

# Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | March 2024

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.**



## Message from Minister Grace Lore:

*"I want to extend my appreciation to the Our Children Our Way Society and thank them for inviting Deputy Minister Galbraith and myself to meet with them and the First Nations Leadership Council at the Partnership Forum in Victoria on March 7th.*

*As the new Minister of Children and Family Development, I was so grateful for the opportunity to listen and connect. In the days ahead, I hope we can continue to engage and work together as we build a better, safer future for our children."*

## Services for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)

First Nations Rights and Titleholders are invited to attend virtual engagement sessions to co-develop a new provincial CYSN service approach.

Topic 3: Supporting Access to Services, concluded on March 14, 2024. Engagement on Topic 4: Upholding the Safety, Effectiveness, and Quality of Services, will begin on April 4, 2024 and run through April.

## CYSN Engagement Capacity Funding Available

A reminder that provincial funding is available to all 204 B.C. First Nations communities to help support their capacity to engage with the ministry and others on their unique needs in the context of supports and services for children and youth with support needs.

To express interest, please email [MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca) with a brief summary of how your community plans to use the funds. Please include the full name and contact information of the person to whom the grant letter should be addressed.

## Engagement Opportunities

- Subscribe to receive updates at: [engage.gov.bc.ca/children-and-youth-support-needs](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/children-and-youth-support-needs)
- For more information, visit: [engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/children-and-youth-with-support-needs-first-nations-engagement](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/children-and-youth-with-support-needs-first-nations-engagement) or contact [MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca)

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

## Comprehensive Review of Care Planning

The ministry is conducting a comprehensive review of care planning which will focus on ensuring that Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth in care are supported to experience belonging across the key areas of their lives.

This review is guided by a project Advisory Circle that includes participation from youth with lived experience, Indigenous partners, foster parents, community partners, and ministry staff.

The Advisory Circle is seeking feedback on care planning via two online tools: a general and youth-focused survey.

Data from the surveys will be used to develop project recommendations and inform the next phase of engagement planning: virtual workshops and focus groups.



## Engagement Opportunities

- **Spring Ongoing**

To participate in our open online survey, please see:

[form.simplesurvey.com/f/l/mcfdcareplanning](https://form.simplesurvey.com/f/l/mcfdcareplanning)

This survey is open to the public, and is intended to be shared far and wide; please forward the survey link to any of your contacts.

- **Spring – Summer 2024:**

For more information on upcoming workshops, please stay tuned via our webpage:

[engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/care-planning-review/](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/care-planning-review/)

- **Ongoing:**

The Care Planning Review Advisory Circle is eager to support more Indigenous partners to participate in the co-development process.

The time commitment of Circle membership is approximately 1–2-hour virtual meetings monthly.

For more information, contact us at:

[MCFD.CarePlanningReview@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCFD.CarePlanningReview@gov.bc.ca)

## Updates to Protect Privacy

To better protect personal health information, MCFD will develop a letter to be issued by workers that will give clear instruction to individuals on the collection of their personal health information in determining child protection needs. This letter would be recommended in the Child, Family and Community Service Regulation (CFCSR).

The ministry wants to make additional housekeeping changes to the CFCSR including removing duplicate information and fixing errors. For any questions about these changes, please connect with [sam.dauch@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sam.dauch@gov.bc.ca), acting manager, Legislation and Legal Support, by March 29.

### 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](mailto:MCF.engagement@gov.bc.ca)

