

The Partnership Agreement-

Between:

The Ministry of Education (“EDUC”)

And

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (“MCFD”).

(collectively, the “Ministries”)

Note: Delegated Aboriginal Agencies are out of scope of this Partnership Agreement.

WHEREAS

1. The Ministries have collaborated to support the wellbeing of children and youth in care in Kindergarten to Grade 12.
2. The Ministries have partnered on various policies, guidelines, programs and initiatives to improve educational outcomes of children and youth in care.
3. The Ministries wish to further confirm, clarify and strengthen their partnership to increase information sharing, coordination and advocacy in support of improved educational outcomes of children and youth in care.
4. Initiatives regarding information-sharing, coordination and advocacy between the educational system and MCFD at the local level will not be part of this agreement.

THEREFORE the Ministries agree as follows:

1. AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The Ministries have identified the following areas of mutual interest, and acknowledge that they have a shared responsibility to improve outcomes for children and youth in care:

- Consistent information sharing, coordination, and advocacy between the education and child welfare systems.
- Public reporting on education outcomes of children and youth in care.
- Increasing opportunities for the education and child welfare systems to work together more effectively and efficiently.
- Supporting community and cultural connections for all children and youth in care – especially Indigenous children and youth.
- Inclusion of all children and youth in care – especially students with diverse abilities and disabilities.

2. ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

2.1 MINISTRY POINT PERSON ROLE

Each ministry will designate a provincial point person who will serve as the primary point of contact for communication between the ministries and support identification of ministry representatives for specific initiatives under this agreement.

- The MCFD provincial point person will be the Executive Director of Provincial Practice
- The EDUC provincial point person will be the Executive Director of Equity and Reconciliation

2.2 COLLABORATION

The Ministries will work collaboratively to:

- a. Clarify and support consistent information sharing in accordance with relevant legislative requirements between the child welfare and education systems, in support of educational outcomes for children and youth in care.
- b. Regularly review and update joint materials that support educational outcomes of children and youth in care.
- c. Consult with one another regarding public reporting on educational outcomes of children and youth in care.
- d. Create and participate in regional and provincial opportunities for collaboration and cross-training between the education and child welfare systems, to increase knowledge and capacity of front-line staff supporting children and youth in care.
- e. Review this Partnership Agreement on an annual basis.

2.3 COMMUNICATION

The Ministries will:

- a. Maintain frequent, open, and transparent lines of communication, informing each other of relevant interactions with other ministries, and provide each other with updates on policies and legislation related to their respective roles and responsibilities.

3. COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Agreement provides a framework for the Ministries to work together to make the necessary organizational, policy and procedural adjustments to enable the parties to meet the expectations set out in this Agreement.

4. ISSUE RESOLUTION

- a. Resolution of issues regarding the Agreement will be attempted by the previously identified provincial leads referenced in Section 2 (Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities).
- b. Wherever Section 4(a) is unsuccessful, the issues will be referred to the applicable Assistant Deputy Ministers of EDUC and MCFD.

5. TERM

This Agreement is effective on the date it is signed by the parties and reviewed annually by the Ministry point people. The Agreement remains until a new Agreement is signed between the Ministries which sets out an express intent to replace this Agreement.

6. AMENDMENT

Any amendments to the Agreement will be dated, signed by both Ministries and attached to this Agreement at which time they will become part of the Agreement

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Agreement has been signed by parties on the dates written below: