.actcommunity.ca/resource/2460/.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Behavioral Support Services, Child and Youth Care Workers, Professional Support Services, Parent Support, Respite and Homemaker/Home Support Worker are all considered as part of Family Support Services by MCFD. They are described only briefly on the MCFD website at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/family_support_services.htm where parents are advised to contact their regional MCFD offices to access services. Given that many of these services are likely to have waiting lists, ACT advises that you ensure that you are at least on the waiting list by documenting in writing your service request and keeping a record of commitments from your CYSN worker.

Behavioral Support Services

This program has a long history. It was developed by MCFD at a time when there were no treatment funds available to families who had children with autism. Now the program is open to children with a range of behavioral disorders. The focus of this program is on behavior management and is not to be confused with the type of autism treatment that may be available to parents utilizing their autism treatment funds. This program, however, may be very helpful for families of school-aged children if the person providing it is skilled in Positive Behavior Support. MCFD contracts with community agencies or individuals to provide behavior support.

Ideally children who were diagnosed at an early age and received effective intervention by well-qualified behavior consultants will not express significant negative behaviors when they are older. Despite a common belief, significant behavioral problems in older children with ASD are not an inevitable consequence of ASD. Many families report that the best behaved child in their family is the child with ASD, but the key is working on behavior issues when the child is as young as possible.

The Behavioral Support for Children with Autism Program is available to families who have children with ASD under age 19, regardless if they receive autism funding. There is a similar program that serves families with children who have other disabilities. Parents may have to advocate for this support. These programs may have a long waitlist. Remember that if you don't go on a waitlist you will never get to the top!

Child and Youth Care Workers

This program provides children and families with a specialized child-care worker who assists the child to learn social skills, life skills and/or to support the family to learn parenting/child management skills. In many communities there is a waiting list for this program.

Professional Support Services

MCFD contracts with community professionals to provide specialized support including assessment, training, counselling, planning and other support for the child, their family and/or other caregivers who support the child.

Parent Support

MCFD contracts with local community agencies to provide parent support groups, parent skills training, counselling, life skills and organized activities. These services are usually not autism specific and generally speaking these services are designed for children with developmental disabilities. Some families find these groups helpful. Others who are looking for an autism-specific group may consult the Autism Information Database (AID) at www.actcommunity.ca/aid-search/, which lists community groups, or telephone the ACT office. This listing includes a broad spectrum of special needs groups. We will welcome listings from across B.C.

Respite

Parenting a child with autism can be very challenging and exhausting. Planning ahead to avert exhaustion is wise. Many families find that establishing a good working relationship with a respite caregiver can be very helpful. A respite caregiver provides care to the child while other family members have an opportunity to rest, regroup and develop strategies to make life less stressful.

It is possible to hire a respite caregiver who is a family member who does not live in your home, a supportive friend, or someone who contracts with MCFD. It can be a challenge to find the right person but successful parents report that this program works well for them, especially if the respite provider uses and reinforces the same strategies used by the family.

Based on the child's and the family's needs, the MCFD social worker will help determine the best respite option. Respite can happen either in the child's home, the respite provider's home, or in a staffed setting – although the later is unlikely in the case of young children.

Payment may be provided by giving the parent funds directly to hire a respite provider, or by contracting with community service providers or approved resources.

An excellent resource for choosing a caregiver for a child with special needs can be found in the AID www.actcommunity.ca/resource/755/.

Homemaker/Home Support Worker

This program is designed to support families who are in a crisis situation. Services offered may include emergency childcare, respite, homemaking and household management.

MCFD contracts with community agencies to provide this service. It does not replace regularly planned respite and childcare services and is temporary in nature.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

There are many reasons why a child with ASD or another special need may come into care of the province other than via the child protection system. Some children come into care to access specific supports or a program that is not available in their home community. Other families access this service while they develop new skills or recover from illness or for reasons not related to a child needing protection from abuse.

