

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

ESTIMATES BINDER
2021

THE HONOURABLE MITZI DEAN



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

May 2021

MCFD 2021 ESTIMATES

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: MINISTER’S AND MINISTER OF STATE’S MANDATE LETTERS,
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND SERVICE PLAN**

KEY MESSAGES:

- Since 2019, the Strategic Framework has reflected a shift in MCFD’s approach, from reactive and symptomatic responses towards a proactive approach that focuses on meeting the needs of children, youth, families and communities.
- Updated in the Fall of 2020, the Strategic Framework outlines how we will continue to build on progress, as well as lessons learned during COVID-19.
- The Ministers’ mandate letters from November 2020 confirm MCFD’s direction. Highlights include:
 - Improving supports for the families of children and youth with support needs.
 - Continuing to work with Indigenous partners and the federal government to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care, including implementing *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
 - Focusing on family preservation and maintaining connections to community and culture; and ensuring that if children and youth come into care, their placement is determined based on their individual needs.
 - Supporting the work of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to address mental health concerns early by rolling out mental health and addictions care initiatives for children and youth.
 - Continuing to implement Childcare BC, with a goal of providing \$10 a day child care for BC families.
 - Working with the Ministry of Education to integrate child care into the broader learning environment by developing a strategy to move the delivery of child care into the Ministry of Education by 2023.
 - Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

- The 2021/22-2023/24 Service Plan reflects the mandate letter and Strategic Framework direction.
- Supporting the Service Plan, the ministry is embedding a focus on systemic racism and a GBA+ lens on all practice and policy, and the Service Plan includes a new action plan to better support 2SLGBTQ+ children, youth and families.
- Additionally, the ministry will build thoughtful and sustained relationships through public and stakeholder engagement with those we serve and partner with.

BACKGROUND:

- Our Service Plan includes four goals, which are directly aligned with the four goals from our Strategic Framework:
 - **Goal 1 – Indigenous Reconciliation:** Recognize the right of Indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child [UNDRIP] and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action
 - **Goal 2 – Prevention and Family Supports:** Support improved outcomes and keep families safely together, strengthen supports and prioritize resources for families and children based on their needs, and in collaboration with communities and other partners
 - **Goal 3 – Youth and Young Adult Transitions:** Youth and young adults have the tools, resources and social supports to transition successfully to independence
 - **Goal 4 – The Child and Youth In-Care Network:** A child or youth’s needs drive their in care placement and the services they receive support their well-being

FINANCES: N/A

STATISTICS: N/A

CROSS REFERENCE: N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES

KEY MESSAGES:

- The ministry carried forward the six performance measures (PM) from the 2020/21 Service Plan.
- Due to better-than-expected results, the ministry increased targets for:
 - PM 1.1: Rate of children and youth (0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population.
 - PM 2.1: Percent of children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family.
 - PM 3.1a: Percent of youth in care who turn 19 with a high-school credential.
- The ministry decreased its 2021/22 target for “PM 2.2: Average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation” due to a better understanding of the delay between spaces receiving funding and spaces becoming operational.
- Although the 2020/21 forecast is lower than the 2020/21 target, we have maintained our out-year targets for “PM 3.1b: Youth under Continuing Custody Orders and Youth aging-out who receive an Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) benefit payment within the next year.” This lower forecast is the result of young adults opting for COVID-19 emergency measures in 2020, which did not draw down on their 48-month time limit for AYA. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on targets is still unclear. In the interim, these targets have been maintained.
- The ministry has maintained targets for “PM 4.1: Percent of children and youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care.” The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this performance measure is still unclear. In the interim, these targets have been maintained.
- All measures are publicly available on MCFD’s Public Reporting Portal.

BACKGROUND: N/A

FINANCES: N/A

STATISTICS: N/A

CROSS REFERENCE:

- Workload
- Minister/MoS Mandate Letter/Strategic Framework/Service Plan

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: Performance Management & Public Reporting

KEY MESSAGES:

- The ministry is committed to improving its performance, including outcomes for the children, youth and families we serve.
- 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 34 indicators across all six service lines.
- The last update to the portal included caseload data as at June 30, 2020, and performance indicators, expenditure and other administrative information for fiscal year 2018/19.
- Reporting on the portal will be updated this spring (monthly caseload reporting to December 2020, annual caseload reporting to fiscal year 2019/20), and summer (performance measures and expenditure and other administrative information to fiscal year 2019/20).
- Performance trends for 2018/19 (currently on the portal) are:
 - Improving in 10 indicators, including family preservation and permanency
 - Unchanged in 19 indicators
 - Slightly lower in 5 indicators:
 - Residential costs for Children and Youth in Care (CYIC) identified with support needs
 - Residential costs for CYIC, excluding CYIC with support needs
 - Foundation Skills Assessment, Reading
 - Foundation Skills Assessment, Numeracy
 - Grade progression for Youth on Youth Agreements (YAGs)

- 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 November 2020).
- Public reporting is an essential part of the ministry's commitment to transparency and accountability and helps to 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 detailed than any other Canadian jurisdiction. Most provinces publicly report on child protection, but far less extensively than B.C.

FINANCES: N/A

STATISTICS: N/A

CROSS REFERENCE: N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: 2021/22 Operating Budget

KEY MESSAGES:

- The ministry's budget for fiscal 2021/22 has increased by \$169.399 million to \$2.393 billion.
- Over 92 per cent of the budget goes to support clients and communities, with more than \$2.200 billion directly invested in programs and services.

BACKGROUND:

Core Business Changes

Core Business	(\$ million)	2020/21 Estimates	Change	2020/21 Restated	Change	2021/22 Estimates
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services		714.181	(1.502)	712.679	61.663	774.342
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs		410.091	-	410.091	30.544	440.635
Child & Youth Mental Health Services		113.613	(3.000)	110.613	23.681	134.294
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services		731.874	-	731.874	48.994	780.868
Adoption Services		34.888	-	34.888	0.350	35.238
Youth Justice Services		48.147	-	48.147	2.212	50.359
Service Delivery Support		156.620	(0.588)	156.032	1.446	157.478
Executive & Support Services		19.032	-	19.032	0.509	19.541
TOTAL MINISTRY		2,228.446	(5.090)	2,223.356	169.399	2,392.755

Operating Budget – What changed?

The Ministry has restated the budget as a result of the following changes:

- \$(3.000M) to transfer the Provincial Support Office budget for the 'Pathway to Hope' initiative to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA).
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- \$(NIL) expenditure and recoveries budget – both equalling \$3.956M – as a result of the transfer of the Columbia River Treaty budget to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) in 20/21.

2020/21 Estimates

The MCFD operating budget for 2021/22 has increased by \$169.399M. This is an 7.6% net increase over 2020/21 (restated budget), and provides for the following increases:

- \$59.3M for Child Care, including:
 - \$57.9M increase to continue building quality, affordable and inclusive child care across the province (includes \$4.6M from Budget 2020 decisions)
 - \$1.0M increase from the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM)
 - \$0.4M increase from Community and Social Services Recruitment and Retention
- \$34.2M for caseload pressures:
 - \$9.6M – Children in Care (including DAAs)
 - \$13.7M – Alternates to Care
 - \$8.0M – Autism
 - \$2.2M – Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - \$0.6M – Medical Benefits
- \$20.6M to expand 'Pathways to Hope':
 - \$13.4M – Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams
 - \$4.5M – Step Up/Step Down transition supports
 - \$2.7M – Early Childhood Development Centre Expansion
- \$33.5M to cover wage increases under the SSNM (including the \$1.0M above in Child Care)
- \$16.2M for Community and Social Services Recruitment and Retention (funding for training and compensation for non-union employees in community social service agencies; including the \$0.4M in Child Care)
- \$6.3M to support government's cross-ministry poverty reduction strategy
- \$0.6M to continue caregiver rate increases for the family based and extended family programs
- \$0.1M increase to the Minister's Office

2022/23 and Beyond

Further budget changes for subsequent years are outlined as follows:

- Child Care:
 - \$4.4M in 22/23 to provide for additional childcare staffing and operation supports
 - \$18.4M in 22/23 and further \$1.0M in 23/24 to provide additional funding for ECE Wage Enhancements

- \$17.0M in 22/23 for Prototype site expansion
- CYMH 'Pathways to Hope': \$2.7M in both 22/23 and 23/24 to continue expansion of the Early Child Development Centres across the province
- Executive & Support Services: increase of \$0.02M in both 22/23 and 23/24 to the Minister's Office

STOB Changes:

Major STOBs	(\$ million)	2020/21 Estimates	Change	2020/21 Restated	Change	2021/22 Estimates
Salaries & Benefits		413.011	(0.842)	412.169	20.062	432.231
Operating Costs		65.898	(4.168)	61.730	0.240	61.970
Government Transfers		1,861.703	(1.036)	1,860.667	149.253	2,009.920
Other Expenses		37.165	(3.000)	34.165	(0.156)	34.009
Internal Recoveries		(9.434)	-	(9.434)	-	(9.434)
External Recoveries		(139.897)	3.956	(135.941)	-	(135.941)
TOTAL MINISTRY		2,228.446	(5.090)	\$2,223.356	169.399	2,392.755

Note: Change from 20/21 Estimates to 20/21 Restated includes: Pathways for Hope Provincial Office transfer to MMHA and Inter-Ministry transfer (Leased Property). Note additional transfer of CRT to FLNRO is included in the restatement - does not impact core business due to a net zero impact of recoveries in addition to expenditures for this program but changes are visible at the STOB level.

- Salaries and Benefits increase due to funding for child care, the CYMH Pathways to Hope initiative, SSNM and Minister's office.
- Operating and Other Expenses increase due CYMH Pathways to Hope initiative and Minister's office.
- Government transfers increase due to caseload, child care, Pathways to Hope initiative, SSNM, CYMH Community & Social Services Recruitment & Retention, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Minister's Office, and caregiver rate increase.

2021/22 Capital Budget Changes:

Capital Budget:

Asset Category	(\$ million)	2020/21 Estimates	Change	2020/21 Restated	Change	2021/22 Estimates
Specialized Equipment		0.202		0.202		0.202
Office Furniture & Equipment		0.028		0.028		0.028
Vehicles		1.339		1.339	(1.042)	0.297
TOTAL MINISTRY		1.569		1.569		0.527

- Vehicle capital is allocated to the MCFD based on government's vehicle replacement strategy. The fiscal 2022 strategy has resulted in a \$1.0M decrease to MCFD allocation.

Attachments:

Appendix A – MCFD Estimates and Supplements to the Estimates

Appendix B – MCFD Material Assumptions

Appendix C – Resource Summary

Appendix D – Resource Summary Comparison by Core Business

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 2020/21 ¹	Estimates 2021/22
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 20 — Ministry Operations.....	2,223,356	2,392,755
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>2,223,356</u>	<u>2,392,755</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	1,569	527
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	(31)	(31)
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2020/21 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures resulting from transfers between ministries is presented in Schedule A.

² A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

³ A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

⁴ A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

OPERATING EXPENSES	2020/21	2021/22 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
Core Business				
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services.....	712,679	815,344	(41,002)	774,342
Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs.....	410,091	452,920	(12,285)	440,635
Child and Youth Mental Health Services.....	110,613	135,069	(775)	134,294
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services.....	731,874	843,880	(63,012)	780,868
Adoption Services.....	34,888	35,240	(2)	35,238
Youth Justice Services.....	48,147	68,344	(17,985)	50,359
Service Delivery Support.....	156,032	157,677	(199)	157,478
Executive and Support Services.....	19,032	20,222	(681)	19,541
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2,223,356	2,528,696	(135,941)	2,392,755
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Service Delivery Support.....	1,569	527	—	527
TOTAL	1,569	527	—	527
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS	Net	Disbursements	Receipts	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	(31)	—	(31)	(31)
TOTAL LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS	(31)	—	(31)	(31)

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS
(*\$000*)

Estimates
2020/21

Estimates
2021/22

VOTE 20 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services; Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs; Child and Youth Mental Health Services; Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services; Adoption Services; Youth Justice Services; Service Delivery Support; and Executive and Support Services.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD CARE SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services.....	712,679	774,342
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for early childhood development and child care programs and services primarily aimed at infants, young children, and their families. This sub-vote also provides for funding to enable the director of the Early Childhood Educator Registry to fulfill legislated obligations under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*; and provides for subsidies to parents under the *Child Care Subsidy Act* and payments to organizations which provide or support child care services under the *Child Care BC Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Voted Appropriation

Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs.....	410,091	440,635
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for programs and services dedicated to children and youth with special needs and their families. These include early intervention programs; supported child development; family support services; residential and guardianship services for children and youth with special needs in the care of the ministry as provided for under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*; and specialized provincial services. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Child and Youth Mental Health Services.....	110,613	134,294
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for specialized and community-based intervention, treatment, and support services to mentally ill children, youth, and their families. This includes the operation of the Maples provincial adolescent mental health facility and services as provided for under the *Mental Health Act*. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

CHILD SAFETY, FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILDREN IN CARE SERVICES

Voted Appropriation

Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services.....	731,874	780,868
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for the welfare of children and youth through programs and services provided for under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, the *Employment and Assistance Act*, and the *Infants Act*. These include family supports; collaborative planning and decision-making services; child protection; children and youth in care; alternatives to care; services for youth and young adults; and for the support of organizations serving Indigenous children, youth, and families. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
ADOPTION SERVICES		
Voted Appropriation		
Adoption Services.....	34,888	35,238
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for adoption services as provided for under the <i>Adoption Act</i> and to facilitate the adoption of children in care. This includes funding for recruitment of adoptive families, promotion of adoptions, planning for permanency, and post adoption assistance. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		
YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES		
Voted Appropriation		
Youth Justice Services.....	48,147	50,359
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for youth justice services as provided for under the <i>Forensic Psychiatry Act</i> , the <i>Mental Health Act</i> , the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> , and the federal <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> . These include specialized community-based and provincial facility-based programs and services which promote crime prevention and rehabilitation and support law-abiding behaviour among youth who have been charged with or found guilty of a criminal offence; youth custody centres and youth forensic psychiatric services; and other supportive programs. Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		
SERVICE DELIVERY SUPPORT		
Voted Appropriation		
Service Delivery Support.....	156,032	157,478
Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides funding for strategic and operational services which support ministry practices. These include service delivery administration; policy development; integrated case management system; quality assurance; and other supporting services under the <i>Adoption Act</i> , the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Act</i> , the <i>Employment and Assistance Act</i> , the <i>Mental Health Act</i> , the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> , and the federal <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i> . Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Ministers' Offices.....	991	1,089
Corporate Services.....	18,041	18,452
	<u>19,032</u>	<u>19,541</u>
 Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Children and Family Development; the Minister of State for Child Care; overall direction, development, and corporate support for all ministry services; and for the administration of the <i>Human Resource Facility Act</i> . Costs may be recovered from ministries, other entities within government, other levels of government, agencies, organizations, and individuals for activities described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 20 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	2,223,356	2,392,755

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	412,169	432,231
Operating Costs	61,730	61,970
Government Transfers	1,860,667	2,009,920
Other Expenses	34,165	34,009
Internal Recoveries	(9,434)	(9,434)
External Recoveries	(135,941)	(135,941)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	<u>2,223,356</u>	<u>2,392,755</u>

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
<p>HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS FINANCING PROGRAM — Receipts represent repayment of loans provided in previous fiscal years for capital purposes to stimulate investment in efficiencies and innovation by British Columbia community social services providers, including funds under the <i>Human Resource Facility Act</i>. Administration costs are funded through the ministry's voted appropriations.</p>		
Disbursements.....	—	—
Receipts.....	<u>(31)</u>	<u>(31)</u>
Net Cash Requirement (Source).....	<u>(31)</u>	<u>(31)</u>

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
(\$000)

VOTE 20 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2020/21 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	712,679	15,400	80	3,912	—	19,392	21	91	—	124	—	489	98	—	—
Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs	410,091	15,481	132	3,932	—	19,545	—	265	—	—	670	120	—	—	83
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	110,613	55,097	1,001	14,066	—	70,164	—	735	—	437	222	612	—	—	357
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	731,874	125,597	3,315	31,943	—	160,855	—	2,802	21,334	246	—	50	—	22	84
Adoption Services	34,888	6,708	23	1,711	—	8,442	—	49	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Youth Justice Services	48,147	29,020	876	7,374	—	37,270	—	285	—	27	—	112	—	—	831
Service Delivery Support	156,032	77,985	899	20,187	—	99,071	—	3,757	4,046	4,523	4,703	6,028	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	19,032	13,786	63	3,548	95	17,492	—	440	2	—	12	1,187	—	—	—
Ministers' Offices	991	652	—	204	95	951	—	110	—	—	10	18	—	—	—
Corporate Services	18,041	13,134	63	3,344	—	16,541	—	330	2	—	2	1,169	—	—	—
Total	2,223,356	339,074	6,389	86,673	95	432,231	21	8,424	25,382	5,357	5,607	8,605	98	22	1,355

70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2021/22 Operating Expenses
—	—	98	958	1,879	1,200	268,310	522,223	791,733	—	—	3,000	3,000	—	(660)	(660)	(1)	(41,001)	(41,002)	774,342
20	—	—	—	1,158	—	23,370	408,826	432,196	—	—	22	22	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(12,284)	(12,285)	440,635
152	—	—	1,032	3,547	—	130	69,996	70,126	—	—	—	—	—	(8,768)	(8,768)	(660)	(115)	(775)	134,294
8	—	—	100	24,646	—	62,947	594,800	657,747	—	—	633	633	—	(1)	(1)	(148)	(62,864)	(63,012)	780,868
—	—	—	—	56	—	144	26,599	26,743	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	35,238
131	—	—	—	1,386	—	299	29,389	29,688	—	—	1	1	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(17,984)	(17,985)	50,359
1,853	—	1,294	1,353	27,557	—	—	857	857	—	—	30,193	30,193	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(198)	(199)	157,478
—	—	21	79	1,741	—	—	830	830	—	—	160	160	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(680)	(681)	19,541
—	—	—	—	138	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,089
—	—	21	79	1,603	—	—	830	830	—	—	160	160	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(680)	(681)	18,452
2,164	—	1,413	3,522	61,970	1,200	355,200	1,653,520	2,009,920	—	—	34,009	34,009	—	(9,434)	(9,434)	(814)	(135,127)	(135,941)	2,392,755

MATERIAL ASSUMPTIONS for Fiscal Plan *Budget 2021*

Ministry Programs and Assumptions (\$ millions unless otherwise specified)	Updated Forecast 2020/21	Budget Estimate 2021/22	Plan 2022/23	Plan 2023/24	Sensitivities
Children and Family Development	2,223	2,393	2,427	2,430	
Average children in care caseload (#)	5,488	5,160	4,924	4,805	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 \$2.4 million (excluding Delegated Aboriginal Agencies).
Average annual residential cost per child in care (\$)	85,085	92,137	100,027	108,824	

NOTE:

Reasons for change:

Adjusted the daily rates for Contracted Residential Agencies (CRAs) and Fostering downward to reflect additional cost data available this fiscal year.

