

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children and Family Development | May 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

Youth Transitions Improved Supports

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.

On April 3, 2023, changes to supports were announced including:

- Improved dental and optical benefits
- Increased flexibility to Temporary Housing and Temporary Support agreements
- Increased duration for Agreements with Young Adults program from 48 to 84 months
- Expanded eligibility to the Provincial Tuition Waiver program

Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections

New funding will be available in summer 2023 to support those on the Agreement with Young Adults program to participate in life-skills, training, and/or cultural connections activities.

We would like to connect with you to hear your thoughts on the policy direction. Virtual workshops will be hosted until June 2023.

Participants will be provided with a gift card or honorarium to acknowledge and thank them for their time.

Contact mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca to participate.

Engagement Opportunity

- For information or to participate in a virtual workshop contact mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

gov.bc.ca/youthtransitionsagedout.com



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

Last month, the ministry invited First Nations families and communities to participate in a virtual gathering on May 10 to begin deeper engagement to build a system that better serves all children and youth with support needs based on their unique needs, and to meet the standards of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The session is open to all interested First Nations.

The session will be held virtually via Zoom over two hours to set priorities and to inform a path forward. Contact mcf.cysnengage@gov.bc.ca to participate.

We also invite Métis peoples, urban Indigenous people, Inuit families and others to participate in additional upcoming engagement opportunities. More information about these engagements, being led by Reciprocal Consulting Inc., will be coming soon.

Engagement Opportunity

- To get more information contact mcf.cysnengage@gov.bc.ca
- Find details about the proposed engagement process and May 10 gathering at engage.gov.bc.ca
- Find details about other engagement opportunities at gov.bc.ca/cysn-engagement-updates



Other Feedback Opportunities...

Policy, Practice and Regulation Changes

Proposed Youth Navigator Policy:

- As part of the ministry's improved services for youth transitions, the navigator role has been created
- A proposed policy has been developed to guide navigators supporting eligible youth through transition to adulthood, including youth from their 14th year into their 19th year
- Feedback provided will help to refine the proposed policy
- Feedback will be accepted until **June 4, 2023**
- Send feedback or request information at mcf.standardspolicy@gov.bc.ca

For More Information

See details of the proposed policy at gov.bc.ca/mcfdpolicychanges

The proposed policy will be used to support phased implementation of the service model in these service delivery areas, with province-wide rollout to follow:

- North Peace
- North Coast-Bulkley Nechako
- Vancouver Island

