

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | August 2022



This newsletter is meant to share information and support the ministry's commitment to ongoing consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, partners and governments to develop legislation and services consistent with the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* as well as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

We will listen to the children, youth and families we serve, knowing their voices and experiences are central to the creation of services that truly meet their needs.

All dates and timelines may be adjusted if needed

What's New

Quality Assurance: Provincial Service Evaluations

In the past the ministry has conducted practice audits of ministry and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies to measure compliance with legislation, standards, and policies. These audits only included a review of documentation.

We are shifting to a new model of evaluation that will expand the review to incorporate the voices of children and families who receive services.

We invite you to contact us and find out how to join an engagement circle. In the fall, watch for additional opportunities to provide feedback on specific service areas.

Engagement Opportunity

- Watch for service framework engagement opportunities in fall 2022
- Learn more at gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation

Find out how to get involved

To join an engagement circle or for more information contact

Jackie Lee at jackie.lee@gov.bc.ca

Work in Progress

Child and Family Service Legislative Reform

This is a critical reform of child and family service legislation that has not kept pace with decolonization and contributes to the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.

The goals are to:

- Change the legislative model to promote prevention supports and keep children within their families, communities and culture
- Align to other federal and provincial legislation

Engagement Opportunity

- Make a written submission or take the online survey until Aug. 31, 2022
- For information contact Emily Horton at emily.horton@gov.bc.ca

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation

The ministry is seeking broad feedback to understand issues with the current system, changes needed and what to prioritize in this reform. We invite you to provide a written submission or take the survey on the website. This is a multi-year process and the start of many conversations to come.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development gratefully acknowledges that it conducts its work on the territories of Indigenous Peoples throughout British Columbia.

Youth Transitions Improved Supports

The ministry is developing new and improved supports for youth and young adults transitioning to adulthood from care, up to the age of 27.

An Implementation Paper has been created with input from First Nations, Métis and urban Indigenous advisory circles outlining proposed policy and legislative changes.

We are looking to gather further feedback on the Paper from Indigenous Peoples and community partners, youth and young adults.

Feedback provided will help to inform legislative drafting and proposed policy development. Review the Paper online and share your feedback until September 12, 2022.

Engagement Opportunity

- Provide Implementation Paper feedback online until Sept. 12, 2022
- For information contact mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/youthtransitions

Children and Youth with Support Needs Service Transformation

To ensure the new children and youth with support needs service approach includes integrated services provided by Indigenous service providers to Indigenous children, youth and families, the ministry will engage with Indigenous Peoples and service providers.

We are working with Reciprocal Consulting to lead focused engagements in fall 2022, where people can raise concerns and have questions answered. This will help us learn about how the service delivery approach can best meet the needs of Indigenous children and families.

Engagements will occur in two phases, beginning with early implementation areas (central Okanagan and northwest regions) and then expanding to the entire province.

Engagement Opportunity

- Take the online survey until Sept. 9, 2022
- Engagements will occur in fall 2022 — watch for details
- For information contact Holli Ward at holli.ward@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

gov.bc.ca/childyouthsupportneeds

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc



We Want to Hear From You

Do you have feedback about this newsletter?

We would love to hear it!

Send it to us at

mcf.engagement@gov.bc.ca

Social Work Oversight

The ministry is engaging on the oversight of social workers in B.C. Oversight is the system of standards and requirements under which social workers practice. Oversight impacts Indigenous Peoples who practice social work, employ social workers and access social work services in a variety of settings. To date, we have engaged with 50 partners.

We will be launching surveys in fall 2022 for social workers and the public and providing an opportunity for formal written submissions.

Youth Justice Service Framework

We are committed to addressing overrepresentation of Indigenous youth within the youth justice system and making the shifts needed to better support youth in community.

We will be engaging with Indigenous Peoples to help inform a new approach to youth justice services, founded on cultural safety and trauma-informed care.

Please join us in this important work so youth have access to the services they need to support and guide them through the years and to ensure healing and accountability.

Engagement Opportunity

- To participate in an engagement session or for information contact mcf.socialworkengagement@gov.bc.ca
- Engagements will continue through fall 2022
- Online surveys will also launch in fall 2022 — watch for details

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/socialworkoversight

Engagement Opportunity

- Engagements will occur throughout 2022/23 — watch for details
- For information contact Dillon Halter at dillon.halter@gov.bc.ca

Learn more and watch the video at gov.bc.ca/youthjusticeframework

Other Feedback Opportunities...

Legislative Amendments

Gendered Language Legislative Amendments:

- The proposed changes will remove gendered language from the ministry's legislation and replace it with gender neutral terms
- This is not a policy change but an update to language in existing legislation
- Feedback will be accepted until **September 23, 2022**
- Send feedback or request information at renae.snell@gov.bc.ca

For More Information

See details of the proposed changes and the current versions of the legislative Acts affected at gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation

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