There was a higher than expected drop in Children and Youth in Care (CYIC) in FY2021.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates ¹	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	712,679	774,342	813,961	814,907
Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs	410,091	440,635	432,035	432,035
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	110,613	134,294	137,020	139,746
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	731,874	780,868	780,868	780,868
Adoption Services	34,888	35,238	35,238	35,238
Youth Justice Services	48,147	50,359	50,359	50,359
Service Delivery Support	156,032	157,478	157,478	157,478
Executive and Support Services	19,032	19,541	19,778	19,794
Total	2,223,356	2,392,755	2,426,737	2,430,425
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Service Delivery Support	1,569	527	456	456
Total	1,569	527	456	456
Capital Plan (\$000)				
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Ministry of Children & Family Development

RESOURCE SUMMARY COMPARISON- DETAILED CHANGES BY CORE BUSINESS

2021/22 to 2023/24

(\$000s)

OPERATING BUDGET

Resource Summary as of Budget 2020 :

Core Business Areas	2020/21	Change	2021/22	Change	2022/23	Change	2023/24
	Estimates		Plan		Plan		Ongoing from 22/23
Early Childhood Development & Child Care Services	714,181	5,619	719,800	4,194	723,994	0	723,994
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	410,091	3,388	413,479	0	413,479	0	413,479
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	113,613	1,670	115,283	0	115,283	0	115,283
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	731,874	12,773	744,647	0	744,647	0	744,647
Adoption Services	34,888	219	35,107	0	35,107	0	35,107
Youth Justice Services	48,147	1,013	49,160	0	49,160	0	49,160
Service Delivery Support	156,620	1,410	158,030	0	158,030	0	158,030
Executive & Support Services	19,032	414	19,446	221	19,667	0	19,667
MINISTRY TOTAL	2,228,446	26,506	2,254,952	4,415	2,259,367	0	2,259,367

Change

Early Childhood Development & Child Care Services	(1,502)	56,044	54,542	35,425	89,967	946	90,913
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	0	27,156	27,156	(8,600)	18,556	0	18,556
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	(3,000)	22,011	19,011	2,726	21,737	2,726	24,463
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	0	36,221	36,221	0	36,221	0	36,221
Adoption Services	0	131	131	0	131	0	131
Youth Justice Services	0	1,199	1,199	0	1,199	0	1,199
Service Delivery Support	(588)	36	(552)	0	(552)	0	(552)
Executive & Support Services	0	95	95	16	111	16	127
MINISTRY TOTAL	(5,090)	142,893	137,803	29,567	167,370	3,688	171,058

Resource Summary as of Budget 2021 :

Core Business Areas	2020/21	Change	2021/22	Change	2022/23	Change	2023/24
	Estimates		Estimates		Plan		Plan
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	712,679	61,663	774,342	39,619	813,961	946	814,907
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	410,091	30,544	440,635	(8,600)	432,035	0	432,035
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	110,613	23,681	134,294	2,726	137,020	2,726	139,746
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	731,874	48,994	780,868	0	780,868	0	780,868
Adoption Services	34,888	350	35,238	0	35,238	0	35,238
Youth Justice Services	48,147	2,212	50,359	0	50,359	0	50,359
Service Delivery Support	156,032	1,446	157,478	0	157,478	0	157,478
Executive & Support Services	19,032	509	19,541	237	19,778	16	19,794
MINISTRY TOTAL	2,223,356	169,399	2,392,755	33,982	2,426,737	3,688	2,430,425

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: Ministry Front-line Recruitment

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry continues to be committed to recruiting priority front-line positions.
- The Ministry's Indigenous Recruitment and Retention work plan supports creating an environment that is culturally aware, sensitive, agile and aligned with the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework.

BACKGROUND:

- A one-grid Temporary Market Adjustment was negotiated in the recent round of bargaining for Child Protection Workers as a tool for recruitment and retention, effective April 1, 2019. An additional one-grid increase took effect on April 1, 2021.
- Social Program Officers who are in the growth series also received a one-grid increase for each level, effective April 1, 2021.
- To further support recruitment and retention, particularly in hard-to-recruit communities, several initiatives have been implemented, including:
 - A Recruitment and Retention Incentive Program:
 - Front-line ministry regular permanent Social Program Officers (SPOs) in 28 hard-to-recruit areas of B.C. receive an annual incentive payment ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 due to an agreement between government and the BCGEU.
 - In 2020, approximately 230 SPOs received payments in these communities, with the next round of incentive payments to be paid starting in April 2021.
 - MCFD expanded the educational requirements for hiring new delegated SPOs 24-30.

