

4901B East Sooke Road  
Sooke, BC, V9Z 1B6  
Telephone: 250.478.3535  
Facsimile: 250.478.3585



September 23, 2015,

Minister Stephanie Cadieux  
Suite 201 – 546 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Minister Cadieux

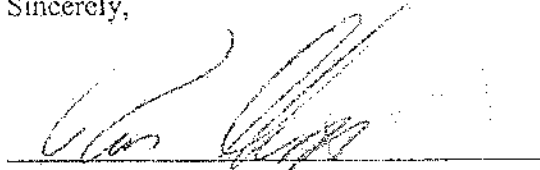
The Beecher Bay First Nation has recently become aware that the Urban Delegated Agency Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to move to C-6 Delegation and provide Child Protection services within our South Vancouver Island territory. 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.

Beecher Bay First 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 and confirm that MCFD's support of this initiative has ceased.

Sincerely,



Chief Russ Chipps, Beecher Bay First Nation

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

October 6, 2015

Ref: 224663

Chief Russ Chipps  
Beecher Bay First Nation  
4901B East Sooke Rd  
Sooke BC V9Z 1B6

Dear Chief Chipps:

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2015, 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



# TSAWOUT FIRST NATION

7728 Tetayut Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 2E4

September 18, 2015

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

Dear Minister Cadieux,

The Tsawout First 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.

The Tsawout First 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 and confirm that MCFD's support of this initiative has ceased.

Sincerely,

Chief Harvey Underwood  
Tsawout First Nation

cc: Mark Sieben, Deputy Minister, MCFD  
Cory Heavenor, Provincial Director, MCFD

October 6, 2015

Ref: 224674

Chief Harvey Underwood  
Tsawout First Nation  
7728 Tetayut Rd  
Saanichton BC V8M 2E4

Dear Chief Underwood:

Thank you for your letter of September 18, 2015, 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



## Pacheedaht First Nation

350 Kalaid Street  
Port Renfrew, BC  
V0S 1K0

Phone: (250) 647-5521  
Fax: (250) 647-5561

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September 18, 2015,

Minister Stephanie Cadieux  
Suite 201 – 546 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Minister Cadieux

The Pacheedaht First 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.

Pacheedaht First 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 and confirm that MCFD's support of this initiative has ceased.

Sincerely,

Arliss Daniels,  
Pacheedaht First Nation

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

October 6, 2015

Ref: 224687

Chief Arliss Daniels  
Pacheedaht First Nation  
350 Kalaid St  
Port Renfrew BC V0S 1K0

Dear Chief Daniels:

Thank you for your letter of September 18, 2015, 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



PO Box 307, Sooke B.C., V9Z 1G1  
Ph: 250 642-3957 Fax: 250 642-7808

September 24, 2015

Minister Stéphanie Cadieux

Suite 201 – 546 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Minister Cadieux

The T'Sou-ke 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.

T'Sou-ke 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 and confirm that MCFD's support of this initiative has ceased.

Sincerely,

Chief Gordon Planes, T'Sou-ke First Nation

cc:

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

October 26, 2015

Ref: 224872

Chief Gordon Planes  
T'sou-ke First Nation  
PO Box 307  
Sooke BC V9Z 1G1

Dear Chief Planes:

I am writing in response to 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 Ministry of Children and Family Development 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.

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

Sincerely,

***ORIGINAL SIGNED BY***

Stephanie Cadieux  
Minster





## Songhees Nation

October 7, 2015,

Minister Stephanie Cadieux  
P.O. Box 9057 Stn Prov. Gov't  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Cadieux

The Songhees 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.

Songhees 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 and confirm that MCFD's support of this initiative has ceased.

Sincerely,

Chief Ron Sam  
Songhees Nation

cc:

Deputy Minister Mark Sieben  
Provincial Director, Cory Heavenor

October 26, 2015

Ref: 224924

Chief Ron Sam  
Songhees Nation  
1100 Admirals Rd  
Victoria BC V9A 2P6

Dear Chief Sam:

Thank you for your letter of October 7, 2015, 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.

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. The ministry values your input and participation in the planning for services for children and families of your Nations.

Sincerely,

***ORIGINAL SIGNED BY***

Stephanie Cadieux  
Minister



**Tseycum First Nation**

1210 Totem Lane

Sidney, BC V8L 5S4

PH: 250-656-0858 FX: 250-656-0868

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September 18, 2015,

Minister Stephanie Cadieux  
Suite 201 – 546 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Minister Cadieux

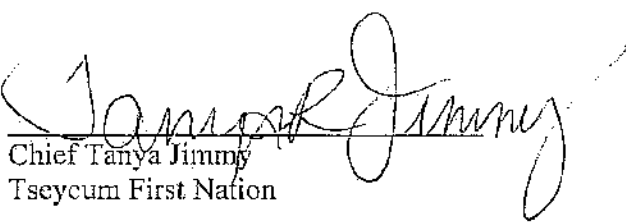
The Tseycum First Nation has recently become aware that the Urban Delegated Agency Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to move to C-6 Delegation and provide Child Protection services within our South Vancouver Island territory. 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.

