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MAR 24 2016

CHIEF CORONER

March 24, 2016

Ref: 226471

Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner, Office of the Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Metrotower II
800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Dear Lisa Lapointe:

Re: Coroner's Inquest into the death of Robert Robinson:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 2016, in which you provided a copy of the Verdict at Inquest concerning the death of Robert Robinson which occurred in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, on April 3, 2014. The situation that led to the inquest was tragic and my condolences remain with the family.

Following careful consideration of the jury's recommendations the attached Action Plan has been developed. The Coroner's Inquest into the death of Robert's mother Angie Robinson also resulted in recommendations directed to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and an Action Plan has been developed in response to those recommendations as well.

The attached Action Plan includes in part the relevant planned and completed actions taken as a result of the comprehensive case review that was completed by the Provincial Director of Child Welfare in the fall of 2015. In addition:

- A stand-alone team for Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) is now operational in the North West service delivery area of MCFD.
- MCFD is planning to develop a practice audit process for CYSN service delivery as part of the expansion of the quality assurance program.
- One of the goals in the MCFD 2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan is to improve and strengthen services to Aboriginal children, youth and their families by increasingly reflecting an indigenous perspective in policies, practices and services.

I would like to thank the BC Coroners Service and the jury for their work on the inquest and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Cadieux
Minister

Attachment

pc: Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare, MCFD

Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

Office of the
Minister

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Ministry of Children & Family Development Action Plan in Response to the Coroner's Inquest for Robert Robinson*

**The Coroner's Inquest Jury directed 11 of 13 recommendations to MCFD*

Coroner's Inquest Jury Recommendations	Completed Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
Ensure ongoing training with regards to Collaborative Practice between Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) and Child Welfare Workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Practice between Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) and Child Welfare Workers policy was implemented in April 2012. • In May and November 2015, the CYSN and Child Protection (CP) consultant hosted an orientation session for staff on Collaborative Practice between CYSN and Child Welfare Workers policy; directed towards all new staff, or staff who missed earlier presentations in the three Northern Service Delivery Areas. The orientation included: services available; transition planning; roles and responsibilities; working with service partners; collateral contacts; and use of Integrated Case Management System (ICMS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers. • Ministry to develop on-line training sessions which emphasize a continuum of services between CYSN and Child Protection practice (Collaborative Practice between CYSN and Child Welfare Workers), highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roles and responsibilities when working with mutual families, ○ Case documentation guidelines, ○ Case transfer; and, ○ The utilization of the Priority Service Tool to assess a family's service needs. 	Fiscal 2016/17
Provide child safety training to Child and Youth with Special needs social workers to identify when to involve Children Protection Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYSN Curriculum developed and addresses child safety and duty to report. • In November, 2015 Community Services Manager (CSM) met with all CP, CYSN, Guardianship and Resource staff in Prince Rupert to review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The importance of CYSN staff utilizing the Priority Service Tool with families; and, ○ Engaging and supporting parents in high stress circumstances to navigate support services ○ Engaging with Aboriginal communities to support safety and long term planning. ○ The duty to report in the context of CYSN involvement ○ The BC Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors; ○ Clinical consultations with Directors of Practice and consultants in complex cases; ○ Role of Advocacy (Representative For Children and Youth Advocacy Agreement & Inclusion BC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers. • Ministry to develop on-line training sessions which emphasize a continuum of services between CYSN and Child Protection practice (Collaborative Practice between CYSN and Child Welfare. Workers), highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roles and responsibilities when working with mutual families, ○ Case documentation guidelines, ○ Case transfer; and, ○ The utilization of the Priority Service Tool to assess a family's service needs 	Fiscal 2016/17

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Coroner's Inquest Jury Recommendations	Completed Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
Provide Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) social workers with adequate training in special needs education policy and practice, and cultural sensitivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYSN curriculum developed and addresses education policy, practice and cultural sensitivity. In January 2015, the Service Delivery Area established monthly community of practice teleconferences with the CYSN social workers and team leaders in the North West Service Delivery Area to ensure CYSN resources are allocated appropriately. Community Service Manager for Terrace/ Kitimat Local Service Area chairs the teleconferences. In February 2015, a CYSN/Early Childhood Development consultant was hired to cover the three Northern Service Delivery Areas who will provide direct support and consultation to staff on CYSN practices, policies and complex case circumstances. In June 2015, Provincial CYSN Community of Practice teleconferences began with CYSN Team Leaders, CYSN Consultants, CYSN Policy, and CYSN Provincial Operations to provide opportunities for consults on issues related to practice and policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers. Cultural competency training, including online training, experiential learning and mentorship is available to staff. 	<p>Fiscal 2016/17</p> <p>Ongoing Sessions</p>
Ensure the status of peace bonds and no contact orders are known and considered in safety planning for children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Protection Order Registry (POR) contains information on protection orders. Child Welfare Workers can obtain information from the POR through centralized screening. In February, 2016 a Practice Directive was issued to Child Welfare Workers on how to obtain information on protection orders in the POR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed –no planned action. 	
Establish more directive guidelines regarding collaborative planning for children and youth with special needs, to identify the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative Practice between CYSN and Child Welfare policy was implemented in April 2012, but the training has not been on-going. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers. 	Fiscal 2016/17