There are many types of foster care:

- *Regular homes* are homes that provide a general level of care that is not specialized.
- *Restricted homes* are homes where the family knows the child already or are related to the child.
- *Specialized homes* are homes where a higher level of skill is required of the caregivers to address issues like physical, mental, emotional or behavioral needs. There are levels of specialized homes based on the expertise of the caregivers.
 1. Staffed Family Model Home – These homes are based on a family model but the caregivers are specialized staff persons. These homes are developed for children with very high needs.
 2. Staffed Specialized Home – These homes are designed for short-term stays, for assessment or treatment prior to the child’s return home or to foster care.

INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (IDP)

This family-centered program is designed for those who are parenting children under age 3 who either have developmental delays or disabilities, or are at risk of developing them. IDP is available in most areas of B.C. and is funded by MCFD. IDP works closely with Aboriginal IDP and they share the same goals.

If you have a child under age 3 and have concerns about his or her development, you can call your closest Infant Development Program office. It is not necessary to have a referral from your social worker. Children can also be referred by a doctor, public health nurse or other community professional.

To locate government offices and telephone them free of charge, contact Enquiry BC in Vancouver: 604-660-2421; in Victoria: 250-387-6121; toll-free elsewhere in B.C.: 1-800-663-7867; and outside B.C.: 604-660-2421.

To find the closest Infant Development Program office, go to www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/idp_contacts.htm or call the ACT office.

Parents play a central role in determining the type of support they receive from the Infant Development Program, which can include:

- Home visits to encourage progress, develop new activities and support parents.
- Developmental assessments and written reports.
- Playgroup with parent participation.
- Parent workshops or support groups.
- Therapy consultation.
- A toy and book lending library.
- Assistance for you and your child making the transition to a preschool/day care program.
- Service coordination.

ABORIGINAL INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (AIDP)

Aboriginal IDP, in most communities, serves families with children up to age 6 and has the same referral processes as for IDP. AIDP offers services specifically for aboriginal families, which can include:

- Home visits, playgroups, parent education opportunities, parent support groups, parent to parent connections.
- Assisting the family in planning activities that will encourage the optimum development of their child.
- A resource library of books and toys that is available on loan to families.
- Screening and assessment that is culturally sensitive and meaningful. (www.aidp.bc.ca/)

To find your closest Aboriginal Infant Development Program, you can go online to www.aidp.bc.ca/aboriginal-infant-development-programs-in-bc/ or call the ACT office.

EARLY INTERVENTION THERAPIES PROGRAM

Contracted community agencies offer these services in home, preschool, childcare and community settings. Occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and family support worker services are made available to preschool children who have or are at risk for a developmental delay or disability including Autism Spectrum Disorder. Services include: screening, assessment, intervention, consultation, education and training to parents and community members, and service coordination.

For an overview of provincial guidelines, reissued by MCFD in January 2009, see *Early Intervention Therapy Program Guidelines* in the AID www.actcommunity.ca/resource/384/ or contact your MCFD office for a copy. Your CYSN worker can provide you with more specific information about local early intervention therapies in your own area.

SCHOOL-AGED THERAPIES PROGRAM

The School-Aged Therapies Program is a continuation of the Early Intervention Therapies Program. It is jointly funded by the Ministries of Children and Family Development and Education to provide core occupational and physical therapy services to children from age 6 or school entry to age 19. The objective is to help children with special needs achieve optimal independence and to assist them in meeting their educational goals. Ideally, the therapist works with family members, teachers and teaching assistants to support the student's participation, inclusion and access to learning opportunities. Services are provided in home, school, child care and community settings to assist children and youth with special needs to achieve their highest level of independent functioning.

The MCFD website describes the eligibility criteria for the program: “Children and youth with special needs who have, or are at risk for, a developmental delay or disability and who display a ‘demonstrated need’ have access to School-Aged Therapy services from school entry until school exit.” (www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/school_aged_therapies.htm) However, occupational therapy and physical therapy services for school age children can be very limited in some communities; in others funding levels are considerably higher. Each agency and/or school district appears to utilize a range of methods of

For more information on the role of Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapists see Chapter 2, “Developing a Treatment Team for a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder.”

caseload management for this program. These include a consultation model where the professional advise those who work with the student versus direct intervention where the therapist works with the student. Other districts narrow accessibly even more by specifying that a child must be on the At Home Program or have feeding and positioning needs. Still others limit service to elementary school children, leaving secondary school students without access to school-based therapies.

