



Coordination Agreements Best Practices

Indigenous Agreements Branch
Partnership and Indigenous Engagement Division

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Purpose and Audience

Purpose:

Share knowledge gained through work with Indigenous governing bodies and Canada on the development of coordination agreements under *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (federal Act) and apply those lessons to future agreement discussions.

Audience:

Indigenous governing bodies (IGB) planning to exercise jurisdiction under the federal Act.

Note: *These are best practices that MCFD has identified through experiences at coordination agreement tables. Each table is unique.*





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Understanding the IGB's Vision

- Establish common understanding amongst the parties on how the IGB envisions exercising its jurisdiction
- Understand the Indigenous law, the service delivery model, and the scope of the IGB's exercise of jurisdiction in B.C.

This will result in more effective, focused discussions on coordination measures, supporting early completion of the coordination agreement.





Administrative Best Practices

Making early, collaborative decisions on how to set up the following administrative functions have led to smoother operations and flow of progress:

- Meeting frequency and location (or platform, if virtual)
- Meeting agendas
- Action items
- Records of decisions
- Identifying chair (and if rotating chair, providing clarity on responsibilities)
- Organization of calendar invites

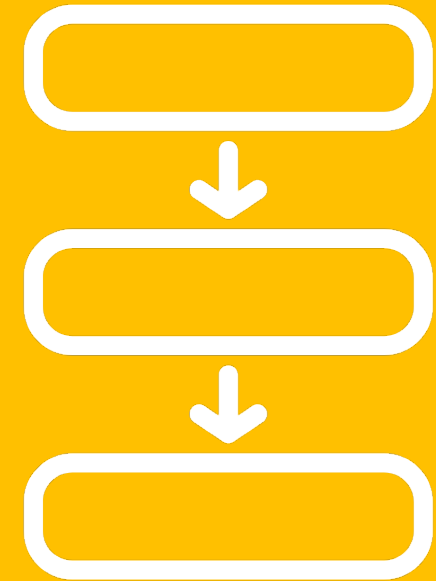
Table Structure Best Practices

There is generally a main table and common sub-groups across most tables including:

- Legal (through completion of agreement)
- Service delivery
- Fiscal

At the later stage of coordination agreement development, the sub-groups are often then subsumed back into a larger main table meeting.

Identifying the purpose of each group and scheduling well in advance will help ensure the right people are available.





Coordination Agreement Drafting Best Practices

- Ensure front-line service delivery representatives are part of the conversation
 - Establish drafting conventions to capture comments, feedback, and responses from each of the parties (example below)
 - IGB = Green
 - Canada = Red
 - BC = Blue
 - BC and Canada = Pink
 - Canada and IGB = Orange
- Proposed deletion: [Square] brackets in party(ies) colour.
Tripartite substantive agreement in principle (subject to further legal drafting) = Black

Data

The Ministry of Children and Family Development can provide aggregate data setting out the number of cases per service type.

During planning and initiation of the table discussions, data includes:

- Family Development Response & Investigations numbers
- Children in-care/out-of-care numbers

To support fiscal analysis during table discussion, data includes:

- Children in-care/out-of-care numbers
- Post-Majority Support cases



Outreach

It is helpful to meet with representatives of other provincial ministries responsible for programs and services that may intersect with Indigenous child and family services early in the process, such as:

- Public Guardian and Trustee (re: continuing property guardianship)
- Public Safety and Solicitor General (re: police enforcement, if contemplated under Indigenous law)





Provincial Interests

Provincial interests are intended to ensure coordination between directors and delegates of the directors and IGBs for the operational aspects related to the uplifting of Indigenous jurisdiction, including:

- Prompt identification of Indigenous children, youth, and families to determine if Indigenous law applies to ensure they receive services under the appropriate law
- Emergency services, child protection response, and referral of reports (IGB must operate a 24/7 phone line and response system for referrals and reports)
- Transition considerations (information sharing; developing child-specific transition plans)
- Information sharing (reciprocal information sharing where IGBs are exercising jurisdiction in phases or with limited geographic scope)

As this work continues and B.C. encounters and coordinates with new Indigenous laws, provincial interests will continue to evolve.



Contact

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