



REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Multi-Use List Request for Qualifications Research Services for Systemic Review

Opportunity ID:	RCY24-008
Issue Date:	Dec. 4, 2023
Information Webinar (Pacific Time):	Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. via Zoom Register for webinar by contacting Carissa Matheson carissa.matheson@rcybc.ca The Zoom session will be recorded and posted on the Office's Careers page found at https://rcybc.ca/about-us/careers/
Initial Intake Date and Time (Pacific Time)	Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at 2 p.m.
MULRFQ Termination Date and Time (Pacific Time):	Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.
In order to be considered for the Initial Intake, a <u>Proposal</u> must be received before the Initial Intake Response Date and Time identified above. Suppliers may submit Proposals after the Initial Intake Date and Time and those Proposals will be considered as received.	

Delivery of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted via email to dianne.buljat@rcybc.ca and include the opportunity title (**RCY 24-008 Research Services for Systemic Review**) in the subject line of the email. Proposals for the Initial Intake (see above) must be received before Dec. 12, 2023, at 2 p.m. Proposals will be accepted up to Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. The Supplier is solely responsible for ensuring that the complete electronic proposal, including any attachments, is received before closing date and time.

Background:

B.C.'s Office of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) is an independent office of the provincial legislature. The Representative's role and jurisdiction are defined in the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* and its regulations. Under these, the Representative can:

- Advocate on behalf of children, youth and young adults to improve their understanding of and access to designated services;
- Monitor, review, audit and publicly report on designated services for children and youth; and,
- Conduct independent reviews and investigations into the critical injuries or deaths of children receiving reviewable services.

Further information about RCY is available on the [website](#) and through the [Annual Report and Service Plan](#)

RCY is embarking on a comprehensive systemic review of child, youth and family services connected to a highly complex and high-profile child death investigation. The systemic review and investigation must be complete and made publicly available by June 2024. The child at the centre of the investigation, an 11-year-old First Nations child, experienced horrific abuse while in care and living in an out of home care arrangement. The story of this child and their family illuminates a number of issues within the B.C. child welfare system that RCY has also identified through other reviews. RCY has taken the unprecedented step of committing to a systemic review alongside the investigation, with the intention of providing valuable insights and recommendations for child welfare reform. The investigation and review are informed by and reflective of Indigenous Research Methods and Two-Eyed Seeing approaches.

RCY is seeking to engage B.C. and Canadian researchers and research-practitioners, both in research institutions and in private practice, who have knowledge and experience in topics related to child development, child welfare, Indigenous ways of knowing and being, the impact of colonization and trauma on child well-being, and systems transformation, and specifically the topics noted below.

1. History of child welfare in B.C. and Canada, including an identification and analysis of key reports that address the need for practice reform or systems change.
2. Jurisdiction, Indigenous child welfare and transitional decision-making.

3. Workforce capacity, including recruitment, diversity and inclusion, onboarding, deployment, experience, diversity, training, caseloads, supervision, retention, and supports and guidance when working with Indigenous communities and leadership.
4. Child welfare policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines including clarity, responsiveness, cultural attunement, promising practices, and compliance.
5. Inter-agency, inter-ministry and inter-sectoral practices including communications and information-sharing, coordination, planning, responsibility, and responsiveness (e.g., across education, health care, policing, victims' services, justice, and child welfare systems).
6. Out-of-Care and Extended Family Care including criteria for use, promising practices, preparation and decision-making, quality of care, communications, support, monitoring, and child outcomes.
7. Family and caregiver supports and interventions to prevent protective services involvement, enhance family capacity and/or restore family connections, with particular attention to promising practices where there are parental substance use and mental health concerns.
8. Child welfare systems reform, including identification and analysis of reform or transformation initiatives in other jurisdictions, key elements, and outcomes.
9. Intimate partner and family violence including assessments of risk, supports to parents leaving violence, community and policing responses to violence, counselling, and support.

Project Goals:

The goal of the systemic review is to provide a robust analysis of the areas of the child welfare system that have consistently failed children and youth in B.C., and particularly Indigenous children and youth. The systemic review covers a range of topics. RCY will select a researcher(s) for each of the topic areas and will work directly with them in the design and completion of a research paper and annotated bibliography that addresses:

- A summary and analysis of the contemporary academic and grey literature on the topic (past 5 years);
- An overview of the existing knowledge base about the topic, with particular attention to Indigenous perspectives and knowledge;
- An interjurisdictional scan to identify promising initiatives, policies, and practices in other jurisdictions within Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom; and,

- Based on the literature and interjurisdictional scan, a summary of opportunities for reform and transformation relevant to the topic.

Researchers must also be willing to attend discussions about the cross-cutting themes between topics and opportunities for systemic reform and transformation.

Project Budget:

A budget has been reserved to provide multiple agreements (\$10,000 to \$30,000) to complete focused and concise reviews for each of the themes noted above. Each agreement will be negotiated to reflect the scope of the work required.

What RCY is Looking for in a Supplier:

RCY is seeking Suppliers who have research experience and strong writing skills, who are collaborative and consultative and who are willing to engage in discussions with RCY team members, other contractors, and parties to identify cross-cutting themes and opportunities for meaningful systemic and practice change. Ideally, Suppliers will have demonstrated a commitment to child and family well-being in past studies and work and will have some interest in and experience with Indigenous interests, issues, and ways of knowing and being.

Suppliers must be available to engage in the work immediately and work to tight timelines. The draft research papers must be submitted for review by Feb. 28, 2024, feedback will be provided by March 15, 2024, and the final edits are to be completed no later than April 15, 2024. Subsequent contracts may be negotiated for new research between March and May 2024, depending upon the findings from the investigation and systemic review.

Selection Criteria:

RCY requires multiple Suppliers to undertake the breadth of work required for the systemic review. This MULRFQ will establish a List of Qualified Suppliers that will then be engaged to work on specific topics. Eligibility for this List of Qualified Suppliers will be determined through evaluation of the following:

- Proponent's research background, skills and experience.
- Proponent's previous work on any or all of the research topics noted above.
- Proposed methodology and timelines.
- Capacity to undertake the work within tight timelines.
- Hourly rate.

Please note that experience working with First Nations, Métis, Inuit or Urban Indigenous communities or organizations, and/or working on Indigenous interests and issues is preferred. Proponents without related experience will be provided

with resources and references to enable them to enhance cultural awareness, understanding and humility.

Use of List:

The use of the List of Qualified Suppliers is subject to change as RCY may deem necessary, without notice to Qualified Suppliers on the List.

- The List of Qualified Suppliers will remain in effect until Aug. 31, 2024.
- RCY may, in its sole discretion, use the List of Qualified Suppliers in connection with an assignment. The criteria for selecting Qualified Suppliers for each task will vary, depending upon the requirements of the applicable task and could involve requiring a Supplier to have a certain demonstrated experience or proficiency level in one or more areas depending on the specific requirement of the project or assignment.
- Where more than one Qualified Supplier has similar experience or qualifications, RCY may invite the Qualified Suppliers to provide a quotation based on availability and specified requirements of the assignment.
- It is estimated that contract values will be less than \$25,000.
- Contracts for service with a Qualified Supplier will utilize a General Services Agreement template.

Delivery of Proposals:

Proposals must be submitted via email to dianne.buljat@rcybc.ca per instructions provided on the cover page of this MULRFQ.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submitted a succinct proposal (2 to 3 pages) and address the following:

- Supplier's full contact information.
- Brief overview of background and experience, and previous work on any or all of the research topics noted above.
- Capacity to undertake the work within tight timelines.
- Hourly rate.
- Two to three references

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dianne Buljat.