

# MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

ESTIMATES BINDER  
2023

THE HONOURABLE MITZI DEAN



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

March 2023

# MCFD 2023 ESTIMATES

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC SERVICES BRANCH, DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Minister's Mandate Letter/Service Plan/Strategic Framework**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Since 2019, our Service Plan and Strategic Framework have signaled a shift in the ministry's approach – away from reactive and “symptomatic” responses towards a systemic and transformative approach, focusing holistically on meeting the needs of the children, youth, young adults and families we serve.
- Our service plan reflects the items identified in my mandate letter and focuses on four areas: Reconciliation with Indigenous Families and Communities; Prevention and Family Supports; Youth and Young Adult Transitions; and the Network of Care.
- I am honoured to have had a role in advancing this work, including over the last year:
  - Significant expansion to services for youth and young adults transitioning out of government care, and
  - Historic changes to provincial legislation to remove barriers for Indigenous Peoples exercising jurisdiction over child and family services.
- I look forward to continuing this journey to support B.C.'s children, youth, young adults, families and communities. Among other things, this will involve:
- **Ongoing work with Indigenous Peoples** (alongside the federal government) to transform delivery of child and family services, including increased decision-making authority and the exercise of jurisdiction.
  - Working alongside Indigenous Governing Bodies preparing to exercise jurisdiction to develop and implement coordination agreements.
  - Working alongside Indigenous communities to plan for increased decision-making authority and/or the exercise of jurisdiction.



- Working alongside Indigenous partners to develop policy and regulations that support service delivery in a multi-jurisdictional model.
- Implementing an interim fiscal agreement and co-developing a long-term fiscal framework with the federal government and Indigenous Peoples.
- Building on Budget 2022, which introduced **comprehensive supports for young people transitioning from government care** and extended the age of support up to their twenty-seventh birthday
  - Continuing to provide housing agreements, support agreements, and rent supplements.
  - Hiring transition workers to support youth and young adults in planning for the transition to adulthood.
  - Expanding supports and tools, including access to life-skills, culture, and training programs, and increased access to dental and mental health benefits (e.g., counselling).
- Supporting improved outcomes and keeping families safely together by strengthening supports and prioritizing resources for families and children based on their needs, including:
  - Engaging in deeper consultation with parents and caregivers, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, communities, experts and practitioners, and other stakeholders with lived experience to build a better system of supports for **children and youth with support needs**.
  - Investing, in the interim, to better serve children with a range of support needs who are currently underserved.
  - Piloting a new “children with support needs service delivery model” through family connections centres in the Northwest and Central Okanagan service delivery areas
  - In line with B.C.’s A Pathway to Hope roadmap, continuing to work with partners and service providers to implement **child and youth mental health services and supports**, including Integrated Child and Youth Teams, Early Intervention Enhancement services, and High Intensity Services.
  - In collaboration with our partners, implementing an integrated **network of care**.

- Through a responsive network of Specialized Homes and Support Services, providing services for children and youth who need more than what community-based and outreach services can provide.
- Continuing to implement the Enhanced Out-of-Care program across the province to enable children and youth living with moderate to significant support needs to reside with extended family or people known to them.
- Expanding efforts to recruit and retain caregivers.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC SERVICES BRANCH, DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24

## ISSUE: SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### KEY MESSAGES:

- Every child and youth in British Columbia—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous—has the right to live in a safe, healthy, and nurturing home, and to be strongly connected to their communities and culture.
- The ministry approaches its work through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens, delivering services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible, trauma informed and culturally safe; respecting the diverse backgrounds and identities of children and youth, including those who identify as Indigenous, Inuit, Métis, Black, a Person of Colour, 2SLGBTQQIA+ or a person with a disability.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's Service Plan outlines key performance measures to help ensure that all children and youth can access the services they need, at the right time and in the right way, to set them on the path to success.

### BACKGROUND:

- The ministry carried forward all six performance measures from the 2022/23 Service Plan and added one new youth transitions performance measure (rent supplements).
- **Children and Youth in care targets lowered:** The number of children and youth in care continues to decrease and is the lowest it's been in thirty years; however, as the province emerges from the pandemic, the past year has seen a slight slowing in this downward trend. The targets for the Children and Youth in care performance measure (PM 1a) have been lowered based on forecasted data.
- **Children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family targets have been lowered:** Although the forecast for

2022/23 is expected to be short of the target, the number of children and youth coming into care has remained constant since last year.

- Advice/Recommendations

- **Youth in care who turn 19 with a high school credential target is on track:** This performance measure (PM 3a) is trending up, primarily driven by an increase in adult graduation diplomas (these are equivalent to the Dogwood diplomas completed for adults). Over time, the ministry is seeing more children and youth in care reconnecting with school and completing high school as adult learners prior to turning 19.
- **Youth transitioning into adulthood that received a Post Majority Service benefit payment target has been changed to reflect anticipated uptake:** Previously, this performance measure (PM 3b) measured eligible youth who accessed the Agreements with Young Adult program. It has now been expanded to include the suite of benefits currently available to eligible young adults (Agreements with Young Adults, Housing Agreements, or Support Agreements benefits and/or rent supplement payments). The change showcases the significant expansion of youth and young adult transition services.
  - For instance, when this performance measure only measured youth accessing the Agreements with Young Adults Program, the target for 2023/24 was 35.3 per cent; with the expanded services included, we now expect 71.2 per cent of eligible youth and young adults to access these services.
- **Children and Youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months targets lowered:** During the pandemic, more children and youth in care than expected remained in their existing placements, so targets at that time were revised (PM 4a). As we emerge from the pandemic, the global labour shortage and

inflation have impacted retention of caregivers, and the past year has seen a slight slowing of this increase. Therefore, targets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 have been adjusted based on forecasted performance. As more Specialized Homes and Support Services are implemented, and additional foster homes are made available through recruitment, the ministry expects to see a positive impact on this performance measure.

- **Young Adults who receive rent supplements has been added as a new measure:** This new performance measure (PM 3c) tracks the total number of young adults who received rent supplements during the fiscal year. Recipients receive the supplement for two years or until the month of their twenty-seventh birthday, whichever comes first.
- All these measures are publicly available on the ministry's Public Reporting Portal.

#### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 1.1** – Minister Mandate Letter/Strategic Framework/Service Plan

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:** Performance Management & Public Reporting

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The ministry is committed to improving its supports and services to make life better for children, youth and families.
- Through a public online reporting portal, MCFD proactively reports select caseload data, performance indicators and information on how the Ministry is organized, including workforce information, and contracted and total expenditures.
- Performance is monitored using trends in 31 indicators across five of the six service lines. The Early Years service line indicators, all Child Care specific, were removed following the transfer of Child Care from MCFD to ECC.
- The last update to the portal included caseload data as of December 2022, and performance indicators, expenditure, and other administrative information for fiscal year 2021/22.
- The performance indicators compare the results of the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic to those of the first year of the pandemic which had seen remarkable improvements on some indicators such as placement stability.
- Performance trends for 2021/22 (currently on the portal) are:
  - Improving in 10 indicators, including family preservation, the rate of CYIC per 1,000 population, CYIC Who Finish School with a High School Credential
  - Unchanged in 9 indicators, including recurrence of maltreatment and youth discharged from care and subsequently claiming income assistance. All education Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) measures are unchanged since no new data is available yet.
  - Slightly lower in 12 indicators:
    - Relative Use of Admissions into Care and Admissions to Out-of-Care

- Placement Stability in the First Year of Care
  - CYIC Who Exited to Permanency
  - Foster Parent Retention Rate
  - Young Adults Transitioning Out of Continuing Custody (CCO), or YA, that Receive Financial Assistance
  - Clients Receiving Formal Diversion Services That Did Not Commit a New Offence
  - Number of Clients Receiving First Custody Sentence Services That Did Not Commit A New Offence
  - Residential Cost per CYIC Excluding CYIC with Support Needs
  - Median Residential Cost per CYIC with Support Needs
  - CYIC Funded Bed Utilization Rate
  - Youth on a Youth Agreement Who Finish School with a High School Credential
  - Per Cent of Children Eligible for Adoption Placed in Adoption Homes
- Reporting on the portal will be updated this Spring (monthly caseload reporting to March 2023, annual caseload reporting to fiscal year 2022/23), and Winter (performance measures, expenditure, and other administrative information to fiscal year 2022/23).
  - Since 2012, MCFD has publicly reported on performance through the Performance Management Report. Now it is reporting through an online portal (released in February 2018, last updated in March 2023).
  - Public reporting is an essential part of the ministry's commitment to transparency and accountability and helps foster public confidence in the ministry.
  - B.C. compares favourably to other jurisdictions on public reporting on the Child Welfare System.
  - B.C.'s reporting is broader and more exhaustive than any other Canadian jurisdiction. Most provinces publicly report on child protection, but far less extensively than B.C.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: 2023/24 Operating Budget**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The ministry's budget for fiscal 2023/24 is \$1.912 billion, increasing by \$171.5 million over the fiscal 2022/23 restated budget.
- The ministry's budget for fiscal 2022/23 was restated to account for transfers of the Youth Educational Assistance Fund to the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills.
- Over 93% of MCFD's budget is allocated to service delivery to support clients and communities with over \$1.6 billion directly invested in programs and services.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Core Business Changes**

<b>Core Business</b> (\$ millions)	<b>22/23</b> <b>Estimates</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>22/23</b> <b>Estimates</b> <b>Restated</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>23/24</b> <b>Estimates</b>
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	40.3	0.0	40.3	1.6	41.9
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	480.4	0.0	480.4	48.5	528.9
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	119.5	0.0	119.5	2.7	122.2
Child Safety, Family Support & Children In Care Services	835.8	(1.4)	834.4	100.8	935.2
Adoption Services	36.5	0.0	36.5	1.5	38.0
Youth Justice Services	51.3	0.0	51.3	0.0	51.3
Service Delivery Support	161.4	0.0	161.4	11.8	173.2
Executive & Support Services	17.0	0.0	17.0	4.5	21.5
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>1,742.0</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>1,740.6</b>	<b>171.5</b>	<b>1,912.1</b>

**Operating Budget – What changed?**

The Ministry has restated the budget because of the following changes:

- (\$1.4M) transfer of Youth Educational Assistance Fund to the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS)



## 2023/24 Estimates

The MCFD operating budget for 2023/24 has increased by \$171.5M over the restated 2022/23 budget. This is an 9.9% net increase over 2022/23 (restated budget), and provides for the following increases:

- \$84.9M for the **affordability** initiative<sup>1</sup> including:
  - \$49.8M – increase to the rates of maintenance payments, paid to in-care and out-of-care providers and post adoption assistance families
  - \$5.1M – increase to rates for service fee payments to foster parents
  - \$22.5M – increase to the daily rates of relief paid to foster parents, and
  - \$7.5M – increase to the annual respite available to CYSN families.
- \$32.9M for the **CYSN: Engagement, Evaluation and Serving the Underserved Framework** including:
  - \$8.7M – enhanced engagement and evaluation
  - \$21.7M – providing additional services to underserved populations,
  - \$1.0M – working towards launching an Indigenous Led, integrated CYSN intervention services pilot, and
  - \$1.5M – workforce planning initiatives to ensure the staffing and human capital required to implement the above are successful.
- \$32.5M for the salaries and benefits increases for internal/MCFD staff resulting from the **shared recovery mandate**.
- \$6.0M current year funding resulting from the *Budget 2022* **CYSN Early Implementation** decision
- \$5.4M current year funding resulting from the Budget 2022 **Youth Transitions** decision for the continued implementation of wrap around supports for youth transition from care.
- \$2.7M current year funding resulting from the *Budget 2021* CYMH **Pathway to Hope** Early Childhood Development Centre expansion
- < \$0.1M – other minor adjustments

<sup>1</sup> Updated rate table is attached as appendix A.

### ***Shared Recovery Mandate***

- During 2022/23 government embarked on negotiating the next three-year wage mandates for both internal employee and social sector service providers.
- Budget 2023 includes the impacts of the Shared Recovery Mandate in relation to internal MCFD employees for both 2023 and 2024 wage impacts, excluding the cost-of-living adjustment should it be triggered.
- It does not include any budget lift for social sector wage mandates as these contracts have not yet been ratified.

### ***Beyond 2023/24***

Further budget changes for subsequent years are outlined as follows:

- CYSN Framework: Early Implementation funding: increases by \$2.2M in 2024/25 to support early implementation of the framework and modernizing the medical benefits program.
- Youth transitioning into adulthood: an additional \$9.8M of funding in 2024/25 to support a holistic approach which includes: housing, income, life skills and training, health and wellness and navigation supports.
- CYSN Framework: Engagement, Evaluation and Serving the Underserved reduction of one-time funding received in fiscal 2023/24 of (\$2.5 million) for 2024/25 and (\$4.1 million) in 2025/26
- Shared Recovery Mandate funding increases by \$8.7 million in 2024/25

**STOB Changes:**

Major STOBs (\$ millions)	22/23 Estimates	Change	22/23 Estimates Restated	Change	23/24 Estimates
Salaries & Benefits	420.2	0.0	420.2	43.5	463.7
Operating Costs	66.7	0.0	66.7	4.2	70.9
Government Transfers	1,356.3	(1.4)	1,354.9	123.7	1,478.6
Other Expenses	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	30.0
Internal Recoveries	(46.1)	0.0	(46.1)	0.0	(46.1)
External Recoveries	(84.9)	0.0	(84.9)	0.0	(84.9)
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>1,742.0</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>1,740.6</b>	<b>171.5</b>	<b>1,912.1</b>

- Salaries and Benefits increase due to Shared Recovery Mandate, CYSN: Engagement, Evaluation and Serving the Underserved, and Youth Transitioning to Adulthood.
- Operating and Other Expenses increase result from CYSN: Engagement, Evaluation and Serving the Underserved.
- Government transfers increase from Affordability, CYSN: Engagement, Evaluation, and Serving the Underserved, Pathways to Hope, Youth Transitioning to Adulthood, and CYSN: Early Implementation, and the transfer of the Youth Educational Assistance Fund to PSFS.

***2023/24 Capital Budget Changes:*****Capital Budget:**

Asset Category (\$ millions)	22/23 Estimates	Change	22/23 Estimates Restated	Change	23/24 Estimates
Specialized Equipment	0.202	0.000	0.202	0.000	0.202
Office Furniture & Equipment	0.028	0.000	0.028	0.000	0.028
Vehicles	0.770	0.000	0.770	1.511	2.165
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>1.511</b>	<b>2.395</b>

- Vehicle capital is allocated to MCFD based on government's vehicle replacement strategy. The 2023/24 strategy has resulted in a \$1.5M

increase to the MCFD allocation.

- **Attachments:**
- Appendix A – Affordability Rate Changes
- Appendix B - MCFD Estimates and Supplements to the Estimates
- Appendix C – MCFD Material Assumptions
- Appendix D – Resource Summary
- Appendix E – Resource Summary Comparison by Core Business

**Appendix A**

	Current Rates		Approved Rates	
	0-11	12-19	0-11	12-19
<b>Maintenance Rates (cost reimbursement)</b>				
Regular and Restricted Foster Care	\$ 1,024.64	\$ 1,124.19	\$ 1,465.86	\$ 1,655.91
Interim and Temporary Care	\$ 1,024.64	\$ 1,124.19	\$ 1,465.86	\$ 1,655.91
Extended Family Program	\$ 1,024.64	\$ 1,124.19	\$ 1,465.86	\$ 1,655.91
Permanent Transfer before Continuing Custody	\$ 1,024.64	\$ 1,124.19	\$ 1,465.86	\$ 1,655.91
Permanent Transfer after Continuing Custody	\$ 1,024.64	\$ 1,124.19	\$ 1,465.86	\$ 1,655.91
Post Adoption Assistance	\$ 806.00	\$ 926.00	\$ 849.36	\$ 1,135.81
Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies	\$ 1,024.64	\$ 1,124.19	\$ 1,465.86	\$ 1,655.91
<b>Service Rates (reflects CPI increase)</b>				
Level 1	\$458.02		\$591.90	
Level 2 - 1 child	\$1,140.40		\$1,473.74	
Level 2 - 2 children	\$1,968.68		\$2,544.13	
Level 2 - 3 or more children	\$2,692.92		\$3,480.06	
Level 3 - 1 child	\$1,816.66		\$2,347.67	
Level 3 - 2 children	\$3,113.12		\$4,023.08	
<b>Relief Rates (daily rates based on above)</b>				
Regular and Restricted	\$44.15	\$47.47	\$ 58.86	\$ 65.20
Level 1	\$62.74		\$84.93	
Level 2	\$75.49		\$104.32	
Level 3	\$98.03		\$133.45	
<b>Respite Rate (annual allowanaces)</b>				
Direct Support to CYSN families	\$3,080.00		\$4,135.55	

## Appendix B – MCFD Estimates and Supplements to the Estimates

### WFR BCOA Estimates

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#### MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Ministry of Children and Family Development is to work together to deliver inclusive, culturally respectful, responsive, and accessible services to support the well-being of children, youth, and families.

