

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

**DATE:** April 12, 2022  
**CLIFF#:** 268314

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

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

**ISSUE:** Annual submission of evidence to the RCY responding to recommendations from the 2019 report “Caught in the Middle”

**BACKGROUND:**

The Representative for Children and Youth’s (RCY) report “Caught in the Middle” investigated the death of “Romain” (a pseudonym), a youth from Alberta, who was in the care of the Alberta Government. Romain lived in BC under an inter-provincial agreement before dying of an accidental overdose. The report contains six recommendations, all directed to MCFD.

Three of the recommendations address interprovincial child welfare services, including reviewing the existing Interprovincial Protocol, having a dedicated Interprovincial Coordinator with the resources to support, track and monitor interprovincial cases and creating provincial guidelines and training for staff who work on interprovincial cases.

One recommendation calls for collecting data on the ethnicity of children and youth in care. Other recommendations direct MCFD to use a trauma informed method in resourcing decisions for children in care and to assess and address the need for specialized housing and treatment resources to accommodate children and youth with complex needs.

In the RCY’s Recommendation Tracking process, on the anniversary of a report’s release the RCY requests that public bodies responsible for recommendations submit evidence of implementation of deliverables in their Action Plans. The RCY assesses evidence provided and posts an assessment on the RCY website.

MCFD provided the RCY with the first evidence of implementation of “Caught in the Middle” recommendations in December 2020. In January 2022, MCFD received the RCY’s assessment of that evidence. The RCY assessed one recommendation as complete, one as “substantial progress,” and four as “some progress.” More information on the recommendations and RCY’s assessments is provided in Appendix B: CIM Recommendations Tracking Summary.

**DISCUSSION:**

On January 26, 2022, the RCY requested the second evidence update on the status of MCFD’s implementation of recommendations from “Caught in the Middle.”

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**NEXT STEPS:**

Submit new evidence to RCY on implementation of all outstanding recommendations.

RCY will assess the evidence that is submitted and notify MCFD of the assessment results, providing a five-day notice prior to public posting.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. "Caught in the Middle" Action Plan with Evidence
- B. s.13

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

**DATE:** April 7, 2022  
**CLIFF#:** 268358

**DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:** February 10, 2022  
**PREVIOUS CLIFF #:** 266285

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

**ISSUE:** Information regarding public engagement materials for the Child and Family Service Legislative Reform<sup>1</sup> project.

**BACKGROUND:**

MCFD is embarking on an initiative to reform child and family service legislation (including the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA)) over the next two years as part of the Minister's mandate letter to undertake systemic transformation of child and family services. This effort will be done in collaboration with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, service providers, and Indigenous rights holders to identify their priorities for change. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Change the current legislative model to one that promotes prevention and keeps children within their families, communities, and cultures;
- Alignment of the child and family service legislation with the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families* (Federal Act) and the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act); and
- Identify and address broad reform required to complete a systemic transformation of child and family services

This work builds from work currently underway to address immediate legislative barriers that exist for Indigenous Governing Bodies in the exercise of jurisdiction (Fall 2022). The shorter-term legislative change being pursued is a step towards this broader systemic reform of the child safety system. Assurances have been made to rights holders and First Nations leadership involved in these immediate amendments that input that cannot be accommodated in the shorter-term amendments, will be contemplated as part of broader legislative reform outlined in this information note.

The Child and Family Service Legislative Reform project engagement approach was approved by Minister Mitzi Dean in December 2021 (CLIFF #266285). This approach includes targeted engagement with First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous peoples; youth and families who have lived experience of child and family services; and social sector organizations. The project's EngageBC website <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation/> has launched and external engagement on key priorities for change are to occur April-June 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously referred to as the CFCSA Reform Project

## DISCUSSION:

This briefing note is intended to provide Minister Mitzi Dean with information materials that will be publicly distributed to support engagement. These materials include:

- A survey to be hosted on the Engage BC website (#268358, Appendix A)
- A report of previous recommendations made to the ministry to be hosted on the Engage BC website, entitled *Honouring Past Wisdom* (#267137, Appendix B, C, & D)
- A letter, poster, and social media materials to be distributed to social sector organizations to promote engagement (#268387, Appendix E, F, & G)

All of these materials have been reviewed by Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE). These materials have also been reviewed and discussed with Alderhill Planning, an Indigenous facilitator who has been contracted by MCFD to host engagements with Indigenous Peoples.

### Survey for the general public (Appendix A):

- The Child and Family Service Legislative Reform team has designed a survey to gather information from the general public. The survey also provides questions specifically tailored to Indigenous peoples and social sector organisations.
- This survey also aligns with a survey being hosted by Métis Nation BC, which is being developed specifically for Métis people. The responses we receive from this survey will be combined with data collected through virtual engagement sessions to set the priorities for work as we move forward with legislative reform.
- This survey contributes to a GBA+ approach to this engagement and is open to anyone who wishes to participate.
- The survey will be open to the public from April to June 2022. Data analysis will commence in June alongside analysis of the virtual engagements.
- The Government Digital Experience (GDX) team is responsible for completing a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) that will cover data collection, use, and retention of data collected through the survey. The GDX team will complete this PIA upon receiving the final approved version of the survey.

### Report of previous recommendations, *Honouring Past Wisdom*:

- This report outlines key themes of changes needed to the child and family service legislation identified by partners from past reports and engagements on child and family services. The report supports further engagement activities by acknowledging the considerable feedback already received by partners and signalling the ministry's intention to build on that input (see Appendix B for full report).
- The report is founded on approximately 950 critiques and recommendations gathered from approximately 50 First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous sources (see Appendix C for all sources).
- To communicate this feedback to the public on the EngageBC website, the project team has worked with the Strategic Services branch to develop a simplified infographic that conveys the key themes and recommendations from the report (see Appendix D).

Letter, poster, and social media materials to be distributed to social sector organizations:

- Starting in April 2022, online sessions to engage on priorities for child and family service legislation reform will be available for Indigenous Peoples; people with lived experience of the child and family service system; and social sector organizations.
- To communicate these engagement opportunities, MCFD will send a letter on behalf of ADM Carolyn Kamper to approximately 150 Indigenous and non-Indigenous social sector and community organizations. The letter will inform our partners of the legislative reform initiative and how they can get involved in upcoming engagements (see Appendix E for letter template)
- This letter also invites organizations to support their membership or clients to participate in engagements by providing supporting communications materials. This includes a poster and sample social media content for organizations to use (see Appendix F for poster, Appendix G for social media content).
- These materials will also be available on the Engage BC website, along with versions translated into at least five additional languages. The poster will be distributed through iConnect to MCFD staff for optional use in their offices. The poster and social media materials will also be used by GCPE and GDX to support communication.
  - Direct communication with Indigenous communities is being led by Alderhill and supported by engagement bulletins sent out by the Strategic Services Branch.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

The Child and Family Service Legislative Reform project team will work with GCPE on a final review of all content.

Following this, the team will work with the GDX team to upload the survey and the *Honouring Past Wisdom* report onto the Engage BC website.

The team will also work with the ministry's Client Relations Branch to send letters and materials to social sector organizations. Content will also be posted on iConnect and used by GCPE and GDX.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Public Survey on Child and Family Service Legislative Reform
- B. Honouring Past Wisdom Report
- C. Honouring Past Wisdom References List
- D. Honouring Past Wisdom Infographic
- E. Letter to Social Sector Organizations
- F. Poster
- G. Social Media Content

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- **Introduction**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) embarking on an initiative to reform child and family service legislation (including the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA))

The purpose of this survey is to understand your priorities for change to the child and family services system, which includes services received through MCFD or Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. We especially want to hear from Indigenous peoples and communities, people with lived experience of the child and family services system, and organisations working within this area.

In addition to the survey, MCFD is engaging on this reform through a number of virtual engagement sessions. Find more information about these sessions here:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation/>.

The responses we receive from this survey and the virtual engagement sessions will be used to produce a "What We Heard" report that will be validated through an additional phase of public consultations in fall 2022. Your input will help set the priorities for changes as we move forward with the reform of child and family service legislation in BC.

We acknowledge that the questions in this survey may be triggering or may create complicated feelings for some people. Your safety is important. If you are in distress, we encourage you to seek help from any of these resources:

- [Indian Residential School Survivors and Family 24 Hour Crisis Hotline](#)
- [Crisis Centre](#)
- [Crisis Line Association of BC](#) (resources based on health region)

Your survey responses will be anonymous. You can leave the survey at any time and for any reason.

By starting this survey, you are providing your consent to participate.

- **Definitions** (these will be directly imbedded into terms as appropriate throughout the survey. Users will have the opportunity to click on these terms where they see them to get a pop-up of the definition)
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
  - The Ministry of Children and Family Development's goal is to support all children and youth in British Columbia to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families and be strongly connected to their communities and culture. MCFD aims to support the well-being of children, youth and families in British Columbia by providing services that are accessible, inclusive, and culturally respectful.
- Delegated Aboriginal Agencies
  - Agencies that have been delegated by the Provincial Director of Child Welfare to provide child protection and family support services under the CFCSA.

- Child, Family, and Community Services Act
  - The legislation in British Columbia that directs how child and family services system are delivered throughout the province.
- An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families
  - Federal legislation that came into force on January 01, 2020. It affirms the jurisdiction of section 35 rights holding First Nations, Inuit and Métis groups, communities and peoples in relation to child and family services and sets out national principles for the best interests of the child, cultural continuity and substantive equality to help guide the delivery of services to Indigenous children.
- Co-development
  - Per the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, as codified by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, governments shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned, through their own representative institutions, in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- Less disruptive measures
  - Unless a child or youth is in immediate danger, all measures less disruptive than removal for protecting the child or youth must be fully explored. These can include informal and formal support services provided to the child/youth in accordance with a Safety Plan, or arrangements for the child/youth to live with extended family or another individual who has a significant relationship with the child/youth through an Extended Family Program Agreement, among other options.
- Prevention and support services
  - Any services or supports that prioritise keeping families together rather than resorting to the removal of the child. This is related to less disruptive measures. Examples include child and youth mental health services, and child and youth with support needs services.
- Significant Measures
  - A significant measure is a step the director takes after making a decision based on information gathered to put in place a plan or course of action for the child. This includes steps where:
    - the director makes an application for a court proceeding that requires notice to any party under the CFCSA (with the exceptions of applications for the director to have access to a child, access to a record or receive financial maintenance),
    - the director removes the child or enters into/renews an agreement for the child to be in care,
    - the director enters into/renews a Youth Agreement,
    - the child has a new placement or change in placement, or the CFCSA director consents to the child's adoption,

- the director withdraws from court proceedings or returns the child to the parent.

### Substantive Equality

- Substantive equality is a legal principle that refers to the achievement of true equality in outcomes. It is achieved through equal access, equal opportunity and, most importantly, the provision of services and benefits in a manner and according to standards that meet any unique needs and circumstances, such as cultural, social, economic and historical disadvantage. Achieving substantive equality for members of a specific group requires the implementation of measures that consider and are tailored to respond to the unique causes of their historical disadvantage as well as their historical, geographical and cultural needs and circumstances.

### Everyone

- 1. What needs to change for MCFD to become a supportive resource for families to turn to when they need help? (choose all that apply)
  - Services are holistic and wrap around the whole family
  - Services and decisions take into account personal and intergenerational trauma
  - Services uphold children's rights to maintain relationships with their family and community
  - Services are universally accessible
  - Focus on prevention and support services
  - Greater support for survivors of violence
  - Funding community-based services
  - Adopt broader and more culturally informed views of what families look like
  - Other (text box)
  - I don't know
  - Prefer not to answer
- 2. What is the biggest problem with the current child and family service system?
  - Open text (250 words)
- 3. What kind of qualities would you identify as strengths within families, and how should these be supported by the child and family service system?
  - Open text (250 words)
- 4. What changes to child and family service laws and/or practices would you prioritize to help keep children with their families and connected to their communities and cultures?
  - Open text (250 words)
- **Branching Question Individual Respondent vs. Institutional Respondent**
  - 5. I am responding to this survey:
    - as a private individual
    - on behalf of an organization (child and family services, outreach and advocacy, Friendship Centres, social service organisations), or an Indigenous Nation or community
- **(IF answered "as a private individual" in Q5 THEN direct to this block) Individual Respondent - Branching Indigenous Identity vs. Non-Indigenous Identity**

