

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

**DATE:** April 25, 2023  
**CLIFF#:** 278575

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

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

**DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING:** May 3, 2023, 4:10 to 4:30, Legislature

**ISSUE(S):** Request from the South Island Coalition of Neighborhood Houses to hear of the work of Neighborhood Houses.

**BACKGROUND:**

There is a strong connection between front line Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) Social Workers and Neighborhood Houses, with local meetings occurring and direct connection with Neighborhood House supervisors should issues or concerns arise.

Neighbourhood Houses are very engaged, and always want to understand MCFD needs, patterns, and themes to respond to needs.

There is a strong utilization of programs by MCFD with a wide scope of services offered, with flexibility in their approach to meet needs of community and MCFD.

**DISCUSSION:**

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**SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

**s.13**

**ATTACHMENTS: N/A**

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

**DATE:** May 9, 2023

**CLIFF#:** 278906

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

**DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING:** May 9, 2023 at 12:30

**ISSUE:** Meeting with Starbright Child Development Centre

**BACKGROUND:**

On Oct. 27, 2021, government announced a new approach to services for children and youth with support needs in B.C. The new approach outlines children, youth, and their families will be able to quickly access information, expert intervention, and therapies from birth to age 19, based on their needs and regardless of whether their child has a formal diagnosis.

On November 25, 2022, Premier Eby and Minister Dean announced that the province-wide rollout was paused, except for the four pilot areas. The family connections centres (FCCs) in the pilot areas will be part of an extended observation and evaluation. Families in these areas will have access to services in the centres, and families already receiving government funding or services can opt into services or keep receiving their current funding.

After an anonymized process, ministry staff selected the service provider most suited to deliver the FCC services in each of the four pilot areas. The four FCCs are expected to begin offering services in their respective areas in spring 2023.

Budget of FCC pilots: (all contracts are 3 years, with two 1-year options)

- ARC Programs Ltd
- North Coast Community Services Society
- Terrace Child Development Centre Society
- Northwest Child Development Centre Society

Starbright Children's Development Centre in Kelowna is a non-profit organization providing services for children aged 6 and under with a variety of support needs. Starbright has been operating for 57 years. Following the announcement of ARC Programs receiving the FCC contract, Starbright indicated that it would be forced to close because of its MCFD funding not being renewed.

Subsequently, Starbright agreed to an extension of its service agreement where Starbright will operate in parallel with ARC Programs, which will provide services to children from birth to 19 years of age.

**DISCUSSION:**

On February 3, 2023 the Ministry and Starbright agreed on an extension of the existing contract for a term of two years plus an optional one-year extension. It came to the Ministry's attention that there were still ongoing concerns from the community related to the stability of services. The Ministry met with Starbright to better understand the ongoing concerns.

On May 3, ADM Carolyn Kamper sent a letter to Carol Meise and Rhonda Nelson acknowledging the concerns raised by Starbright, the expertise they offer the under 6 population and offered a number of touch points with the Ministry and Starbright in addition to meeting with local MCFD leadership.

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**SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

**s.13**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. IBN From Starbright on Contract considerations

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