

November, 2007

Dear Parents, Foster Parents, Medical Equipment Dealers and Therapists:

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross Society established the Children's Medical Equipment Recycling and Loan Service (CMERLS) in 2001 to serve the Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland Regions. Now MCFD is pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2007, the recycling program has been expanded to serve all regions of the Province. This comprehensive service provides high quality recycled medical equipment for children and youth with special needs who are in the care of the ministry or are eligible for the At Home Program.

From now on, all equipment purchased by the province for children and youth with special needs becomes the property of the Red Cross and is to be returned to the Red Cross when it is no longer required. Equipment will be carefully cleaned, repaired and integrated into the loan inventory for the benefit of other children, youth and their families.

If you would like additional information about CMERLS, you may contact the Red Cross at:

Children's Medical Equipment Loans
Canadian Red Cross - Lower Mainland Region
3400 Lake City Way
Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y2
Tel 604-709-6685
Fax 604-709-6688
Toll free 1-800-565-8000
www.redcrossequipment.com

You may also contact MCFD's Medical Benefits Program toll-free at 1-888-613-3232 or in Victoria at 387-9649.

Sincerely,



Mark Sieben
Assistant Deputy Minister
Integrated Policy and Legislation

Attachment