

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | June 2022



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

Child and Family Service Legislative Reform

Indigenous Peoples have made significant progress in revitalizing their systems of caring for children. The provincial system needs to catch up and reform child and family service legislation. The goals are to:

- Change the legislative model to promote prevention supports and keep children within their families, communities and culture
- Align to other federal and provincial legislation

The ministry is seeking broad feedback to understand issues with the current system, changes needed and what to prioritize in this reform. Sessions hosted by Alderhill Planning are now complete. We invite you to provide a written submission or take the survey on the website. This is a multi-year process and the start of many conversations to come.

Engagement Opportunity

- Make a written submission or take the online survey until Aug. 31, 2022
- For information contact Emily Horton at emily.horton@gov.bc.ca

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation

Youth Transitions Improved Supports

The ministry has announced the development of new and improved supports for youth and young adults transitioning to adulthood from care, up to the age of 27.

An Implementation Paper has been created with input from First Nations, Métis and urban Indigenous advisory circles outlining proposed policy and legislative changes. Treaty First Nations were contacted about the legislative development process and the ministry will meet with responding groups this summer.

Engagement Opportunity

- Provide Implementation Paper feedback online — watch for details
- Government-to-Government meetings by request
- For information contact mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca

Learn more at

engage.gov.bc.ca/youthtransitions

The Implementation Paper will soon be released publicly. We are seeking feedback on the Paper from Indigenous and community partners, service providers and youth serving organizations, youth and young adults.

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

Children and Youth with Support Needs Transformation

Contracts for family connections centre services in early implementation areas (central Okanagan and northwest regions) will be awarded in fall 2022. Early implementation allows for us to learn more about this new service approach. Existing children and youth with support needs contracts with Indigenous service providers, including Aboriginal Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Infant Development, will remain unchanged in the early implementation areas.

The ministry, with an Indigenous consulting firm, will continue engagement with Indigenous Peoples regarding services that support children and youth with support needs. This includes how to create an integrated set of services provided by Indigenous service providers to Indigenous children, youth, and families.

Youth Justice Service Framework

We are committed to addressing overrepresentation of Indigenous youth within the youth justice system and making the shifts needed to better support youth in community.

We will be engaging with Indigenous Peoples to help inform a new approach to youth justice services, founded on cultural safety and trauma-informed care.

Please join us in this important work so youth have access to the services they need to support and guide them through the years and to ensure healing and accountability.

Watch the video on the website.



Engagement Opportunity

- Take the online survey until Sept. 9, 2022
- For information contact Holli Ward at holli.ward@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

gov.bc.ca/childyouthsupportneeds

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc

Engagement Opportunity

- Engagements will occur throughout 2022/23 — watch for details
- For information contact Dillon Halter at dillon.halter@gov.bc.ca

Learn more and watch the video at

gov.bc.ca/youthjusticeframework

Did you get your Draft Accountability Statement?

Draft Accountability Statements for this fiscal year were sent to First Nations communities and Métis on April 7, 2022 as part of the ministry's commitment to increased transparency.

By sending this document in draft, we are encouraging feedback and input.

If you did not receive your statement please contact mcf.info@gov.bc.ca

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 practice social work, employ social workers and access social work services in a variety of settings.

To date, we have engaged with 37 partners. We will also be launching surveys for social workers and the public, and providing opportunity for formal written submissions.

Engagement Opportunity

- To participate in an engagement session or for information contact mcf.socialworkengagement@gov.bc.ca

Find out how to get involved

engage.gov.bc.ca/socialworkoversight

Other Feedback Opportunities...

Policy, Practice and Regulation Changes

The ministry regularly makes focused changes to policies, practices and regulations within the scope of existing legislation. As we move forward with changes we will seek your input.

Report to Provincial Court BC Forms:

- Proposed changes to enable email service of court documents and notice of court proceedings under the Provincial Court Rules
- Feedback will be accepted until **July 31, 2022**
- Send feedback or request information at mcflegalsupport@gov.bc.ca

Respite Investigation Policy:

- Proposed changes to apply policies used to investigate allegations of harm against children in care who are receiving respite services to allegations involving children not in care
- Feedback will be accepted until **August 1, 2022**
- Send feedback or request information at mcf.standardspolicy@gov.bc.ca

Name Change Policy for Children in Continuing Custody Orders:

- Proposed changes to develop policy guidance for guardianship workers supporting a child or youth in continuing custody who wants to apply for a legal name change
- Watch for opportunity to provide feedback

All dates and timelines may be adjusted if needed

For More Information

See details of the proposed changes and the current versions of the forms and documents listed here at gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation

