

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

**CLIFF #233311**

**PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy - FOR INFORMATION**

**TITLE:** Federation of Community Social Services of BC (the Federation)

**PURPOSE:** To provide background information for an introductory meeting with the Federation.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Established in 1982, the Federation provides a province-wide network of supports to individuals and communities across BC. Its membership represents 140 agencies, offering 685 programs in 160 communities.
- The Federation's member organizations employ more than 6,000 British Columbians and represent almost \$450 million of community investment in the social sector.
- The Federation is led by Executive Director Richard FitzZaland, and its board of directors is led by President David Young (See Appendix 1 for biography).
- Member agencies offer services, including advocacy, to community members living with physical and mental challenges, vulnerable children, youth, seniors, new immigrants, people living with addictions and/or mental health, homeless populations and those living in poverty.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) recognizes the importance of collaborating with stakeholders such as the Federation in order to implement the Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP), and to plan and implement positive changes in the procurement and delivery of community-based social services.

**DISCUSSION:**

- The Federation has asked to meet with Minister Katrine Conroy in August, 2017.
- MCFD and the Federation have a history of working collaboratively on issues that impact the outcomes for children, youth and families in BC.
- The following joint initiatives are underway:
  - 1. Collaborative Contracting Reference Group (CCRG):**
    - The CCRG discusses current and future MCFD initiatives and any contracting issues that may impact the social services sector (ie. MYAP, Economic Stability Mandate, and the Service Indicator Reporting Framework).
    - CCRG membership includes: MCFD, the Federation, the BC Association of Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI) and BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC).
    - CCRG meets quarterly; it is chaired by Reg Bawa, MCFD ADM of Finance and Corporate Services.
  - 2. Collaborative Learning Proposal:**
    - MCFD is working with the Federation on collaborative learning initiatives to strengthen practice shifts required to better serve children, youth, families and their communities.

- The first joint conference, *Promising Practices*, is being planned for mid October and will include 150 to 200 participants from MCFD, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and the Federation. The intent is the conference is to:
  - Support any transitions in the System of Care focusing on the issues and learning that will support this transition,
  - Create collaborative learning opportunities between the community social services sector and government, and
  - Support cross-sector learning with Indigenous organizations in the sector

### **3. The 2012 Residential Review and the Future System of Caring:**

- Leading up to 2012, the Federation and MCFD co-led the Residential Review Project to examine the residential system of care and provide comprehensive recommendations for improvement.
- Since this time, the Federation and MCFD have collaborated on a number of smaller-scale initiatives aimed at refreshing and expanding upon the 2012 residential system analysis.
- The Federation originally co-chaired and continues to maintain a prominent role on a stakeholder advisory table called the Residential Design Steering Committee, which supports the implementation of the Residential Review recommendations and provides feedback on system of care initiatives.
- MCFD's Strategic Priorities Division is developing a contemporary vision for the future System of Care including identifying the critical shifts that will need to take place in order to reach this vision and a consultation strategy. The Federation has agreed to sign a non-disclosure agreement to participate in confidential conversations on the early planning of the vision, strategic shifts and consultation strategy. The first meeting for this purpose is on August 18.
- The Federation remains a strong advocate for children and frequently speaks out in the media on challenges of our system of care. Most recently, in June 2017, the Federation and the RCY publicly stated that MCFD has not taken any action on the recommendations from the 2012 Residential Review Report. MCFD has had a preliminary discussion with the Federation to initiate a joint project to review the progress on these recommendation and develop a plan for future collaboration.

### **4. Consultation on MYAP:**

- The Federation has expressed interest in a consultation process on future aspects of MYAP that will intersect with its members' interests.
- MCFD is working on a sector consultation framework that spans the life of the MYAP, and provides opportunity for ongoing engagement.

### **ADVICE:**

Proceed with the introductory meeting with the Federation, as they are a key partner in MCFD's Future System of Care project and other initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for children, youth and families.

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**Program ADM/Branch:** Reg Bawa, ADM, Carolyn Kamper, ADM

**Program Contact (for content):** Various areas: Linda Bradford, Tim Osborne, Catherine Talbot

**Date:** August 3, 2017

## Appendix 1

### **David Young, Chair, Board of Directors Sources Community Resources Society**

David is Chief Executive Officer of Sources Community Resources Society (SOURCES). SOURCES is a community-based not-for-profit multi-service agency based in White Rock, Surrey, Delta, Langley, and Prince George, British Columbia. David has successfully merged the strengths and capacities of five separate legacy agencies to create a more comprehensive and holistic response to community issues including family and children, disability and inclusion, support for seniors and women, justice, employment, mental health, and addictions, as well as poverty, food security, and homelessness. He is also the CEO of Sources Foundation.

David is the current President of the Board of The Federation of Community Social Services of BC (Victoria). He also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Board of the Community Social Services Employers Association (Vancouver). He has served on the Board of the Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training (Victoria) and the Board of the ASPECT Social Ventures Corporation (Victoria). He is a founding member of the BC CEO Network. Locally, he is Past Chair of the Surrey Board of Trade Social Policy Committee and the City of White Rock Health and Social Services Committee and serves on the Planning Committee for the City of Surrey's Social Innovation Summit.

Educated at Trent University (BA) and the University of British Columbia (BSW), David is a social worker by training and executive leader by experience. David has served on the Selection Committee for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education, the Minister of Health's National Drug Prevention Advisory Committee, the Governing Council of the Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services (Edmonton), the National Advisory Board for Invest in Kids (Toronto), as Vice-President of the North American Organization of the Family (Montreal), and is the Past-Chairperson of the National Alliance for Children and Youth (Ottawa).

A former Assistant Deputy Minister for the Government of British Columbia (David was the Director of Child Protection until 2003), David is also a certified Peer Reviewer for the Council on Accreditation (New York), David has considerable expertise in leadership, management, strategic planning, policy development, governance, and organizational development. He co-led the BC Social Innovation and Sustainability Roundtable and served on the Ministry of Children and Family Development Advisory Council. David is a graduate of the University of Waterloo Social Innovation Residency at the Banff Leadership Institute. In May of 2016, he received a BC Community Achievement Award in recognition of his work. <sup>s.22</sup>

s.22

### **Tanya Behardien, Vice-President Penticton and District Community Resources Society**



Tanya is the Executive Director of Penticton and District Community Resources Society, an accredited multi-service organization with 170 staff working throughout 14 communities in the South Okanagan Similkameen region. She has more than 25 years of experience working in non-profit organizations in a variety of roles from front line child and youth care work to Executive Director and Board membership, in the areas of Community Living, early childhood development, family support and therapy, youth services, and community development. Tanya has a Masters of Arts in Applied Behavioural Science from the Leadership Institute of Seattle, and an undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia. She sits as a board member of the provincial CEO network and has served as an advisor to multiple provincial committees including the Vancouver Foundation's Child Youth and Family Advisory Committee, the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Practice Change, and the Government Non-Profit Initiative. Tanya has served as a consultant to other organizations in the province with respect to organizational wellness, leadership development, strategic planning, family therapy training and the development of outcomes measurement systems.

Tanya is currently an associate faculty member with City University of Seattle in the Masters of Counselling Program. Tanya has a commitment to lifelong learning and a passion for the diverse work of the community social services sector. She places a strong value on continuous quality improvement of services and formerly served as a peer surveyor with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). She has served on the board of the Federation of Community Social Services of BC for the past six years.

s.22

**Rona Park, Executive Director  
Nelson Community Services Society**

Rona Park has been the Executive Director of Nelson Community Services Society since July 2013. She held ED positions at two other community service agencies in the West Kootenays since 2002. Her career in community social services began in Calgary, 34 years ago, where she worked mostly as a counsellor, educator, and program manager. Over the years, her interest in delivering quality services has led to a passion for creating social change through broad community development. Rona was a founding member of the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Cooperative, and in the past few years, has provided leadership to projects such as "Nelson at its Best" Poverty Reduction Initiative and the regional innovation project known as "PRISM- Partners in a Regional Integrated Service Model." She has been a long-time advocate of community social planning and policy development, sitting for many years on one of SPARC BC's advisory committees. Rona holds a BA in Psychology (UVic) and certificates in Community Economic Development (SFU), and Non-Profit Management.

**Rick FitzZaland, Executive Director  
The Federation of Community Social Services of BC**



Rick has worked in the health and social services sector in BC for over 40 years. He has held senior roles in government, the non-profit sector, and as a private consultant. His volunteer work has included setting up a school for the deaf in Chile, fundraising for special education programs in Mexico, and setting up an international parent support group for families of children with Ohdo Syndrome. His work with The Federation is informed by this experience, [s.22](#)

[s.22](#)

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

**DATE:** October 23, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 237059

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Allison Bond, Deputy Minister

**ISSUE:** The budget allocation for the Childcare Start-Up Grant program is fully committed and a decision is required as to whether to close the program until April 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

Childcare Start-Up Grants for the creation of Licensed Family and In-Home Multi-Age child care facilities was created under the Childcare BC Plan to offer support to individuals, Licence-Not-Required (LNR), or Registered Licence-Not-Required (RLNR) child care providers who wish to obtain a license under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA).

Over the next three years, the Province is investing \$0.5M annually to assist applicants to become licensed. The program provides \$500 of funding up-front to the applicant, then an additional \$500 per licensed child care space created. This means there is a funding maximum of \$4,000 for Licensed Family child care facilities and \$4,500 for In-Home Multi-Age child care facilities.

Helping these individuals and unlicensed child care providers to become licensed:

- Enables the providers to offer additional spaces
- Enhances the quality and oversight of new child care spaces being created
- Allows the providers to apply for Child Care Operating Funding, and Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) funding, and
- Increases the affordability of spaces for families through reduced fees as a result of the CCFRI, as well as higher rates through the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

**DISCUSSION:**

Since the program launch on June 20, uptake has been high. The total number of spaces to be committed to be created will surpass the annual target (875) by almost 45% (1,221). This represents 797 licensed Family Child Care spaces and 424 In-Home Multi-Age spaces (see Appendix A).

The total funding commitment is \$727,500 for 2018/19, exceeding the \$500K budget by \$227,500. However, with the funding divided into two instalments (the second dependent on Health Authority licensing), some funding will not be expended until early 2019/20.

Since the launch of the Start-Up Grants program, the ministry has received an average of 40 applications each month. Based on the current uptake, there is expected to be an additional 200 applications received by the end of 2018/19, which could result in additional funding requests of up to \$800K.

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund (NSF) also receives applications from proponents seeking to create licensed Family and In-Home Multi-Age Child Care facilities. However, many of these facilities are struggling to meet the program and financial standards required for the NSF.

Given the similar goals of the NSF and the Start-Up Grants to create additional licensed child care spaces, and the current success of the Start-Up Grants, if some funding were reallocated from the NSF and transferred to the Start-Up Grants program, it would continue to support this goal. This would allow the Ministry to continue to create new licensed child care spaces at a very economical \$568 per space.

With the budget fully committed in 2018/19 and demand for the program remaining steady over the last three months, a decision is required to either close the program until April 2019, or keep it open by reallocating \$1.3M from the NSF.

**OPTIONS:**

s.13



**RECOMMENDATION:**

s.13

Option 2 /   
**DECISION and SIGNATURE**  
Allison Bond  
Deputy Minister

November 29, 2018  
**DATE SIGNED**

**Contact:**

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Appendix A: Start Up Grants (June 20 – October 31, 2018)

Start-Up Grants	Family Child Care Spaces	In-Home Multi-Age Child Care Spaces	Total
Approved Applications	117	56	173
Projects Complete/Licensed	21	10	31
Number of Spaces currently licensed	146	80	226
Number of Spaces to be licensed	651	344	1040
<b>Total Number of Spaces</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1221</b>
Current Expenditures	\$131,000	\$68,500	\$199,500
Future Funding Commitment	\$332,500	\$195,500	\$528,000
<b>Total Funding Commitment</b>	<b>\$463,500</b>	<b>\$264,000</b>	<b>\$727,500</b>

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

**DATE:** October 9, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 237059

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development and Hon. Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

**ISSUE:** The budget allocation for the Childcare Start-Up Grant program is fully committed for 2018/19.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Childcare Start-Up Grants for the creation of Licensed Family and In-Home Multi-Age child care facilities was created under the Childcare BC Plan to offer support to individuals, Licence-Not-Required (LNR), or Registered Licence-Not-Required (RLNR) child care providers who wish to obtain a license under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA). Helping these child care providers to become licensed increases the quality and oversight of new child care spaces being created in British Columbia. In addition, licensing enables the creation of additional spaces, while allowing these providers and their families to be eligible for other provincial child care funding programs, such as Child Care Operating Funding and the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, as well as enabling families to access higher rates through the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

Over the next three years, the Province is investing \$0.500M annually to assist applicants to become licensed. The program provides \$500 of funding up-front to the applicant, then an additional \$500 per licensed child care space created. This means there is a funding maximum of \$4,000 for Licensed Family child care facilities and \$4,500 for In-Home Multi-Age child care facilities.

**DISCUSSION:**

Since the program launch in late June, uptake has resulted in \$0.137M in expenditures and \$0.459M in outstanding funding commitments.

Start-Up Grants June 20th – Oct 1st	Family	In-Home Multi-Age	Total
Approved Applications	97	45	142
Projects Complete/Licensed	14	7	21
Number of Spaces	679	360	1,039
Current Expenditures	\$97,000	\$40,000	\$137,000
Future Funding Commitment	\$291,000	\$167,500	\$458,500
Total Funding Commitment	\$388,000	\$207,500	\$595,500



Currently, the total funding commitment is \$0.595M. With the funding divided into two instalments (the second instalment is contingent on the applicant submitting a copy of their facility licence) it is possible some funding will be expended from the budget allocation in 2019/20.

The total number of new child care spaces to be created (1,039) will surpass the target (875) by 18%. To date, there are 21 projects in receipt of a CCALA licence, with eight having previously operated as a LNR provider and three as an RLNR provider.

Since the launch, the program has received, on average, 47 applications per month. At this rate, the program could receive an additional 282 applications by the end of the fiscal. This represents \$1.130M in additional funding requests to create an additional 1,974 new licensed child care spaces. This is an economical approach to creating new licensed child care spaces, as the provincial cost per space is \$575. This is far below the historical average of \$10,000 per space for Licensed Group facilities through the New Spaces Fund.

However, the program operates based on funding availability and with the program budget fully committed in 2018/19 the Ministry will need to bring forward a decision on how to manage the fund for the remainder of the fiscal.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

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#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix A: Geographical Distribution of Approved Applications

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

**DATE:** October 9, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 239019

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Minister Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** Minister Conroy to give opening remarks In Celebration of Universal Children's Day at the British Columbia (BC) Child's Rights Symposium on November 16, 2018 at the Cadboro Commons, University of Victoria, Victoria BC.

**BACKGROUND:**

Universal Children's Day is celebrated annually on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Launched in 1954 the goal of the Universal Children's day is to improve child welfare worldwide; celebrate children's rights and promote togetherness and awareness amongst all children.

Globalchild is a group of child development and child rights academics, researchers and advocates from across Canada and across the world that care deeply about promoting children's health and development.

Working under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child they aim to create a comprehensive, bilingual, electronic monitoring database called GlobalChild that can:

- Provide evidence and data to inform the decisions of politicians, policy makers and researchers on issues related to children.
- Ensure government accountability to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Track the progress made in existing policies and programs that support child health and development.

In early 2006, the Early Childhood Rights Indicators project was created by an international team of experts led by Dr. Zilba Vaghri (Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria Public Health and Social Policy).

The aim of this international team of experts known as General Comment 7 was to facilitate the monitoring and the implementation of the Early Childhood Right Indicators tool for children aged 0-8 years. The tool contains 17 indicator sets that look at the structures, processes, and outcomes related to respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of young children.

Following the successful pilots of the Early Childhood Rights Indicators tool in Tanzania (2009-2010) and in Chile (2011-2012) the tool was piloted in BC, Canada (2016-2017). Upon completion of the data collection and verification for the pilot in BC the Early Childhood Rights Indicator Project will be complete. The tool will then be available for monitoring child's rights for children aged 0-8 years globally. The BC pilot is funded by the Island Health Authority's Catalyst Grant.

## DISCUSSION:

In celebration of Universal Children's Day the GlobalChild program of the University of Victoria, BC, in partnership with the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth of BC and BC Island Health Authority is hosting the BC Child's Rights Symposium.

- The symposium is designed to inform the child rights and early child development stakeholders as well as the public on the lessons learned from the pilot of the Early Child Rights Indicator Project in British Columbia from 2016-2017.
- Its aim is to raise awareness about the status of young children's rights in BC, increase collaboration between child's rights and Early Childhood Development stakeholders and ultimately build the capacity of these stakeholders to promote development and well-being of the young children.

MCFD has no direct involvement with GlobalChild.

In 2016 the principle investigator, Ziba Zaghri, submitted a proposal to MCFD to become a government partner in the project by forming a team to review to provide feedback on the draft tool. Given the significant resource implications MCFD declined the request and referred her to an ADM Committee on Social Advancement. That Committee ultimately declined the proposal as well. The lack of BC government and MCFD partnership in this project is referenced several times in the report.

## CONCLUSION

The Minister's opening remarks at the British Columbia (BC) Child's Rights Symposium remarks may highlight the importance of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child as a framework to guide public policy in respect to children. Each child in British Columbia and the world has the right to provision of health and education, right for protection against violence and the right to participation.

## ATTACHMENTS

- 1) BC Child's Rights Symposium Brochure

### Contact

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

**DATE:** October 5, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239638

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development, and  
Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

**ISSUE:** Update on the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

**BACKGROUND:**

Launched in June, the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund (New Spaces Fund) will provide up to \$221 million to fund the creation of 22,000 new childcare spaces over the next three years. This is the single-largest investment to improve access to child care in B.C.'s history. The Fund will provide up to \$1 million per facility for public-sector partnerships with non-profit child care providers to cover site development costs, building or renovation costs, equipment and furnishing of the child care facility.

The New Spaces Fund – single project funding stream – has changed from the former Child Care Major Capital Funding program by adapting in the following areas:

- Open application intake throughout 2018/19 (subject to funding availability by the Province);
- Increased maximum funding amounts for some eligible proponents;
- A requirement that proponents commit to delivering affordable child care spaces; and
- Better outreach for proponents to help them engage with the Fund and develop local connections and partnerships in their communities.

**DISCUSSION:**

***Evaluation Criteria***

While the intent of this funding stream is to support the creation of all types of licensed child care spaces, the Province has prioritized proponents that are able to meet the following evaluation criteria:

- Creation of licensed Infant/Toddler (0-36 months) or licensed Group (30 months to School Age) child care spaces;
- Creation of spaces by public sector organizations, local/municipal governments, band/tribal councils and/or First Nations governments in partnership with a non-profit child care provider;
- Creation of spaces on school grounds (including K-12 and post-secondary);
- Specific Community Demographics, including:
  - Spaces serving vulnerable populations (e.g. low-income families);
  - Spaces serving children requiring extra support (as defined in the Child Care Licensing Regulation);

- Spaces serving Indigenous communities;
- Spaces serving newly landed immigrants and/or refugees;
- Spaces serving young parents (25 years and under);
- Spaces offered outside of core business hours (e.g. evenings, early mornings, weekends, etc.);
- Community Need as demonstrated by the proponent and as determined by the Province;
- Organizational experience, including:
- The length of time they have operated as a child care provider (and number of retained numbers)
- The organization's experience delivering child care capital projects
- Involvement/connection to the local community
- Parental involvement in the organization
- Consideration of universal and accessible design principles and a commitment to accessibility;
- Financial considerations, including the eligibility and reasonability of the project costs, and estimated provincial cost per space; and
- Demonstrated community support.

Each of these factors is scored based on the information provided in the application – with the priority demographics reflecting 55% of the total available points (see appendix B for more detail).

### ***Assessment Process***

Applications are received, scored and a decision is made with a target to respond to each proponent within four to six weeks. At the outset, if the proponent is missing any required documentation, applicants are given seven business days for rectification.

Eligible applicants are sorted into one of three categories, each of which has a different weighted evaluation template: group facilities, family and In-Home Multi-Age providers, and projects with a total cost of under \$50,000.00. These categories are scored with different weights as smaller scale projects will likely not be able to meet the same criteria as large group facilities. While some aspects of the scoring differ by category, other aspects are consistently applied to all applicants. This includes demonstration of community need, demonstration of compliance with Child Care Licencing Regulation (CCLR), and alignment to the evaluation criteria listed above. Each of the three categories are scored out of a total of 135 points – with a threshold of 80 points minimum to pass and be awarded funding.

All ineligible or unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing and encouraged to contact the ministry for feedback and then reapply. In cases where the application is near the approval threshold, support from one of the Engagement and Partnership Managers is offered to the proponent. This staffs work with the applicant to address any deficiencies in the application with the aim to support them to achieve success in a future submission.

## **Current Status**

As of October 4, 2018, there have been:

<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Successful</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>In Progress</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Waiting to be Adjudicated</b>	<b>17</b>

The budget allocation for the New Spaces Fund in 2018/19 is \$27M and the space target is 2,700 new licensed spaces.

Combined the 4 approved applications represent a \$1M funding request to create 108 new licensed Infant/Toddler and Group 3-5 spaces (see appendix A for more details).

New Spaces Fund staff have also been working directly with the Victoria School District to review all of their funding requests, which include 6 sites in 2018/19, [s.17](#)

[s.17](#)

Over the course of August and September Engagement Partnership Managers have been travelling the province sharing information with prospective proponents and working with public sector organizations to identify opportunities to build new child care spaces in partnership with non-profit providers. Although the number of applications received is lower than expected at this stage, New Spaces Fund staff are expecting a significant number of proposals arriving in the coming months, based on direct discussions with a variety of stakeholders and providers. With the exception of a few proponents, the response from applicants, even those who have been unsuccessful, has been positive thus far.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Proceed with signing funding agreements with the 4 approved projects;
- Review and finalize an approach to communicating approved projects under the New Spaces Fund; and
- Continue to report progress on monthly basis for the remainder of the fiscal year.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Project Profiles
- B. Scoring Criteria & Percentages
- C. Communication Options
- D. List of all applications received



**Contact****Assistant Deputy Minister:***Christine Massey**Early Years and Inclusion**778-698-7121***Alternate Contact****for content:***Jonathan Barry**Executive Director of Child  
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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
DECISION NOTE**

**DATE:** October 9, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239808

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):** Sept 17, 2018  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable):** 239483

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

**ISSUE:** Decision regarding Early Years Centres within context of Early Years Service Framework Implementation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The following provides additional information to the Ministers regarding the Early Years Centre initiative to help support a decision regarding the inclusion of Early Years Centre funding in the procurement of services planned for the *Early Years Service Framework* (the Framework).

To support the implementation of the Framework, a competitive procurement process will be held this Fall for community-delivered early years services in the 13 Service Delivery Areas (SDA). A Request for Proposals will be posted to BC Bid, seeking agencies to submit proposals on how to improve or create new services that align to the *Framework* in their communities. The Request for Proposals will be customized based on regional data and local early years needs – (see Appendix 1a and 1b for an example of an early years regional summary used to inform customization).

