



APPENDIX 4

Recommendations from the Representative for Children and Youth Reports

The following is a list of reports issued by the current Representative for Children and Youth during her previous and existing term of Office with a list of recommendations that intersect with themes, findings and recommendations in the Sacred Story Investigation and Systemic Review:

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
<p>Alone and Afraid: Lessons learned from the ordeal of a child with special needs and his family (2018)</p>	<p>Recommendation #1: Recommendation #1 That MCFD undertake a comprehensive assessment of the actual need for CYSN services across B.C. and the capacity of the current system to meet those needs. This assessment is to examine funding, staffing levels and workloads, program delivery and wait times. Findings to be used to inform comprehensive service improvements so all eligible children with special needs and their families receive culturally respectful, appropriate, and timely services and supports.</p> <p>MCFD to complete the comprehensive assessment and plan by the fall of 2019, seek necessary funding enhancements and begin implementation of changes by April 2020.</p> <p>Recommendation #2: Pending completion of the comprehensive assessment, that MCFD take immediate steps to improve the current accessibility of CYSN services and supports by providing respite within a reasonable period of time, eliminating the need to choose between medical and respite benefits, and monitoring and ensuring follow-up with families not using autism funding.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
	<p>Recommendation #3: That MCFD take the lead in working with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to develop an integrated service delivery model that enables appropriate information-sharing between service providers. This model would ensure that children and youth receiving special needs services through MCFD can be supported by a case coordinator who is responsible for navigating access to, and provision of, all necessary services. The case coordinator to remain assigned to the child to ensure appropriate services and facilitate successful transition to adulthood.</p> <p>MCFD to lead development of a comprehensive plan by the fall of 2019 and seek funding and begin implementation of the plan by April 2020.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #4: That MCFD ensure its children and youth with special needs training is mandatory for child protection staff.</p> <p>MCFD to ensure that all child protection social workers complete training by April 2020.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #5: That MCFD take steps to support child protection social workers to adhere to policy on response times to child protection reports and ensure children are seen during child protection investigations. This should include consideration of additional staffing, training and resources. MCFD to track adherence to these policies.</p> <p>MCFD to begin implementation of these changes by April 2019.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #6: That MCFD and the Ministry of Education develop practice guidelines and a joint protocol to address concerns of unexplained school absences and withdrawals with the view to supporting children, youth and families and addressing barriers to school participation. MCFD and the Ministry of Education to conduct this work in consultation with advocates/stakeholders from the Indigenous and special needs communities.</p> <p>MCFD and the Ministry of Education to complete this work by May 2019.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
	<p>Recommendation #7: That the Ministry of Education establish mechanisms to enable local school districts to identify and do timely follow up when a school-age student is not registered in an educational program.</p> <p>Ministry of Education to complete this work by September 2020.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #8: That the Ministry of Education determine how many students with special needs designations are being homeschooled and conduct a review to determine whether school districts should be offering additional support and guidance to these students.</p> <p>Ministry of Education to complete this work by September 2020.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #9: That MCFD ensure identification and involvement of an Indigenous child or youth’s family, community and culture at the first point of contact with any MCFD service and continue this involvement on an ongoing basis. This should include, in consultation with Indigenous stakeholders and communities, the creation of guidelines for social workers working with Indigenous families, including resources to help them do this work.</p> <p>MCFD to complete this work by May 2019.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #10: That the Ministry of Health and MCFD develop a plan to ensure early identification, timely assessment and appropriate and accessible supports for children under six-years-old with signs of developmental delay.</p> <p>Plan to be developed by April 1, 2020 with implementation to begin immediately thereafter.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
