

# MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

# TRANSITION BINDER



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

2022

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## MINISTRY PROFILE

### Ministry of Children and Family Development

#### Ministry:

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) focuses on services and supports to children, youth and families through a variety of services delivered through a network of Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, service providers, foster parents and partners.

#### Ministry Mandate:

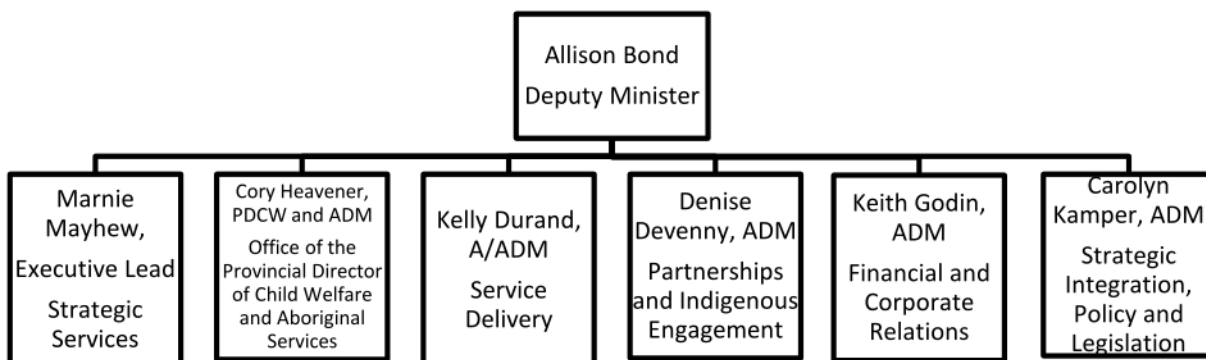
MCFD works with children, families and communities and our vision is: Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth in British Columbia live in safe, healthy and nurturing families and are strongly connected to their communities and culture.

MCFD is a large ministry of more than 4,000 people and almost 200 offices. Ministry programs and services are coordinated through a provincial office located in Victoria and are delivered through 13 geographic Service Delivery Areas. MCFD works in partnership with other ministries, Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, Indigenous communities, approximately 5,400 contracted community social service agencies and foster homes.

The Ministry serves more than 175,000 children, youth and families through a variety of services that include: prevention and family support, children and youth with special needs, child and youth mental health, youth justice, youth and young adult services, and services for children in care.

Full Time Equivalents: 4067.49

#### Executive Organizational Chart:





Budget:

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Early Childhood Development	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	441,091	480,381	486,404	488,582
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	119,471	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	807,579	835,781	841,170	851,015
Adoption Services	35,829	36,451	36,451	36,451
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	152,195	161,426	161,426	161,426
Executive & Support Services	16,730	16,959	16,967	16,967

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>1,742,045</b>	<b>1,756,191</b>	<b>1,768,214</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Service Delivery Support	527	1,000	884	884
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive &amp; Support Services</b> (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Allison Bond  
Deputy Minister  
Deputy Minister's Office  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Allison has worked for the BC Public Service for more than 30 years and started her career as a research officer. She was first appointed Assistant Deputy Minister in 1999. From 1999 to 2017, Allison's Assistant Deputy Minister portfolios included land and resource information management, negotiations with First Nations, public consultation, program transformation, service delivery, and devolution of a federal program.

Allison is passionate about transforming services so they better meet the needs of all British Columbians. Allison led the Homelessness Intervention Project, which won a national service delivery award in 2011. In 2012, Allison was the recipient of the IPAC Lieutenant Governor's Silver Medal for Excellence in Public Service.

In 2017, Allison was appointed Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Allison Bond received an undergraduate degree from Mount Allison University, a Law Degree from the University of Victoria, and a Master's in Law from McGill University.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Cory Heavener

Provincial Director of Child Welfare and Assistant Deputy Minister  
Office of the Provincial Director and Aboriginal Services Division  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Cory was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) and the Provincial Director of Child Welfare in September 2013. Her primary responsibility as the Provincial Director of Child Welfare is acting as the central point of contact and accountability for child welfare practice in the province.

Prior to assuming this role, Cory was the ADM for the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence where she was responsible for leading a coordinated approach across government to improving and strengthening the services and supports for children, women and families affected by domestic violence.

Between 2007–2012, Cory worked at the Representative for Children and Youth Office (RCY) where she was Director of Critical Injury and Death Reviews and Investigations. During her time at the RCY she led two key investigations and reports centered on domestic violence: “No Private Matter: Honouring Christian Lee” and “Honouring Kaitlynn, Max, and Cordon – Make Their Voices Heard Now.”

Prior to her appointment at RCY, Cory served as the Associate Provincial Director of Child Welfare at MCFD. Cory has a lengthy career in child welfare in British Columbia and began her career as a child protection social worker over 30 years ago.

Personal Information

Personal Information

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Carolyn Kamper  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Carolyn Kamper was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation division in the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) in October 2020. Before this role, Carolyn was the ADM of the Strategic Priorities division in MCFD from March 2017 to September 2020.

During her 20-plus year career with the BC Public Service, Carolyn provided leadership on several large stakeholder engagement projects and business transformation initiatives across the social, health and resource sectors.

Prior to Carolyn's appointment as ADM, she held Executive Director positions in MCFD and the former Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation with responsibility for strategic planning, social innovation, project and change management, communications, and stakeholder engagement. Her experience in the BC Public Service includes leadership roles in climate action, energy, health, advanced education, child welfare, employment programming, as well as the Office of the Premier (the Crown Agencies Secretariat, the Deputy Minister's Policy Secretariat, and the Climate Action Secretariat).

Carolyn holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Royal Roads University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Victoria.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Denise Devenny  
 Assistant Deputy Minister  
 Partnership and Indigenous Engagement  
 Ministry of Children and Family Development

Denise Devenny is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division. Denise is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation in Manitoba and moved to British Columbia over 20 years ago after finishing her social work degree at the University of Manitoba. Denise started her career with the Ministry of Children and Family Development as a front-line child protection social worker and has had the opportunity to hold a variety of roles within the ministry since that time.

In 2002, Denise became a practice analyst providing practice support to the Delegated Aboriginal Agencies in the Interior, moving to Victoria in 2004 to continue working with the Aboriginal Policy and Support team, taking on the roles of Quality Assurance Manager and acting Deputy Director. Denise worked as a Community Services Manager and for the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence before returning to Aboriginal Services Branch in 2012 as Senior Director and Executive Director.

Since 2017 Denise has worked with Indigenous communities, first as Executive Lead and then as Assistant Deputy Minister (2019), as the Ministry works in partnership to support Indigenous peoples as they chart their own paths regarding child and family jurisdiction and authority. Denise leads a small team which is responsible for:

- the development of agreements with Indigenous communities under the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, and the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*;
- the implementation of the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework; and
- Intergovernmental Relations.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Kelly Durand  
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister  
Service Delivery Division  
Ministry of Children & Family Development

Kelly was appointed Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Service Delivery Division in July 2022. Since joining the Ministry of Children & Family Development in 1999, Kelly has held a variety of senior leadership roles. Most recently, she was the Executive Director of Service for the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Service Delivery Area, where she led a large team of professional staff delivering direct services to children, youth and families in several communities, in collaboration with Indigenous and community social service partners.

Originally from the Yukon, Kelly has a passion for rural and remote practice and has worked in several of the province's hard-to-recruit locations, including McBride, Burns Lake, Golden and Williams Lake. Through her experience as a senior frontline leader, Kelly has developed a deep understanding of the challenges, complexities and opportunities involved in providing public services to communities across the province. She is keenly interested in systems theory, enjoys working collaboratively on complex issues, and has a strong focus on reconciliation, leadership development and organizational health.

Kelly has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Victoria and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Northern BC.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Keith Godin  
Executive Financial Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister  
Finance & Corporate Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Keith Godin was appointed Executive Financial Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) for the Ministry of Children and Family Development in July 2022.

Keith is an entrepreneurial and trusted leader with over 15 years of experience leading major government strategies and improving complex regulatory operations. Keith has held a number of leadership positions in government that includes experience in both the economic and social sectors, most recently as ADM of Governance and Analytics in the Ministry of Education and Childcare from 2016-2022. Prior to this role, Keith was Executive Director at Treasury Board Staff with responsibility for social sector budgeting.

Keith has served on several public sector boards, which now includes serving on the Board of the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CCSEA).

He brings a passion for improving the analytical capacity of large organizations as well as creating work cultures that value and prioritize collaboration, truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, inclusion, and innovation. Keith holds an undergraduate degree in Economics, a graduate degree in Public Policy, and has completed the Program on Negotiation from Harvard Law School.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Marnie Mayhew  
Executive Lead  
Deputy Minister's Office  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

In June 2022, Marnie joined the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to support the Ministry's transformation agenda through providing leadership on project management, strategic planning and Ministry engagement.

Marnie spent the first 10 years of her career working in the municipal sector, in the CAO and Mayor's Offices at the City of Victoria, with a focus on project management, communications and stakeholder relations.

After holding leadership positions in the justice sector, Marnie moved to a series of roles at the Public Service Agency with responsibility for corporate communications and engagement, conflict management services, and diversity and inclusion.

As Executive Director of Stakeholder Relations and Divisional Services at MCFD, she led stakeholder relations, project management and business planning for the Early Years and Inclusion Division, supporting government's commitment to introduce universal childcare across the province.

In May 2021, Marnie became Executive Director of the new Sector Performance Branch at the Ministry of Education which provides legislative oversight and supports continuous improvement for all 1,900+ schools in B.C., both public and independent.

Marnie holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, with a major in sociology and a minor in Women's Studies, from McGill University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Victoria. She also holds a Certificate in Public Relations from the University of Victoria.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

**Dwayne Quesnel, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Information Officer  
Information Services Division**

Dwayne was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Information Services Division (ISD), in May 2022. In this role, he provides information management and technology services to both the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. He has extensive knowledge and experience enabling digital service delivery, and leading technology projects and services for both ministries.

Before becoming an ADM, Dwayne served as the Executive Director for ISD's Business Operations Branch. He provided oversight to a portfolio of projects focused on improving services to British Columbians using technology. Before joining SDPR, he spent over 20 years in varying roles with the Ministry of Children and Family Development specializing in project delivery, technology, and asset management.

Dwayne studied Business and Public Administration at Camosun College and the University of Victoria.

Personal Information

Personal Information

## CORE BUSINESS / PROGRAM AREAS / BUSINESS PROCESSES

## Deputy Minister's Office

DM Responsible: Allison Bond  
Executive Lead: Marnie Mayhew

## Program Area Description:

The DM is responsible for liaising with other ministries and providing leadership for the Ministry and government on key systemic issues facing the children, youth and families served by the Ministry.

The Deputy Minister's Office (DMO) is the key liaison between the Ministry and the Minister's Office. Ministerial and DM correspondence and inquiries from clients are managed by the Client Relations Branch.

The DMO is responsible for preparing corporate information to serve the DM and Minister, including background for major events such as Budget Estimates debates and the Union of BC Municipalities. As well, the DMO oversees ministry documents, including Information Briefing Notes, Decision Briefing Notes, Cabinet and Treasury Board submissions, and MLA information notes/bullets.

Managing the releases under the Freedom of Information legislation are also managed by DMO.

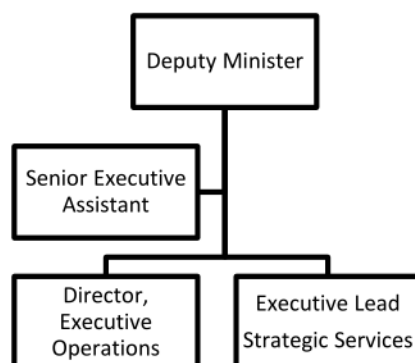
The Strategic Services Branch provides leadership around portfolio project management to support the planning and implementation of the Ministry's transformation agenda. Strategic Services Branch staff work with all Divisions across the Ministry to ensure effective and consistent design and delivery of projects through a portfolio management approach, as well as supporting ongoing planning for the Ministry. This includes change management, internal communications, external communications and partner relations, and overall ministry strategic planning and accountability reporting.

Budget: \$4.774M

Full Time Equivalents: 35.78

Related Legislation: None

## Organizational Chart:



CORE BUSINESS / PROGRAM AREAS / BUSINESS PROCESSES  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR OF CHILD WELFARE AND  
ABORIGINAL SERVICE DIVISION

ADM Responsible: Cory Heavener

Core Business/ Program Area Description/Critical Business Processes:

The primary responsibility of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare (PDCW) is to act as the central position of legal authority and accountability for child welfare services in BC. The PDCW provides oversight to child welfare (child safety, guardianship, family support and prevention, resources, youth transitioning to adulthood), and adoption practice and quality assurance as outlined in the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA). Oversight responsibilities extend to practice and quality assurance in the Service Delivery Areas and in the Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies (ICFSAs).

The division is comprised of:

- **Aboriginal Services Branch:** Supports and responds to the needs and well-being of Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities. Supports child welfare practice and operations for the 24 ICFSAs which provide a range of child protection and family support services in Indigenous communities around the province.
- **Adoption and Permanency Branch:** Under the *Adoption Act*, the Provincial Director of Adoption is responsible for delegating Deputy Directors of Adoption, licensing, and monitoring BC adoption agencies, and is recognized under the Hague Convention as the Central Authority in BC. The branch provides direct client service to the Adoption Reunion Registry (ARR), Parent Registry, Exchange Registry, Post Adoption Openness Registries, Post Adoption Services, and through the Inter-Country Adoption Registry.
- **Child Welfare Branch:** Responsible for Special Reviews; Reportable Circumstances program; practice support and issues management; stakeholder relations; and MCFD relationships with various oversight bodies and Provincial Territorial Directors of Child Welfare Committee.
- **Learning and Development Branch:** Provides courses, learning resources, and training programs for all new and existing ministry and ICFSAs staff to guide their competency and skill development, while ensuring alignment with the ministry's strategic framework.
- **Provincial Practice Branch:** Provides case-related and systemic practice leadership and consultation to front line staff, managers and senior leaders across the ministry and across all program areas. Directors of Practice are also Domestic Violence leads within MCFD regarding best practices.
- **Quality Assurance Branch:** Supports practice and system improvements for both the ministry and ICFSAs, with the ultimate goal of improving the services and supports that children, youth and families in BC receive. Evaluates practice performance through qualitative (the voices and lived experiences of those involved in the service being evaluated) and quantitative (compliance to legislation, policy, and processes) measures to ensure the intended outcomes for children, youth and families were achieved.

Budget: \$33.33M

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs): 214.05

Related Legislation:

- *Child, Family and Community Service Act*
- *Adoption Act*

Organizational Chart:



## CORE BUSINESS / PROGRAM AREAS / BUSINESS PROCESSES

### Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division

ADM Responsible: Carolyn Kamper

#### Program Area Description:

The Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division (SIPLD) leads a range of complex and high-profile transformational projects including the development of strategic and operational policy and legislation, as well as service design and cross-ministry integration of service frameworks. It is also responsible for strategic initiatives, research, engagement, legislation, litigation, program development, and policy and procedures that support systemic change.

The division's four branches comprise:

- *Policy Legislation and Litigation Branch*: this branch serves as the hub for cross-Ministry services and supports related to legislation and legal support, litigation, strategic policy on corporate priorities, research and engagement.
- *Policy and Strategic Integration Branch*: this branch has responsibility for strategic and operational policy for Child and Youth Mental Health, Child Welfare, multijurisdictional model of child safety, and the Network of Care (out-of-care, foster care, specialized homes and support services). The branch also has responsibility for operational policy for youth and young adult services/programs, and operational policy for quality assurance practices (for directly developed and contracted services by MCFD). Additionally, the branch is responsible for strategic integration of policy across MCFD.
- *Early Years and Inclusion Policy, Communications and Engagement Branch*: this branch is responsible for the transformation of services for children and youth with support needs (CYSN), including supporting the transition of families and service providers to the new service approach. The branch is also responsible for strategic and operational policies for CYSN, and external communication and stakeholder engagement of the CYSN transformation. The branch is also responsible for strategic oversight of the Early Years Service Framework.
- *Strategic Initiatives Branch*: this branch is responsible for the development of strategic, complex, large-scale, cross-divisional and government projects, including improving supports for youth and young adults transitioning from government care, and prevention and family supports. The branch also leads the Service Frameworks for each of these areas.

Budget: \$35.32M

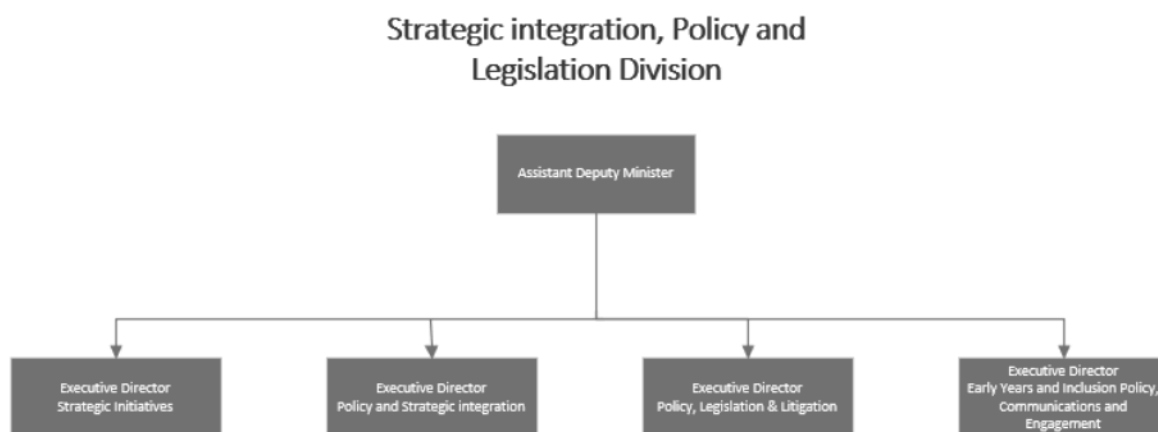
Full Time Equivalents: 107.76

#### Related Legislation:

- *Child, Family and Community Service Act*
- *Adoption Act*
- *Youth Justice Act*
- *Youth Criminal Justice Act*
- *Child Care BC Act*

- *Child Care Subsidy Act*

**Organizational Chart:**



CORE BUSINESS / PROGRAM AREAS / BUSINESS PROCESSES  
Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division

ADM Responsible: Denise Devenny

Program Area Description:

Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division is responsible for engaging with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities to explore pathways for those communities to exercise greater authority, including jurisdiction, over services delivered to Indigenous children and families. The Division is also responsible for the Intergovernmental Relations and Federal/Provincial/Territorial portfolio.

This work requires engagement with different divisions across MCFD, with other ministries across government, such as the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and with provincial and federal colleagues.

