

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

DATE: September 16, 2022
CLIFF#: 272693

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

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

ISSUE: Foster Family Month 2022; Minister's Office Tea Event

BACKGROUND:

Since 2017 (except during the pandemic), the Minister of Children and Family Development has hosted an October tea event for foster families in celebration of Foster Family Month. Traditionally, foster families are invited to attend Question Period (QP) to be recognized in the House, followed by an informal tea in the Minister's office. Certificates are given to caregivers and the children receive gift bags. Foster families have an opportunity take a photo with the Minister and are provided with refreshments. In the past, 10-15 foster families were invited, from both MCFD and Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies offices from the South Island. Historically, the event was a success.

DISCUSSION:

Since the pandemic, this event has been cancelled or honoured via a video message. This year's tea provides an opportunity for the Minister to interact with local foster caregivers and recognize their contributions and dedication.

Being mindful of COVID-19 and potential changes to the Provincial Health Officer direction, this year's event is limited to three to five foster caregivers, depending how many children are able to attend. This smaller group of families allows for a comfortable amount of personal space and provides the Minister the opportunity to interact with the caregivers more intimately.

For ease of travel, the event is also limited to South Island caregivers. The South Island Executive Director of Service will identify foster family invitees from MCFD. Aboriginal Services Branch will be consulted to seek out Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency invitees.

The Minister's Office is responsible for costs associated with hosting the event, including tea, cake, and refreshments. Children's activities and goodie bags are supplied by the internal communications team.

For 2022, tentative event details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, October 18

Time: Families arrive at 9:15, parents attend QP 10:00 – 11:15, event ends at 12:00pm

- Three to five foster families are invited to attend Question Period, and to be recognized in the House.
- Minister's Office will host tea event (refreshments and cake).
- Children to be provided fun activities and entertainment during Question Period.

- The ADM and Provincial Director of Child Welfare Cory Heavener will be invited to participate in the event. Other members of executive may be invited to attend as well.
- BC Foster Parents Association executive Jayne Wilson and President Julie Holmlund will be invited to attend the tea.

MCFD recognizes foster caregivers throughout the month of October through the following activities:

- Recognition pins
- A list of Foster Family Month events to be posted on iConnect mid-month
- Minister's letters
- Certificates of appreciation for local foster caregivers, distributed via MCFD teams
- Internal ministry recognition activities, including:
 - Recognition pages, photo gallery and list of local events on iConnect during the month of October
 - Message from ADMs Cory Heavener and Kelly Durand to ministry and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency staff
 - Promotion on the 'Ask Allison Almost Anything' livestream (Sept 21 and October 5)

SUMMARY:

The Minister's Office supports the event and is aware of their role in the planning and purchasing of items. Should COVID-19 restrictions be imposed for the South Island, an alternative (virtual or a video) will be provided to honour the families.

Contact Assistant Deputy Minister:

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s.12 ; s.13

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

DATE: September 22, 2022
CLIFF#: 272865

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

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

ISSUE: Streamlining of post-secondary supports for young adults from care and the Youth Educational Assistance Fund

BACKGROUND:

Currently the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) is reviewing post-secondary funding programs for young adults from care as part of the work to achieve their Minister's mandate (joint with Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Minister mandate) to "lead work to expand tuition waivers to all former youth in care, regardless of age."

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This review of post-secondary supports includes the Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF) which was established in 2002 with Victoria Foundation (VF) as Trustee and currently receives an annual investment from MCFD of \$1.4M to the YEOF Trust. The YEOF is comprised of two funds - the YEOF Trust (from which the YEOF grants are disbursed) and the YEOF Endowment. Both the Trust and the Endowment were established with initial MCFD contributions, though the YEOF Endowment is sustained predominantly through private donor contributions. See Appendix B for a Fact Sheet on YEOF.

YEOF provides grants of up to \$5,500 for young adults from care who are enrolled in qualifying post-secondary programs. Young adults apply for funds through StudentAid BC, which adjudicates applications according to current YEOF policy.

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DISCUSSION:

s.12; s.13

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Comparison of Current State Post-Secondary Funding
- B. Fact Sheet on YEAF
- C. YEAF Trust Agreement April 22, 2014
- D. Fact Sheet on LFYA

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13

Fact Sheet: Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF)

Description:

- The Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEOF) is a provincial grant offered to former B.C. youth in care with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).
- Eligible young adults may receive up to \$5,500 annually for a maximum of four years
- While the annual number of disbursements has averaged approximately 240, there was a decrease in disbursements to 168 in 2020 and 180 in 2021 (based on calendar years) that may be attributable, in part, to the pandemic.
- Of these recipients, 67% were female; 34% were married; 8% had a permanent disability; and 10% self-identified as Indigenous.¹

Eligibility:

Age: 19 – 24 (inclusive)

Care Experience:

- Transitioned to adulthood under a Continuing Custody Order (CCO); or
- under the guardianship of a director pursuant to section 51(1)(a) of the Infants Act; or
- under the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the Adoption Act until the person turned 19 years of age or for at least five years immediately prior to their adoption, or permanent transfer of custody to a person other than a parent under s.54.1 of the CFCSA.

Programming: Recipients must be taking at least 60% of a full course load at a designated institution (40% for students with permanent disabilities) in an eligible program of at least 12 weeks in length and remain in good standing.

Administration:

- The YEOF program is administered by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training (AEST) on behalf of MCFD under a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The fund is held in Trust and managed by the Victoria Foundation.
- s.12
- MCFD contributes \$1.4M annually to Victoria Foundation.
- YEOF is demand-driven and is not tied to eligibility for/receipt of student financial assistance via StudentAid BC (SABC). Funding is provided by MCFD to the Victoria Foundation, which then distributes funding to students whose applications SABC approves.

¹ Source: Enterprise Data Warehouse, SABC Student Insights Dashboard, Tableau. Accessed May 6, 2021.

TRUST AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made in duplicate and dated for reference the 22nd day of April, 2014.

BETWEEN:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, represented by the Minister of the Ministry of Children and Family Development

(the "Province")

OF THE FIRST PART

AND:

The Victoria Foundation,
109 - 645 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1G2

(the "Trustee")

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS:

- A. The Province wishes to establish a Trust in place of the "Youth Educational Assistance Fund", which trust was established by agreement dated for reference March 28th, 2002, and was terminated by the Province under authority of section 2.05 of that same Agreement on the 17th day of April, 2014, and to provide in this Trust and in the manner set out educational financial assistance for the benefit of Former Youth in Care, whether located within or without British Columbia.
- B. The Trustee is a corporation established by *The Victoria Foundation Act*, SBC 1936, c. 70 and continued under *The Victoria Foundation Act*, RSBC 2000, c. 2 and is a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*.
- C. The Trustee has agreed to accept the Trust created under this Agreement and act as Trustee of the Trust and Trust Fund now created.

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

1.01 In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Agreement" means this instrument of accord between the Province and the Victoria Foundation, including the Trust constituted by this instrument;
- (b) "Minister" means the Minister of the Ministry of Children and Family Development;
- (c) "Trust" means the trust constituted under this Agreement for the purpose set out in section 2.01 of Article II of this Agreement;
- (d) "Trust Fund" means the property of whatever kind delivered to and vested in the Trustee under this Agreement together with any other property, including, without limitation, gifts, donations and bequests, donated or otherwise received by the Trustee from any source for the purposes of the Trust, all capital gains realized and all capital losses suffered in relation to such property, and all interest and income derived from such property, together with all property substituted from time to time less authorized payments;
- (e) "Trustee" means the trustee described on page 1 of this Agreement and any successor trustee appointed in accordance with this Agreement; and
- (f) "Trustee Fiscal Year" means the period from January 1 of one year to December 31 of the same year.

ARTICLE II

THE PURPOSES OF THE TRUST

- 2.01** The Trust is to provide educational financial assistance for the benefit of Former Youth in Care based on costing as determined at agreed regular times by the Province at discretion, notification being made to the Trustee, for such Former Youth in Care who are pursuing Educational Studies.
- 2.02** A "Former Youth in Care" means a person of such age as the Province at discretion shall determine, notification of age qualification being given to the Trustee, and who was:
- (i) subject to the custody of a director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, or
 - (ii) subject to the guardianship of a director of adoption pursuant to the *Adoption Act*, or

- (iii) subject to the guardianship of a director referred to in section 51 of the *Infants Act*, and
 - (iv) is enrolled in a program of Educational Studies.
- 2.03** The amount of such financial assistance that a Former Youth in Care may receive on any one occasion, and the maximum monetary assistance any such Former Youth in Care shall receive in his or her lifetime, shall be determined by the Province at discretion, and with notification of such determinations being made to the Trustee.
- 2.04** “Educational Institution” means a designated post-secondary institution that meets provincial and federal student financial assistance eligibility requirements whether located within or without British Columbia.
- 2.05** “Educational Studies” means a program of studies that meets provincial and federal student financial assistance eligibility requirements.
- 2.06** The Province will designate a provincial official as the Trust Fund Advisory Representative.
- 2.07** The Province will periodically advise the Trustee of any policy, or changes to policy, as to which Former Youth in Care are to receive assistance, and in what amounts, also advising the Trustee, in consultation with the Trust Fund Advisory Representative, of the procedure to be followed for the periodic disbursement of the Trust Fund for the purposes of the Trust.
- 2.08** Disbursements of the Trust Fund will be paid by the Trustee, subject to the direction of the Trust Fund Advisory Representative, (i) to an Educational Institution, (ii) a Former Youth in Care, or (iii) the Province, in accordance with the procedure defined in section 2.07.
- 2.09** Before making disbursements the Trustee will ensure that the terms of this Trust Agreement are being followed, and if necessary contact the Trust Fund Advisory Representative on the subject.

ARTICLE III

THE TRUST FUND

- 3.01** The Trust Fund will be known as the “Youth Education Assistance Fund” or such other name as the Province may subsequently determine.
- 3.02** The Trustee in office is required and empowered by the Province on the termination of the Trust Agreement in effect to hold the unspent balance of the Trust Fund in a separate trust fund, whether comprising securities or cash or both, distinct from all other Trustee held assets, until such time on the instructions of the Province the Trustee is to transfer the said balance to the fund of a new trust, or to an entity or trust holding for charitable purposes.

3.03 In addition to the monies described in section 3.02, there may be paid into the Trust Fund, from time to time, gifts, donations and bequests, donated or otherwise received by the Trustee for the purposes of the Trust from any individual or other source, including the Province.

3.04 The Trustee shall make payments from the Trust Fund as are provided in section 2.08.

ARTICLE IV

INVESTMENTS

4.01 The Trust Fund is to be held by the Trustee in a segregated account.

4.02 Subject to such further written direction as the Province may provide, the Trustee will invest the Trust Funds as the Trustee is empowered to do under section 6(h) of *The Victoria Foundation Act* in such a manner as to ensure that monies are reasonably available to fund the purposes of the Trust.

ARTICLE V

TRUSTEE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRUST

5.01 The Trustee accepts the trusts set out in this Agreement and the office of Trustee conferred on it, and agrees to hold, invest, reinvest, distribute and administer the Trust Fund in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, and the Trustee warrants and represents that it has the power and capacity so to do.

ARTICLE VI

PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND

6.01 The Trust Fund is to be applied by the Trustee as follows:

- (a) first, in payment of all taxes and other assessments levied or assessed under laws applicable to the Trust against the Trustee or the Trust in respect of the Trust Fund, the Trustee withholding from withdrawals out of the Trust Fund all taxes and other assessments required by any applicable law to be withheld;
- (b) second in payment of the annual fees of the Trustee, and expenses incurred by the Trustee in the discharge of its duties and the exercise of its powers as set out in this Agreement, the Fee Schedule being contained in Schedule A; and
- (c) third, in periodic disbursements payable in accordance with the terms of this Agreement to an Educational Institution, a Former Youth in Care, or the Province for the purposes of this Agreement.

- 6.02** The Trustee will make the payments contemplated under section 6.01(c) from both the returns, as defined in *The Victoria Foundation Act*, of the Trust Fund and the capital of the Trust Fund.
- 6.03** All payments by the Trustee from the Trust Fund will be made, and deemed made, first out of returns and second out of capital of the Trust Fund.
- 6.04** All disputes arising out of or in connection with section 6.01 will be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration administered by the British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre pursuant to its "Rules of Procedure".
- 6.05** The place of arbitration will be Victoria, British Columbia

ARTICLE VII

ADDITIONAL POWERS OF THE TRUSTEE

- 7.01** The Trustee is vested with all powers, rights and authority necessary or desirable to enable the Trustee to carry out the purposes of the Trust, to administer the Trust Fund and to carry out its obligations and exercise its rights under this Agreement, including, without limiting the preceding, the power, right and authority throughout the duration of the Trust to receive gifts, donations and bequests for the purposes of the Trust from any individual or other source, including the Province, and, if authorized to do so under the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*, to provide an official receipt for income tax purposes in respect of all charitable donations for the purposes of the Trust.

