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

DATE: June 28, 2022

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: December 4, 2020/ March 16, 2021/ October 2021

CLIFF#: 270559

PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 255973, 257915, 264035, 264267

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

ISSUE: Update of draft cross-ministry Action Plan and evidence of implementation for RCY recommendations in *A Parent's Duty: Government's Obligation to Youth Transitioning to Adulthood*

BACKGROUND:

On December 15, 2020, the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) released the report *A Parent's Duty* that addressed outcomes for youth in care who are transitioning to adulthood and examined the current policies and programs to support them.

The report contained seven recommendations, four directed to MCFD and three joint recommendations involving MCFD. The joint recommendations involve Citizens' Services, the Ministry of Attorney General responsible for Housing (BC Housing), and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.

The involved ministries' representatives met to develop a cross-ministry response to the recommendations and then met with the RCY to obtain initial feedback on the proposed actions. The draft cross-ministry Action Plan, which was submitted to the RCY on November 10, 2021, included supporting the transition of youth to independence in the areas of transition planning, housing, education and skills training and trauma-informed and culturally appropriate mental health and substance use services.

DISCUSSION:

On April 14, 2022, the RCY provided MCFD a letter including a "pre-assessment" of the draft Action Plan. The RCY requested an updated Action Plan that reflects the information shared in the Budget 2022 announcement. The RCY also requested the first annual evidence of implementation of the Action Plan be submitted by May 20, 2022. MCFD consulted with the other involved ministries and communicated to the RCY that our response will be sent by mid-July.

Executive Director leads reviewed the draft cross-ministry Action Plan alongside the RCY's pre-assessment. In response to the RCY's pre-assessment, the timelines for funding for youth transitions work have been updated in the draft Action Plan to reflect information in the Budget 2022 announcement, including the emergency measures initiated through the COVID-19 pandemic being made permanent.

Evidence is being provided on the suite of enhanced services and supports to serve young adults that were included in Budget 2022. Details are provided on the prototyping of Early

Transition Readiness Planning, the hiring of transition workers, and the development of a new Youth Transitions service delivery model.

Evidence highlights increased financial supports in the form of Post-Secondary Educational Funding, permanent changes to the Agreements with Adults program to support young adults who are eligible to have more options for support, and the development of a housing plan in partnership with BC Housing to identify and prioritize opportunities to better meet the needs of youth transitioning to independence.

The COVID-19 emergency Temporary Housing Agreement and Temporary Support Agreements have been extended indefinitely until they can be made permanent through legislation. This allows youth to stay in their living arrangement past their 19th birthday.

Evidence also includes a description of progress on a plan to gather, link and analyze data to improve the understanding of young people's experience as they transition out of ministry care or involvement, and to evaluate post-majority services and supports. This will include a Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens on the program participation and outcomes.

NEXT STEPS:

The updated draft cross-ministry Action Plan with evidence of implementation of the recommendations will be submitted to the RCY by MCFD on behalf of the ministries involved. The RCY's standard process to respond to draft Action Plans is to provide a written assessment of the deliverables in the plan indicating whether they meet the intent of the recommendations. It is unclear if the RCY will follow this process in this circumstance considering the concurrent request for evidence.

The RCY will review the evidence included in the updated draft Action Plan and provide their assessment to MCFD and the other involved ministries, five days prior to posting their assessment publicly on their website.

ATTACHMENTS:

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Contact	Alternate Contact	Prepared by:	Staff Consulted:
Assistant Deputy Minister: <i>Cory Heavener</i> <i>ADM/Provincial Director of</i> <i>Child Welfare and</i> <i>Aboriginal Services</i>	for content: <i>James Wale</i> <i>Deputy Director of Child</i> <i>Welfare</i>	<i>Deborah Francis</i> <i>Manager</i> <i>Interface and</i> <i>Provincial</i> <i>Partnerships</i>	<i>Brian Hill</i> <i>Stephanie Bethune</i>
778-698-5126	778-698-5048	778-698-8662	

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

DATE: June 28, 2022
CLIFF#: 270558

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: March 15, 2022
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 268594

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

ISSUE: Update of draft Action Plan and evidence of implementation for Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) recommendations in *Excluded: Increasing Understanding, Support and Inclusion for Children with FASD and their Families*

BACKGROUND:

On April 5, 2021, the RCY released the report *Excluded* detailing the experiences of children and youth who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their families.

The report identifies gaps in support services to children and youth with FASD and their families and contains 11 recommendations. Four recommendations are directed to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), three are directed to the Ministry of Health (MOH), two are directed to the Ministry of Education (EDUC). Two joint recommendations are shared between the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA), MCFD, MOH, the Ministry of Citizens Services (CITZ), the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) and EDUC. One is led by MMHA and involves MCFD and MOH and the other is led by CITZ and involves MCFD, MMHA, SDPR and EDUC. Each ministry that is leading one or more recommendations submits a draft Action Plan to the RCY for their review.