- 6. Do you self-identify as: (check all those that apply):
  - Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)
  - Black (African, Afro Caribbean, African Canadian decent)
  - European (British, Irish, German, Dutch, Ukrainian, Italian, Russian, etc.)
  - East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, etc.)
  - South Asian (East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
  - Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian, Vietnamese, etc.)
  - West Asian (Afghani, Egyptian, Lebanese Iranian, Arab, Kazakhstani, etc.):
  - Latin American, South American, Central American
  - Australian, Pacific Islander
  - Not listed above (specify):
  - Don't know
  - Prefer not to say
- 7. (IF at least one choice is “Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit, etc.)” in previous question) Do you self-identify as any of the following (select all that apply)?
  - First Nations
  - Métis
  - Inuit
  - Don't know
  - Prefer not to answer
- **(IF answered “First Nations” OR “Metis” OR “Inuit” in Q7 THEN direct to this block) Indigenous Identity Branch**
  - 8. What are some strengths about the way MCFD currently works?
    - Open text (250 words)
  - 9. What is working well in your community, in regard to child and family wellness?
    - Open text (250 words)
  - 10. In your view, what are the most important ways MCFD can change to promote and support Indigenous cultures when providing child and family services?
    - Open text (250 words)
- **(IF answered “on behalf of an organization (child and family services, outreach and advocacy, Friendship Centres, social service organisations), or an Indigenous Nation or community” in Q5 THEN direct to this block) Indigenous Nation and Service Provider Branch**
  - 11. What needs to change to allow for more community led direction on changes the child and family service system?
    - Open text (250 words)
  - 12. What does co-development of policy and legislation look like to you?
    - Open text (250 words)
  - 13. How can Provincial/MCFD funding to Indigenous communities and organizations better support their needs and goals regarding child and family services (for example, assuming partial / full jurisdiction, connection to culture and tradition, or reducing the number of children in care, etc.)? Please rank the following options based on your priorities:

- Funding commitments should be set out in provincial legislation or policy
  - Funding should be stable and sustainable
  - Funding should be flexible and needs-based
  - Funding should support substantive equality
  - Funding should be reviewed routinely
  - Funding should support Indigenous Nations to develop capacity in governance, leadership, research, planning, and collaboration
  - Funding should promote connection with community, culture and territory
  - Funding should support services focused on preventative and least disruptive measures
  - funding should be equitably allocated by region, and funds should adequately reach rural, remote, and urban Indigenous populations
  - Other (text box)
- 14. How can MCFD best support Indigenous communities to build their capacity to deliver child and family services?
- Funding for new or increasing operational capacity (e.g. new or increased staffing)
  - Funding for physical or digital infrastructure (e.g. new buildings, new information technology resources)
  - Sharing more information and knowledge about delivering services with communities
  - Support communities to share more information and knowledge with one another
  - Other (text box)
  - I don't know
  - Prefer not to answer
- 15. What is your role in your organization / Indigenous Nation?
- Open text (250 words)
- 16. Where in the province is your Nation, community, or organization?
- **\*There will be a map embedded to help participants locate themselves\***
  - Mainland/Southwest
  - Vancouver Island/Coast
  - Thompson-Okanagan
  - Kootenay
  - North Coast & Nechako
  - Northeast
  - Cariboo
  - Outside of BC
  - I don't know
  - Prefer not to answer
- 17. How would you describe the community you live in:
- Urban (city with a large number of services available)



- Rural (smaller community with fewer services available)
- Remote (very far from other communities with little to no services)
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer
- 18. Organization Primarily Represents or Serves: (Check all that apply)
  - Children, youth or families involved or previously involved in child and family service system
  - Indigenous people
  - Black people
  - People of Colour
  - Women
  - Girls
  - 2SLGBTQIA+ people
  - Youth
  - Elders
  - Urban (city with a large number of services available)
  - Rural or remote (smaller community with fewer services available or very far from other communities with little to no services)
  - People with disabilities or children with support needs
  - Immigrants, refugees, and Newcomers
  - People with experience of poverty
  - People who are unhoused
  - People who use illicit drugs
  - Incarcerated people or people with interactions with the criminal justice system
  - Sex workers
  - Other (please specify)
  - Prefer not to answer

**(IF answered Q10 OR Q18 THEN direct to this block) Indigenous Identity Branch AND Indigenous Nation and Service Provider Branch Federal Act Questions**

- 19. The Federal An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families requires that when an Indigenous child is placed outside of their home, ongoing reassessments occur to see if the child can be placed with their parents or another adult member within their family.

How should MCFD support ongoing reassessment to be Nation-specific and involve the community?

- Open text (250 words)
- 20. Please click on “significant measure” to see the definition MCFD currently uses. What would you suggest to improve this definition?
  - Open text (250 words)
- 21. What ideas do you have for how MCFD should implement the principle of substantive equality within our services?

- Open text (250 words)
- 22. We have heard that funding is needed to better support the use of less disruptive measures, prevention and support services. What would more funding in this area look like to you?
  - Open text (250 words)
- 23. How can MCFD better support the transition towards Indigenous jurisdiction over the child and family services system, particularly for small, remote, and rural communities?
  - MCFD to collaboratively develop and implement an action plan to support Indigenous communities to exercise jurisdiction
  - MCFD to provide increased resources
  - MCFD to develop a comprehensive funding framework
  - MCFD to amend provincial legislation to support Indigenous jurisdiction
  - Other (text box)
  - I don't know
  - Prefer not to answer
- **(IF answered NOT “Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit, etc.) in Q6 OR IF answered Q23 then direct to this block) Demographic (excluding Indigenous Nation and Service Provider Respondents)**

**\*Please include this text before demographic questions begin\*** This last section of the survey deals with demographic questions. These questions are important in helping us understand who we are hearing from, in addition to understanding their specific needs. We recognise that these are personal questions and want to reassure you that your answers throughout this survey are anonymous. In addition, if you feel uncomfortable answering any of these questions please feel free to choose the “prefer not to answer” response.