ARTICLE VIII

RECORDS, REPORTS, AND AUDIT

- 8.01** The Trustee will establish and maintain accurate books of account and records relating to the Trust Fund (including supporting documents) to the reasonable satisfaction of the Province.
- 8.02** The Trustee will submit to the Province:
- (a) quarterly, during each Trustee Fiscal Year,
 - (i) fund management reports for the Trust Fund, and
 - (ii) fund disbursement reports listing all Trust Fund disbursements made by the Trustee; and
 - (b) for each Trustee Fiscal Year, no later than 120 days after the end of the Trustee Fiscal Year, the Trustee's annual financial statement, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- 8.03** In addition, the Trustee, upon the request, from time to time, of the Province, will fully inform the Province of the financial status of the Trust Fund.

- 8.04** The Trustee will fully co-operate with the Province in the conduct of any audit of the investment of the Trust Fund the Province may determine to conduct.

ARTICLE IX

CHANGE OF TRUSTEE

- 9.01** The Trustee may be removed by the Province at any time by giving at least 90 days notice in writing to the Trustee, or such lesser period of notice as is acceptable to the Trustee.
- 9.02** The notice described in section 9.01 will:
- (a) specify the effective date of termination of the Trustee;
 - (b) designate the successor Trustee; and
 - (c) be accompanied by the successor Trustee's acceptance of, and agreement with, all the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 9.03** The Trustee may resign at any time by giving at least 90 days notice in writing to the Province, or such lesser period of time as is acceptable to the Province, and such notice will specify the effective date of resignation.
- 9.04** Following receipt of the notice described in section 9.03 and before the effective date of resignation of the Trustee, the Province will designate a successor Trustee and provide the Trustee with the successor Trustee's acceptance of, and agreement with, all the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 9.05** Upon its removal or resignation, the Trustee will perform all acts necessary to transfer the assets of the Trust Fund to the successor Trustee.

ARTICLE X

VARIATION AND REVOCATION OF THE TRUST

- 10.01** Any term of the Trust Agreement may be varied, amended, or altered at the request of the Province and implementation by the Trustee, after full consultation and, so far as the duties, powers and rights of the Trustee are concerned, with the agreement of the Trustee.
- 10.02** This Trust may be revoked by the Province if at any time the Province determines that the purposes of the Trust are no longer capable of being carried out, or they are no longer in accord with decided Provincial policy.
- 10.03** If the Trust is revoked, any unspent balance of the Trust Fund, subject to section 3.02, is to be applied by the Trustee to such charitable purpose as the Province directs.
- 10.04** Prior to a revocation in accordance with section 10.02, the Trust is irrevocable.

ARTICLE XI

MISCELLANEOUS

- 11.01** Any public announcement relating to this Agreement will be arranged by the Province, in consultation with the Trustee.
- 11.02** The Trustee will treat as confidential and will not, without the prior written consent of the Province, publish, release or disclose or permit to be published, released or disclosed either before or after the expiration or sooner termination of this Agreement, any records relating to this Agreement and any information supplied to, obtained by, or which comes to the knowledge of the Trustee as a result of this Agreement except insofar as such publication, release or disclosure is public knowledge, required by law or necessary to enable the Trustee to fulfill the obligations of the Trustee under this Agreement or necessary to comply with the provisions of *The Victoria Foundation Act*, or the Trustee's established disclosure policies.
- 11.03** Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, any notice, consent, approval, instruction, authorization, direction, waiver, statement, report, demand, other document or payment desired or required to be given or made under this Agreement will be in writing and conclusively deemed validly given or delivered to and received by the addressee:
- (a) if delivered personally, on the date of delivery; or
 - (b) if transmitted by facsimile transmission, on the date; or
 - (c) if transmitted by electronic mail, on the date

received; addressed, as the case may be, to the Province:

Assistant Deputy Minister
4th Floor -765 Broughton Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9S2

or to the Trustee:

Chief Executive Officer
The Victoria Foundation
109-645 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1G2

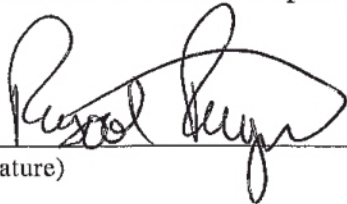
- 11.04** Any party may, from time to time, give to the other parties written notice of any change of address or facsimile transmission number or electronic mail address of the party giving such notice and from and after the giving of such notice the address or facsimile transmission number therein specified will, for purposes of the preceding section, be deemed to be the address of the party giving such notice.

