

Content Package supporting Engagement with First Nations Rights and Titleholders on a System of Supports for Children and Youth with Support Needs

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Children and Youth with Support Needs – First Nations Engagement

Engagement summary

The Province is seeking input on B.C.'s system of supports for children and youth with support needs.

In November 2022, Premier Eby and Minister of Children and Family Development, Mitzi Dean, committed to engaging in deeper consultation with parents and caregivers, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples, communities, experts and practitioners, and others with lived experience to understand how the system can be transformed and together build a better system of supports, co-developed with Indigenous communities.

B.C. recognizes the importance of CYSN services that work for every child and is committed to immediately beginning meaningful engagement with First Nations Rights and Title Holders.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD or the Ministry) is guided by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (the Declaration Act) and the commitment to co-develop legislation, policy, and programming with First Nations First Nations Rights and Titleholders. As part of this commitment, the Ministry will engage in a 12–18 month co-development process that explores: a system of services for Indigenous children and youth with support needs that aligns with First Nations Rights and Titleholders' vision for their children, families and communities. The Province needs the input of First Nations Rights and Titleholders to understand what is and is not working for CYSN families. An initial, virtual meeting of Rightsholders is set for May 10 with other opportunities to follow.

Concurrently, there are further opportunities to engage to build a better system of supports for all children and youth with support needs. Reciprocal Consulting Inc. has been contracted by the Province to engage Métis, urban Indigenous, Inuit, immigrant and English-as-a-learned-language families and others with lived experience to understand how the system of supports for children and youth with support needs can support cultural safety.

Principles guiding this engagement

The Ministry will take a government-to-government approach to co-development with First Nations Rights and Title holders when fulfilling commitments under the Declaration Act. The Ministry will plan and deliver all CYSN engagements in an inclusive way, using an intersectional lens with particular focus on GBA+ and anti-racist practice. In addition, the approach is guided by the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework and the following principles:

- Distinctions-based.
- Direct relationship between the Provincial Government and Rights Holders
- Financially supported
- Iterative and guided by interests of partners
- Multiple avenues and opportunities to engage and participate in co-development

A longer-term proposal for this engagement process includes a phased approach to consultation and engagement with First Nations Rights and Titleholders.

Engagement opportunities

Upcoming engagement events will be posted here. Current opportunities include:

- May 4, 2023: Information and Learning Session on CYSN and Engagement – through the [UBC Learning Circle](#)

- May 10, 2023: Virtual meeting – via Zoom
 - 2 hours to set priorities and to inform path forward, using the engagement questions below. Session is open to all interested First Nations Rights and Titleholders.
 - Contact MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca to register
- Following this initial meeting, other dates will be proposed. Please sign up for updates by emailing MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca. MCFD will use this page to record learnings through engagement and provide more information as the shared approach to consultation unfolds.
- Written submissions are being accepted now through fall 2024. Send written submissions to MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca

Key initial engagement questions

- What does an engagement and co-development process that meets your needs look like?
- What do we need to talk about and explore together when it comes to creating a vision for CYSN services for Indigenous children and youth with support needs and their families?
- What are we not talking about that needs to be explored?
- What elements would make up a successful system of CYSN services for Indigenous children and youth with support needs and their families?

For more information, please contact the project team at MCF.CYSNengage@gov.bc.ca