

Fall 2023 Ministry of Children and Family Development Detailed Progress Report on Recommendations from Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions

Fall 2023 Progress Report on the Recommendations from Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions



Area	Recommendation	Status	Area	Recommendation	Status	Area	Recommendation	Status	Area	Recommendation	Status								
10	Substantially Complete		7	Substantially Complete		9	Substantially Complete		1	Substantially Complete									
				1 In Progress			2 Other			2 In Progress									
				4 Other						1 Other									
1	Increase front-line staff in First Nations communities	11	Convene session on Indigenous CW	23	Canada commit to Jordan's Principle	34	Fund community based prevention & family preservation	40	Connection to parents is not severed	56	Supports for language revitalization in care plans	64	Expand Indigenous EY programming	68	Implement model where Indigenous communities exercise full jurisdiction over Indigenous child welfare	75	Develop an Indigenous child welfare policy framework in BC	84	Federal Indigenous child welfare legislation
2	Increase number of front line staff working with Métis	12	Improve court proceedings related to CW	24	Funding formula that addresses INAC's Directive 20-1 & CHRT's rulings	35	ASI funding for community based program delivery	41	Mandatory permanency planning	57	Support development of cultural components of care plan	65	Long-term funding for EY programs	66	Expand parenting programs & services	76	Implement the APPF	85	BC Premier champion national action plan on Indigenous child welfare
3	Support expansion of St's Ailes pilot project	13	Appoint prov. court judges to focus on Indigenous children, families & communities	25	Funding for ADR prevention process is equal to removal under CCO	36	INAC Fund prevention services for First Nations not represented by DAA	42	Practice guide for permanency plans	58	Independent review of cultural components of care plans	67	Update parenting programs + curriculum & support language revitalization	69	Support DAA capacity building & expertise in exercising authority over Indigenous child welfare	77	Separate service plan & distinct budget allocation		
4	SDAs review staff allocation & redirect to community	14	Improve access to justice within the child welfare system	26	Fund trauma services consistent with TRC & 2016 CHRT decision	37	Increase ASI budget by \$4M	43	Funding to monitor permanency planning	59	Indigenous engagement to develop cultural components	70	Amend CFCSA to support community driven initiatives	78	Recruit & retain Indigenous people to MCFD leadership				
5	EDS meet regularly with Métis/First Nations leaders/elders in their region	15	Expand FN Court Model & support the Family Healing Court	27	Short-term funding to address discriminatory aspects of Directive 20-1	38	INAC/MCFD ensure equity in prevention services for communities	44	Quarterly permanency updates to communities on ICYIC	60	Engage First Peoples Cultural Council	71	Amend CFCSA to make it easier for a child to remain with extended family or community in the event of a removal	79	Recruit, retain & support Indigenous social workers				
6	EDS regularly provide lists of CCOs with First Nation councils	16	Expand Parent Legal Centre Model	28	Those not represented by a DAA are engaged in negotiating Service Agreement	39	Require court order prior to removal	45	Expand RCY mandate to review permanency planning for Indigenous CYIC	61	Ensure mandatory staff training regarding individual Indigenous identities, cultures and rights	72	Move from concept of 'custody' to 'guardianship' & 'parental responsibility'	80	Remove barriers for DAAs to use alternate approaches like 'Signs of Safety'				
7	EDS job requirements reflect commitment to relationship building & reconciliation	17	Support Native Courtworkers	29	Fair & equitable funding for DAAs			46	Indigenous foster parent recruitment	62	Review requirements & statutory requirements for foster parents	73	Amend CFCSA to minimize circumstances where a child is moved out of temporary care and under a CCO	81	Fund continuation of RCYs oversight role, expand mandate to ensure involvement of communities in planning for Indigenous CYIC				
8	Ensure Nation to Nation Protocols exist with each Indigenous community	18	Support ADR in the Child Welfare system	30	Address DAA wage issues & wage parity			47	QA program for all adoptions	63	Support foster parents to meet obligation to preserve cultural identity	74	Designate an Indigenous Director under the CFCSA	82	Require ministries to table annual responses to RCY recommendations regarding Indigenous child welfare				
9	Core components of Nation to Nation Protocols	19	BC AG expand mediation program	31	Harmonize rates for families with permanent care of children			48	Adoptions registry for Indigenous children + register custom adoptions					83	Improve data collection & analysis to support program development and service delivery for Indigenous child welfare				
10	Fund training on child rights	20	Fund community participation in child protection proceedings	32	Harmonize rates for OOC & foster care			49	PAA for custom adoptions										
		21	Amend CFCSA to include "Aboriginal Child"	33	Ensure EFP families receive CCTB			50	Support & fund customary care										
		22	Support FNs & BC Métis to communicate info on CW system & rights					51	Report on legal & practical implications of adopting status/registered children										
								52	Review federal A-List policy & practices										
								53	Cultural connections for Indigenous adoptive children with non-Indigenous adoptive parents										
								54	Expand YAC's role to include more input										
								55	Supports for Indigenous youth aging-out of care										

Legend + Status of MCFD Actions

Status	Oct 1 2023
Substantially complete/implemented	52
Identified for continuous improvement	6
New direction being actively implemented	10
In progress	5

This report provides the status of MCFD actions only. Many recommendations are identified as co-led by another organization; the statuses reflect MCFD actions only.

Of the 85 recommendations, 12 are solely led by another organization, these are not included in the Legend + Status of MCFD Actions

Ministry of Children and Family Development Detailed Progress Report on Recommendations from Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions

This Detailed Progress Report outlines actions the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has taken to advance the recommendations as outlined in the 2016 report [Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – From Root Causes to Root Solutions](#). Since this report was issued, there have been significant changes in legislative pathways to upholding Indigenous child and family services jurisdiction and authority as well as a shift to a system-wide approach to transforming child and family services within MCFD. Please see the Progress Report Evolving Context for a fulsome discussion on these shifts.

To reflect these changes, status terms have been adjusted in this report to more accurately capture the ministry’s actions towards the intent of the recommendations. While in some cases a recommendation is directed to MCFD and another organization, the status identified in this report reflect solely MCFD’s actions.

The following terms are used to identify the status of MCFD’s actions for each recommendation.

Status (2023)	What this means:
Substantially Complete/Implemented	The majority of the activities by MCFD that directly support the implementation of the recommendations are complete or there is infrastructure in place to ensure the continued implementation
Identified for continuous improvement	The majority of the activities by MCFD that directly support the implementation of the recommendations are complete; MCFD will focus on continuously improving the actions and processes implemented.
New direction being actively implemented	Given the change in legislative context and ministry direction since 2016, the actions by MCFD to support implementation of this recommendation have changed.
In Progress	Some of the activities by MCFD that directly support the implementation of the recommendations are complete
Led by another organization	The recommendation and related activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendations are led by another organization

The following acronyms will be used to identify the party’s responsible for implementing the recommendations.

Ministry of Children and Family Development		Other	
PIE	Partnerships & Indigenous Engagement Division	ISC	Indigenous Services Canada
PDCW	Office of the Provincial Director & Aboriginal Services Division	RCY	BC’s Representative for Children and Youth
SDD	Service Delivery Division	CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
SIPL	Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division	PO	Premier’s Office
FCS	Finance and Corporate Services Division	SSCCY	Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth

Note: The wording within the progress column has been changed to use the title Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (ICFSA) in place of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs). This name change, initiated and embraced by the agencies formerly known as DAAs, reflects an evolution in their work and how they choose to represent themselves.

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
1	<p>MCFD and INAC¹ invest in the development and delivery of child and family services directly within First Nations communities in BC, through the following specific actions:</p> <p>a) MCFD and INAC commit to invest an additional \$8 million annually to increase the number of social workers, support workers, and others serving First Nations communities in BC by at least 92 FTEs over the next two years;</p> <p>b) MCFD take immediate action to ensure that the additional front-line staff identified above are placed directly within First Nations communities in BC;</p> <p>c) MCFD and INAC work together to ensure that a child and family liaison and advocate is funded for each First Nation community as a support service to parents, families, leaders, and members who require support within the community or to navigate the child welfare system; and</p> <p>d) MCFD, with the objective of maximizing its child safety recruitment, review the entry-level qualifications for front-line workers to consider educational and experiential requirements for child safety positions.</p>	<p>MCFD (PIE, FCS)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>Further engagement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), formerly known as INAC, is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation.</p> <p>The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ruling on Long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and long-term approach for Jordan's Principle includes funding for prevention services to build on multi-generational cultural strengths to help children and families stay together and funding to expand First Nations Representative Services to all provinces and in the Yukon.</p> <p>Social Work Credentials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To better respond to the evolving needs of vulnerable children and families, the ministry has expanded the educational and experiential requirements for new frontline delegated workers. This is intended to help address hiring challenges by extending applicant pools in areas that are experiencing recruitment and retention challenges and to provide flexibility to respond to identified community-specific needs and resources and hire appropriately, particularly for Indigenous and remote communities. Preference will continue to be given to applicants with degrees in social work, child and youth care and master's degrees in counselling psychology with a practicum in family and child welfare. With this expansion, however, hiring managers are now also able to consider the combination of a related degree, post-graduate diploma or post-graduate certificate in a human services field (Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Anthropology, Early Childhood Education, Theology, Indigenous Studies, Education, Nursing) along with a minimum two years of post-degree work experience with children and families. 	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
2	<p>MCFD and INAC invest in the development and delivery of child and family services directly to the Métis in BC, by increasing the number of front-line staff working directly with Métis in BC.</p>	<p>MCFD (PIE)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>ISC</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially</p>

¹ Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is now the Indigenous Services Canada and is referred to as ISC throughout the report.

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All candidates for hire will be assessed for a beginning level of competence with the Child and Youth Safety and Support Competencies regardless of their educational qualifications. <p>MCFD has provided funding to the Métis Nation BC to support operations for Métis serving child and family service agencies.</p> <p>Starting in 2018, each year the ministry provides \$30,000 to the seven Métis organizations in B.C., for the delivery of community-based, family support and prevention services, to support increased connections between Indigenous children and youth and their communities and culture.</p>	Complete/ Implemented
3	<p>MCFD support existing promising practices that are focused on the development and delivery of child and family services directly within First Nations communities in BC, through the following specific actions:</p> <p>a) In conjunction with Recommendation 1, MCFD and INAC provide support for the expansion of the Sts'ailes pilot project as a model for other interested First Nations communities within BC; and</p> <p>b) MCFD and INAC support Indigenous communities that wish to employ the community care committee/group model to support prevention based on active interventions in support of children and families.</p>	<p>MCFD (PIE)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>MCFD continues to support the Sts'ailes project. Sts'ailes has since chosen to implement its law without a coordination agreement in place. MCFD continues to gather examples of promising practice and will continue to support such practices as they come forward.</p> <p>In January 2019, the "Walking Together with Children, Youth and Families in Respect for their Inherent Right to Culture and Connection" brought together 400 Indigenous Child and Family Agency and Ministry of Children and Family Development supervisors, team leaders, and leadership staff to focus on breathing life into the Child, Family and Community Service Act amendments.</p> <p>In 2022, the Province introduced Bill 38: Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act (the Act). Bill 38 was co-developed with Indigenous Rights Holders and outlined historic amendments to both the Child, Family and Community Services Act and the Adoptions Act. The Act included amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Governing Bodies to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
4	Each MCFD region undertake a review of planned and existing front-line staff with a view to re-profile and direct, according to need, full-time employees to work directly within Indigenous communities to directly support parents and families and enhance community-based services.	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>Support for this approach continues and is managed on a community-by-community basis by the local Service Delivery Area.</p> <p>The Ministry continues to focus on strengthening supports and prioritizing resources for families and children based on their needs, in collaboration with communities and other partners in order to keep families safely together and to support improved outcomes. A component of this work includes ensuring the staff complement meets the needs of Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>Additionally, the introduction of Bill 38 includes amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Governing Bodies to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters.</p> <p>Starting in 2018, each year the ministry provides \$30,000 to each of the 204 First Nations and seven Métis organizations in B.C., for the delivery of community-based, family support and prevention services, to support increased connections between Indigenous children and youth and their communities and culture.</p>	
5	MCFD require their Regional Executive Directors of Service for each region to meet regularly with Métis leaders, and First Nations leaders/elders from communities within their region.	MCFD SDD	<p>Executive Directors of Service or delegates met with communities within their Service Delivery Area.</p> <p>Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies (ICFSAs) meet regularly with their respective First Nations and/or Metis leaders/elders (depending on who they serve).</p> <p>Service delivery area management representatives continue to meet with Métis leaders, and First Nations leaders/elders from communities within their areas.</p> <p>As of 2020, reconciliation plans for all SDAs were completed for all communities and they are being updated in 2023.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
6	MCFD regularly provide to each First Nation (First Nation Chiefs, councils, Hereditary Chiefs, and matriarchs) a list of all their children who are under a custody of care order.	MCFD FCS	<p>102 communities now have Section 92.1 Agreements (S. 92.1 <i>Child, Family, and Community Service Act</i>) that support sharing of information.</p> <p>MCFD provides a list of children and youth in care to Nations with S. 92.1 Agreements on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>MCFD annually provides Draft Accountability Statements to all B.C. First Nations Communities, and Métis, to increase transparency of ministry services. The statements include information such as the number of children in care from each community, the legal status of those children and the costs associated with specialized homes and support services.</p> <p>The Bill 38 amendments include the enabling of information sharing with Indigenous Governing Bodies for the purposes of developing or delivering laws and services.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
7	MCFD require that Regional Executive Directors of Service for each region have specific job requirements and performance measures that reflect the province's high-level commitment to reconciliation and the	MCFD SDD	<p>These requirements have been incorporated into Executive Directors of Service performance profiles. There are also reconciliation plans for every SDA, and the Service Delivery Division as a whole.</p>	Led by MCFD