#### MINISTRY SUMMARY \$(000)

	Estimates 2022/23	Estimates 2023/24
<b>VOTED APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Vote 18 - Ministry Operations	1,740,645	1,912,095
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	1,740,645	1,912,095
<b>PREPAID CAPITAL ADVANCES</b>	0	0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	1,000	2,395
<b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b>	(31)	(31)
<b>REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES</b>	0	0
<b>FULLTIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) EMPLOYMENT</b>	0	0

**WFR BCOA Estimates**  
 Run Date: 2023/02/07 Run Time: 11:51:05 AM  
 MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
 (\$000)

**VOTE 18 Ministry Operations (\$000)**

Description	Total 2022/23 Operating Expenses					Total Salaries and Benefits						
	50	51	52	54		55	57	59	60	63	65	
Early Childhood Development	40,256	1,868	11	474	0	2,353	0	70	0	112	0	0
Early Childhood Development	40,256	1,868	11	474	0	2,353	0	70	0	112	0	0
<b>Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs</b>	<b>480,381</b>	<b>21,799</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>5,536</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,467</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>266</b>
Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs	480,381	21,799	132	5,536	0	27,467	0	265	0	0	266	266
<b>Child and Youth Mental Health Services</b>	<b>119,471</b>	<b>55,602</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>14,195</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,812</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>641</b>
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	119,471	55,602	1,015	14,195	0	70,812	0	778	0	437	222	641
<b>Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services</b>	<b>834,381</b>	<b>147,909</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>37,610</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188,933</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>21,616</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>235</b>
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	834,381	147,909	3,414	37,610	0	188,933	0	2,918	21,616	246	1,213	235
<b>Adoption Services</b>	<b>36,451</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,564</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
Adoption Services	36,451	8,400	23	2,141	0	10,564	0	49	0	0	0	7
<b>Youth Justice Services</b>	<b>51,320</b>	<b>29,020</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>7,374</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,270</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112</b>
Youth Justice Services	51,320	29,020	876	7,374	0	37,270	0	285	0	27	0	112
<b>Service Delivery Support</b>	<b>161,426</b>	<b>84,161</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>21,756</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>106,781</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>9,802</b>	<b>6,028</b>
Service Delivery Support	161,426	84,161	864	21,756	0	106,781	0	3,757	4,600	6,523	9,802	6,028
<b>Executive and Support Services</b>	<b>16,959</b>	<b>15,466</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19,496</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,177</b>
Executive and Support Services	16,959	15,466	12	3,960	58	19,496	0	410	2	0	9	1,177
Minister's Office	677	426	0	132	58	616	0	80	0	0	19	19
Corporate Services	16,282	15,040	12	3,828	0	18,880	0	330	2	0	1,158	1,158
<b>Total Vote</b>	<b>1,740,645</b>	<b>364,225</b>	<b>6,347</b>	<b>93,046</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>463,676</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,532</b>	<b>26,218</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>12,166</b>	<b>8,466</b>

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
(\$000)

VOTE 18 Ministry Operations (\$000)

67	68	69	70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Government Transfers	81	83	85
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	182	0	10	39,882	39,892	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	182	0	10	39,882	39,892	0	0	1
0	0	83	20	0	0	0	1,554	4,125	47,885	486,922	538,932	0	0	22
0	0	83	20	0	0	0	1,554	4,125	47,885	486,922	538,932	0	0	22
0	0	357	152	0	0	1,032	3,619	0	130	57,179	57,309	0	0	0
0	0	357	152	0	0	1,032	3,619	0	130	57,179	57,309	0	0	0
583	22	84	8	0	0	100	27,025	0	87,378	694,199	781,577	0	0	633
583	22	84	8	0	0	100	27,025	0	87,378	694,199	781,577	0	0	633
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	144	27,190	27,334	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	144	27,190	27,334	0	0	0
0	0	831	131	0	0	0	1,386	0	299	30,350	30,649	0	0	1
0	0	831	131	0	0	0	1,386	0	299	30,350	30,649	0	0	1
0	0	0	1,853	0	1,494	1,353	35,410	0	0	2,071	2,071	0	0	29,163
0	0	0	1,853	0	1,494	1,353	35,410	0	0	2,071	2,071	0	0	29,163
0	0	0	0	0	0	21	1,698	0	0	830	830	0	0	160
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	21	1,592	0	0	830	830	0	0	160
583	22	1,355	2,164	0	1,515	2,564	70,930	4,125	135,846	1,338,623	1,478,594	0	0	29,980



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
(\$000)**

**VOTE 18 Ministry Operations (\$000)**

Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2023/24 Operating Expenses
1	0	(570)	(570)	(1)	(1)	(2)	41,856
1	0	(570)	(570)	(1)	(1)	(2)	41,856
22	0	(36,801)	(36,801)	(1)	(2,284)	(2,285)	528,889
22	0	(36,801)	(36,801)	(1)	(2,284)	(2,285)	528,889
0	0	(8,768)	(8,768)	(660)	(115)	(775)	122,197
0	0	(8,768)	(8,768)	(660)	(115)	(775)	122,197
633	0	(1)	(1)	(148)	(62,864)	(63,012)	935,155
633	0	(1)	(1)	(148)	(62,864)	(63,012)	935,155
0	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	37,951
0	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	37,951
1	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(17,984)	(17,985)	51,320
1	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(17,984)	(17,985)	51,320
29,163	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(198)	(199)	173,225
29,163	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(198)	(199)	173,225
160	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(680)	(681)	21,502
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	722
160	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(680)	(681)	20,780
29,980	0	(46,144)	(46,144)	(814)	(84,127)	(84,941)	1,912,095

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## Appendix C – MCFD Material Assumptions

	Updated Forecast 2022/23	Plan 2023/24	Plan 2024/25	Plan 2022/23 Sensitivities
caseload (#)	4,952	4,817	4,738	The average number of children-in-care is decreasing as a result of ministry efforts to keep children in family settings where safe and feasible. The average cost per child in care is projected to increase based on the higher cost of contracted residential services and an increasing acuity of need for children in care. A 1% increase in the cost per case or a 1% increase in the average caseload will affect expenditures by \$2.8 million (excluding Indigenous CFS Agencies).
cost per child in care (\$)	109,248	127,771	141,129	

**Appendix D – Resource Summary**

(\$ thousands)

<b>Core Business Area</b>	<b>2022/23 Restated Estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2023/24 Estimates</b>	<b>2024/25 Plan</b>	<b>2025/26 Plan</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Early Childhood Development	40,256	41,856	42,206	42,206
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	480,381	528,889	533,973	529,255
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	119,471	122,197	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children In Care Services	834,381	935,155	949,000	949,000
Adoption Services	36,451	37,951	38,251	38,251
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	161,426	173,225	171,144	171,733
Executive & Support Services	16,959	21,502	22,222	22,222
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,740,645</b>	<b>1,912,095</b>	<b>1,930,313</b>	<b>1,926,184</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Service Delivery Support</b> (Specialized Equipment & Fleet Vehicles)	1,000	2,395	2,230	2,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,230</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive &amp; Support Services</b> (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2022/23 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2023/24 Estimates.

## Appendix E – Resource Summary Comparison by Core Business

### Ministry of Children & Family Development

#### RESOURCE SUMMARY COMPARISON- DETAILED CHANGES BY CORE BUSINESS

2022/23 to 2025/26

(\$000s)

Core Business Areas	2021/22 Restated	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Early Childhood Development	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	441,091	480,381	486,404	488,582	488,582
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	119,471	122,197	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	807,579	835,781	841,156	851,001	851,001
Adoption Services	35,829	36,451	36,451	36,451	36,451
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	152,195	161,426	161,386	161,386	161,386
Executive & Support Services	16,730	16,959	17,021	17,021	17,021
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>1,742,045</b>	<b>1,756,191</b>	<b>1,768,214</b>	<b>1,768,214</b>

#### Change - including Decisions for Budget 2023 by Core Business:

Early Childhood Development	0	1,600	1,950	1,950
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	0	42,485	45,391	40,673
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	0	0	0	0
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	-1,400	93,999	97,999	97,999
Adoption Services	0	1,500	1,800	1,800
Youth Justice Services	0	0	0	0
Service Delivery Support	0	11,839	9,758	10,347
Executive & Support Services	0	4,481	5,201	5,201
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>		<b>-1,400</b>	<b>155,904</b>	<b>162,099</b>

#### Resource Summary as of Budget 2023 :

Core Business Areas	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan	2025/26 Plan
Early Childhood Development	40,256	41,856	42,206	42,206
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	480,381	528,889	533,973	529,255
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	119,471	122,197	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	834,381	935,155	949,000	949,000
Adoption Services	36,451	37,951	38,251	38,251
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	161,426	173,225	171,144	171,733
Executive & Support Services	16,959	21,502	22,222	22,222
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,740,646</b>	<b>1,912,095</b>	<b>1,930,313</b>	<b>1,926,184</b>

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:** Ministry Frontline Recruitment

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Front-line ministry workers have some of the hardest jobs in BC — that’s why we’re making improvements to help them provide vulnerable families with the quality services and supports they need and deserve.
- We continue to focus on increased net front-line hires even as the number of children and youth in care has decreased to the lowest number in 20 years.
- We are aligning our ways of working with the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework, and transforming services and programs so children and youth can remain safely at home, connected to their communities, culture and language.
- In partnership with the BC Public Service Agency (BC PSA), the Ministry has initiated a Recruitment and Retention Strategy to support operations.
- In February 2019, the Ministry broadened the acceptable education and experience requirements for front-line positions requiring delegation under child welfare legislation in an attempt to recruit more staff.
- Memorandum of Understandings between the BC Government and the BCGEU provide mechanisms for recruitment and retention strategies:
  - In 2019, a schedule was approved for social workers to work seven scheduled work days on and seven days off as they travel to provide support in remote and rural areas that have recruitment challenges; the Ministry continues to work with the BCGEU to increase the number of employees who can do this.

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 Phone: Personal  
 Date: February 7, 2023

- In 2017, a Hard to Recruit Incentive was implemented for specific positions and locations in Service Delivery Division.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD has seven divisions, with majority of employees working in the Service Delivery Division.
- The Ministry continues to support indigenous recruitment.
- The Ministry continues to be committed to recruiting priority front-line positions.
- The Ministry now has a Hiring Services team. Working closely with the Public Service Agency, MCFD's Hiring Services will prioritize top recruited positions to reduce delays in filling vacancies and the burden on frontline managers.
- In response to recruitment and retention challenges, MCFD broadened the educational requirements for hiring new delegated (under the Child, Family and Community Service Act) SPO 24-30 positions in 2019.
  - A Social Work or Child and Youth Care degree is preferred but, an equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.
- To further support recruitment and retention, particularly in hard-to-recruit communities, a Recruitment and Retention Incentive Program was created in 2017:
  - Eligible SPO positions in hard-to-recruit areas of BC receive an annual incentive payment based on a Memorandum of Agreement between the BC Government and the BCGEU.
  - 203 employees received the incentive in 2022.
  - The next round of incentive payments will occur in April 2023.
- MCFD also continues to hire travelling Child Protection Workers. They work a schedule of seven days on, seven days off and serve the communities of

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Ashcroft, Dease Lake, Lillooet, Fort Nelson, Bella Coola, Fort St. James, McBride, Smithers/Hazelton, Terrace/Kitimat and Williams Lake as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding.

- The Provincial Mobile Response Team continues to provide staffing support for hard-to-recruit communities.
- The BCGEU 19th Main Agreement includes Temporary Market Adjustments (TMAs) for Ministry classifications as a tool for recruitment and retention.
  - Effective April 1, 2022 – Correctional Services R24 will receive an additional one-grid TMA to grid 26
  - Effective April 1, 2023 Social Program Officer R24 will receive a one-grid temporary market adjustment to grid 25
  - Effective April 1, 2023 Social Program Officer (Child and Youth Mental Health) R24, 27 and 30 will receive two-grid temporary market adjustments to grid 28, 30 and 32 respectively
  - Effective May 1, 2023 – Social Program Officer (Child Protection) R24 will receive an additional one-grid TMA to grid 27
  - Effective May 1, 2023 – Social Program Officer (Child Protection) R27 will receive a one-grid TMA to grid 28
- Tools to support cultural safety, Indigenous recruitment, and cultural competency assessment in the recruitment process have been developed.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 2.4 – Workforce Pressures**

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Date: February 7, 2023

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:** Ministry Workforce Summary

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Front-line ministry workers have some of the hardest jobs in BC — that’s why we’re making improvements to help them provide vulnerable families with the quality services and supports they need and deserve.
- We’ve hired more Indigenous employees and we’ve developed tools like the Indigenous Recruitment & Retention Guide to educate staff on Indigenous cultural awareness, competence, and safety in hiring practices.
- The number of Indigenous employees (self-disclosed) was 253 in 2022.
- We are developing a strategy to support transgender and gender diverse employees in the workplace, using various tools and guides to boost diversity and address complex staffing needs.

**BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD has seven divisions, with the majority of employees working in Service Delivery.
- Most MCFD employees are regular status.
- Most MCFD employees are unionized employees.
- MCFD has developed several plans, strategies and frameworks to support the development and review of its workforce on an ongoing basis.
  - The ministry published the People and Culture Plan in August 2021 with an update in July 2022.
  - In 2022, the ministry developed an Indigenous Recruitment and Cultural Safety Strategic Framework and an Anti-Racism and Debiasing the Workplace Strategy
- MCFD’s largest occupational group is comprised of front-line professionals (i.e., Social Program Officers and Mental Health Clinicians) in Health, Education and

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Social Work; the remaining staff complement is made up of excluded management, administration, corrections, and other corporate positions.

- The most current diversity data, from the 2022 Work Environment Survey (WES), shows the ethnicity most self-declared was “White” followed by “Another Ethnicity” (e.g., Arab, Black, Iranian, Latin American, West Asian).
- The region with the highest number of employees is the Lower Mainland (Vancouver and Fraser Valley) and next highest is the Capital Region (Greater Victoria).
- The front-line Correctional Services, Licensed Psychologists, Nurses, Office Assistants and Social Program Officers roles have a significant number of employees who are currently eligible to retire with an unreduced pension.

**CROSS REFERENCE: N/A**

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:** Ministry Workforce Pressures

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Front-line ministry workers have some of the hardest jobs in BC — that’s why we’re making improvements to help them provide vulnerable families with the quality services and supports they need and deserve.
- Supporting families to keep children and youth safe is always the top priority of our front line and administrative staff.
- Advice/Recommendations
- 
- MCFD has implemented strategies across the employee lifecycle – attraction, recruitment, onboarding, retention, career development and separation in response to current workforce pressures.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Job vacancies in the social sector are expected to increase over the next 10 years, with a significant proportion due to retirements.
- In the social sector, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a wave of retirements and job exits due to people leaving their field of practice.
- MCFD experienced low turnover during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020/21) compared to previous years.
- Turnover in MCFD in 2022 was the highest in recent years as labour market vacancies grew due to increased retirements and decreased immigration.

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- The front-line Social Program Officers, Correctional Services, Licensed Psychologists, Nurses and Office Assistants roles have a significant number of employees who are currently eligible to retire with an unreduced pension.
- Advice/Recommendations
- 
- MCFD will review job functions and business requirements for positions across all divisions to align with the Public Service's goal of increasing flexible work opportunities for employees while maintaining high quality frontline services.
- Programs to support the psychological health and safety of workers are being expanded.
  - Critical Incident and Cumulative Stress Management sessions are being offered to teams through our Employee and Family Assistance Services provider.
  - A Peer-to-Peer project will be piloted in the South Island Service Delivery Area in 2023.
- Advice/Recommendations
- A Volunteer Program that calls upon ministry front-line workers to temporarily leave their base positions and volunteer for short term assignments in rural and remote communities.
- The Ministry has a recruitment and retention strategy that is aligned with the Public Service, as well as an Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Strategy; a centralized hiring team is being established within the Ministry to provide recruitment services for critical positions and new strategies for marketing and talent acquisition.

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 Date: February 7, 2023

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 2.2** – Ministry Frontline Recruitment

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Date: February 7, 2023

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: MCFD Contracting – Compensation & Funding**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

Negotiated Mandate (Compensation for Union Agencies):

- The Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) ended on March 31, 2022.
- On February 6, 2023, the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) and the Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA) formalized a tentative agreement under the Province's Shared Recovery Mandate (SRM).
- Key priorities of the SRM include:
  - Protecting the services that people in BC depend on
  - Improving health care and preparing for future needs and challenges
  - Supporting a strong economic recovery that includes everyone in BC
- The tentative agreements are effective from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025 and include the following highlights:
  - General wage increases:
    - Year 1 – a flat increase of \$0.25/hour which provides a greater percentage increase for lower paid employees, plus 3.24%
    - Year 2 – 5.5% plus a potential Cost of Living Adjustment to a maximum of 6.75%
    - Year 3 – 2% plus a potential Cost of Living Adjustment to a maximum of 3%
  - A negotiable Flexibility Allocation of up to 0.25% in years 1 and 2 to support mutually beneficial outcomes for both parties.
- To ensure there was no disruption in service, MCFD renewed contracts that expired on March 31, 2022 at existing rates, and will do the same for contracts expiring March 31, 2023, while waiting for the tentative agreement to be ratified.

- Once bargaining is complete and union agreements have been ratified, MCFD will issue contract modifications to align with the new mandate.

#### Compensation for Non-Union Agencies:

- Given the significant negotiated wage increases for union agencies, funders (including MFCF) are aware that the sector is concerned about the resulting implications for non-union agencies.
- Non-union and hybrid (partially unionized) agencies will be provided with the same percentage compensation funding lift as their union counterparts.
- Funding applies only to provincially funded services/positions and is contingent upon completion of the 2022 CSSEA Employee Compensation and Turnover Survey and sharing the resulting agency-level compensation data with provincial funders.

#### Other Elements of SRM:

- MCFD will provide additional funding, where applicable, to address operating pressures identified through the course of CSSBA-CSSEA bargaining. This may include incremental costs associated with:
  - The new five-day paid sick leave provisions under the Employment Standards Act;
  - The province recognizing National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and the Queen Elizabeth II National Day of Mourning as paid holidays;
  - Two days paid Indigenous Cultural Leave for Indigenous employees; and
  - Raising mileage reimbursement rates to the Canada Revenue Agency approved rates.

#### Social Services Roundtable:

- The Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction (SDPR) has convened a Social Services Roundtable with umbrella organizations that represent 2,000 organizations across the province to look at how we can work better together to tackle the challenges facing the sector.
- The MCFD chairs the Social Services Roundtable Sub-Committee on Procurement, which has been established to look at strategic procurement initiatives across the sector and province, ensuring regular opportunities for collaboration to address the shared interest of the best possible outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities.

**BACKGROUND:****Shared Recovery Mandate (Compensation for Union Agencies):**

- Once the tentative union agreements have been ratified, MCFD will issue contract modifications to align with the new mandate.
- MCFD will also issue retroactive lump sum payments for applicable FY2022/23 increases.

**Compensation for Non-Union Agencies:**

- Once the tentative union agreements have been ratified, MCFD will issue contract modifications for non-union agencies to align with union equivalent funding.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:** Ministry Corporate Workforce Overview

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Front-line ministry workers have some of the hardest jobs in BC — that’s why we’re making improvements to help them provide vulnerable families with the quality services and supports they need and deserve.
- The Ministry’s overall budget for 2023/24 has increase will allow us to better support vulnerable children, youth and families and the direction we are headed as a ministry.
- Supporting families to keep children and youth safe is always the top priority of our front line and administrative staff.
- The Ministry continues to be committed to recruiting priority front-line positions.
- Advice/Recommendations
- MCFD has implemented strategies across the employee lifecycle – attraction, recruitment, onboarding, retention, career development and separation in response to current workforce pressures.
- We are aligning our ways of working with the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework, and transforming services and programs so children and youth can remain safely at home, connected to their communities, culture and language.

**BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD has developed several plans, strategies and frameworks to support the development and review of its workforce on an ongoing basis.
  - The ministry published the People and Culture Plan in August 2021 with an update in July 2022.

