



October 27, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 302637

Darian Thomas

E-mail: darianlathomas@gmail.com

Dear Darian Thomas:

Thank you for your emails sent to the Honourable Premier David Eby, the Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development, the Honourable Grace Lore, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and to George Phillips, Director of Operations, regarding your son. As Deputy Director of Child Welfare, I am responding on behalf of Premier Eby, Minister Wickens and Minister Lore who cannot legally intervene in family circumstances as child welfare practice decisions are independent of their offices.

I appreciate the time you have taken to write. I am sorry to hear of the difficulties you describe and that you feel your son's rights have been violated by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Please understand that confidentiality provisions set out in the [Child, Family and Community Service Act](#) (CFCSA) and the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (FOIPPA) limit what information I can share, even when a child's parent contacts me directly. I understand this can be frustrating, but I must follow these privacy restrictions.

I understand that your family matter is before the Court for a contested Presentation hearing and your next Court date is December 12, 2025. In Court, parties present their information to a judge who then makes a binding decision that outlines conditions and duration of any protection measures, including deciding whether a child should remain in the care of the MCFD. Ministry staff must follow the Court Order. I have reviewed your supporting documents and encourage you to prepare for the court hearing with your legal counsel, Noemie Gagnon-Bergeron.

Under the CFCSA, any previous court orders granted under the [Family Law Act](#) (FLA) regarding access and guardianship are superseded. The CFCSA takes precedence in matters involving child protection, and as part of its mandate, MCFD is required to conduct a comprehensive assessment of both parents to determine the best interests of the child. I understand there are court dates scheduled for January 2026 for the FLA matter.

You describe several complex medical conditions for your son including G-tube dependence, autism, ADHD, and a rare ANKRD17 genetic condition. I empathize with how stressful it must be to care for a child with complex needs, and I commend your advocacy for your son to receive the best

possible medical care. Your concerns about the change in his care providers, his GI issues and G-tube care and the bruising, have been shared with Shashe Chaudhary, Executive Director of Service (EDS) for North East Fraser and Michele Wong, Director of Operations (DOO). Both EDS Chaudhary and DOO Wong have been consulted about his care and are confident his medical needs are being considered, and recommendations are followed.

There are resources available for parents or families that have a disagreement with the Ministry. First, I encourage you to speak with your social worker, Chiara Santavenere or her Team Leader, Johanna Coward. Social Worker Santavenere can be reached at 604-927-4429 and Team Leader Coward at 778-572-2334. I understand you have already spoken with a complaints specialist who can explain the process to request an administrative review. If you believe the decisions or recommendations reached through MCFD's complaints process are unfair, you may request an external review by contacting the [Office of the Ombudsperson](#).

I understand you have already sought out support from the [Representative for Children and Youth](#) (RCY) and bi-weekly meetings have started on October 8, 2025 with you, the social worker, and the RCY advocate to address concerns about the change in school and any other concerns you have regarding your son's care. I hope this will be a meaningful process to collaboratively plan for him.

As per the letter dated October 3, 2025, addressed to Director's counsel, Olivia Nowland, I understand a meeting was scheduled for October 14, 2025, for the report to court to be reviewed with you and the social worker. I encourage you to contact the RCY advocate if you would like support with any meetings with your social workers. I trust there will be further communication between counsel to address your concerns.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



James Wale
Deputy Director of Child Welfare