

# Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | March 2023



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**

## Regulations to Support Bill 38, *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act* Implementation

On November 25, 2022, Bill 38 came into effect. This Act enables the ministry and Indigenous Peoples to collaborate and ensure Indigenous Peoples can govern and provide services based on their own child and family laws.

Over two thirds of Bill 38 provisions are now in force. The remaining provisions will be brought into force through a series of regulations. We are eager to develop these regulations in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples and partners.

Official invitation for co-development was made by letter on February 9, 2023. If you haven't already responded to the letter, but want to learn more or participate, please contact us by **March 17, 2023**.

### Engagement Opportunity

- Calls to participate will be accepted until March 17, 2023
- To participate or learn more contact Patrick Vert at [patrick.vert@gov.bc.ca](mailto:patrick.vert@gov.bc.ca)

### Learn More

View the invite letter and details of proposed areas for regulation development at [gov.bc.ca/mcfdpolicychanges](http://gov.bc.ca/mcfdpolicychanges)

## Official Invitation for Co-Development

### Indigenous Child Welfare Director Role

In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, we are developing an Indigenous Child Welfare Director role within the ministry.

This new role will oversee child welfare services for Indigenous children, support the goal of reducing the number of Indigenous children in care, and guide the ministry in upholding Indigenous jurisdiction.

We invite you to work with us to design the Director's roles and responsibilities. Following that, we will also work with Indigenous Peoples to co-develop supporting regulations.

### Engagement Opportunity

- Engagement on the Director's role will begin in March 2023
- To participate or learn more contact Wendy Norris at [wendy.norris@gov.bc.ca](mailto:wendy.norris@gov.bc.ca)

*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 continues to develop new and improved supports for youth and young adults transitioning to adulthood from care, up to the age of 27.

Here is an important project update:

- The next application period for rent supplements of \$600/month for up to two years is **March 6 - 20, 2023**
- 50% of the rent supplements are available to Indigenous young adults

## Specialized Homes and Support Services – Call for Responses

Gradual implementation is underway to replace the current model of staffed care homes with a network of new services designed to be culturally safe, trauma-informed and to support family preservation and the therapeutic needs of children, youth and families. New services will be available to children and youth in-care, in out-of-care placements, and living with parents. These services are intended to provide seamless supports that help children remain in their communities and connected to family and culture.

We remain committed to supporting your vision for child and family services and upholding Indigenous Peoples' rights to jurisdiction over child and family services. Four non-binding Call for Responses for interested providers are now live on the BC Bid website. **Note:** existing contracts and care arrangements will not be impacted by the Call for Responses process.

### For More Information

- For information contact [mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca)

**Apply for a rent supplement**  
[gov.bc.ca/youthtransitionsagedout.com](http://gov.bc.ca/youthtransitionsagedout.com)

### For More Information

- Contact Emily Horton at [emily.horton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:emily.horton@gov.bc.ca)

### Participate in the Call for Responses

For service providers to prequalify  
[bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://bcbid.gov.bc.ca)

#### Opportunity IDs

- Emergency Care: ID 159056
- Respite Care: ID 159058
- Specialized Long-Term Care: ID 159057
- Low-Barrier Short Term Stabilization: ID 159059

## We are changing how we communicate

### Official Invitations for Co-Development

There is a lot of work we need to do to rethink and co-develop legislation, policy and service delivery to reflect a new approach to child welfare. As we work to decolonize services in the best interests of Indigenous children and youth, we want our invitations for consultation to be accessible, predictable and transparent.

We realize this has resulted in a high volume of correspondence from the ministry. To help minimize this, we will increase the frequency of this newsletter and use it to signal official invitations for co-development instead of sending letters signed by the Deputy Minister. Watch for these opportunities marked like this: **Official Invitation for Co-Development**

Looking for a letter the ministry sent recently? We have posted official engagement correspondence sent to Indigenous Peoples from 2022 at [gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation](http://gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation) for your reference.

### For More Information

- Have questions? contact [mcf.engagement@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mcf.engagement@gov.bc.ca)

Find past letters and newsletters in the Correspondence Archive at [gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation](http://gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation)

