

WHO WE HELP

RCY supports children, youth and some young adults receiving designated services or programs provided or funded by government, including:

- services under the:
 - *Child, Family and Community Service Act*
 - *Adoption Act*
 - *Youth Justice Act*
 - *Community Living Authority Act*
- early childhood development or child care
- addiction services for children and youth
- mental health services for children and youth
- services or programs specified in the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*, including:
 - children and youth in care
 - young people with a Youth Agreement
 - young people in custody
 - children and youth with special needs
 - young people transitioning to adulthood
 - young adults before their 24th birthdays who:
 - are eligible to receive services from Community Living BC, or
 - are on or are eligible for an Agreement with Young Adults, or
 - are eligible for a provincial post-secondary tuition waiver.

Even if we can't advocate on your behalf, we may still be able to help you find someone who can. Visit us online or call us at 1-800-476-3933 for more information.

CONTACT THE REPRESENTATIVE

Toll-Free: **1-800-476-3933**

Email: rcy@rcybc.ca

Web: www.rcybc.ca

Head Office - Victoria

400-1019 Wharf Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y9

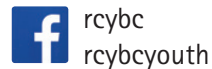
Northern Office - Prince George

1475 10th Avenue
Prince George, B.C. V2L 2L2

Lower Mainland Office - Burnaby

150-4664 Lougheed Hwy.
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 5T5

FIND US ON



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH



ABOUT THE REPRESENTATIVE

B.C.'s independent Office of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) supports young people and their families in dealing with the provincial child- and youth-serving system. RCY has a special focus on reducing the over-involvement of the child welfare system in the lives of First Nations, Metis, Inuit and urban Indigenous children and youth. The Rep provides oversight to the child welfare system, makes recommendations to improve it, and reports to the B.C. Legislative Assembly (not a government ministry).



Jennifer Charlesworth is B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth. Jennifer has worked in the B.C. social and health care sectors since 1977. She has taught child and youth care at the University of Victoria, and has been the Executive Director of the Federation of Community Social Services of BC. Jennifer has a deep interest in children's rights, child and youth mental health, youth transitioning into healthy adulthood, and ensuring that Indigenous children and youth are better served and are strongly connected to their cultures and families.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

Every child and youth in B.C. has the right to be **safe, healthy, educated and heard**. The Representative's Advocates provide information, advice and support to young people (and the adults who contact us on their behalf) who need help with services or programs provided or funded by government.

Most importantly, RCY Advocates are there to ensure that the rights and interests of children and youth are protected and upheld, and that their opinions are heard and considered by decision-makers.

YOUTH IN CARE

The Representative is particularly concerned with the well-being of children and youth in government care (such as foster homes, group homes, homes of relatives under a government program, or youth custody).



HOW WE HELP

RCY Advocates can help you:

- Know your rights and what to do if they are ignored
- Connect with services or programs you need
- Speak up in a way that might solve a problem
- Be a part of discussions about your care and decisions made about you
- With your transition out of ministry care.

And:

- **What you say will be kept private**
- **You will be treated with respect.**

RESEARCH, MONITORING, INVESTIGATION

The Representative's Office also **monitors, researches and evaluates government-funded programs and services**, in order to make recommendations to improve them, and monitors key developments in Indigenous child welfare.

If a child or youth receiving certain government services dies or suffers a critical injury – particularly in cases where abuse or neglect may be a factor – the Representative **may conduct a review or investigate.**