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 Date: February 7, 2023



- In 2022, the ministry developed an Indigenous Recruitment and Cultural Safety Strategic Framework and an Anti-Racism and Debiasing the Workplace Strategy
- Programs to support the psychological health and safety of workers are being expanded.
  - Critical Incident and Cumulative Stress Management sessions are being offered to teams through our Employee and Family Assistance Services provider.
  - A Peer-to-Peer project will be piloted in the South Island Service Delivery Area in 2023.
- The Ministry now has a Hiring Services team. Working closely with the BC Public Service Agency, the Ministry will prioritize top recruited positions to reduce delays in filling vacancies and the burden on frontline managers.
- Recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in rural and remote communities has been an ongoing challenge for many years and it's a reality facing many employers not just in this area of the province but nationally. The following strategies have been implemented to address recruitment and retention in hard-to-recruit communities:
  - The Recruitment and Retention Incentive Program was created in 2017.
  - Travelling Child Protection Workers that work a schedule of seven days on, seven days off.
  - Staffing support from the Provincial Mobile Response Team.
- In February 2019, the Ministry broadened the acceptable education and experience requirements for front-line positions requiring delegation under child welfare legislation in an attempt to recruit more staff.
- Advice/Recommendations
  - The Ministry increased flexible work opportunities for employees in order to improve attraction and retention.
  - We've developed tools like the Indigenous Recruitment & Retention Guide to educate staff on Indigenous cultural awareness, competence, and safety in hiring practices.

Contact: Keith Godin, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer, Finance and Corporate Services Division  
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 Date: February 7, 2023

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 2.2 – Ministry Frontline Recruitment**
- **NOTE 2.4 – Workforce Pressures**

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Phone: Personal Security  
Date: February 7, 2023

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:       Sector Workforce Summary**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Workforce challenges are not just a ministry challenge but are experienced across social sector ministries and sector service providers as well.
- The Ministry's overall budget increase for 2023/24 will allow us to better support vulnerable children, youth and families. Increased funding will be used in the following areas:
  - Financial and respite support to foster, kinship and out-of-care providers caregivers.
  - Support the continuation services and programs for youth and young adults transitioning from government care.
  - Hire transition workers to support youth in successfully navigating their journey to adulthood.
  - Engagement, evaluation and new investments for CYSN.
- MCFD is initiating workforce discussions with sector partners to understand workforce challenges.
- The intent of these discussions is to lead to the development of a sector workforce plan to be developed in conjunction with sector partners.
- This plan will include strategies to reduce labour shortages, change the way service is provided to ensure families receive the services they need.

**BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD utilizes a number of partners and contracted care providers to deliver services.
- Labour market vacancies have increased due to increased retirements and decreased immigration. These vacancies are seen not only with MCFD but with the partners and contracted care providers that deliver services.

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Date:          March 2, 2023

- A sector workforce plan will review service delivery methods (e.g. demand strategies) and recruitment options (e.g. supply solutions) across the sector.
  - Advice/Recommendations
- 
- Recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in rural and remote communities has been an ongoing challenge for many years with MCFD and is a reality facing many employers not just in this area of the province but nationally.
  - Advice/Recommendations
- 
- The pilot CYSN service approach has contemplated the sector challenges and integrated a range of strategies to assist in managing these challenges, such as utilization of transdisciplinary approaches, encouraging the use of allied health support professionals such as therapy assistants, family supports as well as expecting the use of a range of service delivery modalities helping the compliment of professionals in the sector.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 2.3 – Workforce Summary**

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Date: March 2, 2023

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2022/23**

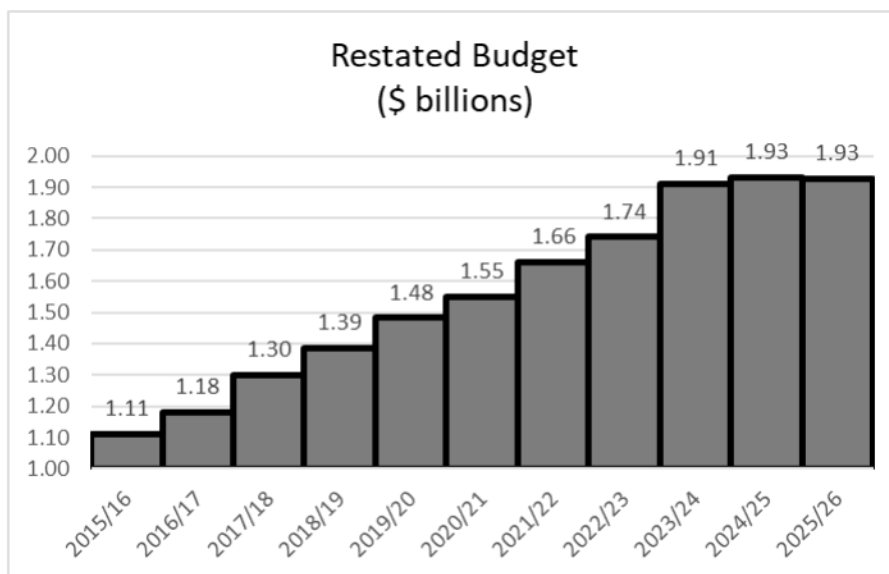
**ISSUE: MCFD and CYSN Historical Budgets**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's (MCFD) 2023/24 budget is \$1,912.1 million.
- Since 2015/16, MCFD's budget<sup>1</sup> has increased by \$799.9 million, with *Budget 2023's* increase of \$171.5 million being the largest increase of the 10 years.
- Since 2015/16, the Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) budget has increased by \$243.4 million, with *Budget 2023's* increase of \$48.5 million being the largest increase of the 10 years.

**BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD's budget has steadily grown since 2015/16 with the largest increases to come in fiscals 2017/18 (10.2%), 2021/22 (7.3%) and 2023/24 (9.8%).

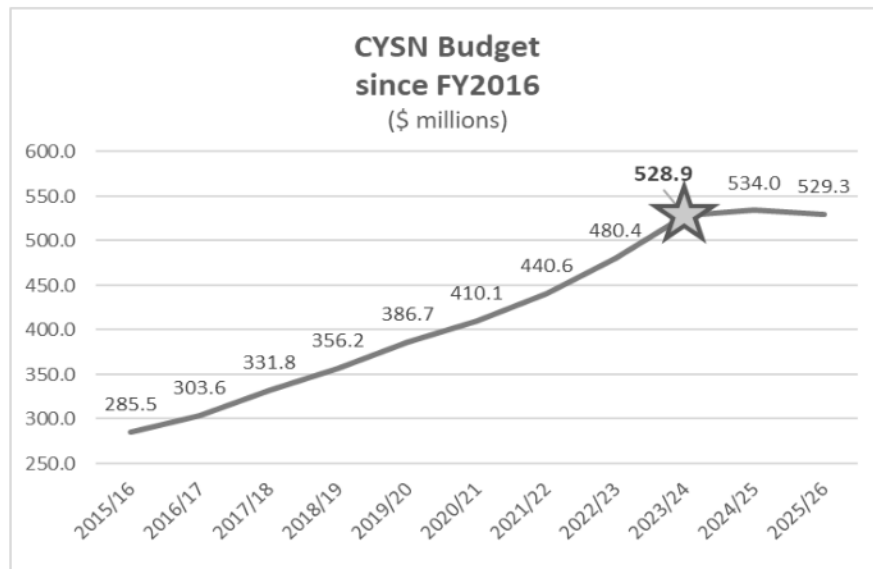


- Over the 10 years the ministry has received investments<sup>2</sup> for:

<sup>1</sup> 2015/16 – 2022/23 budgets have been restated to reflect the ministry's current program delivery.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix A includes a detailed listing of categorized investments over the fiscal years

- Child Welfare caseload- \$212.1 million
- Caregiver Rates - \$99.4 million
- CYSN Service Framework - \$71.8 million
- Caseload Staffing - \$68.3 million
- Child and Youth Mental Health - \$55.2 million
- Youth Adults - \$44.4 million
- CYSN Caseload (including Respite) - \$41.7 million
- The CYSN budget has received steady increases since 2015/16 landing between 18.1 and \$39.7 million; with the latest increase landing at \$48.5 million
- Since 2015/16, the CYSN budget has received lifts as a result of the following initiatives/priorities:
  - CYSN caseload (Autism Individualized Funding and Medical Benefits) - \$28.0 million
  - Direct Funding Respite annual maximum increases - \$13.7 million
  - CYSN framework pilot and interim supports - \$71.8 million



**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

### Appendix A – Detailed Annual Investments - Cumulative

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<b>Child Protection</b>										
Caseload - Children in Care/Alternates to Care	\$ 38.0	\$ 76.8	\$ 80.4	\$ 100.4	\$ 129.4	\$ 155.0	\$ 159.7	\$ 159.7	\$ 159.7	\$ 159.7
Caseload Staffing	\$ 18.8	\$ 62.1	\$ 62.1	\$ 62.1	\$ 62.1	\$ 62.1	\$ 68.3	\$ 68.3	\$ 68.3	\$ 68.3
Caregiver Rates	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.9	\$ 21.4	\$ 22.0	\$ 22.0	\$ 22.0	\$ 22.0	\$ 22.0
Cultural Connections	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0
Director's Council	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0
Affordabilty (not including respite)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77.4	\$ 77.4	\$ 77.4
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>\$ 56.8</b>	<b>\$ 138.9</b>	<b>\$ 142.5</b>	<b>\$ 183.4</b>	<b>\$ 223.9</b>	<b>\$ 250.0</b>	<b>\$ 261.0</b>	<b>\$ 338.5</b>	<b>\$ 338.5</b>	<b>\$ 338.5</b>
<b>Children with Support Needs</b>										
Caseload - Autism and Medical Benefits	\$ 8.7	\$ 23.9	\$ 23.9	\$ 35.2	\$ 43.8	\$ 52.4	\$ 80.4	\$ 80.4	\$ 80.4	\$ 80.4
Respite (including respite from affordability)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.3	\$ 6.3	\$ 6.3	\$ 6.3	\$ 13.7	\$ 13.7	\$ 13.7
CYSN Framewok Early Implementation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33.2	\$ 39.2	\$ 41.4	\$ 41.4
CYSN: New Investements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32.9	\$ 30.4	\$ 26.3
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>\$ 8.7</b>	<b>\$ 23.9</b>	<b>\$ 23.9</b>	<b>\$ 41.5</b>	<b>\$ 50.1</b>	<b>\$ 58.7</b>	<b>\$ 119.9</b>	<b>\$ 166.3</b>	<b>\$ 166.0</b>	<b>\$ 161.8</b>
<b>Youth and Young Adults</b>										
Agreement with Young Adults	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7.7	\$ 10.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0
Povety Reduction Strategy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.3	\$ 12.6	\$ 12.6	\$ 12.6	\$ 12.6	\$ 12.6
Youth Transitioning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4.6	\$ 10.0	\$ 19.8	\$ 19.8
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7.7</b>	<b>\$ 10.0</b>	<b>\$ 18.3</b>	<b>\$ 24.6</b>	<b>\$ 29.2</b>	<b>\$ 34.6</b>	<b>\$ 44.4</b>	<b>\$ 44.4</b>
<b>Child and Youth Mental Health</b>										
Staffing	\$ -	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 15.0
Pathway to Hope	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.4	\$ 14.3	\$ 34.9	\$ 37.6	\$ 40.3	\$ 40.3	\$ 40.3
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 15.0</b>	<b>\$ 15.0</b>	<b>\$ 24.4</b>	<b>\$ 29.3</b>	<b>\$ 49.9</b>	<b>\$ 52.6</b>	<b>\$ 55.3</b>	<b>\$ 55.3</b>	<b>\$ 55.3</b>
<b>Other</b>										
Wage Mandates	\$ 8.0	\$ 20.5	\$ 47.7	\$ 68.2	\$ 88.4	\$ 138.1	\$ 138.6	\$ 178.1	\$ 186.8	\$ 186.8
Benefits Adjustments	-\$ 1.3	-\$ 1.3	\$ -	\$ 1.9	\$ 1.9	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0
Contract Management	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.0	\$ 1.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Budget Adjustment (involving Child Care)	-\$ 4.3	-\$ 8.9	\$ 36.6	\$ 39.3	\$ 24.8	\$ 25.8	\$ 24.6	\$ 24.6	\$ 24.6	\$ 24.6
Legal Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3
Other Minor	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.2
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>\$ 2.5</b>	<b>\$ 10.3</b>	<b>\$ 85.3</b>	<b>\$ 110.5</b>	<b>\$ 115.2</b>	<b>\$ 166.0</b>	<b>\$ 165.7</b>	<b>\$ 205.2</b>	<b>\$ 213.9</b>	<b>\$ 213.9</b>
<b>Total Cumulative Increases</b>	<b>\$ 68.0</b>	<b>\$ 188.1</b>	<b>\$ 274.4</b>	<b>\$ 369.8</b>	<b>\$ 436.8</b>	<b>\$ 549.2</b>	<b>\$ 628.5</b>	<b>\$ 799.9</b>	<b>\$ 818.1</b>	<b>\$ 814.0</b>

### Appendix B – Annual Increases – Charts

Ministry	Restated for Comparability	YoY Lift Amount (\$)	YoY Lift Amount (%)	Cumulative Lift since 2016
	\$ 1,112.192			
	\$ 1,180.153	\$ 67.961	6.1%	\$ 67.961
	\$ 1,300.320	\$ 120.167	10.2%	\$ 188.128
	\$ 1,386.561	\$ 86.241	6.6%	\$ 274.369
	\$ 1,481.978	\$ 95.417	6.9%	\$ 369.786
	\$ 1,548.942	\$ 66.964	4.5%	\$ 436.750
	\$ 1,661.408	\$ 112.466	7.3%	\$ 549.216
	\$ 1,740.645	\$ 79.237	4.8%	\$ 628.453
	\$ 1,912.095	\$ 171.450	9.8%	\$ 799.903
	\$ 1,930.313	\$ 18.218	1.0%	\$ 818.121
	\$ 1,926.184	-\$ 4.129	-0.2%	\$ 813.992

CYSN Budget	YoY Lift Amount (\$)	YoY Lift Amount (%)	Cumulative Lift since 2016
\$ 285.460			
\$ 303.568	\$ 18.108	6.3%	\$ 18.108
\$ 331.824	\$ 28.256	9.3%	\$ 46.364
\$ 356.249	\$ 24.425	7.4%	\$ 70.789
\$ 386.669	\$ 30.420	8.5%	\$ 101.209
\$ 410.091	\$ 23.422	6.1%	\$ 124.631
\$ 440.635	\$ 30.544	7.4%	\$ 155.175
\$ 480.381	\$ 39.746	9.0%	\$ 194.921
\$ 528.889	\$ 48.508	11.0%	\$ 243.429
\$ 533.973	\$ 5.084	1.0%	\$ 248.513
\$ 529.255	-\$ 4.718	-0.9%	\$ 243.795

Contact: Keith Godin  
 Cell phone:  
 Date: March 14, 2023



**FD MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: MLA – Six Big Questions**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In February 2023, the Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives (FCRR) society launched an MLA campaign to solicit assistance to address perceived inequities in access to financial support for kinship care arrangements.
- FCRR posed 6 questions to the ministry focusing on the following three program areas of kinship care: Child in the Home of a Relative (CIHR), Temporary Transfers of Custody before/after a Court Order, and Youth Transition program.
- Key messages were provided back to MLAs in response to the FCRR questions and highlights are noted below.

*Child in the Home of a Relative*

- The CIHR is a sunseting income assistance program delivered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Families are not subject to the same requirements as other MCFD care providers are under the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) and financial supports are not provided under the CFCSA.
- Relatives who have legal guardianship over the child or youth living in their home can apply for additional federal and provincial benefits to supplement the supports they receive under the *Employment and Assistance Act* (EIA).
- MCFD knows global inflation is having an impact on families and we are focussed on making sure all families have the supports they need, including the specific concerns of families in the CIHR program.

*Temporary Transfer of Custody before/after a Court Order (Section 54s)*

- The ministry supports families in court-ordered out of care arrangements through a monthly maintenance allowance.

Contact: Keith Godin, ADM, FCS  
Cell phone: Personal  
Date: March 22, 2023

- As part of Budget 2019, rates increased from \$803.81 per month to as much as \$1,655.91 per month (plus the Disability Supplement, where eligible) beginning in April 2023.
- In January 2022, the ministry implemented the Disability Supplement to flow an amount equivalent to the Child Disability Benefit through to families where the child in their care was deemed eligible for the Federal Disability Tax Credit.
- Amounts received by the ministry on behalf of eligible children are paid retroactively back to April 2019, and the monthly supplement is added to the care provider's monthly maintenance agreement.
- Unlike amounts administered federally, families paid by the ministry are not subjected to income-testing to qualify.

### *Youth Transitioning from Kinship Care*

- As part of Budget 2022, government committed to expanding wrap-around supports for young adults transitioning from MCFD care to be implemented by 2024. The first stage of these new supports included: income earnings exemptions, navigation and transition planning, housing supports including a rent supplement program, and health and wellness supports.
- Additional supports will be phased in over the next two years and include financial supports, life-skills and training supports, cultural programming and expanding eligibility.
- In 2024, MCFD will seek legislative changes to expand program eligibility to all young adults with government care experience (under the CFCSA), which includes those from kinship homes.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives Society advocates on behalf of children whole would otherwise be in the BC provincial foster care system if they had not been taken into the care of their grandparent(s) or another kinship relative<sup>1</sup>
- FCRR provides a voice for kinship care providers, and in August 2022, provided to Ministry of Children and Family Development, feedback from their community in the following areas:

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<sup>1</sup> [FAIRNESS for CHILDREN raised by RELATIVES • British Columbia, Canada \(fairness4crr.com\)](https://www.fairness4crr.com)

- Legislation
  - Indigenous children, families and supports: Impacts of Discrimination
  - Better supports for children and recognition of their challenges
  - Kinship caregiver supports
  - Equitable financial supports for kinship children and their families
  - Suggested enhancements to Ministry and staff practices
  - Birth parents and visitation
- In February 2023, the society provided MLA Norm Letnick “SIX BIG QUESTIONS” for consideration for discussion with the ministry in future meetings. These questions were forwarded onto Minister Dean.
  - Topics of the email included: Child in the Home of the Relative (CIHR) financial support; pass through of Federal Benefits to those care providers under a section 54 of the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA); and youth aging out of kinship care ability to access the Youth Transitions supports.
  - Questions asked include:
    1. When is the government going to transfer the Child in the Home of Relative program back to the MCFD so these families will be acknowledged and receive equal treatment?
    2. When is the government going to ensure the children in the Child of Home of Relative program receive equal monthly benefits as those in all other MCFD funded programs? And what are they going to do to ensure all those children who have aged out of this program are duly compensated?
    3. When will the government stop enriching itself on the backs of some of its poorest and most vulnerable children, and allow program 54 children to receive the allowances that are owed to them?
    4. Will the BC government immediately end its discrimination against section 54 children by completing section 6 of the CSA claim form for section 54 children so that they can receive all of the federal allowances to which they are entitled?
    5. Why are kinship care youths excluded from having their benefits extended past the age of 19?
    6. What is MCFD doing to ensure all kinship care children are included in all the new supports? Why aren't they engaging with kinship caregivers to provide input?