Budget: \$14.60M

Full Time Equivalents: 19.58

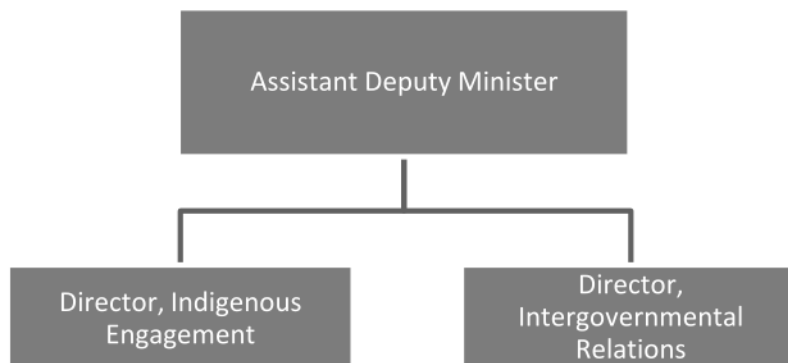
Related Legislation:

*An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families* – Federal

*Child, Family and Community Service Act* – Provincial

*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* -Provincial

Organizational Chart:



CORE BUSINESS / PROGRAM AREAS / BUSINESS PROCESSES  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION

ADM Responsible: Kelly Durand

Program Area Description:

The Service Delivery Division (SDD) is responsible for delivering community services across the province, including services to children and youth with special needs, child and youth mental health services, child protection and family services, youth transition, adoption and youth justice services. The division's professional and support staff work closely with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, foster caregivers, community social service agencies, First Nations communities and Indigenous partners to deliver services to children, youth and families throughout the province in 13 geographic Service Delivery Areas (SDAs), which are overseen by Executive Directors of Service. The 13 SDAs are comprised of 47 Local Service Areas managed by Directors of Operations.

In addition to the SDAs, the division includes three branches:

- **Children & Youth with Special Needs Provincial Services Branch:** Responsible for providing provincial services designed to support the needs of children and youth with complex and diverse special needs, as well as their families, caregivers and service providers, as part of the broader array of programs and services delivered regionally by the division to children and youth with special needs.
- **Provincial Operations Branch:** Responsible for operational leadership in child and youth mental health, children and youth with special needs, residential resources, and in-care strategy; workforce operations monitoring and forecasting, centralized hiring of child protection workers and the provincial mobile response.
- **Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch:** Responsible for ensuring public safety and providing trauma informed services through an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach for youth involved in the criminal justice system, and for providing oversight for youth justice services within the ministry to ensure consistent policy, practice, and services.

Budget: \$1,625.73M

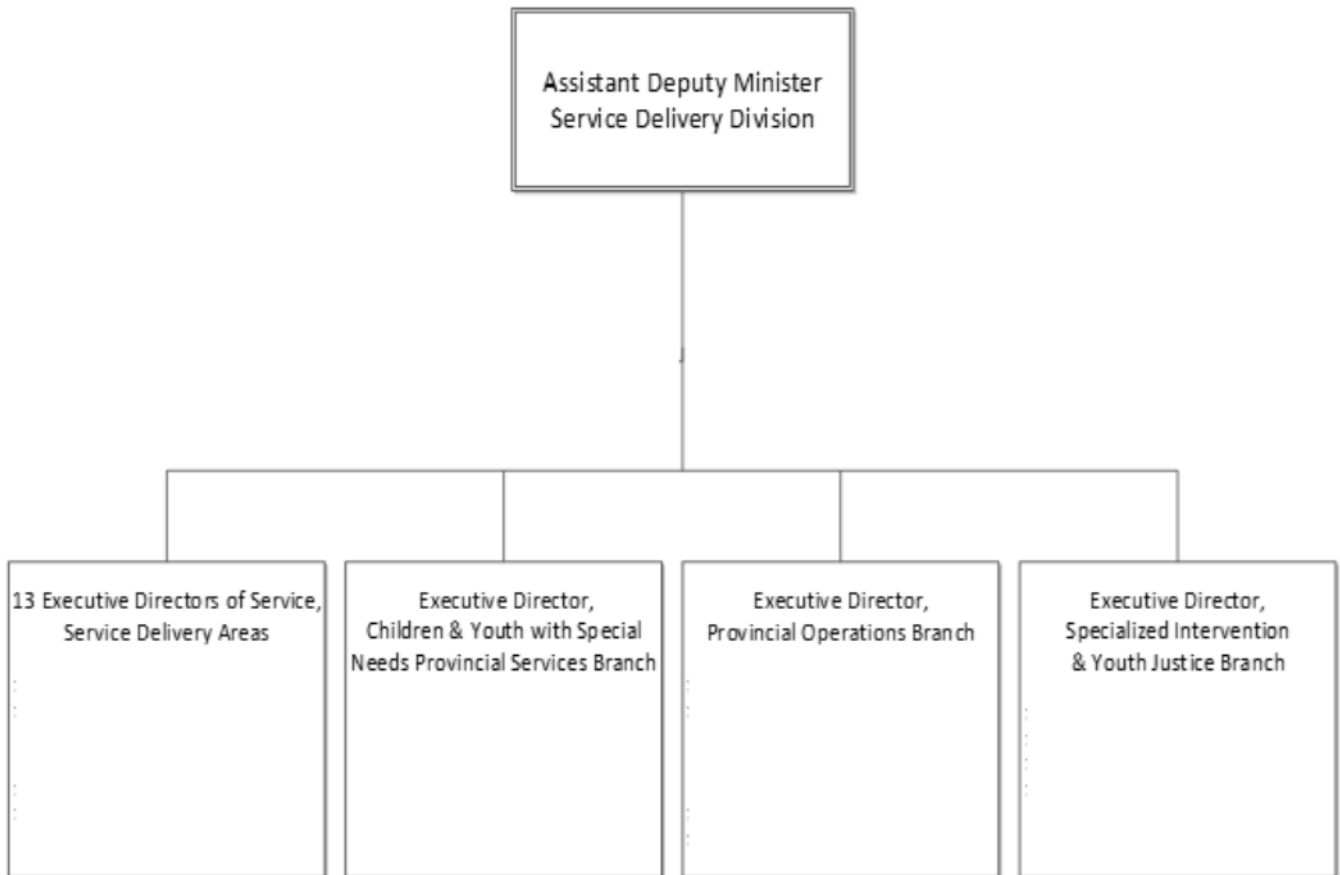
Full Time Equivalents: 3427.19

Related Legislation:

- *Child, Family and Community Service Act*
- *Adoption Act*
- *Child Care BC Act*
- *Child Care Subsidy Act*
- *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*
- *Social Workers Act*
- *Youth Justice Act*
- *Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada)*



Organizational Chart:



## CORE BUSINESS / PROGRAM AREAS / BUSINESS PROCESSES

### Finance and Corporate Services

ADM Responsible: Keith Godin

#### Program Area Description:

The Finance and Corporate Services (FCS) Division is responsible for leading the ministry's system of financial administration and the management of all corporate services. The division provides a suite of strategic business support services to MCFD which enables clients to achieve their objectives and the ministry to comply with corporate financial policy and legislation. The Assistant Deputy Minister's office leads the division's corporate planning, engagement and communications functions along with providing strategic oversight of the six branches that form FCS.

The division is comprised of:

- **Asset and Facilities Management Branch (AFMB)**  
AFMB delivers corporate governance and services for the ministry in assets and facilities management, emergency management and business continuity, and security management.
- **Corporate Operations Support Branch (COSB)**  
The Corporate Operations Support Branch (COSB) delivers a range of services to support MCFD offices across the province including finance and quality assurance, planning, reporting and forecasting, and funding analysis and decision support.
- **Financial Services Branch (FSB)**  
Delivers a range of financial and management services across the ministry including financial reporting and expenditure management, financial policy, and assurance and auditing services.
- **Modelling, Analysis and Information Management (MAIM)**  
Improves outcomes for vulnerable children and youth through providing information and evidence to strengthen practice, policy, privacy and records management. Includes performance management research and business intelligence through the corporate data warehouse.
- **Procurement and Contract Management Branch (PCMB)**  
Leads the ministry through the contract management lifecycle and provides guidance and advice to stakeholders on contract practices, performance management and support, and leading contracting initiatives on behalf of the ministry.
- **Strategic Human Resources (SHR)**  
Supports the ministry's current and future workforce needs, developing strategies for learning, engagement and improving recruitment and retention of aboriginal and front-line staff, along with ensuring organizational health and safety.

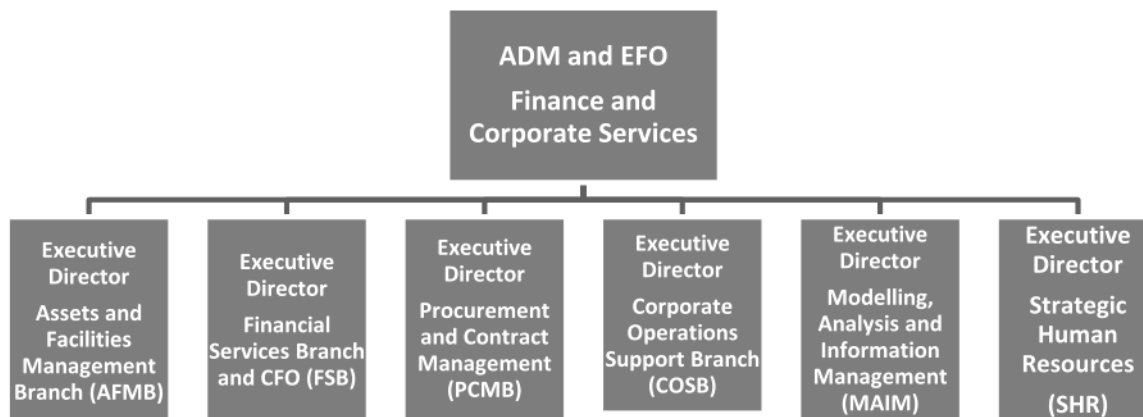
Budget: \$28.37M

Full Time Equivalents: 256.5

Related Legislation:

- *Human Resource Facilities Act*
- *Child Care Subsidy Act*

Organizational Chart:



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION  
INFORMATION SERVICES BC  
PROGRAM NOTES 2022/2023

ADM Responsible: Keith Godin

**KEY INFORMATION:**

- Information Services Division (ISD) provides technology services and digital leadership for the:
  - Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR)
  - Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
  - Child Care Programs under an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC)
  - Integrated Children and Youth Program in the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA)
- Services include information management and information technology (IM/IT) resource planning, decision making, project and issues management, security and privacy functions, and workstation/device support.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The division was created to serve current and future IM/IT needs. Its Assistant Deputy Minister, Dwayne Quesnel, oversees the operation of five branches:
  - Business Operations Branch
  - Business Performance Branch (Mainframe Modernization Project)
  - Chief Technology Office
  - Sector Priorities Branch
  - Alliance Management Office

**BUDGET:**

Operating Total	\$ 60,882
MCFD Budget Contribution	(26,101)
Ministry of Education Child Care Budget Contribution	(3,802)
Other Inter-ministry Recoveries	(710)
Total Recoveries	\$ (30,613)
Net ISD Operating Budget	\$ 30,269
IMIT Capital Budget	\$ 18,000

\* All numbers in thousands

Contact: Dwayne Quesnel, Assistant Deputy Minister, ISD  
Cell Phone: 250-208-8489

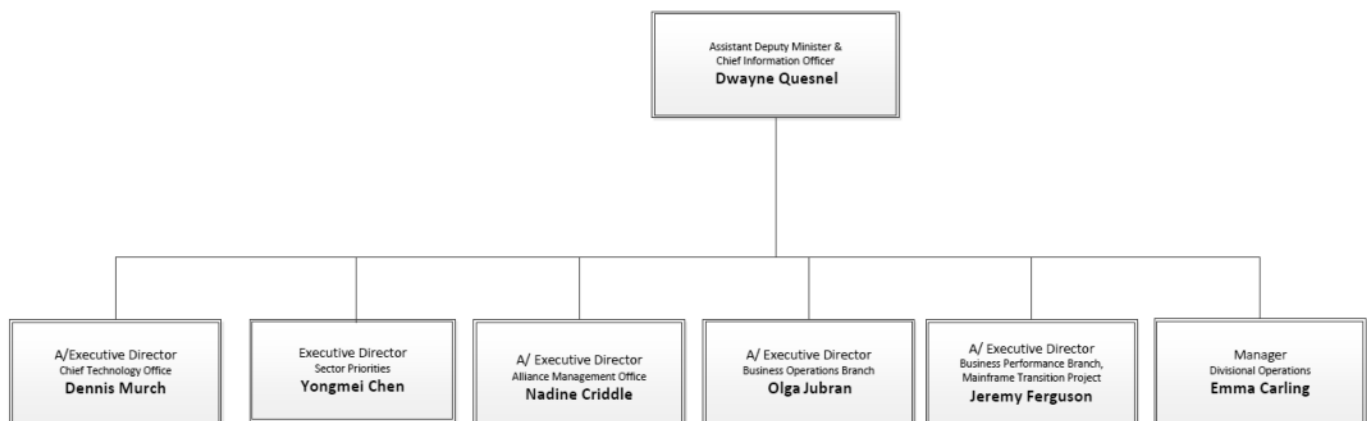
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs):

156

Related Legislation:

- *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- *Information Management Act*
- *Employment and Assistance Act*
- *Adoption Act*
- *Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act*
- *Child, Family and Community Service Act*

Organizational Chart:



Contact: Dwayne Quesnel, Assistant Deputy Minister, ISD  
Cell Phone: 250-208-8489

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION**

**ISSUE: MINISTER'S MANDATE LETTER / STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK / SERVICE PLAN**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Since 2019, our Service Plan and Strategic Framework have signaled a shift in MCFD's approach – away from reactive and 'symptomatic' responses...
- ...and towards a systemic and transformative approach, focusing holistically on what is needed to meet the needs of the children, youth and families we serve.
- Our Service Plan reflects the items identified in my mandate letter and focuses on four areas: Reconciliation with Indigenous Families and Communities; Prevention, Early Intervention and Family Preservation; Youth and Young Adult Transitions; and the Network of Care.
- I am honoured to have had a role in advancing this work, and I look forward to continuing this journey to support B.C.'s children, youth, families and communities.
- We are continuing to work with Indigenous Peoples (alongside representatives from the federal government) regarding systemic transformation, including implementing increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction.
  - Co-developing (with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners) reform of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.
  - Co-developing (with Canada and Indigenous Peoples) a B.C.-specific fiscal framework to support Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services.
  - Co-developing (with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners) a cross-jurisdictional model for how to integrate and deliver child and family services through multiple jurisdictions.
- We are building on the measures we implemented during the pandemic to **support youth and young adult transitioning** to adulthood and adult services, such as ensuring that youth in care set to transition to adulthood could stay in their homes and continue to receive the supports they count on.
  - We have now received an enhanced mandate to serve young adults after they turn 19, until their 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - Beginning April 1, 2022, we will be introducing new youth transition supports and services in a phased approach, over the next three years.

- We will start immediately by making the COVID-19 emergency measures – including improvements to Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Temporary Housing Agreements (THAs) and Temporary Support Agreements (TSAs) – permanent. This will help ensure youth and young adults continue to be set up for success as they transition to adulthood.
- Effective April 2, 2022, the **delivery of child care** moves to the Ministry of Education, fulfilling a mandate letter commitment to integrate child care into the broader learning environment by 2023.
- We are supporting improved outcomes and keeping families safely together by strengthening supports and prioritizing resources for families and children based on their needs, including:
  - Advancing our work to implement family connections centres in the Northwest and Central Okanagan to support an overall transformation of services for **children and youth with support needs** and provide families in those areas with accessible and inclusive services based on individual needs.
  - In line with B.C.'s A Pathway to Hope roadmap, continuing to implement the following **child and youth mental health services** and supports, including: Integrated Child and Youth Teams; Step Up Step Down Outreach Services; Step Up Step Down Bed-based Services; and a digital solution to support service delivery.
- In collaboration with our partners, advancing work to implement an integrated network of care via a responsive network of Specialized Homes and Support Services for children and youth needing more than what community-based and outreach services can provide – starting with early implementation in North Fraser and the Okanagan.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION**

**ISSUE: SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every child and youth deserves to have the support they need to live safe and healthy lives and reach their goals.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's Service Plan outlines key performance measures to help ensure that children and youth can access the services they need, at the right time and in the right way, to set them on the path to success.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Carried forward five of the six performance measures from the 2021/22 Service Plan.
- **Child care measure removed:** The performance measure "average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation" has been moved to the Ministry of Education's Service Plan.
- **CYMH measure added:** Added the performance measure "Access to CYMH Services" (PM 2.2) to highlight the importance of mental health services and improved outcomes for children and youth, as well as showcase ministry services outside of child protection.
- **Agreements with Young Adults forecast and targets lowered:** The forecast and targets for the Agreements with Young Adults performance measure (PM 3.1b) have been lowered; youth aging into adulthood have increasingly been supported through alternative funding measures implemented during the pandemic, such as Temporary Housing Agreements and Temporary Support Agreements.
- **Removed performance measure baselines:** At the direction of the Ministry of Finance, the ministry removed the baselines for all six performance measures; baselines are only to be included to show (recent) progress from a significant change or a new policy. The performance measures in the MCFD Service Plan have been used for many years, so no baseline is deemed necessary.



- All these measures are publicly available on MCFD's Public Reporting Portal.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**ISSUE:** Performance Management & Public Reporting

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The ministry is committed to improving its supports and services to make life better for children, youth and families.
- Through a public online reporting portal, MCFD proactively reports select caseload data, performance indicators and information on how the Ministry is organized, including workforce information and contracted and total expenditures.
- Performance is monitored using trends in 34 indicators across all six service lines.
- The last update to the portal included caseload data as of March 2021, and performance indicators, expenditure, and other administrative information for fiscal year 2020/21. These reflect the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Performance trends for 2020/21 (currently on the portal) are:
  - Improving in 13 indicators, including family preservation, placement stability and recurrence of maltreatment
  - Unchanged in 9 indicators, including the rate of CYIC who exited to permanency and the per cent of children placed in adoption homes
  - Slightly lower in 9 indicators:
    - Residential Costs per CYIC, with and without Support Needs
    - Time to Receiving First Child and Youth Mental Health Services
    - Time Taken for CYIC to go from Permanent Status to Adoption Placement
    - CYIC Who Finish School with a High School Credential, CYIC and YAG
    - Foundation Skills Assessment (Grades 4 and 7), Writing
    - Young Adults Transitioning Out of a Continuing Custody Order (CCO) or Youth Agreement (YA) that Receive Financial

### Assistance through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program

- Clients Receiving a First Custody Sentence Services That Did Not Commit a New Offence
- The three child care measures cannot be calculated for 2020/21, since due to the pandemic, program information used in the calculation of these measures was not available for large portions of 2020/21. They will be available again for 2021/22.
- Reporting on the portal will be updated this spring (monthly caseload reporting to March 2022, annual caseload reporting to fiscal year 2021/22), and Fall (performance measures and expenditure and other administrative information to fiscal year 2021/22).
- Since 2012, MCFD has publicly reported on performance through the Performance Management Report. Now it is reporting through an online portal (released in February 2018, last updated in March 2022).
- Public reporting is an essential part of the ministry's commitment to transparency and accountability and helps to foster public confidence in the ministry.
- B.C. compares favourably to other jurisdictions on public reporting on the Child Welfare System.
- B.C.'s reporting is broader and more detailed than any other Canadian jurisdiction. Most provinces publicly report on child protection, but far less extensively than B.C.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION**

**ISSUE: 2022/23 Operating Budget**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The ministry's budget for fiscal 2022/23 is \$1.742 billion, increasing by \$80.637 million over the fiscal 2021/22 restated budget.
- The ministry's budget for fiscal 2021/22 was restated to account for transfers of the Child Care and Integrated Child and Youth teams programs to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, respectively.
- 90% of MCFD's budget goes to support clients and communities with over \$1.564 billion directly invested in programs and services.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Core Business Changes**

Core Business (\$ millions)	2021/22 Estimates	Change	FY22 Restated	Change	2022/23 Estimates
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	774.342	(734.086)	40.256	-	40.256
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	440.635	0.456	441.091	39.290	480.381
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	134.294	(17.886)	116.408	3.063	119.471
Child Safety, Family Support & Children In Care Services	780.868	26.711	807.579	28.202	835.781
Adoption Services	35.238	0.591	35.829	0.622	36.451
Youth Justice Services	50.359	0.961	51.320	-	51.320
Service Delivery Support	157.478	(5.283)	152.195	9.231	161.426
Executive & Support Services	19.541	(2.811)	16.730	0.229	16.959
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>2,392.755</b>	<b>(731.347)</b>	<b>1,661.408</b>	<b>80.637</b>	<b>1,742.045</b>

**Operating Budget – What changed?**

The Ministry has restated the budget because of the following changes:

- (\$712.796M) transfer of Child Care Programs and related corporate support to the Ministry of Education (EDUC)
- (\$17.642M) transfer of the Pathway to Hope – Integrated Child and Youth Teams program to the Ministry of Health (HLTH)
- (\$0.276M) transfer of the Pathway to Hope Provincial Support Office to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA)

- (\$0.633M) transfer of Information Management resources to MCFD's Information Services Division which resides within the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).

### ***2022/23 Estimates***

The MCFD operating budget for 2022/23 has increased by \$80.6M over the restated 2021/22 budget. This is an 4.9% net increase over 2021/22 (restated budget), and provides for the following increases:

- \$39.0 for caseload pressures including:
  - \$16.2M - Children and Youth in Care (including DAAs)
  - \$5.8M – Alternates to Care
  - \$9.6M – Autism (which is a \$17.558M increase over the 20/21 fiscal plan)
  - \$1.2M - Medical Benefits (which is a \$1.861 increase over the 20/21 fiscal plan)
  - \$6.2M – Caseload Salaries pressures
- \$33.2M for the CYSN Framework including:
  - \$24.6M – Family Service Centre program implementation and increases
  - \$8.6M – Modernize medical benefits
- \$4.6M - Youth transitioning to adulthood
- \$2.7M – CYMH Pathway to Hope Early Childhood Development Centre expansion
- \$0.6M - wage increases under the Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) for PSA nurses
- \$0.4M – Legal Services increases
- \$0.1M – other minor adjustments

### ***Beyond 2022/23***

Further budget changes for subsequent years are outlined as follows:

- CYSN Framework funding: an additional \$6.0M in 2023/24 and \$2.2M in 2024/25 to support early implementation of the framework and modernizing the medical benefits program
- Youth transitioning into adulthood: an additional \$5.4M in 2023/24 and \$9.8M 2024/25 to support a holistic approach which includes: housing, income, life skills and training, health and wellness and navigation supports
- CYMH 'Pathways to Hope': an additional \$2.7M in 23/24 to continue expansion of the Early Child Development Centers across the province

- Executive & Support Services: \$0.02M in 23/24 increase to the Minister's Office

### **STOB Changes:**

Major STOB Groupings (\$ millions)	2021/22 Estimates	Change	FY22 Restated	Change	2022/23 Estimates
Salaries and Benefits	432.231	(25.145)	407.086	13.094	420.180
Operating Costs	61.970	(2.827)	59.143	7.554	66.697
Government Transfers	2,009.920	(737.408)	1,272.512	83.761	1,356.273
Other Expenses	34.009	(6.968)	27.041	2.939	29.980
Recoveries	(9.434)	-	(9.434)	(36.710)	(46.144)
Recoveries External	(135.941)	41.001	(94.940)	9.999	(84.941)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,392.755</b>	<b>(731.347)</b>	<b>1,661.408</b>	<b>80.637</b>	<b>1,742.045</b>

- Salaries and Benefits increase due to funding for childcare, CYMH Pathways to Hope initiative, caseload salaries pressure, Youth Transitioning to Adulthood navigation supports, CYSN Framework early implementation site resources, and Minister Office.
- Operating and Other Expenses increase due CYMH Pathways to Hope initiative, Youth Transitioning to Adulthood initiative, and CYSN Framework early implementation site, and Legal Services.
- Government transfers increase due to caseload, Pathways to Hope initiative, Youth Transitioning to Adulthood initiative, and CYSN Framework early implementation site, and Sustainable Service Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) for nurses.
- Recoveries and Recoveries External adjustments reflect the move of the Early Learning and Child Care Federal Agreement to EDUC with Child Care programs and an increase to Supported Child Development recoveries.

### ***2022/23 Capital Budget Changes:***

#### **Capital Budget:**

Asset Category (\$ millions)	2021/22 Estimates	Change	FY22 Restated	Change	2022/23 Estimates
Specialized Equipment	0.202	-	0.202	-	0.202
Office Furniture and Equipment	0.028	-	0.028	-	0.028
Vehicles	0.297	-	0.297	0.473	0.770
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>0.527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.527</b>	<b>0.473</b>	<b>1.000</b>

- Vehicle capital is allocated to MCFD based on government's vehicle replacement strategy. The 2022/23 strategy has resulted in a \$0.5M increase to the MCFD allocation.

**Attachments:**

Appendix A – MCFD Estimates and Supplements to the Estimates

Appendix B – MCFD Material Assumptions

Appendix C – Resource Summary

Appendix D – Resource Summary Comparison by Core Business

## Appendix A – MCFD Estimates and Supplements to the Estimates

### MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Ministry of Children and Family Development is to work together to deliver inclusive, culturally respectful, responsive, and accessible services to support the well-being of children, youth, and families.

#### MINISTRY SUMMARY

	Estimates 2021/22 <sup>1</sup>	Estimates 2022/23
<b>VOTED APPROPRIATION</b>		
Vote 20 — Ministry Operations.....	1,661,408	1,742,045
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>1,742,045</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
<b>REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2021/22 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

<sup>2</sup> A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

<sup>3</sup> A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

<sup>4</sup> A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

### MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (\$000)

#### VOTE 20 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2021/22 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Early Childhood Development	40,256	592	11	150	—	753	—	70	—	112	—	—	—	—	—
Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs	441,091	15,481	132	3,932	—	19,545	—	265	—	—	670	120	—	—	83
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	55,429	1,008	14,150	—	70,587	—	756	—	437	222	627	—	—	357
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	807,579	131,815	3,384	33,523	—	168,722	—	2,880	21,616	246	1,209	863	500	22	84
Adoption Services	35,829	7,204	23	1,837	—	9,064	—	49	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Youth Justice Services	51,320	29,820	876	7,374	—	37,270	—	285	—	27	—	112	—	—	831
Service Delivery Support	152,195	78,180	864	20,237	—	99,281	—	3,757	4,600	6,523	5,703	6,028	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	16,730	11,850	12	3,040	56	14,958	—	410	2	—	9	1,172	—	—	—
Minister's Office	669	397	—	123	56	576	—	80	—	—	7	14	—	—	—
Corporate Services	16,061	11,453	12	2,917	—	14,382	—	330	2	—	2	1,158	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>329,571</b>	<b>6,310</b>	<b>84,343</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>420,180</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,472</b>	<b>26,218</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>7,813</b>	<b>8,929</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,355</b>



## **Appendix B – MCFD Material Assumptions**

### **MATERIAL ASSUMPTIONS for Fiscal Plan *Budget 2022***

<b>Ministry Programs and Assumptions (\$ millions unless otherwise specified)</b>	<b>Updated Forecast 2021/22</b>	<b>Budget Estimate 2022/23</b>	<b>Plan 2023/24</b>	<b>Plan 2024/25</b>	<b>Sensitivities</b>
<b>Children and Family Development</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,768</b>	
Average children-in-care ..... caseload (#)	5,109	4,843	4,679	4,594	The average number of children-in-care is decreasing as a result of ministry efforts to keep children in family settings where safe and feasible. The average cost per child in care is projected to increase based on the higher cost of specialized homes and support services (SHSS) and an increasing acuity of need for children in care. A 1% increase in the cost per case or a 1% increase in the average caseload will affect expenditures by \$2.5 million (excluding Delegated Aboriginal Agencies).
Average annual residential ..... cost per child in care (\$)	94,565	105,444	116,938	129,049	

## Appendix C – Resource Summary

### Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Early Childhood Development	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	441,091	480,381	486,404	488,582
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	119,471	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children In Care Services	807,579	835,781	841,170	851,015
Adoption Services	35,829	36,451	36,451	36,451
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	152,195	161,426	161,426	161,426
Executive & Support Services	16,730	16,959	16,967	16,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>1,742,045</b>	<b>1,756,191</b>	<b>1,768,214</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Service Delivery Support</b> (Specialized Equipment & Fleet Vehicles)	527	1,000	884	884
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive &amp; Support Services</b> (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.

## Appendix D – Resource Summary Comparison by Core Business

### Ministry of Children & Family Development

#### RESOURCE SUMMARY COMPARISON- DETAILED CHANGES BY CORE BUSINESS

2022/23 to 2024/25

(\$000s)

Core Business Areas	2020/21 Restated	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Early Childhood Development & Child Care Services	712,679	774,342	813,961	814,907	814,907
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	410,091	440,635	432,035	432,035	432,035
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	110,613	134,294	137,020	139,746	139,746
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	731,874	780,868	780,868	780,868	780,868
Adoption Services	34,888	35,238	35,238	35,238	35,238
Youth Justice Services	48,147	50,359	50,359	50,359	50,359
Service Delivery Support	156,032	157,478	157,478	157,478	157,478
Executive & Support Services	19,032	19,541	19,778	19,794	19,794
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>2,223,356</b>	<b>2,392,755</b>	<b>2,426,737</b>	<b>2,430,425</b>	<b>2,430,425</b>

#### Change - including Decisions for Budget 2022 by Core Business:

Early Childhood Development & Child Care Services	-734,086	-773,705	-774,651	-774,651
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	456	48,346	54,369	56,547
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	-17,886	-17,549	-17,549	-17,549
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	26,711	54,913	60,302	70,147
Adoption Services	591	1,213	1,213	1,213
Youth Justice Services	961	961	961	961
Service Delivery Support	-5,283	3,948	3,948	3,948
Executive & Support Services	-2,811	-2,819	-2,827	-2,827
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>-731,347</b>	<b>-684,692</b>	<b>-674,234</b>	<b>-662,211</b>

#### Resource Summary as of Budget 2022 :

Core Business Areas	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Early Childhood Development & Child Care Services	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256
Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs	441,091	480,381	486,404	488,582
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	119,471	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	807,579	835,781	841,170	851,015
Adoption Services	35,829	36,451	36,451	36,451
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	152,195	161,426	161,426	161,426
Executive & Support Services	16,730	16,959	16,967	16,967
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>1,742,045</b>	<b>1,756,191</b>	<b>1,768,214</b>

80,637

14,146

12,023

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**ISSUE:** Ministry Workforce Summary

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Front-line ministry workers have some of the hardest jobs in B.C. — that’s why we’re making improvements to help them provide vulnerable families with the quality services and supports they need and deserve.
- We’ve hired more Indigenous employees and we’ve developed new Indigenous cultural competency tools like the Indigenous Recruitment & Retention Guide to educate staff on cultural awareness, competence, and safety in hiring practices.
- The number of Indigenous employees (self-disclosed) has jumped to approximately 300, up from 205 from a few years ago.
- We are also developing new training on gender identity and sexual orientation, using our recruitment strategy to boost diversity and address complex staffing needs.

**BACKGROUND:**

- MCFD has seven divisions, with the majority of employees working in Service Delivery.
- Most MCFD employees are regular status.
- Most MCFD employees are unionized employees.
- MCFD has developed several plans, strategies and frameworks to support the development and review of its workforce on an ongoing basis.
- MCFD’s largest occupational group is comprised of front-line professionals (i.e., social workers, clinicians, nurses) in Health, Education and Social Work; the remaining staff complement is made up of excluded management, administration, corrections, and other corporate positions.
- The most current diversity data, from the 2020 Work Environment Survey (WES), shows the ethnicity most self-declared was “White” followed by “Another Ethnicity” (e.g., Arab, Black, Iranian, Latin American, West Asian).

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Contact: Keith Godin, EFO & ADM, Finance and Corporate Services Division  
 Cell phone: 236 478-3348  
 Date: February 7, 2022

- The region with the highest number of employees is the Lower Mainland (Vancouver and Fraser Valley) and next highest is the Capital Region (Greater Victoria).
- The front-line Correctional Services, Licensed Psychologists, Nurses, Office Assistants and Social Program Officers roles have a significant number of employees who are currently eligible to retire with an unreduced pension.
- MCFD published the People and Culture Plan in August 2021.
- MCFD developed an Indigenous Recruitment and Cultural Safety Strategic Framework and an Anti-Racism and Debiasing the Workplace Strategy.
- Indigenous Identities, Cultures and Rights Learning Landscape was launched.
- The Advisory Committee for the Anti-Racism and Debiasing the Workplace Strategy was created, inviting in Indigenous, Black, People of Colour and People cultured as White to provide strategic input into the design and development of engagement processes, tools, resources and learning experiences.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**ISSUE: MCFD Contracting (FCS)**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

Negotiated Mandate (Compensation):

- The Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM) will end on March 31, 2022.
- Bargaining for a new mandate is underway.
- The new mandate will be determined through negotiations between the Province of British Columbia, through the Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) and the respective bargaining unions.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is not directly involved in bargaining.
- To ensure there is no disruption in service, MCFD will renew contracts expiring March 31, 2022 at existing rates.
- Once bargaining is complete and union agreements have been ratified, MCFD will issue contract modifications to align with the new mandate.

Recruitment & Retention (RR) Funding:

- RR funding began as part of a *Budget 2020* commitment to support recruitment and retention for community social service agencies and to support the overall and long-term strength of the sector. As part of *Budget 2021*, the funding was made ongoing.
- The Ministry receives a set amount of funding to distribute across all eligible service providers. The Ministry uses a formula to disburse RR funding based on Ministry funding for an eligible service provider as a percentage of total Ministry funding for all eligible service providers.
- RR funding is available to non-union employees in community social services agencies that are partially certified or are not members of the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA).

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 Date: February 9, 2022

- For this funding, “partially certified” refers to CSSEA agencies that have non-union employees who perform equivalent job functions to their union counterparts.
- The funding can be used for training initiatives and compensation for non-union employees in eligible community social service agencies. Funding is not to be directed towards compensation for excluded management positions.

#### Social Services Roundtable:

- The Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction (SDPR) has convened a Social Services Roundtable with umbrella organizations that represent 2,000 organizations across the province to look at how we can work better together to tackle the challenges facing the sector.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development chairs the Social Services Roundtable Sub-Committee on Procurement, which has been established to look at strategic procurement initiatives across the sector and province, ensuring regular opportunities for collaboration to address the shared interest of the best possible outcomes for children, youth, families and communities.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate (SSNM):

- SSNM was a three-year mandate (ending March 31, 2022) that provided funding for wage increases to public-sector employers with unionized employees. The SSNM had two components: the General Wage Increase (GWI) and the Low Wage Redress (LWR).
- In addition, the Minister of Finance granted approval to provide a GWI of 2% to contracted non-union service providers and an additional 0.25% Service Improvement Allocation (SIA).

#### Recruitment & Retention (RR) Funding:

- Service providers who are eligible to receive RR funding in FY 2022/23 will receive a contract modification, by the Spring of 2022, that includes a lump sum payment for recruitment and retention once the funding allocation is determined. We will continue to review this timeline, in light of ongoing contract negotiations, to ensure that the number of contract modifications and consequent administrative impacts on agencies are minimized.

Contact: Keith Godin, ADM & EFO, Finance and Corporate Services Division  
 Cell phone: 236 478-3348  
 Date: February 9, 2022

- In FY 2020/21, service agencies were allowed to retain unspent RR funding due to delayed timing of disbursements.
- For FY 2021/22, Ministries were advised (December 2021) that the Ministry would recover unspent funding to align with fiscal policy and ensure consistent treatment with all other contract funding.

Contact: Keith Godin, ADM & EFO, Finance and Corporate Services Division  
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Date: February 9, 2022



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE: Overview of Permanency**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- All children deserve to have stable, lifelong relationships and a strong sense of belonging.
- Permanency refers to a child or youth having attachments and connections to parents, siblings, families, communities and culture so children and youth develop into healthy, secure adults.
- Children and youth have better long-term outcomes when they remain with their families and communities.
- That's why keeping children and youth connected to their families, cultures and communities is always the ministry's first choice for permanency for any child or youth in care.
- All permanency planning for children in care must be consistent with their best interests.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Children in Care in Continuing Custody**

- A child/youth is placed in the continuing custody of the director only when there is no significant likelihood that the circumstances that led to the child's removal will improve within a reasonable time or that the parent will be able to meet the child's needs.
- A continuing custody order (CCO) means that the director is the child/youth's sole personal guardian and may consent to the child/youth's adoption.
- The permanency options once a CCO has been granted are:
  - permanent Transfer of Custody to a person other than the parent;
  - cancellation of the Continuing Custody Order with a return to parent(s) (reunification);
  - and Adoption.

