



# FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT RELATIONS FACT SHEET

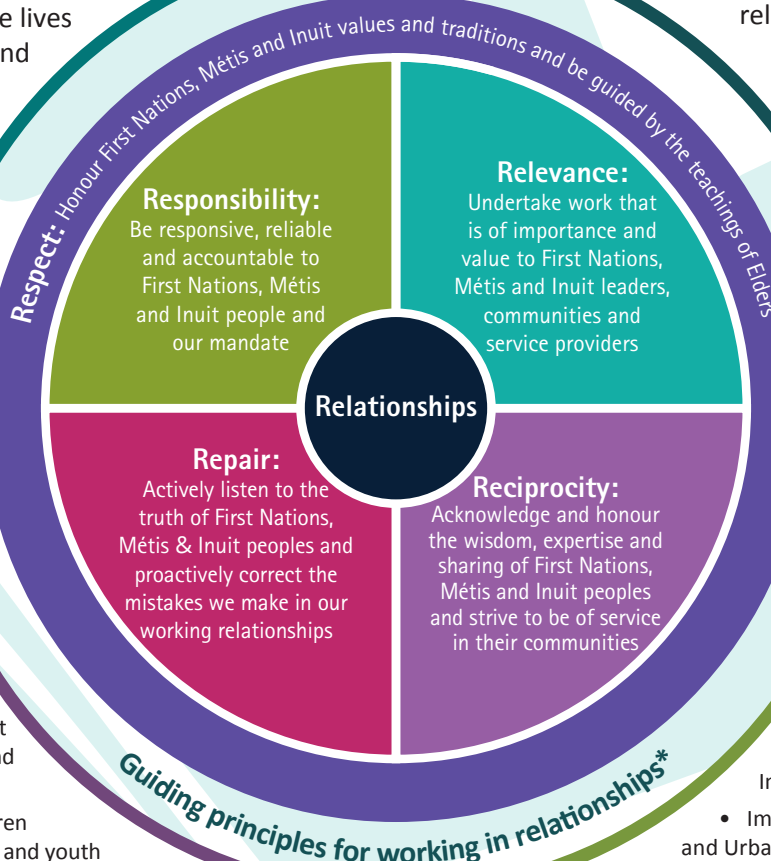
## Goal

Establish and nurture relationships with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous partners in B.C. and advocate for Indigenous children, youth, young adults and families.

Promote services and supports that address and reduce the over-involvement of the child welfare system in the lives of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous young people and their families and communities.

## Inherent Rights

First Nations, Métis and Inuit children have the inherent right to be supported in their families, extended families, kin and communities. These rights include a special collective right to cultural identity and to sustain that identity through the sacred relationship that has existed from time immemorial with their ancestral territories.



## Context of Indigenous Child Welfare in B.C.

- Many federal and provincial policies have caused immeasurable harm to First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, youth and families, including the cultural genocide of residential schools that contributed to the Sixties Scoop and ongoing child welfare crisis.
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth are 8% of B.C.'s children and youth while they make up about 66% of children in care.
- 24 delegated Aboriginal Agencies serve First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, youth and families across B.C.
- Nations around B.C. are actively pursuing resumption of child welfare jurisdiction which is enabled by the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, along with agreements with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

## The Team

- Supports RCY's commitment to uphold the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* and calls to action and justice.\*\*
- Conducts research and monitors the system to highlight the strengths and challenges in the current Indigenous child welfare landscape.
- Implements First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous ways of being and knowing in research approaches and promotes this implementation across RCY.
- Supports and collaborates with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children, youth, young adults and families on child rights.
- Encourages government's accountability to calls to action and justice and recommendations in relevant Indigenous reports.\*\*

\* Adapted from the 4Rs of First Nations higher education and research (Kirkness & Barnhardt, 2001; Restoule, 2008).

\*\* The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice.