

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

DATE: 2018/12/04
CLIFF#: 239725

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: 2018/01/30, 2018/05/08
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 236101, 237566

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

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF MEETING: Monday, December 10, 2018 from 10-11am

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

ISSUE: Update from Minister Mark regarding AEST-led initiatives from the Childcare BC Plan

BACKGROUND:

As part of Government's Childcare BC Plan, AEST is leading three initiatives aimed at improving the recruitment and retention of a skilled and qualified Early Care & Learning workforce:

1. Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program Expansion
 - AEST was allocated \$7.4M over three years under Budget 2018
2. Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Pilot Project
 - AEST is contributing an additional \$500,000 from internal resources to support the WIL Pilot Projects in 2018/19
3. Childcare Sector Labour Market Partnership (SLMP)
 - SLMP is benefitting from \$78,000 in funding under the Workforce Development Agreement

The three initiatives have linkages to and implications for:

- The Early Childhood Educator Registry (ECER), which is the legislated authority responsible for the certification of ECEs and ECE Assistants, setting the standards for and recommending approval of early childhood education training programs delivered by public and private post-secondary institutions (PSIs) under Schedule D of the Child Care Licensing Regulation (CCLR), and conducting investigations into practice concerns of ECEs and ECEAs.
- The ECE Standards of Practice and Occupational Competencies project, which will require cross-ministry collaboration and discussion to determine implications across the child care sector.

DISCUSSION:

Early Childhood Education Program Expansion

In March 2018, AEST issued a Call for Proposals for program expansion beginning in 2018/19 to all public PSIs that offer recognized ECE programs. The March Call resulted in 12 public post-secondary institutions receiving \$1.2M to expand 15 ECE programs and train an additional

182.5 FTEs; this amount includes a \$0.350M contribution from MCFD targeting additional programs for Indigenous and rural and remote ECE program delivery.

The Call was a two-phase approach with the second phase set to close January 7, 2019 for program expansion beginning in 2019/20 and 2020/21. AEST has \$3.69M for 2019/20 and \$2.79M for 2020/21 to continue program expansion with greater emphasis on community-based delivery.

Work Integrated Learning Pilot (WIL) Project

The purpose of the WIL Pilot Project is to develop and test alternative education upgrading pathways for experienced ECEs and ECEAs in B.C. while they remain employed in the sector. AEST assembled an Advisory Committee, with membership from government and public post-secondary institutions that helped inform a Call for Proposals that was issued September 10th to all public-post secondary institutions with recognized ECE programs.

Seven proposals were received, and six were approved for funding; five by AEST and one by MCFD through the Indigenous Early Years Policy and Programs Branch, based on its focus on Aboriginal Head Start programs (Appendix A). The six approved proposals will focus on the delivery of unique models of assessing and educating learners in the classroom (all pilots will still require instructional time to impart the required knowledge, skills, and abilities as delineated by the Child Care Sector Occupational Competencies) and in the workplace, with onsite mentorship and support. Program delivery will occur through individual education plans that assess the current competency level of educators and target instruction/mentorship to those areas that require development, reducing both barriers to accessing post secondary education and the cost of upgrading compared to currently available online courses or part-time traditional ECE programs.

One component of the proposals was from a consortium of institutions to develop a Standardized Work-based Competencies Assessment Tool, in partnership with the ECER. This tool, if successful would be available to all institutions to better support experienced, working students to upgrade.

The ECER will initiate work with the six approved PSIs in December to ensure their proposals will result in programs that meet provincial standards for certification no later than September 2019. This will ensure educators meet the training requirements necessary for certification as required under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (CCALA) and CCLR. **s.17**

s.17

Concurrently, AEST will develop an evaluation framework in consultation with the ECER to determine the effectiveness of the pilots against objectives and principles of the WIL and the potential benefit to the child care sector.

Childcare Sector Labour Market Engagement Update

Between July and March 2018, the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) led a SLMP project to engage the childcare sector to define the sector's key labour market challenges. The project governance committee brought together 18 organizations including Indigenous and private

child care providers with broad regional representation. The engagement report identified a lack of skilled child care workers to fill the growing demand, which in turn constrains the ability to access quality child care.

Currently, AEST is working with ECEBC to develop an agreement to fund a sector-led impact assessment framework. The purpose of the framework is to measure the direct and indirect effects of the implementation of the Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

MCFD welcomes further collaboration and coordination of strategies with AEST as we work together to support and build the Early Care and Learning workforce.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: Summary of Work Integrated Learning Proposals

Contact

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Early Years and Inclusion

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Child Care Policy

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

DATE: December 3, 2018
CLIFF#: 240486

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE
PREVIOUS CLIFF # 237750

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Quarterly Meeting with Representative for Children and Youth (RCY)

BACKGROUND:

The Minister of Children and Family Development meets quarterly with the Representative for Children and Youth. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14. The Representative's office has provided the agenda items below for December 14. The pre-brief for this meeting is December 6.

DISCUSSION:

Agenda items identified by the Representative's office:

RCY Investigative Report on the case of "Charlie" (see BN 240791)

This report is scheduled for release December 10, 2018. Its investigation addresses provision of MCFD Child Protection and Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) services. RCY has noted that the Select Standing Committee for Children and Youth (SSCCY) plans to focus on services for children with special needs in the next SSCCY special report.

Matter involving MCFD social worker from Kelowna who is under investigation for fraud.

RCY report *Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use* (released November 2018)

Follow up to Joint Special Report *Promoting Access to Breastfeeding in Child Welfare Matters*

s.13,s.17

Flexibility in screening decisions for caregivers with prior contact with child protection services.

RCY has suggested the need for policy review and greater flexibility when screening indicates that staff of a contracted residential service has had prior contact with child protection services, particularly indigenous staff. RCY may not be aware that a designated director responsible for the Centralized Services Hub can overturn a screening decision based on new information.

s.13,s.17

Contact

Assistant Deputy Minister:

Cory Heavener

*ADM/Provincial Director of Child
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s.15,s.17

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Prepared by:

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

DATE: November 21, 2018
CLIFF#: 240658

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: N/A
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: N/A

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

ISSUE: Moving Towards Universal Child Care: The Inclusion Pilot

BACKGROUND:

The Prototype sites of Universal Child Care provide an opportunity to explore additional approaches to including children with extra support needs in child care programs. In the interest of ensuring we have a clearer understanding of what the possibilities are, and the best ways we can effectively support families with children with extra support needs, BC is including an Inclusion Pilot Project within a sampling of Prototype sites.

The purpose of the Inclusion Pilot is to explore and evaluate additional approaches to funding inclusion of children with extra support needs in child care programs. The intention is to learn more about the strengths and challenges of different models within different child care settings, and within the climate of moving towards universal child care. The two additional funding models include:

1. The **Inclusion Coordinator Funding Model**, which involves government providing funding to child care operators to hire an Inclusion Coordinator to work within their program.
2. The **Inclusion Support Funding Model**, which involves child care operators collaborating with families to apply directly to government for inclusion support funding for an individual child.

Inclusion models will be evaluated in all Prototype sites. The existing model of inclusion funding (Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD)) will be evaluated in the majority of the Prototype sites. Twenty-one sites have been invited to pilot one of the additional models of funding and it is expected that 15-18 will accept.

Criteria for invitees included: successful Prototype site application, indicated interest in pilot, some current capacity for inclusion based on the adjudication of the Prototype application, and currently having a child with extra support needs enrolled. A sampling was then identified to ensure representation from all 5 health authority regions, from both rural and urban areas and from some Indigenous agencies.

The additional models of funding inclusive child care were informed by a jurisdictional review of other models in Canada and the historical B.C. experience. The Inclusion Coordinator model uses key elements from the B.C. Aboriginal Head Start program model. The Inclusion Support model has elements of the Inclusion Grant Model in Saskatchewan. The evaluation of these models will help us better understand their strengths and limitations.

DISCUSSION:

Information about this pilot project was shared with the Regional Advisors for SCD and ASCD in the summer of 2018 and they were asked to provide advice on how to make the transition in and out of the pilot as smooth as possible for children and families, child care operators, and the SCD and ASCD programs. In October, information was shared more broadly with SCD and ASCD programs through a teleconference where programs had the opportunity to raise questions and identify concerns. This information was also shared through a members meeting of the BC Association of Child Development and Intervention and through a meeting of the Kids Can't Wait Steering Committee. Print messaging has been disseminated to SCD and ASCD programs. Concerns that were raised around transition in and out of the pilot have informed modifications to the process.

Some SCD programs have raised additional concerns. Key concerns include the following:

- **Concern about the stability of the SCD and ASCD programs.** The evaluation of current and additional models will be one component of ongoing learning and engagement that will inform strategies for inclusive universal child care. These findings will allow government to consider a variety of approaches and potentially a blending of different models.
- **Concern that they were not consulted prior to the launch of the pilot.** Government had a small window of opportunity to try out some new policy approaches on a small scale. Representatives from SCD and ASCD programs will be engaged in developing the evaluation approach and in interpreting the findings of the evaluation.
- **Concern about how the pilot will impact families.** Government is committed to working directly with SCD programs to ensure that a child's level of service is not reduced and that the transition in and out of the pilot is as smooth as possible. The evaluation of the models will include the perception and experiences of families.

NEXT STEPS:

- MCFD is moving forward with piloting additional models of inclusive child care in a sampling of Prototype sites. An evaluation of these additional models as well as the current SCD and ASCD program models will one component of ongoing learning and engagement that will inform strategies for inclusive universal child care.
- MCFD is convening an Inclusive Child Care Reference Group, which will inform planning for inclusive child care more broadly. SCD and ASCD regional advisors will be represented, as well as the BCACDI and the Kids Can't Wait Steering Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Q&A

Contact

Assistant Deputy Minister:

Christine Massey

Early Years and Inclusion

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Prepared by:

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

DATE: December 4, 2018
CLIFF#: 240740

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

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

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: December 7, 2018 at 3:30-4:15 pm in the MO.

ISSUE(S): Meeting request from Katherine McParland, Executive Director of A Way Home Kamloops

BACKGROUND:

Katherine McParland is the Executive Director of A Way Home Kamloops, an organization that advocates to end youth homelessness, particularly amongst youth aging out of foster care. In various public interviews, Katherine has identified as a former youth in care who 'aged out' of care and into homelessness at the time of her 19th birthday.

Katherine McParland recently spoke at a conference in Nelson regarding youth homelessness. Following this event, an article highlighting her experiences as a youth in care and her subsequent experiences with homelessness and her advocacy work was published by the Nelson Star on October 18, 2018; a response from Minister Conroy was published by the Nelson Star on November 1, 2018. Katherine sent an email to the Minister on November 13, 2018, recognizing the public response and requesting a phone call or an in-person visit with the Minister to discuss the work being done to prevent and end youth homelessness.

DISCUSSION:

While experiencing homelessness as a young adult from care, Katherine McParland partnered with some peers who were also experiencing homelessness to advocate as a collective for additional supports for young adults from care. This work coincided with a 2012 pilot project which saw the City of Kamloops creating one of the first youth homelessness action plans in Canada, and the first in British Columbia. The City approached the collective and requested that they become the steering committee for the development of the action plan, and A Way Home Kamloops was created.

Since the creation of A Way Home Kamloops, the organization has celebrated multiple successes in working towards the goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness:

- A Way Home Kamloops is currently working with the MCFD (Kamloops office), Secwepemc Child and Family Services, and various local organizations to provide supports to youth in and from care in the Kamloops area. Supports include housing, education and employment support, and wrap-around services for youth at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

- In October 2016, A Way Home launched Canada's first youth homelessness count.
- In November 2017, Katherine McParland co-founded the B.C. Coalition to End Youth Homelessness in partnership with Fred Ford of Pacific Community Resource Society.
- In May 2018, Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, appointed Katherine McParland as one of three new members to the BC Housing Board of Commissioners, to help position BC Housing to deliver on the Province's commitment to create housing people can afford throughout British Columbia.
- A Way Home Kamloops is currently implementing the community plan to end youth homelessness in Kamloops, BC.
- Katherine McParland was named to the Advisory Committee for Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.
- Based on the success of A Way Home Kamloops, a national organization seeking to end youth homelessness borrowed the name, and A Way Home Canada was developed. There are now additional A Way Home organizations in Scotland and the USA.

Although A Way Home Kamloops now seeks to prevent and end homelessness for all youth, and not only those aging out of care, there continues to be a focus on supporting youth aging out of care, in light of the fact that youth aging out of foster care are at a greatly increased risk of experiencing homelessness, in comparison to youth in the general public. As such, MCFD and A Way Home Kamloops have common goals of improving outcomes for youth aging out of care. It is suspected that Katherine McParland may seek to elicit commitment from the Minister to provide additional supports to youth in and from care to prevent and end youth homelessness.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- I know that youth aging out of care experience many challenges, including loss of support at age 19, which leaves them susceptible to homelessness. For this reason, we are seeking to 're-imagine' the Agreements with Young Adults program in order to provide supports to all youth who age out of care who need it, and not just a few.
- The work being done by organizations like A Way Home Kamloops is instrumental to reducing the number of homeless youth in BC. Because of your good work, more youth have secure and stable homes, and hope for the future.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. "Foster care is 'superhighway to homelessness,' youth advocate tells Nelson audience" (published by the Nelson Star October 18, 2018)
- B. "LETTERS: Two responses to our article about foster care and youth homelessness" (published by the Nelson Star November 1, 2018)

Contact

Assistant Deputy Minister:

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Attachment A: Foster care is 'superhighway to homelessness,' youth advocate tells Nelson audience
Katherine McParland grew up in foster care and lived on the streets
BILL METCALFE
Oct. 18, 2018 8:00 a.m.

When Katherine McParland was five, she fled to a women's shelter with her mother who was escaping an abusive relationship. At 13 she was placed in a foster home and then moved through a succession of them through her teenage years. She says those foster homes taught her a lot.

"They taught me how to couch surf and sleep in strange places. I learned how to tote all my belongings in garbage bags. I learned how to be homeless at a quite young age through foster care."

McParland told her story to about 100 people at a conference on youth homelessness last week in Nelson. She now runs A Way Home, a program in Kamloops that employs a unique set of community partnerships to help homeless youth in new ways, and which is being emulated in other parts of the country.

She said foster care is "the superhighway to homelessness." If foster homes are not meeting kids' needs, they tend to run away but have nowhere to go.

"They are making decisions with their feet. They are running away from these placements and are told they are choosing homelessness. I beg to differ. I say they are choosing to find a sense of belonging and we, as communities, need to create this for them."

