

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children and Family Development | October 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.

Make Your Voice Heard: Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)

A comprehensive website providing one-stop access to engagement on services for children and youth with support needs is live at: engage.gov.bc.ca/children-youth-support-needs

Open to families, service providers, sector partners, Indigenous Peoples and those with lived experience, the new site invites you to share your vision for a better system of supports for children and youth with support needs.

For more information

- For information, contact: mcf.cysnengage@gov.bc.ca
- Search "CYSN Engagement Updates" on gov.bc.ca for more details

A reminder that capacity funding to support First Nations engaging on children with support needs is still available until November 2023. Interested in accessing this funding or want to find out more? Please email MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca.

Check engage.gov.bc.ca over the coming months for information about upcoming Rights and Titleholders engagement sessions, as well as summaries from previous sessions.

Improved Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Supports Coming in Fall 2023

New life-skills, training and cultural connections funding will be available for young adults pursuing their goals through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program. Also, young adults on AYA, a Temporary Housing Agreement, or Temporary Support Agreement will have access to new mental health and counselling benefits.

These new and improved supports are for eligible youth and young adults up to age 27 through the SAJE program.

Watch for more information coming soon at: gov.bc.ca/youthtransitions and agedout.com



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

What We Heard Report on 2022 Legislative Engagements

Throughout 2022, the ministry engaged with Indigenous rights holders, social sector organizations, and people with lived experience on the legislative reform of child and family services. We are pleased to share with you a **What We Heard report and Executive Summary**, based on that engagement, and the important conversations held.

For more information

- Read the report and executive summary: engage.gov.bc.ca/reformchildfamilylegislation
- For more information, contact Richel.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca

As a result of your participation, several changes were immediately made to child and family service legislation with the introduction of Bill 38. Further work is underway across the ministry to reform the child and family services system based on the feedback we received.

Thank you to all who engaged with us on legislative initiatives in 2022!

Engagement on Regulations to Support Bill 38

The ministry is developing regulations to give full force and effect to Bill 38, in consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples. Engagements on regulations happened over the spring and summer and are expected to come into force by the end of 2023.

The first round of engagements to gather input on the Indigenous Child Welfare Director position also took place over the spring and summer.

Further information on ongoing engagements related to the Indigenous Child Welfare Director will be shared later this fall, with regulation development and implementation expected in 2024.

For more information

- For court rules, contact: Gabrielle.Feldmann@gov.bc.ca
- For the Indigenous Child Welfare Director position, contact: Richel.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca

Looking for a letter or newsletter?

Official engagement correspondence and newsletters are posted and available on the website for your reference. Find letters and newsletters in the Indigenous Child and Family Service correspondence archive at gov.bc.ca/mcfdtransformation

Have questions or comments about this newsletter? We want to hear from you! Contact us at mcf.engagement@gov.bc.ca

