



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

August 4, 2020

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 248842

Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Email: ChiefCoronerCorrespondence@gov.bc.ca

Dear Lisa Lapointe:

Re: BC Corners Service and First Nations Health Authority Death Review Panel- A Review of First Nation Youth and Young Adults Injury Deaths: 2010-2015

I am writing to follow up on the January 8, 2018 letter from Minister Katrine Conroy regarding the BC Corners Service and First Nations Health Authority Death Review Panel Report – A Review of First Nation Youths and Young Adults Injury Deaths: 2010-2015.

This death review panel report directed three sub-recommendations to MCFD under recommendation 2. As you are aware, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing responded in April 2018 regarding the sub-recommendation on increasing access to low-barrier housing for First Nations Young People. This letter provides an update on how MCFD has responded to the other two sub-recommendations:

- increase earlier and easier access to prevention focused mental health services.
- develop a plan to deliver trauma informed training to staff working/delivering services to First Nations young people

I apologize for the delay in providing information on how MCFD has responded to these sub-recommendations. Nothing is more important to MCFD than the safety and well-being of BC's children and youth, and the death of a young person is always a tragedy. Although this response has been delayed, we have worked hard to implement programs and policies that respond to the Review Panel's recommendations.

- The orientation of the *Healing Families, Helping Systems: A Trauma-Informed Practice Guide for Working with Children, Youth and Families* (the TIP Guide) is currently in the final stages. In March of 2020 over 14,000 hard copies of the TIP Guide were distributed to all DAA and MCFD offices. These hard copies are intended to be distributed to all staff to support them in advancing their knowledge of TIP with additional copies to be distributed to caregivers and community partners. The TIP Guide is also available online in a PDF format at the following link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/child-teen-mental-health/trauma-informed_practice_guide.pdf.

In the last year, Dr. Nancy Poole co-author of the TIP Guide has been working with the DAA/MCFD working group and advisory circle to create orientation webinars, materials and resources. Six webinars have been pre-recorded to orient staff and caregivers to TIP and the TIP

Guide along with practice enhancers, team activities, resources and practice stories. To host all TIP resources, online TIP pages have been developed on the MCFD intranet site “iConnect”. In July 2020, the TIP iConnect pages will be launched and webinars and resources will be made available to all DAA and MCFD staff to support self-guided reading and increased learning awareness.

To support our caregivers, care providers and community partners in their TIP awareness and learning, some TIP resources and materials will be made available on our public facing website in August 2020.

- Foundry BC brings health and social services together under one roof, offering youth aged 12-24 one-stop care and wrap around services. MCFD’s Child and Youth Mental Health teams collaborate with Foundry BC to offer one-site intake and support in some of the Foundry locations. Foundry BC serves youth, including Indigenous youth who might not otherwise access traditional wellness services. There are currently nine open Foundry sites, two in development with a funding committed for an additional eight sites.
- MCFD has developed the *Child and Youth Mental Health Service Framework* under the newly developed MCFD Strategic Framework. The CYMH Framework was jointly developed by the MCFD’s CYMH Policy Branch, Service Delivery Division, and Provincial Practice Branch. External partners, youth, and families also contributed. The Framework details the core and specialized mental health services that should be available within the 13 Service Delivery Areas (SDA) Based on these required components, CYMH Policy has completed an inventory of services to ensure that core and specialized services are available within teams or SDA, enabling children, youth and families to access needed services within their region. The inventory will be the basis for service alignment and system improvements over the next several years.

MCFD will continue to collaborate with our partners across government to increase earlier and easier access to prevention-focused mental health services and to deliver trauma-informed training to staff working with and delivering services to First Nations young people throughout the province.

I want to thank the British Columbia Coroners Service and the Death Review Panel for their work on this report.

Sincerely,



Alex Scheiber
A/Provincial Director of Child Welfare

Enclosure (2)

Pc: Cory Heavener, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Provincial Director and Aboriginal Services
Rob Byers, Executive Finance Officer/Assistant Deputy Director, Finance and Corporate Services
Cheryl May, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Legislation Division
Teresa Dobmeier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Service Delivery Division
Samantha Cocker, Deputy Director, Provincial Director of Child Welfare and Aboriginal Services