



# News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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## **THOMAS-WIGHTMAN ASSUMES ROLE AS ACTING DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE**

Dawn Thomas-Wightman has been named Acting Deputy Representative for Children and Youth in British Columbia, Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond announced this week.

Thomas-Wightman brings nearly 20 years of direct experience in child welfare through her various roles with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) and the Representative's Office. She takes over from former Deputy John Greschner, who moves into a new position as Executive Lead, External Relations and Strategic Direction at the RCY.

"Dawn brings a strong, collaborative approach to leadership, as well as considerable practical experience in child welfare – particularly Aboriginal child welfare – to the role," Turpel-Lafond said.

Thomas-Wightman returned to the Representative's Office last year after serving as Executive Director, Aboriginal Services, at MCFD. Prior to her most recent stint at MCFD, she filled various roles at RCY, including Investigator and Associate Deputy, Aboriginal Services, as well as other key roles with both MCFD and DAAs.

A member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, her name is Aa ap waa iik, which means "the one who always says the right words or right speeches about chiefly business." It is a Nuuchuhnulth name because her grandmother's family is Nuuchuhnulth.

Greschner, who served as Deputy since February 2013, will be responsible for overseeing some of the RCY's most important endeavors, including the Office's current adoptions initiative with MCFD and other partners, and the RCY's strong push to help former children and youth in care access post-secondary education and supports for transition to adult life. He has been with the RCY since 2007.

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