- The Permanent Transfer of Custody of a child/youth can occur to an extended family member or another person through Section 54.1 of the CFCSA after a CCO is granted.
- Reunification (through the rescindment of a CCO)
  - Reunification is when a child/youth in care leaves care by returning to their parents or family of origin; this happens after an assessment confirms that the circumstances that caused the child/youth to come into care have changed and no longer pose a direct risk to the child/youth's safety and well-being.
  - When a child is under a CCO, reunification through rescindment must always be considered if the birth parent or guardian's circumstances have changed so that the child or youth could be safely returned to their care.
- Adoption
  - An adoption is only pursued after all other permanency options have been thoroughly explored.
  - For Indigenous children and youth, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit & Métis children, youth & families* (Federal Act) sets out national standards that must be applied in adoption and permanency planning for Indigenous children. These standards relate to:
    - placement priorities;
    - the ongoing reassessment of a placement;
    - the promotion of the child's attachment and emotional ties;
    - and giving notice before taking a significant measure.
  - A child becomes legally available for adoption after the court has granted a CCO or when the parent(s) have placed the child for adoption or consented to the child coming into care under the *Adoption Act*.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

**ISSUE: Out of Care Overview**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry's top priority is ensuring the health and wellbeing of children and youth.
- All children and youth deserve to be supported to live healthy, happy lives and reach their goals, and to be supported to stay connected to their families, communities and cultures.
- The Ministry uses out-of-care arrangements as a key response to support children and youth who cannot live safely at home with their parents.
- Evidence shows that – where appropriate and safe – keeping families together rather than placing a child or youth into care results in better outcomes.
- Out-of-care arrangements help preserve family unity, support cultural continuity, and minimize the trauma of removal and disconnection for children, youth and their families.
- The use of out-of-care options is increasing, which is a sign of success for MCFD's early intervention, prevention and child protection systems.
- MCFD is committed to continuing to support out-of-care arrangements given the connection to *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and MCFD's responsibility to fulfil its prevention and early intervention mandate.
- MCFD is demonstrating support for the increased use of out-of-care options by:
  - Working to expand access to services (e.g., respite and short-term stabilization) for children and youth in out-of-care arrangements as part of the Specialized Homes and Support Services transformation; and
  - Moving forward with the incremental implementation of an enhanced out-of-care system that removes barriers for care providers who are willing to care for a child or youth known to them by providing necessary wrap-around and financial supports to meet the child or youth's moderate to exceptional support needs.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Children in out-of-care arrangements are cared for by relatives or other significant adults, including those with a cultural or traditional connection to the child, without the child being in the care of MCFD or a Delegated Aboriginal Agency.
- Out-of-care arrangements are both a family preservation strategy and a child protection response.
- Out-of-care arrangements provide families in crisis with viable options to keep their children out of the child welfare system and safe in the homes of their families and communities.
- There are some continuing gaps that can present challenges for families and can result in situations where children and youth come into care – particularly those with moderate to exceptional needs – despite the fact that the child has a family that is willing to care for them:
  - Out-of-care care providers are not eligible to receive the same supports that are available to foster caregivers and staffed resources: they do not receive service payments (additional monthly funding tied to the need for higher level care), additional supplemental funds, the same level of ongoing education and support, or the same access to social workers who can help them access and coordinate supports.
  - Supports and services that are available to out-of-care providers are inconsistent and are based on legal status, which creates inequities between out-of-care statuses. These inequities may present a barrier when considering permanency. For example, those in the Extended Family Program (a temporary arrangement) receive supplemental benefits and respite care that other out-of-care types do not.
- A plan is in place for out-of-care care providers caring for children eligible for the Child Disability Benefit funding to receive this funding in addition to their current maintenance payments.
- Increasing support to out-of-care arrangements as part of the Specialized Homes and Support Services transformation will benefit children, youth, families, communities, MCFD and the province at large by:
  - Expanding access to respite and stabilization services to children and youth in out-of-care options will support successful placements and improve short- and long-term outcomes for children and youth.
  - Supporting children and youth to stay with their families and avoid less appropriate, more expensive care options will enable the ministry to reinvest those resource to better support families' needs in the community

and keep more families strong and together through increased prevention and early intervention.

- Types of out-of-care arrangements for children and youth living outside their parental home include:
  - The Extended Family Program provides support when a parent voluntarily and temporarily gives over care of their child to another care provider (e.g., family member). Extended Family Program Agreements may be used to support customary care arrangements in Indigenous communities.
  - A temporary out-of-care order occurs when a child has been removed from their parent(s) and the court orders that the child is placed in the interim or temporary custody of a person other than their parent.
  - A permanent out-of-care order transfers custody of a child to a person other than their parent(s) when it is determined that reunification of the child with the parent(s) will not be possible.
  - The Child in the Home of a Relative program is an income-assistance based program administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction that supports children to live with relatives when a parent cannot care for them. The program stopped receiving applications in 2010, although existing clients may continue to receive financial assistance if the eligibility criteria are met.
  - Youth Agreements support youth ages 16 to 18 years to live independently when all efforts to reconnect them with their parents or family have been exhausted.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

**ISSUE: Social Work Oversight Engagement**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- MCFD is committed to ensuring ethical, professional, and competent social work practice throughout B.C.
- We have listened to those calling for a review of the social work oversight model.
- That's why we are currently engaging on the strengths, weaknesses and impacts of the current model.
- Among other things, this engagement is exploring issues of equity, inclusion, anti-racism, truth, and reconciliation – and how social work oversight affects the many diverse groups who access social work services in B.C.
- We are engaging with a wide range of partners and others interested in social work oversight (e.g., social work representative groups; Indigenous partners and communities; sector partners; registered and unregistered social workers; and the public).
- We know social work oversight impacts Indigenous Peoples who access social work services and those who practice social work and employ social workers, both in communities and in urban environments.
- With this in mind, we are committed to early, consistent, and transparent engagement with Indigenous Peoples, in alignment with section 3 of the Declaration Act and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- We continue to engage directly with Indigenous Peoples in B.C., including First Nations, Métis and Inuit organisations, individuals, and communities.
- Additionally, we are working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples – including First Nations, Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and any other Indigenous partners who choose to participate – to ensure the engagement is respectful, culturally safe, and aligns with community priorities.
- We plan to launch three important engagement tools in mid/late fall 2022: (1) a survey for social workers; (2) a survey for the public; and (3) an invitation to provide formal written submissions.

- A “What We Heard” report, based on the conversations during the engagement, will be shared in late-spring 2023.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- As the Ministry responsible for the Social Workers Act (SWA), MCFD is responsible for social work oversight in B.C.
- Under the SWA, social workers must register with the B.C. College of Social Workers unless exempt under the Social Workers Regulation (SWR).
- The SWR exempts from registration social workers employed by: MCFD and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (formerly Delegated Aboriginal Agencies); provincial and federal governments; municipalities, regional districts and boards of education; and a First Nation, Band or Tribal Council.
- This engagement allows MCFD to:
  - Explore the current state of social work oversight, including both the strengths and challenges; and
  - Find opportunities for improvement and/or transformation.
- Engagement includes:
  - Discussions with internal partners (e.g., ministries) and external partners (e.g., employers of social workers; Indigenous partners; social work educators; social work organizations);
  - Public engagement; and
  - Written submissions (to enable broad participation from individual social workers, families, key partners, and stakeholders).

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE:** Overview of Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies (ICFS Agencies) provide direct services under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) to Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities throughout BC.
- ICFS Agencies in BC represent approximately 118 First Nations communities, as well as Urban Indigenous and Métis communities. They currently serve 53% of the Indigenous children in care.
- The Partnership Forum meets to discuss matters related to practice, funding, legislation, programs, and policies, plus one day for the Partnership Planning Committee to inform the Partnership agenda. The Partnership Forum has a Terms of Reference, and the agenda is agreed upon by the three partners and meets quarterly for two days.
- The Partnership Forum table is made up of:
  - 24 ICFS Agency Executive Directors,
  - The Deputy Director and 1 MCFD Aboriginal Services Branch Director,
  - the ADM and 2 Directors from Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division; and,
  - 2 Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Managers.
- Since the early stages of the pandemic the partners met virtually and continue to meet on a monthly schedule. These calls have provided opportunities to discuss emerging issues and to ensure that communication is timely. Some of the topics during the calls included discussions about serving children, youth, and families in Indigenous communities that were closed during the pandemic. Other topics shared at the table include interim practice guidelines, temporary housing measures for young adults, changes to agreements with young adults, and connections for children, youth, families, and communities.
- Meeting regularly and in partnership has strengthened the relationship between the ICFS Agencies, ISC and MCFD.

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Date: February 8, 2022



**BACKGROUND:**

- In BC, through delegation agreements, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare provides authority to ICFS Agencies to undertake administration of all or parts of the CFCSA.
- Staff in the ICFS Agencies are delegated under the CFCSA to provide direct services to Indigenous children and families in their communities.
- There are 24 ICFS Agencies in British Columbia:
  - 14 are delegated to provide full child protection services:
    - services include child protection services and the responsibility of guardianship services for children in interim, temporary, and continuing custody court-ordered care
  - 7 are delegated to provide guardianship services:
    - service is specific to the guardianship of children in continuing custody
  - 3 are delegated to provide voluntary services:
    - this includes family support services
    - voluntary care agreements
    - support needs agreements
    - establishing residential resources
- One urban community agency is currently working with MCFD to become an ICFS Agency.
- MCFD is also working with several ICFS Agencies as they have requested to expand their services to further meet the needs of Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities.
- ICFS Agencies that provide services on-reserve under the CFCSA receive funding from the federal government.
- MCFD provides funding to ICFS Agencies that deliver services off-reserve.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE:** Overview of Quality Assurance Programs

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every child and youth deserves to be supported to live a happy, healthy life and reach their goals.
- Quality Assurance programs are in place for the following service areas: Children and Youth with Support Needs, Child and Youth Mental Health, Community Youth Justice, Adoption, Child Safety, Resources, Guardianship and Family Service.
- We are taking action to improve the supports and services we provide to children, youth and families in every part of the province.
- Quality assurance programs support practice and system improvements for both the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs), with the ultimate goal of improving the services and supports that children, youth and families in B.C. receive.
- There are three main quality assurance programs:
  - *Case Reviews* – when a child or youth in care is critically injured or dies, case reviews help address specific questions about what MCFD supports, or services were provided before the incident occurred. This helps identify key service areas that could be improved and informs action plans to improve these practices and systems.
  - *Practice Audits* – MCFD has set specific standards that staff, DAAs and contracted agencies (specialized homes and support services) must follow as part of their practice and when delivering services to children, youth and families. Practice audits are conducted to measure compliance against these standards with regard to family services, child services/guardianship, resources, community youth justice and adoption services. Practice audits may result in action plans to improve practices and systems for the children, youth and families being served.
  - *Complaints* – when MCFD/DAA clients file a complaint against the ministry or DAA they have been working with, complaint specialists across the

province facilitate active collaboration between complainants and staff and help them work towards a resolution of the client's concerns.

Complainants can request an Administrative Review as an alternative to resolution.

- Other Quality Assurance activities include:
  - *Foster Parent Reviews* – foster caregivers can request a foster parent review after a foster home investigation or quality of care review has resulted in a serious sanction, like the cancellation of a contract.
  - *Accreditation* – MCFD accreditation policy requires contracted service providers that receive \$500,000 or more in annual funding from MCFD, or MCFD and Community Living BC (CLBC) combined, to be accredited by one of two pre-approved accreditation organizations: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or Council on Accreditation (COA). Accreditation is one of the layers of oversight that supports quality service for children, youth, and families.
  - *Self-Report Audit Tool* – contracted residential agencies submit a report to MCFD of the screening and assessment results (i.e., criminal record and reference checks, interviews, etc.) for all residential caregivers looking after children in care in their programs for the purposes of verification.

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **New Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Program**

- A new Outcomes-Based Quality Assurance Program is being developed and implemented that aligns to the strategic work underway in MCFD to transform how services are delivered so that children and families realize improved outcomes.
- Outcomes are the end result of implementing policies and services for the children, families and communities we serve.
- An outcomes-based model will help us understand the impact of ministry services on those being served and will help to improve programs and services by connecting data to practice (child and family centred).
- New Service Framework Evaluations are under development to evaluate services provided under each service framework. These new evaluations will

incorporate both qualitative and quantitative measures to support the assessment and evaluation of all ministry services provided to children and families.

- An advisory circle representing a diverse group of individuals from DAAs, First Nation communities, the Métis Commission for Children and Families of British Columbia, as well as First Nation Hereditary Chiefs, has been formed to lead this work.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE: Overview of Foster Homes**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's (MCFD) goal is to keep families together, resulting in fewer children coming into care.
- However, there is still a need for skilled foster caregivers to care for the children and youth who come into care because they cannot safely live with their parents or extended family.
- Foster caregivers care for children who cannot safely live with their own families, whose families have asked for help with parenting during times of crisis, or whose families need specific or periodic help in caring for their children.
- In foster homes, the child resides in the caregiver's home.
- Foster homes operate under a contractual agreement with the director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

**BACKGROUND:**

- Foster families receive a monthly payment called the "Basic Monthly Rate" that covers the costs of caring for a child.
- As of December 31, 2021, the Basic Monthly rates were \$1,010.98 for children aged 0-11 and \$1,112.70 for children aged 12-18.
- The Basic Monthly Rate for adoptive parents under the *Adoption Act* was increased to \$806.78 for children aged 0 to 11 and \$926.53 for children aged 12 to 18.
- The different types of foster homes are:
  - Restricted care: Foster care provided by relatives or family friends;
  - Regular care: Foster care provided by a family who has not previously known the children provides care;
  - Specialized foster care: Foster care provided to children with mental or physical support needs, or emotional or behaviour problems; and,

- Respite or relief foster care: Foster families who take children for short periods, so that parents / foster caregivers can have a few days without the children.
- In Specialized Care, foster families who provide any of the three levels of specialized foster care also receive a service payment in addition to the basic monthly rate per child. This additional payment recognizes the special parenting skills and extra time required to meet the needs of a child – it is not employment income.
- Currently, service payments range from \$458.02 per child for a level one home, \$1,140.40 per child for a level two home and \$1,816.66 per child for a level three home.
- The three levels of specialized care are determined through an assessment of the caregiver, in terms of:
  - Education and training;
  - Child-related experience;
  - Knowledge; and
  - Demonstrated skills.
- Children requiring more skilled and intensive care are in higher level specialized care. The maximum number of children in care allowed in a specialized home are:
  - For level one: 6 children in care;
  - For level two: 3 children in care; and
  - For level three: 2 children in care.
- MCFD is responding to calls for action by undertaking the transformation of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS). SHSS refers to the segment of our network of care that provides services outside of the home – through what we often call ‘staff resources’ or ‘contracted bed-based services’ – for children/youth and families who cannot live safely at home with their parents.
- In addition to the transformation of our staffed resources, the ministry is exploring a New Tier of Home-Based Caregiver, which provides new wrap-around services and supports for children/youth with moderate to exceptional needs who are unable to live safely at home, whose needs cannot be met in a

specialized foster care placement, and as an alternative to staffed specialized homes.

- Implementation of an integrated network of care for children and youth, which will include improvements to foster homes and the system of services supporting them, contribute to the Ministry's approach to strengthening prevention, early intervention, and family preservation.
- Nine of 13 Service Delivery Areas currently screen prospective foster parents through a centralized hub, while four Service Delivery Areas conduct their own screening. The Ministry conducts a full assessment of each prospective foster parent before they can be approved to provide care.
- The number of foster homes has been decreasing. Available information suggests that a reduction of the number of children in care, the retirement of foster parents and foster parents who have adopted the children in their care are all factors contributing to the decrease in foster homes over this period. It is unclear what long-term impacts the COVID-19 pandemic will have on retaining current caregivers or recruiting new caregivers.
- The reduction in the number of children in care is also an indicator of success of the ministry's emphasis on prevention and early intervention. While the number of children in care is decreasing the use of out-of-care arrangements to keep families together and avoid children coming into care is increasing.
- As of December 31, 2021, within the Foster Home network there were 10 full-time Foster Home placements and 11 respite placements on hold and not available due to COVID-19 pandemic impacts (Data Source: MCFD Service Delivery Division).
- Examples of reasons for these placements being on hold include:
  - Someone in the Foster Home has COVID-19;
  - Parents of children normally taking respite in the Foster Home not wanting their children to take respite during the pandemic;
  - A child in care placed in the home is medically fragile and it wouldn't be advisable to have other children/youth moving in and out of the home; and,
  - Someone in the foster family with the on-hold placement has medical issues that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE: Overview of Family Support and Prevention**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry is committed to supporting children and youth in B.C. to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families, with connections to their communities and culture.
- The Ministry is working collaboratively to ensure Indigenous communities have greater involvement in child welfare decisions, keeping children from coming into care in the first place, and providing more opportunities to work together on planning and caring for Indigenous children.
- B.C. is seeing the lowest number of children in care in 30 years.
- The number of Indigenous children and youth in care is going down, with under 3,500 Indigenous kids in care — the lowest in over 20 years.
- The number of B.C. children and youth in out-of-care arrangements has increased by 69% from just over 1,100 in 2018 to over 1,900 as of December 2021.
- More than 1,300, or over 70%, are Indigenous.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Ministry, along with Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAAs) partners, strive to emphasize the principles of early intervention and prevention to support children, youth and families who may be struggling, and keep families together whenever possible.
- When children or youth cannot live at home, the preferred option is to provide financial and other supports so they can live with extended family or others known to the family through out-of-care options, rather than bringing them into care.
- The Ministry funds a range of services and programs to support family connections, including: the Affordable Child Care Benefit; respite; infant development programs; family development response; traditional decision-



making processes; family finders; roots workers; family preservation workers; collaborative planning and decision-making options such as family group conferencing; and mediation.

- The Prevention and Family Support Service Framework is in development and will describe the current and future state of family support and prevention services across the province, including outcomes the Ministry aims to achieve through the delivery of services and supports.
- The Ministry continues to concentrate on cultural planning by increasing the use of out-of-care/kinship placement options, and greater involvement of Indigenous partners when developing care plans and permanency options for children and youth to remain with their family and within their communities.
- Under the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, Indigenous children and youth in care who are living with someone other than their parent or an adult member of their family are required to have their placements reassessed at specific times or at a minimum every 6 months to determine if it is in their best interests to be placed with a parent or other adult member of their family.
- The Ministry supports First Nations and Métis-serving agencies with additional funding for cultural supports to help keep Indigenous families together and improve outcomes for children and youth.
- In addition, another program funded is the Aboriginal Service Innovations: Child Safety and Permanency (ASI: CSP) Program. This provincial program provides funding to Indigenous-serving organizations across the province to deliver direct services to Indigenous children and families who are receiving services through the ministry or DAAs. The goal is to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth coming in to care and to support culturally relevant permanency planning for Indigenous children and youth currently in care.

### **Current Family Support and Prevention Programs:**

- Family Development Response (FDR) is the primary pathway for addressing screened-in protection reports when circumstances do not involve severe abuse or neglect and families are able and willing to participate in collaborative assessments and planning to address safety concerns.

