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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development

### **\$23 MILLION SUPPORTS ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

VICTORIA – A new group of adults with developmental disabilities will receive Community Living BC services early next year, thanks to the Province’s introduction of improved eligibility criteria supported by a three-year investment of \$23.2 million.

A new regulatory amendment has been approved, expanding on the current Community Living BC (CLBC) eligibility criteria to focus on adults who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or Pervasive Developmental Disorder, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder or Rett syndrome. The criteria concentrate on people in these groups who need support the most: people who have significantly limited adaptive functioning.

The Province is providing \$2.6 million this year, and \$10.3 million for each of the next two fiscal years, for services under the new criteria. Depending on funding levels required for each client, approximately 170 people a year will receive support. The improved eligibility will not affect the supports available for people under the current set of criteria.

The new criteria do not rely on intelligence quotient (I.Q.) and create a new group of clients who are assessed separately from clients who receive supports based on the existing criteria. The current eligibility uses the internationally recognized DSM-IV criteria, which outline I.Q. as part of the definition of a developmental disability.

People can begin applying for services under the new criteria on Feb. 1, 2010. In the meantime, CLBC will develop the service delivery model and provide information to relevant practitioners, such as psychologists.

CLBC is the Crown agency responsible for providing support and services to over 12,000 adults with developmental disabilities and their families in British Columbia. For example, clients may receive employment, financial and respite supports, all of which help to achieve CLBC’s vision of full citizenship, in which people with developmental disabilities lead ‘good lives in welcoming communities’.

CLBC’s total budget for 2009-10 is approximately \$730 million. For more information, visit [www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca).

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