- Though a Social Work or Child and Youth Care degree continues to be preferred, an equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered in some circumstances.
- The centralized hiring approach for Child Protection Workers continues and is proving effective in reducing the hiring resource impact to front-line supervisors and streamlining the application process for applicants.
- The Provincial Mobile Response Team continues to hire to provide additional staffing support for hard-to-recruit communities.
- MCFD has also hired travelling Child Protection Social Workers who work a schedule of 7 days on, 7 days off to serve the communities of Ashcroft, Dease Lake, Lillooet, Fort Nelson, Bella Coola, Fort St. James, McBride, Smithers/Hazelton, Terrace/Kitimat and Williams Lake.
- In addition to the recruitment efforts, Ministry staff are focusing on retention strategies. This includes developing and implementing an evidence-based strategy for front-line staff, with a focus on health and wellness and onboarding.
- The Ministry continues to support Indigenous recruitment by developing Indigenous Competencies aligned with the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework (APPF), including a scoring guide and a training orientation video aimed at all front-line staff supervisors.
- A Human Resources (HR) APPF Orientation Guide will be created to support new hires and existing employees and serve as a navigation tool to connect them to the APPF, Indigenous Employee Network and other available resources.
- In addition, the new online Identities, Cultures and Rights training has been developed and piloted to support new hires and existing Ministry staff.
- The development and implementation of a Cultural Safety Checklist for all MCFD office spaces will also support creating culturally safe workspaces.

FINANCES:

- MCFD's Salaries and Benefits expenditures to December 31, 2020 was \$328.6M, with \$228.6M expended in the Service Delivery Division.
- The 2020/21 Salaries and Benefits budget for MCFD was \$412.5M, with \$303.4M of that budget for the Service Delivery Division.
- The 2021/22 Salaries and Benefits Budget for MCFD is \$432.2M. Allocation of this funding across all divisions has not been completed at this time.

STATISTICS: N/A**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Workforce Summary

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: Workforce Summary

KEY MESSAGES:

- As of December 31, 2020, the MCFD staff complement was 5,380 employees.
- Of the 5,380 employees, 291 (5%) were auxiliary.
- MCFD has eight divisions, with 79.6% working in the Service Delivery Division (which includes Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice).

BACKGROUND:

- 81% of MCFD staff identify as female and 19% identify as male.
- The highest percentage of MCFD staff are in each of the 45 to 54 (27%) and the 35 to 44 (27%) age brackets. The average age for MCFD employees is 44 years, which is roughly the same as the across-government average age of 43.9 years.
- The average length of service for MCFD staff is 11.6 years, which is marginally lower than the average length of service for government as a whole (11.8 years).
- MCFD's largest occupational group (61%) is comprised of front-line professionals (i.e. social workers, clinicians, nurses) in Health, Education and Social Work; the remaining MCFD occupations (39%) are comprised of a variety of positions, such as excluded management, administration, corrections and other corporate positions.
- The Information Technology roles and the Trades & Operations roles in MCFD are two included job streams that have a significant number of employees who are currently eligible to retire with at least a reduced pension (Trades & Operations 41%, Information Technology 38%). Of the 61% of MCFD employees that are included in the Health, Education and Social Work occupational group, 19% of them are eligible for either a reduced or unreduced pension.

- The average STIIP days per FTE in fiscal year 2019/2020 was 12.7, and this reduced to 7.4 in fiscal year 2020/2021 (as of December 31, 2020).
- Excluded staff represent 7.8% of all employees in MCFD as of December 31, 2020, which is significantly lower than the government-wide representation of excluded staff at 23.4%.
- The most current diversity data was collected during the 2020 Work Environment Survey (WES): of the 4,156 respondents in the WES 2020 cycle, MCFD employees self-declared that: 1,208 (35%) identified with an ethnicity of South Asian, East and Southeast Asian, Another Ethnicity or Multiple Ethnicities; 314 (8%) identified as LGBTQ2S+; 288 (7%) identified as Indigenous; and 325 (8%) identified as people with disabilities.

FINANCES: N/A**STATISTICS:**

- Human Resources- Page 43 to 45 in the Data Booklet
- MAIM Workforce Data, as of December 31, 2020
- WES 2020, Ministry Demographics table

CROSS REFERENCE: N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2020/21**

ISSUE: Workload of Child Welfare Staff

KEY MESSAGES:

- Front-line child safety and child protection workers have some of the hardest jobs in B.C. – that’s why we continue to make improvements to help them provide vulnerable families with the quality services and supports they need and deserve.
- As of December 31, 2020, there were 1511 unique front-line child welfare employees in the ministry (See Table 1).
- Workload of Child Protection workers between December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020 has remained constant with an average of 17 cases per worker (See Table 2).
- Several initiatives have been undertaken with the goal to address workload and increase the amount of time front line workers have to provide direct services to children, youth and families, and to complete critical work such as care plans. Specific workload initiatives include:
 - Initiation of a Workload Management Action Plan, aimed at making significant and measurable change to front-line Child Protection workload.
 - Ongoing improvements to workload data, including development of a predictive workload model that estimates the demand for services and resources necessary to meet service levels.
 - A centralized screening team that manages all in-coming protection calls.
 - The Centralized Service Hub, which decreases the workload of front line staff by undertaking administrative functions in a centralized location rather than in local offices.
 - The addition of Social Work Assistants to the front line, removing administrative work from front line social workers.
 - Changing office hours to allow time for staff to balance the needs of clients and their other duties.