- Family Preservation workers intensively work with families involved with the child welfare system to support children to remain at home safely or to support children to return home safely if they have been placed outside of their family home.
- Family Finding programs, including Roots workers, support Indigenous children and youth to learn about their families, culture, traditions, language and history.
- Collaborative or shared planning and decision-making processes, such as mediation, family group conferencing and traditional decision-making processes, involve family and community members in decision-making and produce plans and agreements that protect children and youth and address the needs of families.
- The use of collaborative decision-making mitigates the need for court involvement, therefore strengthening relationships.
- Traditional decision-making processes are ways of planning and/or resolving disagreements by following community or cultural models and practices.
- For example, in some Indigenous communities, Elders may have a key role to play in guiding families and social workers through decision-making processes.
- The Family Group Conference or Family Case Planning Conference, which is also known as family group decision-making, is one type of shared decision-making process for families who are receiving child welfare services.
- Mediation is a collaborative way to reach agreements between parents, families and the ministry/DAA's on the best plan for a child's safety and well-being by focusing on underlying interests and identifying common ground.
- The process is facilitated by an independent third party (the mediator) through Mediate BC to deliver child protection mediation services to MCFD and DAAs.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE: Overview of Managing Performance and Delegation for Child Protection Workers**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The powers, duties and functions conferred on a Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) are among the most powerful authorities in society.
- For example, the authority to investigate a child's need for protection and the authority to remove a child from a parent's care.
- With these powers comes a duty of care that a Director owes to the people served, many of whom include some of society's most vulnerable members.
- A Director must have confidence that the individuals who are delegated will represent the Director in an appropriate and responsible manner, in accordance with statutory provisions, as the Director remains legally responsible for the actions or omissions of those delegated.
- Delegation may be revoked or changed at the discretion of the Director.
- Delegation of authority is based on the delegated person having achieved and demonstrated the necessary competence through education, competency-based training, standardized assessment, and supervised practice.
- In January 2019, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare expanded the educational and experiential qualifications for child protection, guardianship, and resource positions in the ministry that require CFCSA delegation.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The preferred educational qualifications for delegation are:
  - Bachelor or Master's degree in Social Work;
  - Bachelor or Master's degree in Child and Youth Care; and,
  - Master of Educational Counselling Psychology/Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, with completion of a practicum in family and child welfare.
- In January 2019, the educational qualifications were expanded to include a related degree in a human services field plus a minimum of two years of post-degree related experience working with children and youth. Related education

includes Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology, Early Childhood Education, Indigenous Studies, Education, or Nursing.

- In accordance with Section 91 of the CFCSA, the Minister may designate one or more persons as Directors for the purposes of the Act, which includes the provision of child protection, family support and guardianship services.
- Section 92 of the CFCSA gives a Designated Director the power to entrust and empower others to act on his or her behalf through delegation. A delegation of authority must be in writing and may include any terms and conditions the Director considers advisable; this delegation may be withdrawn or changed at the Director's discretion.
- Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) have their own processes for managing performance and delegation of workers. DAA workers receive their delegation from the Deputy Director, Aboriginal Services Branch, within the division of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare. The Deputy Director is a Designated Director within the ministry.
- Within the ministry, the process for individuals achieving delegation from the point of hire can be summarized as follows:
  - Applicants are screened for eligibility based on criteria, including their established educational qualifications and experience before they are considered further in a recruitment process.
  - Screened-in applicants go through an assessment process that consists of steps such as interviews, reference checks and an assessment of past work performance. Through the hiring process, applicants are assessed for a beginning level of competence with the ministry's Child and Youth Safety and Support competencies.
  - Successful completion of a criminal record check under the *Criminal Records Review Act* is required before an applicant can be confirmed for a position. This involves a search for convictions, penalties and outstanding charges and is reviewed against a list of relevant or specified offences to determine the risk an individual may pose in working with children or vulnerable adults.
  - All BC Public Service employees are required to formally acknowledge in writing that they have received, read, and understand the Standards of Conduct. The requirement to comply with these standards is a condition of employment and employees who fail to comply with these standards may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
  - All BC Public Service employees and appointees are required to complete the BC Public Service Oath of Employment.

- Newly hired child protection workers must successfully complete a six-month probation period and complete post-hire training. Learning for new hires is supported through an extensive repository of on-line information, classroom training, job-based activities, and a graduated increase in case responsibilities under the guidance and direction of supervisors and senior practitioners.
- To receive full delegation, all candidates must successfully complete the competency-based Delegation Assessment and Readiness Tool that promotes clinical supervision, critical thinking, and reflective practice.
- Ongoing child welfare practice is conducted in accordance with relevant practice standards and policies that require team leader consultation and approval for many key actions and decisions in child welfare service delivery. Ministry standards reflect the legislated mandate that the safety and well-being of children is the paramount consideration.
- Child welfare practice is supported by clinical supervision from Team Leaders and each service delivery area in B.C. has a Director of Practice and consultants available to support practice.
- Ongoing performance management is supported through the development and assessment of work goals, learning goals and career development goals in employee MyPerformance profiles.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR AND ABORIGINAL SERVICES**

**ISSUE: Overview of Contracted Agencies Providing Care Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Every child and youth deserve to be supported to reach their goals, and we are committed to building a system of supports that puts them and their individual needs at the centre.
- There are currently gaps in our system of supports and specialized care for vulnerable children and youth – gaps that exist not only for children and youth in care, but also for many families who are caring for children with complex health and other support needs.
- We are addressing these gaps by implementing a network of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) (previously referred to as contracted residential agencies or services).
- This work will see the gradual transition of existing contracted care providers to new services as well as the establishment of new services as-and- when needed.
- Together with our partners, we have designed this SHSS network to:
  - Fill gaps in our care continuum such as respite – services that keep families together,
  - Better support children and families in crisis with therapeutic and healing opportunities, and
  - Provide high quality specialized living arrangements are in available for children and youth with complex needs.
- This work is about keeping children safe but also it is about supporting children and their families to be well and thrive
- Implementation of this network of these services is underway.

## BACKGROUND:

When children who are in-care (that is, they can no longer live safely at home or with relatives and are under the care of the “Director”), the Ministry works to find that child a foster home.

When a foster home cannot be found for a child – whether it be due to lack of vacancy in the foster system or because the needs of the child (e.g., significant mental health, behavioural, substance use issue) are beyond those that can be accommodated by a foster caregiver, the child enters “contracted care”. Contracted care means ‘staffed care’ where caregivers often do not reside with the child.

There are approximately 750 children in contracted care.

Government Financial Information

Government Financial Information. For comparison purposes, there are approximately 3500 children in foster care at a cost of : Government Financial Information

Integrated data shows that children in contracted care experience greater vulnerabilities than children in foster care. For example, 42% of the children in contracted care visited an emergency department in 2019 for self-harm or acute mental health crisis as compared to 9% of children in foster care. Nine percent of children in contracted care ran away in 2019, in the same year 1% of children in foster care tried to leave their care home.

Staffed care models in BC have been the subject of numerous reviews and calls to action for reform. They are under regulated, overused, and contribute to poor outcomes for vulnerable children.

In response to these calls to action, the Ministry is moving forward with implementation of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS) transformation – a redesign of contracted care. This work is intended to:

1. Improve outcomes for children/youth and families - providing tangible action towards building a stronger network of services that address gaps in the continuum of care and result in measurable benefits to individuals and the overall Network of Care;
- 2.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

3. Advance governments commitments in response to the Office of Auditor Generals report on “Contracted Residential Care” - specifically to move towards outcomes-based procurement models in the social sector, improve monitoring and oversight and quality, etc.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

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**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION**

**ISSUE:       Review of Adoption Agency Regulatory Framework and Intercountry Adoption Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

**Intercountry Adoption Review**

- In B.C., international adoption services are provided exclusively through adoption agencies, which are licensed by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- B.C.'s licensed adoption agencies are independent, non-profit organizations responsible for their own funding, operating decisions, and the success of their organizations.
- The Ministry is undertaking a regulatory review of intercountry adoption services.
- The Ministry has signed a contract with KPMG to undertake the intercountry adoption service and regulatory framework review, which is underway until November 30, 2022.
- International adoption services continue to be available to B.C. families through The Adoption Centre of BC and Sunrise Family Services Society.

**Why review is needed**

- Many of the Ministry's policies and procedures date back to the 1990s and may require significant changes based on many of the lessons learned since then.
- Since 2000, five B.C. adoption agencies have closed their doors.
- Over the past decade, international adoptions have decreased as more countries are choosing to keep their children within their own borders and connected to their home culture.
- A regulatory review will explore the ministry's oversight of independent adoption agencies in B.C., with consideration for the shifting adoption landscape.

- In the final report, the concepts of safety, wellbeing, and “best interest” of the child are to ground the analysis. The emphasis of the report will be on analysis that supports future policy and decision making by the Ministry.

## **BACKGROUND:**

- Licensed adoption agencies provide domestic and intercountry adoption services under the *Adoption Act*, enabling the Ministry and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies to focus on achieving permanency for children who are in the continuing custody of the Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.
- The Provincial Director of Adoption licenses and regulates agencies under the Adoption Agency Regulation (AAR).
- Since the AAR came into force in 1996, declining intercountry adoption rates have resulted in significant financial implications for adoption agencies. As a result, the number of agencies in B.C. has decreased from seven to two. Despite these and other issues, only minor amendments have been made to the AAR.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- The external review of B.C.’s adoption agency regulatory framework and intercountry adoption services began in September 2021 by KPMG LLP. A final report with recommendations was expected to be delivered to the Ministry by June 30, 2022.
- Upon review of the draft Final Report by Ministry leadership, a request was made for a revised report which directly responds to policy questions of interest to the Ministry. The revised Final Report will present the results of the review in a refocused format and will be delivered to the ministry by November 30, 2022.

- The agency-based service delivery model has changed substantially since it was implemented in 1996. The review will determine whether:
  - the current framework supports effective and efficient agency regulation in the public interest,
  - the intercountry adoption service delivery model aligns with Government's strategic direction regarding permanency for children and youth and enables Government to meet its international obligations under the Hague Convention, and
  - the vision and values of the Ministry's intercountry adoption services meet the needs of children and are implemented in the best interest of the child.
- The review is transformative in scope, evaluating the entire adoption agency regulatory framework and the delivery of intercountry adoption services in B.C. This review will provide a thorough assessment of the current approach and provide an analysis of key considerations for the future state of intercountry adoption services in B.C.
- Engagement has been completed with key partners on the challenges and opportunities within the current model and will inform the final report.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

**ISSUE: Overview of Child and Youth Mental Health Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) provides free and voluntary evidence-informed mental health services – in-person and/or virtually – to children and youth (aged 0-19) who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health challenges and disorders.
- Provincially, 59% of services to children, youth and families accessed in-person services in 2021, while 41% accessed virtual services.
- Each year, CYMH provides services to over 25,000 children and youth (aged 0-18) with an average of 16,000 children and youth were referred to CYMH each year.
- Ministry CYMH services work collaboratively within an integrated system with Health Authorities; health and substance-use services; community-based social service providers; Delegated Aboriginal Agencies; Foundry centres; and contracted agencies and other services.
  - For example: children and youth with early psychosis require a close partnership between CYMH clinicians and Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) programs provided by Health Authorities.
- CYMH practitioners work collaboratively with cross-ministry and community partners to offer outreach services to children, youth and families through school-based teams, integrated hubs and wellness centres, including Foundry Centres, in many communities in British Columbia.
- Telehealth psychiatric outreach services are offered to families in Northern, rural and remote areas of the province through a contract with BC Children's Hospital.
- In the last 24 months, the Ministry has made progress toward addressing gaps in the continuum of services by providing step-up step-down outreach services, low-barrier stabilization care and operationalizing integrated child and youth teams in select locations.

Advice/Recommendations average wait times of 78.3 days for services provincially for fiscal year 2022/2023 Year to Date as at Oct 1, 2022. The growth in wait times may be due, in part, to a high level of CYMH Clinician vacancies, as well as children, youth and families presenting with more acute and complex situations.

- When children and youth are placed on the CYMH waitlist they are offered (when available) brief sessions, group interventions, resources, and referrals to community supports while they wait, and families are encouraged to contact CYMH if their child's mental health symptoms change. Approximately 48.9% of children and youth on the CYMH waitlist on September 30, 2022, received a CYMH service while waiting for other CYMH services.
- Many children and youth receive services right away and are not placed on a waitlist. The five-year provincial average for children and youth who received services right away with no wait time is 19%.
- Children and youth who present with urgent issues, such as suicidal thoughts, are immediately fast-tracked to a mental health practitioner for evaluation and safety planning. In emergency situations, parents and caregivers are encouraged to call 911 or take their child or youth to the nearest hospital emergency department.

## BACKGROUND:

- CYMH offers a continuum of services, from prevention and community-based supports through to specialized intervention and bed-based clinical treatment including:
  - Core services provided through community-based CYMH and Indigenous CYMH teams and Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams in select locations – these are offered through Ministry offices, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, Foundry Youth Centres, contracted agencies, community outreach and schools. The CYMH Service Framework identifies six (6) Core Services, including:
    - Referral and Intake
    - Initial Services
    - Assessment Services
    - Therapy and Intervention Services

- Consultation Services
- And Urgent Response
- Bed-based services are provided through the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre. The Maples is a provincial tertiary designated mental health facility providing assessment and treatment for youth aged 12 to 17 years old – both on site and in community-based programs and services – as well as training and support for caregivers and families. The Maples provides voluntary mental health services under the *Mental Health Act* and is also the designated treatment facility for youth found unfit to stand trial and not criminally responsible due to mental disorder (NCRMD) under the Criminal Code of Canada and *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. There are six key programs and 22 on-site beds serving the entire province:
  - Response Program, Care Plan Consultants, Dala Program, Crossroads Program, Bifröst Program, and the Connect Attachment Program.
- Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services provides court-mandated forensic assessments and interventions to youth involved in the justice system and support youth who are on community or custody supervision via:
  - an in-Patient Assessment Unit in Burnaby; and
  - outpatient clinics in Vancouver, Burnaby, Langley, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince George, Kamloops, and Kelowna.
- Prevention and Early Intervention initiatives, including:
  - School mental health prevention services; and
  - Contracted provincial initiatives that support PEI – e.g., Confident Parents: Thriving Kids, Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE), and FamilySmart.
- Specialized Services:
  - Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health
  - Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI)
  - Developmental Disabilities Mental Health
  - Concurrent Disorders
  - Eating Disorders

- CYMH services are guided by a service framework and overarching policies and practice standards, to ensure quality and consistency across its 88<sup>i</sup> MCFD teams.
- Within the 88<sup>i</sup> MCFD teams, there are 504 CYMH practitioners<sup>ii</sup> who saw 22,454 children and youth between April 2021 and December 31, 2021<sup>iii</sup>.
- These teams are comprised of a variety of professionals – including social workers and nurses with mental-health expertise, clinical counsellors, psychologists, and contracted psychiatrists.
- In the areas of Vancouver/Richmond and Prince George, MCFD does not directly provide CYMH services. In these areas, the services are delivered via contract with Vancouver Coastal Health (Vancouver/Richmond) and Intersect Youth and Family Services (Prince George).

### **WORK UNDERWAY:**

- The Ministry works to ensure its CYMH services align with and support the government's vision for mental-health and substance-use services, as outlined in *A Pathway to Hope* including:
  - Prevention and early intervention initiatives
  - Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams that work to fill gaps in service and shorten wait times in the current system of mental health and substance use care; children and youth in need will receive services and supports tailored to their unique situation, delivered by a team of experts in school and outreach settings
  - Step-up/Step-down services that provide more intensive and concentrated supports for children and youth in communities or when they are transitioning out of inpatient-based services
- In response to an increase in the prevalence of eating disorders, the Ministry is currently supporting a knowledge exchange of eating disorder learning resources and exploring training options to support CYMH clinicians and teams.
- To address the recent rise in CYMH Clinician vacancies, several mitigation strategies have been implemented including:
  - Amending practices to shift how services are offered to meet future demand in light of vacancies

- Redeployment of staff to assist offices experiencing significant staffing shortages
- Reassigning non-clinical work to other staff
- Planning for enhanced recruitment and retention strategies is underway
- To address growing wait times for service, the Ministry has implemented several strategies, including:
  - Expanding provincial virtual therapeutic groups
  - Standardizing templates to reduce unnecessary documentation requirements
  - Streamlining the intake process with an alternative method of administering the intake screening questionnaire
  - Monitoring regular caseloads and waitlists
  - Developing an inventory of mental health resources that practitioners can share with families

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<sup>i</sup> 2019 CYMH Service Inventory, CYMH Policy team

<sup>ii</sup> Adjusted to remove Maples and Complex Needs Facility employees.

<sup>iii</sup> Data Source: Modelling, Analysis, and Information Management (MAIM)

Note that this data is for the fiscal year to date as of Dec 31, 2021, leaving 3 months to the end of the fiscal year. This data does not include Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

**ISSUE: Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Service Framework**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- This government is committed to strengthening its approach to prevention, early intervention, and family preservation.
- We know that services for children and youth with support needs require fundamental reform.
- That's why we're implementing a new Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Service Framework and approach to make it easier for families, service providers and other partners to understand, navigate and access ministry support needs services.
- Government publicly announced the implementation of the new service model in October 2021.
- Our vision is that children, youth, and their families – in every part of B.C. – will have access to culturally safe, gender inclusive, non-discriminatory and trauma-informed support services that help them meet their social and developmental goals.
- This new service model will remove a patchwork of services and move toward an approach that will better serve all children and youth with support needs: those who are neurodivergent and those with disabilities, those with a diagnosis and those without one.
- A Minister's Advisory Council was established in May 2021 and meets monthly to provide feedback and advice on various aspects of the new service delivery approach.
- An Indigenous Advisory Circle was established in September 2021 and meets monthly to engage on different elements of the support needs service framework, including a pathway for Indigenous communities and organizations to deliver services.

- Additional focused engagement with Indigenous rights holders, communities, partners, and families is part of a comprehensive engagement plan.
- The Ministry is committed to ensuring that all services are culturally safe and trauma informed.
- Cultural safety outcomes will be determined at the local level, working in partnership with Indigenous communities, service providers and families.
- MCFD is working with other Ministries like Health, Education and Child Care, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Mental Health and Addictions, to ensure effective implementation of the new service approach and seamless supports across service sectors.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- In early 2019, through community workshops, phone interviews and research surveys, over 1,500 individuals shared their experiences about needing supports, receiving supports, and delivering supports within the CYSN suite of services.
- This early engagement identified barriers and informed the development of the CYSN Service Framework. The transformation is rooted in the voices of Indigenous and non-Indigenous families, communities, and service providers.
- Government recognizes the many individuals and groups who have been instrumental in developing content and engagement processes for the new Service Framework.
- Engagement is ongoing with the Minister's Advisory Council and the Indigenous Advisory Circle.
- Continued conversations and engagement with families, service providers and sector partners will help ensure that implementation of the new service approach meets the needs of children, youth, and their families.
- The Service Framework describes three core components of the new CYSN service model: Developmental and Goal-Focused Services, Disability Services, and Provincial Services.
- The new service model is needs-based; meaning that diagnosis is no longer necessary to access services.

- All services will be available for children and youth from birth to 19 years. The new model includes family connections centres, through which contracted agencies will deliver developmental and goal-focused services.
- The new model will employ a range of approaches to help ensure clinical services go further and reach more children and youth. These include a blend of in-person, in-home, virtual, and individual supports, as well as the use of support professionals under the supervision of qualified clinical professionals, like therapy assistants and interventionists.
- This will enable families to have earlier access to services, closer to home.
- Part of the new system is holistic support planning for children, youth, and their families. This process centres the child or youth and their family's voice and is done using a person-centred approach.
- In the new model, practitioners are encouraged to support connections in different disciplines to work alongside other professionals to wrap supports around the child or youth and best aid the family to plan for their future.
- In the spring of 2022, the medical equipment benefits portion of the At Home Program will be modernized with additional funding of \$10M – the first increase in 20 years. This will assist families with the costs of durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs.
- Early implementation of the new service model will be operational in the Central Okanagan and Northwest Service Delivery Areas by 2023. The procurement process for these centres will begin in 2022.
- Families will have the option to receive services through family connections centres, satellite services, and/or subcontractors.
- Individualized Autism funding and School Aged Extended Therapies will continue until 2025.
- Early implementation will inform provincial implementation. Provincial roll-out of the new service model will be complete in 2025.

### **STATISTICS:**

- There are approximately 79,000 children and youth with support needs in B.C. and more than 30,000 access Ministry intervention and support services between birth and age 19 years.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY, AND LEGISLATION DIVISION**

**ISSUE: Post Majority Supports and Youth Transitions Service Framework**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry is working with cross-government and community partners to offer improved and expanded programs and services to support youth and young adults through their transition from government care to adulthood.
- The vision for the future places youth and young adults at the centre, with the wraparound supports and services they need to transition into adulthood and achieve their full potential.
- This new comprehensive cross-government approach to supporting youth in and from care includes an investment of \$35 million over three years, starting in 2022-2023.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Since 2017, B.C. has been improving supports for youth transitioning to adulthood from government care. This latest package of supports builds on existing programs, including:
  - Effective October 17, 2022, a new rent supplement program for young adults from care between the ages of 19-26 (inclusive);
  - Effective April 1, 2022, Temporary Housing Agreements and Temporary Support Agreements have been extended indefinitely, allowing young adults to remain in their living arrangements up until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday;
  - Transition planning that will begin when youth are as young as 14 (if developmentally ready) and up to their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday;
  - A no-limit earnings exemption, which took effect in August 2022, and an unconditional income supplement for young adults aged 19-20, for up to 12 months (implemented in 2024);
  - An income supplement of up to \$1250 per month while participating in approved programming, up to their 27th birthday;
  - Expanded program duration from 48 months to 84 months for young adults under the age of 27 (implemented in 2024);

- Increasing the annual dental limit from \$750 to \$1,000 (implemented in 2023);
- Enhancing medical benefits by providing counselling benefits to help address the trauma that young adults from care often experience (implemented in 2023); and
- Dedicated life-skills funding to provide young adults with the opportunity to enroll in programming that is not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, including cultural programming (implemented in 2023).

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS:**

- Funding is available for young adults pursuing post-secondary education through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP), Youth Education Assistance Fund (YEAFF), Youth Futures Education Fund (YFEF), and the Learning Fund for Young Adults (LFYA). LFYA funding will be available starting in Fall 2023.
- The Ministry continues to work with cross-government partners to ensure accessible and enhanced pathways into existing mental health supports such as Foundry.
- AgedOut.com is an online resource, funded by the Ministry and hosted by the Adoptive Families Association of B.C., which provides information and skill building opportunities for current and former youth in care.
- WorkBC Employment Services are available for all adults, including self-serve resources, personal counselling, and financial supports for employment readiness.
- The Telus Mobility for Good and Internet for Good programs offer eligible young adults aged 19-26 a free mobile phone and affordable data and internet plans.

### **YOUTH TRANSITIONS SERVICE FRAMEWORK:**

- The Ministry is developing a Youth Transitions Service Framework to provide context about youth and young adult transitions, the core services that are available, how these services are accessed and the intended outcomes.
- Key components of Service Framework include:

- Greater support for Indigenous youth and young adults;
- Youth transition planning by age 14 (where developmentally appropriate) to prepare each youth for the transition to adulthood; and
- Cross-government and community links to facilitate connections with the core services young adults need, which may be delivered by partner ministries, Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies, health authorities and community organizations.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIALIZED INTERVENTION AND YOUTH JUSTICE BRANCH**

**ISSUE:        Overview of Youth Custody Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- B.C. is widely recognized as having one of the most progressive and effective systems of youth justice services in the country.
- Youth Justice Services focus on public safety and the rehabilitation of youth who are in conflict with the law by promoting law-abiding behaviour and addressing the physical and mental-health needs of those youth.
- B.C.'s system provides Youth Custody Services, Community Youth Justice Services and Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services for youth aged 12 to 17 at the time of their alleged offence, and can retain youth up to the age of 20 on youth orders.
- Youth Custody Services operates two youth custody centres, located in Burnaby and Prince George. The combined staffed capacity for the centres is 108, with 24 at Prince George and 84 at Burnaby.
- Burnaby Youth Custody Services also operates a four-bed interim holding unit in Victoria to assist with transportation requirements between custody and court.
- Custody facilities house youth who are ordered by the court to serve a period of time in open or secure custody, as well as youth who are detained pending further court appearances.
- Secure custody is intended for youth who are found guilty of serious offences, on remand orders, and for youth who have a persistent pattern of offending.
- Open custody is intended for youth who can manage effectively within an open custody unit and are inappropriate for placement in a community setting.
- B.C. uses a range of community alternatives to custody, such as intensive support and supervision and Full-Time Attendance Programs (residential) that have helped reduce the B.C. youth custody rate.
- The decline in youth custody counts is a result of:

- Decreases in the youth crime rate.
  - Federal investments in community-based alternatives to custody and rehabilitation services.
  - The implementation of the Federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in 2003.
  - Amendments to the Youth Criminal Justice Act in 2019.
- Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services (YFPS) is a specialized provincial program that provides court and non-court-ordered mental health assessment and treatment services to youth in custody or under community youth justice supervision as a result of their involvement with criminal justice system.
  - All youth within the custody setting are seen by YFPS upon admission and provided with therapeutic interventions throughout the custodial period as needed.

### STATISTICS:

Average Youth Custody Count fiscal years (2018/19-2021/22) and fiscal year to date (FYTD2022/23):

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 FYTD
<b>Total youth in custody*</b>	32	26	13	11	15
<b>Gender</b>	85% male 15% female	86% male 14% female	89% male 11% female	85% male 15% female	81% male 19% female
<b>Indigenous</b>	41%	46%	56%	46%	55%

Data Source: Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch, MCFD

Note: All statistics include youth serving open and secure custody sentences, and youth remanded in custody awaiting trial/sentence.

\* Stat is an average daily count for YCS on the day it was generated – stat is not based on unique youth.

\*\*These statistics represent physical sex, not self-identified gender which is considered when placement decisions are made.

\* FYTD 2022/23 as of October 13, 2022.



Statistics provided in the table below include admissions to assessment and treatment services at the IAU and all eight outpatient clinics, as well as mental health services provided at Youth Custody Services. For fiscal year to date 2022/23, 79% of the youth served by YFPS were male, 21% were female, and 35% identified as having an Indigenous background.

YFPS Assessment and Treatment Cases per fiscal years (FY18/19 to FY21/22), and fiscal year to date (FYTD22/23):

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>FY18/19</b>	<b>FY19/20</b>	<b>FY20/21</b>	<b>FY21/22</b>	<b>FY22/23 FYTD</b>
<b>YFPS Total Number of Youth Served</b>	1176	1117	880	726	560
YFPS Court-Ordered Assessment Cases	373	339	203	219	124
YFPS Non-Court Ordered Assessment Cases	223	240	117	198	101
YFPS Treatment Cases	704	706	604	628	476
<b>Total Number of YFPS Cases</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>701</b>

Data Source: Data Warehouse. Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch, MCFD.

Gender and Indigenous counts are based on # of cases not # of clients

\* FYTD 2022/23 as of October 7, 2022.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY DIVISION**

**ISSUE: Overview of Community Youth Justice Services**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- B.C. is widely recognized across Canada as having progressive and effective youth justice services.
- B.C. provides youth justice services for youth aged 12 to 17 at the time a criminal offence was committed, and can retain youth up to age 20 on youth orders.
- Community youth justice services are committed to public safety and the rehabilitation of youth in conflict with the law. To rehabilitate youth to make changes, youth probation officers supervise, and support youth involved in the criminal justice system by providing services that promote prosocial behaviour.
- Youth probation officers work in integrated ministry offices across all 13 service delivery areas, and report to specialized youth justice team leaders.
- Community supervision by youth probation officers is enhanced and supported by a range of programs and services including:
  - intensive support and supervision programs;
  - substance abuse treatment;
  - mental health assessment and services;
  - restorative justice services;
  - cultural connection mentorship and supports;
  - a provincial toolbox to financially support individualized case specific planning;
  - Specialized federal funding options for youth specific to rehabilitation services, based on criteria and focused on individualized plans.
  - a range of Full-Time Attendance Programs as an alternative to custodial sentences, including gender specific and culturally supportive programming.
- Community-based Full- Time Attendance Programs are court-ordered and used to support youth in need of an alternative to custody, treatment, or transitional support from custody back into the community.
- In FY2021/22 there were 10 centrally managed Full Time Attendance Programs (total 40 beds) located across B.C. with different focuses including: sexual offences, substance use, and general rehabilitation.

**STATISTICS:****Average Community Youth Justice Count — (2018/19-FYTD 2022/23)**

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>FYTD 2022/23</b>
<b>Total Youth on Community Supervision</b>	1,060	1,041	887	786	790
<b>Gender</b>	79% male 21% female	79% male 21% female	80% male 20% female	79% male 21% female	78% male 22% female
<b>Indigenous</b>	40%	39%	40%	40%	40%

- Data Source: Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice Branch, BI Youth Inventory Cube MCFD
- FYTD 2022/23 as of October 13, 2022

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION**

**ISSUE: Overview of First Nations Jurisdiction & Coordination Agreements**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- Our goal as a Ministry is to support children and youth to remain safely with their families and connected to their culture and communities.
- On January 1, 2020, the federal legislation – *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families* (the “federal Act”) – came into force.
- The federal Act:
  - Affirms the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and provides a process through which Indigenous laws can have the force of federal law;
  - Establishes national child and family services principles that must be used in the administration and interpretation of the Act; and
  - Sets national standards for service delivery that every Province and Territory must meet.
- The federal Act enables Indigenous groups and communities to transition towards exercising partial or full jurisdiction over child and family services.
- First Nations now have several pathways available to them under B.C.’s *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), the federal Act, and the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to support them in achieving their goals as they pertain to increased involvement, decision-making authority, or jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.
- The Ministry is actively engaged in discussions with First Nations and Indigenous governing bodies regarding increased involvement, decision-making authority, and jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.

## BACKGROUND:

- In May 2016 the Province of British Columbia committed to working with the federal government and First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to address jurisdictional and funding frameworks for Indigenous child welfare.
- In the fall of 2016, the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group (TWG) was formed with representation from the Province of BC, the Government of Canada, and FNLC (which itself is comprised of representation from the First Nations Summit, BC Assembly of First Nations, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs).
- The TWG has continued to this day focusing on systemic child welfare issues along with jurisdiction and fiscal relations/funding.
- In early 2017, MCFD began to engage in exploratory discussions with Indigenous communities wishing to exercise jurisdiction over child welfare. However, prior to the federal Act, there was no clear legal mechanism for jurisdiction to occur outside of treaty or self-government agreements.
- There are now several pathways for Indigenous communities to exercise greater involvement, increased authority, and jurisdiction over child welfare including:
  - *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* – provincial legislation:
    - Section 92.1 Agreements, which include information-sharing agreements, community agreements, prevention and support service agreements, and the referral of child protection reports.
    - Delegation Enabling Agreements, wherein a director enters into an agreement with an employer of one or more persons to whom a director has delegated – under section 92 – any or all the director's power, duties, or functions.
  - *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth, and families* (federal Act) – federal legislation, which affirms the inherent right of self-government and jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.
  - *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)* – section 7 of the Declaration Act provides the opportunity for the

province to enter into decision making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies. Section 7 agreements require a mandate from Cabinet, legislation, and the involvement of MIRR.

- Self-governing agreements – these are generally tripartite agreements negotiated by MIRR and the federal government. Agreements such as treaties or reconciliation agreements would fall under this category.
- The federal Act defines an “Indigenous governing body” (IGB) as a council, government or other entity that is authorized to act on behalf of an Indigenous group, community or people. This body holds rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.
- There are two options for an IGB to exercise jurisdiction:
  - Section 20(1): IGB sends notice to Canada and B.C. that it is exercising jurisdiction. The Indigenous law will not prevail over conflicting federal, provincial or territorial laws in this circumstance. There is no commitment of funding under this option.
  - Section 20(2): IGB submits request to Canada and B.C. to enter a tripartite coordination agreement. Once an agreement is reached, or after a year of reasonable efforts, the Indigenous law will have the force of federal law and prevail in the event of a conflict or inconsistency with federal, provincial or territorial laws.
- Canada takes the lead in assessing and responding to the requests an IGB makes under section 20 of the federal Act.
- Canada and B.C. are actively discussing the development of four coordination agreements with the following Indigenous governing bodies: Cowichan Tribes, Gwa’sala-’Nakwaxda’xw Nations, Splatshin, and Sts’ailes First Nation.
- Intergovernmental Communications

- The Ministry is also engaged with several communities regarding the development of section 92.1 community agreements.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**

**ISSUE:** Métis Working Table and Métis Joint Commitment

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Ministry's goal is to support children and youth to stay safely with their families and connected to their culture and communities.
- We are committed to working with Indigenous communities and partners towards this goal.
- In June 2018, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) signed a Joint Commitment document that commits the parties to collaboratively work towards MNBC authority over child welfare for Métis children and families in B.C.
- MNBC set an aspirational goal of three years to achieve the required authority.
- MNBC has recognized that they will not be able to achieve this aspirational goal and have refocused their efforts on increasing support services to the Métis community and determining the tools that are available now to support their increased planning and involvement for Métis children, youth and families.
- MCFD has worked in collaboration with MNBC and the Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC (the Métis Commission) since 2018 to determine a path forward for Métis people in B.C. to achieve increased authority over child and family services.
- Since the signing of the Joint Commitment document in 2018, there have been amendments to the provincial *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) and the enactment of both the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (federal Act) and the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which provide additional pathways for MNBC for increased decision making and authority.

- MNBC has indicated an interest in all options available to them under both the CFCSA and the federal Act to support their goals under the 2018 commitment.
- MNBC has also submitted a notice of intent to exercise jurisdiction under section 20(2) of the federal Act and enter into a Coordination Agreement.

Intergovernmental Communications

## BACKGROUND:

- MNBC is generally regarded as the political voice for Métis people in B.C. Lissa Dawn Smith is the President, Daniel Fontaine is the Chief Executive Officer and Colleen Hodgson is the Senior Director, Ministry of Métis Children and Families.
- The Métis Commission is the Métis-designated community for receipt of notices of hearings under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* Regulations. Sheri Wildman is the CEO/Executive Director of the Métis Commission.
- In September 2016, MNBC, the Métis Commission and MCFD entered into a second five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding services for Métis children and families in B.C. The MOU was witnessed and supported by the five principal Métis service providers in B.C.:
  - *Métis Family Services* in Surrey is fully delegated to provide child protection services, adoption services and culturally based support programs in Surrey.
  - *Island Métis Family and Community Services Society* in Victoria provides contracted culturally based support services to MCFD clients and other Métis people on Vancouver Island. They are actively working toward achieving delegation for Métis children on southern Vancouver Island.
  - *Kikino Métis Children and Family Services* in Prince George provides contracted culturally based support services to MCFD clients and other Métis people in the Prince George area.



- *Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services* in Kamloops became the second delegated Métis service provider; LMO provides C6 fully delegated child protection services and will continue providing community and culturally based support services to Métis people in Kamloops and in the immediate area.
- *Métis Community Services Society BC* in Kelowna provides contracted cultural and family support services to MCFD clients and other Métis people in the Kelowna area.
- The MOU established the Métis Working Table to identify, discuss and strategize ways to address systemic issues concerning services to Métis children and families in B.C.
- A second table, the Métis Practice Table, was established in 2017 to focus on CFCSA practice issues pertaining to planning for Métis children after MNBC wrote to MCFD calling for a moratorium on permanent placements and adoptions of Métis children.

Intergovernmental Communications

- Currently, a representative from the Métis Commission sits at the Provincial Exceptions Committee (PEC) table with the Aboriginal Services Branch and Adoption and Permanency Branch. Until November 2020, the former Director of Métis Children and Families at MNBC sat on the PEC. The PEC reviews all decisions to place an Indigenous child with a non-Indigenous prospective adoptive parent or 54.1 caregiver who is not a relative.

- In January 2020, the Métis Practice Table and the Métis Working Table have agreed to participate in more frequent meetings together given the strong connection between child welfare authority and child welfare practice.

Intergovernmental Communications

- MNBC and Métis Commission representatives presented on the roles and responsibilities of their organizations on the Advancing our Practice and Directors of Practice calls.
- In 2020 and 2021, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) and MCFD received orientations regarding “Understanding Métis in BC: A Guide for Social Workers, Legislators and Policy Makers.” The Métis Commission and MNBC participated in the orientations and MNBC developed the guidebook.
- MNBC reviewed and provided feedback on the new federal Act online training that was developed for DAAs and MCFD staff.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION**

**ISSUE: First Nations Tripartite Children and Families Working Group**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- The First Nations Tripartite Children and Families Working Group (TWG) supports systemic reform to improve First Nations child and family well-being in British Columbia.
- The TWG has been focused on:
  - Implementing the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*;
  - Developing a fiscal framework to increase accountability and transparency to First Nations regarding the funding that goes to services to support First Nations; and
  - Increasing engagement and communications with First Nations in B.C.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In May 2016, the BC First Nations Children and Family Gathering was held with representatives from the Province of British Columbia, Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to discuss the current state of child welfare.
- At that meeting, B.C. made three commitments to:
  - Immediately improve child welfare services by ensuring that staff from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) connect with First Nations, identify First Nations children in care, and work to improve services and supports to keep more First Nations children out of care;
  - Work with Canada and the FNLC to build new jurisdictional and funding frameworks that would support improved outcomes, as well as empower First Nations who are interested to exercise their own jurisdiction over child welfare; and
  - Establish a tripartite working group to guide the work of the Province, Canada and the FNLC.

