

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: May 1, 2018

CLIFF#: 237404

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care, MCFD

ISSUE: To provide information on key policy changes to transition from the Child Care Subsidy Program to the new affordable child care benefit (ACCB).

BACKGROUND:

Government is introducing the ACCB, starting September 1, 2018, which will replace the current Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP). This new benefit will significantly lower the cost of child care for more British Columbia (BC) families and will pay higher rates than the current CCSP, to better reflect the real cost of child care.

Families with annual adjusted incomes of \$45,000 or less will receive the full benefit, up to the cost of care, while those who make up to \$111,000 will receive a reduced amount, scaled according to income. Income eligibility for this benefit will be based on the applicant's annual gross family income, as either:

- reported through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), or
- reported by the applicant, supported by proof of income.

The new income threshold for licensed care will become effective September 1st, 2018, The benefit rate increases will be phased in, with amounts increasing over two years, beginning with licensed infant and toddler care (2018-19), and then expanding to three-to-five-year-old and school age care types in 2019-20. Government will be providing an online benefit calculator to help parents budget for what they will receive based on their adjusted income and the type of child care they choose.

DISCUSSION:

Replacing the current CCSP with the new ACCB will help to deliver immediate affordability relief for BC families and provide a smooth transition to a province-wide universal early care and learning system that is affordable, high-quality and accessible to any family who wants or needs it.

In order to implement the ACCB, a number of changes to the supporting information system (i.e. the Integrated Case Management System and client-facing My Family Services Portal) and Child Care Subsidy Regulation (CCSR) are required. To facilitate this work, an ACCB working group was formed and has been responsible for identifying policy and system-related changes that will provide a smooth transition to the new ACCB.

Three key principles guided the development of the ACCB, namely:

1. Ensure that no family is worse off when they transition from the CCSP to the ACCB.

2. Greater transparency in how a family's eligibility and entitlement for the ACCB is calculated.
3. Streamlining the application process and introducing a user-friendly online portal to make it easier for clients to apply for the benefit and access services outside of regular business hours, and to make the program's administration more efficient.

Refer to **Attachment A** for a summary of some of the key policy changes and their rationale.

NEXT STEPS:

Key dates related to the operationalizing and implementation of the ACCB include:

- s.12
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- **July 16** – Soft launch of online application for the ACCB
- **August 1** – Full launch
- **September 1** – Parents start receiving benefits from the ACCB

ATTACHMENTS:

A. s.12

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: 2018/05/08
CLIFF#: 237566

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: 2018/01/30
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 236101

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development
The Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF MEETING: Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 4:30 to 5:00pm, Room 133

ATTENDEES: The Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST) and the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education

ISSUE: Collaboration with AEST regarding the Work-Integrated Learning Model for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)

BACKGROUND:
s.12,s.13

Part of the mandate of MCFD's ECE Registry is to recognize and work with ECE educational programs delivered within both public and private post-secondary institutions; these programs are recognized under Schedule D of the Child Care Licensing Regulation (CCLR). The ECE Registry also certifies graduates, who meet the requirements for certification outlined in the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and CCLR, investigates practice issues and takes action on certification when issues are substantiated.

DISCUSSION:
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MCFD continues to collaborate with AEST on many aspects of the Early Care and Learning (ECL) Workforce Development Strategy, including the revised ECE Standards of Practice, occupational competencies, and post-secondary learning outcomes through the ECE Standards of Practice and Occupational Competencies Project. AEST sits on both the Steering Committee and Working Group for this project. MCFD also consults with the Deans and Directors of Health and Human Services Committee, as well as the ECE Articulation Committee. Both of these committees have representation on the Working Group.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

MCFD welcomes further collaboration and coordination of strategies with AEST in the development of the ECL Workforce Development Strategy, including continued support of the WILM and the ECE Standards of Practice and Occupational Competencies Project.

The Entry-to-Practice Competency Framework for ECEs Project will re-commence in summer 2018. s.12,s.13
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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING NOTE**

DATE: May 10, 2018
CLIFF#: 237745

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: n/a
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: n/a

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Minister Conroy

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: May 15, 2018, 4:00pm in Victoria

ISSUE(S): SHARE Family and Community Services Society requested a meeting with Minister Conroy to share information about their agency

BACKGROUND:

SHARE is a non-profit, independent, community-based organization providing leadership and programs in response to the social needs of the residents of the Tri-Cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra), New Westminster and adjacent communities.

SHARE currently holds a contract with Tri-Cities for \$2.556 million/year (as of April 1, 2017) for the following services: Child and Youth with Special Needs; Early Childhood Mental Health; Child and Family Preservation; Early Childhood Development; Early Intervention Therapy; and Counselling.

Funding increases for 2017/2018 included family preservations services (quick response and out of care options support), early intervention therapies, early years, CYSN, and mental health groups. The new overall annual baseline funding increased to \$2.786 million/year (at present) representing about 9.0% increase in funding.

The quality of service expectations and reporting requirements have been met and stakeholder feedback has been consistently positive.

The current CEO, Claire MacLean was appointed November 1, 2017. Prior to her CEO role, she was SHARE's Director of Program and Services since 2016.

Service Allocation Assessments (increases to alleviate cost pressures identified in 2015/2016) were initially provided to the agency in 2016/2017 and subsequently annualized \$112,196 per year thereafter.

I last met with Ms. MacLean on April 27, 2018 when she advised of a meeting with Minister Conroy, Minister Darcy, and Minister Robinson on May 15, 2018 in Victoria. As the CEO, Ms. MacLean wanted to meet with the Ministers and share information about the agency raise the issue of community mental health support services with Minister Darcy, in particular, additional counselling support services for parents who have children diagnosed with special needs. She also wanted to raise issues around affordable housing with Minister Robinson.

She also advised that SHARE will no longer be receiving a grant this fiscal year that has historically supported their New Beginnings, Refugee support program, as well as funded some of their operational costs. She requested to increase the administrative fee on Tri-Cities current contracts from 10% to 12% to address cost pressures. In addition, she advised that SHARE would like to increase the wages of their counsellors, making the fees more aligned through a private practice. In order to do this, SHARE would request additional funding or a decrease of services provided.

DISCUSSION:

To address the request for increase in administrative fees and increase in counsellor fees, SHARE was asked to connect with our finance department to prepare and review their budget based on current funding to identify areas of cost pressures and fee structures.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

Tri-Cities MCFD has a long standing and positive partnership with SHARE. We continue to work collaboratively to provide supports and services to children, youth, and families in the Tri-Cities area. The SHARE agency should be referred back to DOO Wong and EDS Samija to discuss ongoing services and cost pressures.

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: May 10, 2018
CLIFF#: 237750

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable):

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) Information Update on Joint Projects and Upcoming RCY Reports

BACKGROUND:

- The new MCFD/RCY Communication and Information Sharing Protocol was signed and implemented in April 2017 to replace three separate pre-existing protocols (advocacy, monitoring, and critical injury and death review) with the RCY.
- The protocol allows for the RCY and MCFD (with mutual consent) to collaborate on joint projects that may result in special reports to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated services to children, youth and families.

DISCUSSION:

- There are four joint projects currently either underway and one under consideration that affirm a commitment by both organizations to strengthen their working relationships in the service of children, youth and families:
 1. **The RCY/MCFD Recommendations Review Joint Project (RRP)** commenced in May 2017 and is projected to be complete by May 31, 2018. The RRP project activities and status are as follows:
 - The RRP reviewed (158 recommendations directed to MCFD in 31 reports released during the term May 2007 to 2016.
 - The RRP will determine recommendations that have not been implemented, and consider what, if any, further action is required by MCFD with respect to these recommendations.
 - In addition, the RRP will update and make improvements to the agreed-upon process (2014) for informing the development of, and response to, recommendations issued in the reports released since the current Representative Bernard Richard commenced his term in 2016.
 - The RRP will be releasing a joint report in May/June 2018. The joint report is being drafted and will include an overview of the project process, a summary of the outstanding recommendations by theme as well as the updated agreed-upon process for responding to reports.
 - It is anticipated the once the joint report is released both the Representative and the Provincial Director of Child Welfare will be asked to present the Joint Report to the Child and Youth Select Standing Committee in 2018; a tentative date is May/June 2018.

2. **Audit of Care Plans Joint Project (ACP)** – The purpose of this project is to develop and implement an audit of care plans for children in care that focusses on both the quality of care plans and compliance to standards. The ACP project involves two approaches and varied activities:

RCY Approach:

- The RCY is considering a program of reviewing quality care planning to support improvements in care planning for children and youth in government care across the following areas: overall care planning, permanency planning, transition planning for youth aging out of care, and Indigenous cultural planning.
- Key activities in the planned pilot include background research, the design of the approach and tools, implementation, and evaluation. Findings from this pilot review will be shared internally with MCFD and the joint working group, as well as to the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth as part of an update on RCY's pilot review
- RCY will be conducting a separate consultation with DAAs.

MCFD Approach:

- MCFD is re-designing the Child Service audit program that will focus on quality and completeness of care plans.
- The new Care Plan Audit will also include three additional standards: Notifying the Public Guardian and Trustee, Cultural Planning and Reportable Circumstance reporting.
- MCFD has started the test of the new care plan audit tool and expects to complete this in June 2018. DAA files are not included in the MCFD Care Plan pilot.

DAA case practice audits are assessed against the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators

3. **Promoting Breastfeeding in high risk families.**

- This project will be practice focused in terms of reviewing the ministry's policies and practices related to decisions to remove infants from their mothers' care and the planning that may or may not facilitate breastfeeding or access to breast milk, access and visitation. The project assumes, based on extensive literature and the rights of the child that it is in the child's best interests to be breastfed or have access to breastmilk if the mother chooses to breastfeed her baby. Facilitating breastfeeding or providing access to breast milk may occur within a decision to remove a baby or a decision to maintain the child with the mother, father, extended family or community.
- Policies and practices in other jurisdictions will be reviewed for comparison as will professional literature on the subject matter.
- A brief review of the rights of the child will help set the context.
- The final product will be a short, informative and timely special report outlining research, data, case examples and recommendations.

The Representative for Children and Youth has indicated he wishes to discuss these topics at the May RCY-MCFD monthly meeting:

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- Motherisk Review
- Joint Initiatives (Care Plan Audits; Breastfeeding Practice Issues; Recommendations; and, possibly, DAAs) s.13
- Residential Services

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- Ignite Your Spirit (Fort St James – August 12 to 16)
- Child Rights Symposium (UVIC – November 16 or 19 – attend and speak at the opening)

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: May 14, 2018
CLIFF #: 237763

PREVIOUS DATE: Non-applicable
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: Non-applicable

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy - Minister of Children and Family Development

ISSUE: Kamloops media reports that police costs for locating missing youth in Ministry care are too high.

BACKGROUND:

Media reported on May 4, 2018 that Kamloops RCMP claim that 71 of the 173 missing person reports in the first quarter of 2018 involved Ministry youth leaving group homes. Ministry policy requires foster parents and caregivers to contact police when a youth's whereabouts are unknown; as well as the assigned social worker submit a Reportable Circumstance (RC) report when children or youth in care are lost or missing and there are concerns for their safety.

These RC reports are sent to local and provincial Ministry leadership, the British Columbia (BC) Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) and, if the child or youth is in the Director's continuing custody, to the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT).

DISCUSSION:

In the past twelve months (May 4, 2017- May 4, 2018) there have been eleven RC reports received regarding lost or missing Kamloops youth. Comparisons to Nanaimo, a community of equivalent size, shows that Kamloops has completed more lost or missing youth RC reports than that community (Appendix attached). The Kamloops RCMP concerns have been the subject of ongoing planning and discussion between local Service Delivery Area (SDA), Delegated Aboriginal Agencies' (DAA) and RCMP leadership since 2014. The most recent meeting was in March 2018.

