



ESQUIMALT NATION

1189 Kosapsum Drive
Victoria, BC, V9A 7K7
Phone: 250-381-7861
Fax: 250-384-9309

September 21, 2015,

Ministry of Children and Family Development
Minister Stephanie Cadieux
Suite 201 – 546 Yates Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Minister Cadieux:

Re: C-6 Delegation of Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services

Esquimalt Nation has recently become aware that the Urban Delegated Agency Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to move to C-6 Delegation and provide Child Protection services within our South Vancouver Island territory. Surrounded by Cedar has not made any attempt to consult with the leadership of the Nine South Island First Nations regarding this strategy and the implications it will have for our families and children.

Esquimalt Nation stands united in our opposition to Surrounded by Cedar's move to C-6 Delegation and request that the Ministry of Children and Family Development stop supporting this work.

It is important that we communicate our clear position on this matter. If Surrounded by Cedar moves forward with C-6 Delegation we will not allow the Agency to provide services to any family or child that resides on the reserve of our First Nations; or any family or child that resides off reserve but is registered to or affiliated with one of our First Nations.

We ask that you please respond to this letter to confirm a halt to MCFD's support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Chief Andy Thomas

cc:

Deputy Minister Mark Sieben
Provincial Director, Cory Heavenor
Denis Debonet
NIL TU O, Katharina Patterson
SIWS, Lila Underwood

November 9, 2015

Ref: 225229

Chief Andy Thomas
Esquimalt Nation
1189 Kosapsun Dr
Victoria BC V9A 7K7

Dear Chief Thomas:

Thank you for your letter in which you bring forward your concerns regarding Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services moving to child protection delegation (C6).

As part of the delegation agreement process, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies must obtain support of the First Nations in order to provide services to children and families of those nations. The goal of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is to work collaboratively with both First Nations and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies in the planning for the provision of delegated services to children and families of the involved nations and/or communities.

The MCFD has been working with Surrounded by Cedar to move from the provision of guardianship (C4) services to child protection services (C6) for off reserve Aboriginal children and families who are not registered or affiliated with the nine First Nations of the south island. There is no plan for Surrounded by Cedar to provide services to children and families registered or affiliated with the nine First Nations of the south island, regardless of these families living on or off reserve. MCFD will continue to provide child protection services to the nine First Nations of South Vancouver Island.

The ministry values your input and participation in the planning for services for children and families of your Nations. Thank you again for raising your concerns and for providing the opportunity to respond and clarify the provisions of child protection services on the south island.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Stephanie Cadieux
Minster