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	specific commitment to strengthen MCFD's relationship with Indigenous leadership, families, and communities.		<p>As outlined in the evolving context document of this update, the ministry's commitment to reconciliation is embedded within legislation, and by extension ministry policy practice and procedures.</p> <p>For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Policy 1.1: Working with Indigenous Children, Youth, Families and Communities under the CFCSA which provides guidance respecting the director's duties under the CFCSA related to confirming whether a child or youth is Indigenous and, if they are, confirming their Indigenous community, whether an Indigenous law applies to them and consulting and cooperating with Indigenous communities when there is no Indigenous law that applies to the child or youth. • Core Policy 1.2: Upholding Indigenous Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services outlines the actions a director is required to take in meeting their duties related to upholding Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services for Indigenous children and youth. 	Substantially Complete/ Implemented
8	<p>MCFD take the following immediate actions to ensure Nation-to-Nation Partnership Protocols are implemented between each Indigenous community (First Nation or Métis) and the regional MCFD office and DAA (as appropriate):</p> <p>a) Each MCFD regional director arrange to meet before January 2017 with all Indigenous communities and DAAs with the purpose of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ensuring a current Nation-to-Nation Partnership Protocol exists between each Indigenous community (First Nation or Métis) and the regional MCFD office or DAA (as appropriate) or, in the instances where a protocol already exists, 2) ensuring that the existing protocol is current, understood, and agreed to by all parties to the protocol; 	MCFD PIE	<p>As outlined in the evolving context document, all levels of government have committed to action to dismantle colonial and oppressive laws, policies, and practices with the goal of ultimately providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people, and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. (e.g. via community agreements, information sharing agreements, tripartite coordination agreements).</p> <p>The Repository of Agreements can be on-line found here: Repository of Agreements - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</p> <p>Agreements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first co-created child welfare community agreement in B.C. (Tcwesétmentem: Walking Together Agreement) under the Child, Family and Community Service Act with Simpcw First Nation, ensuring the unique practices, customs, laws, language, and traditions of Simpcw First Nation are integrated into child welfare decision making, protection, and planning. 	<p>8. Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p> <p>9. Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	b) MCFD commit to an annual review of all Nation-to-Nation Partnership Protocols with all of the parties to each protocol.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first tripartite coordination agreement between Splatsin First Nation, B.C. and Canada ensuring that Splatsin can effectively exercise their inherent right of self-government, including jurisdiction of child and family services for their children and families. 	
9	<p>MCFD commit, at minimum, to the inclusion of the following core components of each Nation-to-Nation Partnership Protocol:</p> <p>a) A reciprocal commitment to baseline principles and objectives for a results-based approach to child welfare, including emphasis on the rights of the child and parents/extended families and communities (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNDRIP and UNWCIP Outcome Document commitments and statutory commitments in CFCSA);</p> <p>b) A joint commitment to alternative dispute resolution as the default approach in advance of any child removal order;</p> <p>c) A reciprocal commitment to build and maintain constructive working relationships in all aspects of child welfare practice impacting on an Indigenous community, including culturally based child care plans with a focus on permanency;</p> <p>d) The identification of jointly agreed to obligations and responsibilities, including the commitment to communications and accountability standards;</p> <p>e) An agreed-to approach to implementing the protocol, including but not limited to joint planning, monitoring, and a review process;</p> <p>f) The term of the protocol (i.e. year to year; or longer term);</p> <p>g) An established timeframe for periodic review of the protocol; and</p>	MCFD (PIE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 102 communities now have information sharing agreements under 92.1(2)(c) (agreements for any purpose prescribed by regulation). 	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	h) Commitment to youth engagement (See later recommendations in this report).			
10	<p>MCFD and INAC provide the specific support for community-based curriculum and community-developed services for Indigenous children and families, involving and uplifting Indigenous elders, matriarchs and hereditary leadership:</p> <p>a) MCFD and INAC commit to support training so Indigenous individuals and communities understand their rights regarding child welfare and capacity within communities grows;</p> <p>b) MCFD and INAC support Indigenous communities that wish to employ the community care committee/group model (identified in Recommendation 3) by providing funding for training of Care Committee/Group workers similar in scope to the training provided for those involved in the community Care Committee Model that was created through the Aboriginal Children and Families Chiefs Coalition.</p>	<p>MCFD PIE</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>As outlined in the evolving context document, all levels of government have committed to action to dismantle colonial and oppressive laws, policies, and practices with the goal of ultimately providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services.</p> <p>In January 2019, the “Walking Together with Children, Youth and Families in Respect for their Inherent Right to Culture and Connection” brought together 400 Indigenous Child and Family Agency and Ministry of Children and Family Development supervisors, team leaders, and leadership staff to focus on breathing life into the Child, Family and Community Service Act amendments.</p> <p>Starting in 2018, each year the ministry provides \$30,000 to each of the 204 First Nations and seven Métis organizations in B.C. for the delivery of community-based, family support and prevention services, to support increased connections between Indigenous children and youth and their communities and culture.</p> <p>In 2018, the Canada-British Columbia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement provided \$30 million over three years to expand Aboriginal Head Start programs.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD’s actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
11	The Ministers of Justice and Attorney General, and Public Safety and Solicitor General convene a Justice Summit, within the context of the TRC Calls to Action on justice, to deal specially with Indigenous child welfare matters.	<p>MAG PSSG (SIPL)</p> <p>MCFD</p>	The 10 th Justice Summit was held May 31 – June 2, 2018 and the 11 th was held in November 2018. Both summits pertained to Indigenous Justice, with an additional focus on child welfare. The 12 th Justice Summit was held on April 26, 2019. It continued the focus on how to reform the justice sector and how to assess progress and outcomes in the justice system. The primary objectives of the most recent Summit were to consider the preferred vision and approach for future Justice	Led by MAG and PSSG

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			Summits and Justice Summit recommendations, and to verify the sector's desire to do more in measuring progress against key indicators.	
12	<p>MCFD take the following specific actions including legislative amendments to improve court proceedings relating to child welfare, thus improving access to justice for Indigenous children and youth, families and communities:</p> <p>a) Commit to a more collaborative approach with Indigenous communities at the start of a child protection file and in advance of the court, by defaulting to presumptions that help instead of hinder an Indigenous community wishing to participate in court proceedings or alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes;</p> <p>b) The issue of “privacy” has been used by MCFD officials as a reason to deny First Nations and Métis communities access to information, and as such, <i>CFCSA</i> should be amended to clarify, confirm and ensure appropriate First Nations and Métis community leadership have access to information on their children who are in care under CCO and other child care orders;</p> <p>c) Provide a notice for each presentation hearing, as well as clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date information to the First Nation or Indigenous community where each child in care is from; and</p> <p>d) Provide the same information to the First Nation or Indigenous community and/or their designated representative through email, as well as through the existing processes identified in the <i>CFCSA</i> regulations.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>The <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (CFCSA, Bill 26) received Royal Assent on May 31, 2018; and came into force on April 1, 2019. The amendments address this recommendation by providing ways for First Nations to receive more information and become more involved in child protection matters, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The CFCSA now enables agreements with Indigenous communities for their involvement in child protection matters, including information sharing, involvement in assessments and investigations, planning for less disruptive measures and the referral of child protection reports, developing plans of care and making placement decisions, and planning for the needs of their children who are the subject of CCOs. •The CFCSA now enables agreements with Indigenous communities, for the purpose of sharing information about their children in care. •The CFCSA now enables a director to share information (without the consent of any person) if that information is intended to facilitate or support, with respect to an Indigenous child, the child learning and practising the child’s Indigenous traditions, customs or language, or the child belonging to the child’s Indigenous community. •The CFCSA now requires a director to provide notice of custody hearings to designated representatives in circumstances where they are not yet a party. •The CFCSA now requires that the director provide Indigenous communities a copy of a continuing custody order respecting their children, and for Indigenous children who are the subject of the CCO, make reasonable efforts to engage their community on at least an annual basis. <p>The Continual Adjournment Project introduced and piloted Collaborative Planning and Decision Making (CPDM) guidelines, which require a director to offer CPDM opportunities early and often in a child protection matter. Work is ongoing to review and make any necessary revisions the guidelines before wider implementation is considered.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>In 2022, <i>the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> added several new principles that clarify a positive and inclusive approach is taken when working with Indigenous Peoples, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 (b) in the planning and delivery of services to Indigenous children and families, there should be consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples and Indigenous governing bodies; • 3 (b.1) services should be planned and provided in ways that prevent discrimination prohibited by the Human Rights Code and that promote substantive equality, respect for rights and culture and, in the case of Indigenous children, cultural continuity; • 3 (d.1) services to Indigenous children and families should be provided in a coordinated manner with Indigenous child and family services provided by Indigenous authorities; <p>The <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> enables the withdrawal from court proceedings and the ending of Continuing Custody Orders when an Indigenous authority operating under indigenous law are interested in exercising jurisdiction. Alternative Dispute Resolution has been written into disputes related to withdrawals and ending Continuing Custody Orders to enable options for resolving disputes.</p> <p><i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families</i> includes provisions that require Notice of Significant Measures be made to Indigenous Governing Bodies. These notifications include all court hearing and a range of other planned actions that help keep Indigenous Governing Bodies informed of a child's status.</p> <p>Provincial Court Rules have been updated to allow for e-mail service of notice related to court proceedings.</p>	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
13	The provincial court appoint provincial court judges whose work will focus exclusively on Indigenous children, families and communities.	Provincial Court	This recommendation is directed to the Provincial Court.	Led by Provincial Court
14	<p>Provincial court judges undertake the following in order to improve access to justice within the child welfare system for Indigenous children and youth, parents, families, and communities:</p> <p>a) Ensure meaningful compliance with s. 34 and s. 35 of <i>CFCSA</i> by requiring a review in court of the effort made by MCFD or a DAA to: 1) notify the affected Indigenous community, 2) assist the Indigenous community in participating, and 3) detailing any less disruptive measures investigated in advance of court;</p> <p>b) Review the form of order used in access orders for parents/guardians for children in care proceedings so that relevant issues can be raised by the child or parent and discussed;</p> <p>c) Exercise the authority in s. 39 (4) <i>CFCSA</i> where a child at age 12 and older has the legal right to be provided with and represented by an advocate or lawyer;</p> <p>d) Take into consideration how the rules of evidence are used to introduce hearsay evidence by MCFD officials in presentation hearings;</p> <p>e) Balance the highly discretionary, unfettered and powerful authority of the Director under <i>CFCSA</i> by exercising a greater degree of scrutiny and discretion in considering presentation application made on the behalf of the Director by MCFD officials;</p> <p>f) Ensure their practice in court supports a trauma-based approach for Indigenous children and youth, parents, families, and communities,</p>	Provincial Court	<p>This recommendation is directed towards the Provincial Court.</p> <p>However, the work that MCFD completed on the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) which received Royal Assent on May 31, 2018 and came into force on April 1, 2019, supports the direction of the recommendations.</p> <p>The amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable a director and Indigenous communities to enter into information-sharing, prevention and support service agreements, collaboration and engagement (which emphasize less disruptive measures) and referral of child protection report agreements. The ministry will be providing additional notices of hearings to designated representatives. • Created new guiding principles that Indigenous families and Indigenous communities share responsibility for the upbringing and well-being of Indigenous children; and Indigenous children are entitled to learn about and practise their Indigenous traditions, customs and languages, and belong to their Indigenous communities. • Created a new service delivery principle that the impact of residential schools on Indigenous children, families and communities should be considered in the planning and delivery of services to Indigenous children and families. 	Led by Provincial Court

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	acknowledging the existing inter-generational trauma that has its roots in discriminatory laws, policies and practices of the state; and g) Make every possible effort to keep siblings together in their orders.			
15	MCFD take immediate action to support and expand promising practices, programs, and models that have demonstrated success in improving access to justice for Indigenous children and youth, parents, families and communities: a) MCFD support and expand the First Nation Court model across BC so that all Indigenous communities have the opportunity to be served under this model; b) MCFD continue support for the Aboriginal Family Healing Court in New Westminster.	MCFD (SIPL) MAG	MCFD continues to support and play a liaison role as a partial funder of this work. The BC First Nations Justice Council was established in 2017 (renamed in 2019). MAG is working closely with the Council to develop a work plan for Indigenous Justice issues, including this recommendation. The Aboriginal Family Healing Court Conference piloted in 2019 and 2020, is now an ongoing program. The ongoing partner in this program is Provincial Court. The Legal Services Society (LSS) has now successfully launched additional Parents Legal Centres (PLCs) in Surrey, Campbell River, Smithers/Hazelton, Williams Lake, Prince George, Kamloops, Duncan, and Victoria. Their Terrace regional office will also offer PLC services. Legal Services Society continues to work on preparing to open additional PLCs including remote hubs. MCFD supported the planning and implementation of the new Parent Legal Centres.	Co-led by MCFD and MAG MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented
16	The BC Ministry of Justice support and provide resources to the Legal Services Society to continue and expand the "Parents Legal Centre" model to other locations where a high demand exists, including expanding to Prince George, Kamloops, Williams Lake, Campbell River, Terrace/Smithers, Surrey, and Victoria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A final determination of the locations for expansion should be made in consultation with the Legal Services Society and Indigenous communities and organizations.	MAG (SIPL)	The Legal Services Society (LSS) has now successfully launched additional Parents Legal Centres (PLCs) in Surrey, Campbell River, Smithers/Hazelton, Williams Lake, Prince George, Kamloops, Duncan, and Victoria. Their Terrace regional office will also offer PLC services. Legal Services Society continues to work on preparing to open additional PLCs including remote hubs. MCFD supported the planning and implementation of the new PLCs.	Led by MAG

