

We Are Not Looking Away Series - Session 2

Early Help and Family Support

March 31, 2026

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Introduction

This document offers a summary of the Family Support and Early Years convening RCY hosted on March 31st, 2026. The virtual gathering, hosted by B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth (RCY), Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, and Deputy Representative, Pippa Rowcliffe, was Part Two in the "We Are Not Looking Away" series. The gathering hosted practitioners, researchers, knowledge holders, policy makers, elected officials, and leaders from different sectors across British Columbia. The intention was to inspire thinking, share best practices and build momentum in holding government – and each other - to account to recommendations in RCY's Don't Look Away report.

The "We Are Not Looking Away" series focuses attention on five collective responsibilities outlined in the 2024 *Don't Look Away* report:

- Focus on Child Well-being
- Support Families
- Address Violence
- Be Accountable
- Support Jurisdiction

Together, these key areas underpin a vision for the "North Star," a transformational shift away from child protection structures focused on liability and risk management toward a holistic and coordinated approach that centres child and family well-being.

Don't Look Away tells the story of a young boy whose family struggled to raise him and his siblings amid extreme challenges: housing precarity, poverty, intimate partner and family violence, mental health and substance use concerns, high medical complexity and needs, and the profound impacts of intergenerational and cultural harm. *Don't Look Away* highlighted important gaps in our current system and called for a shift toward responsive, proactive, relational and strengths-based systems that ensure early, consistent support for families to manage expected and unexpected stressors. It also pointed to the shared responsibility required to work alongside families and to

recognize their strengths as foundational for continued growth, so all children have the best chance to thrive.

In addition to re-committing our Office's call to support families more quickly when they experience challenges, this convening provided guests an opportunity to listen in on a discussion with Ramona Baxter, Joanne Schroeder and Dr. Matt Carwana, who shared perspectives from their different vantage points within the system.

Opening Reflections from RCY Cultural Advisor

Debra Foxcroft

Debra Foxcroft is a member of the Tseshaht First Nation and a recipient of the Order of British Columbia. Daughter of Jeanette Gallic and the late James Gallic, and granddaughter of Jessie (née Campbell) and “Jimmy” Gallic, she is also a devoted sister, auntie, mother, and grandmother. A proud Tseshaht woman, Deb brings integrity and strong values to her work, with over 30 years’ leadership advocating for First Nations children and families and their health and wellbeing. Deb is one of three cultural advisors that have guided RCY’s work since the inception of the sacred story investigation and systemic review that led to the *Don’t Look Away* report. We are deeply grateful for Deb’s guidance, wisdom and insights in her role as one of RCY’s Cultural Advisors.

Deb Foxcroft, RCY’s Cultural Advisor, welcomed participants to the gathering and invited Judy Wilson, also a Cultural Advisor, to share a prayer. She wore an orange shirt to honour the children who did not return from residential schools, as well as those lost to the current child and family system. She emphasized a shared purpose - supporting children, youth, and families - and provided a message of hope and collective responsibility. Deb expressed gratitude that a growing circle of people from different fields across the province, are coming together to do this work on behalf of children and their families.

"You all are the changemakers in the lives of our children and youth."

Deb acknowledged that despite the challenging times that families, communities and organizations now face, she is inspired and hopeful that change is possible and noted that each of us can make a difference in the daily lives of child and families. She urged participants to do "one small thing at a time" and encouraged us all to "be" the change.

"Sometimes it takes just reaching out to each other to make a change in a child's life."

Deb closed her time by sharing an intention that invited participants to journey inward and uncover insights that are important for the path forward. She reminded attendees that dreams and inner visions can become reality when we know them and live them.



Figure 1 Photo of the circle Deb Foxcroft created for the Early Help & Support Families gathering

commitment to amplify the learnings and recommendations arising from the sacred story investigation and systemic review at the centre of *Don't Look Away*. She highlighted that a key learning from this work is the need to look beyond an individual experience and tragedy toward the conditions that create challenge and harm for so many families and children. The call to action in *Don't Look Away* is to take a holistic approach that addresses on-going systemic and structural factors that create challenge.

The larger context of income and food insecurity, housing precarity, family violence and mental health stressors are some of the “layered pressures” burdening families that sit, as Dr. Charlesworth described, within an existing service system that is driven by mindsets that create harm, lacks coordination, resists information sharing and that fragments services. She shared that a profound insight from *Don't Look Away* reinforces that “no single system” can solve these problems. And yet, we often look only to the child protection system to address family stressors and risks when these can be more effectively addressed in collaboration with other sectors and systems, such as income security, housing, education, justice and health. We all have a collective responsibility to lean in and do better for our young people.