- In the fall of 2016, the TWG was formed and consists of representatives from the FNLC, MCFD, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Attorney General and Indigenous Services Canada.
- The FNLC serves as an advocacy body and is composed of three political organizations – the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.
- The TWG has developed and agreed to the following documents:
  - **Terms of Reference:** signed March 2017, the terms of reference define the scope, membership, goals, guiding principles, process and resources of the TWG. The overall goal is sustained collaboration to improve outcomes for First Nations children and families.
  - **Reconciliation Charter:** signed April 2017, the charter acknowledges the current challenges with Indigenous child welfare, defines the shared objective of First Nations governing their own children and families using approaches grounded in their own cultures and traditions, and outlines mutual commitments for achieving this outcome.
  - **Workplan:** original signed December 2017, with regular updates to the workplan occurring since that time. Discussions are underway to develop a new workplan for the 2022/23 fiscal year.
  - **Internal Communications Protocol:** signed June 2019 and outlines how the members of the TWG will share information amongst the parties.
- Two sub-committees were created in 2019 to meet work plan objectives: (1) a fiscal working group/fiscal framework technical team and (2) a technical practice working group.
- The two sub-committees paused the sub-committee meetings in 2021/2022. The goal of the pause was to get a better understanding of the governance structure and to determine if the sub-committee meetings were achieving the intended outcomes.
- In 2021/2022, FNLC contracted Ference and Company to undertake a review of the fiscal sub-committee and support the revision of the Service Level Agreement, which is a bi-lateral funding agreement between Canada and the Province of B.C.

- This work continues with Ference and Company who have completed phase 1 of the review, review of the fiscal sub-committee structure and purpose, with work continuing with phase 2 and 3, review of the Service Level Agreement and options for the development of the fiscal framework.
- The sub-committee on practice has not been re-established at this time.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY AND LEGISLATION DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2022/23**

**ISSUE: IMPROVING SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We're committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to keep Indigenous children and youth safe within their families and connected to their cultures and communities.
- For far too long, the child welfare system has been overly involved in the lives of Indigenous children and families.
- This dates back to residential schools and continues today — and it needs to stop.
- We have been working hard to transform the system and address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- And while we have taken steps to improve how we work with and share information with Indigenous communities...
- ...we know we need to do much more to support Indigenous children, youth, and families.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The negative impact of colonization including the imposition of a legal regime both foreign and harmful to the cultures and customs of Indigenous Peoples, the undermining of family and community systems, and the resultant inter-generational trauma have all contributed to the historical and current overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- MCFD recognizes, and is working to address, this overrepresentation with a focus on Indigenous reconciliation and family preservation.
- Although we are seeing results with the lowest number of Indigenous children and youth in care since September 1999, the Service Plan outlines our key efforts to achieve our vision that all children and youth in British Columbia — both Indigenous and non-Indigenous — live in safe, healthy, and nurturing families, and be strongly connected to their communities and culture.

- **Practice transformations:** We are working with Indigenous Peoples to transform policies, practices, services, and programs to reflect the priority of keeping their children and youth safely at home and connected to their communities and culture.
- **Information sharing:** We are working to ensure transparency and accountability to Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities, including implementing information-sharing agreements (under s. 92.1 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*). As of January 24, 2022, we have signed 87 of these agreements.
- **Commitment to the Declaration Act:** On August 31, 2021, I sent a Letter of Commitment to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to actively engage and co-develop policy and legislation changes with the FNLC and Indigenous governments, in alignment with the B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- **CFCSA reform:** We are working with Indigenous Peoples, communities, leadership, service providers and partners to co-develop reform of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, in alignment with B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the federal *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*.
- **Fiscal framework:** We are working together with Canada and Indigenous partners to co-develop a B.C.-specific fiscal framework to support the transition of services as Indigenous Governing Bodies begin to exercise their inherent jurisdiction over child and family services.
- **Cross-jurisdictional model:** In collaboration with Indigenous leadership, rights and title holders, communities, service providers and partners – along with federal and provincial partners – we are working to develop a cross-jurisdictional model for how to integrate and deliver services through multiple jurisdictions.
- **Decision-making authority and jurisdiction:** We are currently working with the following Indigenous governing bodies, partners and communities regarding increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction.
  - First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC);
  - Métis Nation British Columbia;
  - Cowichan Tribes – IGB;
  - Huu-ay-aht First Nations – IGB;
  - Lake Babine Nation – IGB;
  - Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (NStQ);

- Splatsin – IGB;
- Simpcw First Nation – IGB;
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en Nation;
- Sts'ailes – IGB; and
- Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'Xw - IGB

**CROSS-REFERENCE:** N/A



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION  
ESTIMATES CORPORATE BRIEFING NOTE 2022/23**

**ISSUE: *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act***

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- In November 2019, the Province passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) as a commitment for provincial legislative, regulatory, policy and operational changes over time to support implementation.
- Section 4 of the Declaration Act commits the provincial government to develop an action plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples in B.C.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) began Phase 2 of their engagement on June 11, 2021; this invited Indigenous peoples in B.C. to share feedback on the provincial government Consultation Draft Action Plan (CDAP).
- Phase 1 hosted targeted engagement throughout the fall 2020/winter 2021 with more than 80 separate meetings with 75 Indigenous partners and received 30 written submissions that informed the work of the release of the CDAP on June 11, 2021.
- A multi-approach engagement was undertaken from June 11 to September 15, 2021 that included written submissions, access to citizen services portal, and facilitated meetings with partners on specific actions, goals and outcomes.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 engaged with targeted Indigenous partners and selected sector partners.
- Thirty-one title holders participated in Phase 2 and five title holders gave specific comments on MCFD three actions. Métis Nation BC and the Victoria Métis local also provided input on MCFD's actions.

- The Indigenous Child & Family Services Directors Society (ICFSDS) gave a written submission and made recommendations for consideration on how they could provide their expertise on the actions; they also commented on actions they felt were missing (E.g., impact of intergenerational trauma – specifically how the child welfare system is the new residential school).

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## BACKGROUND:

- At the launch of Phase 2 engagement, 229 indigenous partners received an email/letter from Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Murray Rankin inviting them to participate.
- During the Phase 2 engagement period between June 11, 2021 and September 15, 2021, there were 9,142 visits to the engagement site, 403 online comments made to the CDAP, and 132 feedback forms completed.
- By October 7, 2021, 80 partners or organizations had provided written submissions.
- Many challenges impacted title holders, Indigenous residents, and targeted partners from participating in the various platforms to provide feedback. This includes the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the finding of the unmarked graves at residential school sites, forest fires and the opioid crisis.
- Eight high-level themes were identified. E.g., the need for funding to ensure Indigenous communities can engage/co-develop on the scale required/proposed in CDAP, the need for stronger language (e.g., language like “resource” rather than “commit”).
- The CDAP has four specific themes:
  1. self-determination and the inherent rights of self-government
  2. title and rights of Indigenous peoples
  3. ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
  4. social, cultural and economic well-being

- Specifically, 68% of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” when asked whether the CDAP focuses on the right actions.
- There was a strong support for the goals in the four themes (65%-70%) and the outcomes had similar levels of support.
- There was lower support (63%) for the actions brought forward.
- The major themes identified included a request for both short- and long-term actions/commitment, including fiscal commitments.
- Participants identified the need for the use of plain language.
- A request to include short- and long-term actions was also provided as feedback.
- MIRR identified ministries that had requests to change language in actions and that needed further clarity from respondents occurred in January 2022.
- MCFD participated in this request and provide new approved language.
- Release of the final CDAP is anticipated in early Spring of 2022.

**CROSS-REFERENCE:** N/A

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP AND INDIGEOUS ENGAGEMENT DIVISION**

**ISSUE:       Apology to Indigenous People for Child Welfare Harms**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We have heard the call from Indigenous Peoples for the Province of British Columbia (BC) to apologize for the role the province has played in the child welfare system and the harms it has caused to Indigenous Peoples.
- We acknowledge that the colonial child welfare system has caused an over representation of Indigenous children, youth and families in the child welfare system.
- We also recognize that an apology of this nature needs to be meaningful and that we must take action to ensure that the harms of the past will not be repeated.
- The Province of BC is carefully considering the request for an apology and the steps required to ensure that an apology would be meaningful to Indigenous People.

**BACKGROUND:**

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY & LEGISLATION DIVISION**

**ISSUE: Federal Indigenous child, youth, and family services legislation**

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- We're committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to keep Indigenous children and youth safe within their families and connected to their cultures and communities.
- We have been working hard to transform the system and address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.
- And while we have taken steps to improve how we work with and share information with Indigenous communities, we know we need to do much more to support Indigenous children, youth, and families.
- The Federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the "Federal Act") came into force on January 1, 2020, and is intended to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care and improve child and family services.
- The Federal Act:
  - Affirms the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services and provides a process through which Indigenous laws can have the force of federal law;
  - Establishes national child and family services principles that must be used in the administration and interpretation of the Act; and
  - Sets national standards for service delivery that every Province and Territory must meet.
- The Province has implemented policies and practices to ensure alignment with the Federal Act and oriented all MCFD and DAA staff to the national principles and standards.
- The Province continues to work with the federal government and First Nations, Inuit and, Métis peoples to implement the Federal Act. This includes participating in tripartite coordination agreement discussions with Canada and

Indigenous governing bodies intending to exercise jurisdiction over their child and family services.

- As part of the initiative to reform the Child, Family and Community Service Act, the ministry will also be working with Indigenous partners to make changes to provincial legislation to support Indigenous jurisdiction.

## **BACKGROUND:**

- The national standards under the Federal Act require MCFD and DAA staff to:
  - Provide notice to parents, care providers and Indigenous governing bodies before significant measures are taken in relation to a child or youth, such as removing a child from their home or placing a child in another home;
  - Prioritize preventive care;
  - Prioritize placement decisions for Indigenous children based on maintaining the tie between children and their parents, family and community;
  - Continue to reassess placement whenever a child is not placed with their family or community; and
  - Promote attachment/emotional ties for Indigenous children when they are not placed with a family member.
- Three new principles guide the way in which the Federal Act is to be interpreted and administered:
  - Best interests of the Indigenous child;
  - Cultural continuity; and
  - Substantive equality<sup>1</sup>.
- In 2022, the ministry is engaging with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples to co-develop a reformed *Child, Family and Community Service Act* to advance the implementation of the Federal Act, support a multi-jurisdictional model, and promote positive changes to service delivery for all children, youth and families.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Government of Canada, substantive equality is a “legal principle that refers to the achievement of true equality in outcomes. It is achieved through equal access, equal opportunity and, most importantly, the provision of services and benefits in a manner and according to standards that meet any unique needs and circumstances, such as cultural, social, economic and historical disadvantage.”

- Initial engagement and validation of a 'What We Heard' report will take place throughout 2022.

Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations



**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC INTEGRATION, POLICY & LEGISLATION DIVISION**

**ISSUE:        Legislation Amendments – *Child, Family and Community Service Act and Adoption Act***

**KEY MESSAGES:**

- MCFD is preparing legislative amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) and *Adoption Act* for the Fall 2022 legislative session.
- This is the largest reform of BC child and family legislation in over 25 years.
- The proposed legislation will make BC the first jurisdiction in Canada to introduce an Indigenous self-government principle in provincial child welfare and adoption legislation.
- The bulk of these amendments will come into force in late November 2022.
- The proposed legislation will amend the CFCSA to recognize and uphold Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services in BC. This model will see Indigenous governing bodies (IGBs) develop their own child and family services and laws for their people, and those Indigenous laws will have the force of law in BC.
- The proposed legislation will also amend the *Adoption Act* to strengthen consultation, cooperation and consent requirements on adoption placements for Indigenous children. While not a moratorium on Indigenous children being adopted out of their communities, this is a first step to ensure that Indigenous communities have more legal rights to consultation, cooperation, and consent.
- The proposed legislation will also:
  - Remove barriers to the effective exercise of Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services;
  - Establish an Indigenous Child Welfare Director under the CFCSA;
  - Enable joint and consent-based decision-making agreements and statutory power agreements as contemplated in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, for both the CFCSA and *Adoption Act*; and
  - Align both the CFCSA and *Adoption Act* with the UN Declaration.

Cabinet Confidences

**BACKGROUND:**

- In January 2020, the historic federal legislation, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (federal Act) came into force.
- The federal Act provides the pathway to a multijurisdictional model of child and family service delivery where IGBs may assume jurisdiction over those services.
- The Province wants to respond to the concerns of IGBs that intend to bring their own child and family services laws into force soon. The Province wants to immediately remove barriers in the CFCSA to the effective exercise of Indigenous jurisdiction that is enabled by the federal Act.

Page 1 of 2

Contact: Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Cell phone: Government Financial Information  
Date: October 14, 2022

- At the same time, the Province is responding to concerns from Indigenous partners by strengthening its commitment to consultation and cooperation with Indigenous communities on adoption services provided under the *Adoption Act*.

Contact: Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Cell phone: Government Financial  
Date: October 14, 2022

**Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development**

**2022/23 – 2024/25  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2022**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Children and Family Development 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Dean'.

Honourable Mitzi Dean

Minister of Children and Family Development

February 4, 2022

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## **Purpose of the Ministry**

The primary focus of the Ministry of Children and Family Development is supporting the well-being of all children and youth in British Columbia – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families, and to be strongly connected to their communities and culture. The Ministry approaches its work through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, delivering services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible and culturally safe.

The Ministry supports children, youth and their families, emphasizing the principles of early intervention, prevention and cultural and community connections to keep families together, where possible, and to connect children and youth with permanent living arrangements when needed. Services include early childhood development, supporting children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, adoption, child protection, youth justice as well as helping youth transition to adulthood and adult services.

## **Strategic Direction**

In 2022/2023, the Government of British Columbia will continue its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each ministry's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first; working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation; supporting equity and anti-racism; ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets; and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/23 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Children and Family Development will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [November 2020 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

## Performance Planning

**Goal 1: Recognize the right of Indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child [UN Declaration]<sup>1</sup> and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action**

**Objective 1.1: Continue to work with Indigenous Peoples and the federal government, where applicable, regarding systemic transformation, including implementing increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction**

The wording of this objective has been slightly adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry's strategic direction. Objective 1.3 from the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan has been incorporated under Objectives 1.1 and 1.2.

### Key Strategies

- Work with Indigenous Governing Bodies (alongside representatives from the federal government) towards exercising jurisdiction for child and family services under the federal *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the federal Act), through the development of tripartite coordination agreements, and continue an ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities that are planning for increased decision-making authority or jurisdiction.
- Co-develop with Canada and Indigenous Peoples, a B.C. specific fiscal framework in alignment with B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), to support the transition of services as Indigenous Governing Bodies begin to exercise their inherent jurisdiction over child and family services.
- Engage with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners in order to co-develop reform of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, in alignment with the Declaration Act and the federal Act.
- In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, along with federal and provincial partners, develop a cross-jurisdictional model for how to integrate and deliver services through multiple jurisdictions. This will include a policy and legislative framework to support this future system.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



**Objective 1.2: In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, design and implement restorative policies, practices and services with cultural humility and a commitment to eliminate racism and discrimination consistent with our responsibilities under the UN Declaration**

The wording of this objective has been adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to more clearly express the Ministry’s commitment to eliminate racism and discrimination.

**Key Strategies**

- Continue work to ensure transparency and accountability to Indigenous children, youth, families and communities, including working to implement information-sharing agreements (under s. 92.1 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*) and develop community agreements.
- Work with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, following the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework, to transform policies, practices, services and programs that reflect the priority of keeping their children and youth safely at home and connected to their community and culture.
- With Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, develop and continue to implement tools and resources to support Ministry staff to address systemic racism and implement practice changes to provide services in a culturally safe manner.
- Collaborate with Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, to build on efforts to address the 40 Ministry-led responses to the calls for justice in the final report on the inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1 Rate of children and youth (age 0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population				
All children and youth	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.0
Indigenous children and youth	36.4	35.3	34.3	33.5
Non-Indigenous children and youth	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7

Data source: Integrated Case Management (ICM) System

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

This performance measure tracks the rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth in care and the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care. MCFD is working to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in the child and family services system. The harmful impact of colonization, including the imposition of a legal regime foreign to the cultures and customs of Indigenous Peoples, and the undermining of family and community systems and the resultant inter-generational trauma, have all contributed to this overrepresentation.

## **Discussion**

Targets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been adjusted, based on forecasted performance, to capture better than expected results for Indigenous children and youth and to maintain relevance moving forward.

**Goal 2: To support improved outcomes and keep families safely together, strengthen supports and prioritize resources for families and children based on their needs, and in collaboration with communities, partners and service providers**

**Objective 2.1: In collaboration with communities, partners and service providers, implement changes to the delivery of services to focus on prevention, early intervention and family supports**

The wording of this objective has been adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry's strategic direction. Objective 2.2 from the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, which related to child care, has been moved to the Ministry of Education and Child Care's 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan.

**Key Strategies**

- Begin to implement family connections centres in the Northwest and Central Okanagan to support an overall transformation of services for children and youth with support needs and provide families in those areas with accessible and inclusive services based on individual needs.
- In line with B.C.'s *A Pathway to Hope* roadmap, and informed by the voices of those we serve, continue to work with partners and service providers to implement the following child and youth mental health services and supports: Integrated Child and Youth Teams; Step Up Step Down Outreach Services; Step Up Step Down Bed-based Services; and a digital solution to support service delivery.
- Continue to develop, in collaboration with partners and service providers, a Prevention and Family Supports Service Framework that is informed by the voices of those we serve and in alignment with other systemic changes – including child and family safety, children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, early years and Indigenous early years, child care, and the national standards of the federal *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, which prioritize preventive care.
- Engage on social work regulation and oversight to explore challenges with the current model and develop an informed understanding of opportunities to strengthen the regulation and oversight system.
- Provide policy and practice guidance and training for Ministry employees and work together with partners and service providers to support 2SLGBTQ+ people to be safe, recognized, respected, supported and cared for in a manner that affirms their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1 Percent of children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family <sup>1</sup>				
All children and youth	93.2%	93.7%	94.0%	94.3%
Indigenous children and youth	90.1%	91.0%	91.5%	92.0%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	95.1%	95.4%	95.5%	95.7%
2.2 Access to Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Services <sup>2</sup>				
CYMH clients served	30,500	30,750	31,250	31,750

<sup>1</sup> Data source: ICM

<sup>2</sup> Data source: Community and Residential Information System (CRIS)

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

2.1 The percentage of children and youth assessed with a protection concern who can safely live with family or extended family is an established measure of family preservation. Children continuing to live with their family or extended family also have improved outcomes, such as better health and educational attainment.

2.2 The number of clients served is a measure of the accessibility of Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) services. Improving the uptake of these services directly supports improved outcomes for children and youth with mental health needs across the province.

## Discussion

2.1 The targets for this measure have been increased for “All children” and for “Indigenous children” as the gap in family preservation rates between Indigenous children and non-Indigenous children is narrowing and expected to continue narrowing in the years to come. The family preservation rate gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous families has improved from 9.2% in 2016/17 to a forecasted 5% in 2021/22.

2.2 This performance measure is new to the Service Plan. It has been added to highlight the prevention and early intervention services that the Ministry provides, as well as to highlight the importance of mental health services and improved outcomes for children and youth.

### Goal 3: Youth and young adults have the tools, resources, and social supports to transition successfully to adulthood and adult services

The wording of this goal, and objective underneath, have been slightly adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry's strategic direction.

#### Objective 3.1: Support youth and young adults to successfully transition to adulthood and adult services

##### Key Strategies

- Through continued engagement with youth and young adults, as well as with those who serve and/or support them, build on COVID-19 emergency measures and continue to shift the adverse outcomes that young adults face as they transition out of government, care by providing holistic wrap-around services and supports, including housing, education, support benefits, early and needs-based transition planning, cultural connections, medical benefits (e.g., counselling and extended health and dental benefits), training, life-skills, and post-secondary opportunities.
- Provide coordinated and streamlined access to adult services systems and prevent youth homelessness, through ongoing collaboration across government, with partners and services providers, including Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners.
- In collaboration with cross-Ministry partners, begin to develop a digital solution for youth and young adults to navigate and access adult services and resources, and reduce digital barriers during the transition to adulthood.
- Continue to engage with partners and service providers, including Indigenous Peoples, leadership, service providers and partners, to design a Youth Justice Service Framework that transforms youth justice services to better support youth, victims, and community needs, and address gaps that lead to the overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the youth justice system.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.1a Percent of youth in care who turn 19 with a high school credential <sup>1</sup>				
All children and youth	58.5%	59.0%	59.5%	60.0%
Indigenous children and youth	56.5%	57.0%	57.5%	58.0%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	63.5%	64.0%	64.5%	65.0%
3.1b Youth under Continuing Custody Orders and youth aging into adulthood and adult services who receive an Agreements with Young Adults benefit payment within the next year <sup>2</sup>	31.3%	33.3%	35.3%	37.3%

<sup>1</sup> Data source: ICM and Ministry of Education and Child Care enrolment data

<sup>2</sup> Data source: Resource and Payment System

### **Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

3.1a There is strong evidence that completing high school is linked to future well-being. MCFD is working to ensure that children and youth in care have completed high school by the time they turn 19, acquiring the education and life skills needed to successfully transition to adulthood and adult services.

3.1b One of the ways in which the Ministry helps ensure successful youth and young adult transitions is through the Agreements with Young Adults program. The program provides young adults with financial assistance for education, training, and life skills. Improving the uptake of the program will help ensure better transitions and, therefore, better outcomes for young adults as they age into adulthood and adult services.

### **Discussion**

3.1a Targets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have been adjusted to reflect better-than-expected results.

3.1b The forecast and targets for this performance measure have been lowered since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, as fewer youth aging into adulthood have received an Agreement with Young Adults benefit payment. Youth aging into adulthood have increasingly been supported through alternative funding programs implemented during the pandemic, such as Temporary Housing Agreements/Temporary Support Agreements.

## Goal 4: Services and supports provided in the network of care are driven by a child or youth's needs and focused on developing and strengthening belonging to family, community and culture

The wording of this goal, and objective underneath, have been adjusted since the release of the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan, to provide greater clarity on the Ministry's strategic direction.

### Objective 4.1: In collaboration with partners and service providers, implement an integrated network of care providing services and placements that meet a child or youth's needs, nurture a sense of love and belonging, and prioritize cultural and family connections

#### Key Strategies

- Begin to realize a responsive network of Specialized Homes and Support Services for children and youth needing more than what community-based and outreach services can provide – starting with early implementation in North Fraser and the Okanagan.
- Continue implementing an outcomes-based Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring that the quality of services (across all types of care) is responsive to feedback from children, youth, families and communities.
- Finalize and begin to implement a new Procurement Strategy, including a modern digital solution, to provide greater clarity and an increased focus on deliverables and improved outcomes that support children, youth and their families.
- Complete a review of the licensed adoption agency model, regulatory framework and the provision of intercountry adoption services.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
4.1 Percentage of children and youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care	67.0%	67.0%	67.3%	67.5%

Data source: ICM

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Placement stability is essential for children and youth to develop a secure attachment to a caregiver, which is a fundamental determinant of their well-being and sense of belonging. Children and youth with stable placements that are driven by their needs achieve better outcomes in terms of safety, permanency, attachment and well-being.

#### Discussion

The COVID-19 pandemic is believed to have had a positive impact on this performance measure as more children and youth in care remained in their existing placements. The targets are revised upward as we expect to continue to build on the performance seen during the pandemic.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Early Childhood Development	40,256	40,256	40,256	40,256
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	441,091	480,381	486,404	488,582
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	116,408	119,471	122,197	122,197
Child Safety, Family Support & Children in Care Services	807,579	835,781	841,170	851,015
Adoption Services	35,829	36,451	36,451	36,451
Youth Justice Services	51,320	51,320	51,320	51,320
Service Delivery Support	152,195	161,426	161,426	161,426
Executive & Support Services	16,730	16,959	16,967	16,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,661,408</b>	<b>1,742,045</b>	<b>1,756,191</b>	<b>1,768,214</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Service Delivery Support</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive &amp; Support Services</b> (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.



## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

As of March 31, 2022, the Minister of Children and Family Development is responsible and accountable for the following:

### **BC College of Social Workers**

The British Columbia College of Social Workers regulates the social work profession in British Columbia. Its mandate is to protect members of the public from preventable harm while they are interacting with Registered Social Workers. The College maintains an online registry of all social workers authorized to practice as Registered Social Workers.

### **Minister's Advisory Council for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)**

The Minister's Advisory Council for CYSN, which includes parents/caregivers, an Indigenous Elder, a youth representative, and others, provides a forum to build collaborative and respectful relationships through ongoing communications and engagement; discusses important issues related to the planning and delivery of the full range of CYSN services; and provides advice on the CYSN services model and how to implement new services in a coordinated and collaborative way.

# The Portfolio Management Approach



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Advice/Recommendations

Ministry of Children and Family  
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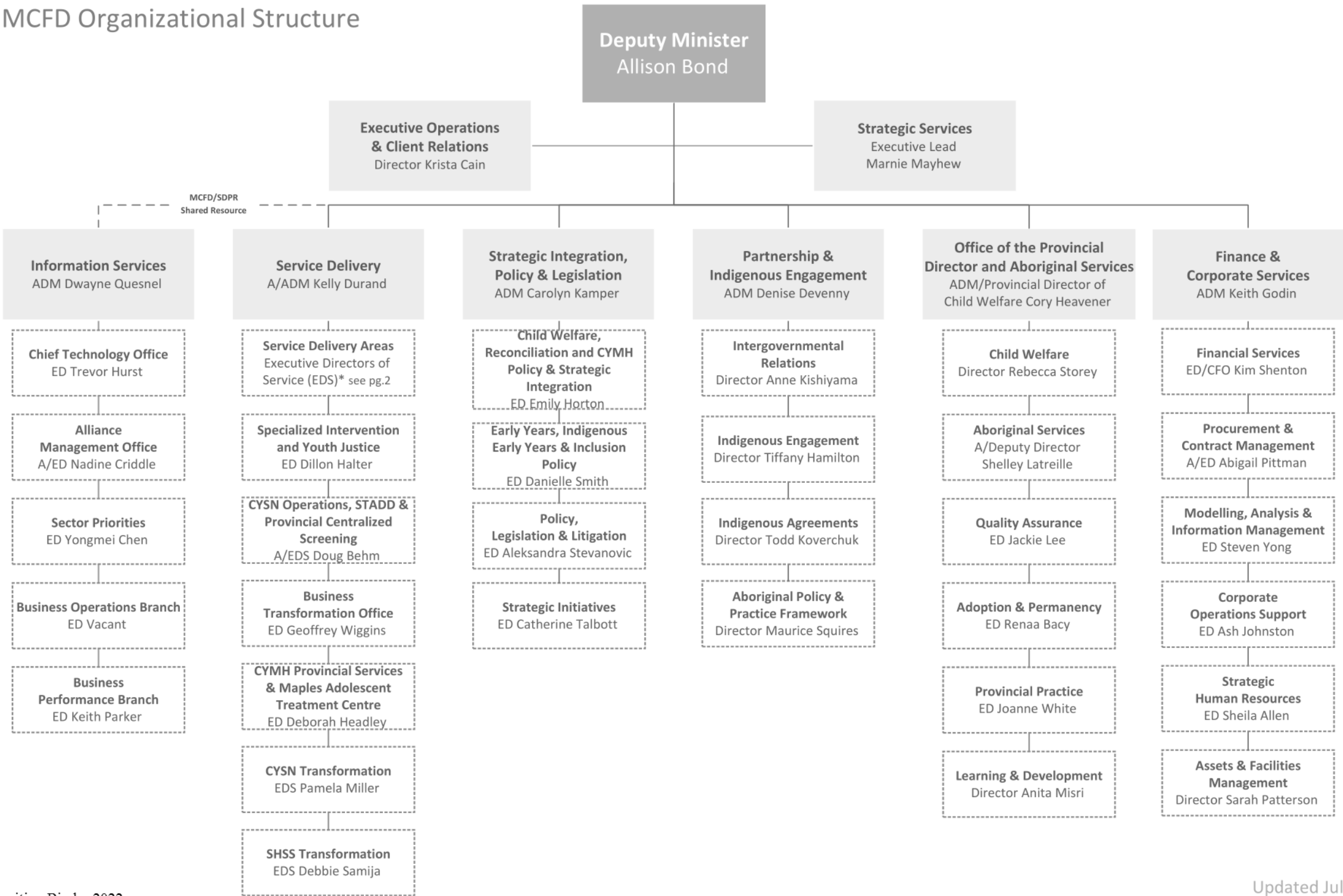
Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
<b>30 Days – November 1 to November 30</b>	
<p>Significant package of amendments to the <i>Adoption Act</i> and the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Act</i> (CFCSA) – October 26<sup>th</sup> Introduction, anticipated Royal Assent <b>November 24<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p>Proposed amendments to the <i>Adoption Act</i> and the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Act</i> (CFCSA) recognize and uphold Indigenous jurisdiction over Indigenous child and family services in British Columbia. They also take the first step in reforming how adoption services are provided to Indigenous children and Indigenous communities under the <i>Adoption Act</i>, by more closely aligning the legislation with the UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples and the British Columbia's <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Debate is expected to occur in early to mid November. Royal Assent is anticipated November 24<sup>th</sup>. Developing regulations with Indigenous partners to bring some provisions into effect: November onwards.</li> <li>• Four Indigenous Governing Bodies in BC are preparing to exercise jurisdiction under their inherent right of self-government in relation to child and family services in the next year, and an additional 32 Indigenous groups in BC have applied for or have received capacity funding from Canada in anticipation of pursuing jurisdiction. Amendments are needed to ensure seamless delivery of child and family services in a multi-jurisdictional model.</li> </ul> <p>Advice/Recommendations: Intergovernmental Communications</p>
<p>Youth Transitions Transformation</p>	<p>As part of Budget 2022, government announced investing \$35 million over the next three years in the development and implementation of housing programs, financial supports, health and transition supports for young adults until their 27th birthday. This year, as part of this investment, MCFD will introduce a rent supplement of up to \$600/month to help eligible young adults from care who are ready to live independently. MCFD will also have transition workers to help youth and young adults navigate their transition to adulthood successfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry's rent supplement program went live on October 17th and applications will be accepted until Nov 1st. (Minister Dean previously announced the program publicly on September 26th.)</li> </ul>
<p>Transforming Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)</p>	<p>The Ministry is leading a systemic shift from a diagnosis-based system to a needs-based system to help more children and youth with support needs and their families access services they need. This shift will help break down barriers and provide more access to culturally safe and trauma informed services, regardless of where people live. Early implementation areas</p>

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
	<p>beginning with the Northwest and Central Okanagan will open by early 2023, providing an opportunity to fine tune access and delivery of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November, the ministry anticipates publicly announcing the successful proponents who will operate the family connections centres in the early implementation areas.</li> <li>• Engagement with Indigenous People and Rights and Title holders will advance, consisting of six sharing circles, key informant interviews and a public survey.</li> <li>• The Minister's Advisory Council will meet. Topics are expected to include early implementation updates, engagement with Indigenous Peoples, early implementation evaluation.</li> <li>• The Indigenous CYSN Advisory Circle will meet November 17. Topics will include community engagement events and updates, updates on engagement activities to date and the draft report on practices and lessons learned.</li> <li>• Engagement will occur with Superintendents on transformation of services for children and youth with support needs.</li> <li>• A bi-monthly bulletin on CYSN transformation will be sent to Indigenous partners, including Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendships Centres, and Métis Nation BC</li> </ul>
Specialized Home and Support Services (SHSS) Transformation	<p>Specialized Homes and Support Services is a new way of providing services and contracted staffed care to children, youth, and their families within the province's network of care. The services will be used consistently across the province and include: Respite and Relief Care, Emergency Care, Low-Barrier Short-Term Stabilization Care and Specialized Long-Term Care. Additionally, components of the future state include Enhanced Out of Care and the Foster Caregiver Retention &amp; Recruitment Initiative. These services will help address gaps in the continuum of care -like respite – much needed services intended to help families stay together and well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Okanagan and North Fraser will begin implementation of the Enhanced Out of Care program in late October/early November. This program provides kinship care givers additional supports to care for their child or youth with moderate to significant support needs.</li> </ul>
Social Work Oversight Engagement	<p>The ministry continues to lead a broad engagement on the BC Social Work Oversight Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement will continue through fall 2022, analysis of findings will occur in winter/spring 2022 &amp; 2023, and a 'What We Heard' report will be prepared for the Minister in spring 2023.</li> </ul>

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming engagement sessions include Modern Treaty Nations and Friendship Centres (dates TBD).</li> <li>The ministry will distribute surveys for social workers and the public and offer opportunities for written submissions in the fall 2022.</li> </ul>
Representative for Children and Youth (RCY)– Publicly Released Reports	<p>The RCY is planning to release the following reports in November (date TBD):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second special report on child legal representation. This report will address child participation relating to the <i>Family Law Act</i> and child welfare matters. The report will contain recommendations.</li> <li>Two summary reports based on five papers the RCY commissioned on early years supports relevant to keeping families safely together. These will not contain recommendations.</li> <li>Research review on the impacts of COVID-19 on mental health. The report will not contain recommendations.</li> </ul>
Coroner's Inquest	Inquest into the death of a youth to commence on November 28th
<b>60 Days – December 1 to December 31</b>	
Advice/Recommendations	
Advice/Recommendations	
Transforming Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) – Engagement	The Minister's Advisory Council will meet. Topics include early implementation updates, engagement with Indigenous People, early implementation evaluation.
<b>90 Days – January 1 to January 31</b>	
Transforming Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) – Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ministry will convene an inaugural meeting of a Workforce Collaborative (Collaborative) that will explore workforce implications, strategies regarding recruitment, and retention. The Collaborative is comprised of sector professionals including Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Behaviour Analysts, and Behaviour Consultants.</li> <li>The Minister's Advisory Council will meet. Topics will include early implementation updates, engagement with Indigenous People, early implementation evaluation.</li> <li>The Indigenous CYSN Advisory Circle will meet January 19. Topics include community engagement events and updates, updates by Reciprocal on the activities to date and the draft report on practices and lessons learned.</li> </ul>

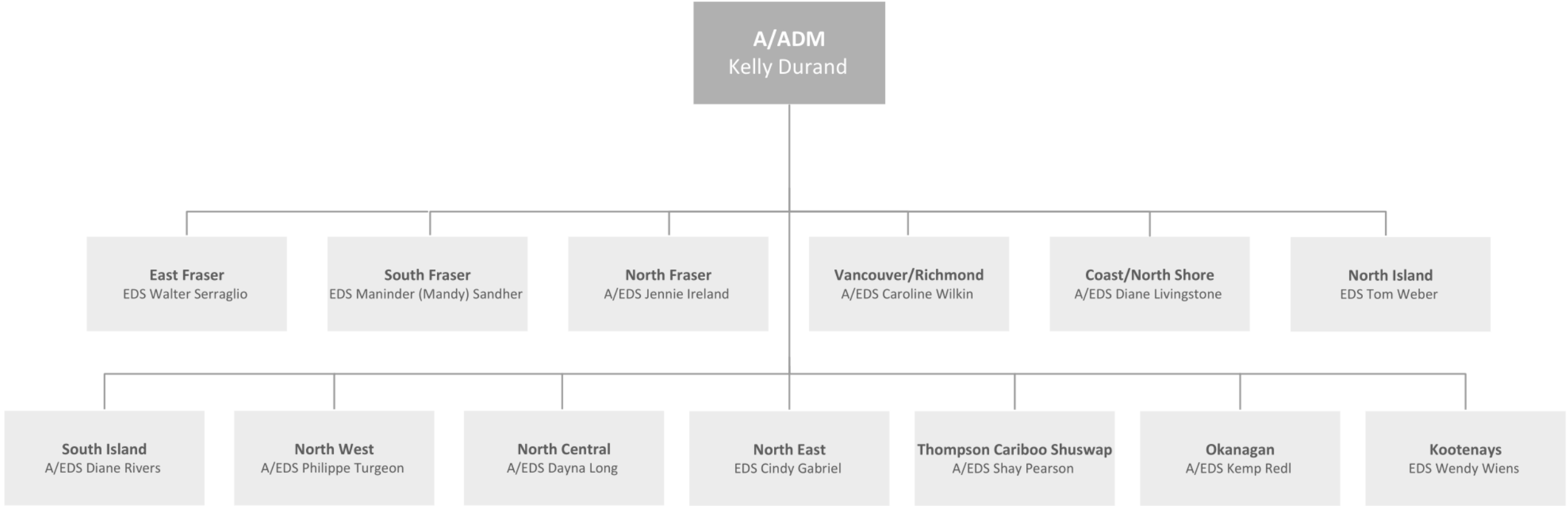
Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The bi-monthly bulletin on CYSN transformation will be sent to Indigenous partners, including Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendships Centres, and Métis Nation BC.</li></ul>

# MCFD Organizational Structure





**Service Delivery Division**  
Executive Directors of Service



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