

March 25, 2020

Dear Post-Secondary Partners and Practicum Students,

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is proactively responding to COVID-19 to ensure the health and wellbeing of children, youth, families, staff, and practicum students while continuing to provide vital services. To that end, we support the decision of the [Canadian Association for Social Work Education](#) (CASWE) to suspend all current face-to-face Child Welfare practicum placements, and extend this decision to include our Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) practicums.

Effective immediately, students in CYMH practicums with MCFD should arrange with their MCFD Supervisor, Field Education Consultant, and their post-secondary Faculty or Field Placement Supervisor to develop Remote Learning Plans for completing their practicums. Most CYMH practicum students enrolled in MSW programs have already transitioned to online learning plans as directed by CASWE. CYMH practicum students enrolled in other programs should work with their MCFD Supervisor and Field Education Consultant (cc'd), and their post-secondary Faculty or Field Placement Supervisor to develop remote learning plans or defer the remainder of their practicum hours to the fall term, if possible.

The decision reflects careful consideration of the capacity of our staff at this time to provide safe, equitable, and consistent supervision of practicum students, and the advice of the Provincial Health Officer to maintain physical distancing measures.

Given the exceptional circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the disruption it is causing, we thank you for your understanding and support in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of staff, practicum students, and the children, youth, and families served by MCFD.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me.

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