MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT MEETING NOTE

DATE: March 15, 2024

CLIFF#: 287683

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: April 10, 2024, 3:00 pm via MS Teams Meeting

ISSUE(S): The Centre of Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) Canada contacted the office of the Honourable Minister, Grace Lore, to discuss children and youth with support needs, the work done by their community partners who support them, and how we can work together to improve the system for all.

BACKGROUND:

CIJA is a Jewish advocacy organization. CIJA is an agency of the Jewish Federation of Canada located in Ontario, Canada. The Jewish Federation of Canada has ten Federated Jewish Communities and four regional council partners across Canada. There are two Federated Jewish Communities in BC located in Victoria and Vancouver. Each Federation assumes responsibility for local community planning, financial resource development, and allocations which support a network of social service agencies, schools, and community centres.

CIJA represents the Jewish Federations across Canada. CIJA designs and implements strategies to ensure leaders in government, media, civil society, business, and academia understand the Jewish perspective and that it is considered in Canada's public policy discussion.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver is located within the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) in Vancouver. The role of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver is to fundraise to provide support services to their members through the JCC and other Jewish organizations. The JCC provides a range of family services that include early childhood support for children and parents, out of school care, and physical activities.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) in Vancouver does not have a direct working relationship with CIJA, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, or the JCC. We do not contract with them directly for services. Families with a Jewish background receiving MCFD's mandated services also access supports through the JCC. There may be more families of Jewish background accessing MCFD's voluntary services through Child and Youth with Support Needs, that are connected to the JCC for supports, of which we are not aware.

The JCC has a good reputation in the community among Jewish and non-Jewish service recipients. The JCC is inclusive to all backgrounds regarding most of its community services.

Contact	Alternate Contact	Prepared by:	Staff Consulted:
Assistant Deputy Minister:	for content:		
Kelly Durand	Diane Livingstone	Eliot Gonzalez	
Service Delivery	Executive Director of	Director of Operations	
	Service		
250-398-0023	778-572-4122	778-572-4139	



February 12, 2024

Hon. Grace Lore Minister of Children and Family Development Room 028 Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Lore,

This is an important year for British Columbians who are scheduled to head to the polls in October. Many are looking for their elected leaders to speak to their challenges with affordability, housing, public safety, and finding supports for loved ones who require help. For the 40,000 members of B.C.'s Jewish community, we struggle with the same issues along with the need for culturally appropriate services and combatting the rising tide of antisemitism.

As the advocacy agent for the organized Jewish community in B.C. and across Canada, we have spoken with our partner agencies who serve children and youth with support needs and their families. Due to inflation and cost of living crisis, they rely more on service providers that are operating under a challenging fiscal environment. We have gathered their input and are pleased to present you with the accompanying Jewish Community Priorities Guide for 2024.

Together, and often with multipartisan support, we have accomplished a lot. Recently we have seen a \$25 million investment for the Jewish Community Centre redevelopment project, the announced rollout of the racist incident helpline and the inclusion of mandatory Holocaust education in the provincial K-12 curriculum. We thank you for your partnership and hope to continue our collaborative relationship with all parties represented at the BC Legislature.

We would be pleased to meet with you before the end of the spring legislative session to discuss how we can all work together to serve those who are most in need in all communities. To schedule a meeting, you can contact us at nslobinsky@cija.ca or 604-622-4240.

We wish you a wonderful 2024 and hope to hear from you soon.

Warmest Regards,

Nico Slobinsky

Vice President **CIJA Pacific Region** **David Decolongon**

Associate Director, Policy and Communications

CIJA Pacific Region



Jewish Community Priorities Guide

British Columbia 2024



Nico Slobinsky

Vice President, Pacific Region
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

Email: nslobinsky@cija.ca Phone: 604-622-4240 ext 394

Twitter: @nicoslobinsky

David Decolongon

Associate Director, Policy and Communications, Pacific Region The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

Email: ddecolongon@cija.ca Phone: 604-622-4240 ext 392

Twitter: @blandcouverite

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Contact us at info@cija.ca



Jewish Community Priorities Guide

British Columbia 2024

Canadian. Jewish. Advocacy.

Page 07 of 32 to/à Page 17 of 32

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Canadian. Advocacy.

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From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX(Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca)

To: Cain, Krista A MCF:EX (Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca); Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX

(Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)

To: Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX (Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: FW: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

Sent: 03/05/2024 21:32:00

Hello!

Please see the below meeting that we have scheduled on April 10th at 3:00 p.m. Desmond is requesting DMO staff to attend and an MN. No pre-brief is required for this one. Attendees from the Centre to be confirmed.

Thanks, Kayla

From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:28 PM

To: 'Sarah Mackenzie' <smackenzie@CIJA.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

Hi Sarah.

Unfortunately, I cannot send an invite from my calendar, but please see below for the MS Teams Link for the meeting on April 10th at 3:00 p.m. I look forward to receiving your list of attendees closer to, and we will provide ours.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

s. 15

Best, Kayla

From: Sarah Mackenzie < smackenzie@CIJA.ca >

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:54 AM

To: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca >

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

You don't often get email from smackenzie@cija.ca. Learn why this is important

EXTERNAL! This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links

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Dear Kayla,

Thank you for your swift reply. Please send the calendar invite for the meeting on April 10 at 3pm via MS Teams, and I will keep you updated as to our community partner list of attendees as we are able to schedule them.

Warm thanks. Sarah

Sarah Mackenzie (she/her)

Program Coordinator

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

M: 672-699-0196

CIJA.ca / twitter / facebook / instagram

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From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:29 AM To: Sarah Mackenzie <smackenzie@CIJA.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

Hi Sarah,

Unfortunately, due to the Minister's busy schedule and new file, we are unable to meet at your offices in Vancouver. At this time, we can offer 30 minutes via MS Teams or in person at the Legislature. With regards to touring one of your family or childcare facilities, is there a location in Victoria?

Thank you for your help in coordinating this meeting.

Best,

Kayla

From: Sarah Mackenzie <smackenzie@CIJA.ca> Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:15 AM

To: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

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This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Kayla,

Thank you for reaching out to schedule this meeting, we will be pleased to gather community partners for the meeting with Minister Lore on April 10. 2024 at 3:00 pm.

- How much time will the Minister have for this meeting?
- Would the minister like to visit our offices in the Jewish Community Centre in Vancouver? We would be delighted to host.
- Is it possible to tour one of our family or childcare facilities with her?

Thank you for letting me know, Sarah

Sarah Mackenzie (she/her)

Program Coordinator

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

M: 672-699-0196

CIJA.ca / twitter / facebook / instagram

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From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Sarah Mackenzie <smackenzie@CIJA.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

Good afternoon Sarah,

Further to the emails below, I am hoping you could assist in scheduling a meeting between Minister Lore and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs. We would also like to invite the community service providers that work closely with the Centre to join this meeting as well. Minister Lore would be available to meet on April 10th at 3:00 p.m.

Please let me know if this date will work on your end.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

With thanks,

Kayla





BRITISH COLUMBIA Kayla Smith (she/her)

Administrative Coordinator

To the Honourable Grace Lore
Minister of Children and Family Development
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
C: 778-679-3134 E: Kayla.a.smith@gov.bc.ca

Grateful to be living, learning and working on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples.

From: David Decolongon < ddecolongon@CIJA.ca >

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 2:08 PM

To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX < MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca >

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>

Subject: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

You don't often get email from ddecolongon@cija.ca. Learn why this is important

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister Lore,

Congratulation on your recent appointment as Minister for Children and Family Development. We hope that you are keeping well as you prepare for the upcoming spring legislative session. Today, we are

pleased to present you with CIJA Pacific Region's Jewish Community Priorities Guide for 2024.

For further details, please read the letter that we have also attached to this email.

We are also writing to request a meeting with you to discuss children and youth with support needs, the great work being done by our community partners who serve them, and how we can work together to improve the system for all.

Kind Regards,

David Decolongon (he/him)

Associate Director, Policy and Communications, Pacific Region The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

O: 604 622 4240 / M: 236 339 8303 CIJA.ca / twitter / facebook / instagram

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From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX(Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca)

Pollard, Desmond MCF:EX (Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca); Maher, Melissa MCF:EX

To: (Melissa.Maher@gov.bc.ca); Wathanafa, Nubwa MCF:EX (Nubwa.Wathanafa@gov.bc.ca);

Green, Jesse MCF:EX (Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: FW: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

Sent: 03/05/2024 19:20:30

Hello!

Please see Sarah's email below re: meeting with the Jewish Community Centre and advise on how you would like me to proceed/answer Sarah's questions.

Thanks,

Kayla

From: Sarah Mackenzie <smackenzie@CIJA.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 11:15 AM

To: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla. A. Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

You don't often get email from smackenzie@cija.ca. Learn why this is important

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- · How much time will the Minister have for this meeting?
- Would the minister like to visit our offices in the Jewish Community Centre in Vancouver? We would be delighted to host.
- · Is it possible to tour one of our family or childcare facilities with her?

Thank you for letting me know, Sarah

Sarah Mackenzie (she/her)

Program Coordinator
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

M: 672-699-0196

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From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 10:54 AM
To: Sarah Mackenzie <smackenzie@CIJA.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

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providers that work closely with the Centre to join this meeting as well. Minister Lore would be available to meet on April 10th at 3:00 p.m.

Please let me know if this date will work on your end.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

With thanks,

Kayla





BRITISH COLUMBIA Kayla Smith (she/her)

Administrative Coordinator

To the Honourable Grace Lore
Minister of Children and Family Development
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
C: 778-679-3134 E: Kayla.a.smith@gov.bc.ca

Grateful to be living, learning and working on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples.

From: David Decolongon < ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 2:08 PM

To: Minister, MCF MCF:EX < MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca >

Cc: Nico Slobinsky < nslobinsky@cija.ca >

Subject: 2024 Jewish Community Priorities Guide

You don't often get email from decolongon@cija.ca. Learn why this is important

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Minister Lore.

Congratulation on your recent appointment as Minister for Children and Family Development. We hope that you are keeping well as you prepare for the upcoming spring legislative session. Today, we are pleased to present you with CIJA Pacific Region's *Jewish Community Priorities Guide* for 2024.

For further details, please read the letter that we have also attached to this email.

We are also writing to request a meeting with you to discuss children and youth with support needs, the great work being done by our community partners who serve them, and how we can work together to improve the system for all.

Kind Regards,

David Decolongon (he/him)

Associate Director, Policy and Communications, Pacific Region The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

O: 604 622 4240 / M: 236 339 8303 CIJA.ca / twitter / facebook / instagram

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From: Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX(Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)

To: Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX (Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca); Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX

(Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca)

Pollard, Desmond MCF:EX (Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca); Wathanafa, Nubwa

To: MCF:EX (Nubwa.Wathanafa@gov.bc.ca); Maher, Melissa MCF:EX

(Melissa.Maher@gov.bc.ca); Green, Jesse MCF:EX (Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: Materials for meeting with Centre of Israel and Jewish Affairs

Sent: 04/08/2024 22:50:02

Attachments: 287683 The Centre of Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).docx

Hello!

Materials for this meeting Wednesday are here and attached.

Thanks! Kenna From: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX(Kayla.A.Smith@gov.bc.ca)

Pollard, Desmond MCF:EX (Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca); Maher, Melissa MCF:EX

(Melissa.Maher@gov.bc.ca); Green, Jesse MCF:EX (Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca)

To: Cain, Krista A MCF:EX (Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: FW: Discussion Topics for 3:00 pm Meeting w/ Minister Lore

Sent: 04/10/2024 18:44:09

Attachments: 2024-04-10 - Meeting with Minister Grace Lore.pdf

Hi all,

Please see the attached note with discussion pieces from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs ahead of today's meeting at 3:00. I have added this to MGL's calendar.

Thanks,



To the Honourable Grace Lore
Minister of Children and Family Development
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
C: 778-679-3134 E: Kayla.a.smith@gov.bc.ca

Grateful to be living, learning and working on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples.

From: David Decolongon <ddecolongon@CIJA.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:50 AM

To: Smith, Kayla A MCF:EX < Kayla. A. Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>; Sarah Mackenzie <smackenzie@CIJA.ca>

Subject: Discussion Topics for 3:00 pm Meeting w/ Minister Lore

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Kayla,

We're looking forward to today's meeting with Minister Lore. As mentioned, we will be joined by a community service provider, Tanja Demajo, who is the CEO for Jewish Family Services.

For ease of the Minister and her staff, we have drafted a note with some of our discussion pieces so they can follow along.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

David Decolongon (he/him)

Associate Director, Policy and Communications, Pacific Region The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)

O: 604 622 4240 / M: 236 339 8303 CIJA.ca / twitter / facebook / instagram





Discussion Topics for Meeting with Minister Grace Lore, CIJA, and JFS

Wednesday April 10, 2024

re: Jewish Community Priorities Guide and Emerging Issues

Introduction

- B.C.'s Jewish community is comprised of approximately 40,000 people, with its largest communities in Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District.
 - o Victoria is one of the fastest growing Jewish communities in the country.
- The community has 38 distinct organizations that serve its childcare, education, housing, programming, cultural, food dignity, spiritual, and other needs. However, these services are open to the wider public.
- According to the previous census, the poverty rate in the community is 18.2% which was consistent with the provincial poverty rate at the time.
- Our community organizations are seeing an increase in demand for services while operating in a more challenging fiscal environment.
- Consistent with the wider non-profit sector, 75% of employees in our community organizations identify as women.