- As with most jurisdictions, B.C. is experiencing challenges associated with an aging workforce; therefore, the ministry is working to find ways to retain new and existing staff in order to ensure proper succession planning.
- Ensuring effective recruitment and retention of front line staff will minimize vacancies in local offices and reduce workload pressures on staff. Initiatives that have been implemented to recruitment and retention include:
 - Centralized recruitment of Child Protection Worker which reduces workload associated with hiring for front line supervisors (See Table 3).
 - In partnership with the Public Service Agency, development of a retention and recruitment strategy specific to front line staff.
 - Expanded education and experience qualifications for social worker positions were implemented in January 2019. The expanded qualifications have increased applicant pools and assisted in recruitment of staff to vacant positions.
 - Implementation of Travelling Child Protection Worker positions to increase recruitment to select rural and remote communities, in which staff are in the community working for 7 days, followed by 7 days off at their home location.
 - Implementation of a Temporary Market Adjustment (TMA) for Child Protection social workers.
 - Incentive payments of \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year for front-line ministry workers in hard-to-recruit areas of B.C., as a result of an agreement between government and the BC Government Employees' Union.
 - A Provincial Mobile Response Team to provide urgent assistance to communities with reduced staffing levels.

BACKGROUND: N/A

FINANCES: N/A

STATISTICS:

Table 1: Service Delivery Division Front Line, Admin & Team Lead, Active Employee Counts

Front Line				
Discipline	March 31, 2020	December 31, 2020	Net Change March 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020	Percent Change
*Child Protection	1,164	1,147	-17	-1%
CP Multi	3	4	1	33%
Resource	208	211	3	1%
**CF	161	149	-12	-7%
Total Child Welfare Workers	1,536	1,511	-25	-2%
Adoptions	60	60	0	0%
Mental Health (SPO's only)	417	459	42	10%
Other Mental Health (e.g. Nurse, LPA)	53	134	81	153%
Special Needs	138	175	37	27%
Special Needs (STADD)	25	24	-1	-4%
Youth Justice (community)	92	96	4	4%
Total Workers	2,321	2,459	138	6%
Team Leads				
Discipline	March 31, 2020	December 31, 2020	Net Change March 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020	Percent Change
Child Welfare Team Leads	225	235	10	4%
Adoptions	9	8	-1	-11%
Mental Health (SPO's only)	54	61	7	13%
Other Mental Health (e.g. Nurse, LPA)	12	19	7	58%
Special Needs	19	22	3	16%
Special Needs (STADD)	3	3	0	0%
Youth Justice (community)	15	15	0	0%
Total Team Leads	337	363	26	8%
SDD Admin Support	596	689	93	16%
TOTAL FRONT LINE	3,254	3,511	257	8%

*Child Protection includes Guardianship

**SPO Assistants, ECD worker & Comm Dev Worker are included in CF

***In September 2020 28 employees from the Complex Needs Facility, and 103 employees from Maples, were transferred into SDD from the SIYJ division.

****In October 2020 nine employees from the Autism Services branch, 35 employees from the Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services branch (Victory Hill department), and 69 employees from the Specialised Provincial Services branch were transferred into SDD from the Provincial Services division.

Please note an employee can occupy more than one position in different organizational units, and a position can be occupied by multiple employees:

Table 2: Caseload per Active Front Line Child Protection Worker, December 31, 2020:

SDA	Cases* (Families or Children/Youth) December 2020	Child Protection Workers with Cases**	Caseload per CP Worker
SDA 11 - Kootenays	485	35	14
SDA 12 - Okanagan	1,342	88	15
SDA 13 - Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	1,120	81	14
SDA 21 - East Fraser	919	65	14
SDA 22 - North Fraser	1,536	109	14
SDA 23 - South Fraser	2,471	163	15
SDA 24 - Vancouver/Richmond	1,477	101	15
SDA 25 - Coast/North Shore	796	47	17
SDA 31 - South Vancouver Island	1,730	110	16
SDA 32 - North Vancouver Island	2,095	102	21
SDA 41 - Northwest	833	40	21
SDA 42 - North Central	1,756	73	24
SDA 43 - Northeast	617	19	32
	17,177	1,033	17

Data Source: MAIM

*Distinct key players on open FS, CS or incidents in Service Delivery Areas, on December 31st 2020.

**Child Protection includes Guardianship and multi-disciplinary workers. This count excludes Social Worker Assistants, Team Leads, Resource Workers, Centralized Screening and Centralized Services Hub.