Each SDA will be allocated funding to support the procurement of early years services in their region – this allocation will include the Children First funding currently within each SDA budget as well as new funding for each SDA resulting from the conclusion of the Success by 6 initiative. The redirection of funding from Children First and Success by 6 reflects an overall recalibration of public funds away from ‘coordination of services’ and into direct services for families (see Appendix 2 for a comparison of status quo and future state in rural and urban communities as it might be experienced by a family with young children).

The amount of funding each SDA receives will determine the scope of services and ability of the SDA to expand and enhance early years services offered in communities.

**DISCUSSION:**

Further analysis has been conducted on the following to help support options related to the continuation of Early Years Centres in BC:

- 1) Analysis of the alignment the upcoming Request for Proposals for the *Early Years Service Framework* with the existing Family Resource Program model (described in appendix 4);
- 2) Further investigation of the impacts of leaving the Early Years Centre initiative status quo vs. discontinuation;
- 3) Analysis of options for replacing the Early Years Centre initiative with minimal sector change.

## Outcomes of analysis:

- Family Resource Programs are well aligned with the *Early Years Service Framework* and the upcoming Request for Proposals. It is therefore highly probable that the planned procurement to support the Framework implementation will result in an expansion of the network of Family Resource programs across BC's urban and rural communities (see appendix 5 and 6 for analysis of alignment of FRP and Framework procurement). Inclusion of Early Years Centre funding in the existing procurement presents an opportunity for further expansion of the network of FRPs across urban and rural communities. See appendix 7 for funding allocations to each Local Service Area with and without the Early Years Centre funding.
- While there is strong commitment to the EYCs among host organizations, this commitment should be weighed against the opportunity that exists to expand direct family resource type programming across BC as well as the opportunity to move toward a more equitable funding allocation for communities. Communications (e.g., townhall meetings) would be hosted to support this change management process; however, it is probable that further disruption could occur.
- Altering existing contracts for the EYCs is not a feasible and alternative approaches such as direct awarding or running restricted procurement for EYC host agencies place the Ministry at risk for lack of transparency and adherence to procurement standards.

## OPTIONS:

s.13

RECOMMENDATION:

s.13

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DECISION and SIGNATURE**  
Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Children and Family Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE SIGNED**

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

**DATE:** October 8, 2018, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239809

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** September 6, 2018  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 239483

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Minister Katrine Conroy and Honourable Minister Katrina Chen

**ISSUE:** Follow-up to briefing on the proposed allocation of Indigenous Success by 6 funds to the Aboriginal Infant Development Program

**BACKGROUND:**

As announced June 2018, as of April 2019, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (Ministry) is shifting its \$3.4M investment currently allocated to the United Way of the Lower Mainland for the Success by 6 community planning initiative into more direct programming in communities, aligning to the new Early Years Service Framework.

Under Success by 6, a portion of the \$3.4M investment was directed to Indigenous communities and organizations in BC. The Ministry has committed to keeping these investments in Indigenous communities.

Initial review of the United Way of the lower Mainland documentation revealed significant challenges in tracing Indigenous Success by 6 expenditures. In aggregate it was clear that approximately \$1.2M of the \$3.4M was allocated annually to Indigenous related programs and initiatives.

Given the lack of information available to the Ministry, staff presented options to the Ministers for consideration on September 20, 2018 which would allow \$1.2M to stay with Indigenous communities and be reallocated through a non-competitive approach through the Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP).

At that time, Ministers requested further work be undertaken before making a decision on the proposed next steps. This work would include:

- Further efforts to trace Success by 6 expenditures in Indigenous Communities;
- Further examination the Aboriginal Infant Development Program to ensure it serves a broad range of families- not just those with children with special needs; and
- Exploring opportunities to engage directly with Indigenous governments on reallocation of funding as per commitments to reconciliation.

The following provides an overview of the outcomes of this work.

**DISCUSSION:**

s.13,s.16

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.13

**CONCLUSION:**

s.13

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix A – s.13,s.16

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

**DATE:** October 1, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239832

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

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

**ISSUE:** Government of Canada - Early Learning and Child Care Innovation Call for Concepts

**BACKGROUND:**

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) issued the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Innovation Call for Concepts from June 28 to July 27, 2018 in order to explore new and innovative solutions to better meet the needs of children and families and improve the quality of early learning and child care.

The Call for Concepts is supported by long-term Government of Canada investments announced in Budgets 2016 and 2017, totalling \$7.5 billion over 11 years. Of this amount, \$100 million has been dedicated towards early learning and child care innovation. Of the \$100 million dedicated towards early learning and child care innovation, the call for concepts includes an investment of \$10 million over two years in 2018–19 and 2019–20.

Provincial governments were not part of the Call for Concepts, and funding is separate from the funding received for the Multilateral ELCC Agreements, for which B.C. received \$153M over 3 years. The innovation funding is not meant to be related to the provincial ELCC Action Plan as it is designed to support innovation beyond what is already planned.

The Call for Concepts invited applications from provincial and territorial entities as well as non-profit and Indigenous organizations, with mandates focusing on early learning and child care. Projects are expected to explore, test and develop innovative approaches (such as solutions, best practices, knowledge, tools and methodologies) that will support early learning and child care services targeting children under six years of age and their families.

The Call for Concepts is the first step of a two-step application process. In the first step, applicants were invited to submit a proposal that describes an idea for an innovative project. In the second step, applicants whose initial proposal is retained will be invited to develop a full proposal. ESDC are currently in the first step of the process. Approximately 170 concepts have been screened-in for further assessment. Funding decisions are final and there is no appeal process. Projects may create new and innovative approaches (or build on an existing initiative) to deliver programs and services with tools that are better adapted to the needs of children and their families. Projects are expected to be completed by March 31, 2020.

**DISCUSSION:**

In late August 2018, ESDC provided the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) with a confidential high-level list of the applicants that had been pre-screened for further assessment. ESDC requested the Ministry identify any potential concerns with the short-listed



applicants (no concerns were identified). The list includes twenty B.C. applicants (see Appendix A), s.16  
s.16

The applicants have not yet been notified of their application’s status by the ESDC.

**SUMMARY:**

- The Child Care Policy branch in MCFD has reviewed the list of applicants and has not identified any significant concerns.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**A. Appendix A: ELCC Innovation Call for Concepts - Preliminary List of B.C. Organizations and Project Titles**

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.13;s.17

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

**DATE:** October 1, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239845

**DATE OF PREVIOUS** August 3, 2017  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #**233311

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** To provide background information for an introductory meeting with the new president of the Federation of Community Social Services of BC (the Federation). Meeting on October 2, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

**STAFF ATTENDEES:** Carolyn Kamper, ADM Strategic Priorities and Teresa Dobmeier, ADM Service Delivery Division

**BACKGROUND:**

- Established in 1982, the Federation provides a province-wide network of supports to individuals and communities across BC. Its membership represents 140 agencies, offering 685 programs in 160 communities.
- The Federation's member organizations employ more than 6,000 British Columbians and represent almost \$450 million of community investment in the social sector.
- The Federation is led by Executive Director Richard FitzZaland, and its board of directors is led by President Tanya Behardien (See Appendix 1 for biography).
- Member agencies offer services, including advocacy, to community members living with physical and mental challenges, vulnerable children, youth, seniors, new immigrants, people living with addictions and/or mental health, homeless populations and those living in poverty.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) recognizes the importance of collaborating with stakeholders such as the Federation in order to implement the MCFD Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and to plan and implement positive changes in the procurement and delivery of community-based social services.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Federation has asked to meet with Minister Katrine Conroy. MCFD and the Federation have a history of working collaboratively on issues that impact the outcomes for children, youth and families in BC. Key topics for discussion and/or issues arising with the Federation include:

**Early Years**

- In June 2018, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) *Early Years Service Framework* (the Framework) was released, clarifying the Ministry's intention to focus its early years funding on core set of direct services families need and want.
- To support implementation of the Framework and to reflect the renewed focus on direct services, a letter signed by Minister Conroy was issued June 2018 indicating the discontinuation of Children First (CF) and Success by 6 (Sby6) initiatives effective March 31, 2019. These initiatives have existed for over 15 years and have focused on early years 'planning' and community development initiatives, not on programs and supports

that directly serve families. The letter indicated that the resources previously allocated to Sby6 and CF would be reallocated to direct services using a fair and transparent procurement process. Procurement for EY services will be tailored to reflect regional differences (eg. vulnerable populations, rural remoteness, etc.). We will see more programs like Family Resource Programs and others as a result of this process.

- The letter from Minister Conroy also indicated the Ministry would hire Early Years staff positions based out of regional MCFD offices, and create Indigenous positions across BC to support implementation of the Framework at a regional level. Federation has voiced concern regarding how agencies are going to forge relationships with the new MCFD Directors of Operations for EY staff. MCFD staff has invited the Federation to work with us to explore options on how the federation might help facilitate those relationships.
- Federation has voiced general concern with the mismatch between government procurement approaches the social service sector. The Early Years procurement (for EY Service Framework) is most recent example. Federation feels procurement should be done more regionally where voices from community could filter into identifying the service needs and gaps.
- While the model of early years community-based planning supported by Children First and Sby6 may appear more aligned with the Federation's interest for planning, analysis of investments and programming confirm these initiatives did not yield positive results for children and families.

#### **Working with government to improve sector sustainability:**

MCFD has an ongoing collaborative partnership with the Federation as well as additional key stakeholders on initiatives to improve contract management practices and outcomes for community services. The Collaborative Contracting Reference Group (CCRG) identifies and explores improvement options and opportunities for MCFD contracted services and determines the best options for implementation. The CCRG is made up of representatives from MCFD, the Federation, the BC Association of Child Development and Intervention, and The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

#### **Supports to children in care:**

- Leading up to 2012, the Federation and MCFD co-led the Residential Review Project to examine the residential system of care and provide comprehensive recommendations for improvement.
- Since that time, the Federation and MCFD have collaborated on a number of smaller-scale initiatives aimed at refreshing and expanding upon the Residential Review 2012 report recommendations and more recently on the Ministry's work on re-envisioning the System of Care.
- MCFD is developing a new future System of Care vision and strategic shifts that reflect prior reports, recommendations, contemporary research and consultations with stakeholders. Two priority projects within the System of Care that are reflected in the Minister's mandate letter include:
  - Investigate the challenges associated with the existing Family-Based Caregiver Payment Model and, with our partners and stakeholders, collaboratively develop proposed solutions for addressing these challenges;
  - To reimagine the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program, with the goal of offering supports to all youth who age out of care who need it, and not just a few.



- This work needs to be rooted in relationships to ensure that any future services meet the needs of our partners, caregivers and children and youth across the province so there is a multi-level engagement strategy underway to ensure that the diverse voices and perspectives will help to inform the solutions for this work going forward.
- Currently, meetings are held monthly with the Federation to discuss progress on the initiatives.
- The Federation is a strong advocate for children and frequently speaks out in the media on challenges of our system of care. The Federation and the RCY have publicly stated that MCFD has not taken any action on the recommendations from the 2012 Residential Review Report and continue to voice concerns about work underway at this time.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Proceeding with the introductory meeting with the Federation is important as they are a key partner in MCFD's Future System of Care projects and other initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for children, youth and families.