“We can’t solve challenges that families and young people are experiencing through narrow mandates. We have to see the interconnections...let’s see ourselves as together in this.”

The Representative reflected on the qualities of a transformed system that would step in early with families to provide appropriate help when they need it. She emphasized the importance of building this with principles and values of child and family-well-being at the core. She also emphasized that relationships are central to well-being and that the quality of a child’s family and community environment matters deeply. She invited all those present to work at many levels to create conditions for children, families and communities to be well together.

"We are focusing very much on the crisis rather than on bolstering the opportunity for families to be whole, safe places of nurturance."

Acknowledging the constructive and nurturing work happening across the province related to early help and family support, Dr. Charlesworth made note of First Nations who are reclaiming jurisdiction over the well-being of their children as well as the First Nation, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous leadership who are responding to their communities to deliver services that centre people, place, family and culture. Dr. Charlesworth also noted that RCY is continuing to focus on early help and family support through our own research and collaboration noting partnerships with the First Call Society of B.C. and the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society.

In closing, Dr. Charlesworth offered a reminder that the convening is an opportunity to deepen our shared understanding of what early help and family support means by listening to and connecting with perspectives from across systems. She urged that we "can't go to a playbook that's already been written" and that through open dialogue we have an opportunity to "share and try out and scale up" the good work that is already happening in our communities.

"We are talking about ecosystems, and we're all part of that broader ecosystem around children."

Fireside Chat - Eagle View, Treetop and Riverside Perspectives

Romona Baxter

Romona is the Executive Director of the Nzen'man' Child and Family Development Centre in Lytton, BC. This Nlaka'pamux organization provides a wide range of early years services for children and their families, including those living with autism. Romona is from the Nation and has served in this role for over 25 years to help create early learning spaces that honour Nlaka'pamux children as the heart of their communities.

Joanne Schroeder

Joanne is a settler on the traditional territories of the K'omoks People on Vancouver Island, a mother of four and grandmother of three. She has held many roles within the early help and family support sphere including in her position, Director of Strategy and Innovation at the Human Early Learning Partnership, UBC, where she led the Network for Compassionate Systems Leadership in B.C., advancing systems and policies that support children and youth in the education system.

Dr. Matthew Carwana

Matt is an Investigator and General Pediatrician at BC Children's Hospital and a Faculty member at UBC. His research focuses on reducing health inequities among structurally marginalized children and youth through community-engaged research, innovative health service delivery, and policy-relevant evidence grounded in the social determinants of health.

Following the Representative's welcome, to the Fireside Chat, guests Romona Baxter, Matt Carwana and Joanne Schroeder, RCY Deputy Representative, Pippa Rowcliffe, opened the conversation. It was designed to offer diverse perspectives from across systems. The intention of this chat was to inspire reflection and insight, build hope and create the impetus for coordinated and collective action. Pippa opened with the metaphor of eagle, treetop and riverside views to represent what we can see and work on when we step back and see the many systems that touch children's and families' well-being as a whole, what we can note when we observe interconnected policies, program, and services, and the daily reflections we have when we are working directly with families and children.

During the chat, Joanne, Matt and Romona were invited to share insights about what early help and family support means to them in their work, provide reflections on shortfalls they see and share examples of where they see promising innovation.

Eagle View Perspective

Romona began by reflecting that taking a relational lens is not something that is new for Indigenous people; it was how her community has always understood care. In her words, “our families, our children are not cases. They are not clients. They are kinship.” Romona expanded on this by sharing the importance of walking alongside families right from the beginning, by meeting families where they are at without judgement, by allowing families to say what they need and by reducing stress in the moment.

“It is not about big interventions but small, consistent acts of care over time.”

In her reflections, Romona acknowledged the ongoing impacts of the Lytton wildfire in 2021 on her community and noted the added importance of listening intentionally to families’ needs and being present for community in multiple ways.

Matt continued the conversation by offering a reflection on self-awareness and of the responsibility we each have to think critically about bias or expectation that could influence how we listen and respond to families. He also spoke about the importance of building peer and community connections to reduce reliance on systems that are siloed, fragmented, and inaccessible. Matt suggested “de-professionalizing” solutions and approaches by centring social connection and by being there to support people on their own journey.

“Deep listening and deep centering of what the children, the youth and the families are telling us they need is absolutely critical.”

Joanne reiterated the value of helping families build on the relationships they already have and acknowledged the importance of universal, low barrier supports and services within communities, including the role of childcare within the system.