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
17	<p>Native Court workers be supported to provide services to Indigenous families who end up in legal proceedings, and in the courts on child welfare matters:</p> <p>a) The mandate of the Native Court worker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC) be expanded to provide services to Indigenous families who end up in legal proceedings and in the courts on child welfare matters; and</p> <p>b) Canada and BC provide the necessary financial support to NCCABC to effectively deliver these services.</p>	<p>ISC/MAG</p> <p>MCFD</p> <p>(SIPL)</p>	<p>The Native Court-worker and Counselling Association of British Columbia (NCCABC) is host agency for the BC First Nations Justice Council, established in 2017 (renamed in 2019).</p> <p>MCFD's response to this recommendation will solidify as the First Nations Justice Council and the Justice and Public Safety Council complete a work plan for the justice sector.</p> <p>Further engagement with ISC is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD, ISC and MAG</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: In Progress</p>
18	<p>MCFD take the following immediate actions to support alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes within the child welfare system:</p> <p>a) Dedicate new MCFD staff, or realign existing staff, to provide facilitation for various ADR processes;</p> <p>b) Reinforce with MCFD staff that ADR processes be the default and not the exception, including the use of new or strengthened performance and evaluation measures regarding the effective use of ADR processes;</p> <p>c) Ensure that ADR processes, appropriate to the circumstances, are the default and are utilized at the earliest instance, including before a removal, or even when there is a threat of removal, and that the courts be treated as an option of last resort; and</p> <p>d) When a removal does occur, mandate MCFD officials to offer some form of ADR process.</p>	<p>MCFD</p> <p>(SIPL)</p>	<p>The Continual Adjudgment Project introduced and piloted Collaborative Planning and Decision Making (CPDM) guidelines, which require a director to offer CPDM opportunities early and often in a child protection matter.</p> <p>The <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) received Royal Assent on May 31, 2018; and came into force on April 1, 2019. The amendments address this recommendation by enabling a director and an Indigenous community to enter into information-sharing, prevention and support service agreements, collaboration and engagement (which can emphasize less disruptive measures and enhanced use of ADR) and referral of child protection report agreements.</p> <p>The <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> enables the withdrawal from court proceedings and the ending of Continuing Custody Orders when an Indigenous authority operating under indigenous law are interested in exercising jurisdiction. Alternative Dispute Resolution has been written into disputes related to withdrawals and ending Continuing Custody Orders to enable options for resolving disputes.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
19	The BC Attorney General continue and expand the existing mediation program so that it is an available option for all Indigenous parents and families involved in child welfare matters and interested in utilizing an ADR process.	MCFD (SIPL) MAG	MCFD continues to fund mediation and other ADR processes. In working with children and families, MCFD continues to implement ADR processes, such as mediation and family conferences, as indicated in the <i>CFCSA</i> . In addition, Bill 38 contains dispute resolution provisions which outline how the director must ensure that any jurisdictional dispute does not disrupt the provision of service and must consult and cooperate with Indigenous Authorities to resolve the dispute. Under their own laws, IGBs can choose to use their own dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve disputes regarding their provision of child and family services, or they can choose to utilize the provincial system.	Co-led by MCFD and MAG MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented
20	MCFD and INAC collaborate to ensure similar funds are provided to Indigenous communities for their effective participation in child protection hearings, and that these funds are provided directly to First Nations or in the alternative through the INAC-MCFD service agreement.	MCFD (FCS, PIE) ISC	MCFD is currently engaged with the First Nations Leadership Council and the federal government, through the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group, to consider new approaches to jurisdiction, self-governance and funding in the area of child welfare. All parties have agreed to the Terms of Reference and confirmed their commitment to the Reconciliation Charter. The Tripartite Working Group continues to meet and to develop a work plan to guide the work moving forward. MCFD continues to engage with ISC and the First Nations Leadership Council while supporting Indigenous communities to participate in protection hearings or collaborative alternatives (i.e., Mediation) Starting in 2018 each year the ministry provides \$30,000 to each of the 204 First Nations and seven Métis organizations in B.C., for the delivery of community-based, family support and prevention services, to support increased connections between Indigenous children and youth and their communities and culture. Federal CHRT funding also supports community designates.	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented
21	The Province undertake the following change to <i>CFCSA</i> , in the interest of improving access to justice for Métis children and youth, parents, families, and communities:	MCFD (SIPL)	The <i>CFCSA</i> has been amended to include clarifying term 'Indigenous child' meaning a child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is a First Nations child; • Who is a Nisga'a child; 	Led by MCFD

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	a) Consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada decision in <i>Daniels</i> , the definition of “Aboriginal child” in <i>CFCSA</i> be amended to add “Métis child” with consequential amendments as necessary.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is a Treaty First Nation child; Who is under 12 years of age and has a biological parent who is of Indigenous ancestry, including Métis and Inuit and the parent considers himself or herself to be Indigenous; Who is over 12 years of age, of Indigenous ancestry, including Métis and Inuit, and considers themselves to be Indigenous; who an Indigenous community confirms, by advising a director or an adoption agency, is a child belonging to an Indigenous community. 	Substantially Complete/ Implemented
22	MCFD provide First Nations and the Métis Nation BC with the financial support to create online information and corresponding print materials for First Nations and Métis citizens to inform them about the child welfare system and specifically about how to obtain First Nations or Métis-specific assistance and their related rights.	MCFD (PDCW)	<p>The Wrapping Our Ways Around Them (WOW) Plain Language Guide was distributed at the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia child welfare conference, Union of BC Indian Chiefs’ annual general assembly, and is posted on the Legal Services Support web site. The Guide will inform and provide more accessible information to Métis and First Nations families on the child welfare system and related rights.</p> <p><i>Understanding the Métis in British Columbia: A Guide for Social Workers, Legislators, and Policy Makers</i> was produced with MCFD participation in its development. The ministry in partnership with Métis Nation BC and the The Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC provided orientations to the guide for MCFD and ICFSA staff.</p>	Led by MCFD Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
23	Canada demonstrated its commitment to Jordan’s Principle by acting immediately to revisit its practice of providing funding only for those First Nations children and families “ordinarily resident on reserve.”	ISC	<p>This recommendation is directed towards ISC. MCFD will support and play a liaison role.</p> <p>ISC has advised that their work on this recommendation is complete; Jordan’s Principle definition now includes off-reserve. ISC is processing Jordan’s Principle-related service requests for First Nations children and families on- and off-reserve.</p> <p>The Province continues to work in partnership with ISC in implementing and coordinating Jordan’s Principle in BC.</p>	Led by ISC

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
24	In partnership with Indigenous communities and representative organizations, INAC and MCFD work collaboratively to develop alternative funding formulas that will address the shortcomings of INAC's Directive 20-1 and the EPFA identified specifically by the CHRT in <i>2016 CHRT 2</i> , and ensure equitable service delivery to all Indigenous children in BC.	MCFD (FCS, PIE) ISC	<p>Ongoing collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to understand the development of their 'needs-based' budget model being implemented as a result of the CHRT rulings.</p> <p>ISC has advised that their work on this recommendation is addressed through ICFSA needs-based budgets.</p> <p>MCFD is seeking to engage with ISC on renegotiating the SLA (service level agreement) that flows funding to MCFD for services to those First Nations not affiliated with an ICFSA. MCFD is seeking similar funding adjustments for the service it provides on-reserve for these First Nations.</p> <p>The ministry is co-developing a new funding model and approach for B.C. First Nations children and families who wish to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. This model will be co-developed with rights and title holders, Indigenous partners and the federal government.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
25	In partnership with Indigenous communities and representative organizations, INAC and MCFD's work to ensure that new or revised funding formulas provide for ADR processes to be funded as a prevention measure and, further, that a child placement arrived at through an ADR process be funded in a manner and to the extent that a child who is removed under a court order is funded.	MCFD (FCS) ISC	<p>MCFD currently provides ICFSAs with mediators through partnership with MAG and recently signed an MOU for a pilot project to expand the child mediation program.</p> <p>In 2019 the ministry increased the rate for Extended Family Program caregivers by 75%, so that they receive the same maintenance rate as foster caregivers and other out-of-care care providers. This action enables greater opportunities for placements of children with extended family, connected to their communities and culture and reducing the need for in care placements.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
26	In partnership with Indigenous communities and representative organizations, INAC and MCFD work to ensure that trauma services are funded at a level consistent with the findings and recommendations of the TRC and 2016 CHRT 2 decision.	MCFD (FCS) ISC	<p>MCFD continues to engage with the federal government on funding issues.</p> <p>Further engagement with ISC is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation.</p> <p>The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ruling on Long-term reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and long-term approach for Jordan's Principle includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding that is focused on culturally appropriate prevention activities and based on substantive equality and the best interests and needs of First Nations children, youth, young adults, and families. • use of evidence-informed well-being indicators for First Nations children, youth, families and First Nations to inform best practices and improve federal child and family services policies, procedures, agreements, and legislation over time. • child and family services funding to support young First Nations adults aging out of the child welfare system and formerly in care up to their 26th birthday or the age for post-majority services specified in the applicable provincial or Yukon legislation (whichever age is greater). • funding for prevention services to build on multi-generational cultural strengths to help children and families stay together. • funding to expand First Nations Representative Services to all provinces and in the Yukon. • new funding for housing on reserves in relation to the needs of First Nations children. 	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
27	In advance of the development of alternative funding formulas, INAC ensure that, in the short term, the additional funding committed to Indigenous child welfare address the most discriminatory aspects of INAC's current funding formulas, such as the incentive created through Directive 20-1 to bring Indigenous children into care.	ISC	<p>This recommendation is directed towards ISC with MCFD supporting.</p> <p>The February 1, 2018 CHRT Order addresses retroactive expenses and needs-based approaches moving forward.</p> <p>ISC has advised that this recommendation is complete; all ICFSAs have or will be submitting needs-based budgets</p>	Led by ISC

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
28	INAC and MCFD work together to ensure Indigenous communities not represented by DAAs are directly engaged in the negotiation of the annual <i>BC Service Agreement</i> between INAC and MCFD.	MCFD (FCS, PIE) ISC	MCFD has developed Accountability Statements which provide detail on how ministry funding is directed toward Indigenous communities. The statements are disturbed annually. The Service BC Service Agreement has been completed by the Tripartite Working Group	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/
29	Where Indigenous communities, through their own decision-making processes, decide to give their free, prior, and informed consent to DAAs that they have established, Canada and BC should ensure fair and equitable funding to DAAs based on needs and, at minimum, similar to the formula under which Canada transfers funds to the province.	MCFD (FCS, PIE) ISC	Phase 1 rollout of the SFA (Standardized Funding Approach) to ICFSAs for delegated services is complete. A report of findings, issues and recommendations for future direction in enhancing the model and aligning to ISC approach was submitted to ministry Executive in September 2018. Following the CHRT decisions, Canada has established a needs-based capital fund to eligible recipients under Jordan's Principle to provide safe accessible and culturally appropriate spaces for child and family services.	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented
30	INAC and MCFD take the following immediate actions to address the issue of wage parity for DAAs in BC: a) INAC and MCFD commit in policy to ensure that the principle of wage parity is included in all agreements with DAAs in BC; and b) INAC and MCFD commit the required time and resources to negotiate in good faith and make the required amendments to all DAA agreements to ensure DAA workers are compensated at the same rate as MCFD workers, both now and in the future.	MCFD (FCS) ISC	As part of the \$40 million per year permanency initiative funding, Budget 2017 September Update provided \$14.4 million annually to Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies to ensure those that are provincially funded receive the same funding to deliver the same services as MCFD's Service Delivery Areas. The Federal Government provided additional funding to federally funded Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies for prevention services. This enabled implementation of an equitable and standardized funding approach across all Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies for the provision of off-reserve delegated services, and better positioned ICFSAs to provide wages to their employees that are equal to those of MCFD employees The Standardized Funding Approach for delegated services has wage parity comparable to MCFD staff. Further review is needed for ICFSAs staff providing non-delegated services.	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
31	MCFD take immediate steps to harmonize the financial assistance to families who have permanent care of children in order to promote permanency opportunities for Indigenous children.	MCFD (FCS) ISC MCFD (SIPL, FCS) ISC	<p>Budget 2019 provided an increase to the Family Care Rate (also called the maintenance rate) effective April 1, 2019. This was followed by another increase effective July 1, 2019 as a result of the BC Government matching an increase by the Government of Canada to the Canada Child Benefit (CCB).</p> <p>The maintenance rate helps cover the cost of necessities like food, clothing and household costs. The April 1, 2019, announcement increased the rates by \$179.09 a month. Extended Family Program (EFP) caregivers now receive the same maintenance rate that is provided to foster caregivers. This was a 75% increase to EFP payments. Post-adoption assistance saw an increase of 15% as well to account for the increases to the cost of living over the past ten years.</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2019, maintenance payments to foster caregivers and out-of-care care providers (such as EFP) increased to \$994.81 for children 11 years of age and younger, and \$1,099.09 for children and youth 12 years of age and older. The increase was a result of the BC Government matching the Government of Canada that increased the Canada Child Benefit by 2.2%.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC (32, 33)</p> <p>MCFD's actions are:</p> <p>31) Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p> <p>32) Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
32	MCFD should ensure that the payments for permanent, legal out-of-care options are flexible to accommodate foster families who need the financial income that a levelled foster home provides.			33) Substantially Complete/ Implemented
33	The Province should undertake a legislative review and financial policy review to determine the necessary changes that would allow those families under the "Extended Family Program" to receive the Child Tax Benefit and ensure the Child Tax Benefit amount is not deducted from MCFD payments for permanency placements.		<p>As of 2022, retroactive to April 2019, the caregivers in the Extended Family Program receive the child tax benefit. The child tax benefit has also been included in maintenance rates for families who would not be able to receive it directly. The Standardized Funding Approach for ICFSAs follows suit.</p> <p>In Spring 2023, in care and out of care placements received a significant increase in maintenance rates rising to \$1502.53 for children 11 years of age and younger and \$1686.92 for children and youth 12 years of age and older.</p> <p>Effective April 1, 2023, the ministry increased the post adoption assistance maintenance rate. Changes to the maintenance rates for eligible adoptive parents for children aged 0 to 11 years changed from \$806.78 to \$849.36 and for children aged 12 to 19 years changed from \$926.53 to \$1,135.81.</p>	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
34	MCFD, DAAs and INAC work together to ensure core funding and other supports that will allow for the development of community-based prevention and family preservation services for all Indigenous people and communities in BC.	MCFD (SIPL,FCS) ISC	<p>Budget 2019 included \$29.1M for Family Supports and Reunifications, and \$6.3M for Indigenous communities. MCFD is continuing to explore opportunities for core funding and support.</p> <p>ISC has advised that this recommendation is in progress.</p> <p>Following the CHRT decisions, Canada has established a needs-based capital fund to eligible recipients under Jordan's Principle to provide safe accessible and culturally appropriate spaces for child and family services</p> <p>ISC provides prevention funding directly to all First Nations communities in BC (on reserve) who are not served by an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency.</p> <p>ICFSAs receive access to funding through the Standardized Funding Approach and MCFD community-based prevention and family preservation services. Expansion of the funding access is being explored in collaboration with ICFSAs.</p> <p>Starting in 2018, each year the ministry provides \$30,000 to each of the 204 First Nations and seven Métis organizations in B.C., for the delivery of community-based, family support and prevention services, to support increased connections between Indigenous children and youth and their communities and culture.</p> <p>The ministry is co-developing a new funding model and approach for B.C. First Nations children and families who wish to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. This model will be co-developed with rights and title holders, Indigenous partners and the federal government.</p> <p>To support implementation of <i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families</i>, the federal government capacity-building funding is available to support Indigenous groups, communities and peoples as they</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			work within and across their communities to build strong foundations to exercise jurisdiction in relation to child and family services. (Through Canada and New Relationship Trust (NRT))	
35	MCFD take the required steps to ensure that Aboriginal Service Innovations (ASI) family preservation can offer adequate core funding support to community-based program delivery.	MCFD (PDCW, PIE, FCS)	<p>There are currently 35 contractors providing services across BC to Indigenous children and families. The total annual investment for Aboriginal Service Innovations: Child Safety and Permanence (ASI:CSP) for 2018-19 through 2019-20 is \$8.9M per fiscal year.</p> <p>The funding investment for ASI:CSP continues to be in place</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. This multijurisdictional commitment to action has resulted in a shifting legislative landscape for child welfare.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>New direction being actively implemented</p>
36	INAC take immediate action to develop, in partnership with First Nations in BC, an effective and efficient method to fund prevention services, taking into account economy-of-scale issues for all those First Nations in BC that are not represented by a DAA (see also RCY Report – <i>When Talked Trumped Service</i>).	ISC (FCS, PIE, PDCW)	<p>The 5 year (2018 to 2023) Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative (CWJI) Program concluded on March 31, 2023. The program's terms and conditions are no longer in effect.</p> <p>Prevention funding is now in place under the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program. ISC also provides prevention funding directly to all First Nations communities in BC (on reserve) who are not served by an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency.</p> <p>MCFD continues to work with the federal government as it pertains to funding. This includes working with Canada and FNLC through the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group.</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the</p>	Led by ISC

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. This multijurisdictional commitment to action has resulted in a shifting legislative landscape for child welfare.	
37	BC take immediate action to ensure family preservation funding is provided. MCFD increase the annual Aboriginal Services Innovations budget by \$4M in 2016/2017 (to be split evenly between MCFD and INAC) in order to expand the program and provide increased services through additional agencies.	MCFD (FCS, PDCW)	<p>Further analysis and decision-making is required related to the growth of the ASI:CSP initiative.</p> <p>The funding investment for ASI:CSP continues to be in place while MCFD is reviewing the funding and effectiveness.</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. This multijurisdictional commitment to action has resulted in a shifting legislative landscape for child welfare.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>In progress</p>
38	INAC and MCFD take action to ensure equity in prevention services delivery for all Indigenous communities in BC.	MCFD (FCS, PIE) ISC	<p>B.C. is engaging with rights holders, Indigenous partners (including FNLC), and Canada to co-develop a funding model for First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services. BC has released a discussion paper to facilitate this engagement. The paper proposes that the funding model be prevention-focused and consistent with the principle of substantive equality.</p> <p>With the Canadian Human Right Tribunal (CHRT) ruling, ISC provides prevention funding under the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program.</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. This</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: In progress</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			multijurisdictional commitment to action has resulted in a shifting legislative landscape for child welfare.	
39	<p>Increase support for 'least disruptive measures' through provincial legislation:</p> <p>a) Amend existing legislation to require a court order prior to removal of a child, instead of the status quo, which allows for a child to be removed before a court order.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>Form A (Report to Court) which is completed for removals and submitted to court, now includes an additional field to indicate whether the Indigenous community has or has not been involved in the development of the interim plan of care for the removed child.</p> <p>While the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care is unacceptable and there is still much work to be done, the number of Indigenous children and youth in care has decreased to the lowest number in over 20 years. Since 2017, there are 1,040 fewer Indigenous children and youth in care, as of June 2023.</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. This multijurisdictional commitment to action has resulted in a shifting legislative landscape for child welfare.</p> <p>Changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018, Bill 26 amends the <i>Child, Family and Community Services Act</i> (CFCSA) to reflect the importance of culture and belonging when determining the 'best interests of the child'; to make space for collaborative decision making, and, to provide tools for information sharing. • 2019, <i>Declaration Act on the Right of Indigenous People</i>, which establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the Province's framework for reconciliation and outlines how in and in what ways the Province will work with rights holders to ensure all provincial legislation reflects these rights. • 2020, the federal government <i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children youth and families</i> which affirming in legislation that Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) have an inherent s.35 right to self-government 	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>New direction being actively implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>and, by extension, have a right to develop and implement their own child and family services laws and apply those laws to their members <i>anywhere in Canada</i>. This Act also reinforced Indigenous children’s right to culture and language and clarified matters such as child removal; confirming that a child cannot be removed from their family solely on the grounds of socioeconomic factors or parental mental health – two known impacts of the intergenerational trauma of residential schools and colonial practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, Bill 38: <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (the Act) co-developed with Indigenous Rights Holders includes amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Government Bodies (IGB) to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters. As well, Bill 38 provided an opportunity to address many of the themes and recommendations outlined in this report thereby changing the way policies, practices, and services flowing from the CFCSA and Adoptions Act. 	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
40	The Province work to amend the <i>CFCSA</i> to ensure an Indigenous child's connection to his or her natural parents is not severed.	MCFD (SIPL, PDCW)	Implementation of this recommendation is focussed on the Bill 26 amendments to the <i>CFCSA</i> which include enhanced information sharing and greater involvement of Indigenous communities in planning and caring for Indigenous children.	Led by MCFD
41	<p>The Province consider the following amendments to the <i>CFCSA</i> in order to support improved permanency planning for Indigenous children and youth:</p> <p>a) Strengthening of s. 70 of the <i>CFCSA</i> to include mandatory permanency planning for all children in care;</p> <p>b) Including a provision(s) to ensure that for Indigenous children, permanency plans are jointly developed by each child's family and community, including elders, cultural leaders, elected leaders, and matriarchs; and</p> <p>c) Including a provision(s) requiring independent review of permanency plans on an annual basis.</p>		<p>Amendments to the <i>CFCSA</i> have been brought into force that require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to s. 70 to include the right of children in care to a) receive guidance, encouragement and support to learn about and practise their Indigenous traditions, customs and languages; and b) belong to their Indigenous communities. • S. 92.1 agreements that allow for the director to share quarterly lists of an Indigenous community's children in care with the Indigenous community. • S. 92.1 agreements for the director to involve the Indigenous community in the development of plans of care, planning for the needs of Indigenous children in continuing custody and placement decisions for Indigenous children in care. • Continued notification of Temporary Custody Order extension to non-party parents and Indigenous communities. • The director making reasonable efforts at least on an annual basis to involve the Indigenous community in planning for children under Continuing Custody Order (CCO) or in accordance with an agreement made with the community under s. 92.1. • Permanency planning has always been a requirement in the children and youth care plans. <p>As shared in the evolving context document of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. Including:</p>	<p>40) Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p> <p>41) Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, Bill 38: <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (the Act) includes amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Government Bodies (IGB) to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters. As well, Bill 38 provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition that the CFSCA must be administered and interpreted in accordance with Indigenous communities' inherent right of self-government with respect to child and family services. ○ Enabling information sharing with IGBs for the purposes of developing or delivering laws and services. ○ Establishing a new Indigenous child-welfare director position in the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide guidance and advice to CFCSA directors and their delegates in navigating a multi-jurisdictional child and family services model. ○ Improving consultation and collaboration with Indigenous communities such as requiring consent throughout the adoption process. ○ Requiring the director to promptly identify if a child is Indigenous and how Indigenous laws apply to that child. • Supporting IGBs exercising their jurisdiction through the federal Act process, such as creating a mechanism to transfer children to the authority of an IGB. 	
42	<p>MCFD develop a practice guide with instruction on how to prepare, develop, implement, and monitor jointly developed permanency plans for Indigenous children and youth:</p> <p>a) The practice guide should be developed in close partnership with DAAs, Indigenous leaders, communities, and organizations.</p>	MCFD (SIPL, PDCW)	<p>Progress has been made on the practice guide including consultations. Further work is required.</p> <p>MCFD has updated Child Welfare Policy 6.2 and developed Policy 1.1 Restorative Practice Guide to further clarify responsibilities for developing permanency plans for Indigenous children and youth.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
43	<p>MCFD and INAC act immediately to allocate the funding required to prepare, implement, and monitor permanency plans for every Indigenous child or youth in care:</p> <p>a) INAC will only fund services for status children and families that are “ordinarily resident on reserve,” and MCFD will need to take the necessary steps to ensure that the nature and scope of the services required are properly identified; and</p> <p>b) Funding levels for agreed-to services should be reflected in the annual service agreement between INAC and MCFD.</p>	<p>MCFD (FCS)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>MCFD continues to engage with ISC on expanding the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the services covered under it.</p> <p>The ministry is co-developing a new funding model and approach for B.C. First Nations children and families who wish to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. This model will be co-developed with rights and title holders, Indigenous partners and the federal government.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD’s actions are: New direction being actively implemented</p>
44	<p>MCFD regional offices provide quarterly progress updates to Indigenous communities within their region regarding permanency planning for each child from that community.</p> <p>NOTE: The Nation-to-Nation Partnership Protocol referenced earlier in this report should establish regular meetings, as agreed between Indigenous communities and the Executive Director of Services and/or the Community Services Manager to review the status of each of the community’s children under a CCO and to provide Indigenous leaders, including Hereditary Chiefs and matriarchs, with the necessary and full information to understand the situation of their children in care.</p>	<p>MCFD (FCS, SDD)</p>	<p>Executive Directors of Service (EDS) are currently, and will continue to, work in partnership with Indigenous communities within their region regarding permanency planning for each child from that community, at regular meetings between Service Delivery Area Leadership and Indigenous leadership.</p> <p>Some ICFSAs have monthly quality assurance meetings, and some quarterly updates. ICFSAs work in partnership with their communities.</p> <p>102 communities now have Section 92.1 Agreements (S. 92.1 Child, Family, and Community Service Act) that support sharing of information.</p> <p>MCFD provides a list of children and youth in care to Nations with S. 92.1 Agreements on a quarterly basis</p> <p>The ministry annually provides Draft Accountability Statements to all B.C. First Nations Communities, and Métis, to increase transparency of ministry services. The statements include information such as the numbers of children in care from each community, the legal status of those children and the costs associated with specialized homes and support services.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>This work is ongoing and is embedded in legislation, policy and practice. Progress reporting continues between the ministry and communities. Direct planning communication e.g. care plan, culture plan, notice of significant measures continues at the local level between service delivery area staff, First Nations, Métis and Inuit leadership.</p> <p>The Bill 38 amendments include the enabling of information sharing with Indigenous Governing Bodies for the purposes of developing or delivering laws and services.</p>	
45	The BC Representative for Children and Youth be provided with a mandate and the appropriate resources to review and ensure resiliency, reunification and permanency planning be done for each Indigenous child under a CCO.	Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth (SSCCY) (PDCW)	Recommendation is directed to the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.	Led by SSCCY
46	MCFD develop in partnership with Indigenous communities, a provincial adoption awareness and recruitment strategy that includes a specific focus on recruiting more Indigenous adoptive parents from the communities of origin of Indigenous children in care.	MCFD (PDCW)	<p>MCFD funded the Lifelong Connections adoption and permanency recruitment campaign, a collaborative initiative coordinated by the Adoptive Families Association of BC and stewarded by several Aboriginal and Métis child and family-serving organizations in BC. The Lifelong Connections project completed in October 17, 2017.</p> <p>Adoption Readiness Criteria has been developed for ICFSAs interested in acquiring Adoption Delegation.</p>	Led by MCFD Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
47	<p>MCFD develop and implement a quality assurance program for all adoptions, developing key performance measures and targets to track timely permanency planning, including adoption placements for children in care, as well as timely approvals for prospective adoptive families:</p> <p>a) Specific targets should be developed for moving Indigenous children in care into permanency.</p>	MCFD (PDCW)	<p>As of 2023, adoption audits have been completed across all thirteen Service Delivery Areas. The ministry is currently exploring expansion of the adoption audit program to include the two ICFSAs that have adoption delegation. This work will include strong collaboration with the ICFSAs to ensure that the tools used are culturally safe and that there is a shared understanding of the evaluation practice and identification of the areas that may require improvement. A Quality Assurance Working Group has been established that includes representatives from ICFSAs, this table helps inform this work going forward.</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document, of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, Bill 38: <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (the Act) includes amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Government Bodies (IGB) to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters. As well, Bill 38 provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition that the CFSCA must be administered and interpreted in accordance with Indigenous communities' inherent right of self-government with respect to child and family services. ○ Enabling information sharing with IGBs for the purposes of developing or delivering laws and services. ○ Establishing a new Indigenous child-welfare director position in the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide guidance and advice to CFCSA directors and their delegates in navigating a multi-jurisdictional child and family services model. 	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>New direction being actively implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving consultation and collaboration with Indigenous communities such as requiring consent throughout the adoption process. ○ Requiring the director to promptly identify if a child is Indigenous and how Indigenous laws apply to that child. ○ Supporting IGBs exercising their jurisdiction through the federal Act process, such as creating a mechanism to transfer children to the authority of an IGB. 	

48	<p>The Province commit to the creation of an Indigenous custom adoption registry for Indigenous children and youth, such as those models existing in Nunavut and NWT:</p> <p>a) BC amend the Adoption Act to provide a mechanism, such as a custom adoption registrar, to register Indigenous custom adoptions.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>Guided by the Custom Adoption Indigenous Advisory Circle, collaborations took place in the fall/winter of 2018. Engagements occurred with communities and agencies in the North, Interior, Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. The project team also completed an extensive review of recommendations from over 40 sources from past research and consultations with Indigenous people on custom adoption. Altogether, results from research and collaborations recommend an alternative pathway which is a non-judicial, Nation-driven process for recognizing the effects of custom adoption and includes financial supports.</p> <p>Since these engagements, the ministry has focused on developing pathways for Indigenous children to be connected to their families and communities, consistent with the values of customary care.</p> <p>In 2022, the Province undertook important work to align the <i>Adoption Act</i> with the principles of the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>. Together with Indigenous partners, the province co-developed Bill 38, <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child Welfare and Family Services Amendment Act</i>, introducing the core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural continuity including: language, practices, traditions, and ceremonies, and connection to family; • Development of the child's Indigenous cultural identity, including the child being able to practise the child's Indigenous traditions, customs and language; and • Preservation of the child's connections to the child's Indigenous community and the region where the child's family and Indigenous community is located. <p>Prior to placing an Indigenous child for adoption, a director or an adoption agency must consult and cooperate with a designated representative from their community. This includes providing notice to the community.</p> <p>In circumstances where a child is placed for adoption from an extra provincial agency, consents by the Indigenous Governing body and the child are required.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>New direction being actively implemented</p>
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#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>This work includes preserving the rights of child and rights of an Indigenous person where an adoption order is present.</p> <p>Change to the <i>Adoption Act</i> co-developed during the Bill 38 process, added the ability to enter into s. 6 and s. 7 agreements pursuant to the <i>Declaration Act</i> to enable shared and consent-based decision-making surrounding adoptions.</p> <p>Further legislative and policy work needs to occur with Indigenous partners to continue developing a provincial approach to custom adoption.</p>	
49	<p>MCFD ensure all custom adoptions are eligible for post-adoption services, and pay rates similar to the current post-adoption assistance, to those caregivers who utilize custom adoption:</p> <p>a) The determination of necessary post-adoption services should be decided in consultation with Indigenous communities.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>Indigenous caregivers who adopt children with the support of an adoption social worker under the Adoption Act, in culturally grounded and community guided ways are eligible for Post Adoption Assistance at the same rate as any other adoptive parent. Adoptive parents may be eligible for federal benefits, such as the Canadian Child Benefit.</p> <p>MCFD has harmonized maintenance rates to ensure that kinship, extended family, and out-of-care caregivers receive the same payments as foster caregivers. This better enables Indigenous families to use the Extended Family Program or other out-of-care options such as permanent transfer of guardianship to support caring for children in a way that supports community connections.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>New direction being actively implemented</p>
50	<p>The Province commit to legislative amendments in order to provide support for customary care options to be developed:</p> <p>a) Ensure that funding support for customary care is at the same level as custom adoptions.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>In 2019, BC announced \$64M in new funding across three years to increase care-giver payments and harmonize these payments across foster parents and kinship care arrangements – to ensure that extended family members caring for children are supported to the same level as foster parents.</p> <p>In Spring 2023, in care and out of care placements received a significant increase in maintenance rates rising to \$1502.53 for children 11 years of age and younger and \$1686.92 for children and youth 12 years of age and older.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
51	INAC, MCFD and Indigenous communities and organizations collaborate and prepare a report, as soon as practically possible, on the legal and practical implications of adopting status/ registered children.	<p>MCFD (SIPL)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>Further engagement with ISC is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation.</p> <p>As shared in the evolving context document, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are:</p>

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			<p>inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services.</p> <p>The Bill 38 co development work included a pathway via the <i>Declaration Act</i> agreements to support consent-based decision making.</p> <p>The actions to advance this recommendation are expected to proceed via legislative co development. It is fully anticipated the next phase of co development will include custom adoptions.</p>	New direction being actively implemented
52	At the next Federal/Provincial/Territorial Adoption Co-ordinators Annual Meeting, working together with the Provincial Directors and Indigenous representatives, INAC undertake to review and reform the federal A-List policy and practices to ensure that Indigenous children placed for adoption with non-Indigenous adoptive families are not denied their inherent rights or their rights to connection to their birth families and communities until their eighteenth birthday.	ISC (PDCW)	<p><i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families</i> went into effect on January 1, 2020. The Act provides a legislative framework for Indigenous jurisdiction and principles and a set of new national standards that provinces and territories are required to align with. BC is working with the Tripartite Technical First Nations Child Welfare Working Group (TWG) on the application of this Act in BC, and to identify the key priorities and areas for change.</p> <p>In February 2021, the Adoption Policy in B.C. was updated to ensure adoptees are not placed on the A-List when registered for status under the Indian Act.</p>	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented
53	INAC, MCFD and Indigenous communities work together to ensure that non-Indigenous adoptive parents have the necessary information and support to provide their Indigenous adoptive children with culturally appropriate resources that facilitate a connection between a child, and his or her Indigenous ancestry, including the culture of their birth community.	MCFD (PDCW) ISC	<p>This work is ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core training for Adoption Social Workers is being revised to include the Aboriginal Practice & Policy Framework (APPF). • Adoption Policy is being revised to include the <i>Child, Family and Community Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) and the APPF. • The APPF has been incorporated into the new Resource Social Worker training, scheduled for release in spring 2019. • The mandatory caregiver training, PRIDE Pre-Service, is now fully operational. PRIDE Pre-Service incorporates a BC-adapted module titled Caring for Aboriginal Children that focuses on the importance of preserving a child's cultural identity. 	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further engagement with ISC is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation. • When a child is adopted or transferred to a guardian under section 54.1 of the CFCSA, the adoptive parent or guardian is required to complete a Cultural Safety Agreement with the child’s Indigenous community. <p>As shared in the evolving context document, of this update, all levels of government have committed to action to providing a path to curb the involvement of provincial and federal governments in the lives of Indigenous people and uphold the inherent right of Indigenous governments to exercise authority and jurisdiction for matters concerning child and family services. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, Bill 38: <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (the Act) includes amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Government Bodies (IGB) to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters. As well, Bill 38 provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition that the CFSCA must be administered and interpreted in accordance with Indigenous communities’ inherent right of self-government with respect to child and family services. ○ Enabling information sharing with IGBs for the purposes of developing or delivering laws and services. ○ Establishing a new Indigenous child-welfare director position in the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide guidance and advice to CFCSA directors and their delegates in navigating a multi-jurisdictional child and family services model. ○ Improving consultation and collaboration with Indigenous communities such as requiring consent throughout the adoption process. ○ Requiring the director to promptly identify if a child is Indigenous and how Indigenous laws apply to that child. 	

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54	<p>MCFD continue to support the existing Youth Advisory Council for the Provincial Director on Child Welfare and work to expand their role and the reach of their voice:</p> <p>a) The goal of the expanded role should be to better integrate Indigenous youth voices in both strategies and long-term plans of MCFD; and</p> <p>b) Consideration should be given to ensuring Indigenous youth have opportunity to provide insight on permanency on a regular basis to MCFD, DAAs and the RCY.</p>	MCFD (PDCW)	<p>The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is embarking on its 8th year and continues to have a voice in the work in the ministry. The ministry is working to ensure that the perspectives of former youth in care, including Indigenous youth, are integrated into all our policy and practice work.</p> <p>The YAC is in a period of growth. A record number of young adults applied in response to the latest YAC recruitment campaign and demand to consult with the YAC is at the highest level in the history of the Council. In the 2022-23 YAC year, 21 partners requested to consult with YAC members. In recent months, the YAC has provided feedback on transition supports, the regulation of social workers and mental health resources for youth, among many other initiatives. The YAC chose the name for the Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) program.</p> <p>The YAC Learning Evaluation, a report recently completed by Strategic Policy, Research and Engagement, reflects on the YAC's achievements and presents strategic considerations to guide the YAC's future development. In response to this report, the YAC will develop a 5-year strategic plan.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
55	<p>MCFD and DAAs commit to the following specific supports for Indigenous youth who age-out of care:</p> <p>a) An Aging-Out Plan be undertaken as a required component of each care plan for youth, and as with other aspects of the care plan, this plan should be developed with the support and direct involvement of the child's Indigenous community;</p> <p>b) MCFD proactively develop Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) to ensure continued support for youth who are transitioning out of care and into adulthood; and</p> <p>c) MCFD establish a youth transition team in each of the 13 MCFD regions to offer support and</p>	MCFD (SDD) (SIPL) (PDCW)	<p>Budget 2018 provided \$30 million over three years to the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Program to: increase the monthly funding by \$250 per month, allow payments to continue for the full calendar year for young adults in multi year programs and increase the eligible age for AYA by one year up to 27 years. Following Budget 2018, the Strategic Priorities Division undertook a comprehensive review of youth transitions from government care, including the AYA Program.</p> <p>Between April and August 2018, Strategic Priorities staff travelled around the province engaging with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, community partners and youth, to accumulate needed information and collaborate on program awareness and program delivery and eligibility, to inform proposals for government's consideration. Reviewing barriers, challenges and opportunities were key discussions in these engagements.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	assistance for youth who are transitioning out of care.		<p>As of July 3, 2019, young adults up to their 24th birthday who have aged out of care and who are on, or eligible for, an Agreement with Young Adults (AYA) or who are on, or eligible for, a provincial post-secondary tuition waiver can now work with RCY advocates if they need help or advice.</p> <p>Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) enhancements to youth transitions services and benefits was announced under Budget 2022 and will be fully implemented by April 2024. The SAJE program includes a comprehensive suite of supports and services for eligible youth and young adults up to their 27th birthday. It provides services intended to support youth and young adults as they transition from care, including: A no-limit earnings exemption for young adults, increases in dental coverage, enhanced optical coverage, a \$600-a-month rent supplement program, increases the duration of SAJE supports from 48 to 84 months, up to the age of 27, extends temporary housing supports, removes the age cap for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, provides access to life-skills, training, counselling, and cultural programming, navigators and guides who support youth and young adults in and from care, and an unconditional income supplement at age 19, up to one's 20th birthday,</p> <p>More information on the SAJE program, which is not retroactive, can be found here: SAJE (Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment) - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</p>	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
56	<p>As required in <i>CFCSA</i>, MCFD ensure robust, action-orientated cultural components within care plans are developed for each Indigenous child in care and that the cultural components include a focus on Indigenous language revitalization:</p> <p>a) The cultural component must be more than a high-level document and must address specific actions that will be taken to support the</p>	<p>MCFD (SDD) (SIPL) (PDCW)</p>	<p>MCFD continues to focus on developing care plans for children and youth in care that include robust, action-oriented cultural components. Each Service Delivery Area's leadership team is focused on raising and maintaining care plan completion rates.</p> <p>MCFD continues to work with First Nations and Indigenous partners to develop care plans for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth that strongly connect them to their communities and culture.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Identified for continuous improvement</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	<p>preservation of each Indigenous child’s cultural identity, in accordance with s. 2, 4, 35, and 70 of the <i>CFCSA</i>;</p> <p>b) The cultural component must address all aspects of culture for children in care, including but not limited to the sharing of customs, ceremonies, traditional knowledge, and language; and</p> <p>c) The necessary supports must be made available to ensure all of the activities that have been identified within the cultural component of a child’s care plan can be implemented.</p>		<p>Cultural Planning funding was provided to Indigenous Child and Family Serving (ICFS) Agencies, First Nation communities, and the Métis Commission for Children and Families to develop cultural planning content for children in care.</p> <p>The cultural planning content contains specific information that reflects the uniqueness of each First Nation or Métis community and will assist social workers in developing cultural plans for children in care that are meaningful and support their individual cultural needs and community connections.</p> <p>MCFD Aboriginal Services Branch is working to ensure that frontline staff with MCFD and ICFSAs have access to the cultural planning information specific to their community to support planning for Indigenous children in care.</p> <p>The importance of belonging, community and cultural connection is embedded in legislation, policy and practice. Legislative changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018, Bill 26 amends the <i>Child, Family and Community Services Act</i> (CFCSA) to reflect the importance of culture and belonging when determining the ‘best interests of the child’; to make space for collaborative decision making, and, to provide tools for information sharing. • 2019, <i>Declaration Act on the Right of Indigenous People</i>. which establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the Province’s framework for reconciliation and outlines how in and in what ways the Province will work with Rights Holders to ensure all provincial legislation reflects these rights. • 2020, the federal government <i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children youth and families which includes</i> Indigenous children’s right to culture and language. • In 2022, Bill 38: <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (the Act) co-developed with Indigenous Rights Holders 	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			includes introducing self-government principles that uphold the laws of Indigenous Peoples in BC and ensure that child and family services are delivered in ways that uphold and respect these laws.	
57	MCFD and INAC allocate immediate funding to support the involvement of Indigenous organizations, such as the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC), in the development of the cultural components of care plans.	MCFD (PDCW) ISC	<p>Funding was allocated to Indigenous Perspectives Society (IPS) to support ICFSAs and First Nation communities in providing information into the cultural template that will support staff in completing cultural plans. IPS completed this work in May 2018 and the templates were delivered to MCFD.</p> <p>MCFD's Aboriginal Services Branch has reviewed the templates and work is ongoing to further develop and embed them into Integrated Case Management.</p> <p>Métis Commission for Children and Families (MCCF) was funded to provide cultural plan templates and direct support to MCFD and ICFSA social workers planning for Métis children. Templates have been completed and are in use, while MCCF continues to provide case by case support and consultation under their general contract.</p> <p>ISC, through their needs-based budget approach, has provided ICFSAs with the funding for prevention support and cultural planning as requested.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
58	The BC Representative for Children and Youth, the provincial court, or another independent body be required to conduct an annual review of care plans for Indigenous children in care, with special attention to ensuring that a cultural and language component of each care plan exists and is implemented.	Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth (SSCCY)	<p>Recommendation is directed to the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.</p> <p>RCY received temporary funding (2018/19 to 2020/21) for this item. The ministry supports the RCY information requests as received. Expect RCY report to be released at the end of the third year.</p> <p>On July 3, 2019, the legal mandate of the BC Representative for Children and Youth was expanded to allow the Office to offer support to an additional estimated 4,400 young adults, ages 19 to 23 inclusive, who have aged out of the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).</p>	Led by SSCCY