Contact the local school district for information about their School-Aged Therapies Program. As discussed in Chapter 8 of this manual, “The Role of Parental Advocacy in Navigating the School System”, it may be necessary for parents to advocate to ensure that their child’s needs for speech, occupational or physical therapy are met.

SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SCDP)

Supported Child Development is a voluntary, community-based program that assists families of children with extra support needs to access inclusive childcare. The program is intended to serve children from birth to 12 years, with services for youth 13–19 years available in some communities. While SCD is provided at no cost to families, parents are still responsible for the basic costs of child care. Child care subsidy may be available for low-income families.

SCDP provides the following services to support children, families, and child care providers:

- Individual planning to promote each child’s development.
- Training and information for families and child care providers to help each child’s development.
- Resources such as books, toys and specialized equipment.
- Referrals to other services such as therapists or specialists.
- Where necessary, additional staffing to ensure that children may participate fully with their peers. (www.scdp.bc.ca/new_page_1.htm)

The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides funds to operate local SCDP programs. To find out how to access SCDP in your area you may call your local MCFD office or you can access www.scdp.bc.ca/scd_program_locator.htm for a listing of BC programs. No special referral process is required. You can refer yourself by calling your local Supported Child Development Program office.

AT HOME PROGRAM (AHP)

The At Home Program was designed to assist parents with some of the extraordinary costs involved in raising a child with severe disabilities at home. The program is not specifically for families who have children with ASD; in fact, many children on the spectrum will not meet the eligibility criteria for the program, as the focus is on children with physical disabilities. However, many children with ASD, while having the physical capacity to toilet, feed or dress themselves, do not do so because of the affect autism has on their development. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

There are two programs within the AHP: Respite Benefits and Medical Benefits. The Respite Benefits Program provides families with direct funding to pay towards alternate care of their child while the family regroups and regains energy to face the ongoing challenges of raising a child with special needs.

The criteria for eligibility for the AHP is as follows:

- Age 18 or younger for respite benefits.
- Age 17 or younger for medical benefits.
- A resident of B.C.
- Living at home with a parent or guardian.
- Assessed as dependent in at least three of four areas of daily living (i.e., the functional skills related to washing, toileting, feeding and dressing).

In order to qualify for At Home Program Medical Benefits, a child must also be enrolled with the BC Medical Services Plan. Children who require direct nursing care through Nursing Support Services are eligible for At Home Program Medical Benefits. An At Home Program assessment is not required. Children who have a palliative condition qualify for full At Home Program benefits. An assessment is not required.

Children with Indian Status who are also eligible for the At Home Program may receive the AHP benefits not duplicated by First Nation and Inuit Health, the Government of Canada, or by the Band or Aboriginal Agency. Children or parents who are in receipt of an insurance settlement or court award are not eligible for At Home Program benefits. Eligibility is reassessed on a regular basis.

(www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/index.htm)

Respite care through the At Home Program is designed so parents can choose the type of care that best meets their needs. Funds may not be used to pay the parent of the child or a dependent household member who resides with the family. Parents may select any other caregiver of their choice and the care can be provided in a location of their choice.

Parents maintain full responsibility for selecting and scheduling caregivers, paying caregivers, managing their respite budget and submitting a record of expenditures. In most cases the parent is considered to be the employer of the respite caregiver so a parent must be ready to assume all responsibilities of an employer.

The amount of money provided by MCFD is usually \$2400 to \$2800 per year, although in some exceptional cases these funds may be increased to address extraordinary circumstances.

Medical Benefits are made available for qualifying children aged 17 or younger and cover the following basic medical benefits:

- Dental/orthodontic and optical benefits.
- Hearing aids.
- Medical equipment.
- Medical services plan coverage.
- Medical supplies.
- Incontinence supplies.
- Medical transportation.
- Medications & pharmacare.
- School-aged extended therapies. (www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/med_benefits.htm)

Complete details on these specific benefits can be obtained online at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/med_benefits.htm or by telephoning toll-free: 1-888-613-3232.