Tseycum First 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 and confirm that MCFD's support of this initiative has ceased.

Sincerely,

  
Chief Tanya Jimmy  
Tseycum First Nation

cc:  
Deputy Minister Mark Sieben  
Provincial Director, Cory Heavenor

October 26, 2015

Ref: 224980

Chief Tanya Jimmy  
Tseycum First Nation  
1210 Totem Lane  
Sidney BC V8L 5S4

Dear Chief Jimmy:

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.

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

Sincerely,

***ORIGINAL SIGNED BY***

Stephanie Cadieux  
Minister



## 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 Kosapsum 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



Tsawout Nation



Tseycurm Nation



Esquimalt Nation



Beecher Bay



T'Sou-ke Nation



Songhees Nation



Pauquachin Nation



Tsartlip Nation



Pacheedaht Nation

June 2, 2016

Honourable Stephanie Cadieux  
Suite 201 – 546 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Ms. Cadieux:

The South Island First Nations would like to thank you for your letter dated October 26, 2015 regarding the issue of Surrounded by Cedar's potential to provide services to South Island Aboriginal children and families.

We are encouraged by the statement in your letter: *"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."*

The Chiefs of the nine South Island First Nations stand united in our commitment to ensure that Surrounded by Cedar does not serve our children and families.

Surrounded by Cedar does not consult with us or include us in their governance structure, nor do they have an understanding of our unique cultural differences. On many occasions, Surrounded by Cedar has taken action to serve our children and/or transfer files of children that are affiliated with our communities, with the support of MCFD Management, resulting in confusion and conflict between all parties involved.

Further, Surrounded by Cedar has worked independently with MCFD to review lists of children and determine which ones they deem to be urban Aboriginal children versus South Island First Nations children. We question this process and the authority and capacity of Surrounded by Cedar and MCFD to arbitrarily review file transfer lists and decide which children are urban Aboriginal. To date, Surrounded

by Cedar has made no attempt to consult with us or to communicate their definition of files that may be designated urban Aboriginal versus First Nations.

To eliminate any further confusion and conflict going forward, we believe there needs to be a clear definition of the families that Surrounded by Cedar may and may not serve which is understood and consistently referenced by all parties, including Surrounded by Cedar, NIL TUO Child and Family Services, MCFD and the First Nations Leadership.

We believe that the Leadership and community members of the South Island First Nations are best suited to define which children and families are affiliated and require close ties to our communities. As such, we present the following definition, which has been developed with consideration of the numerous examples we respond to on a regular basis as we support our families.

**A child or child file shall be considered affiliated with a South Island First Nation if:**

- 1. The Child is registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 2. One or both parents caring for the child are registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 3. One or both parents not caring for the child are registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 4. One of the child's siblings is registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 5. One of the child's grandparents, uncles or aunties is registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 6. The child's extended family caregiver is registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 7. The child's non-family caregiver is registered with a South Island First Nation.**
- 8. The child's extended family caregiver is not registered with a South Island First Nation but lives on the Reserve of a South Island First Nation.**
- 9. The child's non-family caregiver is not registered with a South Island First Nation but lives on the Reserve of a South Island First Nation.**




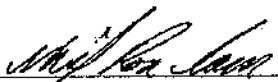
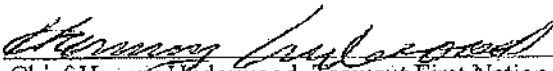
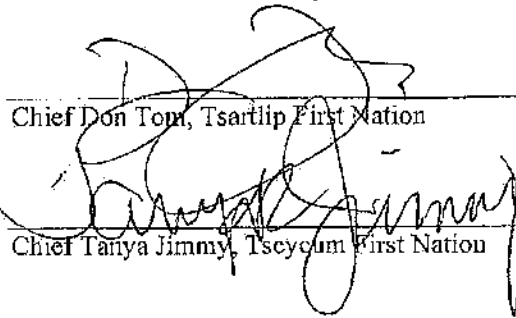
The Leadership of the South Island First Nations have reviewed and signed off on this definition and request that you recognize this definition as you commit to ensuring that Surrounded by Cedar no longer takes any action to transfer files or serve children that meet these criteria. We also ask that a directive, with this definition of affiliation, be shared with MCFD Management, so that they may apply these criteria when making future decisions regarding the transfer of child files.

We, the Chiefs of the nine South Island First Nations, stand united in our opposition to Surrounded by Cedar's repeated attempts to serve our children and request that the Ministry of Children and Family Development support us in this important issue.

We ask that you please respond to this letter and confirm that MCFD shall take action to ensure that the above is consistently applied in the future.



