



October 5, 2020

Ref: 254364

NAME
ADDRESS 1
ADDRESS 2
CITY BC POSTAL

Dear NAME:

We are writing to you to provide you with updates about Independent Living, Youth Agreement programs and the Agreement with Young Adults (AYA) program.

Navigating the world as a young adult can be challenging, especially now. Many young adults continue to feel stress due to loss of work, decrease in hours, layoffs, or may be worried about school programs. We want you to know that your agreements can now be extended until March 31, 2021. Your social worker will be reaching out to you to discuss your options for continued support.

If you are on a Temporary COVID-19 Support Agreement these can continue. You may be interested in enrolling in the AYA. This program will provide you financial support while you attend school, take a life-skills program, or receive mental health support.

The AYA program has changed to be more flexible during the pandemic.

- You can now take life-skills programs online.
- You now have more options for mental health support while on the AYA program.
- You can now take part in programs for fewer hours per week (for mental health supports, you'll need to attend 10 hours/week instead of 15, and for life-skills programs you'll need to attend 5 hours/week).
- You can take part in more than one program at a time — for example, going to counselling while going to school part-time.
- 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.
- You can do cultural learning as a life-skill program, like learning a family language or meeting with elders.

These changes will be in place until September 30, 2021.

If you have questions, need more resources or would like help connecting with your family or Indigenous community, contact your social worker. .../2

If you need access to a phone and internet after you turn 19, 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.

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

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

Additional Resources and Supports 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 hope the extension of these supports will help you get through this challenging time. We encourage you to contact your social worker if you have any questions.

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