

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children & Family Development | January 2026



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.

Information for Autism Community Partners

As of October 2025, the Ministry of Children and Family Development has temporarily removed the requirement for a pediatrician's report for Under-Six Non-BCAAN Autism Funding applications across BC.

This change helps reduce delays in accessing early intervention services, which are often caused by difficulty getting pediatric appointments. While seeing a pediatrician remains important for a child's health, it should not hold up Autism Funding applications.

Other requirements, such as speech therapy and psychological reports, still apply.

Learn more

For information on Autism Funding, please visit: gov.bc.ca/autism-funding

Huu-ay-aht First Nations bilateral agreement

Huu-ay-aht First Nations signed a bilateral agreement with BC on December 16, 2025.

The yaa?akap^win agreement, meaning "we are embracing", comes into effect province-wide under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* on March 16, 2026.

This agreement defines consultation and cooperation measures between community designates and directors with respect to protection services. The guiding principles of the bilateral agreement include a commitment to making decisions and providing services in ways that promote keeping children with their families and community with the goal of ensuring safe, healthy, and connected Huu-ay-aht children and families.

Learn more

For information on different pathways to jurisdiction over child and family services, please visit: gov.bc.ca/pathways



To sign up for this newsletter please send your name and email address to MCF.engagement@gov.bc.ca

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