- 11.05** A reference to a statute in this Agreement, whether or not that statute has been defined, means a statute of the Province of British Columbia unless otherwise stated and includes every amendment to it, every regulation made under it and any enactment passed in substitution therefore or in replacement thereof.
- 11.06** Unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to any section or subsection by number is a reference to the appropriate section or subsection in this Agreement.
- 11.07** The headings or captions in this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and do not form a part of this Agreement and in no way define, limit, alter or enlarge the scope or meaning of any provision of this Agreement.
- 11.08** In this Agreement, "person" includes a corporation, firm, association and any other legal entity and wherever the singular or masculine is used it will be construed as if the plural or the feminine or the neuter, as the case may be, had been used where the context or the parties so require.
- 11.09** Schedule A attached to this Agreement is an integral part of this Agreement as if set out at length in the body of the Agreement.
- 11.10** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and no understandings, representations or agreements, oral or otherwise, exist between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement except as expressly set out in this Agreement.
- 11.11** Each of the parties will, upon the reasonable request of the other, make, do, execute or cause to be made, done or executed all further and other lawful acts, deeds, things, devices, documents, instruments and assurances whatever for the better or more perfect and absolute performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 11.12** If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of this Agreement and the application of such provision to any other person or circumstance will not be affected or impaired thereby and will be valid and enforceable to the extent permitted by law.
- 11.13** This Agreement will enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Province, and its assigns and the Trustee and its successors and permitted assigns.
- 11.14** All dollar amounts expressed in this Agreement refer to lawful currency of Canada.
- 11.15** All discretions and the obligations of the Province under this Agreement may be exercised or performed by the Minister, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Child and Family Development, or any person authorized to act for or on their behalf with respect to any matter under this Agreement.

11.16 This Agreement will be governed by and construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date and year first above written:

THE common seal of the)
Victoria Foundation)
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:)



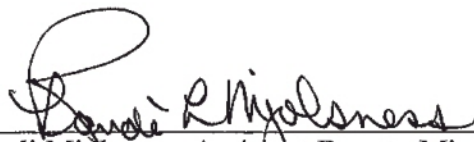
(Signature)

(c/s)

Chair of the Board
(Title)

SIGNED on behalf of Her Majesty)
the Queen in right of the Province)
of British Columbia by an Assistant)
Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Children)
and Family Development in the)
presence of:)


(Witness)


Randi Mjolsness, Assistant Deputy Minister

SCHEDULE A

Fee Schedule

1. Fees, including all such expenses as the Trustee may incur in respect of the management and administration of the Trust Fund, payable from the Trust Fund to the Trustee in respect of each year during which the Trustee acts as Trustee of the Trust Fund will be the greater of \$2500 or the amount calculated at the rate of 1.0 % per annum for each year based on the market value of the Trust Fund as at December 31st.
2. Notwithstanding subsection 1 of this Schedule A, a pro rated share of fees payable in accordance with that section will be payable from the Trust Fund to the Trustee in respect of any part year during which the Trustee acts as Trustee of the Trust Fund.
3. The fees described in paragraph 1 of this Schedule A constitute the maximum amounts payable to the Trustee under this Agreement.

Learning Fund for Young Adults (LFYA)

Description

- The Learning Fund for Young Adults (LFYA) was created for those with significant involvement with the BC child protection system as an adjunct to the British Columbia Training and Education Savings Grant (BCTESG) which provides grants of \$1200 to Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) accounts upon application on behalf of eligible children at or about age 6.
- Government's annual LFYA contributions are \$1200 times the count of children in qualifying care statuses at age 6. Funds are invested as a pool and are not tied to individual children.
- The LFYA was intended to be low-barrier and less restrictive than a RESP.

Eligibility

Age: 17 to 36 years (inclusive)

- The first cohort of applicants (those born after January 1, 2006) will be eligible to apply for funding in 2023.

Care Experience:

- 12 months in qualifying care statuses between birth and 19th birthday:
 - Interim Custody Order
 - Temporary Custody Order
 - Continuing Custody Order
 - Under the guardianship of a director pursuant to the *Infants Act*
 - Under the guardianship of a director pursuant to the *Adoption Act*
- Eligibility excludes care statuses under Part 2 of the *Child, Family and Community Services Act* (i.e. Voluntary Care Agreements (VCA), Special Needs Agreements (SNA), and Extended Family Placements (EFP)) as well as Permanent Transfers of Custody under sections 54 and 54.01 and Adoption.

