

AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED] youth worker, of [REDACTED] in the City of Terrace, in the Province of British Columbia, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I have personal knowledge of the matters included in this affidavit except where statements are made based on information and belief, in which case I verify believe them to be true.
2. I am 25 years old. I have a two year old son who resides with me. I am his primary caregiver as a single mother.
3. I separated from my son's father and I have been living on my own with my son since January 2015. I do not receive any child support from my son's father, but he continues to pay the mortgage of our jointly owned home while my son and I live there.
4. I work at a youth centre as a Youth Reconnect Worker. My employment hours are 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. I currently earn approximately \$16.75 per hour, or about \$1,000 twice per month.
5. On the days that I work, my son attends a licensed childcare facility. I chose it after doing some research and I am quite happy with it. It is very education-focused and my son seems to be doing very well. His language has improved and he is very happy to go there.
6. My son currently attends his childcare facility five hours per day, Monday to Friday, at a cost of approximately \$700 per month. In order to keep the cost of childcare down, I look after my son in the morning before work and my father usually picks him up from childcare at 4:00 p.m. My father then cares for my son until 5:00 p.m., which is when my mom gets home from work. She then looks

after my son until I am off work. I do not pay my parents to care for my son. They do it out of kindness.

7. While I trust my parents to care for my son, I do not think that my father really wants to be doing it. He treats it almost as a chore. My mother, however, is eager to spend time with my son, so she will often pick him up from childcare at 4:00 p.m. if she has the day off and she will then care for my son instead of my father until I finish work. I sometimes feel like I am taking advantage of my parents by relying on them for childcare.
8. Soon I plan to extend my son's childcare hours until 4:30 p.m. so that his father can pick him up and care for him after work. I am doing this to try to take some of the caregiving pressure off of my father. If we go up to five and half hours per day of childcare, I expect the cost will rise to \$40 per day of attendance, or approximately \$880 to \$900 per month.
9. I am currently living pay cheque to pay cheque. If I were to miss one pay cheque, I would not be able to afford food or my son's childcare. I need to start saving up to six months in advance for my son's birthday or for Christmas so that I can afford to purchase presents and other special items that are outside of my usual budget.
10. If my son is sick, he cannot attend his childcare facility and I have to take the day off work to be home with him. I do not have any paid sick time so I forgo any income for that day.
11. I do not make a lot of money, so it is very difficult for me to pay for my son's childcare in a lump sum at the beginning of each month. The cost of childcare uses up the majority of my income for the first half of the month, and I often struggle in make ends meet until my second paycheque. During the second week of each month, I am often forced to rely on using my credit card to make ends meet and to purchase basic necessities like groceries. I then pay off my credit card balance when I receive my next paycheque.