Ministry efforts to address this concern include foster parent partnership meetings and direct meetings with staffed residential resources to provide education regarding this subject. The Ministry will contact the RCMP to discuss the number of missing person reports that were recently reported in the media in the continuing efforts to address this matter.

The Ministry has been successful in reducing the number missing person reports in Prince George, BC and these strategies are being considered for implementation in Kamloops. Two large contracted residential agencies, which provide specialized placements, are "based" in and around the Kamloops area.

Children and youth in care from remote or geographically isolated communities across BC are sometimes placed in a Kamloops group home to support their plan of care and identified needs, resulting in a higher number of children and youth in care per capita than most BC communities. Currently there are approximately ten identified children and youth from other communities placed in Kamloops.

NEXT STEPS:

The Provincial Director of Child Welfare is conducting further analysis of the number of children and youth in Kamloops area. Ministry management in Kamloops will continue to meet with the RCMP and local DAAs, as well as reviewing successful strategies from Prince George, to address the issues raised by local police and municipal leadership.

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Reportable**Circumstances/Practice
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Community	Service Delivery Area	Delegated Aboriginal Agency	Total
Kamloops	5	6	11
Nanaimo*	4	0	4
Province	117	37	154

*Community has comparative population to Kamloops

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MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: May 16, 2018

CLIFF#: 237901

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: Review of MCFD-Involved Youth Transitioning to Independence January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2016 report that will be released on Wednesday, May 23, 2018

BACKGROUND:

On December 7, 2017, the British Columbia Coroners Service (BCCS) held a death review panel. The report is about youth aged 17-18 years who died while in care or receiving Ministry service's and young adults who died after transitioning from youth to adulthood and who had extensive Ministry or support service involvement.

A death review panel is mandated to review and analyse the facts and circumstances of deaths to provide the Chief Coroner with advice on medical, legal social welfare and other matters concerning public health and safety and prevention of deaths. The death review panel was comprised of professionals with expertise in youth services, child welfare, income support, mental health, addictions, medicine, public health, Indigenous health, injury prevention, education, law enforcement and academia.

DISCUSSION:

The panel reviewed the circumstances of 200 young people (ages 17-25) who died and had transitioned to independence from government child services between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2016. Indigenous youth (68) accounted for 34% of the 200 deaths.

- The report notes that:
 - Accidental deaths accounted for 61% of all youth and young adult transitioning deaths (89 illicit drug overdoses, 18 motor vehicle collisions, 16 drowning exposure, fire, fall, asphyxia, or other traumatic injuries);
 - Suicides (49) accounted for 24% of all youth and young adult transitioning deaths;
 - Homicides (14) accounted for 7% of all youth and young adult transitioning deaths;
 - Natural diseases accounted for 4% of all youth and young adult transitioning deaths (6 conditions arising from illicit drug use, 1 from a cardiac condition, 1 cancer); and,
 - Undetermined causes (6) accounted for 3% of all young and young adult transitioning deaths.

The overall findings of the aggregate review indicated that there was a lack of documented transition planning for youth leaving care or on youth agreements; a disproportionate number of Indigenous young people died compared to the number of Indigenous young people in the general population, high rates of suicide and drug overdose deaths, high rates and health and mental health issues, lower completion of educational attainment; barriers (systemic and personal) to successfully transition to independence. The panel identified four key areas to reduce deaths of youth and young adults transitioning from care or on youth agreements:

- Extending service supports based on the young person's needs;

- Improved communications between service providers with the goal to increase engagement of youth;
- Engage with youth on service planning and policy development; and,
- Monitor outcomes and use findings to support service planning and policy changes.

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ATTACHMENTS

- A. Aggregate data compiled from report
- B. BC Coroners Service investigative findings

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Appendix A: BC Coroners Service – Investigative Findings

The Death Review Panel reviewed in aggregate the circumstances of 200 young people (ages 17-25) who died while transitioning to independence from government child services between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2016. The statistics related to these deaths have been taken from the report and formatted into tables.

