

FAMILY LAW ACT MODERNIZATION

Dialogue Sessions

GOAL OF ENGAGEMENT

B.C.'s Ministry of Attorney General is reviewing the Family Law Act to ensure it meets the needs of families in B.C. This includes updating the act to reflect changes in society and court decisions that have been made since the "Act" became law in 2013.

It is important that the Family Law Act reflects Indigenous views and does not create barriers to Indigenous traditions and culture when it comes to resolving family issues. This review and engagement also aligns with the purposes of B.C.'s Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

The current phase of the Family Law Act modernization project includes a review of the parts relating to:

- Parents' and guardians' responsibilities for making decisions about a child and spending time with a child
- Protection from family violence
- Parenting assessments and reports on the needs and views of a child
- Parentage, including determining who a child's parents are when they were conceived using assisted reproduction (note: research and engagement on this topic is being done separately by the B.C. Law Institute and will not be a focus of these dialogue sessions)

We would like to better understand your experience with these topics, with the intent of improving how the Family Law Act works for you and your family.



INVITATION TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

We invite Indigenous community members with lived experience in these topics to participate in an upcoming dialogue session.

These sessions will provide an opportunity to share experiences and discuss questions about parenting and caring for a child when the child's parents are not together, including how to involve the child's views in decision making. The sessions will also include discussion about family violence and protection orders.

We recognize the personal nature of the subject matter. Sessions will be facilitated, with steps taken to create a safe and respectful environment and will be led by Indigenous Facilitators. Sessions will be limited to small groups of individuals with lived experience.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

B.C.'s Ministry of Attorney General is working with Mahihkan Management to facilitate two-day regional dialogue sessions.

May 24 & 25	June 15 & 16
Nanaimo	Prince George
June 12 & 13	June 27 & 28
Vancouver	Kamloops

Meals, participant funding of up to \$200 for a two-day session, and reimbursement for travel expenses will be provided.

If you are interested in participating in the sessions, please register by [clicking here](#).

If you would like to participate but the locations and dates don't work for you, please let us know by emailing events4@mahihkan.ca.

ARE THESE SESSIONS FOR YOU?

If you answer yes to any of the questions below, we encourage you to participate:

- Do you have experience caring for a child after separation or divorce? Or do you have experience co-parenting your child when you and the other parent are not in a relationship?
- Have you experienced issues with the other parents or guardians around how decisions should be made about your child or who spends time with your child?
- Have you experienced family violence?
- Have you gotten or tried to get a family law protection order?
- Have you participated in a parenting assessment related to family law issues? Has someone ever done a parenting assessment for you or your family, or written a report about the views or needs of a child in your family?
- Were you impacted by any of these family law issues when you were a child or a youth?
- Would you like to help make the Family Law Act more relevant and useful for Indigenous families?



ABOUT THE FAMILY LAW ACT

The Family Law Act is B.C.'s primary legislation for families going through separation, and those who need to address the care of and time with a child, including child support.

ABOUT B.C.'S MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

B.C.'s Ministry of Attorney General is responsible for providing policy and justice reform advice to the Attorney General. The Ministry works to keep communities safe and provides certainty, proportionality and, above all, fairness when dealing with family, civil, and criminal law matters and to protect people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

The Family Policy, Legislation and Transformation Division is leading the Family Law Act modernization project and is responsible for family justice policy and legislation as well as initiatives to reform and transform the family justice system.



ABOUT MAHIHKAN MANAGEMENT

Mahihkan Management is an Indigenous owned business that specializes in designing and delivering Indigenous engagements and events. Culturally and ethnically diverse, Mahihkan works with contractors representing many cultures, including Indigenous Peoples and have worked in collaboration with government and Indigenous led organizations to deliver engagements within B.C. and across Canada.

For more information, visit mahihkan.ca.