MCFD staff met with the RCY to share and discuss ideas for Action Plan deliverables for recommendations to MCFD then sent the RCY a draft Action Plan on March 23, 2022. The deliverables were created in the context of the transformation of Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) services that is underway.

Ministries that received recommendations in *Excluded*, including MCFD, presented their Action Plans to the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth (SSCCY) on March 30, 2022. At the same SSCCY meeting, the RCY expressed concern that the timeline for implementation of the new service framework did not address the immediate needs of children who have FASD and their families. MCFD provided an updated draft Action Plan to the RCY on April 13, 2022, to include information on recently announced funding to support respite for families with children who have FASD.

DISCUSSION:

On April 28, 2022, the RCY formally requested the first annual evidence submission for *Excluded* to be provided by May 12, 2022. Subsequent correspondence from the RCY received on May 10, 2022, included a “pre-assessment” of the draft Action Plan and requested an updated draft Action Plan and evidence of implementation “as soon as possible.”

MCFD informed the RCY that the draft Action Plan and evidence of implementation would be submitted by mid-July.

The draft Action Plan deliverables for the four recommendations directed to MCFD were reviewed by Executive Director leads alongside the RCY's pre-assessment. No changes were made to the draft Action Plan deliverables. The information the RCY requested in the pre-assessment was responded to through the provision of evidence.

Evidence of implementation of the recommendations includes links to the CYSN Service Framework and Descriptors, information on the Cross-Ministry tables on CYSN transformation, engagements with Indigenous rights holders and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, and progress towards developing and implementing training. To address the recommendation specific to the Key Worker Program information is provided explaining that no further resources will be invested, and the program will be maintained as the transition to the new CYSN service approach is implemented. Information has been added to address the incorporation of learnings from the early implementation areas and how the new service approach will be evaluated and monitored.

NEXT STEPS:

MCFD will submit the draft Action Plan and evidence of implementation to the RCY. The RCY's standard process to respond to draft Action Plans is to provide a written response with an assessment of whether the deliverables in the plan meet the intent of the recommendations. It is unclear if the RCY will follow this process for this plan considering the concurrent request for evidence.

The RCY will review the evidence included in the draft Action Plan and provide their assessment of progress on meeting the recommendations to MCFD five days prior to posting their assessment publicly on their website.

ATTACHMENTS:

s.3

Contact	Alternate Contact	Prepared by:	Staff Consulted:
Assistant Deputy Minister: <i>Cory Heavener</i> <i>ADM/Provincial Director of</i> <i>Child Welfare and</i> <i>Aboriginal Services</i> <i>778-698-5126</i>	for content: <i>James Wale</i> <i>Deputy Director of Child</i> <i>Welfare</i> <i>778-698-5048</i>	<i>Deborah Francis</i> <i>Manager of</i> <i>Interface and</i> <i>Provincial</i> <i>Partnerships</i> <i>778-698-8662</i>	<i>Stephanie Bethune</i>

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

DATE: June 23, 2022

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): January 14, 2022; October 13, 2021

CLIFF#: 270843

PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 263904, 266277

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

ISSUE: Two youth in continuing custody orders under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) are requesting name changes that require a court petition as they are not authorized under the *Name Act*

BACKGROUND:

The *Name Act*, administered by the Ministry of Health (MOH), provides the Vital Statistics Agency (VSA) Registrar General with responsibility for granting and registering name changes, if satisfied that it is authorized by the Act. A 2019 court decision found there is a gap in the *Name Act*, whereby children and youth who are in continuing custody orders (CCOs) under the CFCSA are unable to obtain legal name changes because the *Name Act* only permits parents (not guardians) to request name changes on a child or youth's behalf (see CLIFF 266277).

In the 2019 case, the court exercised its *parens patriae* ("parent of the nation") jurisdiction to authorize a name change for a youth in a CCO, in the absence of a parent having legal authority to do so. As a result, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) sent the attached letter to MOH, confirming an understanding that the Registrar General would authorize CCO name change requests from the CFCSA Director

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DISCUSSION:

Two non-Indigenous CCOs have recently requested name changes, with Director's counsel submitting the requests to VSA. VSA has indicated that it will not process these requests because of the feedback received from Indigenous groups during the 2021 engagements on the Request for Legislation to amend the *Name Act*. Feedback indicated some discomfort with the

proposed ability of the Director to support a name change given the importance of Indigenous naming practices and being able to keep track of their children, which can be more difficult when their names are changed. There is a small number of children and youth in CCOs currently seeking name changes, with MOH and VSA advising there have been four such applications since 2019 (including the current two).