#### **ATTACHMENTS (if applicable):**

- A. Appendix 1 Bio of Tanya Behardien and Rick FitzZaland
- B. Previous IBN

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## Appendix 1:

### Tanya Behardien, President

Tanya has a Masters of Arts in Applied Behavioural Science from the Leadership Institute of Seattle, and an undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia. She sits as a board member of the provincial CEO network and has served as an advisor to multiple provincial committees including the Vancouver Foundation's Child Youth and Family Advisory Committee, the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Practice Change, and the Government Non-Profit Initiative. Tanya has served as a consultant to other organizations in the province with respect to organizational wellness, leadership development, strategic planning, family therapy training and the development of outcomes measurement systems. Tanya is currently an associate faculty member with City University of Seattle in the Masters of Counselling Program.

Tanya has a commitment to lifelong learning and a passion for the diverse work of the community social services sector. She places a strong value on continuous quality improvement of services and formerly served as a peer surveyor with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). She has served on the board of the Federation of Community Social Services of BC for the past six years.

s.22

### **Rick FitzZaland, Executive Director The Federation of Community Social Services of BC**

Rick has worked in the health and social services sector in BC for over 40 years. He has held senior roles in government, the non-profit sector, and as a private consultant. His volunteer work has included setting up a school for the deaf in Chile, fundraising for special education programs in Mexico, and setting up an international parent support group for families of children with Ohdo Syndrome. His work with The Federation is informed by this experience,

s.22

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

**DATE:** October 4, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239846

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):** June 26, 2018  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable):** 238535

**PREPARED FOR:** The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** BC to sign Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with Wet'suwet'en Nation and Canada on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Witset BC

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Minister Katrine Conroy approved the signing of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Wet'suwet'en Nation as represented by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, the elected chiefs of the Hagwilget Village Council and Moricetown Band, and Canada as represented by the federal department of Indigenous Services Canada and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs.

s.16

**DISCUSSION:**

Attached are the details of the day.

Discussion Item:	AGENDA for October 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 MOU Bahtlats 205 Beaver Road, Witset BC - Multiplex Ministers contact for organizing 250-847-3630 - Debbie Pierre (Venue phone Number 250-847-2133)
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Prayer</li><li>• 10:00 a.m.</li><li>• 11:00 a.m. Internal Wet'suwet'en overview of MOU'S – WWWG presentation</li><li>• 12:00 Lunch</li><li>• 1:00 - Grand Entrance: Drumming &amp; singing in Chief and Ministers</li><li>• Signing ministers sit at head table</li><li>• Minister's supported staff seated as witnesses</li><li>• WWWG (co-hosting with Laksilyu) &amp; Hagwilnegh: Describe what business is taking place.</li><li>• Initiating signing of MOU</li><li>• Elementary children drumming/singing.</li><li>• Speakers from WWWG &amp; Ministers</li><li>• Gifting to Ministers &amp; WWWG</li><li>• Children can sing "berry song" while gifts are being given out to</li></ul>

	<p>Shuswap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gifting to Shuswap Leadership (bent boxes) 3 small with Traditional foods (fish, soapberries, traditional medicines, soapberry juice into bent boxes)</li> <li>• After signing Gasoline Boat song</li> <li>• Goods distributed to witnesses</li> <li>• Speakers: House Chiefs &amp; Shuswap hereditary chief</li> <li>• Closing Prayer</li> </ul>
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In addition to local area ministry staff, the following ministry representatives will also be in attendance:

- Allison Bond, Deputy Minister
- Denise Devenny, Executive Lead, Indigenous Engagement Branch
- Sarah Lloyd, Executive Director of Service, Service Delivery
- Tiffany Hamilton, Director, Indigenous Engagement Branch
- Shane DeMeyer, Director, Corporate Services

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Travel to Smithers to attend official signing ceremony on the MOU.

#### **ATTACHMENTS (if applicable):**

A. Final MOU

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## MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE

**DATE:** October 18, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 239878

**PREPARED FOR:** The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister for Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Overview of Engagement at BC Federation of Foster Parents' Annual General Meeting

### **BACKGROUND:**

In response to a series of reports, including recommendations provided by the Representative for Children and Youth, the Residential Review Report (2012) and Grand Chief Ed John's report (2016), the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is moving forward with designing a new System of Care, and focusing on two priority shifts:

- The Family Based Caregiver Payment Model.
- Re-Imagining the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program, with the goal of offering supports to all young adults who age out of care, not just a few.

Engaging with key stakeholders and in particular, those with lived experience, is a critical part of continuously learning about the child welfare system and a necessary component for ensuring proposed solutions are reflective of the needs.

Members of the Strategic Initiatives team attended the BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations (BCFFPA)'s Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Nelson BC on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The team hosted a one-day engagement session with approximately 60 participants, which included foster parents, service providers, and ministry staff. The workshop provided an overview of the System of Care; shared the work that is being done on the Caregiver Payment Model and Reimagining the AYA program; and shared an update on the engagement done thus far. Feedback was then gathered from participants on the barriers and proposed solutions to address the Family Based Caregivers Payment Model and the AYA Program.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Feedback gathered at the AGM was consistent with what Strategic Initiatives heard during the one-on-one engagements held with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and community partners from April – August 2018.

#### Family Based Caregiver Payment Model

The most commonly reported challenge was that foster parents feel they are not compensated fairly for the work that they do. Participants stated that payment rates need to increase to match the increased cost of living and that the ministry needs to focus on eliminating discrepancies in payments that exist across the province. Participants felt that an increase in the rates that foster parents receive would help to ensure permanency, safety and stability for the children and youth in their care. Participants expressed a desire for rates to reflect the realistic cost of living. Another significant concern raised was that foster parents feel unsupported and not respected in their roles.

### Agreements with Young Adults

Participants reported that youth leaving care at 19 years old is a significant barrier to having a safe and successful transition into adulthood. It was also reported that many youth leaving care do not have a transition plan in place. In order to support youth in their transitions into adulthood, participants felt that MCFD needs to extend the age that youth are in care. This could be done through implementing case management services to collaboratively craft meaningful transition plans with variable chronological age end points that consider social and emotional readiness, rather than chronological age. Participants also stated that ensuring there is safe and affordable housing for youth as they transition from care would help to ensure successful transitions. Lastly, participants suggested that AYA supports should focus more on skills development, meeting the youth's individual needs and less so on educational outcomes.

### **SUMMARY:**

The BCFFPA AGM provided an opportunity to engage with more than sixty caregivers, service providers and ministry staff to hear their perspectives. The feedback provided will inform the larger data analysis strategy, which will include data gathered at future engagement sessions. This data will inform and contribute to identifying options and proposed solutions for increasing the supports for youth aging out of care, and improving funding equity for foster parents.

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

**DATE:** October 18, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239879

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** Update on the System of Care Engagement (SoC) Strategy

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) continues to move forward with designing a new SoC, focusing on two priority shifts:
  - Addressing the Family Based Caregiver Payment Model
  - Re-Imagining the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program.
- Work to redesign these two priority shifts is part of a multi-year approach to align the SoC to key report recommendations and the overall strategic direction of the ministry, and the current review of these two shifts is to identify and recommend a set of options for improving this area of the system of care.
- Work on this component of the SoC is occurring in three phases:
  - Understand the current state
  - Identify options
  - Develop recommendations
- The first phase of this project has concluded and planning for the second phase is underway.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Between April and August of 2018, the Strategic Initiatives team met with 21 of the 24 Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) and with 14 community-based and provincial organizations. Participants included MCFD staff, DAA partners, board members of organizations, service providers delivering services at those agencies, as well as caregivers and youth in and from care who received support or services through those agencies or organizations.
- The input related to addressing the **Family Based Caregiver Payment Model** included: increasing the maintenance rates to account for inflation, holistic needs and current cost of living, funding for cultural plans and connections, the drawbacks of an overly complex funding model, challenges with recruitment and retention of caregivers, and complex relationships with MCFD staff were mentioned by individuals from all audiences.
- The input related to **Reimagining the AYA and youth transitions** included: a noted lack of knowledge and/or information about the AYA program and associated youth programs, the need to start transition planning earlier, support to establish and maintain connection to cultural identity and community, a lack of options available to youth aging out of care, a need for specialized workers to support youth who are transitioning and more flexibility with the AYA program.



- Overall, the feedback from the participants about the sessions was very positive and reflected their appreciation that MCFD created the space for diverse views and perspectives to be shared, and discussed, in a respectful and safe environment.
- The data collected in the initial engagements has been used to shape the targeted audiences who we have yet to engage with, the questions that will be asked of those audiences, and the approach that will be utilized moving forward to collect the information needed for the cabinet submissions related to the two priority shifts.
- Three key audiences still need to be reflected in the data, and targeted engagement sessions with these groups include:
  - The **Youth Engagement Strategy** focuses on engaging with former youth in care (19+) who have experienced aging out of care/ the AYA program.
  - The **Staff Engagement Strategy** focuses on engaging with Internal MCFD staff with subject matter expertise related to the two priority shifts.
  - The **Regional Engagement Strategy** focuses on engaging with a range of sector stakeholders, including service providers, caregivers, Out of Care families, First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and agencies.
- The Youth strategy and engagement sessions associated with will be contracted out to McCreary Centre Society. McCreary will conduct four engagement sessions and a survey with former youth in care throughout the province with a particular focus on Indigenous youth and deliver findings in December 2018.
- The Staff Engagement Strategy will focus on connecting with staff through existing tables to discuss changes made to the priority shifts, as well as 6 SDA site visits to ensure regional representation is incorporated into recommendations moving forward. Staff engagement will also conclude by the end of December 2018.
- Regional engagement will be contracted out through an RFP process, with a tentative launch date of winter 2019. It is anticipated that three sessions will be held throughout the province to ensure community partners have the opportunity to inform recommended changes to priority shifts moving forward.
- Upon conclusion of engagement, the data collected through these strategies will be combined with data collected in initial engagement sessions to inform recommendations put forward in submissions to cabinet to make changes to the Family Based Caregiver Payment Model and the Re-imagining of the Agreements with Young Adults program.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Implement the Internal Staff Engagement strategy and conduct SDA site visits
- Work in partnership with McCreary Centre Society to complete the youth engagement sessions
- Complete the RFP process and begin Regional planning with the successful proponent
- Continue work to ensure the engagement process supports concise data analysis

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

**DATE:** October 5, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 239980

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):** April 11, 2018  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable):** 237320

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** Update on the 2018/19 Early Years “social emotional development” procurement process and successful proponent.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has historically funded Roots and Seeds of Empathy program, an early years and school age program aimed to foster social and emotional competence and early literacy skills for young children.

In 2017/18, the decision was made to move away from contract based social emotional programming in favour of coordinated cross-ministry systemic approaches to social-emotional development. As a result, the Ministry served notice on the Roots and Seeds of Empathy contract which had received direct-awarded funding for over 12 years.

As the Ministry moves toward a new model of supporting social emotional development, and order to avoid a gap in services a one-year-only Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in April 2018 to support programming focusing promoting social emotional development for both preschool and school aged children.

The following note provides an update on the outcomes of the Request for Proposal process.

**DISCUSSION:**

The RFP was issued for a maximum of \$400K, with the requirement for 50% to be used to support children in the early years, and 50% to be used to support school-aged children in early years settings.

The RFP was issued via BCBID and seven proponents provided submissions. Five of these submissions were shortlisted, and the Roots and Empathy organization was selected as the successful proponent.

The contract stipulates that 159 Roots of Empathy programs will be delivered in 120 different school settings for children Ages 6 and older, 111 Roots of Empathy programs in 83 Kindergarten settings for 5 year olds, and 36 Seeds of Empathy programs in 36 child care centres for children ages 3-5.