She said runaway kids find that sense of belonging with their peers on the street.

"I lived in foster homes where the fridge was locked, so my foster sister and I were accessing the food bank every day."

She also sometimes lived in group homes.

"There was a group of us kids that no one wanted. They could not find foster homes to take us, and one evening we wrote on the window SPCA FOR KIDS. Us kids identified with the abandoned animals. It was a shoutout for help."

At 19, McParland aged out of foster care. All government help ended.

"I ended up joining my foster siblings on the street because that was my sense of belonging. That was my family. Shortly after, I met a very abusive man that kicked in the door of my first residence.

"The landlord did not fix the door so the man could get in whenever he wanted. I would try and jump out the window. Eventually I got evicted and all of my items were on the front porch on the first day of snow in November with nowhere to go.

“On the street a group of us youth took a cardboard sign and wrote on it: ‘Youth are aging out of foster care into homelessness, you need to help.’ We taped it to the Ministry of Children and Families’ door. This was our first experience of social justice work.”

Rick Kutzner, a youth outreach worker in Nelson, says much of his caseload involves young people aging out of care. But he says attitudes toward them tend to be more empathic than toward older homeless people “because it is like they don’t have a choice. There will be curiosity about what happened to them, and where are their parents.”

But there is still a stigma, he says, when it comes to youth finding housing.

“I get it,” Kutzner says. “If I am a homeowner, I am going to want the young professional tenant,” or, as McParland puts it, “that shiny university student.”

“I know what I was like at that age,” Kutzner says. “I would not want to rent to me.”

McParland said youth homelessness does not look like adult homelessness. It’s less visible.

“It’s not people on the streets pushing shopping carts. You may be walking beside a homeless young person and have no idea that last evening they had no place to stay.”

She said there are many forms of youth homelessness, ranging from permanent homelessness with kids sleeping in parkades and along the river banks, to episodic homelessness where kids move in and out of a home, to “survival rape” in which predators take young girls in but at a cost.

Youth do not do well in adult homeless shelters, McParland said, because they can be victimized there. She recalls seeing “a number of young homeless people hanging out with older men, and there was a young person who had just aged out of care who connected with an older person who had been on the streets for years and they were shooting up heroin.

“So I gathered a group of people in an abandoned building. We had no chairs, sitting on the floor, seven people, I would harass them into coming, and we [eventually] would have 40 people at a meeting.”

She eventually invited some government managers and politicians.

“I knew that day when people came in with suits that something incredible was about to happen.”

Since then, A Way Home Kamloops has done some innovative things, including creating a youth homelessness action plan that led to the Kamloops Housing Wrap Force. The centralized housing and support intake system now includes 16 organizations and government departments that use the same intake and consent forms so youth don’t have to share their information multiple times.

They have created a continuum of youth housing options including supportive housing, some of it specific to young mothers and Indigenous youth. Through partnerships with businesses and landlords, the group also provides rental subsidies.

As a registered non-profit, the organization takes out leases on behalf of tenants. Thompson Rivers University provides five bursaries a year to the housing program's participants. Kamloops city councillor Tina Lange, who successfully nominated McParland for the 2017 YMCA-YWCA Peace Medal, wrote that McParland "has a paid position to coordinate wrap-around services for all troubled youth, but what she has done goes miles beyond what she is paid to do. With lived experience she has turned the concept of homeless youth on its head... She has inspired landlords, business owners, Thompson Rivers University (and governments) to open their eyes to the financial and social cost of ignoring homeless youth. Everyone who meets her wants to help."

Attachment B: LETTERS: Two responses to our article about foster care and youth homelessness
From readers Jennifer Cowan and Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy
Nov. 1, 2018 11:59 a.m.

LETTERS

OPINION

Re: "Foster care is 'superhighway' to homelessness"

Katherine McParland's courage, resiliency and advocacy on behalf of other youth should be commended. Her account of her time in foster care and its impact on her young adulthood is heartbreaking, and shines a light on the work we must do to improve the system and make life better for children and youth in our care.

My ministry's goal is to reunite children with their families when it's safe to do so or provide stable, caring foster placements. Every young person in our care deserves that kind of long term support and we've launched a new recruitment campaign to target and attract skilled foster caregivers who can provide that.

At 19, transitioning to adulthood from being in care can be incredibly challenging. Most parents don't cut ties with their children then and neither should government. It's why we've expanded our programs, and why we're keeping the door open longer to help young adults access the right supports when they're ready.

One of the first steps we took when we formed government was to waive tuition fees for kids aging out of care. We also expanded the Agreements with Young Adults program to provide more financial support for rent, child care and health care. This program is helping thousands of young British Columbians. Regardless of the road a young person takes when they leave care, our government wants to be there to support them.

Government is working with non-profits and advocacy groups to build new housing specifically for people under the age of 24, to help address the issue of youth homelessness.

More still needs to be done.

I want the same thing all parents want for their children — for children in our care to thrive.

Katrine Conroy

B.C. Minister of Children and Family Development

Re: "Foster care is 'superhighway' to homelessness"

After reading Bill Metcalfe's thoughtful story, "Foster care is 'superhighway' to homelessness," youth advocate tells Nelson audience," in the Oct. 25 issue of the *Nelson Star*, I felt compelled to write to the concerned citizens of Nelson about the homelessness issue.

During the recent election campaigning, I heard a lot of people say we need to "clean up the streets," "take back our city," "make Nelson great again," etc. Seven of you got elected and I have great faith that you will follow through with your intentions, and promises that got you elected. But what about the rest of you? Did you mean what you said when you were campaigning? And what about CORE? You banded together because you thought it would make a difference as a group. You stated you are no longer willing to just sit back and complain. Are you still committed as a group to get Nelson back to the "vibrant city it once was?"

And to those who didn't get re-elected or chose not to run again. Will you continue to be involved in the issues and initiatives that help this community? I think some of you will. One of the reasons I became a Rotarian nearly 20 years ago was because I knew that my resources alone wouldn't make much of a difference. Collectively, as a group of local, national and international like-minded individuals, we can make a difference. In fact, we can change the world.

And to everyone who finds safety from their comfy couch and handy iPad, who tap away their concerns and criticisms of those they feel "should do something about this," what are YOU prepared to do?

So, I'm challenging you all to stand up, take your hands off your keyboards and put them to a better use. Pick up the phone, call the politicians, business owners, family and friends and get together and do something. There are plenty of local organizations that will gladly take your help, or better yet, form a coalition of your own.

If a young woman who lived through homelessness and abandonment, who grew up in foster care and lived on the streets can make a monumental difference, imagine what we could do. Together.

Jennifer Cowan
Nelson

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

DATE: November 28, 2018

CLIFF#: 240781

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

ISSUE: Green Party Briefing on December 5 (with Paula Gunn, Senior MA): 1) Update on implementation of Bill 26 (amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Services Act*); and 2) emerging policy to authorize pre-birth planning

1) UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BILL 26:

BACKGROUND:

Bill 26 received Royal Assent on May 31st 2018. These amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Services Act* (CFCSA) allow for earlier information sharing with and greater involvement of Indigenous communities in providing child welfare services to Indigenous children, primarily through new types of agreements.

A steering committee oversees the implementation of Bill 26. Membership on the steering committee and associated working groups include Indigenous communities, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs), and provincial staff.

