



February 26, 2010

Dear Adoptive Parent:

I am writing to advise you of changes to the Post Adoption Assistance program that may affect benefits you currently receive under the program. There are three changes being implemented for all new contracts that begin after April 1, 2010 that you need to be aware of:

1. Revised asset test

Under the current guidelines, if you hold net assets worth over \$100,000 (net) – excluding your primary residence and vehicle as well as pensions and RRSPs – you are not eligible for the program.

Under the new guidelines, the asset test will change to \$300,000 (gross) in assets – and still exclude your primary residence and vehicle as well as pensions and RRSPs.

2. Income threshold established

An income threshold of \$80,000 annually has been established to determine eligibility for the monthly maintenance rate. For those with a family net income over \$80,000, benefits will decrease gradually, based on the number of dependent children in the family. Your net income is now drawn from line 236 of your income tax return(s), instead of calculating pay stubs and other income receipts. The enclosed chart will help you determine your monthly maintenance rates based on net income and number of dependent children.

If your family has a net household income below \$80,000 a year, based on line 236 of your income tax return(s), then your monthly maintenance payments will not be affected by the income test. You will still need to qualify under the revised asset test.

3. Provincial standardization of service rates

There is now a provincial schedule of rates for approved services. This replaces the regional rate structures that varied across the province. The enclosed table lists the available services, their new coverage rates and any special considerations.

Please be aware that your existing contract will be honoured. This only applies to contracts that begin after April 1, 2010. After reviewing these documents you may have further questions. Please contact your adoption worker for any further clarification you may require. You can also find this package of information on our website at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/PAA.

Sincerely,

Anne Clayton
Provincial Director of Adoption