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Memorandum

DATE: January 24, 2017
TO: ACDS Board of Directors and Members
FROM: Ann Nicol, CEO

I am very pleased to confirm that the Ministry of Human Services has been restructured into a new Ministry of Children's Services under Minister Danielle Larivee, and Human Services will be renamed Community and Social Services under Minister Irfan Sabir.

A new Deputy Minister has been appointed for the Children's Services Ministry. David Morhart will be the Deputy Minister of Community Social Services which will include the re-establishment of an ADM responsible for Disability Supports Programs including PDD and FSCD.

This is a direct response to recent engagement and recommendations in the final PDD Safety Regulations Consultation Report. John Cabral, currently ADM at Seniors and housing will provide interim leadership until a permanent appointment is made following a national recruitment to be initiated shortly.

This is good news on a number of fronts as it designates a policy and ministry operational authority for Disability Services, a clear identity and focus on our distinct community, and is a particularly positive acknowledgement and response from Minister Sabir and this government to the clear concerns and voices raised by us identifying the need for this action.

More good news! We have received confirmation that CET will continue to be supported, as well as our ACDS Training and Workforce Council initiatives. ACDS is now secure and in a very positive position to thrive. The key challenges that we have worked on these past few years that were significant risks for the Disability Services Community, members, and the individuals who receive services have been addressed in the Safety Regulation Consultation Report, a place at the table for Contracts, and the recent decision to exempt PDD services from procurement and tendering, and the decision to re-establish an ADM position for a Disability Services Division in a restructured Ministry.

As you are aware, I have been considering retirement since our last AGM, and although I have not won a lottery, I feel that most of the key goals I have had these past ten years have been achieved and we are now in a strong position with most loose-ends tied up. Therefore, I will be retiring May 15, 2017 from my current role as CEO and will be happy to work with the Board to ensure that a plan can be implemented to support a smooth transition over whatever period is needed. I am so grateful to have been in this position and part of this amazing journey with so many amazing people that have supported me.

Thank you; it has been a great privilege.

Ann