The Application Process

- Obtain an application form—online at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/index.htm, from a MCFD office, or your local Health Unit.
- Complete the parent portion of the application form and have your child's doctor complete the brief medical portion of the form.
- Submit the completed application to your Regional At Home Program contact. You can find your contact address at http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/pdf/ah_regional_contacts.pdf, or by asking your MCFD office or the local Health Unit.

What Happens Next

1. The regional contact person will review the application and arrange for an assessment to be completed by a qualified assessor. The assessor meets the child and parents in the family home to complete the assessment of the child's abilities in four areas of daily living: eating, dressing, toiletting and washing. This assessment will include observing the child and interviewing the parent(s) regarding the child's skills in these areas. It is important for the parent to provide an honest appraisal of the child's abilities, but it is wise to provide the overview of how the child functions on both good and bad days since functioning can vary in the same child depending on many circumstances. The assessor may also contact the child's doctor or other health care professionals to review the child's needs. A copy of the assessment is provided to the parent.
2. A regional eligibility committee reviews the application and assessment report and makes a decision. To be eligible for both medical and respite benefits, a child must be dependent in all four daily living areas. Those children who are dependent in three out of four daily living areas are eligible for either the medical or respite benefits but not both. Determining the child's functional level is done by comparing the child's abilities to those of a "typical" child of the same age. The child will qualify only if they require significantly more assistance than their same-aged typical counterpart. In other words, it may be more difficult for some younger children to qualify in these daily living areas since typical infants and toddlers are very dependent. A letter is sent to the parents advising them of the eligibility decision. If the child does not qualify, the family will be referred to other supports or services.
3. If approval is provided for one of the two programs, the At Home Regional Contact Person will assist in initiating the benefits. Respite and medical benefits are coordinated through MCFD. Your child's CYSN worker can help you complete the paperwork and coordinate the renewal process.
4. Parents have the right to appeal or complain if they disagree with the decision or feel they have not been treated fairly. MCFD can provide information about the At Home Program appeal process and about the Complaint Resolution Process through MCFD. If the complaint or disagreement is about the medical benefits decision parents should contact the Manager of Medical Benefits at MCFD for information about that appeal process. Please call the ACT office if you are having difficulties in making a complaint.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Parents who meet eligibility criteria may receive a monthly payment to partially or fully cover the ongoing costs of child care. The funding can be used in the following child care settings: licensed, registered license-not-required (RLNR) or license-not-required family child care facilities; licensed group child care centres; licensed out-of-school programs; licensed preschool programs; or in the child's own home.

The subsidy funding is provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

You may be eligible for Child Care Subsidy if you:

- Are employed or self-employed.
- Are attending an educational institution or enrolled in distance education.
- Are seeking employment or participating in an employment-related program.
- Have a medical condition which interferes with your ability to care for your child.
- Have a child attending a Licensed Preschool.
- Have been referred by an MCFD or delegated Aboriginal Agency social worker.

A calculation that takes into account your income and family size determines eligibility. If you earn less than the income exemption level for your family size, and you meet one of the criteria above, you may be eligible for a full subsidy. If you earn more than the income exemption for your family size and you meet the above criteria, you may be eligible for a partial subsidy (www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/subsidy/index.htm).

Subsidy services in BC are provided by the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre (CCSSC) at PO Box 9953 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9Z9

Telephone: 1 888 338-6622

Fax: 1 888 999-0998 for Vancouver Island

Fax: 1 877 544-0699 outside Vancouver Island

Office hours: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Pacific Standard Time, Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

The Application Process

- Complete the Child Care Subsidy Application (CF2900). Questions in this form focus on your contact information, citizenship or immigration status, marital status, whether you are a foster parent, part of the young parent program (a youth attending school with a child in an approved young care child care setting), receiving “child in the home of a relative” assistance or none of the above, information about your spouse, the reason you and your spouse require child care, information about dependent adults and dependent children in your custody, and your family income. This form can be downloaded at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/cf_2900.pdf or obtained from the Child Care Subsidy Service Centre.
- Complete the Child Care Subsidy Care Provider (CF2798) form that asks you to provide basic information about your child’s care provider. You and your care provider must sign this form. A form must be completed for each care provider you use. The online form is at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/cf_2798.pdf.
- Since your child has special needs, have an authorized professional complete the complete the Child Care Subsidy Special Needs Form. The professional must confirm that the child has a physical, intellectual, emotional, communicative or behavioral impairment and would require additional support services in a child care setting because of this impairment. If this is the case, you may qualify for the Supported Child Development Program. The online form is at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/cf_2951.pdf.