Assistant Deputy Ministers at MoH and MCFD, together with the VSA Registrar General, recently met to discuss how to best support the current name change requests while also honoring the feedback provided during engagements. The recommended path, in consultation with Legal Services Branch, is that Director's counsel file a Petition to BC Supreme Court, requesting that it use its *parens patriae* jurisdiction to authorize these name changes. The VSA Registrar General has indicated that he will take no position on the Petition.

MOH and VSA have indicated that once MCFD's CCO name change policy is implemented (anticipated for fall 2022), VSA could begin granting name changes for these children and youth while awaiting the proposed *Name Act* amendments.

NEXT STEPS:

MCFD will continue with the CCO name change policy co-development with Indigenous partners and once complete will re-engage with VSA/ MoH to determine how it will be used to support name change requests prior to the planned *Name Act* amendments.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2019 Letter form MCFD to MoH

Contact	Alternate Contact	Prepared by:	Staff Consulted:
Assistant Deputy Minister: <i>Carolyn Kamper</i>	for content: <i>Kristina Ponce</i>	<i>Melanie Golder</i>	<i>Jack Shewchuk,</i>
<i>Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation</i>	<i>Director, Operational Child Welfare Policy</i>	<i>Manager, Operational Child Welfare Policy</i>	<i>Registrar, Vital Statistics Agency, MOH</i>
<i>778-698-8835</i>	<i>778-974-3808</i>	<i>778-679-5635</i>	<i>250-952-9039</i>



October 18, 2019

CLIFF 245360

Martin Wright, ADM
HSAIR, Ministry of Health
1515 Blanshard Street,
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8

Dear Martin:

Re: Amendments to s. 4 of the *Name Act*

It has been brought to my attention that under s. 4 of the *Name Act*, Vital Statistics does not have the legislative authority to accept name change applications from a child/youth that is in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry). Under the existing authority of the *Name Act*, neither a child/youth nor the ministry can apply on behalf of a child/youth for a name change. The only acceptable applicant is a "parent with custody". When a child/youth is subject to the guardianship of a director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) or the *Adoption Act*, the Ministry is not able to apply for a name change on behalf of the child/youth. This is because a director is not recognized as a "parent" under the *Name Act*.

This Ministry's understanding is that prohibiting children/youth and their guardians from changing a child/youth's name is considered discriminatory under the BC Human Rights Code. We believe there is risk of discriminatory practices when a child/youth who is subject to the guardianship of a director is unable to change their name.

I understand there was a recent decision of the Registrar General at Vital Statistics to refuse a name change on behalf of a child in care, that this was appealed to the BC Supreme Court and that the child's name order was then granted. As a result of that decision, I have been told that the Registrar General has stated they will not refuse name change applications for children/youth in the Ministry's care. However, I would suggest that it would be in the best interests of all parties to ensure that provincial legislation is non-discriminatory and that the legislation treats all children/youth in the province equally.

I am writing today to request consideration of an amendment to the *Name Act* to address this issue. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and discuss a plan for how to respond to these concerns. I would also be happy to provide additional information if required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. May".

Cheryl May, ADM
Policy and Legislation Division

Fc: Jack Shewchuk, Registrar General, Vital Statistics Agency
Heather Davidson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Office of the Assistant Deputy
Minister
Policy and Legislation Division

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

DATE: June 30, 2022
CLIFF#: 270158

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: May 20, 2022
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 270148

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

ISSUE: Consultation on Youth and Young Adult Transitions Implementation Paper

BACKGROUND:

Legislative amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) are required to implement several components of the new youth transitions framework announced as part of Budget 2022. MCFD is currently advancing consultation on proposed legislative changes.

In May 2022, the ministry hosted three concurrent distinction-based Indigenous Advisory Circle consultation sessions – with representatives from First Nations, urban Indigenous, and Métis communities. Information from these sessions was used to develop the Youth Transitions Implementation Paper, along with historical consultation sessions, that will be published on the Engage BC website in mid-July for public feedback. The Implementation Paper will be posted until the end of August and the feedback collected will inform legislative amendments and policy development of the new programs and services.

Indigenous Advisory Circle Consultations

Each Advisory Circle (First Nations, Métis and Urban Indigenous) convened virtually over three half-day sessions, for a total of nine engagement sessions. Led by Indigenous facilitators from Reciprocal Consulting, participants used a guided-storytelling approach to share their perspectives, advice, and ideas on how the new and improved youth transitions supports and services can be implemented.

The Advisory Circles saw a total of 75 participants (63 women and 12 men) from across the province, including 12 MCFD service delivery areas. Indigenous representation included 10 First Nations participants, 33 Urban Indigenous participants and 32 Métis participants.

