Child in the Home of a Relative (CIHR) Update
Effective April 1, 2010

After March 31, 2010, the Child in the Home of a Relative (CIHR) program will no longer accept new applications:

- Families who apply for CIHR on or before March 31, 2010 will be assessed and be grandparented upon acceptance based on regulations existing as of that date. The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation will continue to administer the CIHR program for these clients.

- Families receiving CIHR will continue to receive benefits as per the regulations and policies existing as of March 31, 2010, as long as they meet CIHR eligibility criteria.

Note: If a child moves to a new care provider, their eligibility for CIHR will end unless a new application was submitted on or before March 31, 2010.

Options for families who need assistance caring for a child:

- If a family becomes ineligible for CIHR after March 31, 2010, they will **not** be able to re-apply for CIHR. Families who need financial assistance may apply for income assistance with the child as a dependent. To qualify for income assistance, the family unit must meet all eligibility criteria.

    Criteria include:

    - A ***dependent child*** must be under 19 (unless they are 18 and a person with disabilities), must live in the parents' place of residence more than 50% of each month, and must rely on the parent for the necessities of life.

    - A ***parent*** is defined as the biological mother or father, adoptive mother or father, person with legal custody, or person with legal guardianship.

- Families may also be eligible for the Child Tax Benefit, the B.C. Family Bonus, the Universal Child Care Benefit, and the Child Disability Benefit (if the child has a disability).

- Community-based services may be able to assist families with non-financial supports.

- In addition to other family supports and services, MCFD has expanded its out-of-care (not in foster care) options for families (and their relatives) when children are temporarily unable to live with their parents.

- MCFD offers many programs and services for families who voluntarily request assistance. For more information, **see the Extended Family Program (EFP)** on MCFD's website at www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/alternativestofostercare/index.htm. Alternatively, phone or visit the nearest MCFD office. In Victoria, call 250 387-7027, elsewhere in B.C., call 1 877 387-7027.