

# MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

ESTIMATES BINDER  
2021

THE HONOURABLE MITZI DEAN



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

May 2021

<b>MCFD 2021 ESTIMATES</b>	
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## 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
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>2,228.446</b>	<b>(5.090)</b>	<b>2,223.356</b>	<b>169.399</b>	<b>2,392.755</b>

**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)
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>		<b>2,228.446</b>	<b>(5.090)</b>	<b>\$2,223.356</b>	<b>169.399</b>	<b>2,392.755</b>

*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
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>		<b>1.569</b>		<b>1.569</b>		<b>0.527</b>

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

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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)

	2020/21	2021/22 ESTIMATES		
OPERATING EXPENSES	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
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
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>2,223,356</b>	<b>2,528,696</b>	<b>(135,941)</b>	<b>2,392,755</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
Service Delivery Support.....	1,569	527	—	527
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>527</b>
<b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b>	Net	Disbursements	Receipts	Net
<b>Core Business</b>				
Executive and Support Services.....	(31)	—	(31)	(31)
<b>TOTAL LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

## MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates  
2020/21Estimates  
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
	<u>712,679</u>	<u>774,342</u>

**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
	<u>410,091</u>	<u>440,635</u>

**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
	<u>110,613</u>	<u>134,294</u>

**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
	<u>731,874</u>	<u>780,868</u>

**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
<b>ADOPTION SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
Adoption Services.....	34,888	35,238
<p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> 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.</p>		
<b>YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
Youth Justice Services.....	48,147	50,359
<p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> 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.</p>		
<b>SERVICE DELIVERY SUPPORT</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriation</b>		
Service Delivery Support.....	156,032	157,478
<p><b>Voted Appropriation Description:</b> 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.</p>		

## MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

## VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22
<b>EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>		
Ministers' Offices.....	991	1,089
Corporate Services.....	18,041	18,452
	<u>19,032</u>	<u>19,541</u>
<b>Voted Appropriations Description:</b> 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.		
<b>VOTE 20 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS</b>	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)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....</b>	<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
<b>EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
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.		
Disbursements.....	—	—
Receipts.....	(31)	(31)
Net Cash Requirement (Source).....	(31)	(31)

# 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	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,223,356</b>	<b>339,074</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>86,673</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>432,231</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>25,382</b>	<b>5,357</b>	<b>5,607</b>	<b>8,605</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,355</b>



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
<b>Children and Family Development</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,430</b>	
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 <sup>1</sup>	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,223,356</b>	<b>2,392,755</b>	<b>2,426,737</b>	<b>2,430,425</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Service Delivery Support	1,569	527	456	456
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>456</b>
<b>Capital Plan (\$000)</b>				
By Core Business (and Purpose)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
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)
<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 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 Estimates	Change	2021/22 Plan	Change	2022/23 Plan	Change	2023/24 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
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,228,446</b>	<b>26,506</b>	<b>2,254,952</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>2,259,367</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,259,367</b>

### 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
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>(5,090)</b>	<b>142,893</b>	<b>137,803</b>	<b>29,567</b>	<b>167,370</b>	<b>3,688</b>	<b>171,058</b>

### Resource Summary as of *Budget 2021* :

Core Business Areas	2020/21 Estimates	Change	2021/22 Estimates	Change	2022/23 Plan	Change	2023/24 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
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,223,356</b>	<b>169,399</b>	<b>2,392,755</b>	<b>33,982</b>	<b>2,426,737</b>	<b>3,688</b>	<b>2,430,425</b>

**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%
<b>Total Child Welfare Workers</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-2%</b>
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%
<b>Total Workers</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>6%</b>
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%
<b>Total Team Leads</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>SDD Admin Support</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>TOTAL FRONT LINE</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>8%</b>

\*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
	<b>17,177</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>17</b>

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

<b>Net Change</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-6</b>
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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.

- When children come into care under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*, the Director of Child Welfare is legally responsible for their care.
- The extent of the Director's decision-making authority and guardianship responsibilities depends on the child's legal status.
- Most children come into care by court order after being removed from the care of their parents.
- Court orders can be for interim, temporary or continuing custody.
- In these circumstances, the Director has the legal authority to make most guardianship decisions, including health care, education and placement.
- Children may also come into care through voluntary care agreements or via special needs agreements.
- If the child who is the subject of the agreement is Indigenous, the child's First Nation or if the child is not First Nations the child's legal entity representing the child's Indigenous community may be a party to the agreement.
- Voluntary care agreements can be made when parents are temporarily unable to care for their child.
- Parents retain most guardianship responsibilities and authority under these agreements, and they can be cancelled at any time by any party.
- Special needs agreements can be used for children to come into care when in-home supports are unavailable or insufficient, the parents are unable to meet their child's support needs, and they are committed to being involved in their care and planning and decision.

#### **FINANCES:**

- N/A

#### **STATISTICS:**

Analysis of children in care statistics:

- The number of children in care as of December 2020 was 5,370. Of the 5,370 children in care, 67% are Indigenous.
- Of the 5,370 children in care, 3,058 (56.9%) are in care under a continuing custody order.
- Of those 3,058 children:
  - 2,218 are Indigenous
  - 840 are non-Indigenous

**Children in Care by SDA (December 2020)**

<b>SDA</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>Total</b>
SDA 11- Kootenays	20	41	61
SDA 12- Okanagan	160	189	349
SDA 13- Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	107	127	234
SDA 21- East Fraser	30	186	216
SDA 22- North Fraser	124	135	259
SDA 23- South Fraser	183	283	466
SDA 24- Vancouver/Richmond	68	190	258
SDA 25- Coast/North Shore	77	60	137
SDA 31- South Vancouver Island	146	219	365
SDA 32- North Vancouver Island	321	191	512
SDA 41- Northwest	132	9	141
SDA 42- North Central	251	95	346
SDA 43- Northeast	76	29	105
Delegated Aboriginal Agencies	1,921	0	1,921
<b>Province</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>5,370</b>

Data Source: Modelling, Analysis & Information Management, February 16, 2021

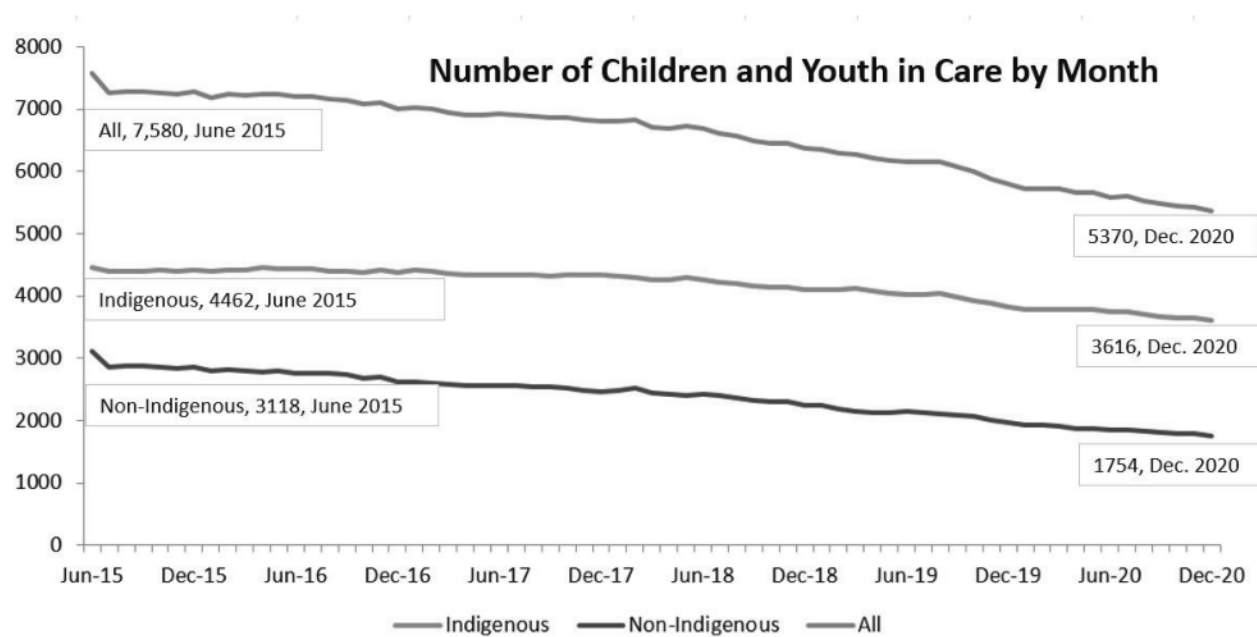
**Indigenous Children and Youth in Care:**

- As of December 31, 2020, there are 3,616 Indigenous children in care. This represents 67% of the total children in care caseload.
- Of the 3,616 Indigenous children in care:
  - 3,080 (85%) are First Nations;
  - 457 (13%) are Métis;
  - 37 (1%) are Inuit;
  - 42 (1%) are of unidentified (unknown to worker) Indigenous ancestry.
- The total number of Indigenous children served by a Delegated Aboriginal Agency is 1,921 (53%).

### Children and Youth in Care by Indigenous Status

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total	Percent of Indigenous
March 2017	4,364	2,587	6,951	63%
March 2018	4,252	2,446	6,698	63%
March 2019	4,111	2,152	6,263	66%
March 2020	3,793	1,920	5,713	66%
December 2020	3,616	1,754	5,370	67%

- Data Source: Modelling, Analysis & Information Management, February 16, 2021



**Children and Youth in Care in DAA offices only (December 31, 2020)**

<b>Delegated Aboriginal Agency</b>	<b>Child/Youth in Care</b>	<b>Geographic Service Delivery Area(s)</b>
Xyolhemeylh Program Sto:lo Health & Family Service	416	East and South Fraser
Vancouver Aboriginal Child And Family Services Society	388	Vancouver/Richmond
Secwepemc Child & Family Services	137	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Usma Nuu-chah-nulth Community & Human Services	135	North Vancouver Island
Kwumut Lelum Central Island Child & Family Service	112	North & South Vancouver Island
Lalum`utul`smun`eem Child & Family Services	99	South Vancouver Island
Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services	93	South Vancouver Island
Metis Family Services	73	South Fraser
Carrier Sekani Family Services	62	North Central
Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child & Family Services	58	North Central
Ktunaxa-kinbasket Family & Child Services	57	Kootenays
Ayas Men Men Child & Family Services	47	Coast/North Shore
Northwest Inter-nation Family Services Society	44	Northwest
Nil/tu`o Child & Family Services	43	South Vancouver Island
Scw`exmx Child & Family Services	35	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Nisga`a Family & Child Services	28	Northwest
Nlha`7kapmx Child & Family Services	23	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Knucwentwecw Society	22	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Gitxsan Child & Family Services Society	16	Northwest
Lii Michif Otipemisiwak	16	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
Desnigi Services Society	12	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap
<b>Total CYIC Delegated Aboriginal Agencies</b>	<b>1,916</b>	
Splatsin Stsmamlt Services*	5	South Vancouver Island
<b>Total CYIC in Delegated Aboriginal Agencies</b>	<b>1,921</b>	

Data Source: Modelling, Analysis & Information Management, February 16, 2021

\*Note: Splatsin Stsmamlt Services has a unique Delegation Agreement with MCFD

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

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

**ISSUE: Permanency for Children in Care**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- All children deserve to have stable, lifelong relationships.
- 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.
- Keeping children and youth connected to their families, cultures and communities is always the 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.
- Reunification:
  - Reunification is when a child/youth in care left care by returning to their parents or family of origin 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.
  - In 2020/2021 YTD (as of December 31, 2020), 1,319 children and youth in care found permanency through reunification with their families of origin.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Children in Care in Continuing Custody**

- A child/youth is placed in the continuing custody of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare (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 child/youth in care under 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.
- On December 31, 2020, there were:
  - 3,058 children and youth in BC in permanent care, which is also known as continuing custody under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA);
  - 10 children in permanent care under the *Adoption Act*;
  - 2,218 (72.5%) of the children and youth in continuing care were Indigenous; and,
  - 840 (27.5%) were non-Indigenous.
- 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); and, Adoption.
- 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.
  - In 2020/2021 YTD (as of December 31, 2020), 19 children and youth in care achieved permanency through a 54.1 placement.
  - Of the 19 children and youth, 10 (53%) were Indigenous.
- Reunification (through rescindment of CCO)
  - 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.
  - 15 children/youth were in care under a CCO that was later cancelled - these children/youth were returned to their parent(s).
  - Of the 15 children/youth whose CCO were cancelled, 12 (80%) were Indigenous.
- 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,
- ongoing reassessment of a placement,
- promoting 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*.
- In 2020/2021 YTD, 113 children and youth were placed for adoption between April and December 2020.
  - Of these 113 children and youth, 41 (36%) were Indigenous.

**FINANCES:** N/A

## STATISTICS:

**Indicators of permanency** (December 31, 2020/21 YTD)

Indicators of Permanency	Indigenous Children	Non-Indigenous Children	Provincial Total
CYIC placed for adoption	41	72	113
Section 54.1 (Permanent transfer of custody of Continuing Custody Orders)	10	9	19
Reunification with parents (including Rescindment of CCO)	773	546	1,319
CCO Rescindment	12	3	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>1,451</b>

Data Source: Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management Branch, MCFD

**Children placed in Adoption Homes and Percentage of Aboriginal CYIC (2017/18-2020/21 YTD)**

<b>BC Adoption Placements</b>	<b>Actual Placements 2017/2018</b>	<b>Actual Placements 2018/2019</b>	<b>Actual Placements 2019/2020</b>	<b>Actual Placements 2020/2021 YTD (Dec 31, 2020)</b>
All CYIC Adoption Placements	239	244	176	113
Indigenous CYIC Placements	118	92	69	41
% of CYIC placed that were Indigenous	49.4%	37.7%	39.2%	36.3%

Data Source: Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management Branch, MCFD, February 2, 2021

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

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

**ISSUE: Out-of-Care Overview**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) uses out-of-care arrangements as a key response to support children and youth who cannot live safely at home with their parents.
- The use of out-of-care options is increasing, which is a sign of success for MCFD's early intervention, prevention, and child protection systems.
- Evidence shows that, where appropriate and safe, keeping families together rather than placing a child into care results in better outcomes overall for these children.
- Out-of-care arrangements help preserve family unity, support cultural continuity, and minimize the trauma of removal and disconnection for children and their families.
- MCFD is committed to continuing to support out-of-care arrangements given the connection to *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and MCFD's responsibility to fulfil its prevention and early intervention mandate.
- MCFD is demonstrating support for the increased use of out-of-care options through the following:
  - In 2019, the ministry increased the monthly rate given to eligible extended family members caring for young relatives – the first-rate increase of this kind in a decade;
  - The ministry is working to expand access to contracted residential services (e.g., respite and short-term stabilization) for children and youth in out-of-care arrangements in 2021; and
  - The ministry is exploring an enhanced out-of-care financial model in 2021 to support children with extra support needs to be cared for by extended family.

## BACKGROUND:

- Children in out-of-care arrangements are cared for by relatives or other significant adults, including those with a cultural or traditional connection to the child, without the child being in the care of MCFD or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency.
- There are five out-of-care services for children and youth living outside their parental home:
  - The Extended Family Program provides support when a parent voluntarily and temporarily gives over care of the child to another care provider (e.g., family member). Extended Family Program Agreements may be used to support customary care arrangements in Indigenous communities.
  - A temporary out-of-care order occurs when a child has been removed from their parent(s) and the court orders that the child is placed in the interim or temporary custody of a person other than their parent.
  - A permanent out-of-care order transfers custody of a child to a person other than a parent when it is determined that reunification of the child with the parent(s) will not be possible.
  - The Child in the Home of a Relative program is an income-assistance based program administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction that supports children to live with relatives when a 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 support youth ages 16 to 18 to live independently when all efforts to reconnect them with their parents or family have been exhausted.
- MCFD, in alignment with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, promotes out-of-care arrangements as the preferred care type when children cannot live safely at home.
- Out-of-care arrangements are both a family preservation strategy and a child protection response.
- These arrangements help families in crisis while keeping children safe.

- Out-of-care arrangements provide parents with viable options to keep their children out of the child welfare system and safe in the homes of their families and communities.
- Despite out-of-care arrangements being the preferred care type, there are some continuing gaps that can present challenges for families and can result in situations where children and youth come into care, particularly those with increased or more complex needs, despite the fact that the child has a family that is willing to care for them:

- Advice/Recommendations

- 

- Increasing support to out-of-care arrangements benefits children, youth, families, communities, MCFD, and the province at large:
  - This work supports MCFD's commitment to reconciliation and aligns with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
  - MCFD's work to further support and stabilize out-of-care options will improve short and long-term outcomes for children and youth, in alignment with MCFD's commitment to shift supports upstream with a focus on prevention.
  - Supporting children and youth to stay with their families and avoid less appropriate, more expensive care options will enable the ministry to reinvest those resource to better support families' needs in the community and keep more families strong and together through increased prevention and early intervention.

**FINANCES:**

- The budget for the Out of Care program is held within the Alternates to Care budget of \$80.4M. (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5)
- The Alternates to Care budget is held within Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services of \$780.9M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5)
- As of December 31, 2020, MCFD spent \$32.3M on Out of Care Kinship care and \$0.7M on Out of Care Residential Care (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5)

**STATISTICS:**

- In fiscal year to date (2020/2021), there are a total of 4,151 children and youth in out-of-care arrangements (Extended Family Program, out-of-care by court orders, and section 54.1 and section 54.01 agreements).
- In 2016/2017 compared to 2020/2021, the number of children in out-of-care arrangements has increased by 71% (Extended Family Program, out-of-care by court orders, and section 54.1 and section 54.01 agreements).
- In general, the use of all out-of-care types is increasing, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth.
- From the end of the last fiscal year to December 31, 2020, the out-of-care caseload for Indigenous children increased by 20.8% (for Extended Family Program and out-of-care by court orders). It increased by 8.7% for all non-Indigenous children and youth.

**Out-of-Care Services (2016/2017 – 2020/2021)**

Fiscal Year	Extended Family Program	Percent Change	Out of Care by Court Orders	Percent Change	Sec 54.1	Percent Change	Sec 54.01	Percent Change
2016/2017	410	-24.40%	664	3.8%	204	9.1%	1,146	49.8%
2017/2018	409	-0.20%	725	9.2%	218	6.9%	1,380	20.4%
2018/2019	440	7.60%	736	1.5%	227	4.1%	1,707	23.7%
2019/2020	932	111.80%	658	-10.6%	234	3.1%	1,951	14.3%
2020/2021*	1,139	22.20%	723	9.9%	232	-0.9%	2,057	5.4%

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations



**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of Post Majority Supports

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

**ISSUE:** BC Social Worker Registration and Oversight Framework

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- MCFD is committed to ensuring ethical, professional, and competent social work practice.
- As the Ministry responsible for the *Social Workers Act (SWA)*, MCFD is responsible for social work oversight in BC.
- We have listened to those who are calling for a review of the regulation of social workers in BC, including exemptions to regulation and the oversight framework.
- That's why we are proactively launching a broad engagement to review social work regulation across BC.
- We're taking the time to get it right – the engagement process will include a wide range of partners, including:
  - Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and other Indigenous partners;
  - First Nations Leadership Council;
  - Metis Nation BC;
  - The BC College of Social Workers;
  - BC Association of Social Workers;
  - Representative for Children and Youth; and
  - Social workers.
- We will also talk with individual social workers and the public.
- Key areas of focus for the engagement are public protection, reconciliation and meeting different communities' needs (e.g., Indigenous and rural communities).
- A report out on what we heard will be shared at the end of the engagement.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Under the SWA, social workers must register with the BC College of Social Workers unless exempt under the Social Workers Regulation (SWR).
- The SWR exempts, from registration, social workers employed by: MCFD and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies; provincial and federal governments; municipalities, regional districts and boards of education; First Nations and others.
- The engagement for the review of regulation of social workers will:
  - Be iterative and phased;
  - Include internal partners (ministries) and external partners (public sector employers of social workers and Indigenous and social work organizations); and
  - Support public engagement through a call for written submissions (to enable broad participation from individual social workers, families, key partners, and stakeholders).

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

**ISSUE:** Overview of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In BC, through delegation agreements, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare provides authority to Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) to undertake administration of all or parts of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*.
- Staff in the DAAs are delegated under the CFCSA to provide direct services to Indigenous children and families in their communities.
- There are 24 DAAs 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 temporary court-ordered care
  - 7 are delegated to provide guardianship services:
    - service is specific to the guardianship of children in continuing custody
  - 3 are delegated to provide voluntary services:
    - this includes family support services
    - voluntary care agreements (temporary non-protection care)
    - support needs agreements
    - youth agreements
    - establishing residential resources
- DAAs in BC represent approximately 118 First Nations bands, as well as Urban Indigenous and Métis communities – and currently serve 53% of the Indigenous children who are in the care of the province.
- DAAs provide delegated services to 1,921 Indigenous children and youth in care in BC (December 31, 2020). Since 2005/06, DAA funding has more than quadrupled to \$139.4 million as of 2019/20.
- It is important to note, DAAs that provide services on-reserve under the CFCSA receive funding from the federal government.
- MCFD provides funding to DAAs that deliver services off-reserve.

Contact: Cory Heavener  
Cell: Government  
Date: March 25, 2021

- The 24 DAA Executive Directors, three MCFD Directors from the Aboriginal Services Branch, and two Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Managers make up the Partnership Forum table.
- The Partnership Forum meets quarterly to discuss matters related to practice, funding, legislation, programs and policies. These meetings are held over several days. The Partnership Forum has a Terms of Reference and the agenda is agreed upon by the three partners.
- Since the early stages of the pandemic the partners met virtually on a weekly basis and now continue to meet on a bi-weekly schedule. These calls have provided opportunities to discuss emerging issues and to ensure that communication is timely. Some of the topics during the calls included discussions about serving children, youth, and families in Indigenous communities that were closed during the pandemic. Other topics shared at the table include interim practice guidelines, temporary housing measures for young adults, changes to agreements with young adults, and connections for children, youth, families, and communities. Meeting regularly and in partnership has strengthened the relationship between the DAAs, ISC and MCFD.

