

December 18, 2009

Dear Dr. Bisnaire and Mr. Moore,

Thank-you for your response of September 24, 2009, to our letter addressed to Dr. Freeman on July 21, 2009. In our letter to Dr. Freeman, we indicated a number of concerns with the proposed benchmarks and also the current guidelines being used to justify termination of IBI therapy for children in Ontario. Unfortunately, your response has not addressed any of these concerns.

Once again, enclosed is a copy of the original letter to Dr. Freeman, listing the several points on which we requested specific information. We ask that you kindly provide these responses, or refer this request to someone who can.

At this time, we would also like to communicate our concerns about the “independent third party” reviewer of the benchmarks, Dr. Louise LaRose. It has come to our attention that she has in the past worked closely with Dr. Freeman, the Chair of the Benchmarks Committee, and that she has also worked within IBI in the Thames Valley Treatment Centre. Given the apparent conflict of interest, can you please provide us with your input as to how Dr. LaRose qualifies as an independent reviewer?

We are sharing this letter and all previous correspondence with our membership and are promising to share future correspondence also.

Sincerely,

Laurie Mawlam  
Executive Director  
Autism Canada

Cc: Dr. Nancy Freeman, Chair Benchmark Panel  
Cc: Laurel Broten, Minister of Children & Youth Services  
Cc: Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education