A subset of these amendments, referred to as the “withdrawal” provisions, were brought into force early (B.C. Reg. 187/2018 deposited October 1, 2018). The withdrawal provisions allow the director to withdraw from court proceedings when an approved child safety agreement is in place between the parent apparently entitled to custody and an Indigenous community.

Consultation with Indigenous communities has been underway since development began on the amendments in 2017. Please see Appendix A *Consultation on Bill 26*.

DISCUSSION:

Implementation of Bill 26 requires the following:

- Updating operational policies, procedures, templates and forms to support community agreements and child specific agreements with Indigenous communities.
- Updating the *Child, Family and Community Services Regulations* and court forms.
- Creating a framework for the development of community agreements, including identification of operational requirements to be met by an Indigenous community before government will refer child protection reports.
- Developing a central repository for community agreements so staff can determine if an agreement exists and understand their legal obligations related to an Indigenous child under the agreement.

- An agreement between the federal government and the province on how to fund Indigenous communities to exercise the active role enabled by the CFCSA amendments.
- Integrated Case Management (ICM) database changes for documenting and tracking referrals, agreements, and the indigenous communities involvement in care planning.
- Training for staff to improve practice that supports the amendments.
- Providing orientations to MCFD and DAA staff, director's counsel, the judiciary, as well as Indigenous communities (to be provided in person by local MCFD staff and DAAs).
- Preparing the OIC package bringing the amendments into force.

The amendments are expected to come into force this spring.

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APPENDICES:

A. Consultations on Bill 26

s.12,s.13,s.17

Contact	Alternate Contact	Prepared by:
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Appendix A

Consultations on Bill 26

Group Engaged	Group Representing
Delegated Aboriginal Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services Gitsan Child and Family Services Heiltsuk Kaxla Child and Family Services Ktunaxa Kinbasket K'wak'walat'si ('Namgis) Child and Family Services Lalum'utul' Smun'eem Child and Family Services Nil/Tu'O Child and Family Services Nisga'a Child and Family Services NorthWest Inter-Nation Family & Community Services Secwepemc Child and Family Services USMA VACFSS
Office of the Wet'suwet'en	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hagwilget Band Moricetown Band
Lake Babine	Lake Babine Technical Group (with fed gov't reps also present)
NSTQ	NSTQ Technical Group (with fed gov't reps also present)
South Island Wellness Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pachedaht Band Beecher Bay Band Esquimalt Nation Songhees Nation Tsawout Band Tsouke Band Tsartlip Band
Sts'ailes	Sts'ailes
Splatsin	Splatsin
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akisknuq First Nation St. Mary's Band Tobacco Plains Band Lower Kootenay Band
Okanagan Nation Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Okanagan Indian Band Penticton Indian Band Westbank First Nation
Cowichan Tribes	Cowichan Tribes

Bill 26 has also been discussed with Indigenous communities who were not part of this original consultation group, [s.12,s.13,s.17](#)

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.16;s.13;s.17

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

DATE: December 3, 2018

CLIFF#: 240791

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) release of report – *Charlie's Story Investigative Report* on December 10, 2018. IBN for briefing on December 6.

BACKGROUND

RCY notified MCFD in May of 2017, pursuant to Section 16.1 of the RCY Act, their intention to conduct an investigation into the critical injury of Charlie.

On January 21, 2016, police responded to a call that Charlie's mother was acting erratically in the neighbourhood. Police found Charlie locked in his room, naked and malnourished and barely able to walk. Charlie was transported to the hospital and brought into ministry care. Charlie has been in ministry care since January 21, 2016.

MCFD conducted an internal file review in January 2017 (Attachment 1 – MCFD File Review Findings and Action Plan). Its Action Plan was fully implemented.

MCFD's history of involvement with Charlie's family goes back to 2006. Both child protection and Child and Youth Special Needs (CYSN) services were involved. At no time before the critical injury was Charlie admitted into ministry care.

Between 2006 and 2016 there were 9 intake calls to the ministry regarding Charlie. Three resulted in child protection investigations and the remaining intakes were assessed as offer support services, referrals to community supports or coded as no further action needed.

RCY presented investigation findings and 8 MCFD-specific draft recommendations to MCFD leadership on September 28, 2018. Substantial changes were made to draft report recommendations as a result of the meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The RCY investigation focused on 2008-2016 when MCFD, health and educational services were involved with Charlie and his family prior to the injury. RCY analysed documents from a variety of sources, including MCFD, hospitals, schools, police departments and government offices. The RCY also conducted interviews with 44 individuals, including family members, who provided sworn evidence to RCY investigators. 19 MCFD staff were interviewed.

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ATTACHMENTS:

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

DATE: November 29, 2018
CLIFF#: 240811

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

ISSUE: Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – FY17/18 Audited Financial Statements

BACKGROUND:

The Province of BC entered into the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement with the Government of Canada for the period from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020. Key to this agreement is the commitment of federal funding of \$51.0m per year to further build BC's early learning and child care system by addressing local, regional and system priorities by increasing the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity in early learning and child care.

DISCUSSION:

As a condition of funding, BC is required to provide the Government of Canada with audited financial statements of all payments and expenses under the ELCC Agreement. In October 2018, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) engaged the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to conduct this audit for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. On November 27, 2018, the OAG completed their review and concluded that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with all financial reporting requirements under the ELCC Agreement.

CONCLUSION:

MCFD has distributed the audited ELCC financial statements to the Government of Canada as required under the ELCC Agreement. No concerns were raised through this review.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Cover Letter – Minister
- B. Final Auditor's Report
- C. Signed Financial Statement Nov 9, 2018

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

DATE: December 5, 2018
CLIFF#: 240846

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: June 12, 2018
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 238332

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

ISSUE: Public Posting of Deaths of Children in Care and Children Not in Care who had received Ministry Services.

BACKGROUND:

To provide information on statistics of children who died between January 1 and June 30, 2018 that will be posted on the Ministry's website in December 2018.

In 1996, the Ministry first published statistics regarding deaths of children in care and deaths of children who had received services within the past 12 months under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*. Both types of fatality statistics are updated every six months and are publicly posted in June and December to ensure public accountability.

By way of definition: a child in care means a child who is in the custody, care or guardianship of a director under the *CFCSA*. A child who has received services (not in care) includes: a child who was the subject of a child protection report and whose need for protection was investigated; or a child who is being supported via the Child and Youth Special Needs (CYSN) program. Supports may include therapeutic care for children diagnosed as palliative, medical supplies, therapeutic equipment, home therapy, nursing support services and medical benefits.

A child who has received services (not in care) may also include: a child who was provided with a brief youth service, such as a food voucher, youth agreement or repatriation home; a child who was placed by court order with a person other than a parent, under the Director's supervision; a child who was formerly in care, either by agreement or court order, and returned home; a child whose family received support services, for example child care workers, respite or family counseling providers; or a child who is receiving mental health services.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry verifies child fatality categories of death with the British Columbia Coroner's Service (BCCS) - Child Death Review Unit before postings occur. The classification of a fatality may change as a death is investigated or new information becomes available. The classification of death information may change over time and the statistics are updated to reflect recent changes verified with the BCCS. Current 2018 child fatality data was reviewed and reconciled by BCCS as of November 28, 2018.

Children in Care Deaths:

- From January 1 to June 30, 2018, 6 children in care died. The BCCS has currently classified the deaths as follows:
- 3 Natural;
- 1 Accidental;

- 2 Suicide;
- 0 Homicide;
- 0 Undetermined.

The following is further information about this cohort of fatalities:

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Children who had Received Services (not in care) in previous 12 months:

- Between January 1 and June 30, 2018, 61 children who had received services died. The BCCS has currently classified the deaths as follows:
- 34 Natural;
- 13 Accidental;
- 2 Homicide;
- 6 Suicide; and
- 5 Undetermined with an Open investigation by the Coroner's Service.

The following is further information about this cohort of fatalities:

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ATTACHMENTS:

FATALITIES OF CHILDREN IN CARE & RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THE CFCSA

Fatalities of Children in Care By Calendar Year

YEAR	NATURAL	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED ¹		TOTALS
					OPEN	CLOSED	
2008	6	5	2	2	0	0	15
2009	8	1	0	1	1	0	11
2010	5	3	0	0	5	0	13
2011	6	1	0	2	0	1	10
2012	6	6	0	2	1	0	15 ⁱⁱ
2013	2	2	2	2	0	1	9 ⁱⁱ
2014 ⁱⁱ	6	3	0	4	0	1	14 ^{iv}
2015	1	4	2	3	1	0	11
2016	4	0	1	1	0	0	7 ^{iv}
2017	4	5	0	0	3	0	12
2018 ^{vi}	3	1	0	2	0	0	6

Fatalities of Children Receiving Services (Not in Care) By Calendar Year

YEAR	NATURAL	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED ⁱ		TOTALS
					OPEN	CLOSED	
2008	46	12	3	1	16	4	82
2009	44	11	3	3	15	2	78
2010	38	12	1	5	6	1	63
2011	40	16	2	2	6	2	69 ⁱⁱⁱ
2012	61	20	1	7	6	1	96
2013	53	10	2	7	0	8	80 ⁱⁱ
2014 ⁱⁱ	38	11	6	4	3	4	67 ^{iv}
2015 ⁱⁱ	70 ^v	17	4	11	3	2	110 ^{iv}
2016 ⁱⁱⁱ	54	17	1	9	15	0	97 ^{iv}
2017	58	26	6	12	5	0	108 ^{iv}
2018 ^{vi}	34 ^{vii}	13	2	6	5	0	61 ^{iv}

ⁱ In the "Undetermined" category, "open" indicates a case is still under investigation by the Coroner; "closed" indicates the Coroner's investigation is complete and, due to insufficient evidence or inability to determine, the death cannot reasonably be classified as natural, accidental, suicide or homicide.

ⁱⁱ Updated classification from the Coroner regarding cause of death.

ⁱⁱⁱ Late report of death outside of six month bi-yearly report.

^{iv} This total includes fatalities where there is no Coroner classification of death because the fatality occurred outside the province or country.

^v Over 60 % of the total number of deaths for 2015 were attributed to Natural causes.

^{vi} These numbers represent data from January 1 to June 30, 2018 - bi-yearly report.

^{vii} This total includes a child in care under the Adoption Act who received services within 12 months of death.

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

DATE: December 4, 2018
CLIFF#: 240860

PREVIOUS CLIFF # 235310

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Minister of State Katrina Chen

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: December 7, 2018 at 9:30 am.

ISSUE(S): The HSA wants to discuss improving services for children with special needs and the expansion of mental health services for children and youth.

BACKGROUND:

The Health Sciences Association of B.C. (HSA) represents more than 18,000 health science professionals at over 250 hospitals and agencies in acute care, long-term care and community health, including workers at child development centres and transition houses. Child development professionals represented by this union include Infant Development Program consultants, Supported Child Development consultants, and paediatric therapists who provide early intervention services in MCFD-contracted agencies, including Child Development Centres and Indigenous Agencies. HSA president Val Avery and communications lead Carol Rivière met with Minister of State Katrina Chen on January 15, 2018, to outline the roles HSA members play within Child Development Centres as well as key issues including funding for child development centres, shortage of therapists who provide early intervention services, and child care spaces for children with disabilities.

Doug Herasymuik, an Occupational Therapist at Sunny Hill Hospital and member of HSA now wants to discuss improving services for children with special needs and a desire to enhance mental health services for children and youth. Specifically, the HSA is interested expanding the scope of services that Child Development Centres provide to include supports for mental health. In addition, he may want to discuss access to inclusive child care for children with extra support needs, within the context of moving toward universal child care.

DISCUSSION:

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SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

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ATTACHMENTS:

None

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

DATE: December 10, 2018
CLIFF#: 240876

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: October 18, 2018
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 239879

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Strategic Initiatives Community Engagement

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is working to bring forward proposals for government's consideration on two strategic projects:
 - A comprehensive review of the Family Based Caregiver Payment Model, and
 - Strengthening youth transitions and re-imagining the Agreement with Young Adults Program (AYA) Program.
- A critical area of this work is to hear the voices of those that have experiences with the child welfare system, or who care for children who have.
- As such, between April and August of 2018, the Strategic Initiatives team conducted engagement sessions 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, service providers, as well as caregivers and youth in and from care who received support or services through those agencies or organizations (see Attachment A).
- Additional engagements are currently underway with targeted audiences including former youth in care, foster caregivers and MCFD staff.
- Staff have received significant input from engagements to date on what supports and financial assistance are required to keep children and youth safely at home, or to transition to adulthood successfully (see Attachment B). However, the following areas of additional engagement activities remain outstanding :
 - A broader regional engagement strategy with out of care caregivers, particularly with First Nations, Metis and Inuit caregivers;
 - An online survey for foster caregivers;
 - An online survey for youth who are transitioning or have transitioned from government care.

DISCUSSION:

- The regional engagement strategy will focus on reaching caregivers in community, particularly First Nations, Metis and Inuit caregivers and where there is not a DAA.
- To undertake this engagement, staff recommend hiring a contractor through an RFP process, with a tentative launch date of winter 2019 (See Attachment C). It is anticipated that three sessions will be held throughout the province to ensure community partners have the opportunity to inform any changes or shifts relating to these two projects.
- The contractor will have experience in community consultations on aspects of MCFD's six service lines, and existing networks with First Nations, Metis and Inuit partners and/or organizations including formal partnerships.

- An important aspect of this strategy is to seek to understand and include a First Nations, Metis and Inuit world view into the proposals that will be submitted to government, as well as to influence and direct the Ministry's ongoing work.
- Additionally, MCFD has also partnered with the BC Federation of Foster Parents Associations (BCFFPA) to design and distribute an on-line survey for foster parents (See Attachment D). The purpose of the survey is to gain broader input from foster caregivers on their experience with the current payment model. Their responses will help us to better understand the supports and payments that caregivers need in order to meet the needs of the children and youth they are caring for.
- The BCFFPA will host the survey on their website and distribute it through their network which is inclusive of the six regional foster parent support agencies.
- MCFD has contracted with McCreary to carry out additional youth engagement via an on-line survey (Attachment E). The purpose of the survey is to leverage McCreary's network in order to gain broader input from youth on: their experience with their needs being met while in a placement; transitioning from government care; and the AYA program.
- Both surveys have been reviewed by the Provincial Director of Child Welfare and are currently being reviewed by BCFPA and McCreary. Should there be any significant feedback, we will work with ADM, DM and GCPE to resolve any concerns.
- Upon conclusion of these engagements, the information and data collected will be incorporated into the data collected during the initial engagements. This information will be used to inform proposals that will be submitted for governments' consideration in making changes to the Family Based Caregiver Payment Model, youth transitions and the re-imagining of the AYA program.
- To mitigate community expectations that these engagements will result in additional funding, an interim and a final report of 'What we Have Heard to Date' will be posted to the ministry's intra- and internet sites. The approach is to reflect all of the ideas that have been received to date that will require further analysis, consideration and in many cases significant increases in funding.

NEXT STEPS:

- Post the RFP process and look to hold the regional engagements in February 2019.
- Finalize the youth and caregiver surveys and distribute.
- Report out on the ministry's internet site on what we heard.
- Develop proposals for government's consideration.

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Attachments:

Attachment A: Engagement Infograph
Attachment B: Engagement Posters
Attachment C: RFP – Regional Engagement Strategy
Attachment D: Foster Caregiver Survey
Attachment E: Youth Survey

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

DATE: December 03, 2018

CLIFF#: 240914

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia: Child and Youth Guardianship Services
2017-2018 Report

BACKGROUND:

In December 2018 the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) will be releasing their tenth annual Child and Youth Guardianship Services Report which provides a status update about the work carried out by the PGT primarily from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. In previous reports the PGT has voiced their concerns related to administrative delays in accessing information from MCFD and DAA's as well as their inability to serve as trustee of assets on behalf of youth who have aged out of care.

DISCUSSION:

Through its Child and Youth Services (CYS) Division, the PGT currently protects the legal and financial interests of children and youth under a number of provincial laws. The PGT currently has 4818 property guardian files, 8855 trustee files, and 2969 protective legal review files for children and youth. In the report the PGT commends the work done by MCFD to address and clear the backlog of records requests made by the PGT.

In 2017-2018 the PGT received 1207 critical incident reports involving 643 children and youth. Five major categories of harm experienced by children and youth were identified;

- 221 children and youth experienced physical harm
- 155 children and youth experienced sexual assault
- 143 children and youth experienced self-harm
- 141 children and youth experienced other type of injury or harm
- 79 children and youth experienced harm through their involved in a motor vehicle accident.

On December 3, 2018, legislative amendments to the *Infants Act* and the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* came into force to expand Public Guardian and Trustee services to youth transitioning out of care.

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

DATE: 10 December 2018
CLIFF#: 241061

RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE:

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

ISSUE: Evaluation of the Universal Child Care Prototype Sites

BACKGROUND:

In August 2018, the Ministry of Children and Family Development posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified Proponents to provide evaluation services for the Universal Child Care Prototype Sites (Prototype Sites).

The Proponent will provide data collection services and conduct a comprehensive, third party evaluation of the initiative for all Prototype Sites in each region across the province (including in-person site visits). In addition, the Proponent will also evaluate:

- the Inclusion Pilot Project at selected Prototype Sites to learn more about the benefits and challenges of a variety of models of supporting inclusive child care; and
- Quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of child care programs at two Aboriginal Head Start locations as a model of universal child care and Indigenous-led child care.

Primary evaluator responsibilities include the collection of qualitative and quantitative data, evaluative analysis, written and in-person reporting and recommendations for quality improvements at each site. The resulting information from the evaluation of the Prototype Sites and two Aboriginal Head Start sites will be used by the Province to help inform the Universal Child Care Initiative's continuous development and improvement.

Four proposals were received and were evaluated in September 2018 by a team of representatives from the Ministry. The proposals were assessed using standardized RFP Evaluation rules and the following procedure:

1. Each proposal was checked to ensure that it meets the mandatory criteria from the RFP.
2. If passing the mandatory criteria, each proposal was scored against the criteria identified in the RFP.
3. A consensus score was awarded to each proposal.

The highest scored proposal and successful Proponent was R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd., and a contract was signed November 22, 2018.

R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd. is an independent research company with over 80 full-time employees. Malatest has extensive experience with program evaluation and, among other projects, was contracted by the Government of Alberta in 2017 to conduct a three year evaluation of their ELCC (Early Learning and Childcare) \$25 a Day Child Care Pilot Initiative. Alberta's ELCC initiative provided operational grant funding to ELCC Centres to better support

access to, and affordability of quality childcare spaces in Alberta. The evaluation, which is currently in process, will assess the relevance and performance of the ELCC initiative.

DISCUSSION:

Malatest Evaluation

MCFD staff have been meeting with Malatest to discuss contract terms, evaluation expectations and objectives, and project deliverables. Through discussions, Malatest has worked collaboratively with MCFD to modify their approach to ensure evaluation deliverables meet within MCFD timelines and government data and analysis needs are met to support recommendations for Universal Child Care going forward (see Appendix 1 – MCFD Timelines with Key Malatest Deliverables and Appendix 2 -- Malatest Evaluation Timeline and Deliverables). Malatest's key contracted reporting deliverables include:

- Quarterly Progress Reports;
- Semi-Annual Financial Reports;
- Evaluation Framework – December 20, 2018;
- Interim Report – February/March 2019;

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To date, Malatest has provided MCFD with:

- A comprehensive Workplan for the evaluation and analysis of Universal Child Care Prototype Sites and Aboriginal Head Start;
- Privacy mechanisms and protocols for collection and sharing of data;
- Company information and FAQs for Prototype Site operators, explaining Malatest's process and planned approach to the evaluation, and
- Weekly progress reports.

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NEXT STEPS:

- MCFD staff will continue meeting weekly with Malatest to refine the Universal Child Care Evaluation Framework and approach. A draft Evaluation Framework will be submitted by Malatest the week of December 10 for review.

Attachments:

Appendix I: MCFD Timelines with Key Malatest Deliverables (Draft)

Appendix II: Malatest Evaluation Timeline and Deliverables

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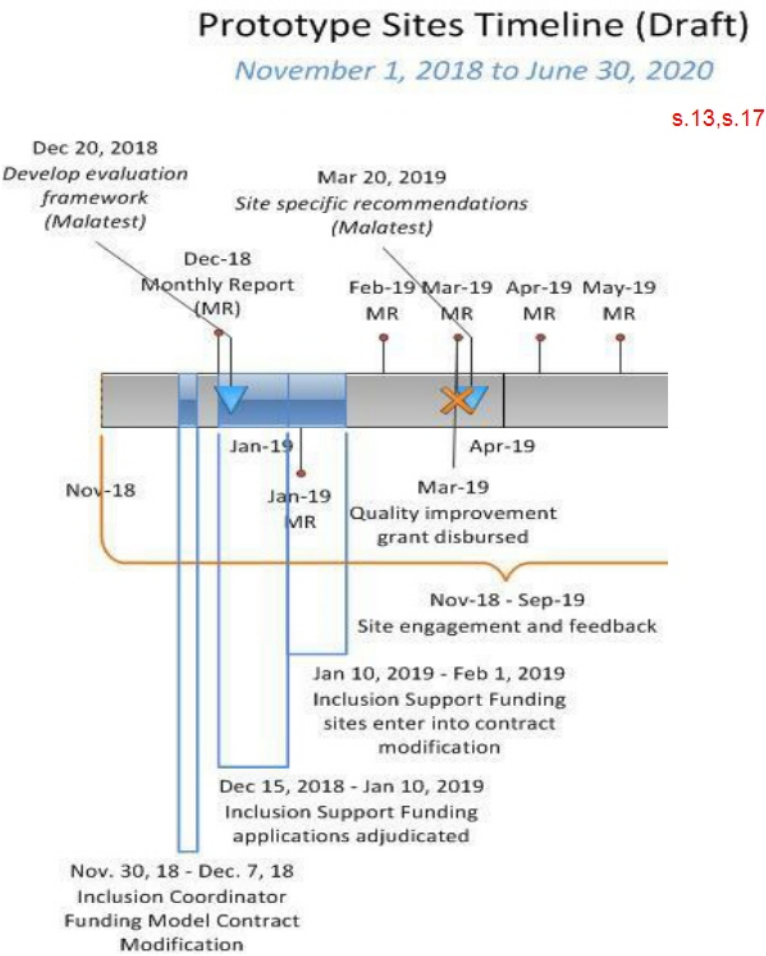
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Appendix II: Malatest Evaluation Timeline and Deliverables

Activity	Deliverable	Dates
Submit Progress Reports	Monthly Written Status Reports	Monthly, December 2018-May 2020
	Quarterly Written Reports	Quarterly, December 2018-March 2020
		Bi-annually, March 2019 to March 2020
Develop Evaluation Framework	Finalized Evaluation Framework ¹	December 20, 2018
Complete Parent/Caregiver Surveys & Early Development Assessments of Children – 1st Time		January-February 2019
Complete First Site Visits		January-March 2019
Interim Report, Including Site-Specific Improvement Recommendations	Interim Report & Site-Specific Recommendations	January-March 2019
Complete Educator Surveys and Partner Surveys – 1st Time		March 2019
Complete Consultations with Indigenous Communities		March 2019
<i>Ministry Review of the Site-Specific Recommendations</i>		January-March 2019

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¹ The evaluation framework will include a program profile, a tabular evaluation framework, a narrative description of the evaluation approach, data collection instruments, and resource requirements, but the SROI and tabular SROI impact map may be appended to the framework at a later date due to the compressed timeline.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: December 19, 2018

CLIFF#: 241070

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Two new learning modules (Quests) are ready for launch on the AgedOut.com website.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, MCFD made an initial investment of \$500,000 to the Adoptive Families Association of BC (AFABC) in order to find and connect with vulnerable youth and young adults from care to provide them with support and information, and to develop web-based resources and tools (AgedOut.com). AgedOut.com is an innovative, interactive website which was designed and built by the AFABC in partnership with the ministry, former youth in care, Indigenous representatives and the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks (FBCYICN). The website was officially launched during Child and Youth in Care week, June 2015 with a name chosen by youth and young adults in and from government care.

AgedOut.com provides a single point of access for youth and young adults from care. The site includes resources in local communities; the ability to connect with up-to-date information to access services BC wide; life skills information and training opportunities; and access to emergency assistance.

Through Quests youth and young adults receive gamified information, Tip Sheets and Resource Pages in a manner that increases engagement and accessibility to important information while meeting a variety of learning and developmental needs. Quests provide interactive learning paths that support learning skills such as how to find housing, have tough conversations or create a support network. As users move through the specific modules, they collect badges. Three badges equal a \$25 gift card of their choice from a variety of stores.

The Ministry continues to invest in AgedOut.com and the project team ensures alignment with the Ministry's Strategic Plan and works collaboratively with cross-government partners to develop youth and young adult accessible content. Over the last two years the Eating Well on a Budget Quest was launched with the Ministry of Health and Money Sense Quest was launched with the Public Guardian and Trustee. The team is currently working on a sport and culture Quest with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

DISCUSSION:

AgedOut.com's award-winning progressive gamification platform uses interactive learning modules, real-time chat, and text-to-speech technology to provide young adults with resources and information they need to transition to adulthood.

AgedOut.com currently has 3100 users, gains an average of 85 new users per month, and rewards approximately 35 youth and young adults per month. AgedOut.com had over 11000

unique page hits in the month of November. AgedOut.com enews goes out to approximately 1100 users with an average 64% read rate- standard read rate of e-information is under 10%. It is also used by a variety of ministry and agency workers across the province as a tool to support young people. The site is heavily used between 6:00 – 11:00 pm when most services are closed.

AgedOut.com utilizes Connectors, former youth in care who are hired and supported as contractors and receive specialized training to facilitate workshops on AgedOut.com with youth, government staff and other community service providers. They are equipped with facilitation kits and promotional materials which help to expand exposure, increase the use of AgedOut.com, provides employment opportunities and supports youth and young adults to stay connected throughout the province.

To keep the site viable and interesting to youth and young adults, it needs to be kept fresh with new information, Quests, innovative engagement techniques, real world perks, and technology. Extensive and ongoing consultation ensures that AgedOut.com maintains “Made in BC” branding and remains true to the style guide which shapes the ongoing development of the site and ensures it meets the needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth and young adults.

The site is continually updated through user feedback; incorporating new technology fixes; and keeping content relevant and current. Two new Quests have been developed recently, one on permanency and one on reconnecting, and both are currently in the beta testing and feedback phase. These new Quests were identified as a priority by youth and young adults and have undergone extensive consultations across the province in the development.

The Permanency Quest provides information on the four dimensions of permanency in language that young people can understand. The Quest includes information on self-permanency and helping youth and young adults to identify what they need to ensure their own sense of permanence. The Re-connect Quest supports youth and young adults to understand what they need in considering re-connection with family and culture. The purpose is to help them think about expectations, self-care, safety planning and developing healthy boundaries.

These Quests align with the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* amendments that call for collaborative practices with First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities to ensure children and youth are building support networks and remain connected to their customs, language and culture and to belong to their communities. These Quests provide a place for youth and young adults to explore what this means for them and provides the right information from the perspective of their peers – other youth and young adults from care.

NEXT STEPS:

There is an opportunity for the Minister or Ministry executive to launch the new Quests as a stand-alone or as part of communication planning regarding the CFCSA amendments.

This could occur in a variety of ways:

- A launch event

- Announcement at the *Walking Together with Children, Youth and Families in Respect for their Inherent Right to Culture and Connection*” Gathering. This gathering of 400 Delegated Aboriginal Agency and Ministry of Children Development supervisors, team leaders, and leadership staff will focus on breathing life into the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* amendments that call for collaborative practices with First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities.
- Developing a video with a Connector and the Minister
- Developing Online Social Media campaign

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

DATE: December 18, 2018
CLIFF#: 241084

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): n/a
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): n/a

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Summary of Treasury Board Submission re: **s.17**
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BACKGROUND:

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NEXT STEPS:

- Confirm the recommended option as stated above
- Sign the Treasury Board Submission
- Return to the Ministry for forwarding to Treasury Board staff

ATTACHMENTS:

s.13,s.17

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

DATE: December 14, 2018

CLIFF#: 241103

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy

ISSUE: Ministry of Education's (MOE) release of report *How Are We Doing? Children and Youth in Government Care* scheduled for December 31, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2017, the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) released "*Room for Improvement: Toward Better Education Outcomes for Children in Care.*" The report focused on discrepancies in education outcomes for children and youth in care (CYIC), compared to all children, and made six recommendations to the MOE and Children and Family Development (MCFD).

In response to Recommendation #2, MOE has drafted a report on the educational outcomes of CYIC. The report "*How are we doing? Children and Youth in Government Care*" includes students who have ever been subject to a Continuing Custody Order (CCO), Youth Agreement, Interim and Temporary custody orders, Special Needs or Voluntary Care Agreements, and children ever under protection orders from another province or jurisdiction. The report also uses a Non-CYIC cohort as a reference point for the educational outcomes of CYIC.

DISCUSSION:

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

DATE: December 13, 2018
CLIFF # 241121

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

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

ISSUE: Announcement of a post-secondary mental health and substance use help line

BACKGROUND:

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DISCUSSION:

Multiple ministries and mental health service provider organizations have identified increased availability of help line services (talk, text, chat) as a means of improving access to lower intensity, early intervention services.

Crisis Lines vs Help Lines

Crisis lines and help lines are related but distinct services and government is taking separate but coordinated approaches in their development. Crisis lines are typically staffed by trained volunteers and targeted to those experiencing a mental health crisis such as suicidal ideation. Help lines, such as Kids Help Phone, are typically staffed by professional counsellors, and provide brief counselling for an array of issues, as well as referral/system navigation assistance.

Cross- government approach to Help Lines

The MMHA is working with partner ministries, including MCFD, Health, and AEST on the expansion of help line services, starting with the help line for post-secondary students.

The work to expand help line services is being done with an intention of ensuring simplified access for children, youth and post-secondary students. Through the RFP about to be released, this will take the form of a single provider serving all populations through a common access point.

Cross-government approach to Crisis Lines

Government has identified the proliferation of multiple crisis lines services as potentially problematic for the users of such services, who can experience confusion about which line is appropriate for which need. The MMHA-led work on a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy is supporting efforts to consolidate, harmonize and elevate the quality of crisis lines.

Ministry of Health is lead ministry for a Provincial Crisis Line Project funded through federal funding allocated to mental health and substance use services. MCFD will participate in this project. The project has 4 main objectives including:

1. Consolidation – 10 crisis lines will be consolidated into 5 (1/regional health authority). The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) will provide provincial leadership, oversight and direct contract management for a provincial network.
2. Establishment of a “Single Number Access Point” (SNAP). This includes development and implementation of a technology solution.
3. Quality enhancements – establishment of standards for crisis line services, improve staff to volunteer ratios, training.
4. Provincial Governance Structure – PHSA to work with regional health authorities, Crisis Lines Association of BC to establish accountability and reporting, training, accreditation and system planning mechanisms.

NEXT STEPS:

- A date for posting of the RFP has not been finalized, but it is intended to be posted prior to December 21st.
- A related news release will be distributed by AEST announcing the development of the service for post-secondary students.
- Continued cross-government work to coordinate crisis line and help line services.

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

DATE: December 18, 2018

CLIFF#: 241126

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

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: January 4, 2019 at 10:00 am, via phone call

ISSUE(S): Meeting with Andrea Cadogan, FortisBC Director Human Resources regarding child care and large employers

BACKGROUND:

The Gas Holding Company, Gas Utility (FortisBC Energy Inc.) and Electricity Utility (FortisBC Inc.) are wholly owned subsidiaries of Fortis Inc. Fortis is one of the top 15 utility companies in North America, having grown from just \$390 million in assets when it formed in 1987 to \$50 billion today.

FortisBC is the owner and operator of the only two Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facilities in British Columbia – the Tilbury Island facility in Delta since 1971 and the Mt. Hayes facility near Ladysmith on Vancouver Island since 2011.

Andrea Cadogan is the Director, Employee Services for FortisBC. Ms. Cadogan's career in Human Resources spans across a variety of industries including entertainment, advertising and fashion retail. She joined FortisBC in 2009 and continues in her role as Director, Employee Services which includes payroll, pension, benefits, compensation, talent acquisition, HR information systems, leadership & employee development, talent management and employee communications.

DISCUSSION:

Female participation in the trades sector has been increasing over time. Accessing flexible child care arrangements is frequently an issue for individuals conducting shift work/extended hours. Flexible care arrangements must meet the licensing standards established in the Child Care Licensing Regulation, which limit the maximum number of hours a child is able to be in child care to a maximum of 13 hours per day. For those working long shifts, or who may be required to work overtime with very short notice, this limitation can create significant challenges.

For parents working non-traditional hours, finding licensed child care can be difficult, given the typical business hours of the majority of licensed Group and Family child care settings.

Workplace/onsite child care in Canada is often seen as an asset, and offering a competitive advantage to employers who wish to attract and retain skilled employees. Advantages of onsite/workplace child care for families include the ability for families to reduce travel time to drop off children; enabling parents to be close by when needed, and offering opportunities to

share daily visits with their children. Workplace child care promotes a family friendly environment and can help increase commitment (ensuring families have child care enabling them to return to work after maternity leave) as well as reducing absenteeism for families who might otherwise struggle with their child care arrangements. However, the provision of child care by employers is constrained by the costs of operating such arrangements, and the recruitment and retention issues currently facing the sector as a whole.

The federal government used to offer a 25-per-cent investment tax credit to businesses that created new child care spaces in the workplace, to a maximum of \$10,000 per space created. This program was discontinued by the federal government due to low up-take of the program.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

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The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is available to support the creation of new child care spaces in BC. Funding is available for care providers to create affordable licensed child care spaces. Priority will be given to applications that support: New licensed infant-toddler spaces; Vulnerable and underserved communities; Projects undertaken by public-sector partnerships with non-profit child care providers; and Child care services outside of core business hours.

Local and municipal governments interested in creating new child care spaces on local government property may also be eligible for the [Community Child Care Space Creation Program](#), which is a joint partnership between the Ministry and the Union of BC Municipalities to incent the creation on non-profit child care spaces serving the 0-5 years population.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

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

DATE: December 20, 2019
CLIFF#: 241369

PREVIOUS CLIFF #: Information note: 236110

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

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: January 7, 2019, at United Way offices in Burnaby

ISSUE(S): The United Way of the Lower Mainland would like to meet to discuss programs for school-age children they fund, and the alignment with Government Child Care goals.

BACKGROUND:

The United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) is the largest United Way in British Columbia, with annual revenue in excess of \$30M per year. In June 2017, UWLM was officially combined with the United Way of the Fraser Valley and now serves the “Lower Mainland, Sea to Sky corridor, Sunshine Coast and the Fraser Valley from Abbotsford to Boston Bar” The President and CEO, Michael McKnight, has lead UWLM since 2004.

The UWLM has operated a community coordination and local planning program called Success by 6 (Sby6) in British Columbia since 2003, which is currently funded by the Ministry at \$3.4M per year. In June 2018, the Ministry released the Early Years Service Framework. The framework set a new policy direction for Ministry early years contracted services, requiring all funded services to directly serve children and families. Sby6 does not directly serve families and, with the agreement of UWLM, will be discontinued effective March 31, 2019.

UWLM runs several other programs and services for people across the lifespan. The following programs are of note due to their usefulness to families with children:

- **School’s Out:** 31 programs across the Lower Mainland, providing after-school care programming for children ages 6-12 to families who could not typically have afforded the programs. The focus of the programs is providing support to vulnerable children.
- **Avenues of Change:** United way staff work with community partners, including agencies and families, to community development strategies for the benefit of families of young children.
- **BC211:** An online and telephone based service for locating community-based services.

DISCUSSION:

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Based on the incoming letter, it is expected that Mr. McKnight will focus his time with the Minister on discussing the School's Out after-school programming, as this subsidized service most closely aligns with the goal of free Universal Child Care. The program currently operates at a cost of \$1.5M per year. Is.13

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SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

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