**CONCLUSION:**

The contract for Roots and Seeds of Empathy programming ends in June 2019, and cannot be extended. In a follow up discussion with the Manager, Darcy Morgan, Ministry staff provided an update on the implementation of the Early Year Service Framework and suggested the Roots of Empathy organization explore opportunities to connect more directly with community



stakeholders delivering direct services such as the Association of Aboriginal Head Start Off Reserve and local child care centres to support their planning efforts going forward next year.

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

**DATE:** October 12, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 239987

**PREPARED FOR:** The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Background information in preparation for meeting with First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition.

**BACKGROUND:**

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition ("First Call") is a non-partisan coalition comprising of over 100 provincial and regional organizations who advocate for changes to public policy impacting children and youth. First Call advocates for The 4 Keys to Success for Children and Youth, which they define as:

1. A strong commitment to early childhood development
2. Support in transitions from childhood to youth and adulthood
3. Increased economic equality
4. Safe and caring communities.

First Call is recognized in the media for creating weekly newsletters, offering community presentations, and publishing research and reports, including the BC Child Poverty Report Card and the Fostering Change campaign, which focus on improved outcomes for children and youth in and from care.

First Call has requested more information regarding:

- How decision making processes can vary across ministries;
- What cultural shifts are happening in various ministries, and the ways in which resulting policy has been effective;
- How ministries are supporting youth, and the vision for the child safety system in coming years.

This information will be discussed in the meeting with First Call scheduled for October 24, 2018.

**DISCUSSION:**

Decision making processes may vary across ministries, and it is difficult to pinpoint specific processes in each ministry. In general, decisions are made by executive leadership, in alignment with goals identified in the relevant Minister's mandate letter; the ministry's strategic plan; and priorities identified by the Premier. Major decisions, particularly those including requests for funding or changes to legislation, are approved by Cabinet and/or the Treasury Board.

One cultural shift that has occurred across government is in recognizing that improved supports and services is a responsibility of all ministries. This shift can be seen through the creation of a new ministry, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, which was created in 2017 to improve the mental well-being and reduce substance-use related harms for all British Columbians. The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions uses research, policy development

and evaluation to drive system-level improvement through a whole-government approach in partnership with other ministries, including MCFD and the Ministry of Health, to plan and implement a full continuum of mental health and addictions services for children and youth in BC.

Another example of this cultural shift is the creation of the Cross Government Youth Transitions Executive Director Committee, which is led by MCFD and made up of executive-level leadership across 14 ministries. This committee makes collaborative recommendations to achieve common goals regarding improving services to youth in and from care.

An example of effective policy and programming as a result of this cultural shift is the creation of the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, which is managed by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training in collaboration with MCFD. Since September 2017, this innovative program has waived tuition fees for more than 550 young adults from care.

MCFD has a strong vision of improving services to children, youth, and their families. By amending the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), this government has ensured better collaboration with Indigenous communities to prevent the removal of Indigenous children; the ability to refer child protection reports to an Indigenous government, if the Indigenous government has laws regarding child protection; and provides greater ability for social workers to make agreements with an Indigenous child's parents and community to improve collaborative planning for the child. Further, the ministry has engaged with Indigenous and community partners to learn more about how improvements can be made to the overall system of care, including the Agreements with Young Adults program, which will inform future changes to how children, youth, and their families are supported.

#### **SUMMARY:**

- This government has recognized that better supporting youth in and from care is the responsibility of all ministries, and not just one.
- The Cross Government Youth Transitions Executive Director Committee is an example of shifting culture within government that leads to improvement between ministries, with the goal of improving supports and services to youth in and from care.
- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program is a concrete example of collaboration between ministries towards a common goal.
- MCFD is working towards a future in which children, youth and families are better supported, resulting in fewer children being brought into care. This shift is best demonstrated through the recent amendments to the CFCSA.

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

**DATE:** October 15, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 240033

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** September 25, 2018  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 239830

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

**ISSUE:** Update on child care-related standards and/or policies related to cannabis, and planned communication strategy.

**BACKGROUND:**

In preparation for the federal government's legalization of non-medical cannabis on October 17, 2018, the Province has passed legislation and is currently updating and revising program-area policies. MCFD has two child care program areas that will be affected by the new cannabis legislation: Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs, and the Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Registry.

The *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* (CCLA) will authorize adults to cultivate up to four cannabis plants per household. Cultivation will be prohibited in households that operate as licensed child care centres. However, this provision of the CCLA does not apply to unlicensed, License-Not-Required (LNR) and Registered License-Not-Required (RLNR) operators.

Through a series of policy updates, MCFD has established new measures to address risks to children posed by the use and cultivation of cannabis by ECEs, ECE Assistants, and RLNR child care providers.

**DISCUSSION:**

MCFD has reviewed and updated the policy guidelines in the CCRR Practice Standards Manual and the ECE Registry Investigative Policy and Procedure Manual where appropriate, in order to align with the CCLA and other related legislation (e.g. *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act*) in terms of procedures around (1) cultivation of cannabis, (2) visibility of, and unsafe access to, cannabis, and (3) cannabis use and impairment while caring for a child.

As with other RLNR registration requirements, MCFD is opting to align RLNR requirements around cannabis cultivation with the CCLA requirements for licensed child care facilities. This policy will be reflected in the CCRR Practice Standards Manual. Policy updates to the manual was done to incorporate this requirement and outline best practices when addressing a concern around cannabis cultivation by RLNR child care providers.

Cannabis-related regulatory amendments to the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA) and Child Care Licensing Regulation (CCLR) are being worked on by the Ministry of Health (HLTH).



### *Communication strategy*

Following legalization, MCFD will be reminding recipients of Child Care Operating Funding that the legislation has come into force and will direct them to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's (PSSG) website for more information (as instructed by PSSG staff). MCFD is also working with Ministry of Health and PSSG on Frequently Asked Questions that can be shared over the coming weeks with recipients of Child Care Operating Funding, CCRR staff, and licensing officers (through the Ministry of Health), to provide further clarity for child care providers and CCRR staff of the new responsibilities.

In addition, each household in B.C. is receiving materials from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General as a part of the provincial cannabis advertising campaign, which includes high level information on requirements related to cannabis cultivation and licensed child care.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

MCFD will finalize and distribute updated policy sections of the CCRR Practice Standards Manual and the ECE Registry Investigative Policy and Procedure Manual by the end of October, 2018, ensuring they are effective immediately after release to the CCRR and ECE Registry programs.

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

**DATE:** October 16, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 240051

**PREPARED FOR:** The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

**DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING:** October 23, 2018

**ISSUE(S):** BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU) President, Stephanie Smith is meeting with the Minister about three topics: issues related to compensation of youth custody officers; negotiated wage increases across the broader social services sector; and to provide feedback received about MCFD from their members as part of the collective agreement ratification process.

**BACKGROUND:**

In August 2018, BCGEU members in the BC Public Service sector voted to ratify the tentative 18<sup>th</sup> Main Public Service Agreement reached with the BC government in June, with a final vote of 62.7 per cent in favour.

Flowing from the ratification, several issues have emerged for the BCGEU that they intend to raise with the Minister.

- 1) In the Memorandum of Settlement, BCGEU correctional service employees in specific classifications of the Adult Custody Division are to receive a Temporary Market Adjustment (TMA). There was not a TMA negotiated for youth custody employees of MCFD.
- 2) s.17
- 3) Possible further feedback from members could include the TMA for Child Protection social workers which was not extended to social workers in other disciplines or areas. Some other issues that may be identified through the ratification feedback process are staffing, workload, and the recruitment/retention of front line staff, particularly in hard to recruit communities.

**DISCUSSION:**

- 1) Community Corrections - as part of collective bargaining adult custody correctional officers in certain classifications will receive a temporary market adjustment of one grid/year in each of April 2019, April 2020 and April 2021. The BCGEU wrote the BC Public Service Agency (BCPSA) on October 5<sup>th</sup> requesting that the parties meet to discuss

recruitment and retention issues at Youth Corrections. In the letter, the BCGEU also formally requested a temporary market adjustment for Youth Corrections. The BCPSA will be responding to the BCGEU's letter.

2) **s.17**

- 3) MCFD feedback from the ratification process - BCGEU has previously asked for meetings with the Minister to discuss their members' concerns about recruitment, particularly of front-line MCFD staff. The Ministry has taken a number of positive steps to increase the staffing levels. The emphasis on hiring will continue, but will be supplemented by a concerted effort increase the retention of the staff we hire. It is reasonable to expect that the BCGEU will raise compensation for all social work staff at this meeting.

#### **SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

**s.13**

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

**DATE:** October 12, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 240065

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Katrine Conroy and Minister of State Katrina Chen

**ISSUE:** Request for Proposal regarding research to review suite of Children and Youth with Special Needs services.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is seeking qualified proponents to conduct research and analysis of the Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) service delivery system – with a focus on MCFD-funded CYSN programs and services.

The 2018/19 budget for CYSN Services is \$356.2 million. Services include a complex array of child-focused intervention services and family supports. The changing population of children with special needs (e.g. increasing prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder, complex health needs), the diagnostically driven eligibility criteria for some services, and oversubscribed services with long waitlists are some of the key challenges facing families and policy makers.

MCFD is in the process of posting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for research that will lay the foundation for: understanding the current suite of MCFD CYSN services delivered in BC; identifying gaps, challenges and opportunities associated with these services; and informing the longer-term development a CYSN Service Framework.

s.13,s.17

**DISCUSSION:**

The RFP includes the conduction, collection, analysis, and reporting of research data pertaining to each of the following four areas of research:

1. User experience (i.e. journey mapping)
2. Indigenous user experience (preference will be given to Aboriginal agencies/candidates)
3. Understanding assessments as they relate to the current pathways to accessing CYSN services (i.e. the various assessment processes used to access the range of services)
4. Understanding the current suite of programs and services (their geographical distribution, intended outcomes, waitlists, levels of service provided, etc.)

It is anticipated that the RFP will be posted on BC Bid by October 22nd with the delivery date of contracted services to occur no later than March 31, 2019.

These research findings will be used to inform the development of a CYSN Service Framework that reflects a broader approach to service delivery and provides the overarching policy that guides the investment and provision of a suite of services. The Framework will outline what service recipients can expect, when and how services are delivered to CYSN and their families; and guide how resources are allocated to support delivery of these services.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This research is necessary to support **s.13,s.17** the overall efforts of the ministry to strengthen its approach to prevention and early intervention – ensuring CYSN services and resources are allocated and prioritized to address families’ needs.

It is the Ministry’s intention to post this RFP in the coming week to ensure research can begin and conclude within the 2018/19 fiscal year.

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

**DATE:** 2018-10-15  
**CLIFF#:** 240090

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):** May 10, 2018  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #** 237799

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

**ISSUE:** Inclusion of School-Age spaces within the Prototype Sites

**BACKGROUND:**

Under the terms of the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC), the Province will direct \$30M/year in federal funding each year, for two years, to support the operation of universal child care prototype sites (PT Sites). The agreement calls for a total of 1,786 existing spaces to be converted into affordable low/no-cost child care. The purpose of the PT Sites is to provide data and information to inform future funding models to support the implementation of universal child care over the next 10 years.

The original ELCC Agreement requires the PT Sites to only include licensed Infant/Toddler (I/T) spaces; however it was recognized that further information would be gained by allowing PT Sites to also support other types of licensed child care, including care for children 3-5 years and school-age children. The Ministry requested the federal government to agree to an administrative change to the terms of the ELCC Agreement to allow the inclusion of up to 10% of the 1,786 PT spaces to be school-age spaces. This change allows licensed Family Child Care (FCC), Multi-Age Child Care (MACC) and In-Home Multi-Age Child Care (IHMACC) programs to be eligible to apply to become PT sites, as these care providers are licensed to care for children birth to age 12 years in a personal residence, unlike Group facilities, which are required to care for children of differing ages in distinct age groups. Approval to include 3-5 year olds and a maximum of 10% as PT sites was received from the federal government in May 2018.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Summary of Issue:**

BC's prototype selection includes 18% school age spaces – above the 10% maximum set by the Federal Government. BC provided the overall results to the Federal Government, who consulted with their Minister's Office on the outcomes.

BC received written (email) approval from Federal Government staff to proceed with BC's selected prototype sites on September 21, 2018. BC immediately worked to notify successful sites and is in the process of finalizing contracts to get the sites up and running in order to be able to expend the funds allocated for this fiscal year in time.

On October 15, Federal Government staff contacted BC MCFD staff to indicate that the Federal Minister's Office has recently raised the issue with Federal staff again, and are considering flagging the number of school age spaces in BC as a concern with BC Ministers.



## Summary of Results:

- The total number of spaces selected is 2,464 at 53 different sites. Well above the target 1,786 spaces.
- The overall percentage of proposed programs is just over 30% Infant Toddler spaces, 45% percent preschool age spaces and 18% percent school age spaces, with the remaining 7% of spaces being at multi age facilities where it is not possible to know the exact age breakdown. (See Appendix A for details of breakdown)
- However, Out-of-School Care programs in BC also serve kindergarten children who are 4 and 5 years of age. The Federal Government defines school age as 6-12. BC does not have data to indicate the exact number of children that will be 4 or 5 years of age during the program. However, BC did provide the Federal Government with an estimate based on overall population numbers that approximately 3-4% of the school-age children at prototype sites may be in kindergarten, which could bring the overall percentage down from 18% to between 14 and 15% of children in Prototype sites being 6-12 years.
- Although the percentage of school age spaces is higher than the 10% agreed to, none of the sites selected offer only school age spaces – school age spaces are only included in addition to infant/toddler and/or preschool age spaces.
- Because of the composition of quality child care sites in BC, even though the intention was to fund a majority of infant/toddler spaces, there was no combination of sites that would have achieved that metric by itself.
- In order to ensure group infant toddler programs are financially viable, most quality programs in BC offer a range of age-groupings (infant toddler, 3-5, and school age), also creating a continuum of care. This is particularly true in rural locations.
- In the lower mainland (where the majority of BC's population resides) BC was easily able to meet targets for school age spaces. In the Vancouver Coastal region there are no school age group spaces in any of the prototype sites selected, and in the Fraser Valley group school age spaces are also below the 10% target at 8%.
- However, in the North, Island and Interior regions there were fewer sites to choose from and the pool of applicants included large, high scoring centres that also have many school age spaces included. (Breakdown of spaces by region are included in Appendix B)
- In addition to representing the diversity of BC's geography, license types, organization, and business models, the selection of prototypes sites met all of other priority areas from the ELCC agreement, including representation of children from underserved communities such as:
  - Indigenous families,
  - Families with children with extra support needs,
  - young parents (e.g. <25 years) completing their secondary education,
  - Rural representation, and
  - Francophone programming.
- By including all types of child care, the evaluation will allow the province to understand the actual cost of delivering child care, and will promote data-informed decisions about child care funding and quality

**KEY POINTS/SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

- Infant Toddler spaces were prioritized throughout the process. A key criteria for the prototype sites was that each of the programs must offer infant toddler spaces – which has been achieved.
- If BC had limited the selection to 10% school age kids, we would not have been able to get sufficient representation of sites outside of the lower mainland.
- We managed to keep it to 8% in the Fraser Valley region, and 0% in the Vancouver Coastal region – where we had large pools of applicants to work with. In the North, Island and Interior regions we had fewer sites to choose from and the pool of applicants happened to include large – high scoring centres that also have many school age spaces included. In order to ensure group infant toddler programs are financially viable, most quality programs in BC offer a range of age-groupings (infant toddler, 3-5, and school age), also creating a continuum of care. This is particularly true in rural locations.
- BC's school age spaces also include some 4 and 5 year old kindergarten children as well - while we do not have data to determine how many children in the school age spaces are 4 and 5 years old, we estimate that our numbers are actually 3-4% lower than they appear (between 14-15% not 18% overall). This estimate is based on overall population numbers for that age group.
- If we had not included sites with school age spaces we would have had to prioritize sites that scored lower on other priorities – such as service to aboriginal families, or inclusion policy for children with special needs (and even then we would have struggled to get enough representation outside of the lower mainland)
- BC received approval for the selected sites on September 21, 2018. In order to get contracts in place and sites up and running as soon as possible, we contacted successful applicants immediately in order to be able to expend the funds allocated for the 2018/19 fiscal year for this initiative. The contract and site implementation process is well underway, with some sites coming online as early as November 1, 2018, and the remainder to follow in December.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Summary of Spaces By Care type
- B. Breakdown of Spaces by Region

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## Appendix A

### Summary of Spaces By Care type

Care Type	Number of Spaces	% of Total
Sum of Grp Spaces Under 36 Months	760	31%
Sum of Grp Spaces 30 Months - SA	990	40%
Sum of Grp Spaces - Pre	132	5%
Sum of Grp Spaces - SA	446	18%
Sum of Grp Spaces - MA	84	3%
Sum of Family Spaces - IHMA	24	1%
Sum of Family Spaces	28	1%

## APPENDIX B

### Breakdown of Spaces by Region:

#### VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION

# of Spaces by Care Type	# of Spaces	% of Total
Sum of Grp Spaces Under 36 Months	184	41%
Sum of Grp Spaces 30 Months - SA	230	52%
Sum of Grp Spaces - Pre	-	0%
Sum of Grp Spaces - SA	-	0%
Sum of Grp Spaces - MA	16	4%
Sum of Family Spaces - IHMA	-	0%
Sum of Family Spaces	14	3%

#### NORTH REGION

# of Spaces by Care Type	# of Spaces	% of Total
Sum of Grp Spaces Under 36 Months	32	16%
Sum of Grp Spaces 30 Months - SA	59	30%
Sum of Grp Spaces - Pre	14	7%
Sum of Grp Spaces - SA	61	31%
Sum of Grp Spaces - MA	24	12%
Sum of Family Spaces - IHMA	-	0%
Sum of Family Spaces	7	4%

#### ISLAND REGION

# of Spaces by Care Type	# of Spaces	% of Total
Sum of Grp Spaces Under 36 Months	104	23%
Sum of Grp Spaces 30 Months - SA	154	34%
Sum of Grp Spaces - Pre	35	8%
Sum of Grp Spaces - SA	129	29%
Sum of Grp Spaces - MA	20	4%
Sum of Family Spaces - IHMA	8	2%
Sum of Family Spaces	-	0%

# INTERIOR REGION

# of Spaces by Care Type	# of Spaces	% of Total
Sum of Grp Spaces Under 36 Months	190	25%
Sum of Grp Spaces 30 Months - SA	296	39%
Sum of Grp Spaces - Pre	63	8%
Sum of Grp Spaces - SA	206	27%
Sum of Grp Spaces - MA	-	0%
Sum of Family Spaces - IHMA	8	1%
Sum of Family Spaces	-	0%

# FRASER VALLEY REGION

# of Spaces by Care Type	# of Spaces	% of Total
Sum of Grp Spaces Under 36 Months	250	41%
Sum of Grp Spaces 30 Months - SA	251	41%
Sum of Grp Spaces - Pre	20	3%
Sum of Grp Spaces - SA	50	8%
Sum of Grp Spaces - MA	24	4%
Sum of Family Spaces - IHMA	8	1%
Sum of Family Spaces	7	1%



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

**DATE:** October 19, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 240104

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

**DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING:** October 23rd at 2pm at the Minister's office

**ISSUE(S):** Danita Sepp (Block 8 Academy) and her colleague James Kim (Happy Kids World Daycare) in Port Moody are requesting a meeting with the Minister's Office, as child care facilities in the Port Moody area are facing challenges with outdoor play space on School District (SD 43 Coquitlam) land, and concerned about a child care task force headed by the local School Board.

**BACKGROUND:**

Happy Kids World Daycare in Port Moody provides Infant and Toddler, 3-5, and School-Age programming.

Block 8 Academy Ltd. owned by Danita Sepp and Cindy Sepp has been operating since September 2017 in the Port Moody Arts Centre providing before and after school care, using Moody Elementary School as the outdoor play space.

Block 8 Academy Ltd. provides some of the following services and programming:

- Transportation service to and from the local elementary schools;
- A yearlong music program, focusing on rhythms, instruments and singing;
- Community projects (i.e. helping local refugee children, raising money for local charities etc.);
- Multi-Cultural programming (i.e. units on cultural differences);
- Tutoring and homework club; and
- Young entrepreneurs program focusing on financial literacy.

In January 2018, Block 8 Academy Ltd. was awarded \$200,395.00 in Child Care Major Capital Funding through intake 4, to create 24 licensed Group School-Age spaces. The second location is set to open November 15, 2018 at 110 Moody Street.

**DISCUSSION:**

According to Ms Sepp, all child care facilities in Moody Centre are concerned about a task force on child care that the School Board has stated they are organizing. There is fear that family and independent group daycares will be driven out of the schools by this task force.

Ms Sepp states that a lot of what the board is planning, is not actually developing SD 43 land, but initiatives that will not solve the child care shortage.

Ms Sepp also indicates that they use local school grounds for outdoor play space. According to Ms Sepp the board has advised that the facility Ms Sepp runs is not allowed to use any of the covered space on the school grounds, and must stick to the far end of the field. During rainy days the children have no dry place to play outside and as the fields are grassy, special needs children have difficulty playing outside.

According to Ms Sepp, the board has stated the covered outdoor space is required for school programming. However, she states that there have not been any school programs using the space within the two years her child care has been operating at the site.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Service Delivery Manager for Child Care Capital funding called Ms Sepp to get a summary of the topics she would like to discuss with the Minister, which are noted above. No concerns were identified from the program area on the progress of the current project that is underway at 110 Moody Street.

**SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

• s.13

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

**DATE:** October 17, 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 240143

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):** [Date]  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable):** [CLIFF #]

**PREPARED FOR:** The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Experiences of youth homelessness amongst youth from care.

**BACKGROUND:**

Youth in and from care are overrepresented in the population of homeless youth, due to factors relating to previous experiences of trauma and neglect, loss of family connections, and loss of support after aging out of care at age 19. These trends have been highlighted in the media and in various recommendations and reports, including reports from the BC Coroner's Service Death Review Panel, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, the McCreary Centre, the Representative for Children and Youth, and the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness. The recommendations in these reports have often focussed on providing more supports and services to youth in and from care, including more financial support and/or housing after these youth reach the age of 19.

Improving services and outcomes for youth aging out of care has been identified as a goal by the Ministry of Children and Family Development in multiple sources, including the minister's mandate letter and MCFD's Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

The Ministries of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) and Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) are currently developing a Homelessness Action Plan (HAP) in accordance with their Ministers' mandate letters. Although the HAP is not yet finalized, the HAP may include a recommendation to complete targeted analysis of the needs of distinct groups, such as youth, in order to inform the development of an effective plan. This would be done in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including those with lived experience and other subject matter experts.

**DISCUSSION:**

With approximately half of homeless youth in BC identifying as being "from care" (see: Appendix C), MCFD has an important role to play in working with other relevant ministries to end youth homelessness. Further, Indigenous youth and youth who identify as LGBTIQ2S+ are overrepresented in both the population of homeless youth and youth in care (see: Appendix D, Appendix E), which indicates that MCFD may have a role in supporting these youth to secure safe and stable housing.