Administration

- Procedures for administration and policies guiding the disbursement of funds have yet to be determined.
- MCFD is considering changes in regulations to align eligible care statuses with those for the future state AYA program.

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

DATE: September 2, 2022

CLIFF#: 272472

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

ISSUE: Suggested CYSN content and website link for Autism Information Services' Quick Start Guide

BACKGROUND:

Autism Information Services (AIS) is updating their Quick Start Guide (Guide), a guide that helps parents and caregivers understand autism spectrum disorder and the related services available.

DISCUSSION:

AIS would like to include information on the CYSN transformation in the Guide. It is recommended that a static paragraph describing the transformation be added to the Guide followed by a hyperlink to the CYSN website page '*What to expect during the change to family connections centres*' [Attachment A]. Adding the hyperlink will provide parents and caregivers with up-to-date information regarding the transformation.

NEXT STEPS:

Approved content and website link [Attachment A] will be shared with AIS.

ATTACHMENTS (if applicable):

- A. Suggested content and website link for Autism Information Services' Quick Start Guide

Contact	Alternate Contact	Prepared by:	Staff Consulted:
Assistant Deputy Minister: <i>Carolyn Kamper</i>	for content: <i>Holli Ward</i> <i>Director</i>	<i>Maja Langrish</i> <i>Manager</i>	<i>Erika Morrison, A/Director</i> <i>Holli Ward, Director</i> <i>Danielle Smith, Executive</i> <i>Director</i>
<i>Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division</i>	<i>Early Years, Indigenous Early Years and Inclusion Policy</i>	<i>Early Years, Indigenous Early Years and Inclusion Policy</i>	
<i>778 698-8835</i>	<i>778 974-2981</i>	<i>236-468-3233</i>	

ATTACHMENT A:

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is improving services for children and youth with support needs. The shift to a needs-based approach will mean that every child and youth can access the supports and services they need, when they need it, up to age 19, and in every part of the province. For more information about this shift and when changes will happen please visit - [What to expect during the change to family connections centres - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/child/familydev/familyconnections/what-to-expect-during-the-change-to-family-connections-centres)

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

DATE: August 16, 2022

CLIFF#: 272034

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

ISSUE: Establishing a Workforce Collaborative initiative to support the new CYSN Service Model

BACKGROUND:

Recruitment and retention of occupational and physical therapists (OT, PT) and speech-language pathologists (SLP) has been a long-standing issue in publicly funded organizations delivering paediatric services (e.g., child development centres, health authorities, and boards of education). A trained and sustainable workforce will be a critical success factor in the transformation from diagnosis-based to needs-based system.

In April, 2022, Ministry staff met with representatives from several therapy associations in British Columbia: Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists BC Chapter (CAOT-BC), Physiotherapy Association of BC (PABC), BC Children's Hospital (BCCH), and Speech and Hearing BC (SHBC). The therapy associations expressed interest in continuing to meet to discuss strategies to support recruitment and retention of therapeutic professionals as part of the transition to family connections centres. Current issues raised for future discussions based on their membership relate to: potential gaps in service, family and therapist autonomy, and therapist recruitment and retention. The associations proposed several solutions at the meeting: more consultation and information-sharing with therapists, preserving existing relationships, and developing recruitment and retention strategies.

In June 2022, Ministry staff met with Jason Gordon of BCACDI to learn more about a previous proposal submitted to the Ministry prior to the CYSN transformation which outlined potential strategies to support recruitment and retention in the field including regional peer support for new graduates, partnership with UBC in sharing opportunities with graduates, and updates to the TherapyBC website. Jason also indicated support for establishing a network of professionals to work towards implementing strategies that support the recruitment and retention of staff within family connection centres.

Behavioural support professionals do not have a professional body which provides oversight as compared to PT/OT and Speech Language professionals. Given the lack of provincial leadership in this field of expertise, the recent announcements of the family connection centres have left many independent professionals without accurate and regular communication as to the workforce opportunities available in family connection centres. Initial discussions with registered autism service provider (RASP) committee of the ministry indicates these professionals have a desire to have accurate ongoing information on family connection centres to inform participation in the family connection centre workforce.

DISCUSSION:

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**Contact
Assistant Deputy
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