



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of
Health and Community Services
Child, Youth & Family Services

June 20, 2000

Ms. Beverley Clarke
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health & Community Services

Re: Attached Correspondence
related to the children in Sheshatshui

I am writing with reference to the attached memo concerning the children in Sheshatshui and concerns regarding the protection of these children engaged in gas sniffing behaviours.

As you are aware, I have followed up on these concerns with program staff of Health Labrador Corporation. In addition, we (Provincial Community Youth Corrections Program staff and Child, Youth and Family Services staff) have met and discussed dual designation of the open custody group home in Sheshatshui to enable children in need of protective intervention a place of safety. Health Labrador Corporation have been advised that approval has been given to use the group home for children in need of protective intervention and we are currently finalizing the required policies/guidelines to ensure protection of these children while at the group home.

Initially concern was expressed by Chief Paul Riche regarding the legal implications of dealing with these matters. There have been no problems in providing the children in this community protective intervention services under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act. In all cases, parents have consented and signed voluntary care agreements to enable their children to be placed at the group home while further family service plans could be developed. This seems to have benefited the children and their parents. The staff of Health Labrador Corporation working in their office in Sheshatshui have had ongoing meetings with Chief Paul Riche and community members. While long term plans to deal with these issues are being discussed, they appear to have been successful in settling the immediate concerns respecting the children involved in gas sniffing behaviour. The opening of the Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre should also be a valuable resource for these children and their families.

PO Box 8700, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, A1B 4J6, Telephone (709) 729-2868, Facsimile (709) 729-6382

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I trust that this correspondence helps clarify the actions initiated to respond to this matter.

Yours Truly,

Marilyn McCormack
Marilyn McCormack, MSW, RSW
Provincial Director,
Child, Youth and Family Services

cc Bryan Purcell
Manager, Cross Life Cycle Programs

/jh

05/19/00 10:23 FAX 709 729 0469

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, Nfld.
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DEPT OF HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES
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MAY 19 2000
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Ben Cloutier
I expect you
may be
the candi
date
with n

DATE: 19 May 2000
FROM: Lynn E. Spracklin, QC
Deputy Minister of Justice
& Deputy Attorney General
FAX NO: (709)729-0469
TEL. NO: (709)729-2872

CODE # 2000-05-288
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REGISTRY

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PLEASE DELIVER TO:

NAME: Mr. Mike Samson, IGA - 4900
Ms. Debbie Fry, HCS - 0121
Wayne Green, HRE - 6996

LOCATION:

FAX NO:

COMMENTS:

Please find attached a memo I received from my Minister following a meeting he had with Peter Penashue and Chief Paul Riche. I will be calling you to discuss same.

NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 3

05/19/00 10:24 FAX 709 729 0469

MINISTER-JUSTICE

RCM : KELVIN PARSONS MHA BURGEO LAPD PHONE NO. : 709 695 5800

May. 18 2000 03:27PM P1

Code # 2000-05-288

MEMO

*Marilyn
Please do update
I think you dealt
with this before.
JK
PJS*

May 18, 2000

To: Lynn Spracklin

From: Minister Parsons

Re: Meeting between K. Parsons, Peter Penashue (President of Inuit Nation) and Chief Paul Rich.

NS

This relates to the earlier correspondence between myself and Mr. Penashue/Rich, re; gas sniffing incidents in the community of Sheshatshiu and was there any existing or possible legislation which could be enacted to deal with children/youth who are involved in this activity. Both individuals are well aware there are provisions under the Provincial Child Welfare Act which might be utilized in this regard, as well as some provisions under the Federal Indian Act. Both individuals realize it is not only an issue of apprehension or arrest of the participants but what happens to them once arrested. Apparently the social workers and RCMP do not wish to apprehend/arrest children and there is no place to keep them and they cannot be returned to their homes since their parents are sometimes involved in the same activities. They want a meeting to discuss possible options in this regard. It was suggested maybe a Deputy Minister or an Assistant Deputy Minister meeting initially (at Goose Bay) to discuss the possibilities would be most appropriate. I felt we should also contact HRE (Julie Bettney) since their department will be no doubt involved as well and possibly the Department of Health. Could you please make contact with the appropriate personnel in these 3 departments and arrange such a meeting? The contact for the Inuit Council is Donna Paddon. Her phone number is 497-8398 or 8895. It might also be useful to get any background police information we have regarding these incidents.

I gave my undertaking to Penashue/Rich that this meeting would take place within the first two to three weeks in June. Your urgent attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated and as soon as we have anything to convey to the Council they should be advised.

KLP/jc

Marilyn

- Now have: Solvent Abuse Tx Centre in Nat
- Use group home - Dual Designation

Mark