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

**DATE:** June 9th, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 260800

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 259125

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Pre-briefing for Cabinet Working Group on Housing and Homelessness

**BACKGROUND:**

In partnership with BC Housing, MCFD staff are leading the development of a **provincial housing plan** for youth and young adults from care.

Ministry staff are also participating in the development of the **homelessness strategy** which is being led by the Homelessness Policy and Partnerships Branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) through their membership of the Homelessness Strategy Working Group (See Attachment A – the latest draft version of the Homelessness Strategy). There are many government priorities and initiatives that align with supporting housing and homelessness (See Attachment B). [s.12; s.14](#)

[s.12; s.14](#)

[s.12; s.14](#)

Note Attachment A and B are the latest drafts that staff have – the materials for the Cabinet Working Group on Housing and Homelessness may be updated.

**DISCUSSION:**

[s.12; s.13](#)

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

**DATE:** May 25, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 260330

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Upcoming Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) investigative report on the death of an Indigenous youth in care.

**BACKGROUND:**

On May 14, 2021 the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) received a draft RCY investigative report. The report shares the findings of an investigation into the death of SC, an Indigenous youth in care from the Tetlit Gwich'in First Nation who died in August 2017 of an unintentional overdose.

The RCY investigation included a review of files concerning SC and the policies and procedures that were in place at the time, as well as interviews with the people who were close to her, including family members and service staff. The RCY also engaged expert advisors across relevant disciplines and reviewed academic research, information from other jurisdictions and RCY's own data.

The draft report contains three recommendations, all to MCFD. RCY plans to release the report on June 10, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

The draft report tells the story of SC's life, beginning with context about her family's experience. Her mother was born in Tetlit Gwich'in territory but was removed from her own mother's care as an infant and adopted by a non-Indigenous family from Manitoba during the "60's scoop".

SC was born in 2000. MCFD child protection services were first provided in 2002, and she moved in and out of care by voluntary care arrangements as her mother struggled with substance use. In 2006, SC came into care by temporary custody order followed the same year by a continuing custody order (CCO). Her mother consented to SC's CCO to allow MCFD to move forward with an assessment of a family that SC's mother hoped would adopt SC.

During her time in care SC moved 15 times and lived in 8 different foster homes in five communities. Once in care by CCO, SC experienced three failed adoption attempts. As a teenager, she spent time away from her foster homes. She struggled with substance use and was diagnosed with FASD and mental health disorders. She also experienced two sexual assaults.

SC was reported missing to the RCMP by her caregiver on August 8, 2017. SC was at her boyfriend's step-parent's home in Nanaimo on August 11, 2017 when she had trouble breathing

and someone in the home called 911. Paramedics were not able to revive her. The coroner determined that her death was caused by an unintended illicit drug overdose.

### **Findings**

The report's findings reference five domains of belonging: relational, cultural, physical, legal and identity.

The RCY's over-all finding from this investigation is that a narrow focus on trying to ensure that SC was adopted came at the expense of all other aspects of her belonging. The RCY found that, though there were periods of strong social work practice with and for SC, the systemic focus on legal permanency through adoption resulted in significant loss, harm and instability, and ultimately contributed to her fate. The report contains five other findings:

- SC's relationships – primarily with family but also with foster parents, counsellors and social workers – were not sufficiently prioritized, encouraged or supported by MCFD, and potential placements with extended family were not adequately explored by the ministry. SC did not benefit from the relational belonging and the protective factors that such connections could have provided.
- SC's need, desire and right to connect with her First Nations culture, traditions and practices were not consistently supported by MCFD in more than a superficial way, which led to a lack of cultural belonging.
- After SC came into continuing care, her connection and belonging to her physical environment – the lands that she was on, her community, school and her home – were repeatedly disrupted, resulting in a lack of opportunity to establish physical permanency and belonging to place.
- As a result of a lack of connection with family members and other important people in her life, the lack of a permanent physical home and the lack of connection to her culture, SC was never able to fully establish a sense of her own identity.
- SC's views were not adequately considered as MCFD planned and carried out her adoption and foster placements, despite this being a requirement of provincial legislation and practice standards and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### **Recommendations**

The report's 3 draft recommendations are summarized below (see Attachment B for full text).

1. MCFD to distribute the report to staff who work with children and youth in care or who may come into care and engage in discussions with those staff about belonging for children and youth in the context of case planning and decision-making.
2. MCFD to revise case-planning and case management policies and training materials to align with the dimensions of belonging described in the report.
3. MCFD to conduct a needs analysis and then implement cultural support resources that enable social workers to promote a sense of belonging and identity for children and youth in care in relation to their culture and cultural community.



**ADVICE:**

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

s.3

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

**DATE:** May 26, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 259545

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable):** April 15, 2021  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable):** same (DN)

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister, Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** Update on a potential approach to meeting the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's interest in having greater involvement in child and family services under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

**BACKGROUND:**

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en (OW) is a society that represents the hereditary chiefs who operate under a hereditary governance system (HGS) of thirteen Houses. Under the federal *Indian Act*, there are six First Nation bands that form the Wet'suwet'en Nation with elected chiefs and council. For the purposes of most negotiations on Wet'suwet'en rights and title, the province (and Canada) has historically negotiated with the bands. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the OW was signed on May 14, 2020 that recognizes that Wet'suwet'en rights and title are held by Wet'suwet'en Houses under the HGS.