- 24. What is your gender identity (select all that apply)?
  - Man
  - Woman
  - Two-Spirit
  - Agender
  - Gender queer / gender fluid
  - Non-binary
  - My gender is not listed (specify)
  - Prefer not to answer
- 25. Do you identify as transgender?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure / Questioning
  - Prefer not to answer
- 26. Where in the province do you currently live?
  - **\*There will be a map embedded to help participants locate themselves\***
  - Mainland/Southwest

- Vancouver Island/Coast
- Thompson-Okanagan
- Kootenay
- North Coast & Nechako
- Northeast
- Cariboo
- Outside of BC
- Other (Please describe)
- Prefer not to answer
- 27. How would you describe the community you live in:
  - Urban (city with a large number of services available)
  - Rural (smaller community with fewer services available)
  - Remote (very far from other communities with little to no services)
  - Don't know
  - Prefer not to answer
- 28. Do you self-identify as being 2SLGBTQIA+:
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure / Questioning
  - Prefer not to answer
- 29. Do you self-identify as having a disability?
  - Yes
  - Sometimes
  - No
  - Prefer not to answer
- 30. Have you or your family members received MCFD services (services include early childhood development, supporting children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, adoption, child protection, youth services)?
  - Yes
  - Unsure
  - No
  - Other (text box)
  - Prefer not to answer
- 31. Have you been involved with MCFD as a service provider?
  - Yes
  - Unsure
  - No
  - Other (text box)
  - Prefer not to answer
- 32. What is your age?
  - 18 or under
  - 19 – 30
  - 31 – 40

- 41 – 50
- 51 – 60
- 61 – 70
- 71 or over
- Prefer not to answer



# HONOURING PAST WISDOM

## CHILD, FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT REFORM

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## INTRODUCTION

B.C. is reforming child and family service legislation to improve service for all children and families. These changes will also better support the rights of Indigenous peoples, including Indigenous Governments, as they deliver child and family services under their laws.

The call for systemic change and for the full recognition of Indigenous rights has come from many places. Indigenous peoples, in particular, have previously shared considerable wisdom and guidance on how systemic transformation needs to occur, including what reforms are needed to the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*.

This document outlines some themes from past wisdom and guidance provided through previous reports and engagements. These come from approximately 950 critiques and recommendations gathered from approximately 50 First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous sources.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Themes in recommendations concerning what foundational principles should guide legislation, policy, and services.

### i. *UN Declaration* and Human Rights

Legislation, policy, and services must advance human rights, particularly Indigenous rights articulated under the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)* and *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)*, child, and gender-based rights.

- Primary focus must be on upholding and protecting the rights of the child through ensuring the health and well-being of children, their families, and communities.
- The Province should implement a human rights, Indigenous rights, and gender-based analysis into the development and implementation of strategies, policies, legislation and decision making.
- The Province must recognize Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic social development. It must also recognize the inherent right and vested authority of Indigenous Nations and communities to provide for their children, as is affirmed in the *UN Declaration* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) should amend the guiding principles of the *CFCSA* so that children's rights are not placed in a hierarchy. Instead, the *CFCSA* should reflect the holistic nature of children's rights, including rights to access support services and to maintain relationships with their family, culture, and community.

- The Province should ensure that the rights to health and wellness of Indigenous peoples, and specifically of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+<sup>1</sup> people, are recognized and protected on an equitable basis.

## ii. Belonging and Connection

Changes to legislation, policy, and services would better support children and youth to have a sense of belonging and connection with their families, communities, and cultures.

- Existing policies and practices should be changed to include the dimensions of belonging, and decision points should be considered through a lens of the child's individual needs in relation to belonging and identity.
- MCFD should end the apprehension of Indigenous children and prohibit the placement of Indigenous children into non-Indigenous foster and adoptive families.
- Amendments are needed to the *CFCSA* to prioritize connection and reunification with parents and family. Family visits should be prioritized, and support provided to community-based organizations to support parents' access to children in care.
- Placements with Indigenous extended family or community must be prioritized. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities must be given priority and authority to determine placement for children within their communities.
- Current provincial adoption policies do not fully integrate the custom and cultural practices of distinct Indigenous communities, even though such practices would strengthen the provision of adoption services by making them more culturally relevant and community centered.
- MCFD should fund specific policies and programs to promote cultural identity and customary care arrangements, and extended family and community connections.
- In collaboration with Indigenous peoples, MCFD should conduct a systemic needs analysis of cultural and family support resources and funding required to ensure that ministry policies and practices promote connection with community, culture and territory for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children and youth in care.
- Amendments to the *CFCSA* and updates to the reassessment process are needed to incorporate an Indigenous lens and involve Indigenous rights holders and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) from the start.
- In close partnership with DAAs, Indigenous leaders, communities, and organizations, MCFD should develop a practice guide on how to prepare, develop, implement, and monitor jointly developed permanency plans for Indigenous children and youth.
- MCFD should direct staff to speak with children in care (including non-Indigenous children) about their ethnicity and desired cultural supports/connections and record the child's self-identified ethnicity in the ministry's case management system.

## iii. Access to Inclusive Services

Changes to legislation, policy, and services could enhance access to inclusive services, particularly for Indigenous people, women, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

- In determining equal level of services to Indigenous community, MCFD must not assume that universal, non-Indigenous services are accessible to Indigenous communities.

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<sup>1</sup> 2SLGBTQIA+ refers to Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and other gender and sexual minorities and marginalized groups.

- Governments should eliminate jurisdictional gaps and neglect that result in the denial of services, or improperly regulated and delivered services. This is required to address the social, economic, political, and cultural marginalization of, and violence against, Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
- MCFD should fund and support distinction-based services that are designed to meet the distinct needs of First Nations (on and off-reserve), Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous peoples.
- MCFD should address the lack of culturally safe services for families trying to access prevention and family support services.

#### **iv. Holistic, Trauma-Informed and Culturally Safe Services**

Changes to legislation, policy, and services could advance holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally safe services focused on building trust and relationships.

- Service coordination must be holistic, including wrap-around services to best support families and children. Colonial systems and the current fragmentation of social services is a major obstacle to supporting and enhancing whole health.
- Governments should ensure that the definition of child and family services is broad and includes post-majority care, youth transitions, guardianship, and adoption.
- MCFD should amend legislation, update policies, and change services to reflect the holistic nature of children's rights, including the right of the child to maintain relationships with their family and community. MCFD should also provide more resources to better support cultural connections for Indigenous children, youth, and families.
- MCFD must take action to address concerns, fear and stigma for families involved with or in need of support from the ministry and social workers. This includes recognizing and addressing the impacts of intergenerational impacts of colonial systems and residential schools.
- MCFD should ensure a trauma-informed method is used in making decisions regarding the resources provided for children in its care who have experienced multiple adversities.



### **KEY SERVICE NEEDS**

Recommendations concerning what reforms are needed for specific services.

#### **i. Prevention, Early Intervention, and Support Services**

Improvements and enhancements are required to early intervention and support services, particularly for Indigenous children, youth, and families.

- Changes to the *CFCSA* and better funding are needed to support services focused on prevention and less disruptive measures.
- Improved access to and support for prenatal and maternal health services are needed.
- In partnership with Indigenous communities, MCFD should expand:
  - Parenting programs and family/home support services available to Indigenous parents and families, and
  - Indigenous early years programs and services.



- MCFD should expand and improve supports and funding provided to children and youth with support needs.
- MCFD should commit to progress on commitments to increase culturally safe mental health and wellness and substance use services.
- The Province should work to proactively address issues related to poverty—including housing, financial support, employment, and food security—to prevent children from being removed due to poverty and socio-economic circumstances.
- MCFD should take all necessary measures to support survivors of violence.
- MCFD should provide adequate and sustainable prevention services funding, including funding for Indigenous communities to develop and deliver community-based prevention services.

## ii. Child Protection and Guardianship

Changes are needed to how legislation, policy, and services approach child protection and guardianship, including changes to address family and gender-based violence and to caregiver supports and funding.

- MCFD should end the apprehension of Indigenous children and prohibit the placement of Indigenous children into non-Indigenous foster and adoptive families.
- MCFD should prohibit under the *CFCSA* the apprehension of children based on poverty, cultural bias, addiction, and disability.
- MCFD should work with Indigenous community-based groups to develop a culturally appropriate risk assessment tool and work in conjunction with a child's Indigenous community when a report or complaint is received about an Indigenous child in need of protection.
- Increased communication is needed with Indigenous families and communities about what is being investigated, and provide clear timelines, goals, and file status.
- MCFD should implement changes to prevent and address malicious or frivolous reports of child abuse and neglect.
- More resources must be made available to assist children removed from their homes in coping with this change.
- Amendments to the *CFCSA* are needed to better address family and gender-based violence.
- MCFD should increase funding and supports for caregivers and extended family members caring for children and youth.

## iii. Youth and Young Adult Services

Changes are needed to better serve youth and young adults, including improvements to youth transition services and changes to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in custody.

- MCFD should improve services, programs, and funding for youth transitions, including:
  - Increase funding and supports for youth and young adults with disabilities and other physical and mental health needs who are not ready for independence at age 19;
  - Continue funding and support for youth transitioning out of care, including education and life skills supports;
  - Improve the Agreements with Young Adults program to address eligibility, access, and increase wrap-around supports;
  - Provide transitional housing programs for youth after the age of 19; and
  - Address the lack of flexibility in the current system for young adults who want to continue to live with their caregivers beyond 19.
- The Province should address the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in custody.



## INDIGENOUS JURISDICTION & PARTNERSHIP

Recommendations concerning how MCFD can implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* and *Federal Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (Federal Act)*, better support Indigenous Nations to exercise their jurisdiction over child and family services, and work in partnership with Indigenous Nations and service providers.

### i. Indigenous Jurisdiction

MCFD can better support Indigenous rights to self-determination and jurisdiction over child and family services, including implementation of the *Declaration Act* and *Federal Act*.

- MCFD must recognize Indigenous self-determination and inherent jurisdiction over child and family services, including the rights of Indigenous peoples to define themselves and determine citizenship.
- MCFD should collaboratively develop and implement an action plan to support Indigenous communities to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and build a comprehensive funding framework.
- Indigenous Nations require improved resources to better support their exercise of jurisdiction.
- MCFD should amend provincial legislation to support Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services.

### ii. Engagement and Collaboration

MCFD should change how it engages and collaborates with Indigenous Nations and DAAs, in alignment with the *Declaration Act*.

- MCFD needs to commit to a more collaborative approach with Indigenous communities, meet with communities on their terms, and better understand the goals and values of each community.
- MCFD should enter agreements with individual Indigenous communities concerning services and protocols and commit to an annual review of protocols.
- MCFD should engage with Indigenous partners and communities early in the policy development process and should share draft legislation.
- MCFD must implement distinctions-based and intersectional engagement and collaboration. This includes ensuring that Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people are engaged and have equitable access to decision-making on issues impacting them.
- MCFD needs to better communicate government processes and decision making. As well, it should provide communities with better resources to understand the different pathways towards jurisdiction and the opportunities for more involvement in MCFD decisions.
- MCFD can strengthen partnerships with DAAs by:
  - Removing barriers for DAAs wanting to use approaches that support community involvement, prevention, and reconciliation;
  - Engaging the wisdom of the DAA Directors Forum, along with rights holders, in establishing strategic priorities relevant to the delivery of services to Indigenous children, youth and families;
  - Supporting DAAs to provide a continuum of both delegated and non-delegated services that wrap around Indigenous families; and

- Moving to direct awards for Indigenous communities and service providers rather than a Request for Proposals process, and not awarding contracts to non-Indigenous agencies to deliver services to Indigenous families.

### iii. Funding Indigenous Jurisdiction and Services

Funding is needed to support Indigenous jurisdiction and services for Indigenous children, youth, and families.

- Commitments to funding should be set out in legislation.
- Funding should be stable, sustainable, flexible, needs-based, and accessible. It should support substantive equality, cultural continuity, and the best interests of the child.
- All levels of government should implement Jordan's Principle and substantive equality in funding for First Nations (status and non-status), Métis, and Inuit children, consistent with [Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rulings](#).
  - Funding from MCFD should be needs-based and account for any shortcomings or gaps in federal funding.
  - MCFD should implement the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society's [Spirit Bear Plan](#).
- Indigenous Nations should be provided funding to develop capacity in governance and leadership, research and knowledge sharing, planning, collaboration with other Nations and Indigenous service providers, and innovation.
  - Includes funding to develop legislation and policy, develop long-term community plans, evaluate services, and account for extraordinary costs.
- Funding provided under the *Federal Act* and coordination agreements should support ongoing capacity-building and should be reviewed periodically. Funding dispute resolution mechanisms should be explored.
- Indigenous Nations require greater supports to engage and communicate with their members and citizens; and to support engagement and collaboration with the Province.
- Indigenous service providers require increased support for operating capacity, including human resources and physical and information infrastructure.
- Current funding for Indigenous service providers needs to be reviewed and reformed so that funding is sustainable, meets children's needs, is equitable, supports prevention, meets the needs of urban and rural communities, and accounts for inflation and unexpected costs.
- DAAs require increased funding that is fair, equitable, needs-based, and supports wage parity with MCFD workers. Additionally, funding should be provided to the Directors Forum secretariat to support policy and practice development and engagement with MCFD.



## DECISIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Recommendations regarding how policy and service decisions should be made and how MCFD can increase its accountability and ensure ongoing improvements.