Depending on your individual circumstances you may be required to complete other forms:

- If you have any medical condition that impacts your ability to care for your children, complete the Child Care Subsidy Medical Condition Form (CF2914) that requires you and your physician to provide information about your medical condition. The online form is at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/cf_2914.pdf.
- If you are self-employed, complete the Child Care Subsidy Self-employment Form (CF2568) which requires you to provide financial information about your business operation and income. The online form is at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/pdfs/cf_2568.pdf.
- If you need to renew your subsidy application, complete the Renewal Form (CF2901B). Completion of this form is required, at a minimum, annually.

- These forms and informational guides can be obtained by calling the Child Care Help Line at 1-888-338-6622. They can also be obtained at a Service BC – Government Agents office or at an Immigrant Settlement Services Agency. Contact information about these resources can be obtained by calling Enquiry BC in Victoria at 250-387-6121, in Greater Vancouver at 604-660-2421, elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867, or outside BC at 604-660-2421. Hours of operation for Enquiry BC are 7:30 am to 5 pm PST, Monday through Friday.

There are Child Care Resource and Referral offices in some centres across the province, although recent cutbacks may have resulted in some closures. These not-for-profit agencies are funded by MCFD to provide support, resources and referral services for parents and child care providers in local communities. Parents can obtain information about types of available child care, how to assess whether a child care setting will be appropriate for the child, what the components of a quality child care operation are, how to apply for the Child Care Subsidy, and other parent educational materials and opportunities. These agencies also provide support to developing new and existing child care providers. The website for the Child Care Resource and Referral is www.crr.bc.ca.

To find your Child Care Resource and Referral agency, call the Child Care Help Line in the Victoria area at 250-356-6501 or outside greater Victoria, toll free, at 1-888-338-6622.

TRANSITION PLANNING TO ADULTHOOD

In British Columbia, adults with autism and/or developmental disabilities receive services primarily through Community Living British Columbia (CLBC), a crown corporation. Historically, if an adult with an Autism Spectrum Disorder had an IQ over 70, they were ineligible for CLBC services. This presented a particular frustration for many families as academic skills (the focus of IQ testing) are widely accepted as irrelevant to the support needs of vulnerable adults with autism.

Thanks to sustained advocacy by B.C. parents of vulnerable adult children with IQ's over 70, a new regulatory amendment was implemented in January of 2010. This expands the current Community Living BC (CLBC) eligibility criteria. The Personalized Supports Initiative (PSI) uses a comprehensive approach that assesses issues of significant limitations in adaptive functioning. For updates, visit www.communitylivingbc.ca.

If the youth is deemed eligible for services, at the age of 19, their MCFD CYSN Worker is replaced by a Facilitator and an Analyst from CLBC. For more information on CLBC services for adults with autism and eligibility requirements, see www.communitylivingbc.ca.

This transition to adulthood has been recognized by government as a time where families have felt frustrated by the lack of integration between government ministries and CLBC. To address this issue, in October 2009, government ministries and CLBC signed an important protocol setting out their commitment to effective transitioning of individuals with special needs to adult services. Parents who are advocating for their children, or self-advocates may want to review the protocol. See AID Resource www.actcommunity.ca/resource/362/.

In most cases, youth with ASD will qualify for income support through the Ministry of Social Development and Innovation and they may qualify for other employment programs and services through the same Ministry. See <http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/pwd.htm>.

A key consideration in planning for the transition to adulthood is to begin considering the issues when the child with special needs becomes a teenager. For more information on preparing for the transition to adulthood, see Chapter 9, “Preparing for the Transition from School to Work,” and for more information on applying for CLBC services and PWD, see Chapter 12, “Guide to Employment for Teens and Adults with Autism in B.C.,” in this manual. ACT’s Information Officers are available to support families and community professionals with information in this process.



