

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

**DATE:** June 20, 2019

**CLIFF#:** 243530

**PREPARED FOR:**

The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Vendor Complaint from Options Community Services Society and Potential Vendor Complaint from SHARE Family and Community Services Society Regarding Early Years Request for Proposals

**BACKGROUND:**

- In 2018, a new direction for Early Years services was identified in the Early Years Framework. To achieve this shift, the Ministry cancelled all contracts in the Success by 6 and Children First programs effective April 1, 2019 and developed a standard provincial RFP (Request for Proposals) template for new services across all 13 SDAs (Service Delivery Areas).
- The RFPs were released in all SDAs on November 21, 2018 and local determination of the detailed weightings of the subsections in the Capabilities and Approach evaluation criteria occurred prior to the January 16, 2019 closing.
- Two vendor (Options Community Services Society and SHARE Family and Community Services Society) situations have occurred relating to the RFP process in the Surrey and Vancouver Coastal regions.
- Options Community Services Society submitted a written complaint<sup>1</sup> (Appendix A attached), regarding the Surrey RFP:  
s.13

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<sup>1</sup> On May 22, 2019, Options Community Services Society submitted a written complaint to the Ministry and to the Procurement Governance Office (PGO) in the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG), Ministry of Finance citing concerns regarding the procurement process. PGO has informed Options that they can reconnect with PGO if they are still interested in a further review of their complaint after MCFD has concluded its review and provided Options with a response.

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s.14;s.13

**DISCUSSION:**

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**NEXT STEPS:**

1. s.13
2. '
3. PCMB will monitor the situation and report any further developments to the ADM.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

s.13

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

**DATE:** June 3, 2019

**CLIFF#:** 243675

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

**ISSUE:** The Ministry of Health will propose a regulation to Cabinet that requires parents/legal guardians to disclose their child's vaccination status.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ministry of Health (Health) is proposing a new regulation that will require a parent or legal guardian to provide the vaccination status of their child to a medical health officer (or another authorized person, such as school personnel) on request. The objective is to obtain more information on which to base decisions about excluding unvaccinated children from school when there is a disease outbreak. A request will only be made when adequate information cannot be obtained from the public health record.

The regulation will be proposed to Cabinet on June 12, 2019. If passed, the regulation will come into effect on July 1, 2019, with additional non-compliance and offence provisions coming into force on September 1, 2019. The regulation applies to children attending K-12 schools in BC. Due to lack of consultation, it will not apply to students attending schools operated by First Nations or who are incarcerated in youth custody centres.

The regulation will apply to the director as the legal guardian of a child in care as well as to out of care placements where a person has custody of a child under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

The director normally has on file information about the vaccination history of a child in care. Under the *Children and Youth in Care Policies*, the guardianship worker is required to:

- collect information on a child in care's vaccination history; and
- keep their immunizations up-to-date while they are in care.

This information is recorded in Section 4, Immunizations, of the Child's Permanent Medical Health Record and in the child's CS file.

**DISCUSSION:**

This regulation was developed under tight timeframes. Given the timing, no formal consultation took place with MCFD; however, MCFD informed Health about the vaccination records already collected by child welfare workers for children in care. MCFD's solicitors in Legal Services Branch provided input on the definition of guardian proposed in the regulation.

MCFD has no objections to the regulation. The workload implications of providing the vaccination status are minimal, as the director is already expected to hold the information according to policy. However, in some cases, the director may not hold a complete vaccination history. For example, the child may have lived in different countries, or the previous guardian may not know the information. In these circumstances, the guardianship worker will need to

report that the child's vaccination status is unknown or incomplete. Health has commented that the medical health officers would have discretion about who would be compelled to provide the report in a given situation. Furthermore, given that one of the policy goals is to promote herd immunity (encouraging 90-95% of children to be vaccinated against specific diseases), medical health officers, with their limited resources, would in practice not be too concerned about more special cases where a child is in care or custody under the CFCSA and it is not possible to obtain the vaccination history.