### i. Decision-Making, Advocacy, and Representation

Changes are needed to how child and family service decisions are made and who is enabled or supported to be involved or represented in those decisions.

- Changes should be made to current court rules and processes to streamline those processes, make them fairer, and improve access to justice for Indigenous families.
- Alternatives to resolving disputes in court should be explored and supported, including the use of mediation and alternative dispute resolution. Indigenous alternatives to provincial courts should be further supported and used to resolve disputes concerning Indigenous children and youth.
- More can be done to support parents and families to have a stronger voice in the system and to advocate for their children. This includes:
  - Ensuring that parents' views are included and given weight in decisions concerning their children;
  - Expanding legal support for families when decisions are being made regarding their children or they are signing agreements with the ministry; and
  - Funding independent or Indigenous community-based advocates and navigators to support families through the process of working with the ministry.
- Indigenous communities indicate that more can be done to ensure they can successfully advocate for their children, youth, and families, including:
  - Providing adequate information and funding to support communities to participate in court proceedings where one of their members is involved;
  - Sharing information and records with Indigenous communities concerning the number of their members in care, the reasons for removal, and each child's current location and status, and concerning their members that have been adopted; and
  - Working with Indigenous Governing Bodies to ensure that the approach to providing notice of significant measures under the *Federal Act* aligns with their needs and policies.
- More can be done to support children and youth to advocate for themselves, including:
  - Supporting children and youth to act as a party to court proceedings or to have their views heard in decisions concerning them;
  - Supporting children and youth to access legal support where appropriate; and
  - Expanding the role of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare's Youth Advisory Council.
- Former children and youth in care should have access to their records from their time in care, including information concerning their birth parents.

### ii. Evaluation and Oversight

Improvements are needed to evaluation and oversight of ministry actions, policies, and services.

- MCFD should review its policies and practices to identify and address racism and discrimination against Indigenous peoples and to ensure ongoing monitoring and implementation of key recommendations. Evaluations should go beyond Western perspectives.

- MCFD should fully investigate the deaths of Indigenous children and youth in care—both on an individual and systemic basis. This requires a culturally sensitive approach and operational support for DAAs/Indigenous service agencies conducting or participating in reviews.
- Greater attention to monitoring and assessing neglect investigations, decisions to remove children, and adoptions is needed.
- Data should be collected, analyzed, and reported to support evaluation of programs and services.
  - This should include reports concerning how many Indigenous children are in care, are placed in non-Indigenous homes, and are from or leaving government care. Data concerning Indigenous children, youth, and families should be separately reported for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit and shared with applicable Nations and/or organizations.
  - Data should be collected concerning 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and individuals—especially concerning the experiences of trans and non-binary people—and should capture the diversity of experiences among different 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
  - Some suggest that data be tracked and evaluated by an independent, Indigenous-led organization.
- There should be a specialized independent advocacy body responsible for advocating for Indigenous children and youth.
  - Some recommend distinctions-based advocacy bodies.
  - Some recommend that the BC Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) be provided additional resources and an expanded mandate to better advocate for Indigenous children and youth.
  - Some recommend that provincial ministries, including MCFD, table annual reports in the legislature concerning their responses to BC RCY recommendations regarding Indigenous child welfare.

### iii. Policy and Legislation

Changes are needed to the policy, legislative, and intergovernmental relations frameworks that guide the family and child services system.

- MCFD should work with Indigenous Nations and partners to develop an overarching Indigenous child welfare policy framework and to adapt legislation, regulations, and funding.
- MCFD should work with Canada and other provinces and territories to advance national action on Indigenous child welfare that is consistent with Jordan's Principle, Canadian Human Rights Tribunal findings and orders, TRC Calls to Action, and international commitments including the *UN Declaration*. This includes full implementation and funding of federal legislation.
- MCFD should reform provincial child welfare legislation in collaboration with Indigenous peoples by undertaking a comprehensive review of the *CFCSA* and/or by creating a new act concerning Indigenous children, youth, and families.
  - Legislation must be aligned with the *UN Declaration* and the *Declaration Act* and federal standards and guided by the priorities and customs of Indigenous peoples.
  - Legislation must reflect the distinctions between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit and account for the specific issues facing women, Elders, youth, children, people with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
  - Changes are required to streamline the *CFCSA* and bring it into alignment with the *Family Law Act*.

- Strengthen the Provincial/Territorial Protocol on Children, Youth and Families Moving Between Provinces and Territories to address current shortcomings, including adding cultural planning and clarifying key parts of the process. Create provincial practice guidelines and policies for
- Interprovincial cases and dedicate human resources to support these cases.



WE ARE SEEKING YOUR INPUT ON WHAT PRIORITIES  
SHOULD GUIDE THE REFORM OF B.C.'S CHILD AND FAMILY  
SERVICE SYSTEM AND LEGISLATION.  
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HOW TO ENGAGE.

[HTTPS://ENGAGE.GOV.BC.CA/REFORMCHILDFAMILYLEGISLATION/](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation/)



## Honouring Past Wisdom: CFCSA Reform

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# HONOURING PAST WISDOM

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SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION &  
CFCSA REFORM



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# KEY THEMES



## Guiding Principles

*UN Declaration* & Human Rights  
Focus on Belonging & Connection  
Access to Inclusive Services  
Holistic, Trauma-Informed & Culturally Safe Services



## Key Service Needs

Prevention, Early Intervention & Support Services  
Child Protection & Guardianship  
Youth & Young Adult Services



## Indigenous Jurisdiction & Partnership

Indigenous Jurisdiction  
Engagement & Collaboration  
Funding Jurisdiction & Services



## Decisions & Accountability

Decision-Making, Advocacy & Representation  
Evaluation & Oversight  
Policy & Legislation



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



## UN Declaration & Human Rights

Advance the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*<sup>¶</sup> and other human rights. This includes gender-based rights and a primary focus on upholding and protecting rights of the child.

## Focus on Belonging & Connection

Better support children and youths' connection to their families, communities and cultures by amending existing policies, practices and the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*.<sup>¶</sup> Focus on prioritizing belonging, Indigenous family and community placements and connection and reunification with parents and family.



## Access to Inclusive Services

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) should make services more inclusive to Indigenous peoples, women, and 2SLGBTQIA+<sup>¶</sup> people.



## Holistic, Trauma-Informed & Culturally Safe Services

Ground MCFD services in a holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally safe perspective to best support families and children. This includes recognizing and addressing the intergenerational impacts of colonial systems and residential schools.



<sup>¶</sup> *UN (United Nations) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)* is about respect and recognition of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) establishes the UN Declaration as the Provinces framework for reconciliation.

<sup>¶</sup> *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* is BC's child and family services legislation.

<sup>¶</sup> 2SLGBTQIA+ is an acronym for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual while + stands for other ways individuals express their gender and sexuality outside heteronormativity and the gender binary.



# KEY SERVICE NEEDS

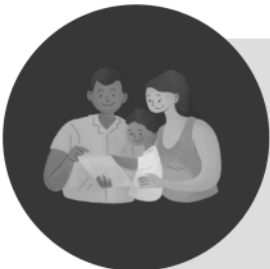
## Prevention, Early Intervention & Support Services



Strengthen and enhance prevention, early intervention, and support services with less disruptive measures. This includes:

- Changes to the *CFCSA* and better funding to support services focused on prevention.
- Focus on housing, financial support and food security to prevent children being removed due to poverty.
- Provide adequate and sustainable prevention services funding including funding for Indigenous community-based services.

## Child Protection & Guardianship



Change approaches to child protection and guardianship and reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care. This includes:

- Ending the apprehension of Indigenous children and prohibiting placement into non-Indigenous foster and adoptive families.
- Prohibiting under the *CFCSA* the apprehension of children based on poverty, cultural bias, addiction and disability.

## Youth & Young Adult Services



Better support youth transitioning out of care by improving services, programs and funding, including additional supports for youth and young adults with disabilities and physical and/or mental health needs.

# INDIGENOUS JURISDICTION & PARTNERSHIP



## Indigenous Jurisdiction



- MCFD must support Indigenous rights to self-determination and jurisdiction over child and family services, including implementation of the *Declaration Act and Federal Act*.<sup>❖</sup>
- MCFD should amend provincial legislation and implement an action plan to support Indigenous communities to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and build a comprehensive funding framework.

## Engagement & Collaboration



MCFD should change how it engages and collaborates with Indigenous Nations and DAAs, in alignment with the *Declaration Act*. Including:

- Commit to a more collaborative approach with Indigenous communities on their terms and led by their goals and values.
- Ensure Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people are engaged and have equitable access to decision-making on issues impacting them.

## Funding Jurisdiction & Services



Funding is needed to support Indigenous jurisdiction and services for Indigenous children, youth, and families. This includes:

- Setting out commitments to funding in legislation.
- Implementing Jordan's Principle<sup>❖</sup> and substantive equality in funding for First Nations (status & non-status), Métis and Inuit children, consistent with Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Rulings.
- Providing increased funding for Indigenous Nations and service providers to build capacity.

❖ **Federal Act:** Canada's An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families affirms the rights of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and establishes national principles for all service providers.

❖ **Jordan's Principle** is a child-first and needs-based principle used to ensure First Nation children living on or off reserve have access to government funded public services.



# DECISIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

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## Decision-Making, Advocacy & Representation



Changes are needed to how child and family service decisions are made and who is enabled or supported to be involved or represented in those decisions. This includes supporting:

- Parents and families to have a stronger voice in the system and advocate for their children.
- Indigenous communities to successfully advocate for their children, youth, and families.
- Children and youth to advocate for themselves.

## Evaluation & Oversight



Improvements are needed to evaluation and oversight of ministry actions, policies, and services. This includes:

- Reviewing policies and practices to identify and address racism and discrimination against Indigenous peoples.
- Supporting a specialized independent advocacy body responsible for advocating for Indigenous children and youth.

## Policy & Legislation



MCFD should work with Indigenous Nations and partners to develop an overarching Indigenous child welfare policy framework and adapt legislation, regulations and funding. This includes:

- Reforming provincial child welfare legislation in collaboration with Indigenous peoples.
- Reflecting in legislation the distinctions between First Nations, Métis and Inuit and account for specific issues facing women, Elders, youth, children, people with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.



WE ARE SEEKING YOUR INPUT ON WHAT PRIORITIES  
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NAME  
ORGANIZATION  
E-mail: EMAIL

Dear NAME/ORGANIZATION:

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) invites you and your organization to participate in upcoming engagements to reform child and family services legislation, including the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

MCFD is committed to transforming the BC child and family services system to meet the needs and goals of Indigenous peoples and improve services for all families. The Child and Family Service Legislative Reform initiative seeks to identify the broader legislative reform required to complete a systemic transformation of child and family services. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Change the current legislative model to one that promotes prevention supports and keeps children within their families, communities, and cultures,
- Align the child and family service legislation with the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families* (Federal Act) and the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act); and,
- Pursue both short-term and longer-term legislative amendments to support systemic transformation.

The engagement consists of online engagement sessions between April and June 2022. Engagement sessions are available for service providers and community organizations, as well as individuals who have lived experience of child and family services. Sessions are also available for Indigenous Peoples and will be hosted by an Indigenous facilitator, Alderhill Planning. A survey is also available for everyone to provide their input on priorities for change to the child and family services system.

If you are interested in participating, please see [engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation) for more information, to complete the survey, and to register for the online engagement sessions. We will be offering gift cards to thank you for your participation in the engagement.

We would like to engage and collaborate with Indigenous Peoples with diverse perspectives, social sector organizations, and anyone who has experience with child and family services. We want to hear from those living in urban and rural settings, women, youth, Elders, Black people, People of Colour, people with disabilities, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

We hope that you will help us get the word out on these engagement opportunities through your membership and networks. Attached to this letter is an information sheet as well as sample social media content that you are welcome to use in your communications. These materials will also be available on our [website](#), and will include versions translated into additional languages other than English.

This engagement process consists of several phases:

- Engagement to identify goals and priorities for broader legislative reform (Spring 2022);
- Publishing a “What We Heard” Report; and,
- Co-developing changes to legislation with community and Indigenous partners.

In addition to the Child and Family Service Legislative Reform initiative to identify broader changes to legislation to enable systemic transformation, the ministry is also engaging with Indigenous Peoples and partners on the focused legislative changes required to eliminate legal barriers to support Indigenous Governing Bodies' exercise of jurisdiction. For more information on this related work, please visit: [engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation/changing-legislation/](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation/changing-legislation/)

We are eager to collaborate with community partners on needed changes to the child and family service system. For specific questions, please reach out to [Shelley.Atkinson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shelley.Atkinson@gov.bc.ca)

Thank you for your time, consideration, and ongoing service to your community.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kamper  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

# CALL FOR ENGAGEMENT

## Child and Family Service Legislative Reform

The *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), the province's child and family service legislation, has not been substantially reformed since it was passed in 1996. **Changes are needed to the child and family services system to meet the needs and goals of all families.** This includes changes that promote prevention supports and keeps children connected to their families, cultures, and communities.

**The Ministry aims to make these changes by reforming its child and family service legislation, and we're seeking your input to do it!**

**Online engagement sessions are occurring between April and June 2022.  
We are offering small gift cards in appreciation of your participation.**

We hope to engage with Indigenous Peoples, people with lived experience of the child and family service system, and social sector organizations.

For more information and to register visit:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation/>

We will be publishing a "What We Heard" Report and co-developing changes to legislation with community and Indigenous partners.



**The following Social Media Materials have been developed for use on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.**

Image descriptions are provided for people who use screen readers.

Image 1.

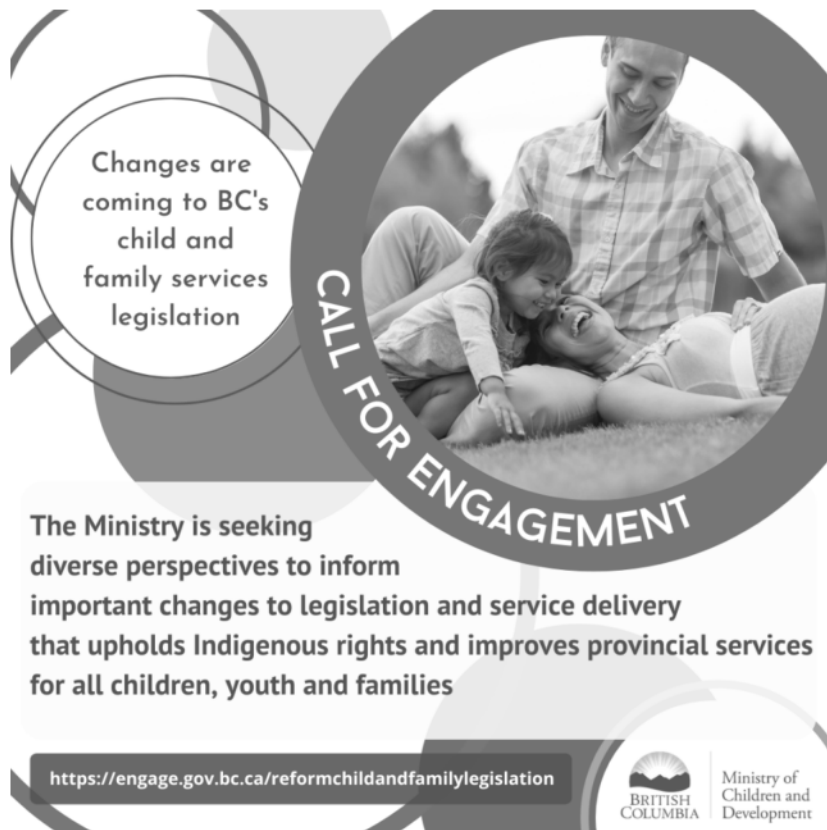


Image 2.

Changes are coming to BC's child and family services legislation

**CALL FOR ENGAGEMENT**

The Ministry is seeking diverse perspectives to inform important changes to legislation and service delivery that upholds Indigenous rights and improves provincial services for all children, youth and families

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildandfamilylegislation>


 Ministry of Children and Development

Image 3.



**[Alt Text/Description:** Photo of two parents, and two children sitting in the grass, looking at an object. Text line 1: Changes are coming to BC's child and family services legislation; Text line 2: Call for engagement; Text line 3: The Ministry is seeking diverse perspectives to inform important changes to legislation and service delivery that upholds Indigenous rights and improves provincial services for all children, youth and families; URL: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildandfamilylegislation>; image: British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development Logo]

**Caption for Instagram/Facebook:**

BC is reforming child and family service legislation. The Child and Family Service Legislative Reform initiative seeks to identify the broader legislative reform required to complete a systemic transformation of child and family services.

Virtual engagement sessions will be hosted between April and June 2022 for Indigenous Peoples, social sector organizations, and people with lived experience with child and family services. We are also hosting a survey and accepting written submissions. Please visit our website at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildandfamilylegislation> for more information and to participate in this engagement.



**Draft Tweet Options:**

- BC is working to reform child and family service legislation – visit [EngageBC LINK](#) for more information and to share your thoughts.
- MCFD is seeking diverse perspectives to inform changes to legislation and service delivery to uphold Indigenous rights and improve services for all children, youth and families in BC. For more information and to participate visit [EngageBC LINK](#)
- BC is hosting virtual engagement sessions to inform changes to legislation and service delivery to uphold Indigenous rights and improve services for all children, youth and families. For more information and to participate visit [EngageBC LINK](#)

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

**DATE:** March 29, 2022  
**CLIFF#:** 269042

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

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

**ISSUE:** Action Plan and Progress Assessment: Oversight of Contracted Services for Children and Youth in Care: An Independent Audit Released June 2019

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2019, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released the report: 'Office of the Auditor General Oversight of Contracted Services for Children and Youth in Care: An Independent Audit'. In October 2019, the ministry presented its action plan to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The action plan included responses to the four recommendations as follows: a ministry strategy to build a system where a child or youth in care's needs drive their placement (including contracted agencies); transforming the quality assurance framework for contracted services, enhancing the procurement and contract management framework, and throughout this work, working with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and Indigenous communities to clarify roles, in particular related to policy, information sharing, communication and monitoring.

The ministry has now submitted two assessment reports to the Comptroller General's Office and the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia, the first in February 2021 and the second on March 29, 2022.

**DISCUSSION:**

Attached is this year's assessment report.

In line with direction on the use of the term 'residential' for Representative for Children and Youth Reports, the term has been removed from this report and an explanation has been included in the document.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Over the coming month the Comptroller General's Office will forward the report to the Public Accounts Committee. The report may be published on the Public Account Committee's website and like all annual progress assessments will be discussed at a future Public Account Committee's meeting. The Committee may choose to call on an auditee to provide more details or to answer questions, to date the ministry has not been invited to participate in this way.

The ministry will continue to advance the work as outlined in the Action Plan and Progress Assessment.

## ATTACHMENTS

- A. Action Plan and Progress Assessment: Oversight of Contracted Services for Children and Youth in Care: An Independent Audit Released June 2019

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