



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Justice, Civil Division

Bernard Coffey
c/o Bernard Coffey Law Office
1st Floor
263 Duckworth Street
St. John's, NL
A1C 1G9

7 December 2009

Dear Mr. Coffey:

Re: Your client – Ms. Darlene Neville
Child and Youth Advocate
Our file number 4120-10-217

A number of documents related to Ms. Neville's role as Child and Youth Advocate have recently come to the attention of Executive Council. These documents, being the e-mails attached here for your reference, give rise to further concerns related to Ms. Neville's tenure as Child and Youth Advocate.

The e-mails (attached and numbered 1, 2, and 3) appear to indicate that [REDACTED] was involved in writing and/or editing portions of the "Lost in Transition" report published by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate on June 2, 2009.

The e-mail (attached and numbered 4) appears to indicate that Ms. Shirley Prior, acting on behalf of and with the knowledge of Ms. Darlene Neville, provided CBC reporter [REDACTED] with an advance copy of the "Lost in Transition" report.

These e-mails raise concerns that by her conduct, Ms. Darlene Neville breached the confidence of her office.

If you wish to make written submissions responding to the concerns raised by these documents, please send them to my attention no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2009.

Regards

Rolf Pritchard
Solicitor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 3:31 PM
To: Prior, Shirley
Subject: RE: Transitioning Report

Thanks Shirley.

[REDACTED]

From: Prior, Shirley [mailto:sprior@childandyouthadvocate.nf.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 1:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Transitioning Report

Hi [REDACTED]

I have made some changes to the Executive Summary – not sure if this is all of them as Darlene took the marked-up copy with her when she left. Anyways, this is now the most current version. Good luck!

Shirley

Shirley Prior
Executive Secretary
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
193 LeMarchant Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2H6

Tel: 763-3936
Fax: 763-3968
Email: sprior@childandyouthadvocate.nf.ca

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11/16/2009

From: Prior, Shirley
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 8:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: latest version of discussion of findings and recommendations

Hi [REDACTED]

Got your email but there is no attachment.

Shirley

Shirley Prior
Executive Secretary
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
193 LeMarchant Road
St. John's, NL. A1C 2H6

Tel: 753-3636
Fax: 753-3688
Email: sprior@childand youthadvocate.nf.ca

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 7:41 AM
To: Neville, Darlene; Prior, Shirley
Subject: Re: latest version of discussion of findings and recommendations

PS. Ignore the typos- I will fix when I review the file later tonight.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED], Darlene Neville <dneville@childand youthadvocate.nf.ca>; 'Prior, Shirley' <sprior@childand youthadvocate.nf.ca>
Sent: Mon May 04 23:50:22 2009
Subject: RE: latest version of discussion of findings and recommendations
Darlene,

Well here it is. Please start reviewing this section for content. In particular:

- o look at the qualitative section of your main report to see if you want to add more balance or comment from that section into this chapter. For example, you may want to single out the Aboriginal issue in Labrador for a table of its own;
 - o compare my list of findings and recommendations with the original list to be sure we have not missed any. I tried to keep track of it but a second/third set of eyes is a good thing
 - o social workers had concerns about the amount and type of documentation required and suggested that more documentation requirements would further strain their resources - do you want to address that in your closing comments - Chapter 7??
- Also you need to add a comment in the top section of the tables on Social Workers and on Care givers - some background around agreed upon standard ratios of caregivers and social workers per child/youth in care if you have them would be nice for example.

While you are doing this I will take one more night to add in the percentages in the body of the report and fix a few minor edits and then it is back to you and Shirley to shine it up and get it out.

[REDACTED]

From: Prior, Shirley
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 8:21 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: latest version of discussion of findings and recommendations

Ooops ... didn't see the earlier email. Sorry about that. Got it.

Shirley Prior
Executive Secretary
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
193 LaMarchant Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2H5

Tel: 753-3636
Fax: 753-3988
Email: sprior@childand youthadvocate.nl.ca

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 7:41 AM
To: Neville, Darlene; Prior, Shirley
Subject: Re: latest version of discussion of findings and recommendations

PS. Ignore the typos- I will fix when I review the file later tonight.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; Darlene Neville <dneville@childand youthadvocate.nl.ca>; 'Prior, Shirley' <sprior@childand youthadvocate.nl.ca>
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While you are doing this I will take one more night to add in the percentages in the body of the report and fix a few minor edits and then it is back to you and Shirley to shine it up and get it out.

From: Prior, Shirley
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2009 3:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OCYA Report Lost in Transition: A Review of the Transitioning of Children and Youth in Care

Hi [REDACTED]

You're quite welcome and thank you.

Darlens asked me to let you know that the Mental Health Investigation is ongoing. We are in the witness interview phase of the Investigation now and that will continue through the summer and into September. If you wanted to report that, that's OK but there's really nothing more that she can say at this time.

Shirley

Shirley Prior
Executive Secretary
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
193 LeMarchant Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2H5

Tel: 753-3636
Fax: 753-3988
Email: sprior@childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@CBCG.CA]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2009 5:05 PM
To: Prior, Shirley
Subject: Re: OCYA Report Lost in Transition: A Review of the Transitioning of Children and Youth In Care

Thanks for all your help with this story!
Darlens was great and informative this morning.

I'm still interested in speaking with Ms. Neville about the mental health survey.
Maybe we can do that next week?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Reporter CBC News
[REDACTED]

>>> "Prior, Shirley" <sprior@childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca> 01/06/2009
>>> 3:51 pm >>>

As promised, attached is the Report and Press Release which will be released tomorrow morning. The Report will be available on our website tomorrow morning at 7:30.

As we discussed, it is imperative that the information contained in the Report and Press Release be shared with no one until tomorrow morning after 7:30 Newfoundland time.

Darlene is expecting your call at 7:45 Newfoundland time.

Thanks.

Shirley Prior
Executive Secretary
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
193 LeMarchant Road
St. John's, NL A1C 2H5

Tel: 753-3636

Fax: 753-3988

Email: sprior@childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca
<<mailto:sprior@childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca>>

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