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			Under the <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> , Engagement on regulations relating to the Indigenous Child Welfare Director is underway.	
59	MCFD and INAC allocate immediate funding to support the engagement of Indigenous leadership, traditional knowledge holders, experts, elders, families, etc. in the process of developing the cultural components of care plans, and to support cultural teaching for Indigenous children in care.	MCFD (PDCW) ISC	Ongoing cultural teaching is supported by ISC, through their needs-based budget approach. ISC has provided ICFSAs with the funding for prevention support and cultural planning as requested. MCFD provided \$5 million to support cultural training over a period of time; and will evaluate the effectiveness and determine the best allocation of funding to support cultural teaching. Following the CHRT decisions, Canada has established a needs-based capital fund to eligible recipients under Jordan's Principle to provide safe accessible and culturally appropriate spaces for child and family services.	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented
60	MCFD engage First Peoples' Cultural Council for assistance in preparing a language plan as part of the cultural component of care plans, taking into consideration the tools and models that have been developed to support language revitalization in communities.	MCFD (PDCW) (SIPL)	The <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) received Royal Assent on May 31, 2018, and came into force on April 1, 2019. The amendments include the addition of sections which emphasize the importance of an Indigenous child being able to learn and practise their Indigenous traditions, customs and languages. This change was made to the guiding principles, best interests of child, and rights of children in care. As detailed in the evolving context document, changes in the <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (Bill 38) emphasize best interests of the child and the need to maintain continuity of the child's culture and identity. Changes also include the intent to uphold the inherent right of Indigenous Communities leading this work.	Led by MCFD New direction being actively implemented
61	MCFD ensure mandatory staff training regarding individual Indigenous identities and cultures, including Indigenous rights.	MCFD (FCS)	The current training framework includes a combination of webinars, eLearning and in-person experiential workshops that will take staff through a self-guided learning journey. The Cultural Awareness Online Teaching Circle was launched in April 2022. This training consisted of 14 hours over 6 weeks (8-10 hours in online	Led by MCFD