Ministry of Children & Family Development Action Plan in Response to the Coroner's Inquest for Robert Robinson*

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types of ministry, medical, school and community programs, Aboriginal Agencies and other supports who should be involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSM has established regular monthly meetings with the Delegated Aboriginal Agency in Prince Rupert to discuss cases involving families receiving Ministry services on Reserve; a similar process is planned to support families living off Reserve. CYSN curriculum developed and includes a joint training module on Collaborative Practice Guidelines between CSYN and CP practitioners. 		
Review discharge planning practices and implement an action plan for Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) clients when respite and/or other support services are cancelled or suspended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYSN curriculum developed and addresses discharge planning. The Determining Families' Needs for Support and Assistance and the Determining Priority for Children's Services policies identify the need for developing a support plan and frequency at which the plan is reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers. The CYSN project is reviewing the CYSN assessment and service planning and tools to increase consistency of application and of service provision. An expected future deliverable of the project will review and improve case closure procedures. 	<p>Fiscal 2016/17</p> <p>Fiscal 2016/17</p>
Establish a protocol to ensure the First Nations Health Authority is involved in planning for First Nations and Aboriginal children and youth with special needs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCFD and First Nation Health Authority to establish Case Planning and Collaboration Protocol. 	Fiscal 2016/17/18
Consult with First Nations Bands and appropriate Aboriginal agencies with respect to planning for First Nations and Aboriginal children and youth with special needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYSN curriculum includes a section pertaining to engaging and collaborating with First Nation Bands and Aboriginal Agencies to ensure culturally sensitive practice with respect to planning for Aboriginal children and youth with special needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) training will be rolled out in phases. It will be offered to new CYSN staff and will be made available to practitioners and staff across the ministry and to Delegated Aboriginal Agency Social Workers. 	Fiscal 2016/17

Ministry of Children & Family Development Action Plan in Response to the Coroner's Inquest for Robert Robinson*

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<p>Ensure autism training in rural and remote communities, including Applied Behavioural Analysis and other research based therapies at no cost to a child's funding allowance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2011, the MCFD Autism Outreach Program has been providing ABA, best practice face to face presentations, conferences and workshops for families to support children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders. • Workshops have been provided to over 1,000 registrants (families and service providers) across BC with a focus on rural and remote communities. • Outreach sessions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ over 40 Face-to-face workshops including 24 two-day parents sessions across BC (note 2 -2 days sessions were held for families in Prince Rupert and Terrace in 2012); ○ the First Nations Education Steering Committee and First Nations School Association; ○ the Prince George Friendship Centre; ○ professionals and families from the Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD) program; ○ the Interior community services; ○ the Northern St'at'imc Outreach • Through Douglas College, the autism outreach program has also provided on-line training for over 180 front-line interventionists in rural and remote communities across the province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Autism Outreach Program provide up to three, 3-day training sessions in rural and remote communities across the Province to MCFD and related staff and families/caregivers. Workshops will involve collaboration with community partners such as ACT –Autism Community Training, the Canucks Autism Network, and other local supports and services. • On-line resources including videos will also be created to support families/caregivers across the province and will address the most common areas of need. 	<p>Fiscal 2016/17</p>

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Review delegation training (Child Protection [C-6], Guardianship [C-4] and Resources [C-3]), by working collaboratively with an Indigenous Delegated training agency to provide culturally sensitive practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry contracts with an Aboriginal Agency to deliver child welfare training to Delegated Aboriginal Agency staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently child welfare training curriculum (which is aligned with delegated) is being revised ; the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework is applied to ensure curriculum content is reflective of an aboriginal lens and addressed culturally sensitive practice The Ministry Learning and Development Team has Aboriginal representation on the Team. Cultural competency training, including online training, experiential learning and mentorship is available to staff. 	Fiscal 2016/17
Review the autism funding cap of six thousand dollars per year for children six years and over and consider increasing this funding in order to ensure higher need individuals are being accommodated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Underway – MCFD's Minister continues to have an accountability to 'lead a cross ministerial working group ... and make recommendations to Cabinet on potential changes (for autism services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to lead a cross-ministerial working group with Health and Education on the effectiveness and coordination of the provision of autism services for children and youth in British Columbia. 	Fiscal 2017/18