

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | November 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.

Changes to Missing Children and Youth In-Care Policies

In response to the Representative for Children and Youth report "Missing," the ministry has made changes to missing children and youth in-care policies and drafted interim practice guidelines to address immediate safety concerns.

These revisions are the first step in improving supports for children and youth who may go missing. For February 2024, the ministry plans to make additional changes to policies, including how missing child and youth responses can be improved through focusing on relationships and belonging.

You are invited to participate in engagement sessions planned for January 2024 and as well provide written feedback on the existing policies and interim practice guidelines.

For More Information

- See details of the policy and interim guidelines at: gov.bc.ca/mcfdpolicychanges

Engagement Opportunity

- Send written feedback or request information at: MCF.StandardsPolicy@gov.bc.ca
- To participate in the January 2024 engagement sessions, send your name and contact information to: MCF.StandardsPolicy@gov.bc.ca

Improved Supports: Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE)

Over the coming weeks, new Life-skills, Training, and Cultural Connections funding will be available for young adults pursuing their goals through the the SAJE Program and on Agreements with Young Adults (AYA). Also, young adults on AYA, a Temporary Housing Agreement, or Temporary Support Agreement will have access to new mental health and counselling benefits.

New and improved supports are available for eligible youth and young adults up to their 27th birthday. *Eligibility varies by program.*

Find more information 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.

Proposed Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Guide Policy

The ministry is seeking feedback on the proposed policy for the new SAJE Guide role. Feedback provided will help to refine the policy.

SAJE Guides will be available to support eligible young adults from care as they transition to adulthood. The proposed policy provides SAJE Guides with information about how they can support young adults to successfully navigate the transition to adulthood and interdependence, including how they can access the range of supports available.

Engagement Opportunity

- See details of the policy and interim guidelines at: gov.bc.ca/mcfdpolicychanges
- Feedback will be accepted until December 9, 2023
- Send feedback or request information to: MCF.StandardsPolicy@gov.bc.ca

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

First Nations Rights and Titleholders are invited to attend virtual engagement sessions to co-develop a new provincial service approach for children and youth with support needs and their families. The next session is Monday, November 27 from 1pm – 3pm via Zoom. To register, please contact: MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca

Reciprocal Consulting is facilitating engagements with community leaders serving the B.I.P.O.C., Urban Indigenous, Blind and Partially Sighted, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities and families. Sessions for 2SLGBTQIA+, rural and northern, and English as a Learned Language communities are coming soon. Please contact teamleads@reciprocalconsulting.ca if you wish to co-facilitate or participate in a session.

Capacity funding to support First Nations engaging on children with support needs is available until November 30, 2023. (Funding requests will reopen in February 2024.) Interested in accessing this funding or want to find out more? Please email: MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca.

Engagement Opportunity

- Subscribe to receive updates at: engage.gov.bc.ca/children-and-youth-support-needs
- Search “CYSN Engagement Updates” on gov.bc.ca for more details
- For assistance contact: mcf.cysnengage@gov.bc.ca

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

