

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children and Family Development | July 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

One-time Payment for Adoptive Families—Adoption Regulation Amendments

The Adoption Regulation was amended on July 1, 2023 to provide authority for post-adoption assistance maintenance rate increases announced in Budget 2023 and improve the approval process for post-adoption assistance.

The rate increases were expected to roll out to all maintenance payment recipients on April 1, 2023 but implementation was delayed until July 1, 2023.

The ministry is proposing an additional amendment to the Adoption Regulation for fall 2023, to provide a one-time payment to adoptive parents impacted by this three-month delay.

Please find the new rates and learn more at gov.bc.ca and search for Post-Adoption Assistance Program.

Legislative Amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*

We are preparing legislative amendments to the CFCSA to be introduced in spring 2024. These amendments will address the need for procedural safeguards respecting the powers of both a CFCSA director and an Indigenous authority to compel information from public bodies to deliver child and family services.

The ministry is also proposing changes to the CFCSA to resolve a small number of immediate issues delaying Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services created through previous amendments.

We look forward to developing the amendments to the CFCSA in consultation with Indigenous Peoples and partners. A letter of invitation to be involved in the legislative development process will be sent to you very soon.

For more information

- Please send feedback or request information on the proposed one-time payment to sam.dauch@gov.bc.ca
- Feedback will be accepted until August 17, 2023

Engagement Opportunity

- To be involved in the legislative development process, please contact shelley.atkinson@gov.bc.ca

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

Comprehensive Review of Care Planning

The ministry is beginning a comprehensive review of care planning with a focus on ensuring that Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth are supported to experience belonging across the key areas of their lives.

The review is intended to be co-developed with those with lived experience, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies, and social workers.

The ministry is setting up a project Advisory Circle this summer, calling on participation of Indigenous advisors if interested. There will also be more opportunities for input in fall 2023 as the broader project engagement occurs.

Engagement Opportunity

- Summer 2023: monthly virtual Advisory Circle meetings
- Fall 2023: broader engagement and co-development with those with lived experience, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies, and social workers (process under development)
- For information, or to participate in the Advisory Circle (summer 2023 onwards), contact: melissa.coupar@gov.bc.ca

Children and Youth with Support Needs

Over May and June 2023, the ministry held four engagement sessions with First Nations Rights and Titleholders to begin deeper engagement to build a system that better serves all children and youth with support needs, based on their unique needs. More sessions will begin in September, with dates to follow.

Capacity funding to support First Nations engaging on children and youth with support needs is also available. Please visit govTogetherBC.ca for more information.

We invite Métis, urban Indigenous Peoples as well as Inuit Peoples and others to participate in additional engagements led by Reciprocal Consulting. Contact teamleads@reciprocalconsulting.ca for information.

Engagement Opportunity

- For more information contact mcf.cysnengage@gov.bc.ca
- Find details about First Nations engagements at engage.gov.bc.ca
- Search “CYSN Engagement Updates” on gov.bc.ca for more details on engagement opportunities

We Want to Hear From You

Do you have feedback about this newsletter?

We would love to hear it!

Send it to us at mcf.engagement@gov.bc.ca