Although a child in care who is unvaccinated for a particular illness may be withheld from attending school during an outbreak of that illness pursuant to s. 91 of the *School Act*, such an exclusion from school would be temporary, in the interests of the health of the particular student and other students, and would involve the school making available an educational program to the student during the period of exclusion.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

If the regulation is passed, MCFD will:

- a) Update the *Children and Youth in Care Policies* to instruct the guardianship worker to provide a child's vaccination status upon request to a medical health officer (or other authorized person, such as school personnel);
- b) Communicate the policy change to staff through the Monthly Policy Update; and
- c) Consider whether further action is required to improve current practice around collecting a child's vaccination history.

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

**DATE:** June 21, 2019

**CLIFF#:** 243865

**PREPARED FOR:** Minister Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** Select Standing Committee for Children and Youth Public Consultation Hearings on Children and Youth with Neuro-diverse Special Needs

**BACKGROUND:**

The Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth (SSCCY) has undertaken a special project on children and youth with neuro-diverse special needs (e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and developmental delay) with a focus on improving assessment and eligibility processes.

The Committee held public consultation sessions in eight communities across British Columbia and welcomed written submissions from the public to gather information for the special project. Hearings took place in Terrace, Fort St. John, Prince George, Kelowna, Castlegar, Nanaimo, Victoria and Surrey and ended on June 4, 2019. The Committee heard over 100 presentations from families and service providers. Many families spoke about their personal experiences trying to get supports and services from child and youth serving systems.

The Committee will release a report in the fall of 2019.

**DISCUSSION:**

Recent research conducted for MCFD's Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Service Framework identified six key themes: access, eligibility, equity, cultural responsiveness, inclusion and family support. These themes were also mirrored in the information gathered through the SSCCY's public consultation hearings. The Committee also heard about issues related to Education, Health and the child welfare system. In general, families spoke of their experiences with the system of cross ministry services and had some specific recommendations for the ministries that support CYSN.

A broad spectrum of people spoke to the Committee. Presentations from families included perspectives from biological parents and adoptive parents of children with a range of special needs including FASD, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), ASD, Intellectual Disability, learning disabilities, other developmental delays and physical disabilities. Service providers were represented through presentations by Child Development Centres (CDCs), Indigenous service providers, advocacy groups, non-profit societies and professional organizations.

Below is a summary of what was heard in the presentations to the Committee:

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### Data

- The number of Indigenous children receiving special needs services from MCFD is not tracked nor available.
- Data is required to identify the need of children and youth with special needs.
- Health, Education and MCFD need to work together to collect and share data.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Committee heard from many adults who spoke on behalf of children and youth with special needs on a broad range of issues.

The testimony and presentations reflected that services and supports for children and youth with special needs and their families is a cross-ministry responsibility. Education related issues were prominent as well as the wait times for diagnostic assessments which is the responsibility of Health.

Much of the information that was gathered aligns with the research and findings of the CYSN Service Framework. Additional information that may not have been included in the framework development has been noted.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. List of Speakers
- B. Quotes

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

**DATE:** June 24, 2019

**CLIFF#:** 244013

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

**ISSUE:** Announcement and launch of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 26, 2019, Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Honourable John Horgan, Premier, will announce the new mental health and addictions strategy: the *Mental Health and Addictions Roadmap* (Roadmap). The Roadmap is positioned as a starting point to transform B.C.'s mental health and substance use service system, beginning with a comprehensive three-year action plan, from 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has been engaged with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) in the development of the Roadmap, along with partners from other ministries, Indigenous organizations and key service provider groups.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Roadmap focuses on supporting the wellness of children, youth and young adults, supporting Indigenous-led solutions, improving substance use care, and improving access and quality of care. These areas fall under four pillars that will be built for B.C.'s mental health and substance use support system: 1) Wellness promotion and prevention; 2) Seamless and integrated care; 3) Equitable access to culturally safe and effective care; and 4) Indigenous health and wellness. Supporting the four pillars, the Roadmap lists four key areas of action for the next three years:

- Improved wellness for children, youth and young adults;
- Supporting Indigenous-led solutions;
- Substance use: Better care, saving lives; and
- Improved access, better quality.

Within these four areas of action, MCFD has received funding through Budget 2019 and is identified as the lead or is partnering on a number of key initiatives, particularly within the area of "improved wellness for children, youth and young adults:"

- *Child and Youth Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Teams*; s.13

Multidisciplinary ISD teams will be established in 2 school districts in 2019/20, s.13

- *Child and Family Service Organizations*; s.13

Expansion of early childhood (18 months to 5 years) social and emotional development programming. This will include expansion of services within existing Child Development Centres with a core suite of CYSN services including family support, child-parent attachment

programs, early intervention therapies, behavioural consultants and infant mental health clinicians. s.13

- *Step Up/Step Down*, s.13

Intensive mental health and substance use services for children and youth with acute mental health and/or substance use conditions who require intensive services. s.13  
s.13

- *Provincial Support Office*; s.13

Funding supports development and implementation of the cross-sector service framework and practice principles, training, change management, information technology solutions, quality assurance or related child, youth and youth adult strategy initiatives. Also supports staffing and resources for MCFD early years and school centred wellness programs.

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s.13 MMHA has undertaken a thorough exploration of school districts, receiving input from all involved partners in order to identify the first two sites: Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows School District and the Coast Mountains School District (Terrace).

Other initiatives included in the MMHA strategy include:

- Support for pregnant and early parenting individuals who use substances.
- Expansion of Confident Parents Thriving Kids program.
- Expansion of Foundry Centres from 11 to 19 centres throughout the province.
- Support school mental health and substance used plan for grades K-12.
- Creation of 24/7 virtual counselling for post-secondary students.
- Implementation of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Canada, B.C. and the First Nations Health Council to support First Nations to plan, design and deliver a range of mental health and wellness services and supporting First Nations-led primary health initiatives.
- Expanding First Nations-run treatment centres.
- Development of a framework to “increase access to evidence-based addiction care, escalating the overdose emergency response, including harm reduction services, and developing a Provincial Peer Network.”

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Minister Darcy and Premier Horgan will announce the Roadmap on June 26, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. at Mountainside School in North Vancouver, and broadcast on the B.C. Government Facebook page. There will be a July 4 announcement regarding a Foundry site in Penticton, and the two initial school districts for implementation of ISD and other initiatives noted above will be announced July 8 and 10.

#### **APPENDICES and ATTACHMENTS:**

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

**DATE:** June 10, 2019  
**CLIFF#:** 243704

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

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

**ISSUE:** Release of BC Coroner's report entitled, *"Death Review Panel Report: Youth Suicide related to suicide among 111 young people aged 10 to 18 who died by suicide over the period of January 01, 2013 to June 30, 2018."*

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 13, 2018, the British Columbia Coroners Service (BCCS) held a death review panel of youth who died by suicide. The death review panel was comprised of professionals with expertise in youth services, child welfare, mental health, addictions, medicine, public health, Indigenous health, education, law enforcement and academia. The purpose of a child death review panel is to review the facts and circumstances of deaths to provide advice to the Chief Coroner with respect to the prevention of similar deaths and other matters that may impact public health and safety in British Columbia.

In September 2013 BCCS Service released a report entitled, *A Review of Child and Youth Suicides 2008 to 2012*, which analysed a cohort of 91 children and youth between the ages of 10 and 18 who died by suicide. The review produced three recommendations, one of which had specific actions addressed to MCFD. MCFD has taken action to address the recommendation. Appendix A provides the 2013 recommendation addressed to MCFD.

**DISCUSSION:**

On May 28, 2019 BCCS provided the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) a draft copy of a report entitled, *"Death Review Panel Report: Youth Suicide related to suicide among 111 young people aged 10 to 18 who died by suicide over the period of January 01, 2013 to June 30, 2018."* Among these 111 youth, 23% identified as Indigenous.

The report notes that 57% (n= 63) of the young people who died by suicide were diagnosed with a mental health condition. More than half (54%; n=60) of the children and youth who died were receiving MCFD services within the year prior to their death. Some children and youth who died were receiving multiple services.

- 11% (n=12) were children in care;
- 2% (n=2) had recently been in care by Voluntary Care Agreement;
- 1 was on a Youth Agreement and in the case of another youth a Youth Agreement was being processed;

- 34% (n=38) were receiving or had been referred to Child Youth Mental Health (CYMH),

Appendix B provides further detail;

- 16% (n=18) of the youth's families were receiving child protection or support services (FS file); and,
- 4% (n=4) were receiving services through Child Youth Special Needs (CYSN).

The report cites population-based research that indicates more females experience suicide ideation, while more males than females die by suicide. Coroner's statistics show that in B.C. three times more males die by suicide than females. The report also notes that research has found higher rates of suicidal ideation and attempts among lesbian, gay, and bisexual young people than among those who identify as heterosexual. The report found that although suicide risk factors are understood, predicting suicides is very difficult.

The report also notes that, 39 children and youth who had been prescribed medication for psychiatric conditions and of those 39, 8 had prescriptions that did not follow prescribing guidelines. The death review panel found that that information about recommended treatment or medications guidelines is not easily accessible. The report identifies barriers (systemic and personal) that existed for families to successfully engage with or access services (see Appendix D for more detail), and it highlights a need for timely access to mental health supports and services especially in non-urban areas.

The panel produced three recommendations with five sub-recommendations, three of which involve MCFD as a support, with a focus on accessible guidelines and youth mental health services in rural areas. Appendix D lists all recommendations in the report.

The following recommendations name MCFD as a collaborator with the identified lead ministries:

- Recommendation 2: Identify and distribute provincial best practice youth mental health guidelines
  - o By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Children and Family Development will identify and distribute best practice guidelines for matching best practice therapies with youth mental health diagnoses.
- Recommendation 3: Expand specialty youth mental health and psychiatric services to non-urban areas through outreach models
  - o By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Children and Family Development improve access to specialty youth mental health and psychiatric services to non-urban areas through telehealth/ vital care and outreach models.
  - o By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and Ministry of Children and Family Development will expand training opportunities for local health professionals when mental health/ psychiatric specialists are providing outreach services.

**NEXT STEPS:**

The report is tentatively scheduled for public release on August 8, 2019.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix A: Recommendations made to MCFD from 2013 Death review panel on Youth Suicide

Appendix B: Type of Diagnosis and Number of Youth Accessing Services

Appendix C: Barriers Experienced by Youth Trying to Access Services

Appendix D: All Recommendation in Draft Report *Death Review Panel Report: Youth Suicide*

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## Appendix A: Status of 2013 Recommendations made to MCFD as identified by the Coroner

Table 1: BC Coroners Service Child Death Review Panel: A Review of Child and Youth Suicides 2008 -2012:

Recommendation	Status
<p><b>Recommendation 2: Access to child and youth mental health services</b></p> <p>As part of its child and youth mental health services review and partnership with Ministry of Health (MoH) and Health Authorities, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map MCFD and contracted agency mental health services and service levels across the province and make the information easily accessible and publicly available;</li> <li>• Identify and address barriers to accessing mental health services, including the perspective of what young people identify as barriers to services;</li> <li>• Identify and address barriers to transitioning between community mental health and acute hospital services; and</li> <li>• Identify and address barriers to transitioning from child and youth to adult mental health services.</li> </ul>	Implemented

## Appendix B: Type of Diagnosis and Number of Youth Accessing Services at time of death

Table 1: Breakdown of 111 Young People Accessing Mental Health Supports and Services at time of death

Mental Health Diagnoses		Young People	Young People Accessing Mental Health Supports and Services
1	Diagnosed with one or more Mental Health Condition	63	37
2	Anecdotal Report of Mental Health Concern	24	9
3	No Mental Health Concerns	24	1

\*Of the 111 young people who died by suicide 63 were diagnosed with a mental health condition and of those, 31 had more than one mental health disorder diagnosed.

Table 2: Mental Health Disorders

Disorder	# with Disorder
Mood Disorder	40
Disorders of Behavior	24
Anxiety Disorder	20
Other	16
Personality Disorder	6
Psychosis	5



Table 3: History of Therapeutic Services (1-2 years of death) for the 68 Young People with History of Services for a Mental Health Concern	
History	Number
History of CYMH Services in combination with other services or care provider (youth worker, physician, youth justice, counselling)	35
No CYMH Services but had contact with counselling services, family physicians, social Worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>

Table 4: Young People Accessing Services at Time of Death	
Concern	Currently Accessing Services at Time of Death
With Mental Health Diagnoses (63)	37
Anecdotal Mental Health Concerns (24)	9
No Mental Health Concerns (24)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

#### Appendix C: Barriers Experienced by Youth Trying to Access Services

Table 1: Number of Barriers Experienced by 36 Youth	
Barrier	
Waitlisted for services	9
Services discontinued based on place of residence or considered no longer needed (	2
Child or youth declined referral, or did not wish to participate	15
Parent cancelled services/ declined services	7
No bed or service available, or deemed appropriate	3
<b>Total number of young people experiencing barriers</b>	<b>36</b>

**Appendix D: All Recommendation in Draft Report *Death Review Panel Report: Youth Suicide***

<b>Death Review Panel Report: Youth Suicide January 30, 2013 – June 30, 2018 Recommendations</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>		<b>Lead Ministry</b>	<b>Collaborators</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Adopt mental well-being strategies as part of social emotional learning for students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health will enhance social emotional learning curriculum to foster mental health literacy and mental wellbeing coping skills from K-12.</li> </ul>	Ministry of Education (MOE)	Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA)
<b>2</b>	<b>Identify and distribute provincial best practice youth mental health guidelines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) will identify and distribute best practice guidelines for matching best practice therapies with youth mental health diagnoses.</li> </ul>	MMHA	Ministry of Health (MOH) and MCFD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant stakeholders will identify and distribute best practice psychiatric medication guidelines for young people.</li> </ul>	MOH	Relevant stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant stakeholders will review current psychiatric medication prescribing practices to determine if the prescribing practices identified in this report are reflective of psychiatric medication prescribing practices for children in general.</li> </ul>	MOH	Relevant stakeholders
<b>3</b>	<b>Expand specialty youth mental health and psychiatric services to non-urban areas through outreach models.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in collaboration with Ministry of Health and MCFD improve access to specialty youth mental health and psychiatric services to non-urban areas through telehealth/virtual care and outreach models.</li> </ul>	MMHA	MOE and MCFD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By (1 year after the report), the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Addictions and MCFD will expand training opportunities for local health professionals when mental health/psychiatric specialists are providing outreach services</li> </ul>	MOE	MMHA and MCFD

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

**DATE:** June 5, 2019  
**CLIFF#:** 243747

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Katrine Conroy

**ISSUE:** Information provided for as background for meeting purposes.

**BACKGROUND:**

The BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations (BCFFPA) is a provincial organization for foster parents governed by foster parent representation from all areas of the province. BCFFPA is a registered non-profit charity which aims to bring together foster parents, social workers and other stakeholders who are working to improve the standard of care for children in care.

The BCFFPA provides information to the public about fostering, recruitment services, offers foster parents opportunities for education and provides direct support to foster parents when they encounter challenges. One key role in the province is to advise and consult on the development and revision of child welfare policy and practice.

The following projects are a key focus for this organization:

- BC Foster Basics Videos - BCFFPA provides training for foster parents through videos hosted on BCFFPA's YouTube channel. They will be adding three new videos this fiscal year. They are Engaging with Indigenous Communities, How Foster Parents Can Support Permanency Planning and one topic to be determined.
- Home Studies Project - In 2017 BCFFPA was provided with one-time-only funding to expedite the process of completing home studies for fostering applicants. Unfortunately, due to an Adoption Agency Closure the BCFFPA is not able to process any further referrals. Options for the remaining funding are being explored with MCFD.
- BCFFPA, in partnership with MCFD Strategic Priorities Division, completed Caregiver Education (online pre-service and in-service) and participated in the development of Caregiver PRIDE in-service online training and Kinship online training.
- BCFFPA has hired a Solutions Program Manager to provide support and advocacy for foster parents. This manager has been providing support for Foster Parents since September 2018. Additionally, this manager is providing training to foster parent volunteers to support other foster parents across the province.

The BCFFPA President and Executive Director meet with the Minister of Children and Family Development on a regular basis to share the work of the Association, the successes and challenges faced by foster parents. The last meeting occurred in May 2019.

## DISCUSSION:

In addition to the above key projects the ministry provides funding as follows:

Description	Fiscal 16/17	Fiscal 17/18	Fiscal 18/19	Fiscal 19/20
BCFFPA will produce videos to address MCFD policy changes to meet the needs of BC kinship out of care providers who are establishing connections with Indigenous communities			\$ 50,000	
Permanency Planning for Children & Youth in care	\$619,645	\$527,775	\$923,998	\$458,223
Home Study Services	\$250,000.		\$250,000	
Development of online videos for BC Foster Basics Learning Series			\$8,499	
Other	\$43,262	\$1,485	\$2,358	
Totals	\$912,907	\$529,260	\$1,226,356	\$458,223

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

**DATE:** June 10, 2019  
**CLIFF#:** 243757

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

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

**ISSUE:** Background information on Ministry space creation initiatives in preparation for a meeting with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC on June 13, 2019 at VCO.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sharon Gregson is the Provincial Spokesperson with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the \$10aDay Child Care Campaign.

Possible items to be covered in the meeting:

- Progress of Government's child care space creation initiatives;
- Child care space creation by non-profit societies and public sector organizations;
- Space creation on school grounds, and by school districts specifically;
- Supporting space creation through deployment of modular structures on school grounds.

**DISCUSSION:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development is currently pursuing a number of strategies intended to increase the number of new child care spaces created by non-profit societies and public sector organizations, including local governments and school districts.
- In order to incentivize non-profit societies and public sector organizations to apply for the Ministry's Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, the Ministry is planning to increase the maximum amount of funding that these organizations are eligible to receive through the program.
- A further measure to increase the number of space creation projects is the planned introduction of a new funding stream that will enable established non-profit societies and public sector organizations to receive larger amounts of funding for single child care facility projects, or to support multiple projects.
- The Ministry is also working closely with the Ministry of Education to promote child care space creation initiatives on school grounds, including through the construction of modular structures that will help to create child care spaces more quickly and efficiently.
  - Through school expansions and seismic projects approved since September 2017, the Ministry of Education has funded 17 new Neighbourhood Learning Spaces that will bring an estimated 1,000 additional childcare spaces to communities throughout BC.

- A strategy for the development of modular child care structures is being considered, but to do so effectively requires the availability of land, and willing partners. The Ministry is looking into the modular strategy as one aspect of a broader space creation approach with the public sector and in particular, school districts.
- A key barrier to improving the accessibility of child care is the shortage of qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and other early care professionals available to work in child care programs. The Ministry is actively addressing this shortage through its ECE Recruitment and Retention Strategy, which will increase ECEs' compensation, and provide greater opportunities for education, training, and professional development.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- It will take time to fully implement these initiatives. However, they are all important next steps in developing BC's child care system.
- MCFD is continuing to monitor its various child care space creation initiatives, and continues to work to identify new opportunities to accelerate child care space creation by non-profit societies and public sector organizations.
- The Ministry is working closely with the Ministry of Education to actively identify opportunities for development of child care on school grounds.

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

**DATE:** June 7, 2019

**CLIFF#:** 243789

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

**ISSUE:** Growing Together Daycare, a Universal Child Care Prototype Site and Young Parent Program operated by Options Community Services, has been instructed by the Surrey school district to vacate a portable at Guildford Secondary School by August 31, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Growing Together Daycare (GTD) opened in 1986 as a partnership between Options Community Services (OCS) and variety of community service providers to provide educational, child care, and wrap around family support services to young parents working to complete their high school education at Guildford Secondary School in Surrey. Since 1995, GTD has operated a licensed child care facility with a maximum capacity of 36 infant and toddler spaces.

OCS manages and delivers the child care and family support programs with funding from the Province, including provincial child care programs (with funding based on the number of enrolled children) and local service contracts. More recently, OCS held a \$50K contract with the school district to fund a family support worker. Young parents with children enrolled in GTD paid minimal, if any, user fees.

By 2017, the number of young parents/children enrolled in GTD had dropped to 20 students – the lowest ever. At this time, GTD began to enroll small numbers of local (non-YPP) families in order to keep GTD operational and prevent staff layoffs.