MCFD Service Type by Age*, 2011-2016				
	17-18 Years	19 years	20-25 years	Total (%)
In Care (CCO, VCA, or SNA	17	5	46	68 (34%)
Youth Agreement (YAG & SSY)	7	7	35	49 (24%)
Extensive Services	8	5	70	83 (42%)
Total	32	17	151	200

*at time of death or age of majority

Number of Deaths by Classification and MCFD Service Type*, 2011-2016						
	Accidental	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
In Care	44	5	5	13	1	68
Youth Agreements	29	7	2	10	1	49
Extensive Services	50	2	1	26	4	83
Total	123 (61%)	14 (7%)	8 (4%)	49 (24%)	6 (3%)	200

*at time of death or at age of majority

Location By Health Authority				
Fraser	Vancouver Coastal	Interior	Island	Northern
30%	20%	18%	17%	15%

N=200

Number of Deaths, Indigenous Young Person, Age and Sex, 2011-2016				
Age	17-18 Years	19 years	20-25 years	Total
Total Deaths (Female)	6	4	13	23 (34%)
Total Deaths (Male)	9	5	31	45 (66%)
Total Deaths	15	9	44	68

Number of Deaths by MCFD Service Type*, Indigenous Young Person, 2011-2016			
In Care	Youth Agreement	Extensive Services	Total
34 (50%)	17 (25%)	17 (25%)	68

*at time of death or at age of majority

Appendix B: BC Coroners Service – File Review Findings

The Coroners Service of British Columbia reviewed the Ministry files of 82 of the decedents. Their findings are as follows:

Current Care Plan or Plan for Independence			
Yes	No	Unknown	Outdated
36	16	6	4

Note: Out of the cohort of 82 young people, 62 decedents were required by policy to have a current Care Plan or Plan for Independence. N=62

Placement Stability		
0-3 moves	4-10 moves	10+ moves
52%	27%	21%

Note: In care (CCO, TCO, VCA, or SNA) or on Youth Agreement at time of death or at age of majority. N=62

Educational Attainment			
Less than Grade 12	Enrolled in or had completed Grade 12	Enrolled in post-secondary	Not documented
41%	19%	4%	35%

Note: It is unknown if any of the older young adults, aged 20-25 years, were attending post-secondary schooling. N =82

Housing at the time of death			
Housed	Not Housed or Had no Fixed Housing	Unknown	Total
55 (67%)	23 (28%)	4 (5%)	82

Note: 12 decedents had a history of running away from their placement

Homelessness at the Time of Death		
	Housed	Not Housed
17-18 year olds	88%	12%
19 year olds	65%	35%
20-25 year olds	48%	52%

Note: "Not housed" is inclusive of the four young people whose housing situation was unknown at the time of death. N=82

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

DATE: May 31st, 2018
CLIFF#: 238124

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): N/A
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): N/A

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrina Conroy

ISSUE: Potential impact to MCFD of change in Employment Standards Regulation

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Labour (LBR) deposited OIC 195-2018 to amend Employment Standards Regulation 396/95 effective June 1st, 2018. The OIC is based in part on the Second Report of the Fair Wage Commission (Report). The Report recommended abolishing the alternative minimum wage for Live-in Support Workers. The report assumed that there were few Live-in Support Workers who would be affected by the change. Subsequent information has confirmed that this is not the case and there would be a substantial number of employees of contracted service providers who could be affected.

It does not appear that MCFD or sector representatives were consulted on this specific change.

DISCUSSION:

As MCFD and service providers have only just become aware of this change, MCFD is still gathering additional information on the implications of the change. At this time we have identified a likely direct impact of the change to approximately 370 staff in some 12 contracted service delivery organizations. The estimated costs of the changes are currently estimated at approximately \$1.5 million. Service providers have identified that this will mean a reduction in service or increase in costs to MCFD. As the regulation becomes effective on June 1st, 2018, service providers must abide by the changes.

The ministries of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR), Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) and Health have all indicated potential financial implications with the change.

There is a broader implication to the change as it will raise concerns with other organizations and service providers which have not seen rate increases in years.

SUMMARY:

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