The Advisory Circle sessions were structured around six domains of need identified by youth and young adults, including: (1) Expanded eligibility; (2) Housing supports; (3) Financial support (Income supplement); (4) Navigation and transition planning (Transitions workers); (5) Life-skills, training, and culture; and (6) Health and wellness.

The following key themes emerged from the Advisory Circle discussions:

- The importance of community, relationships, and families/natural supports;
- The importance of culture, identity and belonging– culture is at the centre of service;
- Supports should be practical, realistic, holistic, integrated and more flexible;
- The importance of services being provided to Indigenous young people by Indigenous communities, where possible;

- Looking at the young adult as a whole person, and always keeping the developmental needs of youth/young adults top of mind; and
- Multiple voices called for the need to uphold Métis rights and identity and to ensure cultural safety.

DISCUSSION:

Youth Transitions Implementation Paper

The Implementation Paper ^{s.13} will be posted to a new web page on Engage BC ^{s.13} to online to solicit further feedback from First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and urban peoples and leadership, community partners, youth, and young adults to guide planning for the new supports.

Aligned with the domains of need identified by youth and young adults and the Advisory Circle discussions, the paper notes six core themes to guide the implementation of the new youth transitions supports:

- Connection to culture and identity
- Community
- Relationships
- Indigenous ways of knowing & being
- Youth and young adult voices
- Meeting youth and young adults where they are

A detailed overview and summary of what was heard during the Advisory Circle consultation sessions are provided as an appendix to the Implementation Paper. In addition, the Implementation Paper is informed by a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) lens and provides key considerations for integrating an intersectional lens across the youth and young adult transitions work.

NEXT STEPS:

- Await Minister review/approval, and revise Implementation Paper and Engage BC webpage mock-ups accordingly.
- Submit materials to GDX week of July 4 to launch new Engage BC webpages and publish Implementation Paper by July 15.
- Reach out to partners to share that the public engagement on the Youth Transitions Implementation Paper has been launched, including Indigenous Advisory Circle participants, Indigenous partners, and community partners.
- Communicate internally to staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

^{s.13}

Contact
Assistant Deputy
Minister:
Carolyn Kamper

Alternate Contact
for content:
Catherine Talbott

Prepared by:
Juanita Botha

Staff Consulted:
Michael Livingstone, SI
Lindsay Storie, LLS

*Strategic Integration,
Policy and Legislation*
778-698-8835

Strategic Initiatives
778-698-8821

Strategic Initiatives

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

DATE: June 30, 2022

CLIFF#: 270858

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

ISSUE: Autism funding being used to pay for independent school tuition

BACKGROUND:

Provincial organizations such as AutismBC and Family Support Institute have recently raised concerns about the sunsetting of the Autism Funding (AF) program and implications for families using AF to cover tuition costs for independent schools. AutismBC has indicated that approximately 400 families are using their annual autism funding to support their child's education at some independent schools. They have asked if family connections centres will cover tuition costs for families when the AF program sunsets in 2025 as part of MCFD's new Children and Youth with Support Need (CYSN) service approach.

The intent of the AF program (ages 6-18), as stated in MCFD's policy document, *A Parent's Handbook: Your Guide to Autism Programs*, is to assist families with the cost of purchasing eligible out-of-school autism interventions (see Appendix A). Families of children aged 6-18 with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can receive up to \$6,000 per year towards eligible intervention services that are outside of the child's school or educational program. Examples may include before and after school tutoring, therapy services, (speech and language therapy, behaviour consultation) and social activities provided outside the typical educational program. Tuition costs for independent schools are not considered an eligible expense and must be covered by the parent/caregiver/guardian.

DISCUSSION:

Autism Funding Program

MCFD AF policy states: AF can only be used for before or after school programming. AF program invoicing does not request the specific hours during which services are provided (i.e., within the school day versus outside of the school day). Services invoiced by independent schools are presumed to be for before and after school supports, but provincial advocates suggest they are taking place during school hours, as part of the child or youth's educational program. The 400 families referenced by AutismBC who are apparently using their autism funding for independent school tuition represents roughly 2% of total AF program family recipients (22,000), totalling an estimated \$2.4 million annually.

Independent School Funding

Information received from ECC outlines Independent schools receive funding at 35% or 50% of their local public school district rate and families pay tuition to off-set operational costs. In addition, ECC provides supplemental funding to independent school authorities and school districts to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities and diverse abilities. This funding is generated by student designation¹, but not targeted to a specific student, and can be used to meet the educational needs of all students regardless of a completed psycho-educational assessment, medical diagnosis, or designation. Independent schools that provide specific educational programs for qualifying students with disabilities and diverse abilities also receive special education grants to support the educational needs of their students. The funding model for independent school supports is not changing.

Supports at family connections centres

Family connections centres will not cover tuition costs for independent schools in the future state. However, professionals at family connection centres (e.g., occupational and physio therapists, behaviour specialists, speech and language pathologists) will actively engage public and independent school-based teams, with consent from the child or youth and their family, to ensure consistent approaches to supporting a child or youth's individual education plan. In some cases, professionals from the family connections centre may also be members of the school-based team, a collaborative problem-solving team that works with classroom teachers to develop educational programs for students who may or may not have special education designations.

CONCLUSION:

AF is not intended to be used for educational programming or tuition as outlined in the Ministry's policies. There is insufficient information to know how many independent schools are currently receiving autism funding. The ministry is working with ECC through the cross ministry reference group to confirm a communication approach to provide information to school districts and independent schools about the pending changes and timelines for cyns implementation.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: A Parent's Handbook: Your Guide to Autism Programs

Contact Assistant Deputy Minister:	Alternate Contact for content: Executive Director	Prepared by:	Staff Consulted:
<i>Carolyn Kamper Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation 778-698-8820</i>	<i>Danielle Smith, ED Early Years, Indigenous Early Years, and Inclusion Policy 778-698-5141</i>	<i>Francisca Waring, Policy Analyst Early Years, Indigenous Early Years, and Inclusion Policy 778- 974-4225</i>	<i>Eric Hansen, Education Officer, Learning Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care 778-698-1464</i>

¹ 1) Intellectual Disabilities (mild or moderate), 2) learning disabilities, 3) gifted, 4) behavioural needs, 5) mental illness, physically dependent, deaf blind, physical disabilities, chronic health impairments, visual impairments, deaf or hard of hearing and autism spectrum disorder. [Special Education Policy Manual \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/special_education/policy_manual/)

Autism Funding: Ages 6 - 18

The primary intent of Autism Funding: Ages 6 - 18 is to assist families with the cost of purchasing eligible out-of-school autism intervention that will promote their child's communication, social-emotional, academic and functional life skills development.

Families of children aged 6 to 18 with a diagnosis of ASD can receive up to \$6,000 per year towards eligible intervention services that are outside of the child's school or educational program (please see Best Practices on page 23). Up to 20 per cent of the annual funding may be used to purchase training, travel and equipment related to autism intervention.

Autism Funding: Ages 6 – 18 may only be used for the following:

- Behaviour Consultants/Analyst
- Speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists
- Behaviour Interventionists (BI) (It is highly recommended that all BIs be supervised by one or all of the professionals listed above)
- Life skills and social skills programs
- Out-of-school learning support/tutoring (not part of the regular school program)
- Specialized therapeutic activities and camps designed to address your child's ASD
- Dietary counselling from a registered dietician
- Family counselling/therapy
- Other interventions as recommended by a professional/specialist (A Letter of Recommendation (LOR) written by an eligible professional/specialist is required and written pre-approval from the Autism Funding Branch is recommended)
- MCFD Autism funding can be used towards independent school services if the invoice reflects out-of-school services only. In other words, MCFD autism funding can contribute to the fees that cover the costs of before and after school supports, tutoring, therapy services (e.g., speech-language therapy, behaviour consultation), and social activities provided outside of the typical educational program
- Family's administrative costs (e.g., bookkeeping services, up to \$50 monthly or Direct Payment accountant fees up to a maximum of \$600 per funding period)

- Applicable employer costs (e.g., employee income tax, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance and WorkSafeBC premiums, four per cent vacation pay)
- Up to 20 per cent of the funding may be used for training, travel costs to access eligible autism intervention and training with B.C. (round trip greater than 80 kms), and eligible equipment as necessary for effective intervention, outlined in a Justification for Equipment and Supplies Form completed by a professional/specialist (see the **WEBLINK** on the next page or Autism Funding: Ages 6-18 - Ineligible Expenses on page 15 for more information)

Travel costs to access training within B.C. (round trip greater than 80 kms):

- Reimbursement for registration and travel costs for parents or behaviour interventionists to attend autism-specific training.
- Travel expenses may include actual fare for air, bus or train travel, or mileage at \$0.40 per kilometre for a private vehicle.
- Hotel expenses to a maximum of \$150 per night, for one room are eligible.
- Parking may be reimbursed to a maximum of \$15 per day.
- Ferry and toll charges are eligible expenses.
- Educational books, DVDs and videos for parents (specific to autism).

Travel costs to access autism intervention within B.C. (round trip greater than 80 kms):

- If you are unable to access service providers in your own community, you may claim expenses for the most cost-effective method of receiving services as close to home as possible.
- Options may include travel to the service provider or bringing the service provider to the community.
- Travel expenses may include actual fare for air, bus or train, or mileage at \$0.40 per kilometre for a private vehicle.
- Hotel expenses to a maximum of \$150 per night for one room are eligible.
- Parking may be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$15 per day.
- Ferry and toll charges are eligible expenses.

Equipment and materials related to intervention:

Equipment and materials necessary for the child's intervention must be requested in a Justification for Equipment and Supplies form completed by a professional/specialist from the following list:

- Behaviour Consultant/Analyst
- Physical Therapist
- Speech-language pathologist
- Occupational therapist
- Registered psychologist
- Registered psychological associate
- Psychiatrist
- Paediatrician
- Neurologist
- An approved JFE is valid for one year from the date it is signed by the eligible professional, providing the child remains eligible for autism funding and the 20% of the annual funding is not exceeded. The date on the purchase receipt will determine the funding period from which the transaction is processed
- A JFE is not a guarantee that an item will be eligible for autism funding. It is recommended that families wait to purchase items only after the JFE has been approved. The cost of items that are not eligible will not be reimbursed
- The items purchased as per specifications on an approved JFE will remain the sole property of the child and family.

Other avenues of funding for equipment purchases or loans must be explored. Purchases must not duplicate those that would be approved under SET-BC, the At Home Program, other agencies providing equipment or that are typical expense for a child. Please see the **WEBLINK** below for more information on SET-BC.

Computers and/or Touch Screen Tablets

- Requests to purchase a computer, touch screen tablet or smart phone must be made in writing through a JFE written by a child's professional/specialist.
- A child's autism funding can be used to purchase one laptop OR one desktop computer; OR one touch screen tablet (e.g., an iPad OR an iPod touch OR smart phone) once every three years (monthly phone bills or data plans are not eligible expenses and will not be paid).

Autism Funding: Ages 6-18 Ineligible Expenses

Some interventions and equipment recommended by a professional/specialist are ineligible expenses. The following are some examples of ineligible items:

- Home repairs, renovations, swimming pools, hot tubs, trampolines, playground equipment
- Household items, including appliances
- General recreation and sports enrolment fees
- Sports/fitness equipment
- Televisions
- Vitamins, medical supplies, orthotics
- Clothing
- Food (however, small reinforcers for therapy may be eligible)
- Any items to be used only in school settings
- Monthly smart phone bills and/or data plans

The following are some examples of services that are ineligible:

- Child care
- Respite
- General recreation lessons
- Medical services
- Psychoeducational assessments
- Services provided out of province, and associated travel

Not all ineligible expenses are listed. It is recommended that families contact the Autism Funding Branch at 1 877 777-3530 for more information before purchasing items.

WEBLINKS

Justification for Equipment and Supplies Form:
<https://gov.bc.ca/autism-forms-resources>

SET-BC: www.setbc.org

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

DATE: July 20, 2022
CLIFF#: 271389

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: March 14, 2022
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): 268439

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

ISSUE MCFD Quarterly Research Update – July 2022

BACKGROUND:

- On October 28, 2021, the MCFD Research Team presented an overview of the team's budget, services, projects, and partnerships to the Minister.
- Quarterly research updates were requested by the Minister at that time.
- This Information Note and attachment provides the Minister with the Second Quarterly Research update of 2022.

DISCUSSION:

The Research Team provides four key research services to MCFD: (1) External research (2) In-house research (3) Research in Partnership (4) Knowledge mobilization.

MCFD research services benefit children, youth, and their families by contributing to policies, practice, service delivery and initiatives across the Ministry's four strategic priorities.

Highlights since the last quarterly update (March 2022) include:

- External research: Three new research approval requests in various stages of the [Research Approval](#) process and three newly approved external research projects.
- In-house research: Three new requests in initiation phase and forward movement on internal research and applied promising practices research.
- Research in partnership:
 - Renewed the [Early Development Instrument \(EDI\)](#) sponsored research agreement for another three years and renewed the annual Memorandum of Understanding with funding partners (Min. of Health and Min. of Education & Child Care). New feature of the EDI sponsored research agreement includes a cross-ministry committee to increase knowledge mobilization and use of EDI across Ministries.
 - Completed seven MCFD research projects in May 2022 through the UBC and UVIC graduate research course partnerships.
- Knowledge mobilization: collective knowledge sharing and mobilization of Indigenous Evaluative Metrics project through in-person gathering with UVIC Researchers, Indigenous elders, Quality Assurance Branch and Strategic Policy & Research.

SUMMARY:

The attached Appendix A provides a summary of current research service activities as of July 2022.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Strategic Research Quarterly Update-April 1, 2022-June 30, 2022

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April 2022-June 2022 (2nd Quarter): MCFD Strategic Research Project Summary

This update provides highlights of Ministry of Children and Family Development Strategic Research portfolios, including **external research**, **internal research**, **research in partnership**, and knowledge mobilization. Symbols are provided to highlight how research activities align with MCFD's strategic framework goals.

Legend: Strategic Framework Linkages Symbols










Note: In-House research reports are not publicly available but can be provided upon request. Several knowledge mobilization activities are integrated throughout the tables below (e.g., sharing of research briefs and papers from students, staff, and partners through iConnect, the Research Sharing Network, presenting to relevant and interested parties and participating in working groups).

Emerging Strategic Research Directions

- 1) Build & strengthen collaborative research capacity across MCFD
- 2) Expand diversity of lenses for research: decolonizing, intersectional (GBA+)
- 3) Pilot participatory, youth-led research action approaches
- 4) Make better use of MCFD Data >> quantitative-driven analysis
- 5) Expand 'Research Circle' for wraparound supports for children, youth & families (Indigenous partners, post-secondary, across government, civil society)
- 6) Boost knowledge mobilization tools - link research to practice - beyond MCFD




External Research: includes reviewing and approving external research projects and supporting external researchers to navigate the [MCFD Research Approval](#) process.

Title	Status	Project Description	Sponsoring Institution
 Cross-Over Youth Project: Navigating Quicksand	On hold	Explores meaningful collaboration across service sectors to better serve cross-over youth (i.e. children and youth moving from child welfare or child and youth mental health to youth justice facilities)	Justice Canada & Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
 Indigenous Child Welfare and Decolonizing Practices	In Progress	Identifying promising decolonial and reconciliation practices being used by front-line MCFD child welfare teams to assess broader applicability. Following up with researcher – clarifying some privacy/security considerations.	Royal Roads University
 Increasing Access to Justice for People with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	New request- In Progress	Research designed to collect information for the purposes of redesigning the Asante Centre FASD screening and referral Tool. Waiting on Legal Services Branch for direction forward related to Youth Justice records.	University of Guelph & Law Foundation of BC
 Early Mediation Program Evaluation	In Progress	Evaluating the use and effectiveness of early mediation in resolving family disputes. Confirming final amendments required by Legal Services Branch to proceed (e.g. consent forms and questionnaires)	Mediate BC & University of Victoria
 Emerging adults in the criminal justice system	New request- In Progress	McCreary Centre Society is engaging with youth ages 18-25 to better understand the specific needs/challenges faced by young people in the Adult Justice System and to explore the barriers, challenges, and opportunities to better support young people in the Adult Justice System. Waiting for ethics application from McCreary Centre.	McCreary Centre Society & Department of Justice Canada
  Promoting resilience and well-being in teens in care: Implementation and Evaluation of an Attachment and Trauma-Informed Intervention for Kinship and Foster Parents	New request- In Progress	SFU research team is evaluating the effectiveness of the Connect for Kinship and Foster Parents attachment parenting course at the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre and other mental health agencies including how training is conducted, the tools used to deliver the training, and the results of the training for kinship and foster parents and the young people in their care.	Simon Fraser University & Public Health Agency of Canada



Legend: Strategic Framework Linkages Symbols

External Research: includes reviewing and approving external research projects and supporting external researchers to navigate the [MCFD Research Approval](#) process.

Title	Status	Project Description	Sponsoring Institution
 Barriers and Facilitators for Child Welfare Intervention for Asian-Canadian Families	Newly Approved	Assessment of the types of barriers and facilitators faced by Asian-Canadian families when receiving child welfare services. Part of graduate student projects. UBC researcher looking for more participants. SPRe supported outreach with MCFD staff, but low take-up due to small participant group & staffing shortages.	University of British Columbia
 Bordering Practices: Systemic Racism, Immigration, Child Welfare	Newly Approved	Bordering Practices: Systemic Racism, Immigration, & Child Welfare research project aims to explore the effectiveness of MCFD services provided to recent immigrant children and families. Research was approved and endorsed by three Executive Directors of Service for staff participation	University of Victoria
 Engaging men and boys in Primary Prevention of Family Violence in the Context of Crisis	Newly Approved	The researcher is exploring existing approaches and resources in governmental and non-governmental organizations to further or undertake family violence prevention work with men and boys. The researcher will be mapping programs related to engaging men in family violence prevention pre, during and post-pandemic.	University of Victoria







Legend: Strategic Framework Linkages Symbols

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Research in Partnership: Sponsored Research Agreements(SRA) /Contracts/Service Agreements

Title	Status	Description	Researchers & Ministry Sponsors
 Early Development Instrument (EDI)	Newly renewed MOU and SRA Ongoing- expires March 2025	The EDI questionnaire has 103 questions and measures five core areas of early child development that are known to be good predictors of adult health, education, and social outcomes. EDI questionnaires are completed by kindergarten teachers from across British Columbia for all children in their classes. A new feature of the current contract, the first meeting of an EDI cross-ministry advisory committee will take place in September 2022 – planning is underway in summer 2022.	UBC - Human Early Learning Partnership & MCFD Strategic Policy and Research Team
 Adolescent Health Survey (AHS)	Ongoing- expires March 31, 2025	The BC AHS is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 every five years since 1992. The survey gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development. McCreary produces a provincial-level report, health service delivery area reports, and specialized reports on specific topics. A cross-Ministry advisory committee contributes to the direction and development of reports –McCreary reported on its pilot of the 2023 AHS at a recent committee meeting on June 27, 2022	McCreary Centre Society & MCFD Strategic Policy and Research Team
 Connections to Culture	Expected completion-Summer 2022	The researchers collected stories and wise practices of connecting Indigenous children in care to their culture. The researchers conducted interviews with MCFD workers, DAA workers, foster caregivers, and youth in care (22 participants total) who are known for connecting Indigenous children and youth in care to their culture. They also virtually engaged with former youth in care via arts-based workshops. SPRe is connecting with researchers to review their draft report.	University of Victoria & MCFD Executive Director of Practice
 Vancouver Longitudinal Study	Expected completion-Summer 2022	The Vancouver Longitudinal Study on Psychosocial Development of Children examines the social and psychological development of children and youth using the Cracow Instrument. The Cracow Instrument is a framework designed to assess risk and needs in children to account for the accumulation of factors that may influence youth violence.	Simon Fraser University & MCFD Policy, Legislation and Litigation Branch







Legend: Strategic Framework Linkages Symbols

 Transitioning Youth with Disabilities and Employment (TYDE)	Expected completion- March 2024	The Transitioning Youth with Disabilities and Employment (TYDE) project aims to develop and test methods to improve and increase the labour market participation of transitioning youth (ages 14-18) with Intellectual Disability (ID) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This includes the development and testing of an interactive online learning environment for youth and their parents/caregivers.	University of British Columbia-Okanagan, Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship & MCFD Early Years & Inclusion Division
 Indigenous Evaluative Metrics	Ongoing-knowledge mobilization	<p>This research explores how MCFD's programs and services for Indigenous people should be evaluated, to ensure that reviews are informed by and grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, as well as the lived experience and realities of Indigenous peoples accessing or impacted by them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers conducted a literature review, interviews with Indigenous evaluators, a circle with Indigenous YAC members, and interviews with Elders. • A virtual community feast with researchers, relatives of the project, and research participants was held in Winter 2021. • Community feast held in June 2022 with the MCFD Quality Assurance Branch, MCFD Strategic Policy & Research & Elders to continue to collectively mobilize this knowledge. • QA and SPRE are collaborating on a blog to collectively share and continue to engage with this knowledge bundle 	University of Victoria & MCFD Quality Assurance Branch
 Mediation Field Study	Contract dates extended- Expected completion Spring 2023	This research will use a field study to explore (1) when mediation is most effective during the child welfare process, and (2) what the impacts/outcomes of earlier mediated intervention are on children and families, social workers and MCFD.	Mediate BC & University of Victoria, MCFD-Policy, Legislation and Litigation Branch
 UBC Social Work Graduate Research Course  (SOWK 554 Course Syllabus)  	2021/22 Course Completed. Knowledge Mobilization, Evaluation &	Qualitative Research Methods and Evaluation in Child, Youth and Family Services Course (8 months): Completed projects for 2021/22: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from MCFD youth housing models: Using Appreciative Inquiry to understand the successes and needs of youth transitioning out of Ministry care 	University of British Columbia & MCFD program areas: Youth Services-Service Delivery-Vancouver/ Richmond, Child Welfare Policy, Child & Youth



Legend: Strategic Framework Linkages Symbols

	Planning Phase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of virtual technology on child protection response practice during the COVID-19 pandemic • Indigenous Wise Practices incorporated into Child and Youth Mental Health services • Exploring the barriers and facilitators for effective child welfare intervention for Asian-Canadian children and families: Perspectives from service users and service providers <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge mobilization and evaluation activities • Initiate Call for Research Proposals across MCFD 	Mental Health (CYMH), Aboriginal Policy and Practice,
 UVic Multi-Disciplinary Research Internship Course (GS505 Course Description)   	2022 Course Completed. Knowledge Mobilization, Evaluation & Planning Phase.	<p>Research and Evaluation in Children, Youth and Family Services Policies. (4 months).</p> <p>Completed projects for 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Spaces for Youth Voices in Complaints Processes Safe and cared for: Indigenous ways of knowing, and children's 'best interests' • Mobilizing Research into Positive Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families <p>Next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge mobilization and evaluation activities 2. Initiate Call for Research Proposals across MCFD 	<p>University of Victoria & MCFD program areas:</p> <p>Quality Assurance, Strategic Policy & Research</p>



Legend: Strategic Framework Linkages Symbols