Caught in the Middle (2019)	<p>Recommendation #1: That the Ministry of Children and Family Development bring forward to the next review of the Protocol by the Directors of Child Welfare recommendations to address shortcomings. These include the addition of cultural planning to the Protocol; clarification that when a child arrives from another province or territory without notice, the dispute resolution process may be triggered; clarification about delegation of guardianship responsibilities; and an amendment to Interprovincial Agreement forms to allow for detail regarding financial expenditures and payment mechanisms.</p> <p>Recommendation #5 That the Ministry of Children and Family Development ensure a trauma-informed method is implemented in resourcing decisions for children in its care who have experienced multiple adversities in their lives.</p> <p>MCFD to have this trauma-informed method to resourcing in place by June 2021.</p>
Skye’s Legacy: A focus on belonging (2021)	<p>Recommendation #3: In the interest of improving practice, that MCFD distribute Skye’s Legacy: A Focus on Belonging to all staff who work with and plan for children and youth who are in care or who may come into care, and then meaningfully engage in discussions with those staff about belonging for children and youth in the context of case planning, decision-making and the development and implementation of care plans.</p> <p>These discussions should be informed by the Circle practices developed in the APPF in order to foster strength-based, holistic and restorative work that centres child and youth well-being and belonging and should be designed to promote thoughtful reflection and enhance understanding. This process of engagement should not be a one-time process and should occur regularly to support strong practice development and reflection.</p> <p>Report dissemination to be completed by Aug. 31, 2021 and initial Circle discussions to be completed by March 31, 2022.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
	<p>Recommendation #1: MCFD to conduct a systemic needs analysis of cultural and family support resources required to ensure that social workers are better supported to promote a sense of belonging and identity for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children and youth in care in relation to their families, culture and cultural community over time and at different stages in their lives and identity development. This review will inform the development of a longer-term resourcing and implementation plan. However, given the urgent need to address the significant over-involvement of the child welfare system in the lives of Indigenous children and families and poor outcomes for Indigenous children in the child welfare system, a substantive investment of new resources should be made immediately that can be considered a down payment on the resources identified for the longer-term plan.</p> <p>Funding for immediate and substantive new resources to be secured and implementation to begin no later than April 1, 2022.</p> <p>Needs analysis and resourcing plan to be completed by Sept. 30, 2022 with longer-term, sustained funding secured and implementation of new resources beginning by April 1, 2023.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
<p>At a Crossroads: The roadmap from fiscal discrimination to equity in Indigenous child welfare (2022)</p>	<p>Recommendation #1: Recommendation #1 Funding Models. (A) That MCFD, as lead ministry, seek and secure from government the authority and budget capacity to adopt the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal principles of funding and provide appropriate financial resources that allow for revised funding models that are culturally based and needs-based, provide for substantive equality for all First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children living off-reserve and prioritize culturally based community wellness and prevention services.</p> <p>New Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling-based funding model to be developed by April 1, 2023 and implemented by April 1, 2024.</p> <p>(B) As part of such revision, and in relation to the 84 First Nations that are unaffiliated with an ICFS Agency, MCFD, in partnership with the 84 unaffiliated First Nations rights holders, negotiate a clearly identifiable distribution of funding transferred from Indigenous Services Canada, inclusive of any funds associated with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, with the goal of making transparent the flow of funding from Indigenous Services Canada through MCFD to First Nations.</p> <p>Transparent and accountable transfer of funding from Indigenous Services Canada through MCFD to the 84 unaffiliated First Nations to be complete by April 1, 2023.</p> <hr/> <p>Recommendation #2: Fiscal Governance. That MCFD update its ministry-specific fiscal management tools and reporting practices in order to align public funds allocated to First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous child welfare to stated spending objectives and declared government and ministry priorities as stated in the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, in particular, 4.3 which states “putting in place effective mechanisms to support the transition away from colonial systems of administration and governance.”</p> <p>MCFD to update its fiscal tools and reporting practices by April 1, 2023.</p>
<p>Missing: Why are children disappearing from B.C.’s child welfare system? (2023)</p>	<p>Recommendation #8: MCFD should also begin a full learning and development initiative, for all service lines, to train staff on the use of child-centred, person-first and identity-first, destigmatizing</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
	<p>language when speaking to, and documenting the lives of, children and youth in the child-serving system.</p> <p>To be implemented by Sept. 1, 2024</p> <hr/> <p>Recommendation #9: This review of lost and missing children highlights cross-jurisdictional research that speaks to the critical importance of a child’s sense of belonging in the child welfare system. These findings are not new for RCY and recommendations to address belonging have been made in the Representative’s report <i>Skye’s Legacy: A focus on belonging</i>, but progress has yet to be made to implement this recommendation. Therefore, the Representative reiterates the recommendation from RCY’s 2021 <i>Skye’s Legacy</i>:</p> <p>MCFD to conduct a systemic needs analysis of cultural and family support resources required to ensure that social workers are better supported to promote a sense of belonging and identity for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children and youth in care in relation to their families, culture and cultural community over time and at different stages in their lives and identity development. This review will inform the development of a longer-term resourcing and implementation plan. However, given the urgent need to address the significant over-involvement of the child welfare system in the lives of Indigenous children and families and poor outcomes for Indigenous children in the child welfare system, a substantive investment of new resources should be made immediately that can be considered a down payment on the resources identified for the longer term plan.</p> <p>Implementation of new resources was recommended by April 1, 2023, and is now overdue.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
<p>The Right to Thrive: An Urgent Call to Recognize, Respect and Nurture Two Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary and other Gender Diverse Children and Youth (2023)</p>	<p>Recommendation #2: That the Ministry of Health take lead responsibility for the ongoing design and implementation of a cross-government commitment to gender-affirming care by:</p> <p>A) Guiding a cross-ministry and partner structure and process that involves, at a minimum, the ministries of Education and Child Care, Children and Family Development, Mental Health and Addictions, all five regional health authorities, the First Nations Health Authority, the Provincial Health Services Authority (including BC Children’s Hospital Gender Clinic and Trans Care BC) and other community and public partners.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health to establish appropriate structures and processes by Oct. 31, 2023.</p> <p>B) Consistent with ministerial commitments, forming a set of principles – including trauma awareness, cultural safety and relevance, equitable and inclusive access across the province, and intersectional service provision – that will guide a coordinated approach across ministries as they create action plans for gender-affirming care for 2STNBGD children, youth and their families.</p> <p>Ministry of Health to confirm a set of principles by Feb. 29, 2024.</p> <hr/> <p>Recommendation #7: That MCFD provide foster parents with the supports and specific training they need to provide gender-affirming care for the 2STNBGD children and youth in their care. These supports and training opportunities to be made available to out-of-care providers and adoptive parents.</p> <p>MCFD to develop supports and training by Dec. 31, 2024 and implement supports and training by June 30, 2025.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
<p>A Parent's Responsibility: Government's obligation to improve the mental health outcomes of children in care (2022)</p>	<p>Recommendation #3: MCFD and ICFSA Directors, in collaboration with MMHA, co-lead the development and implementation of plans for targeted, voluntary assessment services (where indicated by screening) and evidence-based, voluntary mental health program services for children in care and children at risk of being brought into care, with particular attention to culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous children. These plans should be incorporated into the operational planning for MMHA's Pathway to Hope and MCFD's Child and Youth Mental Health Service Framework.</p> <p>Plans to be completed by Dec. 31, 2023, with full resourcing included in Budget 2024/25 and implementation beginning by April 1, 2024</p> <hr/> <p>Recommendation #6: As part of the planned reform of the Child, Family and Community Service Act, MCFD to include an amendment to the statutory rights of children in care so it is clear that these children have a right to health care, including mental health care.</p> <p>To be completed by Sept. 30, 2025.</p>
<p>Towards Inclusion: The need to improve access to mental health services for children and youth with neurodevelopmental conditions (2023)</p>	<p>Recommendation #5: The Ministry of Citizens' Services to initiate the development of a cross-ministry plan, in collaboration with MCFD, MoH, MMHA, MSDPR, and the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and in association with Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies, health authorities and Community Living BC, to routinely collect high-quality demographic and service data that allows for disaggregation, providing an essential foundation for more effective policy development, program provision and service monitoring for children and youth with support needs and their families, who are receiving services from these public bodies.</p>
<p>Excluded: Increasing Understanding, Support and Inclusion for Children with FASD and their Families (2019)</p>	<p>Recommendation #1: That the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) fully fund and implement a CYSN service framework and plan, fully inclusive of children and youth with FASD. The formation of the service framework and plan must extensively engage Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) and all appropriate partners. This framework must articulate a comprehensive and accessible array of CYSN services, delivered based on both an assessment of functional needs and diagnosis and, therefore, fully including children and youth affected by FASD.</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
	<p>Recommendation #2: Pending full implementation of Recommendation # 1, that MCFD immediately include suspected or confirmed FASD, based on an assessment of functional needs, in the eligibility criteria for CYSN Family Support Services, thereby allowing children and youth with FASD and their families to access services available to others with specific neuro-developmental conditions. The ministry should seek appropriate funding to expand the capacity of these services to adequately support the number of newly eligible FASD families so that this recommended expansion of service eligibility does not lead to reduced services or longer wait lists for other CYSN families. MCFD to secure immediate funding enhancements and begin implementation of the expanded eligibility criteria by Sept. 30, 2021.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #4: As a first step toward realizing fundamental changes in practice that address racism, stigma and bias, MCFD, in collaboration with DAAs, community service agencies and caregivers, to conduct a review of existing FASD awareness training and the training needs of all front-line staff working with children and youth with FASD. MCFD, working with DAAs, to use this review to support the development of evidence-based, culturally attuned and regularly updated training materials that ground a required training program for current staff across the range of MCFD service lines and, in particular, CYMH, CYSN, child welfare and youth justice. This awareness training should then be incorporated into basic entry training for newly hired staff and made accessible to community service agencies and caregivers.</p> <p>MCFD to complete the reviews and curriculum development and begin training by March 31, 2022 and complete training of all relevant ministry and agency staff by March 31, 2023.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #6: That the Ministry of Health incrementally reduce wait times for complex developmental behavioural conditions (CDBC) diagnostic clinics, and also secure additional resources to provide for periodic follow-up assessments, at key development stages from infancy through to adolescence. The Ministry of Health to reduce wait times to nine months by March 31, 2022; to six months by March 31, 2023; to three months by March 31, 2024; and thereafter increase capacity to provide for follow-up assessments</p>

TITLE OF REPORT & YEAR	RECOMMENDATION # AND DETAIL
	<p>Recommendation #7: That the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority and with guidance from the Task Team formed as a result of the In Plain Sight report, apply learnings from the review of systemic bias to referral pathways and assessment processes for CDBC diagnostic clinics. The changes/improvements should specifically address the issue of bias with regard to the referrals of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous children and youth for FASD assessments and ASD assessments.</p> <p>Ministry of Health to complete the review and implement recommended improvements by March 31, 2022.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #8: That the Ministry of Health conduct an assessment of existing FASD awareness training and the training needs of appropriate front-line staff working with children and youth with FASD, leading to the development of evidence-based, culturally attuned, Nation-specific and regularly updated training materials that ground a mandatory training program for current staff across the range of health services.</p> <p>Ministry of Health to complete the assessment of existing FASD awareness training by March 31, 2022. Sequentially, the Ministry of Health to identify appropriate priority front-line providers to receive training, by Sept. 30, 2022, and develop training and access to training by Sept. 30, 2023.</p>
	<p>Recommendation #10: That the Ministry of Education update its Inclusive Education Policy and supporting documents and incorporate information to increase awareness and understanding of the specific learning needs of children and youth with FASD and related disorders into the supporting documents.</p> <p>Ministry of Education to update Inclusive Education Policy and supporting documents and incorporate information to enhance awareness of FASD and related disorders by March 31, 2022.*</p> <p>*Target date revised from Sept. 1, 2021, to allow for meaningful consultation</p>