She offered the notion of “just helping” with the day-to-day tasks that people need and acknowledged the embodied feeling of care that comes from these interactions. Joanne also spoke to the importance of a broad definition of what “family” means and looks like.

Treetop Perspective

From eagle view down to the treetops, Pippa invited the fireside guests to consider where systems are falling short in supporting families and to share some consequences for families when support comes too late or not at all.

Joanne shared that recent Human Early Learning Partnership research ([Early Years Disrupted](#)) indicates that 1 in 3 kindergarteners are vulnerable in multiple areas and that this number is continuing to increase. The research points to particularly steep increases in vulnerability in children’s social and emotional development, which is often a precursor to later mental health concerns. She referenced intersecting issues – such as the ongoing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic together with long waitlists for services – as factors indicating that family support, especially for those with young children, is falling short.

“Systems are failing because we aren't getting in there early enough.”

On the consequences of late, limited or lack of supports, Matt referenced the expression “people falling through the cracks” and suggested that, rather than falling, families are also actively avoiding systems that are unsafe. He suggested that it is important to acknowledge the inherent risk and harms to young people and families within our existing system. In doing so it is more possible to see the specific role that each organization can play in breaking down silos and communicating across sectors, “without pointing fingers,” to wrap around families in the best way we can.

Romona picked up on Joanne's thread about data and explained that data are an important part in helping her community know that the work being done is making a difference. She noted that for, First Nations in particular, access to data, data sovereignty and culturally appropriate tools are key factors influencing communities today.

Romona also noted that fragmented funding models alongside a lack of balance in funding amounts for early help, prevention and family resource programming are key challenges. In Romona's words, "we don't fund prevention in the same way as we fund intervention". She reflected that trust-building and relational work is not valued within the system and that a lack of funding indicates there is a lack of respect for the early help sector.

"Honoring and respecting that Indigenous people have their own laws and their own ways of being and caring, and they know what it is they need to do, but they are not adequately funded or supported to breathe life into their ways of being."

Romona described how important it is for Indigenous communities to articulate their own frameworks for prevention. She referenced the [Wrapping our Ways Around Them](#)¹ guidebook developed to improve outcomes for children and families by promoting Indigenous laws, culture and community services.

¹ Walkem, Ardith, ShchEma-mee.tkt Project (Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council), Annie York, et al, and Talon Books. *Wrapping Our Ways Around Them: Aboriginal Communities and the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA) Guidebook*. ShchEma-mee.tkt Project (Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council), n.d. https://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/wowat_bc_cfcsa_1.pdf.

Riverside Perspective

Pippa transitioned the conversation by asking Romona, Joanne and Matt to think about where they see family support and early help being delivered in community in positive ways that are coordinated and aspirational.

Joanne began by sharing a project called [Building Connections for Valley Parents](#). The program's goal was to reduce childhood vulnerability by 25% by 2025 and while it is still working toward that goal, the parent-led, low-barrier program has experienced great success. She described that having "close to home" access to connection centres situated around the community helped create a network of support for families. Joanne described that the program is building intergenerational connections, noting that young families, especially those away from their extended families, benefit from spending time with older people.

"One of the great successes of the Building Connections program, is having that intergenerational piece. Welcoming in people that don't normally support, but who have raised their own children and have some great wisdom."

Romona restated the value of investing in relationships early on and shared the ways community wraps around her work with families. Romona described how rising river levels and ferry shutdowns impact families living in more isolated communities near Lytton. When access is cut off, it is the "uncles" in the community - the ferry workers - who quietly step in, asking community members to check on new mothers and gently reminding them to visit families who may be struggling. She spoke of grandmothers who speak up to ensure their families are supported and cared for in a good way.

"When our community is coming forward and telling us to look here, we're going look there, and try to provide the best possible services that we can."

In closing, Romona acknowledged that they don't always "get it right" and, that while there are challenges, it comes down to finding different ways to engage and starting in relationship.

Matt shared his belief that, although it will take time and requires "soft hearts and strong backs," change will happen. He called for an ongoing responsibility within the system to demand that providers are accountable for a "trauma-embodied" understanding of colonization and reconciliation. Matt spoke about the [Braiding Wisdoms](#) project, named by community member Candice Norris, which is a collaborative between over fifteen Vancouver organizations who are "pretending silos don't exist" and coming together to support families. He described Braiding Wisdoms as a network that enables families to lead their own case conferences based on who they think needs to be there to support their well-being. Like Romona and Joanne, Matt acknowledged that Braiding Wisdoms is a project in process and that they are continually learning.

