

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 30, 2015

**SOS Children's Village B.C.'s Model for Ageing Out of Care Provides a Solution to the Crisis in the Foster System**

**Surrey, British Columbia** Staff at SOS Children's Village B.C. were tremendously saddened to hear news of the teen in provincial care who died after falling from a hotel window in Abbotsford on September 18. **Local charity SOS B.C. believes that the vital story here is why the group home the teen was living in - prior to being sent to a hotel - was in such terrible condition.** B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, described a group home that was condemned, covered in mold, with no food, and caregivers with criminal records who hadn't been screened using abusive language.

SOS Children's Village B.C. in Surrey is the only SOS Village in Canada, and the charity's parent organization has 563 Villages for orphaned children in 134 countries. **The organization stresses the absolute necessity of providing strong support to teens who are ageing out of care.** In British Columbia, foster youth age out of provincial care at age 19 - these kids, after spending disrupted childhoods shuttled from one foster home to another, are told that the government no longer has a duty to support them. They're considered adults, and expected to begin caring for themselves, after a childhood when no one showed them what care really meant.

**'Say Yes to the Village, No to the Streets', SOS B.C.'s capital campaign to build transition to adulthood suites for homeless youth in the basements of the homes in the Village, has raised \$170,000 to date.** With this amount, the charity will begin construction of three of the five suites in November. Foster children and youth living in the Village are provided with a variety of support services to ensure they get the help they need.

Data on foster children and youth is hard to come by in Canada, but SOS Children's Villages International has released a report looking at ageing out of care in different countries around the world. **Staff at SOS B.C. are also always available to discuss these timely issues with reporters.** Please contact executive director Douglas Dunn ([douglasdunn@sosbc.org](mailto:douglasdunn@sosbc.org)) or communications manager William Brennan ([williambrennan@sosbc.org](mailto:williambrennan@sosbc.org)) at 604-574-2964.

**About SOS Children's Village BC**

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization for orphaned and abandoned children. It has existed for over 65 years with presence in 134 countries and 563 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides stable homes, a supportive and healing Village environment, and community-based family care programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGE**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For more information please contact:**

William Brennan, Manager of Communications  
SOS Children's Village BC  
T: (604) 574-2964 ext. 231  
E: [williambrennan@sosbc.org](mailto:williambrennan@sosbc.org) Web: [www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org)

*Please visit our Media Room: [www.sosbc.org/news-events/media-room](http://www.sosbc.org/news-events/media-room)*

SOS Children's Village British Columbia  
102 – 5830 176A Street  
Surrey, British Columbia, Canada  
V3S 4H5

Tel: 604-574-2964  
[office@sosbc.org](mailto:office@sosbc.org)  
[www.sosbc.org](http://www.sosbc.org)  
Charity #: 12993 5011 RR0001

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