**FINANCE:**

Agency	2019/20 Expenditures [Millions]		
	Delegated	Non-Delegated	Total
Ayas Men Men Child & Family Services	2.30	1.21	3.51
Carrier Sekani Family Services A Branch Soc Of The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council	3.30	7.33	10.63
Denisiqi Services Society	0.40	1.19	1.59
Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children And Family Services Society	38.91	4.31	43.21
Gitksan Child & Family Services	0.75	0.37	1.12
Haida Child & Family Services Society	0.02	0.01	0.03
Heiltsuk Kaxla Society2	0.04	0.60	0.63
Knucwentwecw Society	0.81	0.00	0.81
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Child And Family Service Society	4.47	1.99	6.46
Kwumut Lelum Child & Family Services Society	3.86	1.34	5.21
La Societe De Les Enfants Michif	8.90	1.34	10.23
Lalum'Utul Smun'Eem Child & Family Services	2.17	0.75	2.93
Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family & Community Services Society	2.98	1.36	4.33
Namgis First Nation	0.00	0.55	0.55
Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child & Family Services Society	2.16	0.18	2.34
Nil/Tu,O Child And Family Services Society	0.87	0.59	1.47
Nisga'A Nation	1.87	0.72	2.60
Nlha'7Kapmx Child & Family Services	0.05	0.10	0.14
Northwest Inter-Nation Family & Community Services Society	2.07	0.51	2.58
Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council	6.43	1.51	7.95
Scw'Exmx Child & Family Services Society	1.73	0.83	2.56
Secwepemc Child And Family Services Agency	13.60	1.25	14.85
SPLATSIN FIRST NATION	0.24	0.22	0.46
Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services Society	4.83	0.37	5.20
Vancouver Aboriginal Child And Family Services Society (VACFSS)	37.10	2.95	40.04
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>139.86</b>	<b>31.58</b>	<b>171.43</b>

*Delegated Services – services which require the exercise of duties and authorities specified in the Child Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA). Such duties and authorities must be delegated to individual workers by a Director designated as such by the Minister in accordance with the CFCSA.*

*Delegated agencies provide infrastructure and administrative oversight for agency employees who may be delegated by a Director if the agency and Director have entered into a delegation agreement. The specific duties and authorities or level of delegation exercised by the employees varies between agencies and is dependent on the capacity of the agency, the agreement with the Director and the Non-Delegated Services - family and child support services which do not require delegation of authority under the CFCSA.*

**\*\*NOTE: SPLATSIN FIRST NATION DOES NOT OPERATE AS A DELEGATED ABORIGINAL AGENCY, IT OPERATES UNDER THE NATIONS BYLAW.**

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

- Children in Care Stats/Indigenous Children in Care Stats

Contact: Cory Heavener  
Cell: Government  
Date: March 25, 2021

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

**ISSUE:** Overview of Quality Assurance Programs

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- 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.
- Quality assurance programs support practice and system improvements for both the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs), with the ultimate goal of improving the services and supports that children, youth and families in BC receive.
- There are three main quality assurance programs:
  - Case Reviews – when a child or youth in care is critically injured or dies, case 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 Audits – MCFD has set specific standards that staff, DAAs and contracted agencies must follow as part of their practice and when delivering services to families. Practice audits are conducted every three years to measure compliance against these standards with regard to family services, child services/guardianship, resources, community youth justice and adoption services. Practice audits may result in action plans to improve practices and systems for the children, youth and families being served.
  - Complaints – when MCFD/DAA clients file a complaint against the ministry or DAA they have been working with, complaint specialists across the province facilitate active collaboration between complainants and staff and help them work towards a resolution of the client’s concerns.

Complainants can request an Administrative Review as an alternative to resolution.

- 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.
  - Self-Report Audit Tool – contracted residential agencies submit a report to MCFD of the screening and assessment results (i.e. criminal record and reference checks, interviews, etc.) for all residential caregivers looking after children in care in their programs.

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **An Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Program**

- A new Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Program is being developed and implemented that aligns to the strategic work underway in the MCFD 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.
- 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).
- One new program under development are Service Framework Evaluations that will incorporate both qualitative and quantitative measures to support the assessment and evaluation of ministry services provided to children and families across all service areas.
- One component of the service framework evaluations is a telephone survey tool that is being implemented so that we can hear from youth themselves about the services we provide.
- An advisory circle representing a diverse group of individuals from DAAs, 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.



**FINANCES:**

- The estimates for the Quality Assurance program for 2020/2021 is \$6.0M.

Data Source: Financial Data Booklet, page 8, 2.7 SD Support

**STATISTICS:** N/A

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

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

**ISSUE: Overview of Foster Homes**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) priority is providing supports to keep families together, resulting in fewer children coming into care.
- However, there is still a need for skilled foster caregivers to care for the children who cannot safely live with their parents and come into care.
- 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 caregiver resides in the home with the child.
- 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.
- As of December 31, 2020, the Basic Monthly rates were \$1,005.32 for children aged 0-11 and \$1,107.96 for children aged 12-18.
- Budget 2019 provided approximately \$64.3 million over three years to boost support payments to foster parents, adoptive caregivers and extended family members who care for children who cannot safely live with their parents.
- In 2019, the monthly payment for foster caregivers was raised from \$803.81 to \$982.90 for children aged 0-11 and from \$909.95 to \$1,089.04 for children aged 12-18 – an increase of \$179.09 or 22.3%. This was the first increase in 10 years.
- In 2019, the Basic Monthly Rate paid to care providers in the Extended Family Program (EFP) was harmonized with that received by family caregivers, representing a 75% increase for EFP recipients.

- Additional increases were made on July 1, 2019 and 2020 based on the annual raises of 2.2% and 1.9% to the federal Child Care Benefit (CCB). This has brought the total increase for EFP care providers to around 77% depending on the age of the child/youth. The Basic Monthly Rate paid to care providers in other out of care arrangements including section 54.1, 54.01 and Temporary Custody Orders was also harmonized to \$909.95 or \$1089.04 depending on the age of the child/youth.
- The Basic Monthly Rate for adoptive parents under the Adoption Act was increased to \$806.78 for children aged 0 to 11 and \$926.53 for children aged 12 to 18.
- 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 provides care
  - Specialized foster care: Foster care provided to children with mental or physical disabilities, or emotional or behaviour problems
  - Respite or relief foster care: Foster families who take children for short periods, so that parents / foster caregivers can have a few days without the children
- In Specialized Care, foster families 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.
- Currently, service payments range from \$458 per child for a level one home to \$1,816 per child for a level three home.
- MCFD is responding to calls for action to improve the system of services supports for children and families that cannot live safely at home with their parents, and is implementing at an integrated network of residential and non-residential services for children and youth, which will include improvements to foster homes and the networks of services supporting them. (see cross-referenced notes for more detail)

## FINANCES:

- The budget for the Foster Caregivers is held within the Children and Youth in Care budget of \$334.9M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Book, page 5, table 2.4) and within the Special (Support) Needs Children in Care budget of \$56.8M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Book, page 3, table 2.2)

## STATISTICS:

- On December 31, 2020, there were 5,370 children and youth in care in the province.
- Of the 5,370 children and youth in care, 3,771 were placed in 1,920 of the 2,272 foster homes across the province. Of the 3,771 CYIC placed in foster homes, 2,692 were Indigenous and 1,079 were non-Indigenous.
- 385 of all foster families had at least one Indigenous foster parent and 631 of the children and youth in foster care were placed in these homes (591 of the 631 children were Indigenous).
- Eight of 13 Service Delivery Areas currently screen prospective foster parents through a centralized hub, while 5 Service Delivery Areas conduct their own screening. The Ministry conducts a full assessment of each prospective foster parent before they can be approved to provide care. Between July 1, 2016 and December 31, 2020, the hub received 864 new foster parent applications. This includes 214 Restricted Foster home applications, and 650 Regular Foster home applications (source: Central Services Hub).

### Foster homes with active contracts, by SDA (December 2020)

SDA	# of Foster Homes
SDA 11 - Kootenays	50
SDA 12 - Okanagan	172
SDA 13 - Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	131
SDA 21 - East Fraser	95
SDA 22 - North Fraser	99
SDA 23 - South Fraser	200
SDA 24 - Vancouver/Richmond	112
SDA 25 - Coast/North Shore	76
SDA 31 - South Vancouver Island	164
SDA 32 - North Vancouver Island	242
SDA 41 - Northwest	74
SDA 42 - North Central	109
SDA 43 - Northeast	45
SDA 99 - Delegated Aboriginal Agencies <sup>1,2</sup>	698
<b>Province<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2,272</b>

Data Source: Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management Branch, MCFD

<sup>1</sup> This count consists of First Nations Foster homes (Non-RAP) with an active placement.

<sup>2</sup> Some First Nations foster homes provide services for both DAAs and SDAs. Those homes are counted only once, in SDAs.

<sup>3</sup> The sum of SDAs and DAAs does not match the provincial total because the provincial total includes foster homes that are not assigned to an SDA.

- The number of foster homes has decreased from 3,181 in March 2015 to 2,272 in December 2020. Available information suggests that a reduction of the number of children in care, the retirement of foster parents and foster parents 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.
- The reduction in the number of children in care is also an indicator of success for 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.
- As of December 31, 2020, within the Foster Home network there were 15 full-time foster home placements and 31 respite placements on hold and not available due to COVID-19 pandemic impacts (Data Source: MCFD Service Delivery Division).
- Examples of reasons for these placements being on hold include:
  - Parents in the community not wanting their children to take respite during the pandemic
  - Someone in the foster family with the on-hold placement has medical issues that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19
  - A child in care placed in the home is medically fragile and it wouldn't be advisable to have other children/youth moving in and out of the home

**Foster care service providers with active contracts (RAP only) or First Nation foster homes (non-RAP only) over time (2020/21 year to date as of December 31, 2020)**

Month	Indigenous Foster Homes	Non-Indigenous Foster Homes	Total Foster Homes	Percentage Indigenous
March 2012	489	3,034	3,523	13.9%
March 2013	473	2,964	3,437	13.8%
March 2014	463	2,812	3,275	14.1%
March 2015	439	2,742	3,181	13.8%
March 2016	404	2,584	2,988	13.5%
March 2017	389	2,438	2,827	13.8%
March 2018	362	2,284	2,646	13.7%
March 2019	369	2,138	2,507	14.7%
March 2020	379	2,004	2,383	15.9%
December 2020	385	1,887	2,272	16.9%

Data Source: Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management Branch, MCFD

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **888409** - In Care and Out of Care Network
- **888411** - Contracted Residential Agency Transformation
- **999417** - Out-of-Care Overview
- **999300** – Children in Care Stats/Indigenous Children in Care Stats

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

**ISSUE:           Overview of Family Preservation**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry's vision is supporting children and youth in B.C. to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families with connections to their communities and culture.
- The Ministry is working collaboratively to ensure Indigenous communities have greater involvement in child-welfare decisions, keeping children from coming into care in the first place, and providing more opportunities to work together on planning and caring for Indigenous children.
- The Ministry, along with Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) 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.
- The Ministry funds a range of services and programs to preserve 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 options, such as family group conferencing; and mediation.
- When children or youth cannot live at home, the preferred option is to support them to live with extended family or others known to the family through out-of-care options, rather than bringing them into care.
- Out-of-care providers are given financial and other supports.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- The Prevention and Family Support Service Framework is in development and will describe the current and future state of family support, prevention, and preservation services across the province, including outcomes the Ministry aims to achieve through the delivery of services and supports.
- During this development phase, the Ministry continues to focus on keeping families together by offering a number of family supports such as family preservation, increase use of out of care / kinship placement options and increased community involvement to better support Indigenous families.
- The Ministry continues to focus on 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 Federal Act, 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 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 supported through the ministry or Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

## **Current Family Preservation Programs:**

- Family Development Response (FDR) is the primary pathway for addressing screened-in protection reports when circumstances do not involve severe abuse or neglect and families are able and willing to participate in collaborative assessments and planning in order 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 mediation, family group conferencing and traditional decision-making processes, involve family and community members in decision-making and produce plans and agreements that protect children and youth and address 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/DAA's on the best plan for a child's safety and well-being by focusing on underlying interests and identifying common ground.
- Mediation is future focused.
- The process is facilitated by an independent third party (the mediator) through Mediate BC to deliver child protection mediation services to MCFD and DAAs.

## **FINANCES:**

- Family Preservation Funding is held within multiple programs budgets across the ministry.
- For the fourth consecutive year, MCFD plans to release \$30,000 in Prevention and Family Support funding to each of the 203 First Nations and 7 Métis organizations in B.C.

## STATISTICS:

Table 4.1.4 Open Family Development Response (December 31, 2020) Page 26

Fiscal Year	Family Development Responses	Percent Change
2005/2006	874	
2006/2007	928	6.2%
2007/2008	965	4.0%
2008/2009	1,418	46.9%
2009/2010	2,059	45.2%
2010/2011	2,735	32.8%
2011/2012 <sup>1</sup>	5,306	94.0%
2012/2013 <sup>2</sup>	9,537	79.7%
2013/2014	16,010	67.9%
2014/2015	16,020	0.1%
2015/2016	11,610	-27.5%
2016/2017	11,643	0.3%
2017/2018	11,186	-3.9%
2018/2019	10,590	-5.3%
2019/2020	9,544	-9.9%
2020/2021 YTD <sup>3</sup>	7,891	-17.3%

1. Numbers are fiscal year total, 2011/2012 fiscal year total is to date as of Feb 29, 2012.

2. 2012/2013 data from ICM and covers the period between June 2012 and March 2013

3. 2020/2021 year to date as of December 31, 2020.

Table 4.2 Out of Care Services (December 31, 2020) Page 27

## Supports to Children outside their Parental Home and Young Adults

Fiscal Year	Children in the Home of a Relative	Percent Change	Extended Family Program	Percent Change	Out of Care by Court Orders	Percent Change	Sec 54.1	Percent Change	Sec 54.01	Percent Change	Youth Agreements	Percent Change	Agreements with Young Adults	Percent Change
2000/2001	4,444				61						126			
2001/2002	4,506	1.4%			44	-27.9%					143	13.5%		
2002/2003	4,288	-4.8%	61		122	177.3%					161	12.6%		
2003/2004	4,483	4.5%	155	154.10%	137	12.3%					253	57.1%		
2004/2005	4,499	0.4%	114	-26.50%	167	21.9%	71				354	39.9%		
2005/2006	4,726	5.0%	111	-2.60%	170	1.8%	73	2.8%			453	28.0%		
2006/2007	4,734	0.2%	118	6.30%	168	-1.2%	69	-5.5%			463	2.2%		
2007/2008	4,653	-1.7%	175	48.30%	177	5.4%	87	26.1%			550	18.8%		
2008/2009	4,467	-4.0%	189	8.00%	160	-9.6%	105	20.7%			717	30.4%	325	
2009/2010	4,494	0.6%	191	1.10%	131	-18.1%	121	15.2%			706	-1.5%	367	12.9%
2010/2011	3,298	-26.6%	300	57.10%	132	0.8%	122	0.8%			773	9.5%	449	22.3%
2011/2012	2,555	-22.5%	402	34.00%	167	26.5%	135	10.7%			789	2.1%	393	-12.5%
2012/2013	2,146	-16.0%	431	7.20%	256	53.3%	135	0.0%	1		651	-17.5%	431	9.7%
2013/2014	1,829	-14.8%	360	-16.50%	418	63.3%	154	14.1%	249		695	6.8%	501	16.2%
2014/2015	1,565	-14.4%	420	16.70%	487	16.5%	176	14.3%	502	101.6%	696	0.1%	553	10.4%
2015/2016	1,315	-16.0%	542	29.00%	640	31.4%	187	6.3%	765	52.4%	684	-1.7%	607	9.8%
2016/2017	1,099	-16.4%	410	-24.40%	664	3.8%	204	9.1%	1,146	49.8%	648	-5.3%	774	27.5%
2017/2018	907	-17.5%	409	-0.20%	725	9.2%	218	6.9%	1,380	20.4%	627	-3.2%	933	20.5%
2018/2019	735	-19.0%	440	7.60%	736	1.5%	227	4.1%	1,707	23.7%	690	10.0%	1,098	17.7%
2019/2020	576	-21.6%	932	111.80%	658	-10.6%	234	3.1%	1,951	14.3%	655	-5.1%	1,236	12.6%
2020/2021*	477	-17.2%	1,139	22.20%	723	9.9%	232	-0.9%	2,057	5.4%	666	1.7%	1,442	16.7%

Numbers are fiscal year end (as of March 31 of the fiscal year)

\*2020/2021 numbers are fiscal year to date (as of December 31 of 2020/2021 fiscal year)

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

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

**ISSUE: Ministry Response to Harms Done**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

Advice/Recommendations

**BACKGROUND:**

- In December 2017 the Ministry of Children and Family's (MCFD) Executive Financial Officer was made aware of financial irregularities involving a social worker in a Kelowna office who was providing guardianship services to children and youth in care and services to young adults on an Aboriginal services team.
- The social worker was hired by MCFD in 1996 and worked in Dawson Creek (1996 and 1997), Fort St. John (1997 – 2001), and Kelowna (2001 – March 2018 [suspended in January 2018]).

- An investigation at the behest of the Comptroller General's office, determined the employee had misappropriated funds by establishing joint bank accounts with youth in care, depositing assistance payments in the youths' names, and then withdrawing those funds.
- Later MCFD discovered that the employee had falsified his educational credentials at the time he was hired. MCFD is committed to implementing a system for verifying education credentials by July 30, 2021.
- The employee was suspended in January 2018. His employment with MCFD was terminated at the conclusion of the Comptroller General's investigation in March 2018.
- A follow-up investigation into the Okanagan office where the employee worked found no instances of further culpability amongst office staff or local management.
- The Provincial Director of Child Welfare (PDCW) commenced a special review in March 2018. The initial focus was on the children, youth, families, and young adults who were currently on the employee's caseload and then broadened to include former clients.
- The PDCW's review identified several practice concerns, including poor documentation, poor planning overall, poor permanency planning, and poor cultural planning for Indigenous children and youth. The review report was finalized in February 2021 and there are 8 action items to address the areas of concern identified in the review.
- Local support teams are in place to help affected youth 19 years of age and over. This includes connecting them with Indigenous community and culture and providing supports and services as required.
- The Provincial Crown has approved 13 criminal charges against RS and criminal proceedings have commenced.
- The class action was certified in July of 2020 and as of February 15, 2021, the class currently has 100 members.
- All existing individual claims were absorbed into the class action when it was certified, but plaintiffs may opt out.
- To date, 12 plaintiffs proceed with individual claims, 5 of whom have settled.
  - In October 2020, the Court approved a settlement framework for the class action, which provided for each class member to receive a basic

payment (\$69k for Indigenous and \$25k for non-Indigenous) and allows class members to apply for elevated damages under 5 headings of harm (sexual exploitation - \$75k, psychological harm - \$45k, homelessness - \$25k, educational delay - up to \$50k and bodily harm - \$15k). The maximum total award for elevated damages is \$181k.

- Elevated damages claims are resolved either via consent or adjudication if the Attorney General opposes the claims.
- There is a 2-year time limit from October 2020 to join the class action or make claims for elevated damages.

**FINANCES:** N/A

**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: Overview of Contracted Residential Agencies (CRA)**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Contracted Residential Agencies (CRAs) are service providers that operate under contract with the ministry. These service providers own or operate residential resources where children or youth in care reside.
- CRAs are part of the system of residential care, particularly for children and youth with complex needs, including those with developmental and/or physical disabilities who require constant care and supervision and cannot be maintained with their families or in foster homes.
- The Ministry is improving its overall system of services and support for children and youth in care – starting with a careful and concentrated focus on overhauling the role of contracted residential agencies in B.C.
- To support this shift, the Ministry is developing a new approach to providing contracted residential services in B.C., starting with defining a clear mandate that will help build a strong system of supports that best meet the needs of children, youth and families.
- Over the next 12-18 months, the Ministry will engage Indigenous partners, service providers, contract holders, staff, families, interest groups and community members to help us shape the proposed model and ensure that, once it is implemented, it meets the unique needs of vulnerable children, youth and families in B.C.
- The big questions being explored through this engagement are:
  - Have we “got it right” and what needs to be altered or augmented?
  - How can we support Indigenous partners’ vision for contracted services?
  - What considerations need to be given to ensure the successful implementation of these changes?

- Since 2014, the Ministry has implemented processes to improve the oversight of CRAs. These include:
  - In 2014, introduced a new screening and approval process, including an updated caregiver policy;
  - In 2017, implemented a new policy for investigating reports of maltreatment of children and youth placed in contracted resources; this requires the Provincial Director of Child Welfare to oversee all large, complex investigations;
  - In June 2017, implemented a Self Report Audit Tool (SRAT) to monitor compliance with the screening and assessment of caregivers in contracted agencies policy. This requires that every agency complete an online questionnaire for every person they hire or sub-contract as a caregiver for a child or youth in care;
  - Since April 2018, all current and prospective contracted agency caregivers looking after children in care are also screened through the Centralized Services Hub; and,
  - The Ministry is continuing to conduct audits of contracted residential agencies to examine their finances, compliance with policy for screening caregivers.
- Practice audit methodologies are being expanded to examine compliance with standards for all ministry workers who support CRAs, as well as piloting interview/survey tools for children and youth.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- From the time that the SRAT was first implemented in June 2017 until the end of December 2020, the Ministry has received SRAT questionnaires for 7,522 caregivers who are employed or sub-contracted by 112 contracted residential agencies. This double counts caregivers who had multiple questionnaires because they worked in one agency and then left to work in a different agency or caregivers who worked in more than one agency at the same time. This also includes 9 agencies that were no longer providing MCFD residential services on December 31, 2020.



- This fiscal year to date (to December 2020), the Centralized Services Hub completed criminal record checks and checks on previous contact with child protection services for 3,662 individuals who had applied to work at CRAs as caregivers, including 203 CRA caregivers whose screening was renewed. One hundred and twenty-two CRA caregiver applicants were screened out as a result of these checks (Data Source: Centralized Services Hub).
  - This fiscal year, the Ministry has conducted comprehensive financial and operational risk assessments of all CRAs and full-scope audits of 8 CRAs. The Ministry conducted follow-up engagements for CRAs that were audited last year to ensure that corrective measures were implemented in response to audit recommendations.
  - In fiscal year 2020/21 YTD (as of December 31, 2020), there were 53 contracted residential agency investigations completed on 70 distinct places of service (contracted agencies often run multiple residential resources, known as places of service). Nineteen of these investigations were substantiated. When concerns are substantiated, actions are based on the investigations findings. Common actions include: conditions or restrictions on further placements; further supports and training for the foster parents; contract amendments; and, closing the resource.

**FINANCES:** N/A

**STATISTICS:**

- As of December 31, 2020, 783 children (389 Indigenous and 394 non-Indigenous) and youth in care had been placed in contracted residential resources.
- As of December 31, 2020, there were 98 contracted residential agencies operating approximately 480 residences across the province.
- Of these 98 contracted residential resources, 86 have contracts with the ministry and 12 have contracts with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (and not with the ministry).

**Contracted Residential Service Providers and Contracted Residential Resources  
by Geographic SDA (December 2020)**

<b>SDA</b>	<b># of Contracted Residential Service Providers Operating in Each SDA *</b>	<b># of Contracted Resources or Places of Service</b>
SDA 11 – Kootenays	3	3
SDA 12 – Okanagan	8	29
SDA 13 – Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	7	33
SDA 21 – East Fraser	27	87
SDA 22 – North Fraser	17	57
SDA 23 – South Fraser	24	102
SDA 24 – Vancouver/Richmond	13	39
SDA 25 – Coast/North Shore	4	14
SDA 31 – South Vancouver Island	14	36
SDA 32 – North Vancouver Island	13	40
SDA 41 – Northwest	3	4
SDA 42 – North Central	8	19
SDA 43 – Northeast	3	16
SDA 99 – Delegated Aboriginal Agencies	Included above	Included above

Data Source: MAIM – ICM and CABIT for Dec. 2020

\* Of the 98 service providers in the province, 22 service providers operate in multiple SDAs and are counted in each SDA in which they operate in the table above.

All SDA data is based on the listed addresses of the service providers' places of service and mapped to MCFD geographical SDAs using BC Stats Geo-Code self-serve tool (TMF 202009).

- As of December 31, 2020, within the CRA network there were 9 respite placements on hold and not available due to COVID-19 pandemic impacts. These respite placements were not available because CRA staff had tested positive for or been exposed to COVID-19. As of the same date, there were no full-time CRA placements unavailable due to COVID-19 impacts.

