



October 5, 2020

Ref: 254364

NAME
ADDRESS 1
ADDRESS 2
CITY BC POSTAL

Dear NAME:

We are writing to give you an update about some changes to the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program.

Navigating the world as a young adult can be challenging, especially now. We are pleased to announce that the **emergency measures put in place in March 2020 have now been extended until September 30, 2021.**

These measures are in place so that:

- You can now take life-skills programs online
- You can individualize a life-skills program with as few as 5 hours/week
- Life-skills providers no longer need to be approved by the Ministry of Children and Family Development
- You can learn life-skills in one 'learning domain' (like health and wellness or financial literacy) instead of four.
- Cultural learning opportunities can be included in your life-skills programming, like learning a family language or meeting with elders.

Also, there are several new measures that will be in place as of October 1, 2020:

- You have more options for mental health and rehabilitative support while on the AYA program
- You will be able to attend mental health services or rehabilitative services for fewer hours per week (10 hours/week instead of 15)
- You can take part in more than one program at a time — for example, going to counselling while going to school part-time.

If you have questions, need more resources or would like help connecting with your family or Indigenous community, contact your social worker.

If you need access to a phone and internet, the TELUS [Mobility for Good \(M4G\)](#) program may provide you with a free cell phone and data plan for two years. This will help you stay connected to the important information you may need during this time.

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Please continue to review and check the links below for accurate and up-to-date information:

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Link Website](#)
- [Health Canada Information](#)
- [MCFD COVID-19 Public Information](#)
- [Youth & Young Adults – MCFD Response to COVID-19](#)

Some additional resources include:

- [Agedout.com](#): an information hub for youth in or from government care.
- [BC Federation of Youth in Care Networks](#)
- [Vancouver Island Crisis Society](#): 1 888 494-3888 or text 250 800-3806
- [Crisis Centre BC](#): 1 866 661-3311. This service also has an online chat option.
- [Crisis Prevention, Intervention & Information Centre Northern BC](#): 1 888 562-1214. This service also has an online chat option.
- [Interior Crisis Line](#): 1 888 353-2273
- [My Anxiety Plans](#): My Anxiety Plans are anxiety management programs based on cognitive behavioural therapy, an evidence-based psychological treatment.

More social supports can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information>. Youth and young adult-specific supports can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information/youth-young-adults-response-to-covid-19>.

We are keeping you in mind and want to ensure that you are well taken care of. We hope the extension of these supports until September 30, 2021, will help you get through this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Cory Heavener

Assistant Deputy Minister/
Provincial Director of Child Welfare,
Office of the Provincial Director and
Aboriginal Services



Teresa Dobmeier

Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery Division