- The ministry provided responses to these questions in March of 2023. These responses are attached as appendix 1.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 3.2** – Out of Care Overview
- **NOTE 3.11** – Overview of Network of Care

## **Appendix 1**

**ISSUE:** Fairness for Children Raised by Relatives (FCRR) is advocating for increased support for kinship care arrangements.

- FCRR identifies that there are approximately 13,000 children and youth living in kinship arrangements across the province – where they are cared for by extended family members.
- FCCR’s estimate includes kinship arrangements through the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or an Indigenous Child and Family Service (ICFS) Agency under the Child, Family, and Community Service Act (CFCSA), and those created by the family outside of MCFD/ICFS Agency involvement.
- Kinship care providers under the CFCSA (also called ‘out-of-care care providers’) receive financial support to meet the needs of the child/youth in their care. MCFD and ICFSAs do not provide financial support for other kinship care arrangements.
- FCRR posed 6 questions to the ministry focusing on the following three program areas of kinship care: Child in the Home of a Relative (CIHR), Out of Care Providers, and Youth Transition program.

### **Response:**

#### **Child in Home of Relative (CIHR)**

1. When is the government going to transfer the Child in the Home of Relative program back to the MCFD so these families will be acknowledged and receive equal treatment?
2. When is the government going to ensure the children in the Child in the Home of a Relative program receive equal monthly benefits as those in all other MCFD funded programs? And what are they going to do to ensure all those children who have aged out of this program are duly compensated?

The Child in the Home of a Relative (CIHR) program is an income assistance program under the Employment and Assistance Act (EIA) which was available to relatives caring for children. On April 1, 2010, in response to the Representative for Children and Youth audit report, this program was suspended, MCFD stopped accepting applications and the administration of payments to program recipients was transferred back to the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The program will thus conclude in 2028, after the 19th birthday of the children or youth which were grandparented into receiving the funding, as part of the April 2010 decision to wind down the program.

MCFD is committed to supporting children and youth to stay safely with their extended families, connected to community and culture. MCFD’s out-of-care programs are delivered under the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA) which include eligibility criteria beyond what is required for relatives within the CIHR program. Through the CFCSA, MCFD delivers the Extended

Family Program (EFP) which provides maintenance funding for extended families caring for a child or youth in an out-of-care situation. In 2019, extended family caregiver rates were aligned to foster family caregiver rates for the first time and Budget 2023 provided additional increases. Families in the CIHR program are encouraged to look at the EFP to determine if this program works for their current situation.

Relatives which have legal guardianship over the child or youth living in their home can apply for the following benefits and tax credits:

- Canada Child Benefit (up to \$583.08/month based on income and age of child)
- Child Disability Benefit (if applicable) (up to \$248.75/month based on income and age of child)
- BC Family Benefit (up to \$133.33/month based on income and age of child)
- Canada Education Savings Grant
- Canada Learning Bond
- Canada Dental Benefit, and
- Disability Tax Credit (if applicable)
- MCFD will work with partners to reach out to the caregivers in the Child in Home of Relative program to inform them of MCFD services available to caregivers and youth including information on the Extended Family Program.
- MCFD knows global inflation is having an impact on families and we are focused on making sure all families have the supports they need, including the specific concerns of families in the CIHR program.

### **Out of Care Providers**

3. When will the government stop enriching itself on the backs of some of its poorest and most vulnerable children, and allow program 54 children to receive the allowances that are owed to them?
4. Will the BC government immediately end its discrimination against section 54 children by completing section 6 of the CSA claim form for section 54 children so that they can receive all of the federal allowances to which they are entitled?

Up until December 2018, where a child welfare agency was maintaining a child through a court-ordered custody arrangement, the Children's Special Allowances Act only permitted the child welfare agency to apply for the Children's Special Allowance (CSA).

Kinship care providers are an integral part of ensuring that children and youth thrive in safe, loving homes when they are unable to be cared for by their parents. Since 2017 we have been working to enhance supports for children and youth in kinship care arrangements and their care providers. We are focused on ensuring children and their families have the supports and services

they need to thrive. This include supports for children who are in the care of a permanent guardian under sections 54.01 or 54.1 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA).

The ministry supports permanent guardians through a monthly maintenance allowance. Since 2018 rates have increased from \$803.81 per month to as much as \$1,655.91 per month (plus the Disability Supplement, where eligible) beginning in April 2023. The CSA collected by the ministry assists in providing this level of funding.

In addition to the monthly maintenance, since 2019, the ministry has provided amounts equivalent to federal benefit funding to permanent guardians in the following ways:

- Through 2020, the ministry passed along an amount equivalent to federal government COVID benefits to eligible families including a \$600 payment for persons with disabilities.
- In 2021, the ministry paid care providers with eligible children an amount equivalent to the federal government’s Canada Child Benefit Young Child Supplement (CCBYCS) up to \$1,200. Unlike amounts administered federally, families paid by the ministry were not subjected to income-testing to qualify. The Federal Government program ended December 31, 2021.
- In January 2022, the ministry implemented the Disability Supplement to flow an amount equivalent to the Child Disability Benefit through to families where the child in their care was deemed eligible for the Federal Disability Tax Credit. Amounts received by the ministry on behalf of eligible children are paid retroactively back to April 2019, and the supplement is added to the care provider’s monthly maintenance agreement. Unlike amounts administered federally, families paid by the ministry are not subjected to income-testing to qualify.
- Amounts payable to families for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) are calculated based on a family’s income, and amounts will decline as a family’s income level increases. The ministry collects the CCB at maximum amounts through the Children’s Special Allowance (CSA).

Other initiatives which have better supported kinship care arrangements include:

- In 2017, the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program was created. This program waives the cost of tuition at any public post-secondary institution in BC for eligible students, including those from an out-of-care arrangement under the CFCSA or the Child in Home of a Relative program.
- In 2020, Temporary Housing Agreements were created. These agreements support young adults to continue living in their MCFD-supported living arrangements past the age of 19 - including those who turned 19 while living in an out-of-care arrangement.
- In 2022, MCFD launched a new comprehensive suite of supports for youth transitioning from care, including expanding eligibility to include youth from out of care arrangements and featuring a new rent supplement program, which provides additional financial support to eligible young adults to help cover the cost of rent in the private market.

- The ministry is introducing new enhanced supports for out-of-care arrangements. This program will provide more comprehensive, wrap-around supports for children and youth with complex needs living in out-of-care arrangements.

MCFD is actively reaching out to permanent guardians to assist them with application to determine disability benefits for eligible children in their care. This eligibility would also enable the permanent care providers to open a Registered Disability Savings Plan and access additional federal bonds of up to \$20,000.

MCFD knows global inflation is having an impact on families and we are focused on making sure all families have the supports they need, including the specific concerns of permanent guardians providing care under the CFCSA.

### **Kinship Care Youths Aging out of Care**

5. Why are kinship care youths excluded from having their benefits extended past the age of 19?
6. What is MCFD doing to ensure all kinship care children are included in all the new supports? Why aren't they engaging with kinship caregivers to provide input?

MCFD is listening to youth and young adults, Indigenous communities and organizations, care givers and care providers, youth-supporting agencies and advocates like the Representative for Children and Youth who have all told us that transition supports for youth in care need to be better, relationship-focused, more inclusive, and provided past the age of 19.

The Ministry has heard from over 2,500 British Columbians, and from these engagements nine domains of need were identified to support young people transitioning into adulthood: expanded eligibility, financial support, navigation and transition planning, life-skills and training, housing, mental health and wellness, education and employment, information technology and relationships, identity and culture.

In response to these needs, as part of Budget 2022, the Province announced a new suite of services for youth and young adults transitioning from government care, to be fully implemented by 2024. As part of these changes MCFD will be seeking legislative changes to expand program eligibility to all young adults with government care experience in all legal statuses under the CFCSA including those in out-of-care arrangements such as the Extended Family Program (EFP). MCFD is transforming the system of supports for youth transitioning from care and measures that are already underway include a new financial supplement, a no-limit earnings exemption, help with the cost of housing, improved access to transition workers, enhanced life skills and mental-health programs, and better medical benefits until age 27.

MCFD is introducing transition workers to help youth and young adults navigate their transition. Hiring for these workers is currently underway and will be phased in across the province over the



next year. Young adults wishing to connect with transition workers should reach out to the local MCFD office to learn more.

As the new services and supports are implemented, MCFD continues to engage to ensure the supports are designed and implemented in a way that is youth-led, trauma informed, culturally sensitive, strengths-based and reaching all youth, including those in out-of-care arrangements.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of Permanency**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- All children deserve to have stable, lifelong relationships and a strong sense of belonging.
- Permanency refers to a child or youth having attachments and connections to parents, siblings, families, communities and culture so children and youth develop into healthy, secure adults.
- Children and youth have better long-term outcomes when they remain with their families and communities.
- That's why keeping children and youth connected to their families, cultures and communities is always the ministry's first choice for permanency for any child or youth in care.
- All permanency planning for children in care must be consistent with their best interests.
- If an Indigenous child and family service law applies to a child, permanency options under the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) or the *Adoption Act* are not pursued if the applicable Indigenous authority indicates that it is planning to assume custody of the child under the Indigenous law.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Children in Care in Continuing Custody**

- A child/youth is placed in the continuing custody of the director only when there is no significant likelihood that the circumstances that led to the child's removal will improve within a reasonable time or that the parent will be able to meet the child's needs.
- A Continuing Custody Order (CCO) means that the director is the child/youth's sole personal guardian and may consent to the child/youth's adoption.

Contact: Cory Heavener  
Cell phone: Personal Security  
Date: February 16, 2023

- The permanency options once a CCO has been granted are:
  - permanent Transfer of Custody to a person other than the parent;
  - cancellation of the Continuing Custody Order with a return to parent(s) (reunification);
  - adoption; and,
  - transfer of custody to the Indigenous authority providing services under an Indigenous law that applies to the child.
- The Permanent Transfer of Custody of a child/youth can occur to an extended family member or another person through Section 54.1 of the CFCSA after a CCO is granted.
- Reunification (through the rescindment of a CCO)
  - Reunification is when a child/youth in care leaves care by returning to their parents or family of origin; this happens after an assessment confirms that the circumstances that caused the child/youth to come into care have changed and no longer pose a direct risk to the child/youth's safety and well-being.
  - When a child is under a CCO, reunification through rescindment must always be considered if the birth parent or guardian's circumstances have changed so that the child or youth could be safely returned to their care.
- Adoption
  - An adoption is only pursued after all other permanency options have been thoroughly explored.
  - For Indigenous children and youth, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit & Métis children, youth & families* (Federal Act) sets out national standards that must be applied in adoption and permanency planning for Indigenous children. These standards relate to:
    - placement priorities;
    - the ongoing reassessment of a placement;
    - the promotion of the child's attachment and emotional ties; and,
    - giving notice before taking a significant measure.
  - A child becomes legally available for adoption after the court has granted a CCO or when the parent(s) have placed the child for adoption or consented to the child coming into care under the *Adoption Act*.

- On October 26, 2022, amendments to the *Adoption Act* were introduced in the legislature. These amendments were passed on November 24, 2022, and came into force on November 25, 2022.
- The amendments ensure that there is greater alignment with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which recognizes the right of Indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, education and well-being of their children consistent with the inherent rights of the child.
- Transfer of Custody to an Indigenous Authority
  - CFCSA amendments passed in November 2022, via Bill 38, affirm Indigenous peoples' inherent right to jurisdiction over child and family services.
  - Certain Bill 38 provisions, to come into force later in 2023, require the director to have a CCO ended if the applicable Indigenous authority confirms that it will have custody of the child under the Indigenous law. This transfers guardianship of the child from the director to the Indigenous authority, for the Indigenous authority to proceed under its law.
  - To ensure due process, the director will be required to give notice to those entitled to it under the CFCSA, prior to having the CCO ended.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Out-of-Care Overview (including Enhanced Out-of-Care)**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- MCFD's top priority is to ensure the health and wellbeing of children and youth.
- All children and youth deserve to be supported to live healthy and happy lives, reach their goals, and stay connected to their families, communities and cultures.
- The Ministry uses out-of-care arrangements as a key response to support children and youth who cannot safely live at home with their parents.
- Evidence shows that, when appropriate and safe, keeping families together results in better outcomes compared to placing a child or youth into care.
- Out-of-care arrangements help preserve family unity, support cultural continuity, and minimize the trauma of removal and disconnection for children, youth, and their families.
- The use of out-of-care options is increasing, which is a sign of success for the Ministry's early intervention, prevention and child protection systems.
- The Ministry is committed to continuing to support out-of-care arrangements, which are consistent with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the Ministry's prevention and early intervention mandate.
- The Ministry works to increase use of out-of-care options. In 2023 this will include:
  - Working to expand access to services (e.g., respite) for children and youth in out-of-care arrangements as part of the Specialized Homes and Support Services transformation, and
  - Moving forward with the incremental implementation of an enhanced out-of-care system that provides wrap-around and financial supports to a child or youth and their out-of-care care providers to meet the child or youth's moderate to significant functional support needs.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Children in out-of-care arrangements are cared for by extended family members, or others with a cultural or traditional responsibility to the child, without the child being in the care of the Ministry or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency.
- Out-of-care arrangements are a family preservation strategy and can be used as part of a child protection response.
- Out-of-care arrangements provide families in crisis with viable options to keep their children out of foster care and safe in the homes of their extended families and communities.
- There are some continuing gaps that can present challenges for families and can result in situations where children come into care, particularly those children with moderate to significant needs, even if the child has family members who are willing to care for them:
  - Out-of-care care providers are not eligible to receive the same supports that are available to foster caregivers, including service payments, education, or the same access to social workers who can help them to access and coordinate supports.
  - Supports and services that are available to out-of-care care providers are inconsistent and based on legal status, which creates inequities between out-of-care arrangements. These inequities present a barrier to entering into a permanency plan. For example, those in the Extended Family Program (a temporary arrangement) receive more supports and services than those in a permanent transfer of custody.
- Increasing support to out-of-care arrangements is an element of the Specialized Homes and Support Services transformation and will benefit children and youth, families, communities, the Ministry and the province by:
  - Expanding access to respite services will support successful out-of-care arrangements and improve short- and long-term outcomes for children and youth.
  - Supporting children and youth to stay with their families and avoid less appropriate but more expensive care options will enable the Ministry to reinvest those resources to better support families in the

community and keep more families together through increased prevention and early intervention.

- Types of out-of-care arrangements include:
  - Extended Family Program agreements, which provide support when a parent voluntarily and temporarily gives care of their child to a care provider. Extended Family Program agreements may be used to support customary care arrangements in Indigenous communities.
  - Temporary custody orders to a person other than a parent, which occur when a child has been removed from their parent’s care and the court orders that the child is placed temporarily in the care of another person (e.g., an extended family member).
  - A permanent transfer of custody, which permanently transfers custody of a child to a person other than their parent when it has been determined that reunification with the parent is not possible.
  - The Child in the Home of a Relative program, which is an income assistance-based program administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. This program supports children to live with relatives when their parent cannot care for them. The program stopped receiving applications in 2010, although existing clients may continue to receive financial assistance if the eligibility criteria are met.
  - Youth Agreements, which support youth ages 16 – 18 to live independently when all efforts to reconnect them with their parents or family have been exhausted.

#### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 6.1** – Overview of Post Majority Supports
- **Note 3.12** – Overview of Network of Care

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**ISSUE: Registration of MCFD Staff in College of Social Workers**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- MCFD is committed to ensuring ethical, professional and competent social work practice throughout BC.
- MCFD listened to those calling for a review of the social work oversight model. That is why MCFD launched a broad engagement to understand individual perspectives and priorities on this issue.
- MCFD engaged with a wide range of partners and others interested in social work oversight (e.g., social work representative groups; Indigenous organizations and Modern Treaty Nations; sector partners; registered and unregistered social workers; and the public).
- MCFD held 32 engagement sessions, with 76 partners and 203 participants.
- Public engagement opportunities were open from December 2022 to January 2023, which included a public survey, a social work practitioner survey and written submissions.
- A report on what we heard will be shared at the end of the engagement.

**BACKGROUND:**

- As the Ministry responsible for the Social Worker Act (SWA), MCFD is responsible for social work oversight in BC.
- Under the SWA, social workers must register with the BC College of Social Workers unless exempt under the Social Worker Regulation (SWR).
- The SWR exempts from registration social workers employed by: MCFD and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies; provincial and federal governments; municipalities, regional districts and boards of education; First Nations; and others.
- There have been longstanding calls from the community to remove the exemptions and this call was reiterated throughout the engagement.



- Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People
- 
- Data indicates that most MCFD frontline staff (e.g., Social Program Officers that require delegation under the CFCSA and work in either a Service Delivery Area or in Provincial Centralized Screening) are hired under the preferred credentials, with the majority holding social work degrees. The next most common degree is Child and Youth Care.

#### The Social Work Oversight Engagement

- This engagement will allow MCFD to:
  - Explore the current state of social work oversight, including what is working well and challenges; and
  - Find opportunities for improvement and/or transformation.
- Engagement included:
  - Discussions with internal partners (e.g., ministries) and external partners (e.g., Indigenous organizations and Modern Treaty Nations; social work educators; social sector organizations; social work representative groups); and
  - Public engagement (e.g., public survey, social work practitioner survey and written submissions) to enable broad participation from individuals, families, organizations and governments.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

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**ISSUE:** Overview of Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Indigenous Child and Family Services (ICFS) Agencies provide direct services under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) to Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities throughout BC.
- ICFS Agencies are guided by the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standard Indicators (AOPSI) when providing services to Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities throughout BC.
- ICFS Agencies in BC represent approximately 117 First Nations communities, as well as Urban Indigenous and Métis communities and currently serve 54% of the Indigenous children in care.
- The Partnership Forum table meets to discuss matters related to practice, training, funding, legislation, programs, and policies, plus one day for the Partnership Planning Committee to inform the Partnership agenda. The Partnership Forum has a Terms of Reference, and the agenda is agreed upon by the three partners and meets quarterly for two days.
- The Partnership Forum table is made up of:
  - 24 ICFS Agency Executive Directors;
  - the Deputy Director and 1 MCFD Aboriginal Services Branch Director;
  - the ADM and 2 Directors from Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division;
  - 2 Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Managers; and,
  - Secretariat staff.
- Meeting regularly and in partnership has strengthened the relationship between ICFS Agencies, Indigenous Services Canada, and MCFD.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In BC, through delegation agreements, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare provides authority to ICFS Agencies to undertake administration of all or parts of the CFCSA depending on the level of delegation within the ICFS Agencies.

- Staff in the ICFS Agencies are delegated under the CFCSA to provide direct services to Indigenous children and families in their communities.
- There are 24 ICFS Agencies in British Columbia:
  - 14 are delegated to provide full child protection services:
    - services include child protection services and the responsibility of guardianship services for children in interim, temporary, and continuing custody court-ordered care
  - Seven are delegated to provide guardianship services:
    - service is specific to the guardianship of children in continuing custody
  - Three are delegated to provide voluntary services:
    - this includes family support services
    - voluntary care agreements
    - support needs agreements
    - establishing residential resources
- One urban community agency is currently working with the Aboriginal Services Branch (ASB) to become an ICFS Agency by the spring of 2023.
- ASB is also working with several ICFS Agencies as they have requested to expand their services to further meet the needs of Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities.
- ICFS Agencies that provide services on-reserve under the CFCSA receive funding from the federal government.
- MCFD provides funding to ICFS Agencies that deliver services off-reserve.

**CROSS-REFERENCE: N/A**

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**ISSUE:** Overview of Quality Assurance Programs

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every child and youth deserve to be supported to live a happy, healthy life and reach their goals.
- Quality Assurance Programs are in place for the following service areas: Children and Youth with Support Needs, Child and Youth Mental Health, Community Youth Justice, Adoption, Child Safety, Resources, Guardianship and Family Service.
- We are taking action to improve the supports and services we provide to children, youth, and families in every part of the province.
- Quality Assurance Programs support practice and system improvements for both the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Indigenous Child and Family Service (ICFS) Agencies, with the goal of improving the services and supports that children, youth, and families in BC receive.
- There are three main Quality Assurance Programs:
  - *Practice Reviews* – when a child or youth in care is critically injured or dies, practice reviews help address specific questions about what MCFD supports or services were provided before the incident occurred. This helps identify key service areas that could be improved and informs action plans to improve these practices and systems.
  - *Practice Evaluations and Audits* – MCFD has set specific standards that staff and ICFS Agencies must follow as part of their practice and when delivering services to children, youth, and families. Practice evaluations and audits provide information as to how MCFD and ICFS Agencies are doing with regards to meeting applicable policy and standards.
    - *Practice Evaluations* - are conducted at a provincial level to measure compliance against policies and standards with regard to family services, child services/guardianship, resources, community youth justice and adoption services. Practice Evaluations may result in action

plans to improve practices and systems for the children, youth, and families being served and combine quantitative (compliance-based) and qualitative (survey/interviews of children, youth and families served) measures to understand the outcomes for children, youth, and families that receive services.

- *ICFS Agency Audits* - each ICFS Agency is audited regularly. The audit reviews all services that the agency is delegated to provide to children, youth, and families. Agency Audits may result in action plan to improve practices and systems for the children, youth and families being served.
  - *Complaints* – Children, youth, and families accessing MCFD/ICFS Agencies services, or who believe they are eligible to receive services, may bring forward a complaint. Complaint Specialists across the province offer facilitated meetings to promote collaboration between complainants and staff to help them work towards a resolution of the person’s complaint concerns. Complainants may choose to request an Administrative Review or engage in a formal Complaints Resolution process.
- Other Quality Assurance activities include:
  - *Foster Parent Reviews* – foster caregivers can request a Foster Parent Review after a foster home investigation or quality of care review has resulted in a serious sanction, like the cancellation of a contract.
  - *Accreditation* – MCFD accreditation policy requires contracted service providers that receive \$500,000 or more in annual funding from MCFD, or MCFD and Community Living BC (CLBC) combined, to be accredited by one of two pre-approved accreditation organizations: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or Council on Accreditation (COA). Accreditation is one of the layers of oversight that supports quality service for children, youth, and families.
  - *Self-Report Audit Tool* – contracted agencies submit a report to MCFD of the screening and assessment results (i.e., criminal record and reference checks, interviews, etc.) for all caregivers looking after children in care in their programs for the purposes of verification.

**BACKGROUND:**

## New Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Program

- A new Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Program is underway that aligns to the MCFD strategic work to transform how services are delivered so that children and families realize improved outcomes.
- Outcomes are the end result of implementing policies and services for the children, families and communities we serve.
- A Quality Assurance Framework was developed and released that applies across all the core services of the ministry and ICFS Agencies, including those delivered by our partner agencies in the contracted sector. It is a “living document” that will evolve over time to continually align with the ministry’s overall strategic framework and the service frameworks implemented throughout the ministry, many of which are under development. Placing families at the centre of planning ensures alignment across all the service frameworks.
- An outcomes-based model will help us understand the impact of ministry services on those being served and will help to improve programs and services by connecting data to practice (child and family centred).
- The ministry has, historically, conducted Practice Audits of ministry and ICFS Agencies to measure compliance with legislation, standards, and policies. Provincial Practice Evaluations have begun in 2022 as an interim step to shift away from Practice Audits. Evaluations apply to ministry services in the areas of resources, family service, community youth justice, adoption, and guardianship practice. Changes to the ICFS Agencies audit process will occur later, in partnership with ICFS Agencies.
- Practice Evaluations combine quantitative (compliance-based) and qualitative (survey/interviews of children, youth and families served) measures to understand the outcomes for children, youth, and families that receive services. The interim approach will remain in effect until a new framework for each service area has been implemented and pending further engagement, at which time the ministry will move to Service Evaluations.
- An advisory circle with representation from ICFS Agencies, First Nation communities, the Métis Commission for Children and Families of British

Columbia, as well as First Nation Hereditary Chiefs, has been formed to lead this work.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

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**ISSUE: Overview of Foster Homes**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development’s (MCFD) goal is to keep families together, resulting in fewer children coming into care.
- However, there is still a need for foster caregivers to care for the children and youth who come into care because they cannot safely live with their parents or extended family.
- Foster caregivers care for children who cannot safely live with their own families, whose families have asked for help with parenting during times of crisis, or whose families need specific or periodic help in caring for their children.
- In foster homes, the child resides in the caregiver’s home.
- Foster homes operate under a contractual agreement with the director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

**BACKGROUND:**

- Foster families receive a monthly payment called the “Basic Monthly Rate” that covers the costs of caring for a child.
- Effective April 1, 2023, the Basic Monthly rate is \$1,465.86 for children aged 0-11 and \$1,655.91 for children aged 12-19.
- Effective April 1, 2023, the similar Maintenance rates for adoptive parents under the *Adoption Act* are \$849.36 for children aged 0 to 11 and \$1,135.81 for children aged 12 to 19.
- The different types of foster homes are:
  - Restricted care: Foster care provided by relatives or family friends;
  - Regular care: Foster care provided by a family, who has not previously known the children;
  - Specialized foster care: Foster care provided to children with mental or physical support needs, or emotional or behaviour problems; and,



- Respite or relief care: Caregivers who take children for short periods, so that parents / foster caregivers can have a few days without the children.
- In Specialized Care, foster caregivers who provide any of the three levels of specialized foster care also receive a service payment in addition to the basic monthly rate per child. This additional payment recognizes the special parenting skills and extra time required to meet the needs of a child – it is not employment income.
- Effective April 1, 2023, monthly service payments are \$591.90 per child for a level one home. Service payments for level two and three homes are dependent on the number of children in the home and paid per child. Service payment in a level two home with one child is \$1,473.74 and is \$2,347.67 in a level three home with one child.
- The three levels of Specialized Care are determined through an assessment of the caregiver, in terms of:
  - Education and training;
  - Child-related experience;
  - Knowledge; and,
  - Demonstrated skills.
- Children requiring more skilled and intensive care are in higher level specialized care. The maximum number of children in care allowed in a specialized home are:
  - For level one: 6 children in the home (including caregiver’s own children and children in respite/relief);
  - For level two: 3 children in care; and,
  - For level three: 2 children in care.
- Six of ten Service Delivery Areas currently screen all prospective foster parents through a centralized hub, while three Service Delivery Areas conduct their own screening. One Service Delivery Area does some of its own screening and some through the centralized hub. The Ministry conducts a full assessment of each prospective foster caregiver before they can be approved to provide care.
- MCFD is responding to calls for action by undertaking the transformation of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS). SHSS refers to the segment of our network of care that provides services outside of the home – through what

we often call ‘staffed resources’ or ‘contracted bed-based services’ – for children/youth and families who cannot live safely at home with their parents.

- Implementation of an integrated network of care for children and youth, which will include improvements to foster homes and the system of services supporting them, contributes to the Ministry's approach to strengthening prevention, early intervention, and family preservation.
- The number of foster homes has been decreasing. Available information suggests that a reduction of the number of children in care, the retirement of foster caregivers and foster caregivers who have adopted the children in their care are all factors contributing to the decrease in foster homes over this period. It is unclear what long-term impacts the COVID-19 pandemic will have on retaining current caregivers or recruiting new caregivers.
- In an effort to maintain retention of current foster caregivers, the ministry is offering a number of virtual and in-person learning opportunities this year – with focus on topics identified by foster caregivers.
- To facilitate an increase in the onboarding of new foster caregivers, the ministry has supported a priority home study initiative to clear the backlog of applicants who are screened and awaiting home study. In addition, a central caregiver retention/recruitment team has been developed to assist with the completion of foster home studies.
- The reduction in the number of children in care is also an indicator of success of the ministry's emphasis on prevention and early intervention. While the number of children in care is decreasing the use of out-of-care arrangements to keep families together and avoid children coming into care is increasing.

#### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Note 3.2 – Overview of Out of Care

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**ISSUE: Overview of Family Support and Prevention**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry is committed to supporting children and youth in BC to live in safe, healthy, and nurturing families, with connections to their communities and culture.
- The Ministry is working collaboratively to ensure Indigenous communities in B.C. to have jurisdiction over their own children and family services.
- B.C. is seeing the lowest number of children in care in 30 years.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Ministry, along with Indigenous Child & Family Services (ICFS) Agency partners, strive to emphasize the principles of early intervention and prevention to support children, youth and families who may be struggling, and keep families together whenever possible.
- When children or youth cannot live at home, the preferred option is to provide financial and other supports so they can live with extended family or others known to the family through out-of-care options, rather than bringing them into care.
- The Ministry funds a range of services and programs to support family connections, including: the Affordable Child Care Benefit; respite; infant development programs; family development response; traditional decision-making processes; family finders; roots workers; family preservation workers; collaborative planning and decision-making options such as family group conferencing; and mediation.
- In partnership with Indigenous communities and rights holders, we have made historic changes to our legislation with the introduction of Bill 38; work that includes both the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* and *Adoptions Act*. BC's laws governing the Ministry and how it operates now

reflect and uphold the inherent and pre-existing rights of Indigenous people to jurisdiction over child and family services.

- Bill 38 provides a much-needed path to end the over involvement of the Ministry in the lives of Indigenous people. This work is foundational to reconciliation and instrumental in our collective priorities to keep families together and ensure all efforts are made to support children and youth to remain in, and be cared for, by their communities.
- We have done more than legislative change – we have also looked to how we provide a seamless system of support for families that spans early intervention through to specialized care.
- In 2023 we are expanding our network of care to include services intended to support family preservation. Through implementation of our Specialized Homes and Support Services network, we have included services such as specialized respite and stabilization services. These services will be available to children and youth living with their parents, kinship caregivers, and other caregivers. The intention of all services in the network is to support a child and family for a successful transition home.
- We have also expanded supports for kinship caregivers through the introduction of our Enhanced Out of Care program which provides caregivers caring for children with complex trauma or support needs access to additional supports to ensure the child and care giver remain together and well.
- The Ministry continues to strengthen cultural planning by increasing the use of out-of-care/kinship placement options, and greater involvement of Indigenous partners when developing care plans and permanency options for children and youth to remain with their family and within their communities.
- Under the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, Indigenous children and youth in care who are living with someone other than their parent or an adult member of their family are required to have their placements reassessed at specific times or at a minimum every six months to determine if it is in their best interests to be placed with a parent or other adult member of their family.

- The Ministry supports First Nations and Métis-serving agencies with additional funding for cultural supports to help keep Indigenous families together and improve outcomes for children and youth.
- In addition, another program funded is the Aboriginal Service Innovations: Child Safety and Permanency (ASI: CSP) Program. This provincial program provides funding to Indigenous-serving organizations across the province to deliver direct services to Indigenous children and families who are receiving services through the ministry or ICFS Agencies. The goal is to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth coming in to care and to support culturally relevant permanency planning for Indigenous children and youth currently in care.

#### **Current Family Support and Prevention Programs:**

- Family Development Response (FDR) is the preferred pathway for addressing screened-in protection reports when circumstances do not involve severe abuse or neglect and families are able and willing to engage in collaborative assessments and planning to address safety concerns.
- Family preservation workers intensively work with families involved with the child welfare system to support children to remain at home safely or to support children to return home safely if they have been placed outside of their family home.
- Family finding programs, including Roots workers, support Indigenous children and youth to learn about their families, culture, traditions, language, and history.
- Collaborative or shared planning and decision-making processes, such as traditional decision-making processes, family group conferencing and mediation, involve family and community members in decision-making to create plans and agreements that protect children and youth while addressing the needs of families.
- The use of collaborative decision-making mitigates the need for court involvement, therefore strengthening relationships.

- Traditional decision-making processes are ways of planning and/or resolving disagreements by following community or cultural models and practices.
- For example, in some Indigenous communities, Elders may have a key role to play in guiding families and social workers through decision-making processes.
- The Family Group Conference or Family Case Planning Conference, which is also known as family group decision-making, is one type of shared decision-making process for families who are receiving child welfare services.
- Mediation is a collaborative way to reach agreements between parents, families and the ministry/ICFS Agencies on the best plan for a child's safety and well-being by focusing on underlying interests and identifying common ground.
- The process is facilitated by an independent third party (the mediator) through Mediate BC to deliver child protection mediation services to MCFD and ICFS Agencies.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 3.4** – Overview of Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies

# Category Descriptions for the Delegation Matrix

## Child, Family and Community Service Act: December 2002

Number	Name	Brief Description of Category
C1	Information Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No legal authority, not in CFCSA Matrix.</li> <li>Permission to access information obtained under CFCSA, subject to the provisions of Section 75.</li> <li>Designed for practicum students (except those in category 2) and employees who require access to information to do their job, but have no case authority.</li> </ul>
C2	Child Welfare Specialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No legal authority, not in CFCSA Matrix.</li> <li>Only for Child Welfare/Child Protection Specialization students who are in a fourth-year child protection practicum.</li> <li>Permission to participate in service delivery to enable the student to complete the tasks required in the practicum</li> </ul>
C3	Resources and Voluntary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes authorities to provide support services for families, voluntary care agreements, special needs agreements and to establish residential resources for children in care.</li> <li>Authority must be exercised within the parameters of a job description.</li> <li>This category is also known as Level 12 in the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators.</li> </ul>
C4	Guardianship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes all of the legal authority in C3 plus additional authorities to carry out the director's guardianship responsibilities for children and youth in continuing custody.</li> <li>Authority must be exercised within the parameters of a job description.</li> <li>This category is also known as Level 13 in the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators.</li> </ul>
C5	Partial Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes all of the legal authority in C3 and C4 and limited authority for child protection.</li> <li>The purpose of this category is to give new child protection workers limited authority while working under the supervision of fully delegated practitioners until the required competence to assume full child protection authority is demonstrated.</li> <li>Authority must be exercised within the parameters of a job description.</li> </ul>
C6	Full Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes all of the legal authority in C3, C4 and C5 and full authority for child protection.</li> <li>Authority must be exercised within the parameters of a job description.</li> <li>This category is also known as Level 15 in the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators.</li> </ul>

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**ISSUE: Overview of Managing Performance and Delegation for Child Welfare Workers**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The powers, duties and functions conferred on a Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) are among the most powerful authorities in society.
- For example, the authority to investigate a child's need for protection and the authority to remove a child from a parent's care.
- With these powers comes a duty of care that a Director owes to the people served, many of whom include some of society's most vulnerable members.
- A Director must have confidence that the individuals who are delegated will represent the Director in an appropriate and responsible manner, in accordance with statutory provisions, as the Director remains legally responsible for the actions or omissions of those delegated.
- Delegation may be revoked or changed at the discretion of the Director.
- Delegation of authority is based on the delegated person having achieved and demonstrated the necessary competence through education, competency-based training, standardized assessment, and supervised practice.
- In January 2019, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare (PDCW) expanded the educational and experiential qualifications for child protection, guardianship, and resource positions in the ministry that require CFCSA delegation.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The preferred educational qualifications for delegation are:
  - Bachelor or Master's degree in Social Work;
  - Bachelor or Master's degree in Child and Youth Care; and,
  - Master of Educational Counselling Psychology/Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, with completion of a practicum in family and child welfare.



- In January 2019, the educational qualifications were expanded to include a related degree in a human services field plus a minimum of two years of post-degree related experience working with children and youth. Related education includes Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology, Early Childhood Education, Indigenous Studies, Education, or Nursing.
- In accordance with Section 91 of the CFCSA, the Minister may designate one or more persons as Directors for the purposes of the Act, which includes the provision of child protection, family support and guardianship services.
- Section 92 of the CFCSA gives a Designated Director the power to entrust and empower others to act on his or her behalf through delegation. A delegation of authority must be in writing and may include any terms and conditions the Director considers advisable; this delegation may be withdrawn or changed at the Director's discretion.
- Indigenous Child and Family Service (ICFS) Agencies have their own processes for managing performance and delegation of workers. ICFS Agency workers receive their delegation from the Deputy Director, Aboriginal Services Branch, within the Office of the Provincial Director and Aboriginal Services Division. The Deputy Director is a Designated Director within the ministry.
- Within the ministry, the process for individuals achieving delegation from the point of hire can be summarized as follows:
  - Applicants are screened for eligibility based on criteria, including their established educational qualifications and experience before they are considered further in a recruitment process.
  - Screened-in applicants go through an assessment process that consists of interviews, reference checks and an assessment of past work performance. Through the hiring process, applicants are assessed for a beginning level of competence with the ministry's Child and Youth Safety and Support competencies.
  - Successful completion of a criminal record check under the *Criminal Records Review Act* is required before an applicant can be confirmed for a position. This involves a search for convictions, penalties and outstanding charges and is reviewed against a list of relevant or specified offences to determine the risk an individual may pose in working with children or vulnerable adults.
  - All BC Public Service employees are required to formally acknowledge in writing that they have received, read, and understand the Standards of Conduct. The requirement to comply with these standards is a condition of employment and employees who fail to comply with these standards may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

- All BC Public Service employees and appointees are required to complete the BC Public Service Oath of Employment.
- Newly hired child welfare workers must successfully complete a six-month probation period and complete post-hire training. Learning for new hires is supported through an extensive repository of on-line information, classroom training, job-based activities, and a graduated increase in case responsibilities under the guidance and direction of supervisors and senior practitioners.
- There are six primary categories of child welfare delegation including:
  - C1 – To access Information under CFCSA (for practicum students).
  - C2 – To participate in service delivery (for 4<sup>th</sup> year Child Welfare Specialization students).
  - C3 – Resources and Voluntary Services.
  - C4 – Guardianship (includes all legal authority in C3).
  - C5 – Partial Child Protection (for new child protection workers).
  - C6 – Full Child Protection.
- To receive full child protection delegation, all candidates must successfully complete the competency-based Delegation Assessment and Readiness Tool that promotes clinical supervision, critical thinking, and reflective practice.
- Ongoing child welfare practice is conducted in accordance with relevant practice standards and policies that require team leader consultation and approval for many key actions and decisions in child welfare service delivery. Ministry standards reflect the legislated mandate that the safety and well-being of children is the paramount consideration.
- Child welfare practice is supported by clinical supervision from Team Leaders and each service delivery area in B.C. has a Director of Practice and consultants available to support practice.
- Ongoing performance management is supported through the development and assessment of work goals, learning goals and career development goals in employee MyPerformance profiles.
- In addition to the six primary categories of delegation there are two additional types of delegation for roles that support child welfare work. A Social Program Officer Assistant delegation and a Support Worker delegation. Both delegations are limited to the functions of the role and are overseen by a Child Welfare Worker or Team Leader.
- There are roles within the ministry that have delegation to work under specific sections of the CFCSA under a “class of person” delegation. Rather than individual delegation by a Designated Director, the Provincial Director of Child

Welfare issues class delegation to employees by virtue of their job role. There are currently eight active class delegations within the ministry.

- There is ongoing work within the delegation portfolio to continue to align with the ministry's strategic priority of prevention, early intervention and family supports.

#### Appendix A: Category Descriptions for the Delegation Matrix

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of SHSS Implementation and Contracted Care**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every child/youth deserves to be supported to reach their goals, and we are committed to building a system of support that puts them and their individual needs at the centre.
- There are currently gaps in our system of supports and specialized care for vulnerable children/youth – gaps that exist not only for children/youth in care, but also for many families who are caring for children/youth with complex health and other support needs.
- We are addressing these gaps by implementing a network of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) – which expands access to supports such as respite and introduces new services such as stabilization supports. These services will support families to stay together, they will support children/youth to be well, and they will contribute to improved outcomes for children/youth and the Network of Care.
- When a child/youth can no longer live at home, our priority is to make every effort to support a kinship care model (often referred to as out-of-care placement) – ensuring children/youth remain in community connected to culture and language.
- If care cannot be provided by a person known to the child/youth, and that child/youth enters the system of care, we want to ensure their placement meets their unique needs and best interests. This Ministry prioritizes placing children/youth in home-based environments, where the foster caregiver resides with the child/youth.
- This province has come a long way to move out of the ‘group home’ model of care, recognizing children/youth require stability and attachment to caregivers – which is not easily accommodated in a staffed care home environment.
- To continue our movement away from traditional group home models of care, the network of SHSSs will include specialized homes for children/youth with

needs that cannot be accommodated in foster care. These small-scale homes are highly specialized with extensive quality assurance and oversight.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- We know children/youth experience better outcomes when they are cared for by extended family and remain connected to their community and culture. When a child/youth cannot stay safely with their family for a period of time, our approach is to connect children/youth with home-based care settings, such as out-of-care arrangements or with foster caregivers.
- A small number of children/youth require a more specialized, long-term living environment, as such, contracted agencies operate under contract with the ministry to provide bed-based, 24-hour care to children/youth who cannot live safely at home. Historically, children/youth are placed in this care model due to their complex behavioural, medical, or mental health needs.
- Calls to action from partners, community, the RCY, the Office of the Auditor General etc. have been clear – the system of contracted care is not working, despite the good work of service providers and front-line workers.
- In response, the ministry is improving the continuum of service and supports to children, youth, and families through SHSS Transformation. Key services, like SHSS respite and low-barrier short-term stabilization care, will be accessible to children/youth based on their needs, regardless of whether they are in-care, in an out-of-care arrangement, or living at home with their parent.
- The ministry also continues to implement processes to improve the quality and oversight of contracted care, including:
  - Embedding new outcomes and oversight mechanisms into contracts with SHSSs that will improve monitoring child/youth safety, wellness, and quality of care;
  - Developing new information management systems that will enable standardized reporting and wellness monitoring for children/youth in contracted care;
  - Developing updated policy for the Self Report Audit Tool (SRAT), used to monitor compliance with the screening and assessment of service providers in contracted agencies; and

- Continuing to conduct audits of contracted agencies to examine their finances, compliance with screening of caregivers and adherence to policy requirements.
- This work is about keeping children/youth residing in contracted care safe, but also it is about supporting children, youth, and their families to be well and to thrive.
- Phased implementation of SHSS transformation is underway in two ways:
  - we are gradually transitioning existing contracted care providers in two early implementation areas (the Okanagan and North Fraser Service Delivery Areas (SDA)) to the new SHSS contracts and oversight requirements via direct award negotiation; and
  - through prequalifying new service providers to deliver SHSS services via a Call for Responses (CFR) – to be released February 2023. This CFR allows Ministry to prequalify service providers that can be used as and when needed to address gaps in continuum of care in each SDA.
- To minimize disruption of services for children/youth currently residing in a staffed resource, existing service providers will transition to their new SHSS contract obligations through a ‘transition-in period’ (set at 18 months) and will be supported by the Ministry to meet their new service expectations.
- The phased approach for SHSS implementation allows us to learn from key partners and to make changes to SHSS as needed, in preparation for provincial roll-out.
- Throughout this implementation, we remain focused on three key priorities:
  - Ensuring that changes are considered first through the lens of what is the best interest of the child, youth, and their family;
  - Ensuring all efforts are made to keep children and youth connected to their family, culture, and community; and
  - Ensuring we minimize disruption in our service provider community.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:           Review of Adoption Agency Regulatory Framework and Intercountry Adoption Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In BC, international adoption services are provided exclusively through adoption agencies (i.e., The Adoption Centre of BC and Sunrise Family Services Society), which are licensed by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- BC's licensed adoption agencies are independent, non-profit organizations responsible for their own funding, operating decisions and the success of their organization.
- In September 2021, the Ministry entered into a contract with KPMG LLP to conduct an external review of how intercountry adoptions are provided in BC, as well as the processes and requirements for licensing and monitoring adoption agencies.
- KPMG LLP delivered a final report to the Ministry on November 30, 2022.
- Report findings indicate that while some aspects of the service delivery model and intercountry adoptions process function effectively, there are opportunities for improvement or modernization in the following areas:
  - clarify criteria for determining best interests of the child with respect to intercountry adoptions,
  - clarify Ministry strategy, goals, and outcome measures for intercountry adoptions,
  - strengthen quality assurance monitoring for intercountry adoptions, and
  - review the current fee-for-service model to identify and mitigate issues relating to the financial viability of agencies.
- The Ministry is reviewing the report and its analysis will support future policy and decision making regarding intercountry adoptions.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Licensed adoption agencies provide domestic and intercountry adoption services under the *Adoption Act*, enabling the Ministry and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies to focus on achieving permanency for children who are in the continuing custody of the Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.
- The Provincial Director of Adoption licenses and regulates agencies under the Adoption Agency Regulation (AAR).
- Since the AAR came into force in 1996, declining intercountry adoption rates have resulted in significant financial implications for adoption agencies. As a result, the number of agencies in B.C. has decreased from seven to two.
- The Ombudsperson office recommended a review of whether the AAR enables the Ministry to meet its financial oversight mandate.
- The agency-based service delivery model has changed substantially since it was implemented in 1996. The review set out to determine whether:
  - the current framework supports effective and efficient agency regulation in the public interest,
  - the intercountry adoption service delivery model aligns with Government's strategic direction regarding permanency for children and youth and enables Government to meet its international obligations under the Hague Convention, and
  - there are other models of intercountry adoption services that might better meet the needs of children and families.
- KPMG LLP consulted with key partners to inform the development of the report and articulate challenges and opportunities within the current model.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 3.1** – Overview of Permanency



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY & LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of the Network of Care**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every child/youth deserves to be supported to reach their goals; the Ministry of Children and Family Development is committed to creating an integrated Network of Care that puts them and their individual needs at the centre.
- We are working with our partners to design a network of supports that not only ensures the safety and well-being of children/youth, but also supports the broader work of the ministry to shift the focus of our supports from protection to early intervention and prevention for families in B.C. and:
  - keep families together and strengthen the stability of their living arrangements;
  - offer therapeutic and healing opportunities for children/youth and their families;
  - reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous children/youth in the child protection system; and
  - support alignment to *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
- Services within the Network of Care will be accessible to all children/youth based on their needs, regardless of whether they are in care, in an out-of-care arrangement, or living at home with their parents.
- Work to begin this shift is underway, beginning with a concentrated focus on redesigning the system of staffed resources in B.C. through the Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) transformation and through implementation of a new Enhanced Out-of-Care program that provides wrap-around supports to children/youth with complex support needs to live with extended family and/or community members.
- Creating and implementing this systemic change is complex and will unfold over the coming years and in collaboration with ministry partners.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Originally referred to as the “In Care Network” or the “In Care and Out of Care Network” this work is now simply referred to as the Network of Care.
- The Network of Care comprises a suite of services for children, youth and their families, which include home-based supports (e.g., foster care, out-of-care), contracted staffed resources (e.g., SHSS) and alternatives to staffed resources.
- Work to develop this integrated Network of Care began in response to reports and recommendations dating back to 2012, including the Residential Review report, the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth reports and the Office of the Auditor General’s report on the Oversight of Contracted Residential Services for Children and Youth in Care, consultation with children, youth, families and service providers across B.C., analysis of integrated data on the cross-sector service use of children/youth in care, interjurisdictional review, and collaborative service design.
- Building from this deep well of knowledge the ministry has spent the last two years, actively engaged with partners across B.C. to design service improvements to the Network of Care. This collaborative work has included province wide virtual engagement, targeted consultation with youth and service providers, Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors (ICFSD), partnership working group, engagement with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and ongoing collaboration with an external steering committee comprised on sector partners (including urban and rural ICFSD, Métis Nation, and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC).
- While progress has been made, there is still more to do to improve this complex system, and we are committed to continuing that work by:
  - ensuring MCFD continues to move away from “group homes”/staffed models of care, and towards specialized therapeutic homes designed to meet the needs of B.C.’s most vulnerable children/youth;
  - addressing gaps in the continuum of supports needed to keep families together and avoid children/youth coming into care through expanding access to specialized respite and stabilization services;
  - introducing a new Enhanced Out-of-Care program to better support children/youth with support needs to live successfully with extended family and/or community members;

- Advice/Recommendations
  - establishing stronger linkages with other supports, such as Children & Youth with Support Needs (CYSN), Child & Youth Mental Health (CYMH) and Youth Justice services to help ensure our various systems work together to provide wrap around service to British Columbians.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 3.2** – Overview of OOC
- **Note 6.1** – Overview of Post Majority Supports

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of Child and Youth Mental Health**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) provides free and voluntary evidence-informed mental health services to children and youth (aged 0-19) who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health challenges and disorders.
- CYMH offers a continuum of services, from prevention and community-based supports like counselling, through to specialized intervention and bed-based clinical treatment.
- Recently, CMYH services have shifted to provide both in-person and virtual services. CYMH practitioners received additional training for online work and this service transition has enabled more families in BC to access support, especially in rural and remote areas.
- At 92 intake clinics<sup>1</sup> across the province, children and youth receive an initial assessment and support through CYMH clinicians who ensure they are connected to the right supports.
- Ministry CYMH services work in collaboration with: Health Authorities; health and substance-use services; community-based social service providers; Indigenous Child & Family Service Agencies; Foundry centres; and contracted agencies or services.
- The Ministry continues to make progress toward addressing gaps in the continuum of services by providing step-up step-down outreach services, low-barrier stabilization care and operationalizing integrated child and youth teams in select locations.
- Children and youth who present with urgent mental health issues, such as suicidal thoughts, are immediately fast-tracked to a mental health practitioner for evaluation and safety planning. In emergency situations, parents and caregivers are encouraged to call 911 or take their child or youth to the nearest hospital emergency department.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 2022 – list of CYMH intake clinics can be found here: [Child & Youth Mental Health Intake Clinics - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/child_youth/child_youth_mental_health/intake_clinics)

**BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD CYMH services are guided by a provincial service framework that ensures consistency across all service delivery areas of the province.
- Practitioners on CYMH teams are comprised of a variety of professionals – including social workers and nurses with mental-health expertise, clinical counsellors, psychologists, and contracted psychiatrists
- In the areas of Vancouver/Richmond and Prince George, MCFD does not directly provide CYMH services. CYMH services are delivered via contract with Vancouver Coastal Health (Vancouver/Richmond) and Intersect Youth and Family Services (Prince George).
- The Ministry’s mental health services include:
  - Core Services are provided through community-based CYMH and Indigenous CYMH teams and Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams in select locations – these are offered through Ministry offices, Indigenous Child & Family Service Agencies, Foundry Centres, contracted agencies, community outreach and schools. The CYMH Service Framework identifies six core services, including:
    - Referral and Intake
    - Initial Services
    - Assessment Services
    - Therapy and Intervention Services
    - Consultation Services
    - Urgent Response
  - Bed-Based Services are provided through the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre (The Maples). The Maples is an provincial tertiary mental health facility providing assessment and treatment for youth aged 12 to 17 years old who are living with significant mental health, emotional or behavioural challenges. The Maples provides voluntary mental health services under the *Mental Health Act* and is also the designated treatment facility for youth found unfit to stand trial and not criminally responsible due to mental disorder (NCRMD) under the Criminal Code of Canada and *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

Twenty-two onsite beds are operated as part of the following Provincial programs:

- Response Program,
- Dala Program
- Crossroads Program

In addition, the Maples provides a community-based treatment program for youth in the lower mainland – the Bifröst Program and two caregiver support programs that serve the entire province:

- Care Plan Consultants
  - Connect Attachment Program.
- Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services provide court-mandated forensic assessments and interventions to youth involved in the justice system and support youth who are on community or custody supervision via:
    - in-Patient Assessment Unit in Burnaby
    - outpatient clinics in Vancouver, Burnaby, Langley, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.
  - Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Initiatives provide school-based mental health prevention programming (e.g., Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE)) and contracted PEI provincial initiatives (e.g., Confident Parents: Thriving Kids and FamilySmart).
  - Specialized Services provided by specialized CYMH clinicians/teams (where available), contracted agencies, and health authorities include:
    - Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health
    - Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI)
    - Developmental Disabilities Mental Health
    - Concurrent Disorders
    - Eating Disorders
  - MCFD is working with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and cross-ministry partners to ensure CYMH services align with *A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental*

*health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia* in 5 communities including Maple Ridge, Comox Valley, Okanagan-Similkameen, Coast Mountain, and Richmond.

Services include:

- Integrated Child and Youth teams: CYMH Clinicians and contracted Family Peer Support Workers are core members of these teams.
- Step-Up/Step-Down High Intensity Outreach services: CYMH Clinicians work to help prevent and reduce mental health and substance use related hospital admissions.
- Early Intervention Enhancement services: Infant Mental Health Clinicians work alongside community service providers to serve families with young children.
- As part of *A Pathway to Hope*, consultation around the development of 24/7 Step-Up/Step-Down mental health services is underway with Health Authorities to develop Step-Down pathways to prevent and reduce the length of mental health related hospital admissions.

#### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 4.2** – CYMH Services

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Child and Youth Mental Health Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We know how important it is for young people and their families to be able to reach out for help and get that help when they need it.
- Each year, Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) provides services to over 25,000<sup>1</sup> children and youth with moderate to severe mental health challenges.
- Young people and their families can access CYMH, without a referral, at one of 92 CYMH clinics across BC.
- CYMH services are flexible and responsive to the needs and preferences of families, who are offered the choice of in-person and/or virtual services.
  - Provincially, 82% of CYMH services were provided in-person this fiscal year<sup>2</sup>, while 18% of families accessed virtual services.
  - Provincially, 13% of all services were provided through outreach, in community settings.
- Advice/Recommendations
  - Children and youth with urgent concerns, such as suicide, are not placed on the CYMH waitlist. These children and youth are seen urgently to assess risk and work with families and community supports to develop safety and support plans.
  - Provincially, 17% of children and youth received services right away with no wait this fiscal year.
- CYMH has been experiencing labour market challenges since the pandemic, resulting in historically higher numbers of staff exits and challenges with recruiting to fill vacancies.

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<sup>1</sup> Data does not include the number of children, youth, and families who accessed CYMH services in Vancouver and Richmond, where services are contracted with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

<sup>2</sup> The timeframe for data collected is the first 9 months of this fiscal year, from April 1 to December 31, 2022.



- Young people present to CYMH with 4 mental health problems on average, such as anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and neuro-developmental concerns.
- Brief services are offered to families who are on the CYMH waitlist.
  - Waitlist services include brief sessions, consultations, psychoeducational and therapeutic groups, resources, and referrals to local and provincial services.
  - Approximately 50% of children and youth on the CYMH provincial waitlist received a CYMH service while waiting for other CYMH service. This is an 8% increase over last fiscal year.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- CYMH services are provided to children, youth, and their families through multi-disciplinary teams of highly trained Masters-level Clinicians, Nurse Clinicians, Psychologists, Support Workers, and contracted Psychiatrists.
- CYMH practitioners offer trauma-informed, evidence-informed treatments and wise practices to children, youth, and their families.
- CYMH services are guided by a service framework and overarching policies and practice standards, to ensure quality and consistency across the province.
- Prevention and early intervention mental health services are offered through local and provincial contracts including Confident Parents Thriving Kids, Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators, and through FamilySmart.
- Contracted telehealth services ensure psychiatrists can meet with young people and their families in Northern, rural, and remote areas of the province.
- CYMH practitioners work collaboratively with cross-ministry and community partners to offer seamless and integrated services through multidisciplinary teams.
  - Examples of integrated teams include Integrated Child and Youth teams, school-based teams, integrated hubs/wellness centres, and Foundry Centres.
- MCFD is working with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and cross-ministry partners to ensure CYMH services align with *A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia* in 5 communities including Maple Ridge, Comox Valley, Okanagan-Similkameen, Coast Mountain, and Richmond. These services include:

- Integrated Child and Youth teams: CYMH Clinicians and contracted Family Peer Support Workers are core members of these teams.
- High Intensity Outreach services: CYMH Clinicians work to help prevent and reduce mental health and substance use related hospital admissions.
- Early Intervention Enhancement services: Infant Mental Health Clinicians work alongside community service providers to serve families with young children.

### **WORK UNDERWAY:**

- To address the labour shortage within CYMH, mitigation strategies have been implemented or are underway, including:
  - Ongoing recruitment within CYMH province wide
  - Development of recruitment strategies across the ministry
- To address wait times for service, the ministry has implemented a number of strategies, including:
  - Streamlined the intake process with an updated screening tool.
  - Update to the CYMH policy on waitlist monitoring and supports, which provides guidance on waitlist monitoring, and expanded and flexible options to connect with youth and families.
  - Development of a *Mental Health and Wellness Resources and Supports* guide, with resources that practitioners can share with young people and families who are waiting for services.

### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 4.1** – Overview of CYMH

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Children and Youth with Support Needs**

**MESSAGES:**

- This government is committed to putting people first, working towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation and supporting equity and anti-racism in all approaches to prevention, early intervention, and family preservation.
- All children and youth deserve access to supports they need to live a full, happy and healthy life and to reach their goals.
- We know that the existing patchwork of programs has left too many children and youth with support needs behind.
- This government's intention is to build a system where services are provided that meet the unique needs of all children and youth, regardless of a diagnosis.
- In November 2022, government announced that it will maintain individualized funding for children with an autism diagnosis, instead of phasing it out in 2025, and committed to engaging in deeper consultation with parents and caregivers, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, communities, experts and practitioners, and other stakeholders with lived experience to understand how the system can be transformed and together build a better system of supports, co-developed with Indigenous communities.
- Part of this commitment to a reset was to proceed with piloting a new Children and Youth with Support Needs approach in four areas.
- The pilot areas are:
  - Central Okanagan/Kelowna;
  - Terrace/Kitimat;
  - Haida Gwaii/Prince Rupert; and
  - Bulkley Valley/Stikine.
- In January 2023, the Ministry announced the four agencies that will deliver family connections centre services in the pilot areas. The pilot agencies are:
  - ARC Programs Ltd in Central Okanagan/Kelowna;

- Terrace Child Development Centre Society in Terrace/Kitimat;
- North Coast Community Services Society in Haida Gwaii/Prince Rupert;
- Northwest Child Development Centre Society in Bulkley Valley/Stikine.
- The agencies are beginning to implement their plans to begin offering supports and services through the pilot family connections centres and will have robust evaluations over the next two years.
- In the November 2022 commitment made by Premier Eby and Minister Dean includes 4 key pillars:
  - A pause on the rollout of BC's plan to establish a network of family connection centres, with the exception of the four pilots to be launched. The four pilots will be evaluated during the process.
  - New investments in the interim, as the new system is being developed to support children with disabilities and support needs that are currently underserved, including fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (known as FASD), Down syndrome and other neuro-cognitive developmental disabilities.
  - An engagement process co-designed by First Nations leadership and leaders from the disability community, in partnership with government.
  - The maintenance of individualized funding for those with an autism diagnosis even after 2025, including those who are diagnosed in the future.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- In 2019, MCFD contracted with an Indigenous firm and a non-Indigenous firm to engage with stakeholders and identify opportunities to improve access, quality and coordination of CYSN services and programs.
- The 2019 engagements included over 1500 families and service providers; 269 of those families and service providers were Indigenous and participated in Indigenous-specific engagement.
- These engagements led to the development of the Children and Youth with Support Needs Service Framework.

- In April 2020, the CYSN Service Framework launch was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the Ministry pivoted to announce the Emergency Relief Support Fund and other flexible measures.
- In October 2021, government announced the CYSN Service Framework, including the new approach to services to better serve a broad range of children and youth with support needs in BC. This included four early implementation sites where family connections centres and strengthened Ministry programs would be implemented.
- Between October 2021 and March 2022, government held information sessions and partner outreach about the coming changes to the system.
- In April 2022, the CYSN Service Framework survey was launched that was open to all people in BC.
- Between April 2022 and early 2023, the procurement process for family connections centres was launched and successful operators were identified for the Northwest and Central Okanagan.
- On November 25<sup>th</sup>, the planned provincial implementation of family connections centres was paused and the four early implementation sites became four pilot sites.
- Government committed to a robust evaluation of the pilots and their outcomes for children, youth and families and to deeper engagement with parents and caregivers, Indigenous Peoples, communities, practitioners, and those with lived experience to understand how the system can be transformed and together build a better system of supports.
- The pilot family connections centres (FCC) will open in early 2023.
- Pilot FCCs will provide an integrated approach to services, based on the changing needs of the child and will also be integrated with Disability Services and Provincial Services delivered through the Ministry.
- During the pilots, existing programs such as the individualized Autism Funding program, AHP Medical Benefits and School Age Extended therapy benefit, Autism Information Services will continue.
- If families are accessing Individualized Autism Funding, they can choose to continue receiving their current funding and services or opt in to receiving services through the family connections centres.

- If a family decides that accessing Autism intervention services through the FCC is not right for their child/youth and family, families can resume their individualized Autism Funding at any time. Individualized funding can be paused once.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Children and Youth with Support Needs: Family connections centres (FCC) Pilots and the Individualized Autism Funding (IAF) Decision**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- On Oct. 27, 2021, government announced a new approach to services that will better serve a broad range of children and youth with support needs in BC
- The new approach would end Individualized Autism Funding (IAF) after a transition period and move towards a needs-based model by providing services through family connections centres (FCCs) where children, youth, and their families will be able to quickly access information, expert intervention and therapies from birth to age 19, based on their needs and regardless of whether their child has a formal diagnosis.
- As of Nov. 25, 2022, the province-wide rollout has been paused and the decision to sunset IAF has been reversed.
- Four FCCs will open as planned in early 2023 as pilot sites. They are:
  - ARC Programs Ltd. in Kelowna
  - North Coast Community Services Society in Prince Rupert
  - Terrace Child Development Centre Society in Terrace
  - Northwest Child Development Centre Society in Smithers
- The intention of the pilot centres is to meet the unique needs of all children and youth, regardless of diagnosis.
- Families in the pilot communities will have access to services in the family connections centres, and families already receiving IAF can choose to opt in to centre supports and services or keep receiving their current individualized funding. If a family decides that accessing autism services through the family connections centre is not right for their family, they can resume accessing individualized funding at any time. Individualized funding can be paused once.

- The pilot centres will be subject to an extended observation and evaluation that focuses on outcomes for children and youth with support needs and lessons from these pilot centres will inform the development of a new system.
- The ministry is committed to deeper consultation with parents and caregivers, Indigenous Peoples, communities, practitioners, and those with lived experience to understand how the system can be transformed and together build a better system of supports.
- The ministry is also committed to engaging with Indigenous partners to co-develop an Indigenous pilot family connections centre.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- Today, a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is required for IAF. Families may receive a publicly funded diagnosis through the British Columbia Autism Assessment Network (BCAAN) or privately by paying out-of-pocket.
- While BC does not have any waitlist to access IAF for eligible autism services, there is a waitlist for publicly funded diagnosis.
- The end of IAF has been criticized by advocates and families of children and youth with autism as representing a loss of service and choice for families.
- To mitigate the perceived loss of service, a commitment has been made to ensure families whose child has an autism diagnosis continue to receive the same level of service they currently do, while increasing services for those children, youth and families who are currently underserved.
- Families in the pilot areas who receive IAF can keep receiving their current funding and services or transition to services at the FCCs.
- The ministry will undertake evaluations at the pilot centres and will consult more broadly with parents and caregivers, Indigenous Peoples, communities, practitioners, and those with lived experience to inform the development of a new system of supports.

### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 4.3** – CYSN Service Framework



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of Post-majority Supports**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every youth and young adult deserve to be supported to live a happy, healthy life and reach their goals.
- Addressing the systemic barriers youth and young adults from care face in a robust way will support their successful transition into adulthood.
- That's why the Ministry is making post-19 supports and services more inclusive and flexible to ensure eligible young adults from care have access to supports when they need them.
- The post-19 supports and services intends to create improvements in all areas of the transition process for young adults – from better planning tools to more accessible financial, housing, mental health, educational, and cultural/social supports.
- In 2022, a variety of programs were implemented providing improved supports to young adults as they work towards achieving their goals as they transition to adulthood.
- MCFD will continue to work with cross-government partners to ensure accessible and enhanced supports and services for young adults are implemented in 2023/2024.

**BACKGROUND:**

- When the COVID-19 health emergency was declared in March 2020, the Ministry took immediate steps to ensure young adults from government care had access to emergency measures and continued to get the services they count on.
- The following measures and program supports were implemented in 2022:

- Supporting young adults to stay in their homes past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday through Temporary Housing and Temporary Support Agreements (THA/TSA).
- Continuing flexible options to participate in the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program including access to life-skills, cultural learning, and rehabilitative and mental health supports.
- Increasing access to life-skills programs through the removal of the approved AYA life-skills provider list.
- Introducing a no-limit earnings exemption to encourage young adults to pursue employment knowing their financial benefits will not be reduced.
- Introducing the MCFD Rent Supplement program (\$600/month) to help eligible young adults from care who are ready to live independently to afford their rent.
- Work is currently underway to further develop new supports to young adults, including:
  - Seeking legislative changes for an unconditional income supplement that will support young adults until their 20th birthday and then continue monthly financial support up to their 27th birthday for those participating in eligible programming.
  - Additional funding to support young adults in accessing enhanced life-skills, training, and cultural programming, as well as enhanced medical benefits (inclusive of counselling and dental benefits).
  - Hiring and phased implementation of the Youth Transitions Planning function is underway with new and existing FTEs supporting early and ongoing transition planning, as well as providing navigation support for new and existing government services for young adults from care.
- MCFD and the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills continue to work together to enhance and streamline funding supports for young adults pursuing post-secondary education.
- WorkBC Employment Services are available for unemployed young adults from care including self-serve resources, personal counselling, and financial supports for employment readiness.

- AgedOut.com, funded by the ministry and hosted by the Adoptive Families Association of B.C., provides information and skill building opportunities for youth in and from care.
- Mobility for Good (M4G) program offers eligible young adults aged 19-26 with a free phone and affordable long-term mobile services.
- MCFD continues to work with cross-government partners to ensure accessible and enhanced pathways into existing mental health supports such as Foundry.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 6.2** – Overview of Post Majority Supports

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Advice/Recommendations

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIALIZED INTERVENTION AND YOUTH JUSTICE BRANCH  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of Youth Custody Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- BC is widely recognized as having one of the most progressive and effective systems of youth justice services in the country.
- Youth justice services focus on public safety and the rehabilitation of youth who are in conflict with the law by promoting law-abiding behaviour and addressing the physical and mental-health needs of those youth.
- BC youth justice includes youth custody services, community youth justice services and youth forensic psychiatric services (YFPS) for youth aged 12 to 17 at the time of their alleged offence and can retain youth up to the age of 20 on youth orders.
- The average number of youth in custody has declined 53% in the past 5 years<sup>1</sup>.
- The decline in the number of youth in custody is a result of:
  - Decreases in the youth crime rate.
  - Federal investments in community-based alternatives to custody and rehabilitation services.
  - Amendments to the Youth Criminal Justice Act in 2019.
- For FYTD22/23<sup>2</sup> there has been an average of 15 youth in custody on a daily basis, of which 55% are Indigenous.
- Youth forensic psychiatric services (YFPS) is a specialized provincial program that provides court and non-court-ordered mental health assessment and

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<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice Branch, MCFD

Note: All statistics include youth serving open and secure custody sentences and youth remanded in custody awaiting trial/sentences.

<sup>2</sup> FYTD 2022/23 as of January 11, 2023

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Date: February 14, 2023

treatment services for youth in custody or under community youth justice supervision.

- For FYTD2022/23, 78% of the youth served by YFPS were male, 22% were female, and 35% identified as having an Indigenous background.
- For FYTD2022/23 YFPS served a total of 654 youth.<sup>3</sup>

## **BACKGROUND:**

- Youth custody services operates two youth custody centres, located in Burnaby and Prince George. The combined capacity for the centres is 108, with 24 at Prince George and 84 at Burnaby.
- Burnaby youth custody services also operates a four-bed interim holding unit in Victoria to assist with transportation requirements between custody and court.
- Custody facilities house youth who are ordered by the court to serve a period of time in open or secure custody, as well as youth who are detained pending further court appearances.
- Secure custody is intended for youth who are found guilty of serious offences, on remand orders, and for youth who have a persistent pattern of offending.
- Open custody is intended for youth who can manage effectively within an open custody unit and are inappropriate for placement in a community setting.
- BC uses a range of community alternatives to custody, such as intensive support and supervision and full-time attendance programs to promote rehabilitation outside of the custody setting.
- All youth within the custody setting are evaluated by YFPS upon admission and provided with trauma informed therapeutic interventions throughout the custodial period as needed.
- All youth custody staff in BC are trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)

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<sup>3</sup> Data Source: Data Warehouse. YFPS, Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice Branch, MCFD. FYTD 2022/23 as of January 6, 2023

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to proactively prevent and/or deescalate situations with youth through trauma informed and relational practices that reduce the risk of harm.

**CROSS REFERENCE: 7.2 Overview of Community Youth Justice Services**

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Community Youth Justice Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- BC is widely recognized across Canada as having progressive and effective youth justice services.
- Community youth justice services are committed to public safety and the rehabilitation of youth in conflict with the law. Youth probation officers promote rehabilitation through supervision and support of youth involved in the criminal justice system.
- BC provides youth justice services for youth aged 12 to 17 at the time a criminal offence was committed and can retain youth up to age 20 on youth orders.
- There are 10 centrally managed Full-Time Attendance Programs (total 40 beds) located across BC with different focuses including: sexual offences, substance use, and general rehabilitation.
- The average number of youth on community supervision has declined 25% in the past 5 years in response to the 2019 amendments of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.
- Community youth justice provided services to approximately 800 youth this fiscal year with 41% self-identifying as Indigenous youth.<sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND:**

- Youth probation officers work in integrated ministry offices across all service delivery areas and report to specialized youth justice team leaders.
- Community supervision by youth probation officers is enhanced and supported by a range of programs and services including:
  - intensive support and supervision programs

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<sup>1</sup> Data Source Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice Branch, MCFD  
FYTD 2022/23 as of January 25, 2023

- substance abuse treatment
- mental health assessment and services
- restorative justice services
- cultural connection mentorship and supports
- a provincial toolbox to financially support individualized case specific planning
- specialized federal funding options for youth specific to rehabilitation services, based on criteria and focused on individualized plans
- a range of Full-Time Attendance Programs as an alternative to custodial sentences, including gender specific and culturally supportive programming
- Youth justice services provided by MCFD are cost-shared with the federal government through two contribution agreements. Funding for both agreements is recovered directly to the MCFD Vote.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 7.1** – Overview of Youth Custody Services

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Overview of First Nations Jurisdiction**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Our goal as a Ministry is to support children and youth to remain safely with their families and connected to their culture and communities.
- On January 1, 2020, the federal legislation – *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families* (the “federal Act”) – came into force which affirmed the inherent right of self-government and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services.
- On November 24, 2022, Bill 38, *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, which amends the Adoption Act and the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA), was passed into law.
- About 68% of the clauses of the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Service Act came into force on November 25, 2022.
- We expect the remaining provisions of the new Act will be brought into force through a series of regulations co-developed with BC First Nations.
- BC is the first province in Canada to enact legislation that expressly recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have an inherent right of self-government, including self-determination specific to child and family services.
- First Nations now have several pathways available to them under BC’s *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), the federal *Act*, and the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to support them in achieving their goals regarding children and families.
- The Ministry is actively engaged in discussions with First Nations and Indigenous governing bodies regarding increased involvement, decision-making authority, and jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In May 2016 at the BC First Nations Child and Family Gathering, the Province of British Columbia committed to working with the federal government and First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to address jurisdictional and funding frameworks for Indigenous child welfare.
- In the fall of 2016, the TWG was formed and consists of representation from the Province of BC [Ministries of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and Attorney General (AG)], the Government of Canada, and FNLC (which itself is comprised of representation from the First Nations Summit, BC Assembly of First Nations, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs).
- The TWG has a signed Terms of Reference, a Reconciliation Charter, and an updated 2020/2021 Workplan and Workplan Addendum outlining the focus of the work. As per the Workplan Addendum, the TWG established two sub-committees in the areas of child welfare practice and fiscal relations/funding.
- Beginning in early 2017, the Indigenous Engagement Branch, in the Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division, began to engage in exploratory discussions with Indigenous communities wishing to exercise jurisdiction over child welfare. However, prior to the federal Act, there was no clear legal mechanism for jurisdiction to occur outside of treaty or self-government agreements.
- There are now several pathways for Indigenous communities to exercise greater involvement, increased authority, and jurisdiction over child welfare including:
  - *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* – provincial legislation:
    - Section 92.1 Agreements, which include information-sharing agreements, collaboration agreements, prevention and support service agreements, and the referral of child protection reports.
    - Delegation Enabling Agreements, wherein a director enters into an agreement with an employer of one or more persons to whom a director has delegated – under section 92 – any or all the director’s power, duties, or functions.

- *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families* (federal Act) – federal legislation, which affirms the inherent right of self-government and jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.
- The federal Act enables Indigenous communities to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services by one of two processes:
  - (1) adopting a new law and providing notice to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the province or territory in which the community is located; or
  - (2) by sending a request to the Minister of ISC and the government of each province and territory in which the Indigenous community wishes to exercise jurisdiction to enter into a tripartite coordination agreement in relation to child and family services. Section 21(1) of the federal Act outlines that an Indigenous law has the force of federal law after either entering into a coordination agreement or making reasonable efforts to conclude an agreement over a twelve-month period. When an Indigenous law has the force of federal law, it is paramount over the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) in the event of a conflict or inconsistency.
- *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* – section 7 of the Declaration Act provides the opportunity for the province to enter into decision making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies. Section 7 agreements require a mandate from Cabinet, legislation, and the involvement of MIRR.
- Self-governing agreements – these are generally tripartite agreements negotiated by MIRR and the federal government. Agreements such as treaties or reconciliation agreements would fall under this category.
- MCFD’s Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division is engaged in formal discussions with the following communities:
  - Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  -

○ Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

○

- In April 2022, the Simpcw First Nation had its unique practices, customs, laws, language and traditions integrated into a new child welfare agreement, Tcwesétmentem: Walking Together Agreement.
- This new type of Community Agreement, which falls under s. 92.1(2) of the CFCSA, refers to the specific sections of that Act focused on doing assessments, child welfare investigations, development of care plans and planning for the needs of Indigenous children as well as placement decisions when children come into care.
- The agreement also sets out how the ministry's child welfare practice decisions will be informed by a Simpcw community designate as liaison to ensure the Simpcw worldview and cultural continuity are incorporated.
- Since the signing of this agreement, several more First Nations have indicated an interest in learning more about this type of agreement.

Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental

### CROSS REFERENCE:

- **Note 8.7** - Coordination Agreements under the Federal Act

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Interests of an Indigenous People ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Interests of an Indigenous People ; Intergovernmental Communications

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Métis Working Table and Métis Joint Commitment**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In June 2018, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) signed a Joint Commitment document that commits the parties to collaboratively work toward MNBC authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in BC.
- MCFD has worked in collaboration with MNBC and the Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC (the Métis Commission) since 2018 to determine a path forward for Métis people in BC to achieve increased authority over child and family services.
- Since the signing the Joint Commitment document 2018, the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* was brought into force in January 2020, and amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFSCA) were made in 2019 and 2022 which provide additional options and pathways for increased authority for Métis People.
- MCFD continues to meet with MNBC to support and assist them in achieving their goals of increased authority and involvement for Métis children, youth and families.

**BACKGROUND:**

- MNBC is generally regarded as the political voice for Métis people in BC Lissa Dawn Smith is the President, Colette Trudeau is the Chief Executive Officer and Colleen Hodgson is the Executive Director, Children and Families/Citizenship.
- The Métis Commission is the Métis-designated community for receipt of notices of hearings under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*

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Date: February 8, 2023

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(CFSCA) regulations. Suzanne Patterson is the Interim Executive Director of the Métis Commission.

- In September 2016, MNBC, the Métis Commission and MCFD entered into a second five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding services for Métis children and families in BC which included:
  1. Métis Family services in Surrey (full delegation)
  2. Island Métis Family Services in Victoria (full delegation underway)
  3. Kikino Métis Family Services in Prince George (support services)
  4. Lil Michif Otipemisiwak Family Services in Kamloops (full delegation)
  5. Métis Community Services Society BC in Kelowna (support services)
- The MOU established the Métis Working Table to identify, discuss, strategize issues distinct to Métis peoples in receiving services.
- A second table, the Métis Practice Table, was established in 2017 to focus on CFCSA issues pertaining to Métis children and families.
- Intergovernmental Communications
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- In January 2023, MNBC requested the re-establishment of the Métis Working Table to assist with work moving forward for Métis children and families.
- MNBC continues to work towards developing a service model and governance structure that is distinct to Métis culture.

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: First Nations Tripartite Children and Families Working Group**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The First Nations Tripartite Children and Families Working Group (TWG) supports systemic reform to improve First Nations child and family well-being in British Columbia.
- The TWG has been focused on:
  - Implementing the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*;
  - Developing a fiscal framework to increase accountability and transparency to First Nations regarding the funding that goes to services to support First Nations; and
  - Increasing engagement and communications with First Nations in BC.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In May 2016, the BC First Nations Children and Family Gathering was held with representatives from the Province of British Columbia, Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to discuss the current state of child welfare.
- At that meeting, BC made three commitments to:
  - Immediately improve child welfare services by ensuring that staff from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) connect with First Nations, identify First Nations children in care, and work to improve services and supports to keep more First Nations children out of care;
  - Work with Canada and the FNLC to build new jurisdictional and funding frameworks that would support improved outcomes, as well as empower First Nations who are interested to exercise their own jurisdiction over child welfare; and
  - Establish a tripartite working group to guide the work of the Province, Canada and the FNLC.

- In the fall of 2016, the TWG was formed and consists of representatives from the FNLC, MCFD, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Attorney General, and Indigenous Services Canada.
- The FNLC serves as an advocacy body and is composed of three political organizations – the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.
- The TWG has developed and agreed to the following documents:
  - **Terms of Reference:** signed March 2017, the terms of reference define the scope, membership, goals, guiding principles, process and resources of the TWG. The overall goal is sustained collaboration to improve outcomes for First Nations children and families.
  - **Reconciliation Charter:** signed April 2017, the charter acknowledges the current challenges with Indigenous child welfare, defines the shared objective of First Nations governing their own children and families using approaches grounded in their own cultures and traditions, and outlines mutual commitments for achieving this outcome.
  - **Workplan:** original signed December 2017, with regular updates to the workplan occurring since that time. Discussions are underway to develop a new workplan for the 2023/24 fiscal year.
  - **Internal Communications Protocol:** signed June 2019 and outlines how the members of the TWG will share information amongst the parties.
- Two sub-committees were created in 2019 to meet work plan objectives: (1) a fiscal working group/fiscal framework technical team and (2) a technical practice working group.
- The two sub-committees paused the sub-committee meetings in 2021/2022. The goal of the pause was to get a better understanding of the governance structure and to determine if the sub-committee meetings were achieving the intended outcomes.
- Intergovernmental Communications

- Work with Ference and Co. concluded in the Spring of 2022 and a new Fiscal Framework Development Team (FFDT) was formed with representatives from Indigenous Services Canada (from both the BC region and Headquarters), MCFD and FNLC.
- The FFDT is mandated to support the TWG's commitment to work together to explore and develop a funding model applicable to First Nations child and family well-being in BC that adopts the principles of long-term, sustainable, and needs-based funding to support jurisdiction and improved long-term outcomes for children, youth, and families.
- The FFDT developed a Discussion Paper: Developing a new Funding Model and Approach for BC First Nations Children and Families that was shared with First Nations Chiefs in November 2022 as start of an engagement process with First Nations.
- The sub-committee on practice has not been re-established at this time.
- Representatives from FNLC are regularly briefed at the TWG on the transformation initiatives occurring for MCFD.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Federal Indigenous child, youth, and family services legislation**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We are committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to keep Indigenous children and youth safe within their families and connected to their cultures and communities.
- We have been working hard to transform the system and address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- And while we have taken steps to improve how we work with and share information with Indigenous communities, we know we need to do much more to support Indigenous children, youth, and families.
- The *Federal Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the “Federal Act”) came into force on January 1, 2020, and is intended to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care and improve child and family services.
- The Federal Act:
  - Affirms the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and provides a process through which Indigenous laws can have the force of federal law;
  - Establishes national child and family services principles that must be used in the administration and interpretation of the Act; and
  - Sets national standards for service delivery that every Province and Territory must meet.
- The Province has implemented policies and practices to ensure alignment with the Federal Act and oriented all MCFD and DAA staff to the national principles and standards.
- The Province continues to work with the federal government and First Nations, Inuit and, Métis peoples to implement the Federal Act. This includes participating in tripartite coordination agreement discussions with Canada and

Indigenous governing bodies intending to exercise jurisdiction over their child and family services.

- On Oct. 26, 2022, the Minister introduced Bill 38: *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act* in the BC Legislative Assembly.
- On Nov. 24, 2022, Bill 38, Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act, which amends BC's two key pieces of child welfare legislation, the *Adoption Act* and the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), was passed into law.
- About 68% of the clauses of the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Service Act* came into force on November 25, 2022.
- Through this bill, BC is changing provincial legislation to remove barriers for Indigenous governing bodies exercising jurisdiction over child and family services and became one of the first provinces in Canada to expressly recognize Indigenous Peoples' inherent right of self-government within provincial legislation.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- The national standards under the Federal Act require MCFD and DAA staff to:
  - Provide notice to parents, care providers and Indigenous governing bodies before significant measures are taken in relation to a child or youth, such as removing a child from their home or placing a child in another home;
  - Prioritize preventive care;
  - Prioritize placement decisions for Indigenous children based on maintaining the tie between children and their parents, family and community;
  - Continue to reassess placement whenever a child is not placed with their family or community; and
  - Promote attachment/emotional ties for Indigenous children when they are not placed with a family member.
- Three new principles guide the way in which the Federal Act is to be interpreted and administered:
  - Best interests of the Indigenous child;
  - Cultural continuity; and



- Substantive equality<sup>1</sup>.
- In 2022, the ministry engaged with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples to co-develop amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* to advance the implementation of the Federal Act, support a multi-jurisdictional model, and promote positive changes to service delivery for all children, youth and families.
- We expect the remaining provisions of the new Act will be brought into force through a series of regulations co-developed with BC First Nations.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:**

- **Note 8.8** – CFCSA and Adoption Act Amendments

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Government of Canada, substantive equality is a “legal principle that refers to the achievement of true equality in outcomes. It is achieved through equal access, equal opportunity and, most importantly, the provision of services and benefits in a manner and according to standards that meet any unique needs and circumstances, such as cultural, social, economic and historical disadvantage.”

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: Improving Services for Indigenous Children and Families**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We're committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to keep Indigenous children and youth safe within their families and connected to their cultures and communities.
- For far too long, the child welfare system has been overly involved in the lives of Indigenous children and families.
- This dates back to residential schools and continues today — and it needs to stop.
- We have been working hard to transform the system and address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- And while we have taken steps to improve how we work with and share information with Indigenous communities...
- ...we know we need to do much more to support Indigenous children, youth, and families.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The negative impact of colonization, including the imposition of a legal regime both foreign and harmful to the cultures and customs of Indigenous Peoples, the undermining of family and community systems, and the resultant inter-generational trauma have all contributed to the historical and current overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- MCFD recognizes, and is working to address, this overrepresentation with a focus on Indigenous reconciliation and family preservation.
- Although we are seeing results with the lowest number of Indigenous children and youth in care since September 1999, the Service Plan outlines our key efforts to achieve our vision that all children and youth in British Columbia — both Indigenous and non-Indigenous — live in safe, healthy, and nurturing families, and be strongly connected to their communities and culture.

- **Practice transformations:** We are working with Indigenous Peoples to transform policies, practices, services, and programs to reflect the priority of keeping their children and youth safely at home and connected to their communities and culture. Recent *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) amendments to service delivery principles place new duties on directors to ensure cultural continuity, substantive equality, and anti-discrimination.
- **Information sharing:** We are working to ensure transparency and accountability to Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities, including implementing information-sharing agreements. As of January 24, 2022, we have signed 87 of these agreements. Recent amendments to the CFCSA greatly expanded the ability to broadly share information in support of s.35 rights, as well as for both the planning and administration of Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services.
- **Commitment to the Declaration Act:** On August 31, 2021, I sent a Letter of Commitment to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to actively engage and co-develop policy and legislation changes with the FNLC and Indigenous governments, in alignment with the BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- **CFCSA reform:** In November 2022 we passed historic amendments to CFCSA and the *Adoption Act* in November 2022 with Bill 38, the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*. We continue to work with Indigenous Peoples, communities, leadership, service providers and partners to co-develop reform of child and family service legislation in alignment with BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the federal *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
- **Fiscal framework:** We are working together with Canada and Indigenous partners to co-develop a BC-specific fiscal framework to support the transition of services as Indigenous Governing Bodies begin to exercise their inherent jurisdiction over child and family services.
- **Cross-jurisdictional model:** We began the work to develop a cross-jurisdictional model for integrating and delivering services through multiple jurisdictions with the passing of Bill 38, the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*. In collaboration with Indigenous leadership, rights and title holders, communities, service providers and partners – along with

federal and provincial partners – we are continuing this work by developing new regulations to the *Adoption Act* and CFCSA.

- **Decision-making authority and jurisdiction:** We are currently working with the following Indigenous governing bodies, partners and communities regarding increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction.
  - First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC);
  - Métis Nation British Columbia;
  - Cowichan Tribes – IGB;
  - Huu-ay-aht First Nations – IGB;
  - Lake Babine Nation – IGB;
  - Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (NStQ);
  - Splotsin – IGB;
  - Simpcw First Nation – IGB;
  - Office of the Wet’suwet’en Nation;
  - Sts’ailes – IGB; and
  - Gwa’Sala-’Nakwaxda’Xw - IGB

#### **CROSS-REFERENCE:**

- **NOTE 8.8** – CFCSA and *Adoption Act* Amendments

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE: *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act***

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In November 2019, the Province passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* as a commitment for provincial legislative, regulatory, policy and operational changes over time to support implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Section 4 of the Declaration Act commits the provincial government to develop an action plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in BC.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) engaged with Indigenous Peoples on the development of the Consultation Draft Action Plan in two phases from fall 2020 to summer 2021.
- This multi-approach engagement included written submissions, access to a Citizens' Services portal and facilitated meetings with partners on specific actions, goals and outcomes.
- MCFD engaged with targeted Indigenous partners and selected sector partners during the engagement phases.
- The Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors Society also made a written submission, which included actions they felt were missing.
- The final Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan (Action Plan) was released in March 2022.
- The Action Plan includes three action items for MCFD. Two actions are specific to MCFD (4.16 & 4.17) and one action (4.18) is shared with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Thirty-one title holders participated in Phase 2 of the engagement and five title-holders provided specific comments on the three action items attached to MCFD. Intergovernmental Communications  
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- During the phase 2 engagement period between June 11, 2022, and September 2022, there were 9,142 visits to the engagement site, 403 online comments made to CDAP, and 132 feedback forms completed.
- The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan has a total of 89 actions across four specific themes:
  1. Self-determination and the inherent rights of self-government
  2. Title and rights of Indigenous peoples
  3. Ending indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
  4. Social, cultural and economic well-being
- MCFD falls under theme 4 Social, cultural and economic well-being of the Action Plan.
- The three actions attached to MCFD are:
  - *Action 4.16 – Co-develop a BC-specific fiscal framework, in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit, and in consultation with key Indigenous organizations, to support and move forward with jurisdiction over child and family services.*
  - *Action 4.17 - In collaboration with BC First Nations and Métis Peoples, and Inuit, continue implementing changes to substantially reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care through increased prevention and family support services at all stages of contact with the child welfare system.*
  - *Action 4.18 – As committed to in the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol, co-develop and implement measures to support improved education outcomes of current and former First Nation children and youth in care, including meaningful data collection to inform policy planning and service delivery.*
- Action 4.17 will be reported out in the annual report June 2023, Action 4.16 year two, and Action 4.18 year three.

- It is anticipated that the 2022 amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* will be highlighted as an indicator of progress on action 4.17.
- Each ministry is expected to work together with their Indigenous partners to implement the action plan and to identify the indicators of progress for the actions.
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**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2022/23**

**ISSUE:           Coordination Agreements under the Federal Act**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the “federal Act”) came into force on January 1, 2020.
- The federal Act:
  - Affirms the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and provides a process through which Indigenous laws can have the force of federal law;
  - Establishes national child and family services principles that must be used in the administration and interpretation of the Act; and
  - Sets national standards for service delivery that every Province and Territory must meet.
- Through tripartite coordination agreement discussions, the ministry is working collaboratively with Canada and Indigenous governing bodies who intend to exercise jurisdiction over their child and family services.
- The Indigenous Engagement Branch is currently engaged in coordination agreement discussions with Cowichan Tribes, Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw Nations, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Splatshin, and Sts’ailes.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The federal Act defines an “Indigenous governing body” (IGB) as a council, government or other entity that is authorized to act on behalf of an Indigenous group, community or people. This body holds rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- There are two options for an IGB to exercise jurisdiction:
  - Section 20(1): IGB sends notice to Canada and BC that it is exercising jurisdiction. The Indigenous law will not prevail over conflicting federal, provincial or territorial laws in this circumstance. There is no commitment of funding under this option.

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- Section 20(2): IGB submits request to Canada and BC to enter a tripartite coordination agreement. Once an agreement is reached, or after a year of reasonable efforts, the Indigenous law will have the force of federal law and prevail in the event of a conflict or inconsistency with federal, provincial or territorial laws.
- Canada takes the lead in assessing and responding to the requests an IGB makes under section 20 of the federal Act.
- Canada and BC have formally entered into coordination agreement discussions with five Indigenous governing bodies: Cowichan Tribes, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations, Splatshin, Sts'ailes, and Huu-ay-aht First Nations.
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#### **FINANCES:**

- The federal government has indicated that they anticipate provincial contributions to be outlined in a tripartite fiscal agreement that will accompany the coordination agreements.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:** N/A

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2023/24**

**ISSUE:**        ***Child, Family and Community Service Act and Adoption Act***  
**amendments to support Indigenous jurisdiction**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- On November 24, 2022, Bill 38, the *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, was passed into law.
- Bill 38 amended the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* and the *Adoption Act* to support Indigenous jurisdiction and was developed in partnership with Indigenous rights holders, Modern Treaty Nations, Indigenous Governing Bodies, Métis Nation BC, and other Indigenous partners such as the First Nations Leadership Council.
- The legislation upholds the inherent right of Indigenous Peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and moves B.C. to a new model where provincial and Indigenous laws co-exist.
- The amendments align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Amendments to the *Adoption Act* strengthen collaboration and consent-based decision making with Indigenous communities on adoption placements.
- About 68% of the Bill 38 clauses came into force on November 25, 2022, while the remaining provisions will be brought into force through a series of regulations co-developed with Indigenous partners.
- Four Indigenous Governing Bodies in B.C. are engaged in collaborative discussions with the Province and Canada to exercise their jurisdiction, with more Nations anticipated to begin the process.
- This important work is another step towards reconciliation with the goal of reducing the numbers of Indigenous children and youth in provincial care and keeping more families together with children connected to their cultures, their communities and their languages.

**BACKGROUND:**

In January 2020, Canada's *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families* (federal Act) came into force, doing two key things: affirming the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services, and establishing national standards for provinces' provision of services to Indigenous children (e.g., where the child's community was not exercising full jurisdiction).

On November 25, 2022, Bill 38, *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, was enacted to align with the federal Act, move child protection practices into greater alignment with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and reduce the number of Indigenous children in provincial care. Further, the Bill strengthens collaboration and consent-based decision making with Indigenous communities on adoption placements for Indigenous including adding Indigenous self-government principles to the *Adoption Act*; enhances the best interest of the child factors for Indigenous children; provides for greater collaboration with Indigenous communities before an adoption placement; and enables consents for certain adoption orders and placements.

Sections currently in force relate to service delivery principles, removing barriers to Indigenous jurisdiction over child protection, authorizing new types of agreements, and replacing outdated language. Staff orientations have occurred, and continued training is planned for 2023.

The remaining clauses will require further engagement in 2023 and will be brought into force through a series of regulations, including enabling electronic systems access, establishing an Indigenous Child Welfare Director, implementing new court-related processes, and alignment of regulation terminology with new statute amendments. While there is a target to bring court-related processes and terminology alignment into force in 2023, electronic systems access and Indigenous Child Welfare Director projects will take longer and will not be brought into force until 2024.

Four Indigenous governing bodies in B.C. are engaged in collaborative discussions with the Province and Canada to exercise their jurisdiction:

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**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A