Currently, designated representatives under the six Wet'suwet'en First Nations bands are contacted directly by MCFD staff pursuant to the CFCSA Regulation when matters arise involving Wet'suwet'en children, youth or families.

MCFD's Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division (PIE) and Canada meet with the OW regularly at a table on child and family wellbeing. In these discussions, the OW have consistently maintained their interest in having their jurisdiction recognized under both the CFCSA and the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (federal Act).

s.13; s.16

**DISCUSSION:**

s.13; s.14; s.16

s.13; s.16

**NEXT STEPS:**

s.13; s.16

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (MCFD)  
INFORMATION NOTE**

**DATE:** June 7, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 260361

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

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

**ISSUE:** To provide background information on the posting on the MCFD website in June 2021 of six recently completed practice audits of Service Delivery Areas (SDA) and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAA).

**BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of the audit program is to support and improve child welfare practice under the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA), the Adoption Act, Youth Criminal Justice Act and the Aboriginal Operational Practice Standards and Indicators (AOPSI) through measuring levels of compliance with practice standards.

The three audit areas described below include SDA Resources, SDA Community Youth Justice and DAA reports. These audits are conducted on a three-year cycle. These reports relate to the second cycle of SDA Resource audits and the initial cycle for SDA Community Youth Justice audits. The DAAs have been audited in consecutive cycles and according to their level of delegation.

The SDA Resource audits are designed to assess the practice of MCFD resource workers in relation to policy and key standards and procedures in the Caregiver Support Service Standards (CSSS) and the Resource Work Policies, which replaced the CSSS in 2017. Practice Analysts rate compliance using a tool consisting of 13 measures based on the above policies.

The SDA Community Youth Justice (CYJ) audits are designed to assess the practice of MCFD youth probation officers in relation to key components in the CYJ Operations Manual and related practice directives and guidelines. Practice Analysts rate compliance using a tool consisting of 19 measures based on the above policies.

The DAA audits are designed to assess the practice of agency social workers in relation to their relevant delegated programs in AOPSI and, when applicable, in the Adoption Practice Standards and Guidelines (2001) and the Child Protection Response Model set out in Chapter 3 of the Child Safety and Family Support Policies.

## DISCUSSION:

1. Three SDA Resource Practice Audit Reports will be posted: Okanagan, Vancouver/ Richmond, & North Vancouver Island.

Results for the three SDAs are:

- Overall compliance rates: Okanagan **42%**, Vancouver/Richmond **32%**, & North Vancouver Island **43%**

2. Two SDA Community Youth Justice Practice Audit Reports will be posted: North Fraser & Okanagan.

Results for the two SDAs are:

- Overall Compliance rate: North Fraser **46%**, Okanagan **54%**

3. One DAA Practice Audit Report will be posted: Lalum'utul'smun'eem Child & Family Services (C6 Delegation: Child Service, Resource, Child Safety and Protection Family Service, and Adoption).

Results for the one DAA are:

- Overall compliance rates: Lalum'utul'smun'eem Child & Family Services: Child Service **50%**, Resources **46%**, Child Safety and Protection Family Service **55%**, Adoption **65%**.

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## Appendix A

Additional information on each audit report to be posted with summaries of common strengths and challenges are as follows:

### 1. SDA Practice Audit Reports to be Posted:

#### Resource

##### **Okanagan**

- Report Completed: December 23, 2020
- Overall Compliance: **42%**

##### **Vancouver Richmond**

- Report Completed: February 24, 2021
- Overall Compliance: **32%**

##### **North Vancouver Island**

- Report Completed: March 22, 2021
- Overall Compliance: **43%**

### **Common Strengths and Challenges of the Three SDA Resource Audits:**

Strengths were found in the following areas:

- Renewing consolidated criminal record checks every three years for caregivers.
- Maintaining the allowable number of children in family care homes and ensuring there are manager approvals and regular reviews when the number of children placed in a home rises above allowable limits.
- Using supportive practices in interactions with caregivers, and providing support services to caregivers, consistent with expectations set out for caregivers in the children's care plans.
- Assessing concerns that arise about the quality of children's care in family care homes, and appropriately addressing the underlying issues with the caregivers.

Challenges were found in the following areas:

- Completing learning and education plans with caregivers and ensuring that caregivers complete mandatory training within the required timeframe.
- Providing caregivers with information about each child placed in their homes and information about their responsibilities toward each child as set out in the child's care plan.
- Conducting in-person visits with caregivers in family care homes at least once every 90 days.
- Conducting annual reviews of family care homes with caregivers.



- Providing caregivers with information about the obligation to report all information of significance to the safety and well-being of children placed in the caregivers' homes.
- Conducting Quality of Care Reviews

### **Community Youth Justice**

#### **North Fraser**

- Report Completed: April 6, 2021
- Overall Compliance: **46%**

#### **Okanagan**

- Report Completed: April 13, 2021
- Overall Compliance: **54%**

### **Common Strengths and Challenges of the Two SDA Community Youth Justice Audits:**

Strengths were found in the following areas:

- Completing and documenting all initial interviews with youth in a timely manner.
- Addressing the protective factors in the youths' service plans
- Addressing the victims' considerations in the service plans.
- Addressing considerations specific to Indigenous youth in their service plans.

Challenges were found in the following areas:

- Completing the FASD Screening/Referral tool within 30 days of intake, and forwarding to the Asante Centre
- Completing structured risk assessments and service plans in a timely way.
- Updating structured risk assessments and service plans as required.
- Reviewing and sharing the service plans with the youth and parents or guardians.
- Addressing the highest rated risk factors in the youths' service plans and consulting with a supervisor when deciding not to report a breach or violation of the conditions of a court order by a youth.
- Maintaining complete records in the CORNET information system.

### **2. DAA Practice Audit Reports to be Posted:**

#### **Child Service**

##### **Lalum'utul'smun'eem Child & Family Services**

- Completed: February 24, 2021
- Overall compliance: **50%**

#### **Resource**

##### **Lalum'utul'smun'eem Child & Family Services**

- Completed: February 24, 2021
- Overall compliance: **46%**

### **Child Safety and Protection Family Service**

#### **Lalum'utul'smun'eem Child & Family Services**

- Completed: February 24, 2021
- Overall compliance: **55%**

### **Adoption**

#### **Lalum'utul'smun'eem Child & Family Services**

- Completed: February 24, 2021
- Overall compliance: **65%**

### **Strengths and Challenges to the One DAA Audit:**

Strengths were found in the following areas:

#### **Child Service:**

- Preserving the identities of Indigenous children and youth in care and providing culturally appropriate services, documenting supervisory approvals at key decision points, following section 71 placement priorities, meeting the needs for stability and continuity of relationships for Indigenous children and youth in care, providing initial and ongoing medical and dental care, transferring and closing CCO files, notifying the Public Guardian and Trustee and involving them when required, and following the guardianship protocols established by the agencies.

#### **Resource:**

- Documenting supervisory approvals at key decision points, offering training to caregivers, completing Quality of Care Reviews when required, and completing all the requirements prior to closing resource files.

#### **Child Safety and Protection Family Service:**

- Gathering full and detailed information from callers, completing Screening Assessments and making appropriate decisions about whether reports require protection or non-protection responses, assigning the appropriate response priorities, completing the Safety Assessment forms and making appropriate safety decisions consistent with Safety Assessments, and making appropriate decisions about whether ongoing protection services are required.

#### **Adoption:**

- Completing the Adoption Education Program (AEP), completing the Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) study, keeping the SAFE study current, completing the



Adoption Proposal and preparing the child for placement, completing the adoption placement within six months of signing the Letter of Agreement, obtaining the required consents, and completing the report on a younger child's views.

Challenges were found in the following areas:

**Child Service:**

- Completing the initial and first annual care plans, completing annual care plans over the three-year audit scope period, reviewing the section 70 rights with children and youth in care, making in-person contact every 30 days with children and youth in care, providing caregivers with information about the children and youth prior to placements and reviewing disciplinary standards, planning a move for a child or youth in care, completing Reportable Circumstance reports, completing required Summary Recordings and Care Plan reviews, interviewing children and youth about their care experiences after moving from placements, preparing youth for independence.

**Resource:**

- Completing all requirements for applications and orientations for new caregivers, completing Home Study reports, completing signed Agreements with Caregivers over the three-year audit scope period and completing annual reviews of the family care homes over the three-year audit scope period, and completing protocol investigations when required.

**Child Safety and Protection Family Service:**

- Conducting initial and detailed record reviews, documenting the Safety Assessment process, documenting the Safety Assessment forms within 24 hours of the first significant contacts with families, meeting/interviewing the parents and other adults in the homes, interviewing all the children in the homes, visiting the family homes and completing collateral checks, completing the Vulnerability Assessment forms, completing the Family Development Response (FDR) Assessments and Investigations within 30 days, and completing the Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools and Family Plans associated with ongoing protection services.

**Adoption:**

- Responding to the prospective adoptive parents with all the required information within seven working days of contact, providing the prospective adoptive parents with the forms and information required for the SAFE within ten working days of receiving the application, and meeting the Post-Placement responsibilities of the Adoption Worker.

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

**DATE:** May 28, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 260575

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

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

**ISSUE:** Health and Safety Grants 2021

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2020 and as part of BC's Safe Restart fund, MCFD issued a one-time only "Health and Safety Grant" (hereafter referred to HSG 2020) to licensed child care providers who were open and in receipt of Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) or operating as a Childcare BC Universal Prototype Site (Prototype Site). CCOF providers were required to apply to receive HSG 2020, while Prototype Sites automatically received the grant; all recipients received \$325 per space up to the Facility's Maximum Capacity as of October 2020. Approximately \$35M was invested in child care providers through HSG 2020, supporting approximately 106,000 licensed child care spaces.

HSG 2020 was intended to support child care facilities to operate as many of their licensed spaces as possible while also adhering to the BC Centre for Disease Control and BC Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings; and to offset additional costs (e.g. staffing backfill, cleaning supplies, etc.) associated with providing child care services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Providers had until March 31, 2021 to spend their HSG 2020 on these types of expenses, with any funds remaining after that being considered "HSG surplus".

Providers have until June 30, 2021 to spend any HSG 2020 surplus with additional spending options such as: temporary wage enhancements and/or other non-monetary compensation (such as paid professional development) to front-line ECEs, professional development opportunities for front-line ECEs, and/or temporary relief measures for families, such as temporarily reducing child care fees or extending the hours/days of business in order to meet local demand. Using HSG 2020 for for-profit purposes, and/or to pay off debts incurred prior to the pandemic is prohibited.

**DISCUSSION:**

***Budget 2021 Direction***

Through Budget 2021, MCFD will invest an additional \$20M through renewed Health and Safety Grants (hereafter referred to as HSG 2021). Parameters for HSG 2021 outlined in Budget 2021 submission included:

- Providers will need to submit an application requesting HSG 2021 funds;
- Lower maximum rate per space than HSG 2020 – up to \$175 per space;
- Providers will have the opportunity to request less HSG 2021 if they do not require the full amount; and

- HSG 2021 payments will be made in June 2021 and providers will have until March 31, 2022 to spend the funding.<sup>1</sup>

### ***HSG 2021 – Eligibility and Application Process***

Providers that received HSG 2020 funding will be required to submit a report back on how they spent their HSG 2020 to be eligible to receive HSG 2021. This will help reduce confusion between the two sources of funding and allow government to report out on the HSG 2020 spend in a timely way.

CCOF providers will have the ability to request less HSG than the full \$175 per space allotment if they do not require the full amount. The application form will allow them to choose which level of funding they require- \$175, \$125, \$75 or \$25 per space. It will be made clear to applicants through the application form that once a request for a certain level of funding has been made, there will not be the ability to request additional funding under HSG 2021 in the future.<sup>2</sup>

As was the case for HSG 2020, Prototype sites (PT sites) will have a different process than CCOF providers. HSG 2021 will be automatically calculated by the Ministry and added to the PT sites' monthly payment, accompanied by a grant letter explaining the terms and conditions of receiving the funding. PT sites will not have the option of requesting less than the full \$175 per space<sup>3</sup>. Any unspent HSG 2021 will be collected via usual recollection processes after March 31, 2022.

### ***Eligible Expenses under HSG 2021***

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<sup>1</sup> Given the overlap with HSG 2020, if HSG 2021 were to be paid out in June, it is recommended that HSG 2021 not be paid until July 2021.

<sup>2</sup> HSG 2021 is intended to be one-time-only funding. At a cost of approximately \$4,000 per "payment run", additional payment runs are costly and require increased administrative and system capacities.

<sup>3</sup> It would be administratively burdensome to ask individual PT sites how much HSG 2021 they needed. Additionally, processes are already in place to collect any unspent funds.

### ***Implementation Timelines***

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#### **NEXT STEPS:**

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#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Considerations for expanded uses of HSG 2021

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Appendix A: Comparison of 2018 Eligibility Criteria to 2021 Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria	Required in 2018?	Required in 2021?	Rationale for removal/addition
<i>Be licensed for and providing Infant/Toddler (under 36 months) child care</i>	√	X	Currently, 64% of CCOF recipients do not offer Infant/Toddler care. Maintaining this criterion for the 2021 application process would unnecessarily limit the applicant pool going forward.
<i>Be in receipt of Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) for at least two consecutive years at the time of application</i>	√	√	
<i>Be approved to participate in the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) at the time of application</i>	√	√	
<i>Be enrolled or willing to enroll families eligible for Affordable Child Care Benefit</i>	√	√	
<i>Be in good standing with MCFD and their local Health Authority (i.e. no history of ongoing non-compliance);</i>	√	√	
<i>Have liability insurance coverage for \$2,000,000;</i>	√	√	
<i>Actively enroll or be willing to enroll children with support needs</i>	√	√	
<i>Be willing to provide independently verified financial statements and records that confirm the child care facility's operational funding and expenses</i>	√	√	
<i>Be willing and able to accommodate and assist with an economic analysis of the cost of child care in various business models through provision of current financial information</i>	√	√	
<i>Be willing to support a quality assessment, by a third party evaluator, and implement identified quality improvements, as needed, through a one-time Quality Improvement Grant provided by MCFD in March 2019.</i>	√	X	There are no immediate plans for an independent evaluation of the 2021 Prototype Sites, or the provision of an additional quality enhancement grant; however, all Prototype Sites will be required as a condition of their funding to provide ongoing program and financial information to MCFD to help



Eligibility Criteria	Required in 2018?	Required in 2021?	Rationale for removal/addition
			inform the development of a future funding model.
<i>Be in receipt of ECE-WE, if eligible</i>	X	✓	Participation in the ECE-WE demonstrates the applicant's commitment to supporting sustainable wages for educators, which is recognized as a key component of quality.
<i>Be willing to participate and complete a ministry-delivered training module on program reporting and financial requirements</i>	X	✓	Some of the current Prototype Sites struggled with the additional reporting and financial requirements required under the terms of their funding agreements. The intent of this training would be to support new sites to understand these requirements.



## Appendix B: 2018 and 2021 Selection Preferences

The **2018** selection criteria were guided by the terms of the ELCC Agreement and preference was given to applicants operating:

- A majority of spaces licensed and occupied for Infant/Toddler (under 36 months) care; and/or
- A non-profit facility<sup>1</sup>;
- Programs which served:
  - Indigenous parents and children
  - Families new to Canada (non-residents of Canada within the last 12 months)
  - Young parents (parents under the age of 25)
  - Francophone families
  - Families in need of extended or non-traditional hours.

The **2021** expansion is funded provincially and offers an opportunity to shift the selection preferences to prioritize different applicants. Based on learnings to date, the following areas for prioritization are recommended and will be heavily weighted in the selection process:

### **1. Locations Not Currently Served by Prototype Sites**

- In 2018, MCFD focused on selecting sites proportionate to health authority population. In 2021, MCFD will prioritize areas not currently served by Prototype Sites.
- These locations may include urban areas with high population density and/or rural areas with limited access to child care.

### **2. Indigenous-Led Child Care**

- Further information is required to support MCFD's understanding of Indigenous-led child care and how best to partner with Indigenous communities in the delivery of affordable, quality, culturally enriched child care.
- Currently, there are only 3 Indigenous-led Prototype Sites representing only 7% of the total full-time spaces.
- MCFD will work with Indigenous partners on strategies to encourage Indigenous-led child care sites to apply.

### **3. Personal Residence-Based Care**

- MCFD needs a further understanding of how to incorporate personal residence child care into a universal system.
- Personal Residence Care providers (largely, family and multi-age child care providers operating out of a personal residence) make up about 11% of CCOF spaces and 37% of CCOF facilities but only 2% of Prototype Site spaces (14% of PT Site facilities).
- Overall, Personal Residence child care operators are least accustomed to the requirements and accountabilities of government Funding Agreements.

### **4. Community Centre-Based Child Care**

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<sup>1</sup> Prioritization of non-profit organizations was required under the terms of the ELCC Bilateral Agreement; MCFD successfully negotiated an administrative change to the terms of that Agreement which allowed for private/for-profit operators to also be eligible.

- Community Centre-based child care facilities are generally stable, are often school-affiliated, offer additional services (family services, recreation etc.) and are a community-entrenched model. MCFD would benefit from further study of these providers.

**5. On School Grounds/Board of Education Affiliated**

- MCFD would benefit from additional information for child care on school grounds.
- The first phase of Prototype Sites has shown child care on school grounds or affiliated with Boards of Education can be based on informal arrangements and may lead to displacement of child care spaces and/or unstable relationships between the Board and the child care facility in terms of tenancy, funding, and responsibility of site maintenance.
- Supporting child care on school grounds through the Prototype Sites Initiative provides an opportunity to identify the requirements needed to inform greater integration with the Ministry of Education prior to its formal transition.

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (MCFD)  
INFORMATION NOTE**

**DATE:** June 7, 2021

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** January 27, 2021; October 22, 2020

**CLIFF#:** 260701

**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 256870 (Phased Approach); 254765 (Customary Care)

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

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

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s.12 ; s.13



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s.13

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

**DATE:** May 28, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 260600

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

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

**ISSUE:** Update on efforts to decriminalize controlled substances in BC.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 20, 2020, Premier Horgan wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau to urge the federal government to develop a national plan to decriminalize possession of controlled substances for personal use.

Following the Premier's public call for decriminalization at the federal level, the November 2020 Mandate Letter<sup>1</sup> for the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions directed the Ministry to work with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Attorney General to fast track decriminalization in BC either under federal legislation or through a made-in-BC solution.

In support of this direction, Minister Malcolmson wrote to the Federal Minister of Health to request Canada work with BC to explore decriminalization. To date, the Federal Minister of Health has not responded. This letter was followed by a [public announcement](#) on April 14, 2021 of BC's intention to seek a Section 56 exemption to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) in order to decriminalize simple possession of controlled substances in the province within one year. A formal letter stating BC's intent to apply for an exemption has been sent to the federal Health Minister.

s.16

To allow for significant engagement with partners and stakeholders and for Health Canada to undertake the policy work necessary to consider an exemption request, BC intends to submit an initial S. 56 exemption application in late Fall 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

s.12; s.14

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<sup>1</sup> Work with the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to fast track the move toward decriminalization by working with police chiefs to push Ottawa to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use. In the absence of prompt federal action, develop a made-in-B.C. solution that will help save lives.

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.14 ; s.16

**NEXT STEPS:**

- s.13

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13; s.14

s.12; s.14

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

**DATE:** June 17, 2021

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** September 4, 2019, January 31, 2021

**CLIFF#:** 261105

**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 241773, 257560 & OIC 260409

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

s.12

**BACKGROUND:**

s.14

s.12; s.13; s.16

**DISCUSSION:**

s.12; s.13

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s.12 ; s.13

SUMMARY:

s.12; s.13

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

**DATE:** June 14, 2021  
**CLIFF#:** 259381

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

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

**ISSUE:** Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites Expansion Priorities and Application Process 2021

**BACKGROUND:**

In Budget 2018, the Government of British Columbia committed to implementing a universal child care system over a 10-year period under the *Childcare BC Plan*. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) proposed to test the introduction of universal child care by providing increased operational support to Childcare BC Universal Prototype Sites (Prototype Sites) in exchange for enhanced operational and financial information sites and parent fees limited to a maximum of \$10-a-day per full time child care space regardless of household income.

Funding for these Prototype Sites was provided under the terms of the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Bilateral Agreement, which directed \$30M/year in federal funding for two years to support the operation of the Prototype Sites. In fiscal 2020/21, this funding was renewed, and increased to \$31M/year. The 51 current Prototype Sites will continue to be funded through the ELCC Bilateral Agreement<sup>1</sup> to March 31, 2022.

In Budget 2021, the Province committed to expanding access to \$10-a-day child care for families in communities across BC by converting 3,750 child care spaces<sup>2</sup> to new \$10-a-day spaces, through a new provincial investment of \$25.65M in FY 21/22, increasing to \$42.63M in FY 22/23. Similar to the Budget 2018 announcement, this expansion under Budget 2021 is limited in terms of scale/scope.

Of the over 5,000 child care facilities in BC, roughly 1.5% (or approximately 75 facilities) will be approved to convert to \$10-a-day child care. However, this also represents the first time provincial funding will be directed to support the delivery of \$10-a-day child care under Childcare BC, and offers the Ministry the opportunity to:

- Increase access to \$10-a-day child care into new communities in BC based on provincially-determined selection criteria and priorities;

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s.12



- Establish an eligibility list of child care providers that could be considered “pre-approved” sites if a decision is made to invest some of the 2021/22 \$350M in federal funding in additional \$10-a-day sites<sup>3</sup>;
- Broaden the initiative to enhance learnings into specific child care types; and
- Collect additional data on the costs of various types of child care, to support the development of a flat-fee funding formula in a universal system.

In the coming months, the Ministry will engage with the sector and Indigenous partners to help identify the key components of a future funding model for universal child care, which will need to consider a range of features including the approach to inclusive care policies, hours/days of operation, educator wages, funding of privately-held assets (e.g. mortgages)<sup>4</sup>, etc.

The intent is to bring forward features of a new funding model to Cabinet and Treasury Board for endorsement in Fall 2021. The funding model is proposed to be finalized, with input from a third-party external contractor with expertise in this area, by Spring 2022. As such, the 2021 \$10/day expansion will be using the same operational funding model<sup>5</sup> as currently in place at the federally funded sites.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### *Overview of 2021 Expansion Priorities and Process:*

The 2021 Prototype Site expansion will be administered through an open call for proposals for all licensed providers (non-profit, Indigenous, public, for-profit and home-based) and apply similar eligibility and funding criteria as in 2018 with a few minor modifications (see Appendix A).

Applications will be assessed internally by the Ministry as there is insufficient time to include a review by an Expert Panel prior to anticipated program launch in September 2021.

Transparency in the 2021 process will help ensure all parties understand the criteria decisions were based upon, reducing the need for third party validation.

Once a facility’s application demonstrates that basic eligibility criteria are met, the Ministry will apply a three-phased approach to selecting the most suitable sites for inclusion in the Prototype Site initiative (see Figure 1 and Appendices B and C). This three-phased approach prioritizes applications from public, non-profit, home-based and Indigenous-led child care organizations offering quality and inclusive child care at an affordable cost per space.

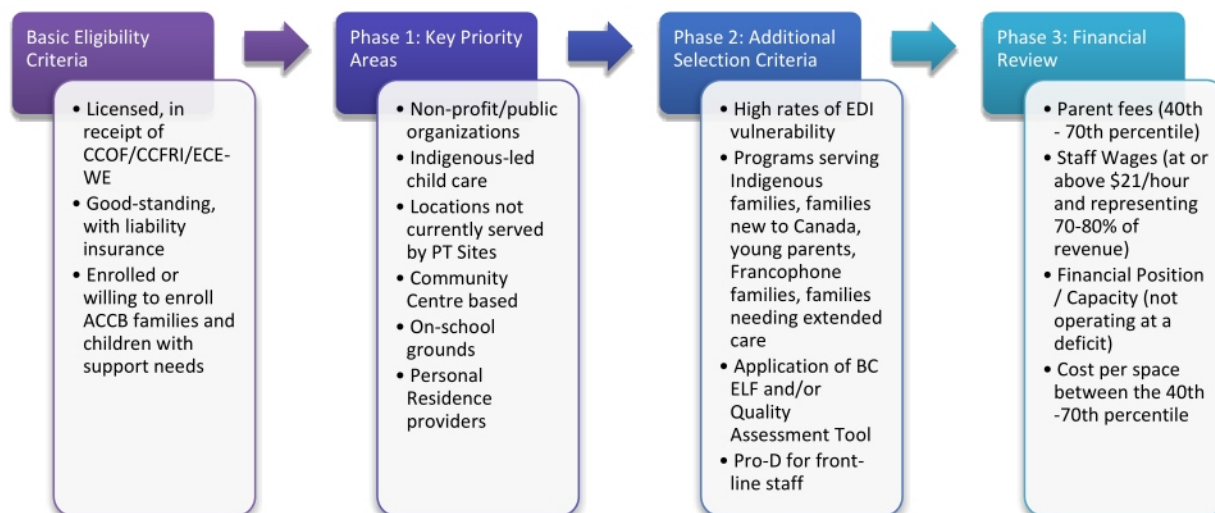
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<sup>3</sup> An eligibility list such as this would eliminate or reduce the need for further application processes and allow for sites to be converted to \$10-a-day sites sooner.

<sup>4</sup> For context, if the Prototype Site program had excluded organizations with mortgages from participation in 2018/19 intake, then key non-profit societies and Indigenous sites, such as Maven Lane, Atira Women’s Resource Society, and the Snc’c’amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre, would have been deemed ineligible. The Prototype Site program is one of a few important opportunities for the ministry to gather information that will help to inform the components of a future funding model that appropriately considers facility ownership.

<sup>5</sup> The current funding model accepts approved Sites’ operating expenses as self-reported, less the standard \$10-a-day fee Sites collect directly from families.

**Figure 1: Phased approach to application assessment**



The application of the new/enhanced selection criteria as reflected in Figure 1 prioritizes organizations with minimal profit margins, regardless of auspice. For example, under the Financial Review selection criteria, organizations which meet the following criteria would be prioritized:

- **Parent fees and Cost per Space** – must be within the 40th- 70th percentile for region and care type (not including CCFRI discount, if applicable);
- **Staff Wages** – must be directing between 70 to 80% of all monthly revenue (government funding + parent fees) to front-line staff wages and benefits, with a base wage for ECEs at or over \$21/hour; and
- **Financial Position / Capacity** – Must hold a separate business bank account, if a sole proprietor, and must not be currently in an operating deficit.

Roughly 80% of an average child care organization's operating expenses are directed to wages/benefits, and the remaining 20% is directed to fixed operating costs, such as lease, mortgage, rent, supplies, maintenance, etc. As such, prioritizing organizations which allocate the majority of their revenue (from government and parent fees) to wages/benefits, while concurrently requiring that parent fees and the cost per space are at or below the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile and ECE wages are at or above \$21/hour, will in effect restrict the degree of the organization's profit.

If the Ministry had applied this enhanced selection criteria to the current 50+ Prototype Sites, this would have changed the outcome of the 2018 review process. Based on the 50+ Prototype Sites fees and wages (back in 2018), Indigenous-led child care organizations would have received first priority, followed by non-profit organizations. Private/for-profit and home-based organizations would have received the lowest ranking (out of the 50+ sites). See Appendix D for detail. Under this approach, home-based sites are only likely to qualify if they are prioritized along side Indigenous and non-profit organizations.

Awarding Funding Agreements:

The Ministry is expecting to receive a large number of applications for this opportunity. Given this, the ministry has built a process that is largely automated and far less labour intensive than previous Prototype Site or New Spaces Fund intakes. Under this approach, all applications will receive a score based on their responses to the questions in the application, but only those that are in the top 10% (assuming more than 1,000 applications) would under-go in-depth adjudicator review of their financials, their policy and procedures and other supporting documentation.

This adjudicator review will produce the list of approx. 75 sites that would be deemed successful and offered funding agreements. This process will also position the program to add further sites from the same applicant pool as needed or desired through continuing the second phase of adjudication on more applications, working down the list in order of their score.

Funding Agreement Length:

Funding Agreements with current, federally funded sites will expire on March 31, 2022 although the intention is to renew them for an additional year. Asking new Prototype Sites to shift their entire business model for a three-month contract is not reasonable. As such, new provincially-funded sites will be offered a Funding Agreement that expires on March 31, 2023. This will create alignment in Funding Agreement expiry dates between the federally and provincially funded sites.

Timelines:

The application package will be posted online as soon as all the necessary approvals are secured, ideally by late June. Providers will have approximately six weeks to submit their completed application package. Providers that submit incomplete applications will not be considered. The adjudication and confirmation of sites will take at least two months to complete, possibly longer depending on the number of applications received. Successful sites will be brought in the program as quickly as possible, with a goal of having the first cohort of new sites in to pay by December 31, 2021.

**NEXT STEPS**

With endorsement of the approach, requirements, and selection criteria, the Ministry will develop the application package (including application form, applicant guide, and evaluation

handbook) and communication materials for approval and public release in late June. The final adjudication and scoring methodology will also be shared in June.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Comparison of 2018 Eligibility Criteria to 2021 Eligibility Criteria
- B. 2018 and 2021 Selection Preferences
- C. **s.13**
- D. 2018 PT Sites Application Rescore with Current Criteria

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Facility Name	Organization Legal Name	Facility City	Health Authority	Urban / Rural	Organization Type	Care Type	New Score	New Score (No Preference to Home Sites)
Nzen'man' Child Care Programs	Nzen'man Child an Lytton		Interior Health	Rural	First Nation	Group	s.21	s.2
Sncc'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre	Okanagan Indian B: Vernon		Interior Health	Urban	First Nation	Group		1
Little Angels Daycare	Little Angels Dayca Burns Lake		Northern Health	Rural	First Nation	Group		
Elm Drive YMCA Child Care	The YMCA of Great Chilliwack		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Hornby Island Daycare Society	Hornby Island Dayc Hornby Island		Island Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
The Beanstalk Childcare Centre	Houston Communi Houston		Northern Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House's Satellite Daycare	Association of Neig Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Bob and Kay Ackles YMCA Nanook House	The YMCA of Great Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Woodwards YMCA Child Care	The YMCA of Great Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Little Scholars YMCA Playing to Learn Child Care and Pr	YMCA of Okanagan Kelowna		Interior Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Collingwood Neighl Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
North Shore Neighbourhood House Novaco Daycare	North Shore Neighl North Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Parkside Academy Somenos	Parkside Academy : Duncan		Island Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
Esprit Daycare	Sunshine Coast Tee Gibsons		Vancouver Coastal	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
Emma's Early Learning and Care Centre	Young Women 's Cl Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Alexandra Neighbourhood House Children's Centres - K	Association of Neig Surrey		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Fernwood Neighbourhood Childcare and Fernwood Inf:	Fernwood Neighbo Victoria		Island Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Maxxine Wright Early Care & Learning Centre (MWECLC	Atira Women's Res Surrey		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Selkirk College Children's Centre	Kootenay Family Pl Castlegar		Interior Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
Little Scholars YMCA Child Care	The YMCA of Great Coquitlam		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
The School House Early Care and Learning Centre	Veronica Maclean Nelson		Interior Health	Rural	Sole Proprietor	Group		
Kamloops Child Development Centre	Kamloops Child De Kamloops		Interior Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Kid's Cottage Daycare Society	Kids's Cottage Dayc Coquitlam		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Maven Lane	North Okanagan Cl Vernon		Interior Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Rainbow Country Daycare	Rainbow Country C Port Hardy		Island Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
YMCA Highland Development Centre	Young Men's Christ Prince George		Northern Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Fairhaven Children's Centre	Burnaby Associatio Burnaby		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Alderwood House School	Alderwood House 5 Richmond		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Corporate/Limited	Group		
BrightPath Coquitlam	BrightPath Kids Cor Coquitlam		Fraser Health	Urban	Corporate/Limited	Group		
Discovery Kids Childcare	Discovery Kids Chil Squamish		Vancouver Coastal	Rural	Corporate/Limited	Group		
Langara Child Development Centre	Langara College Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Public Institution	Group		
Kinderplace OSNS Child and Youth Development Centre	Okanagan Similkam Penticton		Interior Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Heritage Park Childcare Centre	Mission Daycare So Mission		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Burnaby South Childcare	Burnaby Family Life Burnaby		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Hummingbird Under three	UBC Child Care Ser Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Public Institution	Group		
Bee Daycare	Jenny Ky Tran Bao Burnaby		Fraser Health	Urban	Sole Proprietor	Family		
Stepping Stones Child Care Centre	Revelstoke Child C Revelstoke		Interior Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
Grandma Marg's Clubhouse	Margaret McLellan Tofino		Island Health	Rural	Sole Proprietor	Family		
Ruby's Place Family Daycare	Ruby Mary Derksor Quesnel		Northern Health	Rural	Sole Proprietor	Family		
Play School Platoon	Yvonne Coupland Grand Forks		Interior Health	Rural	Sole Proprietor	Family		
First step Daycare Centre	Atifa Rahguzar ( 07 Surrey		Fraser Health	Urban	Corporate/Limited	Group		
Tigger Too Early Learning Centre	Comox Valley Child Comox		Island Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Hastings Park Child Care Centre	Kiwassa Neighbour Vancouver		Vancouver Coastal	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Lexie's Little Bears Childcare Inc	Lexie's Little Bears : Victoria		Island Health	Urban	Corporate/Limited	Group		
Growing Together Daycare	Options Communit Surrey		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Child Care	Ritchie Bros. Aucti Burnaby		Fraser Health	Urban	Corporate/Limited	Group		
The Centre for Child Development Preschool and Child	The Centre For Chil Surrey		Fraser Health	Urban	Non-Profit	Group		
Baby Steps	Alberni Valley Chilc Port Alberni		Island Health	Rural	Non-Profit	Group		
Goldstone Learning Centres	Jatinder (Jindy) Kail Surrey		Fraser Health	Urban	Partnership	Group		
Bowen Island Kinderhaus	Elisabeth Mueller Bowen Island		Vancouver Coastal	Rural	Sole Proprietor	Family		

Facility Name Legend
First Nation
Sole Proprietor
Non-Profit
Public Instiution
Corporate/Limited Compnay
Partnership

West Sechelt Tiny Tots Daycare	Susan Bell	Sechelt	Vancouver Coastal	Rural	Sole Proprietor	Family	s.2		s.21
Hami's Playhouse Infant & Toddler	Hamideh Kazemi	Coquitlam	Fraser Health	Urban	Sole Proprietor	Family	1		
Albion Good Beginnings Daycare	Monica Daniela Lec	Maple Ridge	Fraser Health	Urban	Sole Proprietor	Family			