

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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February 15th, 2022

Deputy Minister Allison Bond
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Via email only: Allison.Bond@gov.bc.ca

RE: February 10th Correspondence to the BC First Nations Tripartite
Working Group on Children and Families

Dear Deputy Minister Bond,

Thank you for your email of February 10 confirming that MCFD is committed to Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare, outlining some key ideas to respond to the Quebec Court of Appeal Decision, and addressing the needs of officials and First Nations in British Columbia.

We agree that there is urgency in solving legal issues associated with jurisdiction, to ensure our progress continues and to also provide clear support to First Nations wishing to resume authority based on recognition of their inherent laws, traditions, customs, and legal orders.

We agree that an immediate scoping should take place. It is helpful to include both the CFCSA matters that have been identified to date, as well as new items, to ensure that *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* has a clear path for implementation in British Columbia. We agree that the scope of legislation could include: implementation of jurisdiction, implementation of any possible Declaration Act section 7 agreements, the Indigenous Director of Child Welfare (provided this role is linked to jurisdiction in a positive manner), and other items that we might identify. We propose that scoping and legislative development address information-sharing prior to the conclusion of coordination agreements, file transfers, data gathering and sharing, and other technical matters.

We have requested our technical and legal team to work with you and a small working group you identify to urgently bring these issues together and co-develop a policy document supporting a request for legislation.

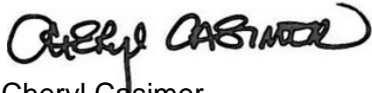
We agree that there will be a need to have urgent consultation with rights holders, particularly those at jurisdiction tables, across the Province. We would be pleased to support you in that process, once we have a proper policy document and pathway scoped.

Thank you again for reaching out and for proposing a positive path forward.

Sincerely,

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Terry Teegee

cc: Hon. Minister Mitzi Dean