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Please find our budget proposal for the 2022 BC Budget Consultation attached. We appreciate the Committee's time and effort.

We hope this document will serve as guidance and information for your decisions on recommendations. It is specific to K-12 education. We began writing it by consulting with our parent/guardian community, and ended up with a list of interconnected challenges that, if resolved, would result in a much more equitable system.

In addition to our proposal, we would also like to recommend the following as they are also important to supporting children and youth with disabilities and their families:

1. Increase legal aid funding and funding to the Human Rights Tribunal and Commissioner's office.

Families who need to seek accountability beyond the school district or independent school authority need it to be accessible and well staffed, and they need access to legal aid in order for it to be equitable. School Districts and independent school authorities have lawyers at their disposal.

2. Expand the mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth to include K-12 education.

Currently there's no independent oversight of this system and children and youth in schools need an advocate.

3. Create mental health supports specifically for children and youth with disabilities and accessibility needs.

Currently not many people are trained to support children and youth with dual diagnoses (a disability and a mental health issue). These needs are complex and require specific attention for equity. Early intervention is also key here, and unavailable to all disabled kids.

4. Significantly increase funding to Persons With Disabilities and others collecting social services funding.

Poverty is the greatest impediment to equity for adults with disabilities and accessibility needs. Although BC raised the rates slightly, it is not nearly enough for people to live with dignity. It is unconscionable that children, youth and adults with disabilities should be living in poverty in such a wealthy province as BC, and you have the opportunity to recommend bold action here.

Best regards,

Tracy Humphreys  
**Executive Director, BCEdAccess Society**