Additionally, BC Housing and MAH fund and support a number of programs that already benefit youth in and from care and their families, including emergency shelters, drop-in centres, and transitional housing (see: Appendix B for a more detailed list of services). BC Housing also has strategic partnerships with non-profit housing providers serving youth between the ages of 16

and 19 and provides rent supplements to youth who are at immediate risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

Although MCFD does offer post-majority supports to eligible young adults from care through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program, AYA is primarily accessed by those who are in an educational or vocational program. The most vulnerable young adults from care, including those who are active in their addictions and do not feel ready for rehabilitative treatment, cannot access any post-majority supports from MCFD and are most at-risk of homelessness.

However, investing in eliminating youth homelessness makes good financial sense. ‘Treatment’ of homelessness that relies on crisis-oriented services - including hospitals, jails, and shelters - is expensive, and research has indicated that this funding would be more effective if used to provide housing and supports to impacted individuals. This argument is especially salient when considering youth from care, who often have to rely on government to act as a “prudent parent.”

#### **SUMMARY:**

- Youth from care are over-represented in the population of homeless youth.
- Various organizations have made recommendations to MCFD to reduce or eliminate homelessness for youth aging out of care.
- Improving services and outcomes for youth aging out of care is a priority for MCFD.
- Other ministries are also addressing the problem of homelessness, including youth homelessness, including SDPR, MAH, and BC Housing.
- Since MCFD is involved with multiple populations of youth who are known to be at-risk of future homelessness, including youth who have experienced trauma and neglect, Indigenous youth, and youth who identify as LGBTIQ2S+, MCFD can better support these youth by partnering with other ministries to end youth homelessness together.

#### **ATTACHMENTS (if applicable):**

- A. Suggested messaging from MCFD regarding youth homelessness that may be used by other ministries in their communications
- B. List of services offered by MAH and BC Housing that may benefit youth in and from care
- C. Number of homeless youth who identify as being “from care”
- D. Number of homeless youth who identify as being Indigenous
- E. Number of homeless youth who identify as LGBTIQ2S+

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**A. Suggested messaging from MCFD regarding youth homelessness that may be used by other ministries in their communications**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has heard concerns regarding high rates of homelessness for young adults from care. Aging out of care and into homelessness is not an acceptable outcome for any youth in care. For this reason, MCFD is collaborating with other ministries to better support youth in and from care, including the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Improving services for British Columbia's youth transitioning from care is a priority for this government. Together, we can ensure that youth aging out of care have the supports and services they need and deserve to succeed.

**B. List of services offered by MAH and BC Housing that may benefit youth in and from care**

- Through strategic policy direction and oversight over BC Housing, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) funds a range of housing options and supports available to youth and young adults such as emergency shelters, drop-in centers, transitional housing, connection to outreach workers, rent supplements, and an online housing registry to access non-profit housing providers.
- Young people who receive a direct housing benefit from BC Housing, either through rent supplement programs, subsidized housing or in congregate housing, are typically between the ages of 19 and 24 and have thus aged out of the MCFD mandate. Children under the age of 19 can receive services only if accompanied by a parent/guardian, or referred by a social worker under the Child, Family, and Community Service Act.
- BC Housing also has strategic partnerships with non-profit housing providers serving youth between the ages of 16 and 19 and provides rent supplements to youth who are at immediate risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. Youth 18 years of age and under may be eligible.
- For young people above 19 years of age (and youth under 19 on a case-by-case basis), there are several BC Housing programs that provide housing options and related support.
- The Homeless Prevention Program provides rent supplements and outreach supports. The initiative helps individuals access rental housing in the private housing market and community-based services. Homeless Outreach Program and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program provide a first point of contact for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program assists women and their children who have experienced violence or are at risk of experiencing violence; clients may self-refer or be referred; women under the age of 19 who live independently are also eligible. These programs help connect people with key support services, considering the specific housing, health, and cultural needs.
- Youth aged 16 and older can also apply to the Rental Assistance Program if they are working and have children.
- Other recent and ongoing provincial funding announcements include:
  - On July 4, 2018, MAH announced new funding to keep the North Shore Youth Safe House open. The Province will contribute \$100,000 per year for five years for operational costs, so that youth can continue accessing vital resources.
  - The Province is providing funding for the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness to hold a provincial meeting of Coalition members. The meeting will assist Coalition members in developing a plan to end youth homelessness.
- On August 2, 2018, MAH announced \$1.2 billion in new funding for 2,500 units of supportive housing, which youth serving organizations are eligible to apply for.

(provided by Sarah Gosman, A/Director of Housing Policy, Municipal Affairs and Housing)

### C. Number of homeless youth who identify as being “from care” in research

Various studies nationally and internationally have indicated that youth from care experience homelessness at a greater rate than their peers. In their study of over 14,000 homeless young adults, Shelton et al (2009) found that a significant risk factor is separation from family, whether through the child welfare system or other causes, as well as “experiences of childhood adversity, including poor relationships with parents, neglect, physical and sexual abuse” (Shelton, Taylor, Bonner, van den Bree, 2009, p. 46)- experiences common to youth in care. It is estimated that homeless youth and young adults are 193 times more likely than the general public to have been involved with the child welfare system (Nichols, Schwan, Gaetz et al, 2017). As youth who experience abuse and neglect often come into care, and youth in care have almost universally experienced abuse and/or neglect, it is difficult to tease apart which factor is most strongly associated with future homelessness for these youth.

Nichols, Schwan, Gaetz et al (2017) indicate that foster care represents an intersection of various factors that contribute to homelessness, including trauma, housing instability, mental health concerns, and lower rates of education. They continue by stating that, while “child protection services do not necessarily cause youth homelessness,” the high proportion of traumatized youth in the child welfare system means that “the child welfare system can play an active role in *preventing* it” (Nichols, et al., 2017, p. 9, emphasis in original) by implementing preventative measures early.

Youth from care also experience greater-than-average rates of homelessness upon aging out of care and losing all supports (Chau & Gawliuk, 2009; Piat, et al., 2015). Courtney, Maes Nino and Peters (2014) found that “inadequate transitions from care and preparation for adulthood were... directly related to ... later homelessness (p. 2). These findings were supported by Nichols et al (2017), who found that nearly one-third of homeless youth in Canada reported that their transition from care was directly related to their homelessness. Furthermore, youth from care were more likely than their homeless peers to experience chronic homelessness (Gaetz, O'Grady, Kidd, & Schwan, 2016). One American study of over 5800 youth who had had involvement with child welfare services found that youth who aged out of foster care were nearly six times as likely to experience “literal” homelessness as their peers who had been brought into foster care but were returned to their families before reaching the age of majority (Fowler, Marcal, Zhang, Day, & Landsverk, 2017). Youth from care may also experience homelessness for longer periods than homeless youth who were not in care (Bender, Yang, Ferguson, & Thompson, 2015).

While young adults may have been independent at age 19 in decades past, various studies show that nearly 60% of today's Canadian and BC-based young adults ages 20 – 24 remain in their parental home due to the high cost of living and the demands of attaining post-secondary education (Shaffer, Anderson and Nelson, 2016; Nichols et al, 2017). While youth who age out of care receive fewer supports than their peers, they are also less likely to have obtained levels of education and mental well-being typical of their peers (Nichols, et al., 2017).

Table 1: percentage of homeless youth who identify as "from care" across relevant Canadian studies

Study	Youthworks	System Pathways into Youth Homelessness	Our Communities Our Youth	Without A Home	Kamloops Youth Homelessness Count	General Population
Sample size	689	22	681	1103	129	
Percentage from care	68%	81.8%	51%	47.2%	55%	0.5%



#### D. Number of homeless youth who identify as being Indigenous in research

The overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the homeless population is well-documented in literature. This is, perhaps, reflective of the well-documented over-representation of Indigenous youth in multiple populations that are known to be at-risk of homelessness, including youth in care and persons living in poverty (Aboriginal Children in Care Working Group, 2015). Indigenous youth are also more likely to experience multiple episodes of homelessness, with 80.4% of homeless Indigenous youth reporting two or more incidents of homelessness (Gaetz, O'Grady, Kidd, & Schwan, 2016).

Indigenous people would not have traditionally experienced homelessness, as the term is understood in the modern context. 'Home' for Indigenous people was defined as the land and community (Christensen & Andrew, 2016); even in cases when natural disaster ruined a dwelling, the community would have gathered together to create a new dwelling while continuing to live off the land. Modern homelessness for Indigenous people, then, is a continuation of colonialism, in which Indigenous people's connections to the land, to family, and to the community have been severed. This is particularly true for children in the child welfare context (Aboriginal Children in Care Working Group, 2015).

Currently in British Columbia, 62.8% of children and youth in care are Indigenous. Although the rate of Indigenous children and youth in British Columbia who are in care has decreased from 63.6 per 1000 in 2002 to 54.7 in 2017, the percentage of Indigenous children in care is increasing, due to significant reductions in the rate of non-Indigenous children in care. For comparison, in 2017, non-Indigenous children were in care at a rate of 3.2 out of 1000 (Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2017). These recent reductions in the rate of Indigenous children in care are needed: in 2005, it was estimated that one in seven Indigenous children who were between the ages of 6 - 18 had been in care at some point in their childhood (Turpel-Lafond and the Provincial Health Officer, 2007).

Table 2: rate of homeless youth who identify as Indigenous across relevant Canadian studies

Study	Youthworks	System Pathways into Youth Homelessness	Our communities, our youth	Without A Home	Kamloops Youth Homelessness Count	General Population
Sample size	689	22	681	1103	129	
Percentage identified as Indigenous	5%	57%	53%	30.6%	55%	4.3%

## E. Number of homeless youth who identify as LGBTIQ2S+ in research

Various studies in Canada and internationally have found that LGBTIQ2S+ youth are over-represented in the homelessness population. LGBTIQ2S+ youth are more likely to report multiple incidents of homelessness, with 80.2% of homeless LGBTIQ2S+ youth, including 82.8% of gender non-binary or transgender youth, reporting multiple experiences of homelessness in Canada. LGBTIQ2S+ youth are also more likely to be younger than other homeless youth, and are more likely to report involvement with the child protection system (Nichols, et al., 2017; Gaetz, O'Grady, Kidd, & Schwan, 2016). LGBTIQ2S+ youth may also be overrepresented in the child in care population in British Columbia (Smith, Stewart, Poon, & Saewyc, 2011).

This outcome for LGBTIQ2S+ youth is thought to be “an outcome of homophobia and transphobia in families, schools, and communities, making it difficult for young people to remain at home” (Gaetz, O'Grady, Kidd, & Schwan, 2016, p. 29) and is therefore a structural and systemic factor of homelessness. These findings are supported by international studies (Rosario, Scrimshaw, & Hunter, 2012). It is estimated that in the United States, LGBTIQ2S+ youth are twice as likely to experience homelessness compared to their peers, and are twice as likely as other homeless youth to experience trauma and premature death (Morton, Samuels, Dworsky, & Patel, 2018).

Table 3: rate of homeless youth who identify as LGBTIQ2S+ across relevant Canadian studies

Study	Our communities, our youth	Without A Home	Kamloops Youth Homelessness Count	General Population
Sample size	681	1103	129	
Percentage identified as LGBTIQ2S+	38%	29.5%	18%	5-10%

First Call – Fostering Change Notes for October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with Minister Katrine Conroy:

**Q: What cultural shifts are happening in various ministries, and the ways in which resulting policy has been effective?**

- The Tuition Waiver program was established and expanded to all public post secondary institutions as a result of the partnership between MCFD and Advanced Education.
- Given the Tuition Waiver expansion supports for youth through the Agreements With Young Adults program was increased to 27 years of age (in alignment with tuition waivers), school breaks are now covered and the maximum amount was increased from \$1000 per month to \$1250 .
- MCFD chairs a cross government Executive Director table that includes 14 ministries that meet monthly with a focus on youth transitions and the roles each ministry has in supporting youth. An example of what is brought forward to this table would include the work being done by Social Development and Poverty Reduction on the development of Homeless Action Plan which includes a strong focus on youth as a vulnerable population when experiencing homelessness.

**Q: How ministries are supporting youth, and the vision for the child safety system incoming years?**

- The MCFD Strategic Initiatives team has been out in community since May of this year listening to what youth need to transition in a healthy way. 35 engagement sessions have been held to date and some have included youth.
- We are taking the youth engagement to the next level this fall and partnering with a youth serving organization which we will be able to announce very soon. Four youth engagement sessions will happen across the province inclusive of Indigenous youth and there will be a youth survey as well. Stay tuned for the invite for Fostering Connections to participate!
- The ministry has also taken all of the recommendations we have heard over the past ten years including the Representative of Children and Youth reports, Grand Chief Ed John report, what we have heard from our Youth Advisory Council as well as other youth councils into consideration as we reimagine Agreements with Young Adults. We will be bringing program options forward this spring for government to consider. We are committed to supporting youth as they transition from care.

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

**DATE:** 18 October 2018  
**CLIFF#:** 240206

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE :** 2 September 2016  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 228484

**PREPARED FOR:** Alisma Perry, Ministerial Assistant for Minister Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** Children's Hearing and Speech Centre of BC (CHSC) has requested information regarding MCFD funding. Previously, CHSC contracted directly with MCFD and now CHSC is a subcontractor of the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre, which is a direct contractor of MCFD.

**BACKGROUND:**

Children's Hearing and Speech Centre is a specialized early intervention program based in Vancouver. CHSC serves families with deaf and hard of hearing children with a focus on listening and spoken language development.

Prior to 2015, CHSC was one of three contractors funded directly by MCFD to provide early intervention services. All three contractors indicated to MCFD that funding was insufficient and reported deficits. After discussion with all contractors in 2015, a procurement process (RFP) was completed and a single contractor, BC Family Hearing Resource Centre (BCFHRC) was selected. Subsequently, BCFHRC chose to subcontract with CHSC and the Deaf Children's Society (DCS).

CHSC receives funding for early intervention services through a subcontract with the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre, the Provincial Health Services Authority (BC Early Hearing Program), and other private donors and fundraising. CHSC also receives funding from the Ministry of Education as a designated special education school (independent school.)

BCFHRC pays its subcontracts based on hours of service provided for individual and group intervention. Group intervention can be delivered in the model chosen by the subcontractor; however, there is an annual maximum for group intervention of \$100,000. As subcontractors, CHSC and DCS receive less funding than previously received as direct contractors. Both CHSC and DCS have raised concerns that the subcontract funding model is insufficient for their operational costs, and their preschools may not be viable based on the funding maximum for group intervention.

In addition to operational cost pressures reported by the subcontractors, our contractor BCFHRC has reported a deficit. We are meeting with BCFHRC in November 2018 to discuss the contract service deliverables and funding.

**CURRENT CONTEXT:**

BCFHRC's contract for early intervention services is \$1.7M for 2018/2019.

Service deliverables for the early intervention contract include:

- individualized service planning and assessment;
- individual and group language development services;



- full spectrum of language development approaches (from visual sign language to listening and spoken language); and
- provincial service coordination.

As of September 2018, approximately 455 children receive early intervention services:

- 365 children through BCFHRC
- 55 children through CHSC
- 35 children through DCS

#### **SUMMARY:**

MCFD has a contract through 2020 for early intervention services with the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre. BCFHRC subcontracts with CHSC and DCS in order to provide a full spectrum of language development approaches and coordinate services throughout the province. The contractor indicates that funding is insufficient to maintain services. Staff will meet with BCFHRC in November to review contract service deliverables and funding.

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

**CLIFF # 240236**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Minister Katrine Conroy – **FOR INFORMATION**

**ISSUE:** TELUS's Mobility for Good Program

**BACKGROUND:**

In March 2017, MCFD partnered with TELUS to launch the Keeping Young Adults Connected (KYAC) two-year pilot project for young adults on an Agreement with Young Adults (AYA). KYAC provided eligible young adults with a low-cost \$9.95 a month home internet plan and a cell phone with a two-year data plan paid for through the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). To date, approximately 130 activation codes have been sent to interested young adults, and 80 cell phones have been activated through the KYAC program.

In 2018, TELUS proposed transitioning to a new program, Mobility for Good, which is an improved service to young adults over the original KYAC program. Notably, TELUS was willing to provide improved cell phones, cover the cost of the data plans (previously paid through SIF funding), and expand the eligibility criteria to include a wider range of young adults, not only those in receipt of AYA funding.

**DISCUSSION:**

TELUS launched a charitable foundation, the TELUS Friendly Future Foundation to help disadvantaged youth with a \$120 million donation. This foundation created the Connecting for Good program, which has three aspects:

- Internet for Good, \$10 per month high speed internet access to eligible students.
- Mobility for Good, \$0 mobile devices and data plans to youth aging out of care.
- Health for Good, supports connections to primary health care to underserved Canadians with complex care needs through innovative mobile outreach clinics.

The Mobility for Good program will provide a free cell phone and two-year data plan to eligible young adults in BC. At the end of the two-year period, young adults will have ongoing access to low-cost data plans of \$35 per month.

MCFD is currently engaging with TELUS to develop the Mobility for Good program in BC, including eligibility criteria. TELUS has indicated that they would be willing to include every young adult between the ages of 19 – 27 who aged out on a Continuing Custody Order or a Youth Agreement, although this has not yet been confirmed. Expanding eligibility criteria to all young adults who aged out in these statuses, and not just those on a current AYA, would expand eligibility to over 7500 young adults in BC.

Further discussions are to be held regarding validation process. Under the KYAC program, MCFD mails invitations to eligible young adults, after validating their eligibility with social

workers; if eligibility expands to include young adults not on an AYA, MCFD will not have addresses for all young adults who have aged out within the past eight years, as well as validating eligibility will be labour and time intensive. TELUS has partnered with the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada to administer the program in Ontario, and Strategic Priorities Division staff are currently exploring if this could be an option for validation in BC.

Once fully operational, the Mobility for Good program would offer free cell phones and data plans to eligible young adults who have aged out of care. This will serve to make life more affordable for youth from care, while giving young adults from care the tools they need to succeed.

**SUMMARY:**

- Youth in and from care want access to a cell phone.
- TELUS is offering the Mobility for Good program to young adults from care across the country, which will provide \$0 cell phones and data plans to eligible young adults.
- MCFD is engaging with TELUS to define the parameters for the program in BC, including expanding the eligibility criteria to include all young adults ages 19 – 27 who were in a Continuing Custody Order or a Youth Agreement at the time of their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- This program will make life more affordable for young adults from care.

**ATTACHMENTS (if applicable):**

- A. Vancouver Sun News Article: TELUS launches new charity to help disadvantaged youth with record \$120M donation

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A. Vancouver Sun News Article: TELUS launches new charity to help disadvantaged youth with record \$120M donation (October 19, 2018)

Telus has launched a charitable foundation designed to help Canada's disadvantaged youth with a \$120-million donation.

The TELUS Friendly Future Foundation "will help youth succeed in our digital society through better access to critical health and educational opportunities," said Telus CEO Darren Entwistle.

He said the foundation and the \$120-million endowment would provide "financial grants to grassroots charities across Canada, dedicated to helping youth overcome social and economic challenges, and frustrating digital divides."

At a ceremony at its flagship office in downtown Vancouver on Friday, B.C. Premier John Horgan called the launch of the new foundation "extraordinary" and said it fitted in with the province's "poverty reduction plan."

He thanked Telus and its 25,000 B.C. employees and retirees for contributing to the province's "connectivity and telecommunications" industry.

Federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathan Wilkinson said the foundation would contribute to the Canadian core value of "equality of opportunity, especially when it comes to our young people."

Entwistle said the \$120 million was the largest single donation by a publicly traded company in Canada and one of the largest in North America. (Since 2000, Telus and its employees have donated \$530 million in financial contributions and 1.2 million volunteer days across Canada.)

The funds will be used to help the 1.5 million children across Canada without daily access to nutritious food, the 350,000 young people in government care, the 30,000 Canadians, many of them young people, who are homeless and have limited access to health care, and the 40 per cent of low-income families who can't afford internet access, which puts their children at an educational disadvantage, Entwistle said.

"Charities will be able to apply online for funding for vulnerable youth," said Jill Schnarr, vice-president of corporate citizenship and communications, community investment at Telus.

She said the foundation allows Telus to ensure the donations are sustainable by using the interest from the endowment to fund charities. The amount available each year will depend on the interest rate.

An independent board of directors would professionally manage the foundation. The members of the board are Fiona Entwistle, former music executive and philanthropist; Schnarr; Christopher Main, Telus legal and Shannon Gorman, executive director of the foundation. External board members are Craig Kielburger, cofounder of WE Charity; Rhiannon Traill,



president of the Economic Club of Canada; Tania Carnegie, Impact Ventures, KPMG; and Lane Merrifield, CEO of FreshGrade.

The Telus spokeswoman said “it really depends on the interest rate so it’s difficult for me to say” about interest revenue. And there will be an annual application process for grants but the board may revisit that in future.

Some of the causes that Telus has donated to in the past through its community boards include after-school programs, school computer labs, and programs funded through the United Way and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Getting grants to grassroots charities working on the front lines with youth is the foundation’s goal, the company said.

“Oftentimes because of their small size and limited resources, these charities are overlooked by large corporate donors,” according to a Telus release.

The independence of the foundation ensures its long-term sustainability and keeps it “separate from Telus’ profitability and corporate goals,” the release said.

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

**DATE:** October 29, 2018

**CLIFF#:** 240270

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister

**ISSUE:** Approval of the Notice of Position for BC College of Social Workers

**BACKGROUND:**

The British Columbia College of Social Workers (the College) regulates the social work profession in BC. There is a public member position becoming vacant on December 2, 2018 and the Minister's approval is required for the Notice of Position.

The College is governed by a twelve-member Board composed of eight elected social work members and four public members appointed by the Minister. Elected members are registered and in good standing with the College and the public members must not be registrants, former registrants or persons qualified to be registrants.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Minister has expressed an interest in appointing an Indigenous former youth in care to fill the upcoming Board vacancy. The attached Notice of Position indicates that the person must have experience as a youth in care and outlines a preference for a person who is First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

In addition, the Ministry's Director of Aboriginal Organizational Development reviewed the draft Notice of Position and added in the following competencies: cultural agility, promoting accord, and Indigenous centered service approach (refer to Attachment A).

The Board has put forward a request to include a preference for financial experience in the Notice of Position. The Board member whose term ends on December 2, 2018 is the only member of the Board that has accounting and financial competencies (refer to Attachment B).

**NEXT STEPS:**

The following steps are required to fill the Board vacancy:

1. Minister Conroy to approve the Notice of Position (refer to Attachment A)
2. Post the Notice of Position on the Crown Agency and Board Resourcing Office Website for three weeks
3. Send an email to partners identifying the opportunity in order to attract a former youth in care, preferably someone who is Indigenous
4. Review applicants and seek input from the Board
5. Minister to select a Board Member to fill the December vacancy

**ATTACHMENTS (if applicable):**

- A. Notice of Position
- B. BCCSW Board Competency Matrix

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