Table 3: Year by Year Analysis of Regular and Auxiliary Hiring and Exits (December 31, 2020)

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 to Dec 31
Hires	148	218	231	258	223	241	131
Exits	107	122	147	163	171	189	137

Net Change	41	96	84	95	52	52	-6
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Data Source: MAIM

(For the CHIPS categories child protection, guardianship and multi-disciplinary only; front line and team leads)

CROSS REFERENCE: N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Contracting

KEY MESSAGES:

Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM)

- The Ministry is in the process of implementing the final year of the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM).
- SSNM is a three-year mandate that provides funding for wage increases to public sector employers with unionized employees. The funding of these wage increases is based on the negotiated collective agreements of two main groups: the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA); and the Health Employers' Association of British Columbia (HEABC).
- The SSNM has two components: the General Wage Increase (GWI) and the Low Wage Redress (LWR). These were determined through negotiations between the Province of British Columbia and the respective bargaining unions.
 - General Wage Increase (GWI):
GWI is an adjustment to the wages of unionized employees included in the SSNM. The GWI rate of increase is 2% per year for the duration of the SSNM.
 - Low Wage Redress (LWR):
The LWR is the component of the SSNM that improves comparability between the social services sector and the community health sector. LWR is based on individual union occupations, leading to variable funding increases for each MCFD contracted agency. Rates of increase are negotiated annually through a formal review process led by bargaining agencies.
- In addition, the Minister of Finance has granted approval to provide a GWI of 2% to contracted non-union service providers, in addition to a 0.25% Service Improvement Allocation (SIA).

Recruitment & Retention (RR) Funding:

- RR funding has been administered as part of a Budget 2020 commitment to support recruitment and retention for community social service agencies and to support the overall and long-term strength of the sector.
- RR funding is available to non-union employees in community social services agencies that are partially certified or are not members of the CSSEA.
- For this funding, “partially certified” refers to CSSEA agencies that have non-union employees who perform equivalent job functions to their union counterparts.
- The funding can be used for training initiatives and compensation for non-union employees in eligible community social service agencies. Funding is not to be directed towards compensation for excluded management positions.
- The Ministry received a set amount of funding to distribute across all eligible service providers. The Ministry then used a formula to disburse RR funding based on Ministry funding for an eligible service provider as a percentage of the total Ministry funding for all eligible service providers.

Social Services Roundtable:

- The Minister 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 Ministry of Children and Family Development 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:

Low Wage Redress (LWR):

- Communication regarding the LWR for FY 21/22 was sent to eligible MCFD service providers in December 2020.

- Service Providers must submit a compensation review template in order to receive LWR. This process mirrors the current FY 20/21 process and ensures agencies are paid appropriately for eligible positions.

Recruitment & Retention (RR) Funding:

- Service providers who are eligible to receive RR funding in FY 20/21 will receive a contract modification that includes a one-time lump sum payment for recruitment and retention. MCFD staff began to process contract modifications in late November 2020.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

FINANCES:

- For fiscal 2021/22, to address Community Contract staffing, MCFD received following budgets lifts:
 - Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate base budget funding of \$17.240M; an increase of \$5.772M compared to 2020/21 (funded out of contingencies); and
 - Recruitment and Retention base budget funding of \$16.209M; an increase of \$5.134M compared to 2020/21 (funded out of contingencies).

STATISTICS:

- N/A

CROSS REFERENCE: N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

ISSUE: Children in Care Statistics

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry is committed to keeping families together.
- Our goal – whenever possible – is to keep children and youth safely with their families and connected with their culture and communities.
- Fewer children and youth are being removed from their homes and brought into care.
- Between January 2020 and December 2020 — 1,441 children were brought into care.
- This is 321 fewer children removed than the previous year — and we are committed to seeing these numbers continue to drop.
- For those children and youth who need protection, we work hard to find them safe and permanent homes as quickly as possible.
- Permanent homes for almost half of children and youth in care are found within one year through adoption or reunification with family or friends.

BACKGROUND:

- Over the past years, MCFD has focused efforts on family preservation and out-of-care placement options, resulting in more children remaining within their families and communities instead of being placed in foster care, while simultaneously securing permanent homes for children in foster care.
- As a result of these efforts, the number of children and youth in care – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – has gone down.
- As of December 31, 2020, there were 5,370 children in care, 3,616 of whom were Indigenous.
- This is the lowest number of children in care overall since January 1990, when there were 6,185 children in care, and the lowest number of Indigenous children in care since April 2000, when there were 3,552 Indigenous children in care.
- However, Indigenous children and youth represent 67% of the total number of children and youth in care (up 4% since 2018).
- The ministry is committed to working with Indigenous peoples and partners to strengthen the child welfare system by addressing the root causes of the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare system.
- Openness and accountability are key priorities for the Government of British Columbia. To that end, the Ministry of Children and Family Development publishes statistics on children in care in Annual Service Plan Reports and through public MCFD Reporting Portal.