In unity,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Russell Chipps, Beecher Bay First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Jeff Jones, Pacheedaht First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Rebecca Harris, Pauquachin First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Ron Sam, Songhees First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Harvey Underwood, Tsawout First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Tanya Jimmy, Tseyocum First Nation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
for Chief Gordon Plaines, T'Sou-ke First Nation

cc:

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister

Cory Heavener, Director of Child Welfare

Denise Devenny, Aboriginal Services Executive Director

# CHILD AND FAMILY WELLNESS ACCORD

between the  
Nine First Nations of the South Island  
along with  
Leadership of the Urban Aboriginal Community  
and  
The Province of British Columbia



Pauquachin First Nation



Esquimalt Nation



Tsardlip First Nation



Tseyum First Nation



T'Souke First Nation



Beecher Bay First Nation



Tsawout First Nation



Songhees First Nation



Pacheedalt First Nation



Victoria Native Friendship Centre

## PURPOSE

*This Accord shall build on the agreement made in 2008 at the Tseyum Loughouse between the Minister of Children and Family Development, the Deputy Premier of the Province of B.C. and the Leadership of the South Island First Nations and urban Aboriginal community, known as the South Island Wellness Society. Lead by the communities themselves and framed within the context of the inherent right, cultural values, teachings and traditional family laws, this accord will stand up the traditional practices for the care and protection of the children and families of this region.*

## PREAMBLES:

*Whereas the Parties hold the care and protection of children and families as a sacred and shared responsibility; and*

*Whereas the Parties have committed to work in unity while acknowledging the unique strengths, practices and customs of each of the South Island Indigenous communities; and*

*Whereas the Parties hold a shared vision of a services system for the care and protection of our children and families, be governed by Indigenous communities, accountable to and entirely focused on putting children and families at the center; and*

*Whereas the Parties are committed to designing services through traditional governance and decision-making structures that are rooted within the customs and strengths of our communities; and*

*Whereas the Parties acknowledge that a multi-ministry commitment will be required to achieve a system of services that builds upon the traditional laws and practice to care and protect the children of the communities of the South Island; and*

*Whereas the Parties share the vision and commitment to restore, revitalize and strengthen the services in an effort to address gaps and socio-economic barriers impacting the well-being of children and families; and*

*Whereas the Parties will give this accord expression through jointly created three year work plans which will clearly set out the activities necessary to achieve our shared vision of an Indigenous services system for our children; and*

*Whereas the Parties agree to ensure that the necessary financial, human, cultural and community resources will be provided to realize the spirit and intent of this accord.*

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

*The Parties agree to work on a government to government basis and in the spirit of recognition and reconciliation to achieve the vision of an integrated and holistic children and families services system based upon the strengths, customs and traditional practice for the care and well-being of the children of the communities of the South Island.*

HONOURABLE CHRISTY CLARK  
Premier of British Columbia

HONOURABLE MARY MCNEIL  
Minister of Children and Family Development

HONOURABLE MARY POLAK  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

CHIEF BRUCE UNDERWOOD  
Pauquachin Nation

CHIEF RUSSEL CHIPPS  
Beecher Bay First Nation

CHIEF ANDY THOMAS  
Esquimalt Nation

CHIEF HARVEY UNDERWOOD  
Tsawout First Nation

CHIEF WAYNE MORRIS  
Tsardlip First Nation

for CHIEF ROBERT SAM  
Songhees First Nation

CHIEF TANYA JONES  
Tseyum First Nation

for CHIEF MARVIN MCCLURG  
Pacheedalt First Nation

CHIEF GORDON PLANES  
T'Souke First Nation

BRUCE PARISIAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Victoria Native Friendship Centre



July 11, 2016

VIA E-MAIL  
Ref. 228615

South Island First Nations Leadership  
E-mail: c/o [bunderwood@tsawout.ca](mailto:bunderwood@tsawout.ca)

Dear South Island First Nations Leadership:

Thank you for your letter in which you raise concerns about the process of determining which south island children and families will receive child protection services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) offices and which will be served by Surrounded by Cedar Children and Family Services (SCCFS). In addition to discussions that are taking place with SCCFS, I am aware that service delivery staff have been working with NIL/TU,O Child and Family Services to review the cases that are set to be transferred to SCCFS to ensure that none with affiliation to the nine nations of the South Island are included.

As indicated by the signing of the Child and Family Wellness Accord, MCFD is committed to working collaboratively with you and your communities to ensure culturally responsive and supportive services to your children and families living on the south island.

I appreciate the need for clarity around responsibility for service provision in any specific case, especially given the multiple interests and service providers mandated under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* on Vancouver Island. These situations can become very complex when they involve families with multiple cultural and community associations and therefore the definition you have provided in your letter is one that we would be happy to discuss further.

I understand that Lori Wanamaker, newly appointed Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development, is working to establish a meeting with you in the early fall. If it is acceptable to you as a group, she would like to include Denise Devenny, Executive Director, Aboriginal Services and Lise Erikson, Executive Director, South Island Service Delivery, MCFD, in that meeting and dedicate a portion of time to discussing your concerns and experience with respect to collaboration concerning children affiliated with your communities.

I am hopeful that such a meeting will result in a better mutual understanding and a plan that will facilitate the collaboration necessary to ensure better services for all children living on the south island.

Sincerely,

  
Stephanie Cadieux  
Minister

cc: Lori Wanamaker  
Denise Devenny  
Lise Erikson

Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria