

***Denied Assistance: Closing the Front Door on Welfare***

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SSHRC's Community University Research Alliance (CURA) Program, Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG), the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA-BC) and Simon Fraser University. \$12,000 (approximately).

This project looks at how changes in welfare laws and application procedures in BC are affecting applicants' eligibility and access to benefits. The study (currently in progress) includes in-depth interviews with individuals who have been denied, discouraged or delayed in their process of apply for welfare, as well as interviews with community workers and Ministry staff for a total of about forty interviews from Victoria and Vancouver areas. The research also includes accessing caseload information from the Ministry through Freedom of Information requests and a survey of advocates in BC. The objective of the project is question the impacts of the dramatic caseload reductions in BC by looking less on how many people are possibly leaving welfare (welfare exits) to how many people are being denied or diverted from welfare (entries).

Website Address: [www.vipirg.ca](http://www.vipirg.ca) and [www.sfu.ca/economicsecurityproject](http://www.sfu.ca/economicsecurityproject)