

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | January 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

Historic Legislation Passes: Bill 38, *Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act*

On November 25, 2022, Bill 38 came into effect. This bill amends the *Adoption Act* and the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* and was developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous partners.

The amendments enable the ministry and Indigenous Peoples to collaborate and ensure Indigenous Peoples can govern and provide services based on their own child and family laws.

Some provisions, including the appointment of an Indigenous Child Welfare Director, will take time to put in place.

We will work closely with Indigenous Peoples and partners as we develop new regulations to support this legislation.

Youth Transitions Legislative Amendments

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.

Some of these supports require the ministry to make legislation amendments to fully implement them so we have started the legislative drafting process. If you would like to engage on the proposed legislative amendments, please contact us.

Engagement Opportunity

- Join us for a Bill 38 information session from 11:00 am to Noon:
 - Wednesday, January 11
 - Wednesday, January 25
- For details on how to participate contact Penny Lloyd at penny.lloyd@gov.bc.ca

Learn More

news.gov.bc.ca/27861

Engagement Opportunity

- To request engagement on the proposed amendments contact Renae Snell at renae.snell@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

gov.bc.ca/youthtransitions

The Ministry of Children and Family Development gratefully acknowledges that it conducts its work on the territories of Indigenous Peoples throughout British Columbia.

Children and Youth with Support Needs Service Transformation

On November 25, 2022, Premier David Eby and Minister Mitzi Dean announced a commitment to maintain individualized autism funding instead of phasing it out in 2025.

They also committed to engaging in deeper consultation with parents and caregivers, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, and all partners to understand how we can build a better system of supports, co-developed with Indigenous communities. This includes a new engagement process co-designed with First Nations leadership and leaders from the disability community. In addition, we will learn from the four pilot family connection centres opening in the months ahead.

Watch for more details as they become available.

Social Work Oversight

The ministry is engaging on the oversight of social workers in B.C. Oversight is the system of standards and requirements under which social workers practice.

Oversight impacts Indigenous Peoples who access social work services, practice social work and who employ social workers. To date, 74 partners have participated in this engagement.

You can provide feedback online until January 13:

- Social Work Practitioner Survey
- Public Survey
- Written Submissions from individuals, communities, governments and organizations

Specialized Homes and Support Services

The Specialized Homes and Support Services transformation is underway. This change is designed to improve the quality of care for children and youth with complex needs and their families by establishing a network of services that support family preservation and meets therapeutic needs in the short and long term.

Orientation for ministry staff and current service providers in the early implementation areas (North Fraser and Okanagan) is taking place. Next, the ministry will launch a province-wide procurement process to establish a list of qualified service providers to increase service delivery capacity – more details to come.

Learn more

- For information contact
Holli Ward at holli.ward@gov.bc.ca

Read the news release

news.gov.bc.ca/27874

Family connections centres will open in these pilot areas:

- Bulkley Valley/Stikine
- Central Okanagan/Kelowna
- Haida Gwaii/Prince Rupert
- Terrace/Kitimat

Learn more

news.gov.bc.ca/28043

Engagement Opportunity

- To sign up for updates:
mcf.socialworkengagement@gov.bc.ca
- To make a written submission or take a survey online by January 13:
engage.gov.bc.ca/socialworkoversight

Engagement Opportunity

- For information contact
shsstransformation@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

engage.gov.bc.ca/specialized-homes-support-services-redesign