**CROSS REFERENCE: N/A**

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

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

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry has announced that there will be an external review of BC's adoption agency regulatory framework and intercountry adoption services.
  - The agency-based service delivery model has changed substantially since it was implemented in 1996. There is a need 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 and enables Government to meet its international obligations under the Hague Convention, and
    - whether there are other models of intercountry adoption services that might better meet the needs of children and families.
  - Advice/Recommendations
- 
- The review will include partner engagement to gather information about the challenges and opportunities within the current model.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Licensed adoption agencies provide domestic and intercountry adoption services under the *Adoption Act*, enabling the Ministry and Delegated Aboriginal 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; the number of agencies in BC has decreased from seven to two. Despite these and other issues, only minor amendments have been made to the AAR.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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**FINANCES:** N/A

**STATISTICS:** N/A

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- 999302 – Permanency for Children in Care Stats

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

**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 – either in-person or through telehealth – to children and youth (aged 0-19) who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health challenges and disorders.
- CYMH offers a continuum of services, including prevention, early intervention, risk reduction, community education, consultation and specialized interventions.
- The Ministry works with partners to develop these supports and services for children and youth with mental health and addiction needs.
- Key partners include: Health Authorities, which provide youth substance-use services; community-based social service providers; Delegated Aboriginal Agencies; Foundry centres; and contracted agencies.
- Children and youth who present with urgent 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 take their child or youth to the nearest hospital emergency department.
- The Ministry works to ensure its CYMH services align with and support the government's vision for mental-health and substance-use services, as outlined in a *A Pathway to Hope*.

**BACKGROUND:**

- CYMH services are guided by a service framework that ensures consistency across its 88<sup>i</sup> teams.
- Some services are considered 'core' and are available everywhere, while others are considered 'specialized' and are not necessarily available across all teams.

- Within the 88<sup>i</sup> teams, there are 539 CYMH practitioners<sup>ii</sup> who have seen just over 25,000 children and youth from April 2020 up until December 31, 2020<sup>iii</sup>. In the areas of Vancouver/Richmond and Prince George, MCFD does not directly provide CYMH services.
- In these areas, the services are delivered via contract with Vancouver Coastal Health (Vancouver/Richmond) and Intersect Youth and Family Services (Prince George).
- The teams are comprised of a variety of professionals – including social workers and nurses with mental-health expertise, clinical counsellors, psychologists, and contracted psychiatrists.
- The Ministry's mental health services include:
  - Core services provided through community-based CYMH and Indigenous CYMH teams – these are offered through Ministry offices, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and contracted agencies. The CYMH Service Framework identifies six (6) Core Services, including:
    - Referral and Intake
    - Initial Services
    - Assessment Services
    - Therapy and Intervention Services
    - Consultation Services, and
    - Urgent Response.
  - Residential services provided through the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre. The Maples is a provincial tertiary designated mental health facility providing assessment and treatment for youth aged 12 to 17 years old on site and in community-based programs and services, as well as training and support for caregivers and families. 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. There are six (6) key programs and 22 on-site beds (serving the entire province):

- Response Program, Care Plan Consultants, Dala Program, Crossroads Program, Bifröst Program, and the Connect Attachment Program.
- Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services provides court-mandated forensic assessments and interventions to youth involved in the justice system and support youth who are on community or custody supervision via:
  - 1 In-Patient Assessment Unit in Burnaby; and
  - 8 outpatient clinics in Vancouver, Burnaby, Langley, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince George, Kamloops and Kelowna.
- Prevention and Early Intervention (EIT):
  - School mental health prevention services; and
  - Contracted provincial initiatives that support prevention and EIT – E.g. Confident Parents: Thriving Kids, Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE), and FamilySmart.
- Specialized Services:
  - Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health
  - Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI)
  - Developmental Disabilities Mental Health
  - Concurrent Disorders
  - Eating Disorders
- CYMH has and continues to work with external partners to research and develop practice guidelines that address the unique needs of vulnerable populations, including Indigenous youth, LGBTQ2S+ youth, and youth who self-harm.
- In 2020/21, a part of *A Pathway to Hope* funding was provided to MCFD to support:
  - Early intervention and prevention initiatives;
  - Integrated Child and Youth teams that work to fill gaps in service and shorten wait times in the current system of mental health and substance use care; children and youth in need will receive services and supports tailored to their unique situation, delivered by a team of experts; and
  - Step-up/Step-down services that provide more intensive supports for children and youth in communities or when they are transitioning out of inpatient-based services.



## FINANCES:

- The 2021/22 Estimates Budget for CYMH is \$134.3M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.3) Core Business: Child & Youth Mental Health Services, page 4).
- The 2021/22 Estimates Budget for CYMH Expanded including Youth Justice is \$148.4M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 3.2) Overview: CYMH Expanded, page 14).

## STATISTICS:

- Research indicates an estimated 12.7% of children aged 4 to 18 years have mental disorders at any time. In BC, that is approximately 95,000 children and youth, with 70 per cent of mental disorders beginning before the age of 25.<sup>iv</sup>
- Just over 25,000 children and youth received community-based CYMH services, fiscal year to date as of December 31, 2020<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup>
- From April 1, 2020 through to December 31, 2020, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth waited an average of 70 days from the time of their initial intake assessment to their first clinical service. Referrals are triaged so urgent cases are not waitlisted.
- Currently there are 539 CYMH practitioners<sup>ii</sup> in BC, which is an increase of 94 CYMH practitioners since March 31, 2017.

### Child and youth clients by phase and Service Delivery Area (April 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020)<sup>iii</sup>

#### 3.1 Child and Youth Mental Health

Unique Clients by Phase, Fiscal Year 2020/21<sup>i</sup> YTD

Province / SDA	Referral	Initial Services	Active	Follow-up	Distinct Clients
Province	4,415	10,695	3,963	2,776	25,111
Kootenays	322	381	262	201	1,166
Okanagan	434	1,530	252	187	2,403
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	458	875	229	194	1,756
East Fraser	242	1,449	396	266	2,353
North Fraser	549	880	625	409	2,463
South Fraser	741	1,215	547	354	2,857
Vancouver/Richmond					3,262
Coast/North Shore	203	694	278	175	1,350
South Vancouver Island	756	1,194	590	313	2,853
North Vancouver Island	303	968	464	438	2,173
Northwest	104	435	103	70	712
North Central	175	553	193	133	1054
Northeast	128	521	24	36	709

<sup>i</sup>Unique Community Child and Youth Mental Health Clients, Fiscal Year 2020/2021 as at December 31, 2020. Source: CARIS as of January 31, 2021.

<sup>ii</sup>Vancouver/Richmond SDA is served by VCHA (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority). VCHA does not use CARIS, the Ministry's centralized Case Management System.

## CROSS REFERENCE:

- COVID-19 Updates CYMH

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<sup>i</sup> 2019 CYMH Service Inventory, CYMH Policy team

<sup>ii</sup> Adjusted to remove Maples and Complex Needs Facility employees.

<sup>iii</sup> Data Source: Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management (MAIM)

Note that the data are for the fiscal year to date as of Dec 31, 2020, leaving 3 months to the end of the fiscal year.

<sup>iv</sup> Schwartz, C., Yung, D., Barican, J., & Waddell, C. (2020). Preventing and Treating Childhood Mental Disorders: Effective Interventions. Vancouver, BC: Children's Health Policy Centre, Simon Fraser University.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Wait Times**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- There is high demand for Child and Youth Mental Health services. Provincially 25,111 children, youth and families were served through CYMH teams April 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31, 2020 (Table 1).
- Advice/Recommendations  
Advice/Recommendations current average provincial wait time of 70.3 days (Tables 4 & 5).
- There are 539 MCFD/CYMH practitioners province wide, an increase of 94 practitioners since March 31, 2017 (Tables 8 & 9) (excludes employees from 2 large contracted CYMH agencies and smaller contracted services).
- Children and youth with urgent mental health needs do not wait for services; they are provided with services right away (Table 6). As well, 42% of those on a waitlist received a CYMH service while waiting for another service (Table 7).
- Referrals generally increase each year. This year however, CYMH teams received fewer referrals at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; they dropped significantly, not rising again until June 2020 (Table 2 & 3). During the pandemic employees were encouraged to work from home and adapt virtual service delivery methods, offering families a blend of both virtual and/or face-to-face services.
- CYMH has a number of strategies underway to increase access to services and support staff to spend more time with children, youth, and families including:
  - Completion of the Workflow Streamlining initiative.
  - Collaborative partnerships with school based teams, integrated hubs and wellness centres in over 20 communities, including 11 Foundry centres.
  - Partnership with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to implement the *Pathway to Hope* strategies in 5 communities.
  - Implementation of the CYMH Service Framework.
  - Telehealth video-conferencing offers outreach psychiatry to children, youth, and families in Northern, rural and remote areas.

**FINANCES:**

- Budget 2021 Financial Data Book 2.4) Core Business: Child & Youth Mental Health Services \$134.3M, pg.4
- Budget 2021 Financial Data Book 3.2) Overview: CYMH Expanded is \$148.4M, pg. 14
- Budget 2021 Financial Data Book 4.1) Service Delivery Division - 2019/20 Expenditure by Core Business and SDA Summary for CYMH is \$83.98M, pg. 16
- Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet 5.1) MCFD Summary of STOB80 Contracts by Type and Affiliation Fiscal Year 2019-20 for CYMH is \$48.193M, pg 17

**STATISTICS:**

**Table 1.** Unique individual clients served by CYMH including children, youth and families placed on the waitlist (inclusive of Vancouver Coastal Health & Intersect), including those who received an intake assessment and were placed on the CYMH waitlist.

	<b>Apr to Dec 2018</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2020</b>
Unique Clients Served	25,697	26,712	25,111

**Table 2.** Number of new referrals to CYMH (Excludes VCH)

	<b>Apr to Dec 2018</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2020</b>
Indigenous	2,382	2,487	1,819
Non-Indigenous	8,298	8,779	7,375
Unknown	486	591	489
Not entered	471	468	659
<b>New Referrals</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>12,325</b>	<b>10,342</b>

**Table 3.** Number of referrals by month over 3 years, April–December (Excludes VCH)

<b>Month</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>
April	1,345	1,532	614
May	1,558	1,612	785
June	1,240	1,226	1,094
July	784	912	901
August	854	855	928
September	1,181	1,338	1,378
October	1,706	1,927	1,591

November	1,744	1,654	1,632
December	1,225	1,269	1,419
<b>FY To Date</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>12,325</b>	<b>10,342</b>

**Table 4.** Total number of individual children and youth on the provincial waitlist

	<b>As of Dec 31, 2018</b>	<b>As of Dec 31, 2019</b>	<b>As of Dec 31, 2020</b>
Total Waitlist	2,486	2,049	2,506
Indigenous %	410 (16%)	419 (20%)	456 (18%)

**Table 5.** Wait times: Average provincial time to first service (days) April-December

	<b>Apr to Dec 2018</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2020</b>
Indigenous	51.8	51.4	64.1
Not Indigenous	57.9	56.0	71.8
<b>All CYMH Clients</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>70.3</b>

\*Days to first service measures the average time waiting to receive a clinical service for the first time, indicated by a note entered by the practitioner into CARIS.

**Table 6.** Number of children & youth who had no wait; they received services right away

	<b>Apr to Dec 2018</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2020</b>
Indigenous With No Wait	428	379	201
% Indigenous With No Wait	25%	21%	16%
Non Indigenous With No Wait	1,239	1,177	668
% Non Indigenous With No Wait	21%	19%	13%
<b>All Cases With No Wait*</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>910</b>
% of All Cases With No Wait*	22%	20%	15%

**Table 7.** Active CYMH Employees (March 2017 vs December 2020)

	<b>Mar 31, 2017</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2020*</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2020 Adjusted **</b>	<b>Mar 2017 over Dec 2020 Change</b>
Mental Health (SPO's only)	334	459	424	90
Other Mental Health (e.g. Nurse, LPA)	54	134	49	-5
<b>Total Frontline</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>85</b>

Mental Health Team Leads (SPO's only)	44	61	55	11
Other Mental Health Team Leads (e.g. Nurse, LPA)	13	19	11	-2
<b>Total Team Leads</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total MCFD/CYMH</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>VCH and Intersect</b> (excludes smaller contracted services)				<b>14.3 FTE</b>

\* includes Maples and Complex Needs Facility employees

\*\* adjusted to remove Maples and Complex Needs Facility employees

**Table 8.** CYMH Teams, Office Locations, Intake Clinics, as of January 2021

<b>CYMH teams</b>	<b>CYMH Office locations</b>	<b>CYMH Intake Clinics</b>
88	78	92

**Table 9.** Number of children & youth on waitlist who received a CYMH service while on waitlist for another CYMH service.

	<b>Apr to Dec 2018</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Apr to Dec 2020</b>
Clients on a Wait List	7,404	7,789	7,208
Clients received Service While on a Wait List	3,733	3,836	3,007
% received Service	50%	49%	42%

\*Services while on the waitlist include groups, consultation or brief intervention with a clinician, and referrals to community services.

#### **CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of CYMH

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

**ISSUE: Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Service Framework**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- This government is committed to strengthening its approach to prevention, early intervention and family preservation.
- That is why we are undergoing a process to design and implement a new Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Service Framework to make it easier for families, service providers, and other partners to understand and navigate MCFD CYSN services.
- The Service Framework is intended to clarify the system of supports available to children and youth with support needs and their families, guide future planning, and establish an approach to access and delivery of CYSN services that is driven by the needs of the child and family.
- Using a continuous evaluation and learning process, a Minister's Advisory Council on CYSN is being set up for spring 2021 and will provide an opportunity for further input into the proposed framework.
- This council will help build stronger relationships with families to ensure the voices of those who have direct experience with and are in need of CYSN services are heard and incorporated into the Service Framework.
- Minister Mitzi Dean committed to this council to support the Ministry's work towards fundamentally changing the system of supports for children and youth with support needs in BC.

- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

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- The name for the suite of services has changed from Children and Youth with Special Needs to Children and Youth with Support Needs.
- This change was made in response to expansive feedback saying the term “special needs” was outdated, offensive to some, and not representative of the broad range of children and youth who receive CYSN services.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- Government recognizes the many individuals and groups who have been instrumental in developing content and engagement processes for the new Service Framework, including the Indigenous Advisory Circle and Provincial Partners Advisory Group, which represents provincial organizations and advocacy groups.
- Government also recognizes the families and providers who were consulted on their experiences with the system and on the draft Service Framework.
- In early 2019, through community workshops, phone interviews and research surveys, over 1,500 individuals shared their experiences about needing supports, receiving supports and delivering supports within the CYSN suite of services.
- Findings from these consultations identified key barriers within the current service system, including significant wait times for services, inequitable access favouring families with financial and personal resources or specific diagnoses, and high administrative and financial burdens for families, among others.
- The Ministry used these findings, along with insights and recommendations provided in reports from the Representative for Children and Youth and other organizations, and academic literature to prepare a draft Service Framework.
- Facilitated consultations took place in late 2019 to gather input on the draft Service Framework, which involved over 270 individuals and included representatives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous families, youth, contracted agencies, organizations, service providers, physicians, MCFD staff, newcomers to BC and others.



**FINANCES:**

- The 2021/22 Estimates Budget for CYSN is \$440.6M (refer to Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.2) Core Business: Services for Children & Youth with Support (Special) Needs, page 3).

**STATISTICS:**

- There are approximately 79,000 children and youth with support needs in BC. and more than 30,000 access Ministry intervention and support services between birth and age 19 years.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **Note 888402** CYSN Service Framework

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**  
**DM Estimates Note, Prepared by CYMH**

**ISSUE: Efficacy of Virtual Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) services to meet the needs of children, youth, and families**

**BACKGROUND:**

CYMH services have traditionally been provided through in-person sessions to children, youth, and families. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CYMH shifted to a blend of both virtual and in-person service delivery options to follow the Public Health Officer guidelines intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**DISCUSSION:**

Some questions have arisen as to the efficacy of CYMH services, particularly regarding virtual service delivery options. Research was completed by Strategic Policy, Research and Engagement (SPRE) (Appendix 1) into the effectiveness of virtual mental health services. The research was favorable in terms of effective outcomes, increased access to care and satisfaction levels.

MCFD's approach to meeting the needs of children, youth, and families during the pandemic was to develop practice guidelines (Appendix 2) regarding services offered in person and virtually. CYMH offers the first session in person unless the family chooses a virtual option. CYMH then offers in-person sessions every 3<sup>rd</sup> session. If suicide ideation, self-harm, psychosis, or risk to others is a concern, an in-person session is recommended. These practice guidelines apply to all CYMH teams throughout British Columbia (BC).

Additionally, MCFD took steps to prepare CYMH and families to use virtual technology for therapeutic sessions. This includes the following.

- Training on providing virtual therapy was offered to CYMH practitioners.
- Skype and Zoom technology guides were created for both CYMH and families to support their access to and use of virtual services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic CYMH provided services to over 26,000 children, youth, and families. CYMH provided 183,746 sessions during 2020/2021<sup>1</sup> (Appendix 3). Of these

- 45.4% of sessions were virtual (video or teleconference).
- 26.2% of sessions were in person (in office or outreach).
- 28.3% are unknown meeting types.

**SUMMARY:**

In summary, the research indicates favourable outcomes through virtual mental health service delivery methods. The data indicates a significant increase in virtual services offered last fiscal year to children, youth, and families, who are offered choice of virtually and in-person services.

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<sup>1</sup> The data on numbers of children, youth, and families served and breakdown of session types includes MCFD CYMH teams and contractor Intersect. CYMH contracted services in Vancouver and Richmond are not included in the data as they use a different documentation system.

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## APPENDIX:

1. Research Brief: Mental Health Counselling and Therapy through videoconferencing.  
[Research Brief - Virtual Mental Health Services - Final.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

2. Updated CYMH Practice Guidelines



cymh\_service\_deliver  
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3. Session Meeting Modes

Meeting Mode	2019/2020	2020/2021	Changes in Number of Notes	Change from 2019/2020
In office	97,258	32,360	-64,898	-67%
None Selected	65,075	52,012	-13,063	-20%
Telephone	5,963	40,649	34,686	582%
Videoconferencing	339	37,040	36,701	10826%
Outreach	21,838	11,899	-9,939	-46%
CYMH Office*	4,653	2,317	-2,336	-50%
Telephone and Videoconferencing *	757	5,854	5,097	673%
Outreach - School*	2,304	1,179	-1,125	-49%
Outreach - Other*	313	220	-93	-30%
Outreach - Home*	90	131	41	46%
Outreach - Office*	159	42	-117	-74%
Outreach - Street*	54	41	-13	-24%
Outreach - Doctor's Office*	11	2	-9	-82%
<b>Clinical Services</b>	<b>198,814</b>	<b>183,746</b>	<b>-15,068</b>	<b>-8%</b>

\*Meeting Modes for Brief Intervention Notes  
Source: MAIM

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
CHILD CARE DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2020/21**

**ISSUE: New Spaces Fund**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Childcare BC is the Province's 10-year plan to bring a universal early care and learning system to B.C.
- Its key pillars include affordability, accessibility and quality and aim to make life better and more affordable for families.
- In Budget 2018, the Ministry committed to funding 22,000 new licensed child care spaces as a key commitment in the first three years of the Childcare BC plan.
- As we come to the close of the first three years of Childcare BC, the Ministry is on track to exceed this target.
- As of December 31, 2020, the Province funded the creation of over 20,000 new licensed spaces,<sup>1</sup>. Over 13,600 of these spaces have been funded through the New Spaces Fund, which supports public, not-for-profit, and private space-creation projects in communities throughout B.C.
- And when you include the results of the Second Call for Applications to the New Spaces Fund in March 2021, we exceeded our 22,000 target by nearly 4,000 new licensed spaces.
- Under Budget 2021, the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund will continue as the Province's key child care space-creation program, supporting the province's economic recovery and continuing to invest in child care spaces.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Since launching in July 2018, the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund has been supporting the creation of thousands of new licensed child care spaces across B.C., improving access to child care for families who want affordable, quality child care.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes spaces funded through the New Spaces Fund, the City of Vancouver MOU, Start-Up Grants, and Neighbourhood Learning Centres.

- In 2019, the Ministry increased the maximum total funding amounts for non-profit and public-sector organizations. Since that time, the program has experienced a marked increase in the volume and quality of applications from these sectors.
- In 2020, the New Spaces Fund introduced program changes to ensure Ministry investments in child care are being directed to the highest quality projects in communities with demonstrated need. Changes included:
  - Launching two closed Calls for Applications, with the first closing in May 2020 and the second in November 2020<sup>2</sup>;
  - Placing a priority on projects with a provincially funded cost per space of under \$40,000 to ensure the program creates as many quality spaces in as many communities as possible;
  - Placing an increased focus on projects linked to a community child care plan or a needs assessment that demonstrates alignment between the proposed child care spaces and the need within the community.

## FINANCES:

**Table 1: SS Vote Child Care Programs/SSS Vote Child Care Capital**

\$Millions Accessibility	2019/20 Actuals	2019/20 Estimates Budget	YTD 2020/21 <sup>1</sup>	2020/21 Estimates Budget	2021/22 Estimates Budget	2022/23 Estimates Budget
New Spaces Fund <sup>2</sup>	128.99	84.34	44.25	81.24	81.24	81.24
Modular Spaces	-	2.50	-	2.50	2.50	2.50
Start Up Grants	0.58	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50
<b>Sub Total- Space Creation</b>	<b>129.57</b>	<b>87.34</b>	<b>44.65</b>	<b>84.24</b>	<b>84.24</b>	<b>84.24</b>
Child Care Maintenance Fund <sup>3</sup>	2.12	1.20	0.64	1.20	1.20	1.20
Aboriginal Head Start Expansion	-	-	-	-	6.59	6.59
Other <sup>4</sup>	-	-	0.91	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.69</b>	<b>88.54</b>	<b>46.19</b>	<b>85.44</b>	<b>92.03</b>	<b>92.03</b>

Sources: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 2.1 ECD and CC Services, 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

### NOTES:

1. 2020/21 Actuals are as of December 31, 2020
2. New Space Fund budget reflects Years 1-3 Universal Child Care Plan Funding in addition to former Major Capital program base
3. Child Care Maintenance Fund budget included \$0.16M One Time funding for Strong Starts BC Pilots in 2018/19
4. Other: \$0.90M CERIP Aboriginal Head Start Outdoor Play Spaces (Vote 52)

<sup>2</sup> The two calls for applications replaced the previous open intake process.

**STATISTICS:****Table 1: Three-Year New Spaces Fund Targets & Approved Spaces (2018/19 – December 31, 2020)**

2018/19		2019/20		City of Vancouver MOU	2020/21		Total	
Target	Approved	Target	Approved	Approved	Target	Approved to Dec 31	Target	Approved to Dec 31
2,760	2,216	8,250	7,813	2,300	8,250	3,635 <sup>1</sup>	19,260	15,964

Data Source: Capital and Community Services Branch, Child Care Division, MCFD

**NOTES:**

1. Results of the 2020/21 New Spaces Fund Second Call for Applications are still pending and are not included in this total.

**Table 2: New Spaces Fund Funded Operational Spaces, by Fiscal Year (2018/19 – December 31, 2020)**

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Approved spaces	2,216	10,113	3,635	15,964
# Approved spaces operational	1,268	1,711	0	2,979
% Approved spaces operational	57%	22%	0%	22%

**CROSS-REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**  
**CHILD CARE POLICY**  
**ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: Child Care BC Plan - Year 4 (2021/22)**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The B.C. government recognizes the challenges many parents face when trying to balance raising a family with pursuing work and training opportunities.
- In Years 1-3 of the Plan, government has taken initial steps towards a cohesive, publicly managed, universal child care system that provides access to affordable, high-quality early care and learning for every family who wants or needs it.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the critical importance of child care as a key enabling factor in supporting families, enabling parents (particularly mothers and single-parent households) to return to work, and helping B.C. recover from the pandemic.
- Child care remains a key government priority, appearing in multiple Ministers' 2020 Mandate Letters, including MCFD, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, and the Minister of Finance.
- The Childcare BC plan will continue to be informed through targeted engagement with child care advocates including parents, child care operators, providers, educators, indigenous organizations, and advocates for children with support needs.
- Key activities planned for 2021/22 include:
  - Expansion of BC Universal Prototype Sites;
  - Inclusive Child Care;
  - Renewal of Emergency Health and Safety Grants; and
  - Increasing the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Wage Enhancement.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In the first three years of implementing the Childcare BC Plan, government has taken initial steps towards a cohesive, publicly managed, universal child care



system that provides access to affordable, high-quality early care and learning for every family who wants or needs it.

- Through combination of our affordability initiatives, more than 36,400 children have accessed child care for no more than \$10/day. Many of those low-income families pay no fee at all.
- As of December 31, 2020, the Province funded the creation of over 20,000 new licensed spaces.<sup>1</sup> Including the results of the Second Call for Applications to the New Spaces Fund in March 2021, we have exceeded our 22,000 target by nearly 4,000 new licensed spaces.
- More than 13,000 ECEs have received an increase of \$2 to their hourly wage.
- 7,800 ECE bursaries have been awarded to over 5,300 students, enabling them to pursue their early childhood educator certification.
- 643 new Aboriginal Head Start spaces provide culturally based care for Indigenous families both on and off reserve.
- Child care remains a key government priority, and it appears in multiple Ministers' 2020 Mandate Letters, including MCFD, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, and the Minister of Finance. Mandate commitments include:
  - Working to integrate child care into early learning environment, and to transition Child Care to the Ministry of Education by 2023;
  - Working towards universal access to before and after school care, prioritizing care on school grounds;
  - Developing a capital plan and modular strategy to increase child care spaces; and
  - Enhancing ECE recruitment and retention, including expanding the Early Childhood Educators wage enhancement program to ensure that ECEs are a well-supported profession.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes spaces funded through the New Spaces Fund, the City of Vancouver MOU, Start-Up Grants, and Neighbourhood Learning Centres.

- **Priority initiatives for 2021/22 include the following:**

- **Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)**

- The CCFRI, launched in April 2018, provides funding to participating child care providers to reduce their monthly parent fees by up to \$350 per month per child. To date, nearly 64,000 child care spaces have been approved for a reduction, with the Province providing more than \$274M since the program launched in April 2018. For 2021/22:
  - Newly established facilities with a license start date on or after April 1, 2021 applying to participate in the CCFRI are required to set their initial monthly child care fees in line with those charged by similar providers in their region. The affordability benchmark (currently set at the 70th percentile for 2021/22) will vary across the province according to child care fees charged by other providers in the region.
  - The Ministry is monitoring the impact of this benchmark year over year and adjusting on a regular basis to ensure that it's achieving the intended benefit for families.

- **Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites**

- Under the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agreement with the Government of Canada, the B.C. government has invested \$91 million over three years to create and maintain Universal Child Care Prototype Sites throughout B.C.
- Launched in fall 2018, this project has converted approximately 2,500 child care spaces at more than 50 licensed child care facilities into low-cost spaces that offer child care at a cost of \$10 a day, or less, per child. Based on the Government of Canada's commitment to continued funding for initiatives supported by the current ELCC Agreement, funding to the Prototype Sites has been renewed and is in place until March 31, 2022.
- The results of a third-party evaluation of this initiative, including a Return on Investment/ Social Return on Investment (ROI/SROI) analysis and recommendations for future roll-out of low-cost child care, was received by the Ministry in September 2020 and is now publicly available on the Ministry's web site. The findings of the

report will help inform the next steps in expanding low-fee child care in future years.

- For FY 2021/22, the \$10-a-Day Universal Childcare Prototype Site initiative will be expanded to include 75 new sites that are provincially funded, providing service to an estimated 3,750 additional families. In addition, spaces at existing sites will be increased by approximately 210 new spaces.

- **Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB)**

- The ACCB is an income-tested program providing up to \$1,250 per child per month to help eligible low- and middle-income families with their child care costs.
- In 2019/20, an average of 40,591 children received ACCB every month, while the average from April to December 2020 was 27,158. This reduction is likely a result of facilities closing and parents withdrawing children from care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Forecasts assume full recovery of child care enrolments by the beginning of FY 2021/22.

- **Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement Program**

- Beginning September 2019, ECEs working in licensed child care facilities became eligible for a wage enhancement of \$1 per hour, which increased to \$2 per hour in April 2020.
- To date, the Province has invested over \$49 million to provide more than 13,000 ECEs with a wage enhancement.
- In FY 2021/22, the ECE-WE will increase to a total of \$4/hour to support ongoing recruitment and retention of ECEs.

- **Childcare BC New Spaces Fund**

- As of December 31, 2020, the Province funded the creation of over 20,000 new licensed spaces.<sup>2</sup> Over 13,600 of these spaces have been funded through the New Spaces Fund,<sup>3</sup> which supports public, not-for-profit, and private space-creation projects in communities throughout B.C.

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<sup>2</sup> Includes spaces funded through the New Spaces Fund, the City of Vancouver MOU, Start-Up Grants, and Neighbourhood Learning Centres.

<sup>3</sup> 13,664 spaces funded through December 31, 2020, plus an additional 2,300 spaces funded through the City of Vancouver MOU. Does not include Neighbourhood Learning Centre spaces.

- And when you include the results of the Second Call for Applications to the New Spaces Fund in March 2021, we have exceeded our 22,000 target by nearly 4,000 new licensed spaces.
- Above base budget will be used to enhance funding for the New Spaces Fund, resulting in an continue to support the creation of thousands of new licensed child care spaces throughout B.C. through the New Spaces Fund which helps increase the number of spaces in high-need areas and Start-up Grants, which encourage unlicensed child care providers to become licensed.
- The Ministry is working on engagement and policy planning activities that will inform a long-term space creation approach that is responsive to local demand and needs. This work will inform recommendations towards a more targeted approach aligned with the Ministry of Education's development of a child care capital funding program.

○ **Health and Safety Grant**

- In response to COVID-19, the Health and Safety Grant (HSG) provided child care operators with funding to remain operational while complying with Public Health Office guidelines between April-August 2020. The HSG provided a one-time payment of \$325 per licensed child care space to eligible facilities that applied.
- Operators have continued to experience COVID-related impacts beyond August, including decreased enrolment/attendance, increased staffing costs due to illness/vacancies, and increased operating costs related to aligning with health guidelines.
- The Ministry will renew the Health and Safety Grant for FY 21/22 with available one-time payments of up to \$175 per licensed space. The program is scheduled to cover the period June 2021 to March 2022.

○ **Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care: Aboriginal HeadStart (AHS) Expansion and Engagement**

- The Ministry is working to ensure Indigenous families and communities benefit from the Universal Child Care system while supporting Indigenous-led child care.

- AHS sites provide no-fee child care with wrap around services for Indigenous families, including inclusion and family supports. Between FY 2018/19- 20/21, 643 new AHS spaces provided culturally based care for Indigenous families both on and off reserve.
- Existing AHS sites are federally funded through the Province's bilateral ELCC Agreement. The Government of Canada has committed to continued funding for initiatives supported by the ELCC Agreement; B.C. is working quickly with the federal government to renew the current agreement.
- Another 400 provincially-funded spaces will be added to the Aboriginal Head Start program to provide additional culturally-based child care for Indigenous families
- The Ministry is also working to better understand issues, barriers, and opportunities for child care licensing and regulations in Indigenous communities.
- This includes conducting a cross jurisdictional review of health and safety regulations in Indigenous child care facilities and understanding the roles that First Nations, Provincial and Federal Governments play in Indigenous-led child care in the context of regulations.
- This work will inform recommendations to reduce barriers and support culturally safe and appropriate high-quality child care in Indigenous facilities.

○ **Inclusive Child Care**

- With investments under the federal Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement, the Ministry is working to improve access to inclusive child care for children with support needs.
- For FY 2021/22, SCD/ASCD programs will receive enhancements to serve more children and decrease waitlists, in addition to increased incremental investments to align with projected demand.
- A comprehensive inclusive child care professional development training plan is being developed. The plan's aim is to improve child care providers' competencies regarding inclusion, and reduce SCD

and ASCD service pressures and barriers for children with support needs.

○ **Ministry of Education Initiatives**

- In 2021/22, several early learning and care initiatives (EDUC) will be prioritized.
  - The number of school districts in the province's Seamless Day pilot program will expand sixfold to 24.
  - New funding will be allocated to developing a framework to address racism and reconciliation

○ **Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) Initiatives**

- In Years 1-3 of BC's Child Care plan, AEST invested \$7.38M to fund 895 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) ECE seats at thirteen public post-secondary institutions (PSIs) across BC.
- In Fall 2020, as part of B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan, AEST invested \$1.26M to fund an additional 108 seats at five recognized PSIs in 2020/21, bringing the three-year total to 1,003 FTEs added to the post-secondary system for ECE programs.

○ **Ministry of Health Initiatives**

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

## FINANCES:

**Table 1: Universal Child Care Plan Funding - All Ministries**

Fiscal Year \$(Millions)	2018/19 Estimates Budget	2019/20 Estimates Budget	2020/21 Estimates Budget	2021/22 Estimates Budget	2022/23 Estimates Budget	2023/24 Estimates Budget
<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>182.06</b>	<b>356.96</b>	<b>463.95</b>	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information		
New in Budget 2019	0.00	9.26	9.26			
<b>Budget 2019</b>	<b>182.06</b>	<b>366.22</b>	<b>473.21</b>			
New in Budget 2020	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Fiscal Adjustments	0.00	0.00	(20.60)			
<b>Budget 2020</b>	<b>182.06</b>	<b>366.22</b>	<b>452.61</b>			
New in Budget 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00			
<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>182.06</b>	<b>366.22</b>	<b>452.61</b>			

Source: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

**NOTES:**

1. \$1,002.97 announced as \$1.0B plan in *Budget 2018*
2. \$1,312.64 announced as \$1.3B ongoing plan in *Budget 2019*
3. \$1,371.43 announced as \$1.4B ongoing plan in *Budget 2020*
4. \$1,615.30 announced as \$1.6B ongoing plan in *Budget 2021*

**Budget Adjustments:**

1. *Budget 2019* funding increase for \$9.26M for CCFRI pressure
2. *Budget 2020* funding increase for Child Care Staffing Resources: \$4.604M (2021/22); \$9.000M (2022/23-2023/24)
3. *Budget 2020* Fiscal Adjustments include:
  - BC Affordable Child Care Benefit: \$(10.00)M (2020/21 -2023/24)
  - Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (former Community Facilitators): \$(5.400)M (2020/21-2023/24)
  - Incentives to provide flexible hours: \$(5.200)M (2020/21 - 2023/24)
4. *Budget 2021* funding increase for:
  - Prototype (PT) Site Expansion: \$25.650M (2021/22); \$45.630M (2022/23-2023/24)
  - ECE Wage Enhancement Expansion: \$18.839M (2021/22); \$37.284M (2022/23); \$38.230M (2023/24)
  - Aboriginal Head Start Expansion: \$6.594M (2021/22-2023/24)
  - Child Care Staffing Resources: \$1.495M (2021/22-2023/24)
  - Indigenous Contracts: \$0.770M (2021/22-2023-24)

**Partnership Ministries Funding**

- Ministry of Education: \$2.250M (2018/19); \$4.020M (2019/20); \$3.450M (2020/21); \$3.873M (2021/22-2023/24)
- Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training: \$0.090M (2018/19), \$3.690M (2019/20); \$2.790M (2020/21 - 2022/23)
- Ministry of Health: \$2.090M (2018/19 - 2020/21); \$2.677M (2021/22-2023/24)

**Budget 2021 funding increases to Partnership Ministries include funding for:**

Ministry of Education

- Anti-Racism Strategy: \$0.312M (2021/22-2023/24)
- Reconciliation: \$0.111M (2021/22-2023/24)

Ministry of Health

Advice/Recommendations; Government

**Table 2: Universal Child Care Plan Years - MCFD Only**

Fiscal Year \$(Millions)	2018/19 Estimates Budget	2019/20 Estimates Budget	2020/21 Estimates Budget	2021/22 Estimates Budget	2022/23 Estimates Budget	2023/24 Estimates Budget
<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>176.82</b>	<b>347.16</b>	<b>455.62</b>	<b>455.62</b>	<b>455.62</b>	<b>455.62</b>
New in Budget 2019	0.00	9.26	9.26	9.26	9.26	9.26
<b>Budget 2019</b>	<b>176.82</b>	<b>356.42</b>	<b>464.88</b>	<b>464.88</b>	<b>464.88</b>	<b>464.88</b>
New in Budget 2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.60	9.00	9.00
Fiscal Adjustments	0.00	0.00	(20.60)	(20.60)	(20.60)	(20.60)
<b>Budget 2020</b>	<b>176.82</b>	<b>356.42</b>	<b>444.28</b>	<b>448.88</b>	<b>453.28</b>	<b>453.28</b>
New in Budget 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.35	88.77	89.72
<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>176.82</b>	<b>356.42</b>	<b>444.28</b>	<b>502.23</b>	<b>542.05</b>	<b>543.00</b>

Source: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

**Table 3: Universal Child Care Plan to Child Care Programs Full Budget**

Fiscal Year \$(Millions)	2018/19 Estimates Budget	2019/20 Estimates Budget	2020/21 Estimates Budget	2021/22 Estimates Budget	2022/23 Estimates Budget	2023/24 Estimates Budget
<b>Total UCC Budgets</b>	<b>176.82</b>	<b>356.42</b>	<b>444.28</b>	<b>502.23</b>	<b>542.05</b>	<b>543.00</b>
Budget pre-UCC	229.00	229.00	229.00	229.00	229.00	229.00
Other budget adjustments <sup>1</sup>	0.15	0.55	1.13	0.80	0.60	0.60
<b>TOTAL CHILD CARE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>405.97</b>	<b>585.97</b>	<b>674.41</b>	<b>732.02</b>	<b>771.65</b>	<b>772.60</b>

Source: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

NOTES:

- Other budget adjustments include amounts of the UCC budget in other Core Business areas, budget impacts from ESM, SSNM and Social Services Recruitment and Retention and other minor adjustments

**Budget Adjustments:**

*Budget 2019* funding increase for \$9.260M for CCFRI pressure

*Budget 2020* funding increase for Child Care Staffing Resources: \$4.604M (2021/22); \$9.000M (2022/23-2023/24)

*Budget 2020* Fiscal Adjustments include:

- BC Affordable Child Care Benefit: \$(10.00)M (2020/21 -2023/24)
- Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (former Community Facilitators): \$(5.400)M (2020/21-2023/24)
- Incentives to provide flexible hours: \$(5.200)M (2020/21 - 2023/24)
- EXCLUDES 1.6% Administrative Reduction in Budget 2020

*Budget 2021* funding increases for:

- Prototype (PT) Site Expansion: \$25.650M (2021/22); \$45.630M (2022/23-2023/24)
- ECE Wage Enhancement Expansion: \$18.839M (2021/22); \$37.284M (2022/23); \$38.230M (2023/24)
- Aboriginal Head Start Expansion: \$6.594M (2021/22-2023/24)
- Child Care Staffing Resources: \$1.495M (2021/22-2023/24)
- Indigenous Contracts: \$0.770M (2021/22-2023-24)



- The MCFD Child Care Programs budget for Year 4, fiscal 2021/22, is \$732.0M (*Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.1*) Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2).

**STATISTICS:** N/A

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Child Care BC Affordability
- Child Care BC Accessibility
- Child Care BC Quality

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
CHILD CARE DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE:** Child Care Plan – Affordability Measures

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Province is committed to giving B.C. families access to affordable, quality and inclusive child care.
- Childcare BC is our 10-year plan to make universal child care a reality for families, and a big part of our plan is making child care – and life – more affordable.
- In Budget 2018, Government allocated \$630 million over three years (Years 1 through 3 of the Childcare BC Plan) to make child care more affordable for parents using licensed child care – particularly for infants, toddlers and children aged 3 to 5 years, which are the most expensive types of care.
- To improve affordability, the ministry has implemented three key measures to reduce costs to families: the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI), the Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB), and the Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites, which are testing low-cost/no-cost child care across the province.
- Under Budget 2021, Government will continue to support these critical measures which reduce fees for families – and we’re expanding access to the \$10/day program so that even more families will be able to benefit from this life changing initiative.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)**

- The CCFRI was introduced in April 2018 to enhance the affordability of child care by reducing parent fees in licensed Group (centre-based) and Family (personal residence-based) child care settings.
- To be eligible for the CCFRI, licensed child care facilities must:
  - Be approved to receive base funding through the Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) program;

- Report children/enrolments in the “Under 36 months” and/or the “3 years to Kindergarten” CCOF categories;
  - Commit to not increasing parent fees for children enrolled in the CCFRI spaces beyond any increases previously approved by the ministry;
  - Consent to having their approved child care fees posted on the government’s CCFRI webpage (fee info not yet publicly available); and
  - Not charge parents full monthly parent fees for facility closures over and above two consecutive weeks per month, up to a maximum of four weeks in total per year, unless approved in advance by the ministry.
- Under the CCFRI, approved licensed providers receive the following monthly amounts for full-time care, in addition to their base CCOF, which they are required to pass along to parents in the form of reduced parent fees<sup>1</sup>:
    - \$350/month for group infant/toddler care (under 36 months);
    - \$200/month for family infant/toddler care (under 36 months);
    - \$100/month for group care for children aged 3 years to Kindergarten; and/or
    - \$60/month for family care for children aged 3 years to Kindergarten.
  - In addition, providers approved to “opt in” to the initiative receive an Administrative Top-Up Payment (representing 20% of the facility’s base CCOF funding for those spaces that are part of the CCFRI) to offset inflationary cost pressures and any increased administrative costs associated with enrolment in the program.

### ***New Facility Policy – Affordability Benchmark for 2021/22***

For the 2021/22 funding term, the ministry implemented a new requirement that applies to newly established facilities<sup>2</sup> with a licence start date on or after April 1, 2021 that are applying to participate in the CCFRI.

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<sup>1</sup> Part-time care is eligible for a pro-rated benefit.

<sup>2</sup> Newly established facilities include brand new child care centres, previously established CCFRI child care centres that change ownership or location, and those that are enrolling in the CCFRI program for the first time.

- For the 2021/22 term, these facilities will be required to set their initial monthly child care fees in line with those charged by similar providers in their region (service delivery area) if they wish to participate in the CCFRI.
- The affordability benchmark (currently set at the 70th percentile for 2021/22<sup>3</sup>) will vary across the province according to the child care fees charged by other providers in the region.
- New facilities that were approved for provincial space-creation funding (e.g., New Spaces Fund, UBCM Space Creation Grant) prior to April 1, 2021 are exempt from this policy, as are Young Parent Program space fees.
- Additionally, the Ministry has built in some flexibility to approve limited exceptions, on a case-by-case basis, to facilities that were in the process of opening imminently and had made significant investments/plans prior to the public announcement of the policy in January 2021.
- These exceptions will be applied to new facilities that meet the following:
  - Documentation of significant steps taken (such as signing a lease or mortgage) to create a new facility prior to the announcement of this policy change in January 2021;
  - The new facility will be open and operational by October 1, 2021; AND
  - The proposed fees at the new facility, inclusive of any proposed fee increases for the duration of the funding agreement term, only slightly exceed the 70th percentile.
- The ministry will monitor the impact of this benchmark year over year and adjust the policy, as needed, to ensure that it's achieving the intended benefit for families.

### **Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB)**

- The ACCB is an income-tested child care benefit for families, available to families with annual pre-tax household incomes of up to \$111,000<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The regional 70<sup>th</sup> percentile affordability benchmarks for 2021/22 are available online in the CCFRI Funding Guidelines: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/ccfri\\_funding\\_guidelines\\_21\\_22.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/ccfri_funding_guidelines_21_22.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Based on a two-person family after adjustments are calculated.

- The amount of funding a family receives under the ACCB depends on the family's income and size, the ages of their children, and the type of child care they are accessing.
- Eligible families may receive up to the maximum benefit of \$1,250/month, per child, for licensed group infant care (increased in September 2018 from the previous maximum of \$750/month), which better reflects the real cost of child care.
- Under the Child Care Subsidy Regulation, parents must indicate a valid "reason for care" to be eligible for the ACCB, including whether the parents are:
  - working or self-employed;
  - looking for work or participating in an employment-related program;
  - attending school or enrolled in distance education;
  - having a medical condition that interferes with their ability to care for their child;
  - referred by Ministry or Delegated Aboriginal Agency social worker; or
  - have a child attending a licensed preschool program.

### **Child Care BC Universal Prototype Sites (Prototype Sites)**

- Through the 2017/18-2019/20 bilateral Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement with the Government of Canada, the Province invested \$30M/year for two years to convert more than 50 existing child care sites around the province into low-cost child care spaces (\$10/day).
- This has enabled the ministry to study different funding models in order to determine how best to deliver universal child care in the future.
- In 2020, the Province invested another \$31M in the Prototype Sites through an extension to the ELCC to March 31, 2021.
- Under the ELCC Agreement, the ministry provides increased operational funding support for the Prototype Sites in exchange for sites offering families reduced-cost child care spaces – at no more than \$200 a month per space for regular, full-time care – regardless of family income.
- Families that are also eligible for the ACCB may pay even less, or in some cases nothing at all.
- The 50+ Prototype Sites include roughly 2,500 licensed, full-time child care spaces and represent each region of the province, including rural and urban

areas, and all types of child care operators: non-profit, sole proprietor, corporation, public institution, and Indigenous-led child care.

- During the selection process, whenever possible, priority was given to:
  - Infant/toddler spaces;
  - Not-for-profit organizations; and
  - Child care facilities serving traditionally under-served populations.
- Prototype Sites began operating between November and December 2018; current funding agreements will expire March 31, 2022
- The first phase of the Prototype initiative (December 2018 to March 2020) was fully **evaluated by R.A. Malatest and Associates LTD. (Malatest)**, a BC-based organization.
- The Final Evaluation and Analysis of Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites (the Final Report) was submitted by Malatest in September 2020.
- The Final Report included analysis and evaluation on the impacts of low-cost/no-cost child care on families, providers and communities, as well as the Social Return on Investment analysis and recommendations for future roll-out of low-cost child care.
- The Government of Canada has confirmed its commitment to continuing federal funding for the ELCC Agreement, and to ensuring there are no service impacts for B.C. families during the upcoming renewal and renegotiation of this agreement.
- Based on this commitment, the ministry has negotiated with 50+ Prototype Sites to renew their funding for an additional one-year term, to provide time to review the results of the evaluation and determine next steps in implementing universal child care.
- Additionally, Budget 2021 provides funding to expand the number of Prototype Sites by 75 new sites (total of 125 \$10/day sites province-wide) – more than doubling the number of Prototype spaces that will offer child care for \$10 a day, or less.
- The expansion will convert about 3,750 child care spaces – bringing the total number of low-cost spaces in B.C. to more than 6,250.

## FINANCES:

**Table 1: Affordability - Universal Child Care Plan**

\$(Millions)	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget
<b>Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) &amp; Inflation<sup>1</sup></b>	97.11	127.30	127.30	127.30
<b>Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB)<sup>1</sup></b>	130.00	160.00	160.00	160.00
<b>Prototype (PT) Sites<sup>2</sup></b>			25.65	42.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>227.11</b>	<b>287.30</b>	<b>312.95</b>	<b>329.93</b>

Source: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

NOTES:

1. Budget represents Universal Child Care Plan Funding and excludes Base Funding
2. Net New Funding for PT Site Expansion in *Budget 2021*

- The 2021/22 CCFRI budget is held within the \$395.3M Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF) budget.
- The total 2021/22 ACCB budget is \$267.3M, which is comprised of \$160.0M of Universal Child Care Plan funding and \$107.3M of pre-Universal Child Care Plan funding. (*Budget 2021* Financial Data Booklet, 2.1 - Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2).
- The CCOF, ACCB and Prototype Sites budgets are held with the Child Care Programs 2021/22 budget of \$732.0M (*Budget 2021* Financial Data Booklet, 2.1 - Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2).

## STATISTICS:

### CCFRI (as of December 2020)

- In 2020/21, 3,516 (92%) of B.C.'s eligible child care facilities have chosen to opt in to the CCFRI.
- Over 63,900 child care spaces (over 94% of all eligible spaces) have been approved into the program.

### ACCB (as of December 31, 2020)

- Over 58,700 families, representing over 78,300 children, have received ACCB benefit amounts for at least one month since the start of ACCB.

### Prototype Sites

- As of December 2020, 52 Prototype Sites were operating across the B.C., representing 2,457 licensed, full-time child care spaces.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:**

- **888223** – New Facilities Policy
- Child Care BC



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
EARLY YEARS AND INCLUSION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: Overview of Child Care Plan – Accessibility**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- For too long, parents have been struggling to find child care that meets their needs.
- That's why we're working to build a universal early care and learning system that will give families access to affordable, quality and inclusive child care to every family that wants it.
- In Budget 2018, we announced a three-year, \$237 million investment under Childcare BC to support the creation of 22,000 new licensed child care spaces.
- As of Dec 31, 2020 we have funded the creation of more than 20,000 new child care spaces.
- And when you include the results of the Second Call for Applications to the New Spaces Fund in March 2021, we exceeded our target by nearly 4,000 new licensed spaces.
- We've also invested \$18.5 million through the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care agreement in the UBCM Space Creation Program to create child care spaces in locations that local governments own or lease on a long-term basis.
- Our various space creation initiatives, including the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, Start-Up Grants program, and the UBCM Community Child Care Space Creation program, are helping us to fund more spaces more quickly than ever before.

**BACKGROUND:**

**NEW SPACES FUND**

- The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund replaced the Child Care Major Capital Funding program in July 2018.

- The New Spaces Fund assists child care providers with the cost of building new facilities or renovating existing facilities to create new licensed child care spaces.
- All non-profit, public-sector, Indigenous government, and private/for-profit child care organizations creating licensed spaces are eligible, with the exception of organizations intending to create Occasional Child Care and Child Minding spaces.
- The amount of funding available to non-profit societies, public-sector organizations and Indigenous governments increased in July 2019 in order to support these organizations to create more spaces.
- The New Spaces Fund provides up to a maximum of \$3M to public-sector entities – including Indigenous governments, school districts and local governments; up to \$1.5M is available for non-profit societies and up to \$250K is offered to private, or for-profit, child care organizations.
- In advance of the 2020/21 fiscal year, the program introduced two closed calls for applications to ensure ministry investments in child care are being directed to the highest quality projects in communities with demonstrated need.
- To ensure spaces created through the New Spaces Fund are affordable for families, eligible recipients are required to ensure that the child care operator is accepted into the Child Care Operating Funding program and approved to opt in to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) prior to receiving their final New Spaces Fund payment.
- Through the New Spaces Fund, we've funded the creation of over 13,600 new spaces so far, with additional spaces funded through the final 2020/21 Call for Applications.<sup>1</sup>
- Over the next year, we intend to continue to fund new licensed child care spaces to support the province's economic recovery and to continue to work towards a universal child care system.

#### UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM) CHILD CARE SPACE CREATION AND CHILD CARE PLANNING PROGRAMS

- Budget 2018 provided \$3M to deliver grants to communities to develop local community child care plans.

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<sup>1</sup> Data as of December 31, 2020.

- To date, UBCM, which is contracted to distribute the funding to local governments, has supported 59 projects, representing 88 local governments.
- Additionally, the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement provided a total of \$13.7M in 2017/18 to create new licensed child care spaces for children 0-5 years of age.
- The ministry was later approved to reallocate \$4.8M in unspent ELCC funding, increasing the budget to \$18.5M.
- As of December 31, 2020, 18 local government projects have been approved to create 433 new licensed spaces for children ages 0-5.

#### MAINTENANCE FUND

- In June 2018, the Childcare BC Maintenance Fund replaced the Child Care Minor Capital Funding program and had an expanded budget totalling \$1.2M to support child care operators to maintain, repair and/or relocate their child care facility.
- The maximum amount of funding for non-profit and public-sector organizations was increased to \$10,000 per fiscal year. Private (for-profit) child care organizations (including family providers) are also eligible for funding through the Maintenance Fund.
- In 2018/19, and again in 2019/20, demand from providers was higher than anticipated. As a result, the program fully expended its budget of \$1.2M (plus \$0.75M contingency) much earlier than expected.
- In response to this demand, in 2020/21 the ministry narrowed the scope of eligible items to emphasize support for providers only in cases of emergency or imminent closure. With the implementation of these changes, the fund has been able to stay open for the full fiscal year.

#### START-UP GRANTS

- Starting in June 2018, one-time Start-Up Grants were available to help eligible new and unlicensed family child care providers to become licensed.
- The program provides \$500 up front to applicants to assist with the cost of becoming licensed, then an additional \$500 per licensed child care space they create to help with on-site and operational costs.

- Since the program launched, uptake has been higher than anticipated. As of December 31, 2020, applicants representing over 3,800 spaces have received grants, more than 2,000 of which are fully licensed and operational.

## FINANCES:

**Table 1: Accessibility – Universal Child Care Plan (MCFD Only)**

\$(Millions)	2019/20 Estimates Budget	2020/21 Estimates Budget	2021/22 Estimates Budget	2022/23 Estimates Budget
Child Care Space Creation <sup>2</sup>	77.21	74.11	74.11	74.11
- Space Impact on ACCB	2.00	5.90	5.90	5.90
- Space Impact on CCOF	2.50	12.70	12.70	12.70
Incentives – Licensing (Start Up Grants)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Incentives - Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Incentives - Flexible Hours (Extended Hours) <sup>3</sup>	5.20	-	-	-
Minor Capital Enhancements	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Staffing to Support Program <sup>4</sup>	6.60	6.60	12.70	17.10
Aboriginal Head Start Expansion	-	-	6.59	6.59
Indigenous Contracts	-	-	0.77	0.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>95.06</b>	<b>100.86</b>	<b>114.32</b>	<b>118.72</b>

Source: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

### NOTES:

1. Estimates Budget represents Universal Child Care Plan Funding and **Excludes Base Funding**
2. Includes Start Up Grant Program
3. Reduction Target Includes Fiscal Adjustment reduction of \$5.2M for 20/21 from *Budget 2020* (part of overall \$29.480M)
4. Staffing to Support Program:
  - Child Care Program- \$5.740M (2019/20 & 2020/21); \$11.609M (2021/22) & \$15.784M (2022/23)
  - Corporate Support- \$0.860M (2019/20 & 2020/21); \$1.090M (2021/22) & \$1.311M (2022/23)
5. Estimates Budget resides in:
  - SS Vote Child Care Programs\ SSS Votes Child Care Administration\Child Care Parent Subsidy\ Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF) & Child Care Capital Fund
  - SS Vote Corporate Services\ SSS Vote Corporate Services

**STATISTICS** (*x-reference to 999226*):**Table 1: Provincially Funded Spaces** (2018/19 – December 31, 2020)

Child Care Space Creation Programs	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (to December 31, 2020)	TOTAL
Childcare BC New Spaces Fund (spaces)	2,216	7,813	3,635	13,664
City of Vancouver MOU (spaces)	N/A	2,300	-	2,300
Childcare BC Start-Up Grants (spaces)	1,065	1,660	1,155	3,880
Neighbourhood Learning Centres (spaces)	391	443	-	834
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,672</b>	<b>12,216</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>20,678</b>

Data Source: Capital and Community Services, Child Care Division

**Table 2: Number of facilities supported through the Maintenance Fund** (2017/18 – December 31, 2020)

Supported Facilities	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (to December 31, 2020)
Childcare BC Maintenance Fund – previously known as the minor capital program (approved facilities) <sup>1</sup>	N/A	696	715	151

Data Source: Capital and Community Services, Child Care Division

**NOTES:**

1. In 2020/21, this number includes the facilities supported through the Temporary Inclusion Support Fund.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:**

- 2.2 Child Care BC
- 5.1 New Spaces Fund Status
- 5.7 Child Care Space Shortage

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**  
**CHILD CARE POLICY**  
**ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE:        Child Care Initiatives to Improve Quality**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- A key goal under Childcare BC is to improve the quality of B.C.'s child care system – and we are doing that by supporting the workforce and recognizing child care employees for the essential role they play in preparing B.C.'s children for the future, while supporting parents to work or pursue their education – in particular, women.
- This includes investing in bursaries and improving education and professional development opportunities for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs).
- An important part of this goal also involves addressing long-standing issues around low wages which has lead to high turnover rates and a lack of qualified staff throughout the sector.
- ECEs are the heart of the child care sector – the workforce behind the workforce – and the key driver of quality through their direct interactions with our children.
- For these and so many other reasons, they need to be recognized for the amazing work they do.
- Our government's commitment to supporting ECEs is evidenced in my mandate letter, which states we will continue to implement and build upon the initiatives from our *Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy*.
- Budget 2021 includes an expanded ECE Wage Enhancement – doubling to \$4 an hour – to ensure ECEs are a well-supported profession, just like other professionals who work in B.C.'s education system.
- To date, we've invested \$49.0M to support wage enhancements for more than 13,000 educators, helping child care providers to pay their ECEs more, without increasing parent fees.
- While there is more work to do, these investments are an important step towards attracting and retaining more people to this rewarding and in-demand career.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

### KEY MESSAGE:

- The federal government has also committed to providing additional funding through the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement to support the early care and learning workforce. We look forward to working with them on a proposal for B.C. for 2021/22 and beyond.

### BACKGROUND:

- In the federal government's Fall 2020 Economic Statement, they recognized ECE recruitment and retention challenges across the country and proposed \$420M (nationally) in 2021/22 for provinces and territories to support the attraction and retention of these workers.
- They also indicated they would engage provinces and territories on future sustained investments in support of an Early Childhood Educator Workforce Strategy – as a key enabling feature of a Canada-wide child care system.

### BACKGROUND (PROVINCIAL):

- The Ministry launched the *Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy* (the Strategy) in September 2018.
- The Strategy includes the following initiatives to support the Early Care and Learning (ECL) sector:
  - **ECE Wage Enhancement:** provides \$2 per hour to eligible, front-line ECEs, as an incentive for ECEs individuals to attain or maintain their ECE certification.
    - To date, the Province has delivered over \$49.0M to child care providers to enhance the wages of more than 13,000 ECEs, throughout B.C.
    - We are working towards increasing the ECE Wage Enhancement to \$4 per hour by September 2021.
  - **ECE Education Support Fund:** provides financial support to first-time and continuing ECE students attending recognized post-secondary institutions in B.C., and helps cover the cost of tuition, books and materials, as well as other education costs.

- Between September 2018 and December 2020, more than 8,400 bursaries have been awarded to more than 5,600 students, through an investment of over \$21M through the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement, including an additional \$5.22M allocated in December 2020 to support students through the 2020/21 academic year.
- **Professional Development Funding:** \$6.3M through ELCC in 2018/19 to improve access to professional development opportunities for ECL professionals.
  - Six organizations have used this funding to expand and improve the availability of professional learning opportunities, including: the expansion of professional development programs; bursaries for communities of practice, workshops and conferences; and access to post-secondary education for Indigenous students.
  - In Spring 2020, the Province worked with sector partners to launch the BC Early Years Professional Development Hub, which gives ECL professionals online access to courses and a chance to meet virtually to discuss the latest trends and practices in child care.
- **Early Childhood Pedagogy Network:** In January 2020, the Ministry expanded this professional learning opportunity to more ECEs throughout the province.
  - Child care professionals now have access to more than 50 teaching specialists – known as pedagogists – in child care programs and post-secondary programs throughout the province, helping them stay up to date with the latest early childhood education philosophies and practices.
- Initiatives in partnership with Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) include:
  - \* ***Questions on AEST funding should be deferred to Minister of AEST***
    - **ECE Program Seat Expansion:** \$7.4M over three years to create 895 additional student spaces (exceeding the original 820 target) in full-time, part-time, rural, remote, certificate and diploma programs in ECE programs at 13 public post-secondary institutions (PSIs).



- **ECE Work-Integrated Learning (WIL):** \$0.628M to launch six WIL pilot programs at public post-secondary institutions, enabling current child care workers to upgrade their ECE credentials while remaining employed. Pilots include a combination of prior learning assessments, work-based field assessments, and online ECE program delivery.
  - To date, 69 students have participated in the 2019 pilots and final reporting and evaluations from the six pilots are expected in summer 2021.
- **2020/21 Economic Recovery:** \$1.26M to fund 108 additional student spaces at five recognized PSIs in 2020/21.
  - Nearly two-thirds are for WIL program delivery that also include Indigenous community-based programs.
  - The funding also supports online programming, providing province-wide access to ECE training.
- Through Budget 2021, we're investing in 110 more seats at post-secondary institutions and more on-the-job training resources, bringing the total number of seats we've created to 1,113 since the start of Childcare BC.
- **Child Care Resource and Referral Centres (CCRRs)** provide services to parents and child care providers through referrals to child care services and other community-based supports. They also: support families to access the Affordable Child Care Benefit; help to recruit and register unlicensed child care providers (thereby increasing access to child care services for families, especially those in rural and remote communities); host and coordinate professional development; operate resource lending libraries; and conduct community outreach.
  - CCRRs are currently delivered through 38 contracts with service providers located in 42 communities across B.C.
  - In 2020, CCRRs provided over 177,000 child care referrals to families, including a temporary emergency matching service for essential workers, and over 1,700 training opportunities to more than 25,000 child care providers and families.

**FINANCES:****Table 1: Quality- Universal Child Care Plan Funding (MCFD Only)**

<b>\$(Millions)</b>	<b>2019/20 Estimates Budget</b>	<b>2020/21 Estimates Budget</b>	<b>2021/22 Estimates Budget</b>	<b>2022/23 Estimates Budget</b>
Wage increases for ECEs <sup>2,3</sup>	21.00	41.78	60.62	79.06
Early Childhood Pedagogy Network <sup>4</sup>	4.31	4.80	4.80	4.80
Training for Early Learning Framework & for Family Child Care Providers	0.10	0.70	0.70	0.70
Enhance CC Resource & Referral Centres	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Data Collection <sup>5</sup>	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74
Stakeholder Engagement & Information	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
System Enhancements	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.25</b>	<b>56.12</b>	<b>74.96</b>	<b>93.40</b>

Source: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 3.1a Child Care Expanded & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

**NOTES:**

1. Estimates Budget represents Universal Child Care Plan Funding only and Excludes Base Funding
2. Includes Professional Development for unionized staff
3. Net New Funding Increases as follows: \$18.84M (2021/22) \$37.28M (2022/23)
4. Formerly referred to as Community Facilitators
5. \$0.540M of this funding was redirected to Staffing Resources in Fiscal 2019/20
6. Estimates Budget resides in:
  - SS Vote Child Care Programs\SSS Votes Referral Supports\ Child Care Administration\ Child Care Operating Fund
  - SS Vote Program Policy, Standards & Support\ SSS Vote Program Policy, Standards & Support
  - SS Vote Corporate Services\ SSS Vote Corporate Services

**STATISTICS:**

See Background Section

**CROSS-REFERENCE: N/A**

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**  
**CHILD CARE DIVISION**  
**ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Shortage**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Government continues to be aware of the significant shortage of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) throughout British Columbia needed to staff child care facilities and ensure proper child-to-staff ratios.
- The successful implementation of a universal child care system is contingent on ensuring that ECEs receive the training, support, compensation, and recognition they deserve.
- This is why we launched the *Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy* in September 2018.
- The Strategy includes the ECE Wage Enhancement – which we have doubled to \$4/hour in Budget 2021 - and improved access to education and professional development opportunities.
- We are committed to continuing to implement and enhance the Strategy to ensure that ECEs are a well-supported profession, just like other professionals who work in B.C.'s education system.
- We are making progress to support ECEs, but there is more to do.
- We will continue to work with partners across government and in the sector to explore new ways to recruit and retain more fully qualified early care and learning professionals.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The need for ECEs is a constraining factor on child care access and the need will continue to be high as more child care spaces are created and operationalized.
- Modelling based on population projections suggests that 10,000 new ECEs will be needed by year 10 (2028) of the Childcare Plan to meet anticipated space needs for 0-5 child care.
- This challenge is compounded by already existing workforce shortages.

- The number of ECEs is increasing – which indicates Government’s recruitment initiatives are helping – but workforce challenges persist – indicating a broader retention challenge:
  - 21,125 ECEs certified with the Registry (as of Dec. 31/20) – 4,319 more than in March 2017
  - 8,941 ECE Assistants certified with the Registry (as of Dec. 31/20) – 2,625 more than in March 2017
  - Results from a 2019 Early Care and Learning (ECL) workforce survey indicate that in the 12 months preceding the survey, 43% of employers were unable to fill at least one vacant position, half (43%) had to fill at least one position with an individual with lower qualifications, and a third (32%) had to refuse children because they didn’t have staff with the right qualifications to accommodate children’s needs.

## FINANCES:

- The budget for ECE Wage Enhancement is held within the Child Care Operating Fund of \$295.3M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.1) Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2).
- The budget for Child Care Capital Fund is held within the Child Care Programs budget of \$732.0M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.1) Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2).

**Table 1: SS Vote Child Care Programs\ SSS Vote Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF)**

Quality (millions)	Estimates 2019/20	Actuals 2019/20	Estimates 2020/21	YTDs 2020/21 <sup>1</sup>	Estimates 2021/22
<b>Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Wage Enhancement Program</b>					
Base <sup>2,4</sup>	21.0	17.2	41.8	21.8	41.8
ECE Wage Enhancement Expansion- Year 4 <sup>3,4</sup>					18.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>60.6</b>

### NOTES:

1. 2020/21 Actuals are as of December 31, 2020
2. Base comprises of Universal Child Care Plan funding received in Years 1-3
3. The \$18.8M represents net new funding for program expansion
4. Fiscal 2020/21 YTD actuals significantly impacted by COVID Pandemic restrictions

**STATISTICS:****ECEs certified with the Registry as of Dec 31, 2020:**

- **21,125 (2,968 more than in March 2018 and 4,319 more than in March 2017)**
  - Total number of active ECE certificates as of March 31, 2018: 18,157
  - Total number of active ECE certificates as of March 31, 2017: 16,806

**ECE Assistants certified by the Registry as of Dec 31, 2020:**

- **8,941 (2,176 more than in March 2018 and 2,625 more than in March 2017)**
  - Total number of active ECE Assistant certificates as of March 31, 2018: 6,765
  - Total number of active ECE Assistant certificates as of March 31, 2017: 6,316

**CROSS REFERENCE: N/A**

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
CHILD CARE DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2020/21**

**ISSUE: Child Care Space Shortage**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Government recognizes the challenges many parents face when trying to find licensed child care.
- The lack of affordable, quality and inclusive child care is an issue facing parents and families across B.C.
- This shortage forces many parents to either stay home from work, or to pay more than they can afford for child care —if they can even find it.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a bright light on the importance of child care, as informal care arrangements, such as grandparents or neighbours, became unsustainable.
- Now more than ever, child care is vital for families, communities and businesses.
- Child care enables parents – especially women – to return to work and contribute to their local economies.
- That’s why Government is continuing its commitment to create more licensed child care spaces and to bring universal child care to British Columbia.
- Through our space-creation efforts, we have funded more than 20,000 new licensed child care spaces as of December 31, 2020.
- In addition, through the Childcare BC Maintenance Fund, we have supported over 1,500 facilities to maintain their operations or to relocate, ensuring those spaces remain open. This ensures quality spaces remain available for families.
- A key barrier to supporting space creation is a shortage of qualified Early Childhood Educators.
- In September 2018, Government released the *Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy* to help address ECE shortage and support space creation through a number of initiatives, including the ECE Wage Enhancement, professional development opportunities and ECE bursaries.
- My mandate letter commits to further implementing and enhancing this strategy.

**BACKGROUND:**

- As of December 31, 2020, there are enough spaces in Government-supported facilities for 20% of the 0 to 12 population.
- However, a 2015 Parent Child Care Survey indicated that as many as 57% of families are either currently using child care or would use child care if it were affordable and accessible to them.
- Based on the 2015 survey and 2028 population projections, initial analysis indicates that approximately 40,000 0-5 spaces and 190,000 school age spaces will be needed to meet demand. It is expected that these numbers could increase as the cost of child care in BC decreases. Government will continue to monitor anticipated demand as the Childcare BC plan is implemented.
- As part of Budget 2018, the Ministry provided \$3M to deliver grants to communities to develop local community child care plans and identify space-creation needs.
- Local governments have been invited to apply to the Union of BC Municipalities to access this funding.
- As of December 31, 2020, the Ministry has received and approved 41 completed plans from communities.

**FINANCES:**

- N/A

**STATISTICS:****Table 1: Provincially Funded Spaces (2018/19 – December 31, 2020)**

Child Care Space Creation Programs	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (to December 31, 2020)	TOTAL
Childcare BC New Spaces Fund (spaces)	2,216	7,813	3,635	13,664
City of Vancouver MOU (spaces)	N/A	2,300	-	2,300
Childcare BC Start-Up Grants (spaces)	1,065	1,660	1,155	3,880
Neighbourhood Learning Centres (spaces)	391	443	-	834
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,672</b>	<b>12,216</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>20,678</b>

Data Source: Capital and Community Services, Child Care Division

**Table 2: Number of facilities supported through the Maintenance Fund (2017/18 – December 31, 2020)**

<b>Supported Facilities</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21 (to December 31, 2020)</b>
Childcare BC Maintenance Fund – previously known as the minor capital program (approved facilities) <sup>1</sup>	N/A	696	715	151

Data Source: Capital and Community Services, Child Care Division

**NOTES:**

1. In 2020/21, this number includes the facilities supported through the Temporary Inclusion Support Fund.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Child Care BC



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
CHILD CARE DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE:** Indigenous and Inclusive Child Care

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Inclusion is one of the key values in the Childcare BC Plan.
- This value helps ensure that all children – regardless of their abilities or backgrounds – have the opportunity to fully participate in early learning and child care activities.
- Indigenous-led child care is also about promoting culture and language, and providing culturally based child care that is designed and delivered by Indigenous people for Indigenous people.
- The Minister of State’s Mandate Letter includes commitments to the principles of “lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples,” and the principle of inclusivity.
- We are committed to supporting Indigenous-led child care throughout the province, and in the 2021 Budget we are continuing to expand the Aboriginal Head Start Programs.
- The Childcare BC Plan also lays out a vision for universal child care that is inclusive and accessible to everyone, including children who may be vulnerable or have support needs.
- To address current waitlists and service pressures resulting from new child care spaces, the 2021 Provincial Budget includes funding to SCD and ASCD programs.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Aboriginal Head Start (AHS)**

- In 2018, the Province prioritized Indigenous child care and invested \$10M of its Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) funding from the Government of Canada to expand the Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) program, in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC (AHSABC).