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>self-paced learning, and participation in 3 virtual sharing circles totaling 4.5 hours). Through symbols, metaphors and story, participants learn about the concepts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle process as a way to host self and others in ways that promote relationship building; • Indigenous identity as worldview and a way of knowing about one's self and the world; • Indigenous cultures as relational practice and a way of being in the world; and; • Indigenous rights as responsibilities and a place of innovation and way of doing. <p>As each new legislative change is implemented (as outlined in the evolving context document of this update), social workers have received orientation sessions and training. As new coordination agreements are signed, additional training will be provided.</p> <p>At the end of June 2023, MCFD, in partnership with 2 other Ministries, provided a screening of an Indigenous film titled 'All the Love in the World'. After the screening was offered to staff, a Q&A session occurred with the film makers and respective Elder. This event involved a smudging ceremony at 525 Superior Street, Victoria, BC and a Q & A session with panel member that were brought forward by the audience. Closing remarks were then provided by an Elder. Key themes of this film were based on Indigenous cultures. Although this was not mandatory training, it was offered provincially to all staff virtually, to further staff's learning on Indigenous identities and cultures.</p>	Substantially Complete/ Implemented
62	MCFD and DAAs work collaboratively with Indigenous communities to review the suitability requirements for foster parents and foster homes to ensure compliance with the statutory obligations outlined in s. 71(3) of the <i>CFCSA</i> , which prioritizes the placement of Indigenous children within their extended family or community:	MCFD (SIPL) (PDCW)	<p>The ministry launched a foster caregiver recruitment campaign with a focus on recruiting Indigenous foster caregivers in 2017. A renewed foster caregiver recruitment campaign is planned for 2023.</p> <p>The ministry is also focused on improving policies associated with Out of Care placements including the Extended Family Program. The tool used to assess these homes is being reviewed with a focus on maintaining cultural and</p>	Led by MCFD New direction being actively implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Supports must be made available to assist a child’s family and/or community to navigate the eligibility process for fostering a child; b) MCFD and DAAs must provide the necessary resources and support to meet the statutory requirements; and c) Possible amendments should be considered to the existing eligibility requirements for foster homes that would allow for more Indigenous foster parents who may currently be discriminated against under the existing MCFD requirements. 		<p>community connections and taking the Indigenous perspective into consideration when making temporary placement decisions.</p> <p>In 2019 and 2022, care providers under the Extended Family Program were provided the same base rate as foster caregivers and other out-of-care providers. This helped to enable greater opportunities for placements of children and youth with extended family, reducing the need for in-care placements and support children and youth to remain in community and connected to culture. In Budget 2023, foster caregivers and kinship and out-of-care care providers received up to a 47% increase to their maintenance rates.</p> <p><i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families sets new requirement for placements that supersede the Child Family and Community Services Act.</i></p> <p>Placement must now occur in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) with one of the child’s parents; b) with another adult member of the child’s family; c) with an adult who belongs to the same Indigenous group, community or people as the child; d) with an adult who belongs to an Indigenous group, community or people other than the one to which the child belongs; or e) with any other adult <p>The new Indigenous child-welfare director position, established within Bill 38 is expected to complete a review of the placement of Indigenous children.</p> <p>In support of this work and as a service option, via a gradual transition, the Ministry has begun to implement the network of Specialized Homes and Support Services. These services are made up of respite, low-barrier short-term stabilization care, emergency care, and specialized long-term care supported by a new integrated information management system and a oversight process that monitors quality of care and well-being of children and youth.</p>	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			The ministry continues the targeted advertisement to retain and recruit caregivers to help keep families together in a culturally safe way, strengthen placement stability, and provide healing opportunities for children and youth.	
63	MCFD must provide support to foster parents to ensure that they are equipped to meet the legislative obligation to preserve a child’s cultural identity, as required under s. 4(2) of the <i>CFCSA</i> , particularly in the event that a child cannot be placed with family or within his or her community.	MCFD (PDCW)	<p>The mandatory caregiver training, PRIDE Pre-Service, is fully operational. PRIDE Pre-Service incorporates a B.C.-adapted module titled Caring for Aboriginal Children that focuses on the importance of preserving a child’s cultural identity.</p> <p>The PRIDE In-Service training module titled Caring for Indigenous Children has been revised in response to consultations with ICFSAs. Kinship training has been revised in response to consultations with ICFSAs.</p> <p>Policy 5.4: Working in Collaboration with Caregivers requires directors to provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “For an Indigenous child/youth, information related to their Indigenous community, including how they will be supported in learning about and practicing their Indigenous traditions, customs, and language(s) and in belonging to their Indigenous community, • For an Indigenous child/youth, information regarding the impact of colonization, in particular residential schools, and the resulting intergenerational trauma and how it may impact the child/youth, their family and their Indigenous community.” <p>As detailed in the evolving context document, changes in the <i>Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (Bill 38) emphasize best interests of the child and the need to maintain continuity of the child’s culture and identity. Changes also include the intent to uphold the inherent right of Indigenous Communities leading this work.</p>	Led by MCFD Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
64	<p>MCFD and the federal government work to immediately expand Indigenous early years programming and provide new offerings and services to all First Nations communities, and Métis within BC:</p> <p>a) MCFD should engage immediately with DAAs and Indigenous communities across the province to determine the most appropriate core services required in the immediate term and long-term expansion;</p> <p>b) MCFD begin hiring immediately to support the expansion of early years programs and services across BC, including new staff positioned directly within Indigenous communities (see Recommendation 1, in <i>Area for Focused Action 1</i>) and support to manage the expansion of early years programs; and</p> <p>c) MCFD increase ASI-EY funding by \$6 million annually in response to the high number of eligible proposals this fiscal that were denied funding based on funding availability, and with the objective of investing the additional \$5 million directly in Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>MCFD (SIPL)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>The Indigenous Early Years (IEY) Advisory Circle comprised of federal and provincial governments and Indigenous organizations is in its second year and meets regularly to provide guidance on investments and policy direction for Indigenous early years and child care services.</p> <p>The Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) framework has been released; province is now working to determine role in implementation.</p> <p>The Province invested \$30 million over three years (2017-2020) of the Canada-BC Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (ELCC) to create update 590 new Aboriginal Head Start spaces by 2020, both on and off reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the expansion is the Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC (AHSBC) and the First Nations Health Authority, creating 590 new spaces. As of September 2019, there are 84 new operation spaces in First Nations communities. <p>The Early Years Service Framework, released in June 2018, emphasizes supporting Indigenous culture, language revitalization and cultural competency.</p> <p>MCFD has investments in Métis Nation of BC (MNBC), BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS), the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVEAC), in partnership with the City of Vancouver; resulting in creation of 12 new community-based positions.</p> <p>Investments have been made to establish Indigenous early years positions to support planning and capacity development within Indigenous communities for early years and child care services, to support Indigenous children and families on reserve and in urban and rural communities. The positions will work closely with MCFD’s 13 new positions of Director of Operations, Early Years, in the Service Delivery Areas, to strengthen collaborations and increase awareness of MCFD’s Child Care BC funding opportunities.</p> <p>The Indigenous early years positions and their hosts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Métis Nation BC (\$0.520 million annually - \$1.560 million over 3 years) - Métis Early Years Regional Navigators will work with Métis children, 	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD’s actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>families and communities to provide linkages to Early Years services and support providers in planning and capacity development. These positions are a key part of the new Métis Nation of BC Early Years program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (\$0.400 million annually-\$1.016 million over 3 years) – Regional First Nations Community Capacity Development and Early Learning and Child Care Planning positions will support capacity development among First Nations, resource coordination and Indigenous-led child care planning. • BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (\$ 0.170 million annually-\$0.425 million over 3 years) – Provincial Early Years and Child Care Planning and Capacity Development position(s) will provide provincial support in 25 Aboriginal Friendship Centre communities. • City of Vancouver /Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (\$0.130 million annually-\$0.292 million over 3 years)– An Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Planner position will support the large urban Indigenous population in the Lower Mainland to access services across Vancouver and Metro Vancouver and support capacity development of Indigenous partners. • The Ministry funds the Nurse Family Partnership Program (and provides advise). This program is offered across the province through the health authorities by Public Health Registered Nurses who are paired with Indigenous and non-Indigenous newly pregnant women who are young and/or face social disparities such as low income or mental health challenges. • Starting in early 2023, the Ministry is piloting a new service approach for children and youth with support needs in four areas in the province (Prince Rupert, Terrace, Smithers, and Kelowna). Community agencies in these areas will pilot service delivery through family connections centres (FCCs), which will provide developmental services such as Infant Development and Supported Child Development programs, and more. 	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pilot FCCs are needs-based, and families can self-refer to request services that are culturally safe and trauma informed to meet their child/youth's support needs. The Ministry is continuing with engagement across the province throughout 2023 and 2024, which includes Ministry-led engagement with First Nations Rights and Title Holders as well as partner-led engagements across the province. There are also opportunities to engage online through the Children and Youth with Support Needs Engage BC Website. 	
65	<p>MCFD and INAC invest in long-term and sustainable funding for early years programming:</p> <p>a) Special attention should be given to offering multi-year funding support to organizations based in Indigenous communities that have developed or wish to develop early years programming tailored to their culture, traditions and practices.</p>	<p>MCFD (SIPL)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>Aboriginal Service Innovations - Early Years (ASI-EY) contracts were renewed for an additional 2-year term with an option to renew for an additional 2 years (2020-2022) and were then extended for an additional 2 years (2024).</p> <p>Due to the redirection of funding from Success by 6, funding for the Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) will be increased by \$1.2 million. This funding will be prioritized for communities without current AIDP that have an identified need and for those that have AIDP and have exceedingly high and unmet demand.</p> <p>\$19.5 million investment through AHSABC over 3 years will create up to 300 spaces in 12 locations throughout BC, supporting up to 300 Indigenous families living off-reserve.</p> <p>\$10.5 million investment through FNHA over 3 years will create up to 340 spaces in 19 communities (of which 17 had no previous AHS), supporting up to 340 Indigenous families living on-reserve.</p> <p>Although funding for BC Early Years Centres was re-procured through the implementation of the Early Years Service Framework, funding for the 12 Indigenous Early Years Centres was protected. New service agreements were drafted collaboratively to ensure services align with self-determined community needs and are tailored to their culture, traditions and practices. These agreements have been extended to 2024.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
66	<p>MCFD, DAAs, and INAC work immediately and in partnership with Indigenous communities, to expand parenting programs and services available to Indigenous parents and families, as well as other professional expertise to assist Indigenous parents:</p> <p>a) Attention should be paid to ensuring these programs are accessible for Indigenous parents and part of this means a commitment to ensure that long-term, these programs are developed and delivered inside Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>MCFD (SIPL)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>7 new positions through investment with MNBC to create regional Métis Early Years Navigators; part of this this role will be to ensure Métis parents have access to culturally safe programs.</p> <p>4 new positions through investment with BCACCS will work with First Nations communities and organizations to increase capacity to provide early learning and child care services.</p> <p>1 new position through investment with BCAAFC will provide similar support to Indigenous organizations in Friendship Centre communities.</p> <p>1 new position through investment with the City of Vancouver and MVEAC to support the Indigenous population living in metro Vancouver.</p> <p>The six components of AHS (culture and language; education; health promotion; nutrition; social support; and parent and family involvement) contribute to ensuring that the program is accessible for Indigenous parents.</p> <p>A lift in Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP) funding will increase access for families.</p> <p>Further engagement with ISC is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation.</p> <p>New Indigenous Early Years Service Agreements (12) include family support. Types of services offered are determined by the contracted Indigenous organizations and intend to reflect the culture of participants (e.g., in urban settings may incorporate a diversity if Indigenous culture while in a FN community local culture will be reflected in programming).</p> <p>The Ministry funds the Nurse Family Partnership Program (and provides advise). This program is offered across the province through the health authorities by Public Health Registered Nurses who are paired with Indigenous and non-Indigenous newly pregnant women who are young and/or face social disparities such as low income or mental health challenges.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
67	<p>MCFD, DAAs, and INAC take immediate steps to ensure that any new or existing parenting programs and curriculum are updated to include traditional values, knowledge, teachings and practices and that available parenting programs utilize, as much as is possible, Indigenous elders and cultural leaders:</p> <p>a) Specifically, programming should be developed to support language and culture revitalization in Indigenous communities, honouring traditional approaches to teaching and knowledge sharing (see <i>Area for Focused Action 6</i>).</p>	<p>MCFD (SIPL)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>The AHS expansion is underway and includes language, culture, knowledge and traditions. Family involvement and Elder participation supports traditional approaches to teaching and knowledge sharing.</p> <p>AIDP expansion is intended to maximize direct and prevention focused services for Indigenous families and communities.</p> <p>Further engagement with ISC is needed to address their shared responsibility of this recommendation.</p> <p>The new Indigenous Early Years Service agreements that replace the Early Years Centre agreements have been co-developed with the host Indigenous organizations. Services provided through these agreements support language and culture revitalization with an emphasis on traditional knowledge, teachings and practices.</p> <p>Through the co-developed contract renewal or modification process, programs and curriculum continue to evolve to include language, culture, traditional knowledge, teachings and practices as determined in response to community need.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
68	<p>Recognizing Indigenous communities' right to self-government, Canada, BC, DAAs, and Indigenous communities and organizations collectively move towards a model where Indigenous communities can exercise full jurisdiction over Indigenous child welfare. This will require the parties to undertake the following collaboratively:</p> <p>a) Develop and implement an action plan to ensure that Indigenous communities have effectively built the necessary range of capacities to ensure equity of services to Indigenous children and families; and</p>	<p>MCFD (PIE)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>In 2020, the federal government introduced An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children youth and families. This act fundamentally changed the future of child welfare in Canada affirming in legislation that Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) have an inherent s.35 right to self-government and, by extension, have a right to develop and implement their own child and family services laws and apply those laws to their members anywhere in Canada. This Act also reinforced Indigenous children's right to culture and language and clarified matters such as child removal; confirming that a child cannot be removed from their family solely on the grounds of socioeconomic factors or parental mental health – two known impacts of the intergenerational trauma of residential schools and colonial practices.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	<p>b) Build a comprehensive funding framework to ensure Indigenous communities are fully supported to offer equitable services for Indigenous children (see related recommendations in <i>Area for Focused Action 3 – A New Fiscal Relationship – Investing in Patterns of Connectedness</i>).</p>		<p>In 2022, the Province introduced Bill 38: Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act (the Act). Bill 38 was co-developed with Indigenous Rights Holders and outlined historic amendments to both the Child, Family and Community Services Act and the Adoptions Act. The Act included amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Government Bodies to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters.</p> <p>To support the implementation of Indigenous jurisdiction, as part of the Declaration Act Action Plan, the ministry is co-developing a new funding model and approach for B.C. First Nations children and families who wish to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. This model will be co-developed with rights and title holders, Indigenous partners and the federal government</p> <p>To support implementation of <i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families</i>, the federal government capacity-building funding is available to support Indigenous groups, communities and peoples as they work within and across their communities to build strong foundations to exercise jurisdiction in relation to child and family services.</p> <p>As of Fall 2023, the following agreements have been signed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2022, the Ministry signed the first co-created child welfare community agreement (Tcwesétmentem: Walking Together Agreement) under the Child, Family and Community Service Act in B.C. with Simpcw First Nation, ensuring the unique practices, customs, laws, language, and traditions of Simpcw First Nation are integrated into child welfare decision making, protection, and planning. • On March 24, 2023, Splitsin First Nation, B.C. and Canada signed the first tripartite coordination agreement in B.C., ensuring that Splitsin can effectively exercise their inherent right of self-government, including jurisdiction of child and family services for their children and families. 	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<p>Four Indigenous governing bodies in B.C. are engaged in collaborative discussions with the Province and Canada to exercise their jurisdiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cowichan Tribes ○ Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations ○ Sts'ailes First Nation ○ Huu-ay-aht First Nation 	
69	<p>While Indigenous communities move to implement full jurisdiction over Indigenous child and family services, MCFD and INAC work concurrently to also support the continued capacity building of DAAs in the following ways:</p> <p>a) Ensure DAAs maintain key involvement in the planning for and delivery of child welfare services to Indigenous children and families; and</p> <p>b) Ensure DAAs continue to have opportunities to develop expertise in exercising authority over Indigenous child welfare.</p>	<p>MCFD (PDCW, PIE)</p> <p>ISC</p>	<p>ISC is involved as needed for the First Nations agencies.</p> <p>Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies remain key partners the development of legalisation, regulation and policy that support Indigenous jurisdiction.</p> <p>As Indigenous Governing Bodies advance the establishment of jurisdiction and service agreements, the Province advocates the inclusion of Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies in these discussions, with consent of the Indigenous community.</p>	<p>Co-led by MCFD and ISC</p> <p>MCFD's actions are Identified for continuous improvement</p>
70	<p>The Province review and amend <i>CFCSA</i> in order to offer legislative support to Indigenous communities that have developed, or are seeking to develop, strong community-driven initiatives. This review of <i>CFCSA</i> should consider the following:</p> <p>a) Methods of ensuring <i>CFCSA</i> can support an Indigenous community and its government to exercise full authority and jurisdiction over decision-making relating to the best interest of the child; and</p> <p>b) The limits that <i>CFCSA</i> places on specific models for increased Indigenous jurisdiction, such as the <i>Splatsin's By-Law for the Care of Our Indian Children: Spallumcheen Indian Band By-Law #3</i>.</p>	<p>MCFD (SIPL)</p>	<p>The <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) came into force on April 1st, 2019. These amendments addressed this recommendation by providing ways for First Nations to have greater access to information, greater ability to participate in planning for children and families and greater support for customary care in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The amendments allow designated directors and Indigenous communities to enter into agreements regarding 1) information sharing, 2) preventative and support services, 3) collaboration and engagement, and 4) referral of child protection reports to First Nations.</p> <p><i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families</i> provides clear pathways to jurisdiction for Indigenous Governing Bodies. <i>Bill 38: Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i>, ensures that barriers to exercising jurisdiction are minimized. Most of Bill 38</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			went into force by regulation in Fall 2022, with the majority of the remainder set to go into force in Fall 2023.	
71	<p>The province review and amend <i>CFCSA</i> to provide for ‘least disruptive measures’ that make it simpler for a child to remain with his or her extended family or community in the event that there is a removal:</p> <p>a) Allow for the transfer of custody to a “party” rather than just a “person,” as under the existing legislation. The legislation must recognize Indigenous governments as an eligible “party” to which custody may be transferred;</p> <p>b) Amend s. 8 of <i>CFCSA</i> to allow for Indigenous governments to enter into either temporary or long-term agreements with MCFD for the care of a child;</p> <p>c) Amend s. 35 and s. 41 of <i>CFCSA</i> to enable more flexibility in allowing for the role of an Indigenous community in managing interim and temporary orders; and</p> <p>d) Amend s. 49, s. 50, and s. 54 of <i>CFCSA</i> to enable more flexibility in allowing for the role of an Indigenous community in managing permanent orders.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>The <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) received Royal Assent on May 31, 2018; and came into force on April 1, 2019. The amendments address this recommendation by providing ways for Indigenous communities to have greater access to information, greater ability to participate in planning for children and families and greater support for customary care in Indigenous communities via agreements. Specifically, the amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codify the principle that Indigenous families and communities share responsibility for the upbringing and well-being of Indigenous Children. • Enable an Indigenous community to be a party to child specific agreements, including EFP’s (s.8). • Enable a director to withdraw from proceedings when the parent has made an agreement with an Indigenous community that the director considers adequate to protect the child. • Enable a director and an Indigenous community to make an agreement, for the purpose of developing plans of care and making placement decisions for their children in interim and temporary care and planning for the needs of their children in the continuing custody of the director. • A director and Indigenous communities can enter into information-sharing, prevention and support service agreements, collaboration and engagement (which emphasize less disruptive measures) and referral of child protection report agreements. The director will be providing additional notices of hearings to designated representatives. It is anticipated that these agreements will promote the use of extended family as caregivers 71(b). <p>Additional amendments via the <i>Federal Act</i> and <i>Bill 38</i> have further advanced this recommendation.</p> <p>Changes include:</p>	Led by MCFD Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019, <i>Declaration Act on the Right of Indigenous People</i>. which establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the Province’s framework for reconciliation and outlines how in and in what ways the Province will work with rights holders to ensure all provincial legislation reflects these rights. • 2020, the federal government <i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children youth and families</i> which affirming in legislation that Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) have an inherent s.35 right to self-government and, by extension, have a right to develop and implement their own child and family services laws and apply those laws to their members <i>anywhere in Canada</i>. This Act also reinforced Indigenous children’s right to culture and language and clarified matters such as child removal; confirming that a child cannot be removed from their family solely on the grounds of socioeconomic factors or parental mental health – two known impacts of the intergenerational trauma of residential schools and colonial practices. • In 2022, <i>Bill 38: Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> (the <i>Act</i>) co-developed with Indigenous Rights Holders includes amendments that would provide a range of options or pathways for Indigenous Government Bodies (IGB) to exercise jurisdiction and authority over child and family services matters. As well, <i>Bill 38</i> provided an opportunity to address many of the themes and recommendations outlined in this report thereby changing the way policies, practices, and services flowing from the CFCSA and Adoptions Act. • <i>Bill 38</i> enables the transfer of custody under the CFCSA to and Indigenous authority operating under Indigenous law. These provisions are set to go into force in Fall 2023 	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
72	<p>The Province review and amend <i>CFCSA</i> with the goal of achieving consistency with the <i>Family Law Act</i>:</p> <p>a) Moving away from “custody” as an out-of-date concept currently utilized in the <i>CFCSA</i>, and towards the concepts of guardianship and parental responsibility as defined in the <i>Family Law Act</i>.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>As outlined in the evolving context document, the ministry’s commitment to reconciliation is embedded within the legislation. Both Bill 26 and Bill 38 include significant changes to advance Indigenous child and family services in B.C. Bill 38 was co-developed with Indigenous Rights and Titleholders.</p> <p>The actions to advance this recommendation are expected to proceed should they be identified as a priority via legislative co-development.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>New direction being actively implemented</p>
73	<p>MCFD review <i>CFCSA</i> with the specific aim of identifying legislative changes needed to minimize circumstances where a child is moved out of temporary care and under a CCO:</p> <p>a) Consideration during this review should be given to potentially requiring an Indigenous community’s consent to move the child under a CCO.</p>	MCFD (SIPL)	<p>The <i>Child, Family and Community Service Amendment Act</i> (Bill 26) received Royal Assent on May 31, 2018; and came into force on April 1, 2019. The amendments address this recommendation by providing ways for Indigenous communities to have greater access to information, greater ability to participate in planning for children and families and greater support for customary care in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>A director and an Indigenous community can enter into information-sharing, prevention and support service agreements, collaboration and engagement (which emphasize less disruptive measures) and referral of child protection report agreements. The Director will be providing additional notices of hearings to designated representatives. The Collaboration and Engagement agreements will enhance connection between communities and their children and youth and thus support minimization of circumstances where a child is moved out of temporary care and under continuing custody order.</p> <p><i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families</i> requires notice of significant measure be sent to and Indigenous Governing Body. <i>Policy 1.1 Working with Indigenous Children, Youth, Families and Communities under the CFCSA</i>, requires notice to occur ten days before a Continuing Custody Order is requested wherever possible. The intention is to ensure the indigenous Governing Body has the time to provide input and become a party to the proceeding if they choose, as enabled by <i>An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families</i>.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
74	MCFD designate an Indigenous Director under the authority of <i>CFCSA</i> , equipped to make decisions	MCFD (PDCW)	<i>Bill 38: Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> created the position of Indigenous Child Welfare Director. The ministry is	Led by MCFD