Discussion Topics

Economic Challenges for Families

- While affordability is a concern for many British Columbians, the challenges are often acute for families with children and youth with support needs.
- Measures to ease economic barriers such as support for appropriate childcare services and raising income and disability assistance may provide some relief.

Cultural Appropriateness

- Families with children and youth with support needs in the Jewish community may face barriers
 to participating in community life and require additional resources to meaningfully include their
 children.
- In March, MCFD opened two calls for response for CYSN Agency Respite Services and Parenting and Family Supports. These two measures would provide relief to both service providers and families.
- Widening access to support through more readily available assessment services may alleviate barriers for families.

Antisemitism

- After October 7, the Jewish community in B.C. faced a rapid increase in antisemitism but had broad government support. However, the recent weeks and months have been challenging for the relationship between the community and government.
- The most vulnerable in the Jewish community rely on a strong relationship between its service providers and the B.C. government.

 A provincial government plan to address antisemitism in K-12, post-secondary institutions, and the BC Public Services would enhance the work between the government and our partner agencies.

Recommendations

- Provide resources to meaningfully include children and youth with support needs in childcare and increase financial support to families.
- Ensure that respite opportunities are inclusive of the experiences of racialized and ethnocultural communities.
- Increase resources so families can access timely assessments for their children.

Next Steps

- MCFD is currently in a period of deep consultation for its redesign of its system of support for children and youth with support needs, and our network of partner agencies want to provide their experiences. Can MCFD advise how we can meaningfully engage in these consultations?
- There are other service providers and institutions in the community who interface with children and youth with support needs who may want to contribute to this conversation. We may want to consider a roundtable or more in-depth conversation.
- Can MCFD provide us with any advice on any possible applications for their March calls for response on CYSN Agency Coordinate Respite Services and CYSN Parenting and Family Supports?

Maher, Melissa MCF:EX(Melissa.Maher@gov.bc.ca) From:

Livingstone, Diane MCF:EX (Diane.Livingstone@gov.bc.ca); Pollard, Desmond MCF:EX To:

(Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca)

To: Wathanafa, Nubwa MCF:EX (Nubwa.Wathanafa@gov.bc.ca)

Subject: RE: closing the circle on CIJA meeting

04/11/2024 16:34:12 Sent:

Now adding Nubwa 😊 😇

From: Maher, Melissa MCF:EX

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:26 AM

To: Livingstone, Diane MCF:EX <Diane.Livingstone@gov.bc.ca>; Pollard, Desmond MCF:EX

<Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: closing the circle on CIJA meeting

Hi Diane,

Just looping in our MA Nubwa who is lead on the CYSN file.

Thank you again,



Melissa Maher (she/her)

Senior Advisor Honourable Grace Lore Minister of Children and Family Development

Mobile: (250) 886-0374

Email: melissa.maher@gov.bc.ca

From: Livingstone, Diane MCF:EX < Diane.Livingstone@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:35 PM

To: Maher, Melissa MCF:EX < Melissa.Maher@gov.bc.ca >; Pollard, Desmond MCF:EX

<Desmond.Pollard@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: closing the circle on CIJA meeting

Hi Melissa and Desmond

Just an fyi that I now have Tanya's email address from David at CIJA and my EA is going to set up a meeting with her and my Directors and myself to build partnership opportunities.

CIJA has asked to be part of that meeting which we will include them in but I wanted you to be aware of that as they are a different level than service delivery as an agency.

I have clearly outlined that my staff and I work in the service delivery end of MCFD and that our conversations with Tanya would be service oriented. Hopefully post first meeting they will get that clearly and if they have other agencies who support families we can connect with we are always open to that opportunity.

If you could please let me know when someone from the MO has sent them information on community consultation regarding CYSN so that I can reinforce with them that this is our Ministry mechanism for feedback into the model.

Thank you kindly,

Diane Livingstone (she/her) Executive Director of Service, Vancouver Coastal Ministry of Children and Family Development

304-221 West Esplanade North Vancouver BC **phone:** 778-572 4122 fax: 604-981-0005

Switchboard 604-981-0008

With grateful acknowledgement that I am privileged to live and work on the lands of the səlilwətał (Tsleil Waututh), skwxwúzmesh (Squamish) x"məθk"əyəm (Musqueam), Stl'atl'ixm (Lil'wat, Samahquam, Skatin, Xa'xtsa and N'Quatqua), shishálh, Tla'amin, Nuxalk, Kitasoo, Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv Nations.