- This investment supports both capital and operations of 643 new Head Start spaces in 31 communities both on reserve and off reserve.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- FNHA and AHSABC are established provincial organizations with governance structures in place and they have mechanisms to provide monitoring and oversee the quality of AHS programs. AHS is currently the only established model of Indigenous-led child care in B.C.
- The demand for AHS in First Nations (on-reserve) and urban communities (off-reserve) is high. The 2018 expansion of AHS only met approximately 28% of the applications submitted.
- The current ELCC agreement has been extended for 2021-22, and AHS will receive its \$10M allocation for operations in 2021-22.
- The 2021 Provincial Budget includes new investments of \$20M over three years to add 400 more spaces to the AHS programs on and off-reserve.
- This new funding for AHS programs will enable licensed Indigenous child care providers the opportunity to become a AHS site with a single stream of operating funding and to not have to charge parent fees.

### **Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral**

- The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) receives annual investments for an Indigenous-specific Child Care Resource and Referral (ACCRR) program.
- The Aboriginal CCRR program provides culturally focused ELCC resources, training, professional development and support to early years service providers throughout the province.
- The BCACCS conference for ECEs is well attended year over year.
- ACCRRs provide support and outreach to families throughout the province.

### **Indigenous Child Care Planners**

- The ministry has established partnerships with BCACCS, Métis Nation BC (MNBC), the City of Vancouver and the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Child Care Society (COV-MVAEC) and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) to support long-term planning for early years and child care services with Indigenous communities across the province and to support families and providers access to child care initiatives.

- These partners created new Indigenous Child Care Planner positions to work with First Nations, Métis and Indigenous communities off-reserve to build capacity for the planning, design and delivery of Indigenous-led early years and child care services.
- These Planners have connections to 7 Métis Chartered communities, 203 First Nations communities, 25 Aboriginal Friendship Centres and Indigenous organizations in the City of Vancouver.

### **Inclusive Child Care**

- The primary programs that provide support for inclusive child care are Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs.
- SCD and ASCD are community-based programs that offer a range of consulting and support services to children, families and child care centres, enabling children with support needs to participate in fully inclusive child care settings.
- These programs provide services that assess children with support needs, create individual plans, provide advice to child care centres and, where needed, hire workers to attend the child care and support high-needs children.
- ASCD services are delivered within a cultural model, respecting the traditional protocols, language and traditions of the communities they support.
- ASCD programs support unique Indigenous service needs and are responsive to local Indigenous culture and communities.
- Several ASCD contracts are held by First Nations or service organizations closely affiliated with specific First Nations or Métis communities.
- Demand for SCD and ASCD is high, and the ministry is committed to expanding these supports to address demand.
- The ministry does not actively track SCD and ASCD waitlists; however, consultation has revealed that all programs maintain waitlists, with several exceeding a wait time of one year for services.
- The creation of new child care spaces results in increased demand for spaces that can support children with support needs, creating new pressures for SCD and ASCD.
- To address current waitlists and service pressures resulting from new child care spaces, the 2021 Provincial Budget includes funding to SCD and ASCD

programs to enable approximately 2,000 more families to access services from SCD and ASCD programs, and increase the hours of support for children who are already enrolled in these programs.

- This helps ensure that children with support needs can fully access, participate in and benefit from child care programming.

## 2021 Engagement on Indigenous-led Child Care and Inclusion

- The Ministry has begun an engagement process to inform the future development of universal early care and learning system.
- The engagement process will have several components, including the engagement with Indigenous right-holders on the ways to support the development and implementation of Indigenous-led early care and learning.
- It will also include engagement with the child care sector to understand the training needs related to delivering inclusive child care and how best to improve inclusive child care services.

## FINANCES:

**Table 1: Indigenous Child Care**

\$Millions	Actuals 2019/20	Estimates 2019/20	YTD <sup>1</sup> 2020/21	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22	Estimates 2022/23
<b>Federally ELCC Funded</b>						
Underserved Communities	10.00	10.00	5.88	10.00	10.00	10.00
<b>Provincially Funded</b>						
Aboriginal Head Start					6.59	6.59
<b>Indigenous Contracts<sup>2</sup></b>					0.77	0.77
- Aboriginal Child Care Resource & Referral	0.70		0.56			
- Indigenous Child Care Planners	1.33		0.94			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.03</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>17.36</b>	<b>17.36</b>

Sources: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 2.1 ECD and CC Services & 3.1b New Child Care Funding

### NOTES:

1. 2020/21 Actuals are as of December 31, 2020
  2. Budget 2021: Net New Funding includes:  
\$6.594M Aboriginal Head Start expansion (2021/22-2023/24)  
\$0.770M Indigenous Contracts (2021/22-2023/24)
- In fiscal 2020/21, the ministry received Vote 52 Access to Contingency: Pandemic Response & Economic Recovery approval to spend \$10M for Aboriginal Head Start Early Learning & Outdoor Play Spaces through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP). As of December 31, 2021, the expenditures totalled \$0.90M. This fund was fully spent by the end of this fiscal.

- Aboriginal Head Start Estimates Budget for Operational Costs resides within within the Child Care Administration Budget of \$36.2M (*Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.1 - Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2*).
- Aboriginal Head Start Expansion Estimates Budget for Space Creation resides within the Child Care Capital Budget of \$92.0M (*Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.1 - Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2*).
- The 2021/22 Budget for Indigenous Contracts resides within Family and Community Supports and Program Delivery held in the Early Childhood Development Programs budget of \$42.3M (*Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.1 - Core Business: Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services, page 2*).

**Table 2: Inclusive Child Care**

\$Millions	Actuals 2019/20	Estimates 2019/20	YTD <sup>1</sup> 2020/21	Estimates 2020/21	Estimates 2021/22	Estimates 2022/23
<b>Federally ELCC Funded</b>						
Underserved Communities- ASCD/SCD <sup>2</sup>	10.20	10.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
<b>Provincially Funded</b>						
Supported Child Development	65.78	63.48	53.66	65.40	70.03	70.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.97</b>	<b>73.48</b>	<b>53.66</b>	<b>75.40</b>	<b>80.03</b>	<b>80.03</b>

Sources: Financial Data Booklet 2021 Tabs 2.2 CYSN & Final Fiscal 2020/21 Financial Management Report- December 2020

**NOTES:**

1. 2020/21 Actuals are as of December 31, 2020
2. 2020/21 ELCC Supported Child Development expenses are embedded within overall SCD\ASCD expenditures

- The 2021/22 Inclusive Child Care Budget is held within the Supported Child Development Budget of \$70.0M. The 2021/22 Supported Child Development Budget is held with the Foundational Programs – CYSN budget of \$146.8M (*Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.2) Core Business: Services for Children & Youth with Support (Special) Needs, page 3*).

**STATISTICS:**

- The Indigenous child population (age 0 to 12) is estimated at 63,363 and is 10% of the overall age 0 to 12 child population in B.C.
- By February 2021, 28 of 31 AHS programs are fully operational, with 575 spaces serving children and families. This exceeds the original target of 500 to 590 spaces created and on track for 643 spaces. Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations: Government

- ACCRR provided training/pro-D to 424 participants in the first half of 2020/21, representing 23,000 training hours. Outreach and support to parents increased by four times in the same time period because of BCACCS being listed on MCFD's website.
- As of the end of 2019/20, SCD and ASCD programs served an estimated average monthly caseload of 7,166 children and their families at any given point in time; this is according to self-reported data from agencies.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:** N/A

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

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

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The ministry, in partnership with cross-government and community partners, offers several programs and services to young adults over the age of 19 to support them through their transition from government care to independence.
- Some of these programs and services include:
  - Agreements with Young Adults (AYA), inclusive of COVID-19 emergency measures
  - Services to Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD)
  - COVID-19 emergency measures: Temporary Housing Agreements (THA) and Temporary Support Agreements (TSA)
  - AgedOut.com
  - Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)
  - Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAFF)
  - Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF)
  - Learning Fund for Young Adults (LFYA)
  - WorkBC
  - Mobility for Good (M4G)
- When the COVID-19 health emergency was declared in March 2020, the ministry implemented emergency measures to prevent vulnerable youth and young adults from experiencing adverse socio-economic and health-related impacts.
- THA and TSA were developed in response to the pandemic to allow young adults to temporarily stay in their placements beyond their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. They allow:

- Youth who are currently living in foster care, contracted residential services, or with relatives through the Extended Family Program (EFP) to stay where they are past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday through a THA; and
- Youth nearing the end of an Independent Living Agreement (ILA) or Youth Agreement (YAG) to continue receiving monthly living expenses past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, through a TSA.
- THA and TSA have the highest uptake among the emergency measures for young adults, particularly for Indigenous young men from care who have historically had lower uptake in programs such as AYA.
- In February 2021, the ministry clarified that young adults could access the AYA program and THA at the same time – for the first time – providing them with flexibility to participate in programs, while remaining in their current living arrangements (see #999413 for more detail).
- Based on this information and feedback from staff, service providers, community partners, youth and young adults, government made the decision to extend these emergency measures until March 31, 2022.

#### **BACKGROUND: MCFD Supports to Young Adults:**

- The AYA program is the ministry's only legislative program to provide support to young adults past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - It provides eligible young adults ages 19-26 inclusive with up to \$1,250 per month (via a needs-based assessment) to cover daily living costs while attending a post-secondary education, vocational, rehabilitative, mental health or life-skills programs for a maximum of 48 months.
  - Participants must have transitioned to adulthood from a Continuing Custody Order (CCO) or Youth Agreement (YAG).
  - Budget 2020 announced an expansion of the AYA program eligibility to align more closely to the eligibility of the PTWP; the expansion was postponed to maintain the AYA COVID-19 emergency measures.
- Emergency measures that make the AYA program more flexible have been extended until September 30, 2021. These include:
  - Young adults can take life-skills programs online.



- Young adults can take life-skills programs for fewer hours per week (5 hours/week instead of 12).
- Life-skills providers no longer need to be approved by the ministry.
- Young adults can learn life-skills in one learning domain (instead of four).
- Young adults can do cultural learning as a life-skill program, like learning a family language or meeting with elders.
- Additional flexibility was added to the AYA program as a COVID-19 emergency measure in October 2020. As a result, young adults:
  - Have more options for mental health support while on the AYA program, including access to cultural healing and wellness.
  - May attend mental health services for fewer hours per week (10 hours/week instead of 15).
  - May take part in more than one program at a time — for example, attending mental health services while going to school part-time — to best meet their needs.
  - Have flexibility when they renew their AYA agreement. They have the option to renew at the end of the school year or at the end of a program, with approval from a social worker, rather than having to meet every six months.
- The ministry also introduced a process for ministry and Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) staff to apply discretion in certain situations to allow eligible young adults access to AYA outside the current policy guidelines (for example, participating in AYA with only five of 10 hours weekly toward a rehabilitative program due to extenuating circumstances).
  - Decisions regarding exceptions (approvals and denials) are submitted to a newly implemented Provincial Review Committee, allowing for data-informed improvements to policy and practice and improved consistency among services across the province.
- Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD) provides navigational and transition planning support for young adults aged 16-24 who are eligible for services through Community Living BC.

### **Supports for Post-Secondary Education:**

- PTWP is managed in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST). The program waives tuition and mandatory fees for eligible young adults from care while they attend a B.C. public post-secondary educational institution, Native Education College or one of 10 eligible union trades training centres.
- Additional grants for post-secondary education include:
  - YEAF, which supports young adults (aged 19-24) who were in continuing care with up to \$5,500 annually for four years to pay for books, supplies and other school expenses.
  - YFEF, which provides grants to recipients of a provincial tuition waiver to cover additional expenses such as books, housing, utilities or emergency situations, while they participate in post-secondary programs.
  - LFYA, which is a low-barrier alternative funding source for current and former youth in care (ages 17-35), managed in partnership with the Ministry of Education.
- The ministry is reviewing these programs, in collaboration with partners, and exploring opportunities to better meet the learning needs of youth and young adults in B.C.

### **Supports for Employment:**

- In April 2019, to recognize the unique needs of youth and young adults from care, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) introduced prioritized WorkBC Employment Services for former youth in care between the ages of 16-30. Services include self-serve resources, personal counselling for employment readiness, and financial supports to obtain and maintain employment.

### **Additional Supports:**

- AgedOut.com is an online resource, funded by the ministry and hosted by the Adoptive Families Association of B.C., which provides information for current and former youth in care to support them in their transition to adulthood.

- The Mobility for Good (M4G) program offers eligible young adults aged 19-26 with a free phone and two-year data plan at no cost, followed by a reduced-rate plan costing \$35 per month, indefinitely. While this program may be a resource for young adults from care to support them to access post-secondary training, eligibility is not linked to post-secondary enrolment. Since its inception, there have been a total of 1,079 M4G activations.

## FINANCES:

- Total expenditures to December 31, 2020 for AYA, including the COVID-19 project code, equal \$9.6M. Of this amount, \$0.4M was related to pandemic programming (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 6.1) Covid -19 Expenditure Tracking, page 21).
- The budget for AYA is \$18.2M and held within the Alternates to Care budget of \$80.4M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5).
- The 2021/22 Estimates Budget for Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services is \$780.9M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5).
- MCFD contributed \$750,000 to the LFYA in 2015-2017. The fund also gets contributions from the BC Training and Education Savings (BCTES) Grant Program under the Ministry of Education. As of Dec 31, 2020, the fund balance was \$5.91M. First disbursements from LFYA will begin in 2023.

## STATISTICS:

### MCFD Post-Majority Supports

Fiscal Year	Number of Young Adults with an Open Post-Majority Support File	Percentage Change
2018/2019	1,098	17.7%
2019/2020	1,236	12.6%
2020/2021*	1,442*	16.7%*

Data Source: MCFD 2020 Estimates Data Booklet (page 27), open cases on March 31 of each year except 2020/2021 which is at December 31, 2020.

**\*for 2020/2021, Post-majority supports case counts include AYA and most COVID related Temporary Housing and Temporary Support Agreement cases.**

**Access to All Post-Majority Supports**

Program	Number of Young Adults
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Advice/Recommendations

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **888341** – AgedOut.com
- **888410** – Youth Transitions Interim Measures
- **999411** – Overview of Post Majority Supports
- **999413** – AYA & Youth Transitions
- **999499** – COVID-19 Updates – Youth & Young Adults

Contact: Carolyn Kamper  
 Cell phone: Government  
 Date: March 25, 2021

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

**ISSUE:       Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) and Youth Transitions**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- A youth's transition to adulthood is a gradual journey that happens over time and requires a broad range of activities, services and supports.
- However, for many youth transitioning from government care, this is not the case; they are required to make it on their own with fewer resources or family supports than their peers who have not experienced the child welfare system.
- The Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program is the ministry's only legislative program to provide support to eligible young adults past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD) provides navigational and transition planning support for young adults (aged 16-24) with support needs who are eligible to transition to Community Living BC services.
- In response to the COVID-19 health emergency, the ministry made a series of changes to support the Province's most vulnerable youth.
- Key emergency measures included:
  - Providing financial support and stability to enable youth to remain in their foster homes or other ministry-supported living arrangements past age 19 through Temporary Housing Agreements (THA) and Temporary Support Agreements (TSA) (available until March 31, 2022). See note #999499 for more detail;
  - Making regulatory amendments to the AYA program to support young adults on AYA who turned 27 during the pandemic, as well as those who experienced program pauses or interruptions to continue to receive support while not drawing down on their 48-month program limit (available March-September 2020); and
  - Adding flexibility to the AYA life skills, rehabilitative and mental health program options to support low-barrier access for eligible young adults.

- Emergency measures that make the AYA program more flexible were extended until September 30, 2021. These include:
  - Young adults can take life-skills programs online;
  - Young adults can take life-skills programs for fewer hours per week (5 hours/week instead of 12);
  - Life-skills providers during this period do not need to be pre-approved by the ministry;
  - Young adults can learn life skills in one learning domain (instead of four); and
  - Young adults can do cultural learning as a life-skill program, like learning a family language or meeting with elders.
- Additional flexibility was added to the AYA program in October 2020. As a result, young adults:
  - Have more options for mental-health support while on the AYA program, including access to cultural healing and wellness;
  - May attend mental health services for fewer hours per week (10 hours/week instead of 15);
  - May take part in more than one program at a time — for example, attending mental-health services while going to school part-time — to best meet their needs; and
  - Have more flexibility when they renew their AYA agreement - they have the option to renew at the end of the school year or at the end of a program, with approval from a social worker, rather than having to renew every six months.
- The ministry cannot adequately support youth transitions alone.
- We work collaboratively with cross-ministry and community partners to support a range of programs and services.

### **Background:**

- The AYA program is the ministry's only legislative program to provide support to young adults past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - It provides eligible young adults (ages 19-26) with up to \$1,250 per month (via a needs-based assessment) to cover daily living costs while attending a post-secondary education, vocational, rehabilitative, mental health or life-skills programs for a maximum of 48 months.

- Participants must have transitioned to adulthood from a Continuing Custody Order (CCO) or Youth Agreement (YAG).
  - Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- Budget 2020 included a decision to expand eligibility for the AYA program to include young adults with 24 cumulative months of time, including:
    - Those with any type of government care between the age of 12 and 19; and
    - Those who had been adopted or had their custody permanently transferred under the CFCSA between the age of 12 and 19.
  - Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- The ministry also introduced a process for ministry and Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) staff to apply discretion in certain situations to provide eligible young adults with access to AYA outside the current policy guidelines (for example, participating in AYA with only 5 of 10 hours weekly toward a rehabilitative program due to extenuating circumstances).
    - Decisions regarding exceptions (approvals and denials) are submitted to a newly implemented Provincial Review Committee, allowing for data-informed improvements to policy and practice and improved service consistency across the province.
  - In February 2021, the ministry clarified that young adults could access the AYA program and THA/TSA at the same time, providing them with flexibility to participate in programs while remaining in their current living arrangements.
  - The ministry has developed an evaluation framework to continue monitoring the effectiveness of the emergency measures and will report back to government on their effectiveness on a quarterly basis.

**FINANCES:**

- Total expenditures to December 31, 2020 for AYA, including the COVID-19 project code, equal \$9.6M. Of this amount, \$0.4M was related to pandemic programming (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 6.1) COVID-19 Expenditure Tracking, page 21).
- The budget for AYA is \$18.2M and held within the Alternates to Care budget of \$80.4M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5).
- The 2021/22 Estimates Budget for Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services is \$780.9M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.4) Core Business: Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services, page 5).

**STATISTICS:**

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Personal Information



**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **888412** – Youth Transitions – Interim Measures
- **999411** – Overview of Post Majority Supports
- **888410** – Post-secondary Supports for Former Youth in Care

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIALIZED INTERVENTION AND YOUTH JUSTICE BRANCH  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2020/21**

**ISSUE: Overview of Youth Custody Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- B.C. 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.
- B.C.'s system provides Youth Custody Services, Community Youth Justice Services and Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services for youth aged 12 to 17 at the time of their alleged offence.
- Youth Custody Services operates two youth custody centres, located in Burnaby and Prince George. The combined staffed 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 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.
- B.C. uses a range of community alternatives to custody, such as intensive support and supervision and Full-Time Attendance Programs (residential) that have helped reduce the B.C. youth custody rate.
- The decline in youth custody counts is a result of:
  - Decreases in the youth crime rate.
  - Federal investments in community-based alternatives to custody and

rehabilitation services.

- The implementation of the Federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in 2003.
- Amendments to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in 2019.
- Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services (YFPS) is a specialized provincial program that provides court and non-court-ordered mental health assessment and treatment services to youth in custody or under community youth justice supervision as a result of their involvement with criminal justice system.
- Currently, approximately 100% of youth in custody are seen; whereas historically, roughly 66% of youth in custody were seen by YFPS.

## FINANCES:

- Total expenditures for Youth Justice Services to December 31, 2020 was \$28.5M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.6) Core Business: Youth Justice Services, page 7).
- Youth Justice Services provided by MCFD are cost-shared with the federal government. Recoveries from the Justice Canada as of December 31, 2020 totalled \$13.3M. (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet 3.4) Overview: Recoveries, page 16).
- The 2021/22 budget for Youth Justice Services is \$50.4M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.6) Core Business: Youth Justice Services, page 7).

## STATISTICS:

Average Youth Custody Count (Fiscal Years 2016/17-2020/21 YTD):

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 YTD
<b>Total youth in custody*</b>	52	49	32	26	13
<b>Gender**</b>	82% male 18% female	84% male 16% female	85% male 15% female	86% male 14% female	89% male 11% female
<b>Indigenous</b>	49%	51%	41%	46%	52%

Data Source: MCFD, Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch current as of: February 22, 2021

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

\* Stat is an average daily count for YCS on the day it was generated – stat is not based on unique youth.

\*\*These statistics represent physical sex, not self-identified gender which is considered when placement decisions are made.

- Statistics provided in the table below include admissions to assessment and treatment services at the IAU and all eight outpatient clinics, as well as mental health services provided at Youth Custody Services. For fiscal year 2019/20, 79% of the youth served by YFPS were male, 21% were female, and 36% identified as having an Indigenous background.

**YFPS Assessment and Treatment Cases per Fiscal Year (FY16/17 to FY19/20) and Fiscal Year to Dec 31, 2021 (FY20/21 YTD)**

Fiscal Year	FY16/17	FY17/18	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20-21 YTD
YFPS Total Number of Youth Served	1,017	1,046	887	874	608
YFPS Court-Ordered Assessment Cases	343	375	365	339	152
YFPS Non-Court Ordered Assessment Cases	278	263	224	240	145
YFPS Treatment Cases	812	827	707	711	509
Total Number of YFPS Cases	1,439	1,474	1,299	1,294	809

Data Source: Data Warehouse. Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch, MCFD.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- 7.2 Overview of Community Youth Justice Services**
- Overview of Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services**

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION**

**ISSUE: Overview of Community Youth Justice Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- B.C. is widely recognized across Canada as having progressive and effective youth justice services.
- B.C. provides youth justice services for youth aged 12 to 17 at the time a criminal offence was committed.
- Community youth justice services are committed to public safety and the rehabilitation of youth in conflict with the law. To rehabilitate youth, youth probation officers supervise and support youth involved in the criminal justice system by providing services that promote prosocial behaviour.
- Youth probation officers work in integrated ministry offices across all 13 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;
  - substance abuse treatment;
  - mental health assessment and services;
  - restorative justice services; and
  - a range of full-time attendance programs (FTAPS) as an alternative to custodial sentences.
- Community-based full-time attendance programs (FTAPs) are court-ordered and used to support youth in need of an alternative to custody, treatment, or transitional support from custody back into the community.
- In FY2020/21 there were 13 centrally managed FTAPs (total 49 beds) located across B.C. with different focuses including: sexual offences, substance use, Indigenous and general rehabilitation.
- There are also gender-specific and Indigenous youth focussed FTAPs available within the province.

**FINANCES:**

- Total expenditures for Community Based Programs to December 31, 2020 was

\$8.1M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.6) Core Business: Youth Justice Services, page 7).

- The budget for Community Based Programs – Youth Justices is \$16.6M and held within the budget for Youth Justice Services of \$50.4M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet, 2.6) Core Business: Youth Justice Services, page 7).
- Youth Justice Services provided by MCFD are cost-shared with the federal government. Recoveries from the Justice Canada as of December 31, 2020 totalled \$13.3M. (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet 3.4) Overview: Recoveries, page 16).

## STATISTICS:

### Average Community Youth Justice Count — (2016/17-FYTD 2020/21)

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 FYTD
<b>Total Youth on Community Supervision</b>	1,235	1,113	1,060	1,041	890
<b>Gender</b>	78% male 22% female	78% male 22% female	79% male 21% female	79% male 21% female	80% male 20% female
<b>Indigenous</b>	40%	41%	40%	39%	40%

Data Source: Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch, BI Youth Inventory Cube MCFD  
FYTD 2020/21 as of March 16, 2021

## CROSS REFERENCE:

- Overview of Youth Custody Services

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**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.
- The Federal Act affirms the inherent rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services.
- The Federal Act enables Indigenous groups and communities to transition towards exercising partial or full jurisdiction over child and family services.
- The work of the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group (TWG) continues, and for 2020/2021, this work has been focused on the development and implementation of the Federal Act.
- First Nations now have options available to them under B.C.’s *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to support them in achieving their goals as they pertain to increased decision-making authority and/or jurisdiction over child welfare.
- The Ministry is actively engaged in discussions with First Nations and Indigenous governing bodies regarding increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction.

**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 several mechanisms which now exist for Indigenous communities to exercise greater involvement, authority, and jurisdiction over child welfare. These mechanisms include:
  - *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 rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services.



- Self-governing agreements – these are generally tripartite agreements negotiated by the B.C. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the federal government. Agreements such as treaties or reconciliation agreements would fall under this category.
- A rights-bearing Indigenous group, community, or people with authorized Indigenous governing body, has two primary options for exercising jurisdiction under section 20 of the Federal Act, a section 35 Constitution Act, 1982:
  - An Indigenous group or community sends a notice to Canada and the Province/Territory in which the Indigenous group or community is located informing them that they are exercising their jurisdiction and adopting a law on child and family services. In this case, their Indigenous law would not prevail over conflicting federal, provincial and territorial laws on child and family services and there is no funding agreement attached.
  - An Indigenous group or community sends a request to Canada and the government of each Province/Territory in which the Indigenous group or community is located to enter into a tripartite Coordination Agreement. A Coordination Agreement includes a funding component and provides the legislative authority for the Indigenous law to prevail over conflicting federal or provincial law.
- Intergovernmental Communications

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- Through the MOU on the Shared Ten-Year Social Determinants of Health Strategy, MCFD is engaged with the First Nations Health Council. The MOU speaks to the shared vision of healthy and vibrant BC First Nations children and families and the role of the Province in achieving this vision.

## **FINANCES:**

Intergovernmental Communications; Government Financial Information

**STATISTICS:** N/A

## **CROSS-REFERENCE:**

- 8.5 Tripartite Working Group
- Coordination Agreements Under the Federal Act
- 8.3 Métis Working Table and Joint Commitment

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

### **A. Summary of Engagements Table**

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

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

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry's goal is to support children and youth to stay safely with their families and connected to their culture and communities.
- We are committed to working with Indigenous communities and partners towards this goal.
- 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 towards MNBC authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in B.C.
- MNBC set an aspirational goal of three years to achieve the required authority.
- 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 B.C. to achieve increased authority over child and family services.
- Since the signing of the Joint Commitment document in 2018, there have been amendments to the provincial *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), and the enactment of both the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (Federal Act) and the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which provide additional pathways for MNBC for increased decision making and authority.
- MNBC has indicated an interest in all options available to them under both the CFCSA and the Federal Act to support their goals under the 2018 commitment.
- MNBC has also submitted a notice of intent to exercise jurisdiction under section 20(2) of the Federal Act to exercise jurisdiction and enter into a Coordination Agreement.
- Intergovernmental Communications

- Through the Métis Working Table, the Métis Commission, MNBC and MCFD continue to work together to address a variety of practice-related concerns and options for increased decision-making authority over child welfare.

## BACKGROUND:

- MNBC is generally regarded as the political voice for Métis people in B.C. Lissa Dawn Smith is the Acting President, Daniel Fontaine is the Chief Executive Officer and Jack Miller is the Director, Ministry of Métis Children and Families.
- The Métis Commission is the Métis-designated community for receipt of notices of hearings under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* Regulations. Sheri Wildman is the CEO/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 B.C. The MOU was witnessed and supported by the five principal Métis service providers in B.C.:
  - *Métis Family Services* in Surrey is fully delegated to provide child protection services, adoption services and culturally based support programs in Surrey.
  - *Island Métis Family and Community Services Society* in Victoria provides contracted culturally based support services to MCFD clients and other Métis people on Vancouver Island. They are actively working toward achieving delegation for Métis children on southern Vancouver Island.
  - *Kikino Métis Children and Family Services* in Prince George provides contracted culturally based support services to MCFD clients and other Métis people in the Prince George area.
  - *Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services* in Kamloops became the second delegated Métis service provider; LMO provides C6 fully delegated child protection services and will continue providing community and culturally based support services to Métis people in Kamloops and in the immediate area.

- *Métis Community Services Society BC* in Kelowna provides contracted cultural and family support services to MCFD clients and other Métis people in the Kelowna area.
  - The MOU established the Métis Working Table to identify, discuss and strategize ways to address systemic issues concerning services to Métis children and families in B.C.
  - A second table, the Métis Practice Table, was established in 2017 to focus on CFCSA practice issues pertaining to planning for Métis children after MNBC wrote to MCFD calling for a moratorium on permanent placements and adoptions of Métis children.
  - Intergovernmental Communications
- 
- Currently, a representative from the Métis Commission sits at the Provincial Exceptions Committee (PEC) table with the Aboriginal Services Branch and Adoption and Permanency Branch. Until November 2020, the former Director of Métis Children and Families at MNBC sat on the PEC. The PEC reviews all decisions to place an Indigenous child with a non-Indigenous prospective adoptive parent or 54.1 caregiver who is not a relative.
  - In December 2018, the Director of the Ministry of Métis Children and Families at MNBC was delegated to review cases and provide systemic and case-specific advice to the Director for Métis children in care. The Director also reviewed reportable circumstances to ensure that children and youth eligible for citizenship were registered.
  - Intergovernmental Communications
- 
- Intergovernmental Communications; Personal Information

- MNBC and Métis Commission representatives presented on the roles and responsibilities of their organizations on the Advancing our Practice and Directors of Practice calls.
- Orientations regarding “Understanding Métis in BC: A Guide for Social Workers, Legislators and Policy Makers” were provided in 2020 and 2021 to Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and MCFD. The Métis Commission and MNBC participated in the orientations and MNBC developed the guidebook.
- MNBC reviewed and provided feedback on the new Federal Act online training that was developed for Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) and MCFD staff.

### **FINANCES:**

- MCFD has provided the Métis Nation British Columbia with \$0.5M annually since FY 18/19 to support quality of services, MOU implementation and engagement.
- In 2019-20, MNBC was provided with \$101,540 to support a variety of programs with Métis children and communities, such as cultural activities and workshops, parenting skills and after-hours support with Métis Aunties and Uncles.
- The outcomes of the services focused on reducing the number of children and youth in care, promoting cultural connections and supporting Métis-serving agencies across the province.

### **STATISTICS:**

Intergovernmental Communications

### **CROSS-REFERENCE: N/A**

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE:** Tripartite Working Group

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Tripartite First Nations 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:
  - developing the federal child welfare legislation;
  - implementing legislation at both federal and provincial levels;
  - funding and fiscal planning; and
  - engagement and communications.

**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, B.C. 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, the workplan has an updated version for 2018/19, which was completed in May 2019. The most recent version of the workplan was developed in April 2020 for the 2020/21 fiscal year.
  - **Internal Communications Protocol:** signed June 2019 which 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 fiscal working group's main goal is conceptualizing a fiscal framework to support First Nations' exercise of jurisdiction in B.C. Work has not yet started in that area and has instead focused on data, Jordan's Principle funding and Canadian Human Rights Tribunal findings. Community members were added to the subcommittee in 2020. These members include Dr. Cindy Blackstock – First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, Yvonne Hare – Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency and Darlene Hall – Nuxalk Nation.
- The technical practice working group is examining the practice and policy changes that are needed in B.C. to support the new federal child welfare legislation, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Federal Act). Community members were added in 2020. These

members include Bill Yoachim – Kwumut Lelum Child and Family Services Society, Mary Teegee – Carrier Sekani Family Services and Jennifer Lewis – Okanagan Nation. The TWG's work has focused on the implementation of the Federal Act and community engagement through four townhall sessions held in fiscal 2020/21. These took place in April 2020, September 2020, January 2021, and March 2021. Each session focused on a different area, such as COVID-19 response, implementation of the Federal Act, general government updates and information sharing, and Jordan's Principle.

- It is expected work in 2021/22 will focus on the development of a fiscal framework, engagement on key provincial and federal initiatives, and the continued implementation of the Federal Act.

#### **FINANCES:**

Intergovernmental Communications

**STATISTICS:** N/A

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A



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

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

**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 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 Federal Act reinforces work that is already underway in BC to keep Indigenous children connected to their families and communities, reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care, and support Indigenous communities as they work towards exercising authority and jurisdiction over child and family services.
- The Province is continuing to work with the federal government and First Nations, Inuit and, Métis peoples to implement the Federal Act and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

## 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 2020, the ministry implemented new policies and practices to ensure alignment with the federal Act and oriented MCFD and DAA staff to the national principles and standards.
- In 2021, there will be further training on the Federal Act.
- The ministry is working towards additional changes to provincial policy and legislation to further align with the Federal Act and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- The ministry is also continuing to work with Canada and Indigenous governing bodies intending to exercise jurisdiction over their child and family services through tripartite coordination agreement discussions.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Government of Canada, substantive equality is a <sup>Copyright</sup> Copyright

**FINANCES:**

- In fiscal 2020/21, the Province received \$43.1M from Indigenous Service Canada. (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet Section 3.4) (Overview: Recoveries, page 15).
- In fiscal 2019/20, the Province provided \$139.86M to Delegated Aboriginal Agencies for delegated services and \$31.58M for non-delegated services. (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet Section 5.2) (Delegated Aboriginal Agency Breakdown – Fiscal year 2019-20, page 20).

**STATISTICS:**

- There are 3,616 Indigenous child and youth in care in 2020/21 (as of December 31, 2020), which is 5% lower than in 2019/20.
- There are 1,921 children and youth in care in Delegated Agencies in 2020/21 (as of December 31, 2020), which is relatively unchanged from 2019/20.

**Indigenous Children and Youth in Care (2017/18-2020/21)**

Metric	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number	4,252	4,111	3,793	3,616
Percentage change	-3%	-3%	-8%	-5%

Note: Numbers are fiscal year end (as of March 31 of the fiscal year) and 2020/2021 numbers are fiscal year to date (as of December 31 of 2020/2021 fiscal year)

Data Source: MAIM

**Children and Youth in Care in Delegated Agencies (2017/18-2020/21)**

Metric	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number	2,025	2,071	1,928	1,921
Percentage change	+5%	+2%	-7%	0%

Note: Numbers are fiscal year end (as of March 31 of the fiscal year) and 2020/2021 numbers are fiscal year to date (as of December 31 of 2020/2021 fiscal year)

Data Source: MAIM

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies
- Children in Care Stats/Indigenous Children in Care Stats

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

**ISSUE: IMPROVING SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**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.
- 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 Indigenous children and youth in care 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 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).
- MCFD recognizes, and is working to address, the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- In 2019, amendments were made to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) to provide greater clarity in terms of our obligation to keep Indigenous children connected to their community and culture, which was already an important focus for the Ministry. This was also an important first step towards greater decision making for Indigenous communities and planning for their children.
- We are engaged in discussions with Indigenous partners and communities (see background) regarding increased decision making authority and child and family services jurisdiction.
- We continue to work with Indigenous communities and partners, as well as with the federal government, to implement *An Act respecting First Nations*,

*Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, which came into force on January 1, 2020.

- We are also working cooperatively to begin aligning the child and family services system to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), through the implementation of the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which was enacted on October 24, 2019.
- In order to increase accountability and improve collaboration with Indigenous communities, we have signed more than 70 information-sharing agreements under s. 92.1 of the CFCSA. We are working with Indigenous governing bodies, partners and communities, along with the federal government, to improve our funding approach, inclusive of reporting on outcomes and specifics on how funding is used to support Indigenous children, youth and families in BC.
- We are working in partnership with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and Indigenous communities to clarify roles and responsibilities related to policy development, information sharing, communication and monitoring for the delivery of contracted residential services.

## **BACKGROUND:**

- Intergovernmental Communications

**FINANCES: N/A****STATISTICS:**

- As of December 31, 2020, there were 5,370 children and youth in care, with 3,616 Indigenous children in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) in the province (a 5% reduction in Indigenous children in care compared to last year); representing 67% of the total number of children in care.
- Of these 3,616 Indigenous children in care:
  - 3,032 (84%) were First Nations;
  - 457 (13%) were Métis;
  - 48 (1%) were Nisga'a;
  - 37 (1%) were Inuit; and
  - 42 (1%) were of unidentified (unknown to worker) Indigenous ancestry.
- While MCFD has seen an overall decrease in the number of children and youth in care and an upward trend for out-of-care options (such as care from other family members), First Nation, Métis & Inuit children and youth in care remain overrepresented.

**CROSS REFERENCE: N/A**

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**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.

**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 B.C. 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.
  - Section 20(2): IGB submits request to Canada and B.C. 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.
- Intergovernmental Communications

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#### **FINANCES:**

- The Province anticipates financial support from the federal government for the coordination agreements, but amounts are currently unknown.

#### **STATISTICS:**

Intergovernmental Communications

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**Please Note:**

Ministers are responsible for speaking to COVID-19 expenditures for their ministries. Responses should be based on Q3 information, as reported in the budget and fiscal plan document. Responses can also advise that the 2020/21 annual operating results, including COVID-19 related expenditures, are being prepared and audited. Final results will be available when the Minister of Finance releases the Public Accounts.

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

**ISSUE: COVID–19 Finance and Corporate Services Pandemic Response**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- With the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic in Canada in March 2020, MCFD worked quickly to ensure that staff and contractors were able to continue to deliver essential services safely.
- The ministry mobilized the Ministry Operations Centre (MOC) to create health and safety plans for staff and service providers to help ensure they could continue to work with children, youth, and families throughout the pandemic.
- Two main focuses for our Corporate Operations were physical safety for MCFD staff and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) through the delivery of sanitization products, personal protective equipment, and facilities protocols, as well as the continuous service provisioning by our contracted partners.

**MCFD and DAA STAFF HEALTH and SAFETY MEASURES:**

- Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) and MCFD required sanitizing products and personal protective equipment (PPE) for offices and staff to continue to provide front-line services to children and families in British Columbia.
- In April 2020, as the supply chain for these products was broken, the MOC Operations Team acquired and distributed an initial amount of COVID-19 supplies—including hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and non-medical masks—to some of our DAAs and Ministry offices that remained open to the public and/or providing child protection services.
- The MOC Operations Team also distributed hand sanitizer to some child care centres that continued to be open and supporting parents who were front-line workers in B.C.
- In May 2020, the MOC Operations Team acquired and stored additional supplies at the Distribution Centre Victoria (DCV) Warehouse. From that point, DAAs and Ministry offices were able to order additional supplies directly from the MOC Operations Team.

- In August 2020, Emergency Management BC successfully rolled out their online PPE purchase app. From that time on, all MCFD and DAA supply purchases were made via the EMBC online app.
- Between February 10 and March 24, 2021, MCFD offered free PPE and sanitizing products to its Contracted Residential Services via the EMBC online app. MCFD will cover these costs.
- EMBC provided free, donated PPE and sanitizing supplies to several social sector umbrella agencies. These include the following MCFD agencies:
  - BC Federation of Foster Parents Associations (BCFFPA)
  - BC Association of Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI)
  - The Federation of Community Social Services of BC
  - Community Social Services Employers' Association of BC (CSSEA)
- MCFD maintains a small strategic supply of PPE and sanitizing products in case of further supply chain disruptions.

#### **MINISTRY CONTRACTING:**

- Between March and May 2020, MCFD provided additional assistance to contracted service providers while they determined how to adapt their services to minimize the transmission of COVID-19. This included:
  - maintaining existing provincial funding arrangements with contracted services providers, irrespective of service delivery;
  - providing incremental funding due to staff shortages, increased overtime and/or increased demand; and
  - identifying additional service delivery supports, such as technology or PPE, if applicable.
- After May 2020, the ministry continued to work with service providers to modify service delivery where needed to ensure compliance with Public Health Orders.
- Eligible front-line workers providing critical public services received a lump-sum payment of about \$4 per hour for straight time hours worked anytime over the 16-week period, starting on March 15.

- Service providers needing additional funding to support ongoing service delivery could and, in some cases, still can access provincial and federal programs.
- Service providers can modify contract deliverables without financial penalty but will only be paid for the services they provide.
- Service providers continued to work with their contract managers to adapt their service delivery models in response to the pandemic.
- Contract costs related to COVID-19 are tracked within several program areas within the ministry.

### FINANCES:

- As of December 31, 2020, expenditures for sanitizing and personal protective equipment totalled \$1.8M. This was funded through savings in other ministry programs.
- The lump-sum \$4-per-hour payment for front-line workers was managed through the Ministry of Finance.

### STATISTICS:

#### COVID-19 Supplies Distribution as of December 31, 2020

Product Category	Total Supplies acquired by the MOC operations Team	Distribution of Supplies to:		
		DAA Offices	MCFD Offices <sup>1</sup>	Childcare Centres <sup>2</sup>
Liquid Hand Sanitizer	12,192 litres	737 litres	10,135 litres	1,320 litres
Gel Hand Sanitizer	60 bottles	13 bottles	47 bottles	n/a
Sanitizing Wipes	980 cannisters	222 cannisters	758 cannisters	n/a
Non-Medical Masks	51,000 masks	8,750 masks	42,250 masks	n/a
Medical Masks	1,000 masks	n/a	1,000 masks	n/a
Nitrile Gloves	2,500 gloves	300 gloves	2,200 gloves	n/a
Disinfectant Cleaner	150 jugs	38 jugs	112 jugs	n/a
Disinfectant Spray Cleaner	200 bottles	97 bottles	103 bottles	n/a

Notes:

1 - Some supplies are being kept in an MCFD storage for future use: 1,100 gloves, 5,087 bottles of liquid hand sanitizer, 19,500 masks, 73 jugs of disinfectant cleaner and 53 bottles of disinfectant cleaner.

2 - Support to childcare centres included only an initial distribution of liquid hand sanitizer to some childcare centres that remained open to provide services to first responders. Childcare centres subsequently out sourced their own supplies.

### CROSS-REFERENCE: N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**  
**CHILD CARE DIVISION**  
**ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: COVID Supports for Child Care**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to the child care sector.
- We knew we needed to act quickly to support both families and child care providers and ensure that child care centres could stay in business and weather the pandemic storm.
- That's why we moved quickly to implement initiatives to support child care providers in this rapidly evolving environment.
- This pandemic has brought a deeper understanding of the importance of child care to a robust economy.
- Our government remains committed to universal child care and looks forward to working together with the sector and all levels of government to continue along the path towards affordable, quality, and inclusive child care for every family that wants or needs it.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Ministry provided a range of emergency funding supports to child care providers struggling with reduced enrolments, higher cleaning/staffing costs and increased staffing/backfill.
- **Temporary Emergency Fund (TEF):** approximately \$320M was invested in the child care sector between April-August 2020, supporting more than 120,000 (open and closed) licensed child care spaces in over 4,700 facilities across B.C.; this represents approximately 94% of licensed child care providers. This funding supported providers while they temporarily closed and/or experienced reduced enrolments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - TEF funding was primarily used to comply with Provincial Health Officer orders (86%) and pay fixed costs, such as rent or insurance (77%), as well as staff wages (73%).

- TEF funding was instrumental in supporting child care operators to remain open and operational; the closure and opening pattern so far this year have not deviated substantially from the pattern in recent years.
- To date, in the current fiscal year, there has been a net increase of 72 new facilities and over 2,500 additional spaces in facilities with a CCOF funding agreement.
- Though facilities continue to open, enrolment in child care facilities was down 12% from September to December 2020 compared with the same months in the previous year, based on enrolment reports from 94% of child care facilities. This is attributed to families being unwilling or unable to bring children to child care during the continuing pandemic.
- **Temporary Inclusion Support Fund:** Up to \$2,000 through the Maintenance Fund for open child care facilities to assist with the costs of accommodating children of Essential Service Workers who have additional support needs and who enrolled in the child care services after March 17, 2020.
- **B.C.'s recovery plan** includes \$56M to support child care providers and families through three funding initiatives:
  1. \$40M in **Health and Safety Grants (HSG)** to help licensed child care facilities to operate as many child care spaces as possible and offset the additional costs associated with operating safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program had an 89% uptake, representing more than 3,300 child care organizations and over 105,000 child care spaces, with expenditures of \$35.1M. Providers have until the of June 2021 to spend their HSG funds.
  2. \$6M to the **Rapid Renovation Fund**, available to school boards, public post-secondary institutions, and health authorities to create or expand licensed child care in public spaces they currently own. Successful applicants may be eligible to receive 100% of budgeted and eligible project costs up to \$5,000 per full-time child care space created. As of February 8, 2021, three applications had been received. Applications closed on March 12, 2021.

*Note: Combined estimated surplus of approximately \$11M from both Health and Safety Grants and Rapid Renovation Funds was approved to redirect to projects under the **New Spaces Fund**.*



3. \$10M to the **Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) Outdoor Early Learning Play Spaces Initiative** to restore, refurbish or develop outdoor cultural early learning environments at AHS sites throughout B.C. Two service delivery contracts to disburse the funds to eligible AHS programs both on-reserve and in urban centres were signed with the Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC (AHSABC) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in October and December 2020 respectively. These organizations will report out on the number of applications and funded projects in April 2021.
- In addition to funding programs, the Ministry also leveraged service agreements with Child Care Resource and Referral Centres (CCRRs) to implement a **Child Care Matching Service**. This service provided a way to connect essential service workers with child care providers that had remained open during the crisis. The matching service prioritized child care placements for the children of essential service workers. Of the over 500 parents who responded to a survey about their use of the service, 33% were successful in accessing child care. **Interim policies for Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs** were implemented during the first months of the COVID-19 Emergency until August 31, 2020:
  - Prioritization of service for children of essential service workers;
  - SCD staffing supports were made available during school hours for school-age children of essential service providers who were receiving in-own-home care; and,
  - SCD support workers with medically fragile, immune-compromised children were restricted from working in more than one child care centre.
- The Province also **amended the Child Care Licensing Regulation to extend the expiration dates of Early Childhood Educator and Early Childhood Educator Assistant certificates** who were not able to complete the required professional development and work experience requirements for renewal as a result of COVID-19, allowing them to remain working during the pandemic. **Amendments to the Child Care Subsidy Regulation were introduced** to enable the continued payment of the Affordable Child Care Benefit to families who became ineligible for

funding as a result of losing employment during the COVID-19 pandemic and/or if their child is temporarily absent from child care due to COVID-19.

- Under Budget 2021, government announced an additional \$20M to invest in another iteration of Health and Safety Grants (HSG 2.0).
- HSG 2.0 will continue to support providers to comply with PHO guidelines and to safely operate as many child care spaces as possible.