In fall 2018, Growing Together Daycare (GTD) applied to and was selected to participate in the Universal Child Care Prototype Sites Initiative. On November 16, 2018, OCS entered into a contract with the ministry to provide low cost child care services (up to \$200/month per child) to young parents enrolled at Guildford Secondary, as well as other local families, from December 2018 to March 31, 2020.

Currently, GTD has 24 families enrolled. The number of young parents has dropped from 18 to 11 since September, due to changes to the academic program by the school district. As a result, GTD has enrolled 13 new local families since April.

Over this period, the school district has expressed concern about GTD's participation in the Prototype Site Initiative and the increase in local families enrolled in the school based child care program. s.16

s.16

Despite intervention by ministry staff and several attempts to clarify the historical and current relationship between the ministry, OCS, and the school district, and to address the district's emerging concerns, OCS and the ministry received written notification from the school district on April 30 that the district was ending its relationship with OCS and requesting the child care program vacate the portable at Guildford Secondary School by August 31, 2019.

**DISCUSSION:**

s.13,s.16



s.13,s.16

**NEXT STEPS:**

- s.13,s.14,s.16

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**Appendix A:** Surrey School District Request for Expressions of Interest

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

**DATE:** June 13, 2019  
**CLIFF#** 243848

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** January 11, 2019  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 241349

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

**ISSUE:** MCFD's 2019-2020 Strategic Framework

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2018, the ministry's executive team came together to review the ministry's priorities and accountabilities, with focus on developing long-term strategies in order to address long-standing systemic issues. Over the next several months, meetings were held to review and understand themes from reports and recommendations, identify key problem statements and high-level strategy statements, and to ensure alignment with Minister and Minister of State Mandate letters. The resulting draft Framework and the four strategies that underpin it have been developed to reflect recommendations, input received as well as the experience of MCFD Executive and staff.

**DISCUSSION:**

The draft Framework and strategies have been circulated to key partners, including the Office of the Auditor General, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, and the Federation of Community Social Services.

It is proposed to post all strategies as draft. This is to reflect that these strategies are living documents and will be updated and informed through future opportunities to discuss the ministry's strategic direction with our partners, sector and children, youth and families.

Detailed cross-divisional implementation plans for each strategy are in development.

**NEXT STEPS:**

The draft strategic framework strategies will be posted to iConnect on the morning on June 17, 2019. MCFD will share the draft strategies with other key partners such as the Representative of Children and Youth, the Tripartite Working Group, the MCFD Youth Advisory Council, and the MCFD social sector advisory committee among others.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Overarching Strategic Framework and four underlying strategies

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

**DATE:** June 13, 2019

**CLIFF#** 243855

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

**ISSUE:** MCFD's Action Plan in response to the OAG audit on the Oversight of Contracted Residential Services for Children and Youth in Care

**BACKGROUND:**

The Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) audit on the Oversight of Contracted Residential Services for Children and Youth in Care will be released by OAG on June 19, 2019.

When an audit is released, ministries must submit an action plan to the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG). The plan is then tabled at a Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SSCPA) meeting, which is currently anticipated for September 2019. The action plan must include whether the ministry accepts the recommendations as well as identify actions, with target dates, that the ministry will complete to implement the recommendations.

The Public Accounts Action Plan has been shared with Deputy Minister Wannamaker, Ministry of Finance at her request.

**DISCUSSION:**

s.13

**NEXT STEPS:**

Submit the Public Accounts action plan to the OCG and OAG.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Action Plan and Progress Report
- B. Detailed Action Plan

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

**DATE:** June 21, 2019

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** January 15, 2019

**CLIFF#:** 243919

**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 241414

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

**ISSUE:** Scheduled for a July 3 Cabinet meeting, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) is proposing to amend the *Government Cheque Cashing Fee Regulation* to expand the government cheque cashing fee cap to include MCFD imprest (on demand) cheques.

**BACKGROUND:**

Low-income British Columbians have historically accessed alternative financial services (such as 'payday loan' services, cheque cashing and loan products) to cash cheques, which include fees in the range of \$2.99 plus 3% of the value of the cheque. Despite their high cost, there is continued demand for these alternative financial services.

In December 2017, government approved the Consumer Financial Protection Action Plan as proposed by the PSSG. Effective September 1, 2018, fees for cashing provincial social assistance and disability cheques were capped at \$2.00 plus 1% of the value of the cheque, to a maximum of \$10.00. The fee cap applies to anyone who cashes a provincial social assistance cheque, including banks and credit unions operating in BC – although it is typically only alternative financial services that apply the high cheque cashing fee.

As part of the 2019 Speech from the Throne, government committed to “take further steps to crack down on unfair payday loan practices.” Alternative financial services are marketed primarily to financially vulnerable British Columbians, such as youth from care who may not have the identification, ability or support to open a bank account. These youth and other individuals who receive financial support from MCFD typically have very low incomes, and these high fees can have a significant impact on their finances.

**DISCUSSION:**

Currently, imprest cheques are issued to youth, young adults, foster parents, and a small number of service providers. PSSG has been working with MCFD to determine if imprest cheques issued by MCFD can be subject to capped fees. In January 2019, this initiative was approved (see attachment CLIFF# 241414). As such, PSSG is proposing to amend the *Government Cheque Cashing Fee Regulation* (the Regulation) to allow all imprest cheques issued by MCFD to be subject to the fee cap to protect those who are financially vulnerable and receiving assistance from MCFD from being subject to high cheque cashing fees.

Each month, MCFD issues approximately 4,565 imprest cheques totalling approximately \$1.5M.

Group	# of Monthly Cheques	Monthly Total \$
Youth living independently	2,496	\$704,000
Young adults on Agreements with Young Adults program	116	\$67,500
Foster parents, and support for children and youth in care	1,923	\$707,800
Contract advances for service providers (individuals, not a company)	29	\$27,000

The proposed amendments have an implementation date of September 15, 2019, to provide at least 60 days' notice to Consumer Protection BC (the regulator), businesses and MCFD cheque recipients and staff.

There is a project currently underway which will reduce the number of MCFD imprest cheques and increase the use of electronic transfer of funds. However, as not all youth may have a bank account, there will be a continued need for imprest cheques.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

PSSG has prepared an Order in Council as an expansion of the government cheque cashing fee cap to include all MCFD imprest cheques issued under the *Child, Family and Community Services Act*. This OIC is slated to go forward at the July 3, 2019 Cabinet meeting.

**Attachment:** Previous CLIFF #: 241414

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

**DATE:** June 25, 2019  
**CLIFF#:** 244022

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** May 28, 2019  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 243453

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

**ISSUE:** Ministry of Attorney General July 4, 2019 Cabinet Committee on Social Initiatives (CCSI) meeting (previously scheduled for June 4, 2019) on proposed amendments to the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

**BACKGROUND:**

On May 28, 2019 there was a ministerial briefing on the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) Cabinet Submission – “Request for Decision regarding proposed legislative amendments to the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*” (RCYA) (see attached cliff 243953).

At that briefing, staff informed the Minister that MAG *would not* recommend a proposed expansion of the RCY’s mandate to assess Directors’ Reviews. Since the briefing, however, they have reversed this decision and are now recommending this expansion to RCY authority.

**DISCUSSION:**

This proposed recommendation was identified by MCFD as one the ministry did not support as the change would enable the RCY to review a director’s review under section 93.2 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

Reviews under the CFCSA are not “designated services”, i.e. services or programs for children and their families, which is the RCY’s current mandate. Reviews under the CFCSA are conducted for internal quality assurance purposes by the Provincial Director of Child Welfare who is designated to conduct these reviews. The Minister may also designate an external party (e.g. the “Plecas” report) under s. 93.2 for the purpose of a review under the CFCSA.

Concerns related to this change in the RCY mandate remain including the potential impacts of RCY reviews, particularly if they reach a different conclusion to those conducted by MCFD or people designated by MCFD to conduct a review.

**SUMMARY:**

The expansion of the RCY’s review mandate remains an area that needs to be better understood and brought to the attention of government.

**ATTACHMENT:** Information Briefing Note Cliff 243453

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