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	under the authority of CFCSA that are based in cultural knowledge and better account for historical circumstances and resultant intergenerational trauma.		actively working with Indigenous partners to develop the responsibilities of the position, to ensure it meets the needs of Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Child Welfare Director provisions are expected to go into force in Fall 2023.	Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
75	MCFD, INAC, and DAAs move to jointly adopt a clear and overarching Indigenous child welfare policy framework in BC that is premised on support for prevention and connectedness, reconciliation, and resiliency.	MCFD (PIE, SIPL) ISC	<p><i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families</i> received Royal Assent in the House of Commons on June 21, 2019 and was brought into force on January 1, 2020. The Act provides a legislative framework for Indigenous jurisdiction and principles and a set of new national standards that will require provinces and territories to align with once it's brought into effect. B.C. is working with the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group (TWG) to develop a transitional governance structure for application of this Act in BC, and to identify the key priorities and areas for change.</p> <p>As outlined in the evolving context document, the ministry's commitment to reconciliation is embedded within legislation, and by extension ministry policy practice and procedures.</p> <p>For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Policy 1.1 Working with Indigenous Children, Youth, Families and Communities under the CFCSA which provides guidance respecting the director's duties under the CFCSA related to confirming whether a child or youth is Indigenous and, if they are, confirming their Indigenous community, whether an Indigenous law applies to them and consulting and cooperating with Indigenous communities when there is no Indigenous law that applies to the child or youth. • Core Policy 1.2 Upholding Indigenous Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services' outlines the actions a director is required to take in meeting their duties related to upholding Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services for Indigenous children and youth. 	Co-led by MCFD and ISC MCFD's actions are: Substantially Complete/ Implemented

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
76	MCFD immediately take immediate steps to implement the jointly developed <i>Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework</i> for those DAAs that see it as complementary and in support of their practices.	MCFD (PIE)	<p>A dedicated team of staff have been hired and are working within the ministry's divisions to support implementation at a front-line level with MCFD staff, ICFSAs and contracted service providers.</p> <p>A divisional-leads working group was established to lead implementation across the ministry. The divisional leads are working to develop division-specific action plans on applying the APPF across policy, practice and functions. An APPF hub provides online resources and an interactive learning environment to support staff to apply the APPF to their work using case studies. The APPF team holds interactive learning sessions with teams on applying the APPF to their work.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Substantially Complete/ Implemented</p>
77	MCFD, in collaboration with DAAs and representatives of Indigenous communities, develop a separate service plan for Indigenous child and family welfare, including an Indigenous ADM to oversee the plan, and confirm a distinct budget allocation for this planning process and its subsequent implementation.	MCFD (FCS) PDCW	<p>MCFD has developed Accountability Statements which provide details on how ministry funding is directed toward Indigenous communities. The statements are distributed annually to all Indigenous communities.</p> <p><i>Bill 38: Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act</i> creates the position of Indigenous Child Welfare Director. The ministry is actively working with Indigenous partners to develop the responsibilities of the position, to ensure it meets the needs of Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Child Welfare Director provisions are expected to go into force in Fall 2023.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>In Progress</p>
78	MCFD commit to immediate actions to recruit and retain Indigenous individuals for leadership positions within MCFD and ensure that there are plans in place, developed in partnership with Indigenous leaders and Indigenous organizations, that support the success of those individuals recruited to these positions.	MCFD (FCS)	<p>Tools to support Indigenous recruitment and retention were launched in October 2017. The ministry has an Indigenous Recruitment and Cultural Safety Workplan to support our recruitment and retention of indigenous employees across the ministry. Participants' responses to the indigenous recruitment training and tools continue to be positive and we are seeing an increase in the number of Indigenous staff employed by the ministry.</p>	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>78) Identified for continuous improvement</p>
79	MCFD commit to immediate actions to recruit and retain Indigenous social workers and front line workers and ensure that there are plans in place, developed in partnership with Indigenous leaders and Indigenous organizations that support the		<p>In 2023, the ministry recently expanded the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism team, with responsibilities which include the goal of increasing the number of Indigenous employees.</p>	<p>79) Identified for continuous improvement</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
	<p>success of those individuals recruited to these positions.</p>		<p>Ministry staff have led the Indigenous Employees Forum government wide, and the ministry is now exploring implementing a ministry specific forum for indigenous employees.</p> <p>Work to increase the compliment of qualified Indigenous staff offering direct services to clients includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Service Agency has implemented an Indigenous Applicant Advisory Service. • MCFD has developed a comprehensive Indigenous Recruitment & Retention guide for Hiring Managers and Supervisors. • A centralized hiring team with training in Indigenous Relations Behavioral Competencies will manage the hiring of many front-line service positions. • On-going training in Cultural Safety for Hiring Services staff and hiring managers. • Guides will be developed for hiring managers on the use of preference statements and inclusive language in job postings. • MCFD will broaden assessments and interviews to allow for a variety of ways to assess skills and competencies in a culturally safe way. • MCFD will review position education and experience requirements to provide succession opportunities for employees with lived experience. <p>MCFD includes the use of Indigenous relations behaviour competencies in the hiring process. See here: Indigenous relations behavioural competencies - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</p> <p>The ministry has implemented new job profiles which recognizes a broader range of experiences applicants can use, in applying for positions within MCFD. This approach has created a pathway for a more inclusive and diverse approach to hiring. This approach recognizes the validity and importance of lived experiences from a diverse range of applicants and how that experience supports new applicants success within MCFD.</p>	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			This recommendation has been implemented. The ministry will work to continuously improved in this area.	
80	MCFD work to remove any existing barriers for DAAs that have expressed an interest in continuing or shifting their child welfare approaches to utilize approaches that support community involvement, prevention, and reconciliation, such as Signs of Safety and Touchstones of Hope.	MCFD (PDCW)	<p>MCFD provided an exception to Ktunaxa Kinbasket in August 2018 for one year, to use Signs of Safety as a primary approach to practice. The Provincial Director of Child Welfare has since lifted the requirement for annual exceptions and confirmed Ktunaxa Kinbasket's ongoing use of Signs of Safety. MCFD remains committed to shifting the practice and exploring other approaches to child wellness/safety. As agencies identify their desire to move forward, expand or shift their practice, the Aboriginal Services Branch can support those requests.</p> <p>Ktunaxa Kinbasket continues to use Signs of Safety and MCFD is working in partnership with them on an Information Technology Alignment project where a mobile solution will be integrated into ICM. Other ICFS Agencies are exploring the option of using Signs of Safety and have integrated some of the tools into their work but have not yet adopted this as a primary approach.</p> <p>Signs of Safety seeks to create a more constructive culture around child protection organization and practice. Central to this is the use of specific practice tools and processes where professionals and family members can engage with each other in partnership to address situations of child abuse and maltreatment.</p> <p>Three principles underpin Signs of Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working relationships 2. Munro's maxim: thinking critically, fostering a stance of enquiry. 3. Landing grand aspirations in everyday practice 	Led by MCFD Identified for continuous improvement

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
81	<p>The province support the continued independent oversight role of the BC Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) as it relates to Indigenous children and youth through the following specific actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allocate funding to support the continuation of this oversight role; b) Expand the mandate of the BC RCY to ensure distribution of reports and reporting documents to Indigenous communities and organizations; and c) Expand the mandate of the BC RCY to provide oversight that will ensure the Province's commitment to actively involve Indigenous communities in planning for all Indigenous children under CCOs is upheld. 	Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth (SSCCY)	Recommendation is directed to the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.	Led by SSCCY
82	Provincial Ministries, such as MCFD, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, be required to table annually in the provincial legislature their respective responses to BC RCY reports and recommendations regarding Indigenous child welfare.	<p>Premier's Office</p> <p>MCFD</p>	<p>Recommendation is directed to the Premier's Office.</p> <p>MCFD provides updates on recommendations as requested to the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.</p> <p>MCFD has begun to publicly post a summary of the ministry's responses to recommendations from oversight bodies such as the Office of the Auditor General, Ombudsperson, Coroner and the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY). The posting will include a list of all recommendations from oversight bodies and an update on the ministry's actions. See: Reporting & Monitoring of Child and Family Services - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) - Oversight Reports.</p>	<p>Co-led with Premier's Office</p> <p>MCFD's actions are: In Progress</p>
83	The province and Canada commit to jointly develop improved data collection and analysis that will support program development and effective service delivery for Indigenous child welfare in BC.	MCFD (FCS, PCCW)	MCFD is utilizing CITZ's Data Innovation Program, a data integration and analytics program that securely links and de-identifies data from multiple ministries to better understand the interactions of children, youth and families that receive MCFD services with other B.C. government services.	<p>Led by MCFD</p> <p>Identified for continuous improvement</p>

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
			MCFD is working with Statistics Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada, exploring the possibility of sharing data and doing analysis that will support program development and service delivery for Indigenous child welfare. MCFD has begun to develop an analytics framework.	

#	Recommendations	Responsible	Progress	Status
84	<p>Canada move immediately to develop new federal Indigenous child welfare legislation, in partnership with Indigenous peoples and to support more consistent and improved outcomes for Indigenous children and families. At minimum, the new federal legislation should provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The creation of a statutory officer independent from the Parliament of Canada, but accountable to the Parliament, whose role is to oversee the development of a comprehensive national strategy, as well as its implementation, and evaluate progress towards the outcomes laid out therein; b) The establishment of clear roles and responsibilities for various levels of governments in the provision of child welfare services; c) The setting of national standards for the provision of out-of-province/territory placements for children in their guardianship, and details on compliance with these standards; and d) The development of a national strategy that includes: principles and agreed upon indicators to guide the national coordination of data collection, and collective, measurable targets and strategies to achieve them. 	ISC (SIPL)	<i>An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families</i> received Royal Assent in the House of Commons on June 21, 2019. The Act provides a legislative framework for Indigenous jurisdiction and principles and a set of new national standards that will require provinces and territories to align with once it's brought into effect. BC is working with the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group (TWG) to implement the Act in BC, and to identify the key priorities and areas for change.	Led by ISC

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85	<p>The Premier of BC champion and work with other Premiers through the Council of the Federation to develop a national action plan on Indigenous child welfare. This plan should be developed in a way that:</p> <p>a) Ensures Canada’s national approach to child welfare is consistent with the findings of the 2016 CHRT 2 decision and subsequent orders of the CHRT;</p> <p>b) Promotes the effective implementation of the TRC’s Calls to Action 1-5;</p> <p>c) Ensures Canada’s national approach to child welfare is consistent with commitments made in international decision documents such as the <i>World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document</i>, the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> and the <i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>; and</p> <p>d) Promotes child welfare services and approaches nationally that are culturally based, prioritize prevention and resilience, support connectedness with communities, and preserve and reunify families where possible.</p>	<p>Premier’s Office MCFD (SIPL)</p> <p>ISC</p> <p>Indigenous Children and Youth in Care FPT Committee</p>	<p>Following the 2015 Report to Premiers on Aboriginal Child Welfare, the Council of the Federation directed Social Service Ministers to continue to work together to address Indigenous child welfare.</p> <p>MCFD continues to actively support this work and works closely with the Office of the Premier to ensure that BC’s participation in the work of Ministers Responsible for Social Services is aligned with ongoing direction from Premiers and to ensure the Premier is apprised of ongoing pan-Canadian collaboration to address Indigenous child welfare.</p> <p>The MCFD Deputy Minister provided leadership for a meeting of Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers with responsibility for child welfare in October of 2018 and continues active engagement with this group.</p> <p>Through the work of the Ministers Responsible for Social Services Forum, MCFD consistently promotes child welfare services and approaches that are culturally based, prioritize prevention and resilience, support connectedness with communities, and preserve and reunify families where possible.</p>	Led by Premier’s Office and ISC