## FINANCES:

**Table 1: COVID Pandemic Response Supports to Child Care Sector**

\$Millions	Actuals 2019/20	Vote 52 <sup>1</sup> Contingency	YTD <sup>2</sup> 2020/21	Total Expenditures
<b>Temporary Emergency Fund (TEF)</b>	0.464	253.700	320.034	320.498
<b>Health &amp; Safety Grants</b> <sup>3,4</sup>		40.000	35.032	35.032
<b>Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) Outdoor Early Play Spaces</b>		10.000	0.900	0.900
<b>Short-Term Public Sector Renovations Fund</b> <sup>4</sup> <i>(referred to as the Rapid Renovation Fund)</i>		6.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Temporary Inclusion Support Fund</b> <sup>5</sup>			0.001	0.001
<b>Total- COVID Supports to Child Care Sector</b>	<b>0.464</b>	<b>309.700</b>	<b>355.968</b>	<b>356.432</b>

Source: Fiscal 2020/21 Financial Management Report- December 31, 2020 YTD

### NOTES:

1. Vote 52 Contingency is for Pandemic Response & Economic Recovery
2. Year to Date (YTD) expenses are as of December 31, 2020
  - Actuals in 2019/20 coded to incorrect fiscal
3. Health & Safety Grants provided to both Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF) and Prototype (PT) site service providers
4. TBS approved the redirection of unspent funds (approx. \$11M) from Health & Safety Grants and Short-Term Renovation Funds to New Spaces Fund shortfall
5. Temporary Inclusion Support Fund funded out of Child Care Maintenance budget.

- Section 6.1 Financial data Booklet and COVID Expenditure Tracking 2021 Financial Data

## STATISTICS:

- 94% of facilities signed up for Temporary Emergency Funding between April 1 and August 31, 2020, supporting more than 120,000 (open and closed) spaces in over 4,700 facilities across B.C.

### Temporary Emergency Fund (April 1 to August 31, 2020)

TEF Status	Facilities	Spaces
Open	3,775	96,058
Closed	992	24,160

<b>Total</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>120,218</b>
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Data Source: MAIM, Ministry of Children and Family Development

#### Advice/Recommendations

#### CROSS-REFERENCE:

- 888226 – Recovery

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

**ISSUE: COVID Update: In-person connections for children and youth in care with their families during the pandemic**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Maintaining connections and facilitating access between children and youth in care and their families remains a priority.
- In these unprecedented times, those connections need to be made and maintained in the safest way possible, while also following Provincial Health Officer (PHO) guidance and recommendations.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry implemented interim practice guidelines and bulletins that allowed the Ministry and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) to continue to deliver services to children, youth and families.
- On March 26, 2020, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend in-person visits between children and youth in care and their families with the provision for exceptions.
- The Ministry and DAAs supported children and youth in care and their families to stay connected virtually through Skype and by phone.
- We also made exceptions to allow for in-person visits to accommodate unique circumstances.
- On June 3, 2020, in-person visits between children and youth in care and their families resumed, guided by principles established by the PHO.
- Situations where in-person visits could not resume required review from an Executive Director of a Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) or Executive Director of Service (EDS), as well as follow-ups on an ongoing basis.
- DAAs and Unaffiliated Nations face additional challenges in facilitating in-person visitation, as many Nations and Indigenous Communities have restricted access to their community in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep their citizens safe.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- When the Provincial State of Emergency was declared in BC, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare determined that in-person visits with children and youth in care by persons living outside of caregivers' homes was inconsistent with Provincial Health Officer (PHO) guidance and recommendations.
- On March 26, 2020, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare temporarily suspended in-person visits between children and youth in care and their families, with exceptions to be considered on individual basis.
- Staff from DAAs and MCFD shifted to virtual visits to ensure consistent practice across the province and to support planning so that parents, children and youth had what they needed for meaningful and frequent virtual contact (see Table 1).
- During the period March 26-June 2, 2020, the Ministry reviewed and approved 316 exceptional circumstances where in-person visitation still needed to occur (e.g. breastfeeding for an infant), with the understanding that in-person visits would follow PHO recommendations (see Table 2).
- The Ministry and DAAs supported children and youth in care to connect virtually with their families, extended families, and people who were important to them.
- The Ministry also reviewed the need for technology to make sure children, youth, families and caregivers had devices to connect virtually.
- The Ministry approved Skype for Business as the method of virtual communication.
- To support this work, the Ministry:
  - Developed, posted and broadly distributed a user guide for care providers, parents and external partners describing how to use Skype. Staff received orientations so they could support caregivers in using Skype.
  - Loaned 50 preloaded iPads to caregivers who were without technology and hosted two information sessions for staff to help them support caregivers who received the iPads.
  - Hosted several Town Halls, in partnership with the BC Federation of Foster Parents, Federation of Community Social Services of BC and the PHO, to provide guidance and answer questions from foster parents, out-of-care providers, staff and stakeholders across the province.
- TELUS provided 200 prepaid cell phones, which DAAs and MCFD distributed to vulnerable youth and young adults.
- On June 3, 2020, based on new PHO guidance and recommendations, in-person visits between children and youth in care and their families were able to resume, with a focus on keeping the risk of spreading COVID-19 low by following established public health principles and control measures.

- Indigenous Communities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, resulting in increased concern/fear around in-person visitations.
- To address situations when there is no “in or out” access to a community, MCFD and DAAs created a provincial list of emergency contacts in Indigenous communities to ensure a collaborative response to assess the safety of children and youth. These contacts assist MCFD/DAA social workers when responding to child safety concerns and ensure families receive the supports they need, while also ensuring local protocols are honored.
- Where in-person visits were not be able to resume, Executive Directors DAAs or EDSs needed to review and approve the approach, and are required conduct reviews on an ongoing basis.
- Maintaining connections remains a priority, and the Provincial Director of Child Welfare is in regular contact with the office of the Provincial Health Officer to review the impact of new orders on in-person visits.
- All interim practice guidelines, bulletins, letters, Town Halls, FAQs and COVID-19 relevant information is publicly available on the government website.

## **FINANCES:** N/A

## **STATISTICS:**

Table 1. **Staff Orientations** (May 25, 2020 – June 22, 2020)

<b>Staff Orientated DAA and MCFD</b>	<b>To Suspend In-Person Visits</b>	<b>Scaling Up In-Person Connections (X13)</b>	<b>Bi-Weekly Practice Calls (X8)</b>
Child Protection and Guardianship Staff	945	Included	Included
Other staff (resources, support agency)	157	Included	Included
Total	1102	1744	400

Data Source: Provincial Practice Branch and Aboriginal Services

Table 2. **Approved Exceptions for In-Person Visitation** (March 26, 2020 – June 2, 2020)

<b>Approved Exceptions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Approved In-Person Visits	316

Data Source: Provincial Practice Branch and Aboriginal Services

Table 3. **Approved Exception for NOT having an In-Person Visitation** (June 3, 2020 – March 8, 2021)

<b>Approved Exceptions</b>	<b>Total</b>
DAA	2*
MCFD	19

Data Source: Provincial Practice Branch and Aboriginal Services

\*one has been resolved and in-person connection has resumed

**CROSS REFERENCE: N/A**

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

**ISSUE: COVID-19 Updates – Youth and Young Adults**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- When the COVID-19 health emergency was declared in March 2020, the ministry immediately implemented emergency measures to prevent vulnerable youth and young adults from experiencing adverse socio-economic and health-related impacts.
- The ministry is offering Temporary Housing Agreements (THA) and Temporary Support Agreements (TSA) to support youth in care who are reaching the age of majority (19) during the pandemic, which allow:
  - Youth currently living in foster care, contracted residential agencies or with relatives through the Extended Family Program (EFP), to stay where they are past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday through a THA; and
  - Youth nearing the end of an Independent Living Agreement (ILA) or Youth Agreement (YAG) to continue receiving monthly living expenses past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday through a TSA.
- The ministry incrementally extended the THA and TSA emergency measures in 2020 and most recently extended them until March 31, 2022.
- Emergency measures were also put in place for young adults participating in the Agreements with Young Adults program (AYA), including:
  - Making regulatory amendments to the AYA program to support young adults on AYA who turned 27 during the pandemic – as well as those who experienced program pauses or interruptions – to continue to receive support while not drawing down their 48-month limit (available March-September 2020); and
  - Adding flexibility to AYA life skills, rehabilitative and mental health program options to support low-barrier access for eligible young adults.
- Emergency measures that make the AYA Program more flexible were extended until September 30, 2021. These include:



- Young adults can take life-skills programs online.
- Young adults can take life-skills programs for fewer hours per week (5 hours/week instead of 12).
- Life-skills providers no longer need to be approved by the ministry.
- Young adults can learn life skills in one learning domain (instead of four).
- Young adults can do cultural learning as a life-skill program, like learning a family language or meeting with elders.
- Additional flexibility was added to the AYA program in October 2020. As a result, young adults:
  - Have more options for mental health support while on the AYA program, including access to cultural healing and wellness.
  - May attend mental health services for fewer hours per week (10 hours/week instead of 15).
  - May take part in more than one program at a time — for example, attending mental health services while going to school part-time — to best meet their needs.
  - Have flexibility when they renew their AYA agreement; they have the option to renew at the end of the school year or at the end of a program, with approval from a social worker, rather than having to meet every six months.
- In February 2021, the ministry clarified that young adults could access the AYA program and THA/TSA at the same time – for the first time – providing them with flexibility to participate in programs while remaining in their current living arrangements.
- The ministry partnered with BC Housing to promote an opportunity for over 200 young adults from care to access the Canada-BC Housing Benefit (CBCHB) to help them pay their rent each month.
- Young adults enrolled in the AYA program, or who are eligible for AYA, applied for this rental subsidy in March 2021.

## BACKGROUND:

- The following groups have benefitted from emergency measures put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic:
  - **Youth in foster care, out-of-care placements and contracted residential agencies:** Youth are being supported to stay where they are, allowing care providers to continue to support young adults past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, until March 31, 2022. MCFD and DAA workers continue to work with these young adults to support those who are ready to transition to independence.
  - **Youth living on Independent Living Agreements and Youth Agreements:** Young adults can continue to receive monthly living expenses past their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, until March 31, 2022.
  - **Youth in care scheduled to transition to Community Living BC (CLBC) services:** Youth who are eligible for services through CLBC will be supported to transition on their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. In unique circumstances, if this transition is not possible due to COVID-19 related risks, the ministry will support young adults to remain in their existing placement until March 31, 2022, or until their transition to CLBC becomes possible.
  - **Young adults participating in the Agreements with Young Adults Program (AYA):** Young adults participating in AYA will continue to receive their monthly financial supports. In addition, the ministry relaxed the life-skills criteria for the AYA program to create greater flexibility and accessibility for young adults. These supports are available until September 30, 2021.

## FINANCES:

- Vote 52 Contingencies: All Ministries: Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery access for THA and TSA was up to \$4.7M and for Temporary Changes to AYA, up to \$3.2M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet 6.1) COVID-19 Expenditure Tracking, page 19).
- Total expenditures to December 31, 2020 for pandemic response for youth was \$3.4M (Budget 2021 Financial Data Booklet 6.1) COVID-19 Expenditure Tracking, page 19).

Programs	Vote 52 Pandemic Response & Economic Recovery	20/21 YTD as of Dec 31
Temporary Housing Agreements, Temporary Support Agreements <sup>1</sup>	4.7	2.9
Temporary Changes to Agreements with Young Adults program	3.2	0.5
Note 1: Maintaining care arrangements for youth aging out of care, and care arrangements for youth aging out while on Independent Living Agreement (ILA) or Youth Agreement (YAG)		

## STATISTICS:

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- **888412** – Youth Transitions – Interim Measures
- **999411** – Overview of Post Majority Supports
- **888410** – Post-secondary Supports for Former Youth in Care

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: COVID-19 Response in CYMH**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Supporting the health and wellbeing of children and youth is a top priority for this Ministry.
- When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Ministry had to move quickly to adapt services to continue to meet the needs of children and youth throughout the province.
- The COVID-19 pandemic measures we've put in place have had a significant impact on child and youth mental health.
- Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) teams quickly pivoted to continue to deliver services virtually and by telephone.
- Intake services have remained open and children and youth continue to receive in-person care.
- Despite the changes we've made, we know there's more work to do:
  - Despite the increased needs for mental health support, referrals to our services went down during the height of the pandemic – meaning the kids needing mental health services were not accessing them.
  - We also know some children and youth were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including children living in unstable homes, 2SLGBTQ+ children– we need to do more to serve these children.
- MCFD is actively preparing for any increased demand for CYMH services by rapidly deploying improved service-delivery models and resources to ensure we address the needs of children, youth and families.

These include services that are offered virtually, as well as streamlining the intake process, improving urgent/crisis response, and enhancing outreach models.

**BACKGROUND:**

Contact: Carolyn Kamper  
Cell phone: Government  
Date: March 23, 2021

- In Fiscal 2020/2021 year to date (December 2020), MCFD provided community-based mental health services across the province to over 26,000 children and youth through CYMH Teams, the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, and Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services.
- Due to COVID-19, referrals declined significantly in April and May 2020 and then started to rise to typical rates, peaking in August and December. Adult services and other provincial services are reporting similar trends.
- Additional funding over the past four years has allowed the Ministry to hire 94 new practitioners, bringing the total to 539 (as of December 31st, 2020)<sup>1</sup>.
- Throughout the pandemic, CYMH and Indigenous CYMH teams have remained committed to providing access to mental health services.
- This fiscal year, CYMH teams served 25,111<sup>2</sup> children and youth, some of whom have experienced increased severity in their mental health symptoms because of the stress of the pandemic, including the challenges of social distancing and a lack of routine.
- We know that some groups of people may be disproportionately affected, facing extreme or cumulative adversities during the pandemic<sup>3</sup>.
- Indigenous children and youth may be particularly disadvantaged by this pandemic, which is why our Indigenous CYMH teams continue to support them.
- Staff are working hard to find ways to reach all youth in need in order to help them stay safe and healthy during this very challenging time.
- MCFD created new resources to help youth manage anxiety symptoms and pandemic-related stress.
- The Ministry adapted Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE) resources to provide parents and caregivers with tools to help their children manage their worries.

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<sup>1</sup> MAIM, December 2020 Adjusted to remove Maples and Complex Needs Facility employees.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: Modelling, Analysis and Information Management (MAIM) Note that the data is for the fiscal year to date as of Dec 31, 2020, leaving 3 months to the end of the fiscal year and includes Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA).

<sup>3</sup> Waddell C, Schwartz C, Barican J, Yung D, Gray-Grant D. COVID-19 and the Impact on Children's Mental Health. Vancouver, BC: Children's Health Policy Centre, Simon Fraser University, 2020.

**FINANCES:**

- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
- The new service delivery models the Ministry implemented are funded within the existing 2020/21 budget.

**STATISTICS:**

- Research indicates an estimated 12.7 percent of children and youth aged 4 to 18 years have mental disorders at any given time.
- In BC, that equates to approximately 95,000 young people who are experiencing significant symptoms and impairment<sup>4</sup>.
- Indigenous children and youth are at higher risk of mental health and addiction challenges, dealing with multiple pre-existing adversities, namely those associated with colonialism, including a history of exposure to past infectious disease outbreaks<sup>5</sup>.
- For Fiscal Year 2020/2021 year to date (as of December 2020), the average wait time from the initial intake assessment to the first clinical service was 70 days. Referrals are triaged so urgent cases are not waitlisted.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

- Overview of CYMH

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<sup>4</sup> Waddell, C., Barican, J., Yung, D., Schwartz, C., Zheng, Y., & Georgiades, K. (2021). *Childhood Mental Disorders: Prevalence and Service Needs*. Vancouver, BC: Children's Health Policy Centre, Simon Fraser University.

<sup>5</sup> Waddell C, Schwartz C, Barican J, Yung D, Gray-Grant D. COVID-19 and the Impact on Children's Mental Health. Vancouver, BC: Children's Health Policy Centre, Simon Fraser University, 2020.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIALIZED INTERVENTION AND YOUTH JUSTICE BRANCH  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: Youth Custody Services during COVID-19**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Youth Custody Services (YCS) operates two youth custody centres, located in Burnaby and Prince George. The combined staffed capacity for the centres is 108, with 24 at Prince George and 84 at Burnaby.
- Since February 2020, YCS has relied on evidence-based decision making to gradually introduce mitigation strategies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Strategies are guided by health and safety experts, including the BC Public Service Agency's Occupational Health and Safety physician and safety specialists; Office of the Provincial Health Officer medical officer; and regional health authorities infection control specialists.
- YCS worked with health partners (e.g., Provincial Health Office, Health Authorities) and members of our joint Union Management committees to establish site-specific, comprehensive COVID-19 Exposure Control Plans, Safety Plans, and guidance documents.
- As the pandemic evolves, our operations, processes and procedures have adapted and will continue to adapt to address the health and safety needs of our workforce and clients.
- Rigorous preparations have been successful to date at mitigating and preventing the spread of the virus within the youth custody facilities. To date, we have had five COVID-19 cases at Burnaby Youth Custody Services and guided by the Fraser Health Medical Health Officer and Public Health Nurses, containment measures were notable.
- YCS has implemented the following health and safety measures:
  - Environmental measures such as visual cues for physical distancing or directing traffic flow in hallways and frequent cleaning and disinfection.
  - Administrative measures such as modified and rotational schedules, health care screening, and with consent, COVID-19 testing of all youth



admitted to the facility, staff training, and active screening of all professionals.

- Personal protective measures such as mask use for health workers and correctional officers.
- Youth Admitted to custody from the community are placed on separate confinement in a living unit separate and apart from other youth.
- All youth admitted to custody are required to undergo a 10-day isolation period unless medically cleared by public health or a medical doctor or upon receipt of a negative COVID-19 test.
- This is important to understand that this protocol has allowed safe management of all youth and staff working and reduced the length of necessary isolation to a minimum given the risk of COVID-19 is known post test and youth are safely able to be moved far quicker than without testing.
- As a purposeful response to the pandemic, YCS enacted an interim admission policy and interim guidelines for in-person family visitation.
- COVID-19 may have brought unprecedented declines in the number of youth in custody (see Statistics).

#### **FINANCES:**

- COVID-19 has created new health and safety requirements for Branch programs. In light of this, there are increased costs associated with maintaining a sanitary environment and providing personal protective equipment to meet the required needs to ensure health and safety of all.
- As at December 31, 2020, the total expenditures for COVID-19 measures at the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre was \$0.064M.

#### **STATISTICS:**

##### **Average Daily Count of Youth in Custody (Fiscal Years 2018/19-2020/21)**

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21 FYTD*</b>
Average Daily Youth in Custody	32	26	13
Average Daily Count by Gender	85% male 15% female	86% male 14% female	89% male 11% female
	Indigenous: 41%	Indigenous: 46%	Indigenous: 52%

Average Daily Count by Indigenous Status	Non Indigenous: 59%	Non Indigenous: 54%	Non Indigenous: 48%
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Data Source: IBM Cognos

\*Fiscal Year to Date as of March 02, 2021

### Number of Medical Separate Confinement

- The total number of youth placed on medical confinement from March 01, 2020 to present is 152.

### CROSS REFERENCE:

- Overview of Youth Custody Services

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

**ISSUE: CYSN Interim Measures**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Many families of children and youth with support needs must isolate longer than the general population and they may have less access to education and support services. Many children and youth may also have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for contracting the virus.
- To help families and children with support needs who face additional health risks due to COVID-19, MCFD implemented several interim measures in response to the pandemic.
- Many in-home supports and services were also unavailable and/or limited. Flexible policies support families to balance these needs.
- Families of children and youth with support needs have higher disability-related costs regardless of the pandemic. Flexible options for respite services and virtual assessments support families and children to manage disability-related stressors during the pandemic.
- Interim measures allow long-term opportunities to monitor the impact of flexible measures to inform implementation of the CYSN Service Framework, operational streamlining measures, and the continuation of these measures post pandemic.

**BACKGROUND:**

- **EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND:**
  - Funding provided direct payment of \$225 per month to eligible families from April – September 2020. Using a needs-based approach, the emergency funding supported more than 3,000 families. Families purchased a variety of supports/services such as home maker supports, grocery shopping assistance, meal prep services.
- **AUTISM FUNDING PROGRAM:**

- Families could use up to 35% of their funding to buy eligible travel, training, and equipment until August 31, 2020 (lifted from 20%).
  - Families could submit Justification for Equipment (JFE) forms without needing a clinician's signature until June 30, 2020.
  - A three-month extension to use any unspent Autism funding for children and youth whose 6<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> birthday fell between March 15, 2020 and August 31, 2020.
  - Families with children under the age of 6 can use their autism funding to access family counselling services until August 31, 2020.
  - Temporary exception to the eligibility policy to accept virtual assessments conducted through the British Columbia Autism Assessment Network (BCAAN); extended until March 2022.
- **FLEXIBLE USE OF BASIC RESPITE FUNDING:**
    - Flexible use of funding options for respite and in-home supports.
    - Automatic renewals for basic respite and acceptance of electronic signatures/info from families.
    - Suspension of the need to submit record of expense forms.
    - All Respite Care interim measures are in place until March 2022.
- **AT HOME PROGRAM (AHP):**
    - A modified eligibility process to ease access to At Home Program medical benefits.
    - Any families receiving benefits continue to do so without the need for reassessment during the pandemic period.
    - During the COVID-19 pandemic, certain situations may need PPE to keep a child or youth healthy and safe. PPE provided by AHP Medical Benefits focuses on protecting the child. It may include items that prevent the transmission of infections to children and youth who are at greatest risk of not being able to fight infections.
    - Families can use School Age Extended Therapy (SAET) funding for virtual care when appropriate.
    - A three-month extension to use any unspent SAET funding for children and youth whose 18<sup>th</sup> birthday fell between March 15, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

- **SPECIAL NEEDS AGREEMENTS & VOLUNTARY CARE AGREEMENTS:**

- Families with children in care on a Special Needs Agreement or a Voluntary Care Agreement were not required to make monthly maintenance payments until September 1, 2020. This provided temporary relief to parents who were struggling with income or housing insecurity related to the pandemic.

- **SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SCD) & ABORIGINAL SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT (ASCD) PROGRAMS**

- Prioritization of service for children of essential service providers;
- SCD staffing supports were made available during school hours for school-age children of essential service providers who were receiving in-own-home care; and
- SCD Support Workers who supported medically fragile, immune-compromised children were restricted from working in more than one child care centre.
- SCD and ASCD interim measures were in place between April 1, 2020 and September 2020.

**FINANCES:**

- MCFD was provided access to Vote 52 Contingencies: All Ministries: Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery for up to \$2.709M for the fund the Emergency Relief Fund

**SDD CYSN COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funding (ERF) Forecast Reporting**

As at Oct 15, 2020

Service Delivery Area	Apr - June Budget (\$)	July - Sep Budget (\$)	Number of contracts
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Advice/Recommendations

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## Advice/Recommendations

Total	903,003	1,806,006	3,059
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**STATISTICS:** N/A

**CROSS REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION  
ESTIMATES BRIEFING NOTE 2021/22**

**ISSUE: Good News Story – Impact of COVID-19 Emergency Supports to Youth in Coast North Shore SDA**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020, the ministry implemented emergency measures to ensure youth in care did not age out of services and those who had recently aged out received extra assistance.
- This measure provided stability and support for young people who might otherwise have faced housing, educational and employment uncertainty during the pandemic.
- These emergency measures are making a lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable youth in our province and provide tools for the many hard-working social workers supporting their transition into adulthood.
- One example shared with me is that of a youth in the Coast North Shore Service Delivery Area.
- This young person continued to work with her youth transition worker on developing independence skills, and I'm so pleased to hear how she has benefited from that increased stability and planning as she steps into adulthood.
- She is engaged in post-secondary education, has a job, and a clear plan for her future.
- During the past few months, this young person has engaged in counselling for the first time, she has earned her drivers license, and according to her youth transition worker, is more confident and connected with those around her.
- The pandemic emergency measures enabled her to keep the supports and relationships in place; I wish her continued success in her studies and all the best for her future.