

Indigenous Child and Family Service Newsletter

Ministry of Children and Family Development | April 2023



This newsletter is meant to share information and support the ministry's commitment to ongoing consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, partners and governments to develop legislation and services consistent with the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* as well as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

We will listen to the children, youth and families we serve, knowing their voices and experiences are central to the creation of services that truly meet their needs.

All dates and timelines may be adjusted if needed

Children and Youth with Support Needs

In November 2022, the ministry committed to engaging in deeper consultation with Indigenous Peoples, parents and caregivers, experts and practitioners and others with lived experience, to build a system that better serves all children and youth with support needs, based on their unique needs, co-developed with Indigenous communities.

We invite First Nations families and communities to participate in a virtual gathering in May to begin deeper engagement and to view the proposed engagement process on the Engage BC website.

We also invite Métis Peoples, urban Indigenous people, Inuit families and others to participate in additional upcoming engagement opportunities.

Youth Transitions Improved Supports

The ministry continues to develop new and improved supports for youth and young adults transitioning to adulthood from care, up to the age of 27.

Here are some upcoming changes:

- Increased annual dental limit to \$1,000
- Expanded optical benefits to \$600/two years including eye exams and glasses
- Temporary Support and Temporary Housing Agreements available between age 19-21 and flexibility to move between agreements
- Regulation change to extend the maximum duration of Agreements with Young Adults to 84 months starting April 2023
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program available for all ages starting August 1, 2023

Engagement Opportunity

- To get more information contact mcf.cysnengage@gov.bc.ca
- Find details about the proposed engagement process and May 10 gathering at engage.gov.bc.ca
- Find details about other engagement opportunities at gov.bc.ca/cysn-engagement-updates

For More Information

- For information or to participate in a virtual workshop contact mcfstrategic.initiatives@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

gov.bc.ca/youthtransitionsagedout.com

Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections

New funding will be available in summer 2023 to support those in the Agreement with Young Adults program to participate in life-skills, training, and/or cultural connections activities or programming. We would like to connect with you to hear your thoughts on this policy direction. Virtual workshops will be hosted April to June 2023 – email us to participate.

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

Splatsin, Canada and British Columbia celebrate coordination agreement signing

The Splatsin First Nation has signed a coordination agreement, with Indigenous Services Canada and the ministry that supports the exercise of Splatsin's jurisdiction of their child, family and community services under Spallumcheen Indian Band Bylaw #3-1980 and Secwépemc law. Splatsin will continue to take care of their children and families, as they have always done.

This agreement is the first coordination agreement in British Columbia and the fifth in Canada.

Read more: news.gov.bc.ca/28436

For more information contact:

Jackie Robinson

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Social Work Oversight

We connected with 203 individuals in sessions, received 534 responses to the public survey and over 1,000 submissions from social work practitioners. Thank you for your participation and partnership in this process.

We are currently reviewing the collected feedback and will be offering validation sessions on the early findings in late spring – we will keep you updated.

For More Information

- To sign up for updates:
mcf.socialworkengagement@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

engage.gov.bc.ca/socialworkoversight

Other Feedback Opportunities...

Policy, Practice and Regulation Changes

Child and Family File Transfer/Joint Child and Family File Management:

- Two proposed policies and accompanying forms will replace the existing practice directive to clarify procedures and responsibilities for transferring or sharing services between geographical locations in B.C.
- Feedback will be accepted until **May 9, 2023**
- Send feedback or request information at mcf.standardspolicy@gov.bc.ca

For More Information

See details of the proposed changes and the current versions of the policies and documents listed here at gov.bc.ca/mcfdpolicychanges

Post Adoption Assistance Maintenance Rate Increase:

- To make the proposed rate increase the ministry needs to request a change to the Adoption Regulation; feedback provided will inform the development of this request
- Feedback will be accepted until **May 4, 2023**
- Send feedback or request information at renae.snell@gov.bc.ca

Children and Youth in Care – Preparing for Adulthood:

- Proposed changes to this policy will strengthen transition planning for youth in care starting at age 14 and feedback provided will help refine the policy
- Feedback will be accepted until **May 4, 2023**
- Send feedback or request information at mcf.standardspolicy@gov.bc.ca