In closing, he suggested that rather than "trying to change" the system, we consider a message shared by Sharnelle, a Braiding Wisdoms project partner from West Coast LEAF, who said, "maybe we can do something really cool and let the system catch up to us."

Throughout the discussion, participants shared connections, resources and ideas in the Zoom chat:

- On values and mindsets:
 - Harnessing the belief that parents and caregivers know their children best
 - Empowering families to voice what they need in the moment
 - Providing early supports in a caring way
 - Acknowledging harms that persist in our system and working to address them

- On systems falling short:
 - Funding constraints that have unreasonable limitations on how funds are used, that lack flexibility, and provide inadequate levels for hiring personnel
 - Funding issues contribute to sense of moral injury when frontline workers are required to follow “cumbersome” reporting rather than spend more time with clients
 - Fragmented funding practices undermine holistic approaches for Indigenous families and children
 - Challenges with burnout and staff retention in agencies
 - Feeling that family support is too often seen as “a frill”
 - People unwilling to work beyond their legislative frameworks
- On best practices:
 - The practice of “wisdom vested in community”
 - Natural networks of care around families and children
 - Working directly with children, youth and families
 - Including cultural and/or therapeutic approaches to support full family systems and structures allowing them to move through impacts causing trauma

Pippa closed the fireside chat by offering two reflection prompts to guide breakout room discussions.

- What inspired you or particularly resonated with you in the fireside chat?
- What feels possible in your network, relationships or community to support families earlier?

Breakout Sessions: What We Talked About

The breakout session offered participants an opportunity to connect in smaller groups of 3-5 people for reflective conversations on what resonated from the fireside chat and to share ideas from their different perspectives, locations and sectors. Following the small group connection time, participants were invited to add their shared insights into the chat and several participants offered to speak in their reflections.

Material harvested from the Zoom chat and shared reflections covered many interrelated themes and topics that built from fireside conversation.

The importance of relational, family-led services and supports

Ideas shared from the breakout rooms into the zoom chat emphasized the value of relational, family-led approaches to services that prioritize trust, flexibility, and prevention. Participants highlighted the importance of listening to children, youth and families, building relationships alongside administrative processes that are efficient and supportive, and shifting from individual services toward family and community-centred support. There was a sense of optimism throughout, with participants noting the encouragement that comes from focusing on the innovative work people are currently doing to nurture children and families.

“Our small group discussed resilience and hope and the importance of children’s voices in this work.”

The role of collaboration and the strength of networks

The dialogue surfaced several interconnected ideas about communication, shared learning and the value of regular connection. Participants noted that, while there

are examples of strong partnerships, systems continue to operate in silos, and that there is a need to reinvigorate community and situation tables to enhance information-sharing and encourage and deliver wrap-around supports for families. Family-centred supports, including dedicated system navigators, were identified as invaluable, alongside the role of natural networks of support and intentional spaces for connection.

Coming from a place of, not individual thinking, it is collective thinking. It is We, Us, and Our."

The tensions

Discussions also raised challenges in early help and family support funding, programs and services. Existing siloed systems and funding models are crisis-driven, rigid, and transactional, and create barriers for families to access timely and safe support. Time pressures, age cut-offs, contractual constraints and waitlists undermine relationship-based, community-focused work, particularly in rural areas.

"We also talked a lot about the challenges of the siloing between the systems which makes it harder to manage that transition and continuity of support."

The gift of early support

Participant reflections also noted the benefits of holistic, early help and described how supporting and walking alongside families and caregivers earlier, can lead to stronger outcomes for children, youth and their circles of care. Discussions indicated there is growing momentum for upstream, community-based approaches and "in-the-moment" support that recognize varying levels of need and diversity. The practices of slowing down, offering voice and choice through focused, flexible

services, and “being there” were offered as ways of being available for children, youth and their families from the start.

“It is more important than ever to take the time to listen, discuss, and build connection in our communities.”

What this Conversation Makes Clear

The convening offered a space for participants from across many sectors to listen, reflect and build a collective aspiration about what is possible for children and their families when early help and support are made available. The convening affirmed the notion that constructive change that is designed and led by community, focusing directly on what families need, is possible and indeed is happening all over the province. Opportunities to think together, and to talk and share, builds collective inspiration and momentum for continued action.

From the eagle view to the riverside, these conversations make clear several fundamental themes:

- Being present, listening before acting and offering relational, early support improves outcomes for children, youth and families.
- Family, peer and community-led support based on trust, voice and choice builds capacity and leads to constructive change from the riverside upwards.
- Fragmented, crisis-driven systems privilege rigid and siloed practices that undermine timely, holistic supports for families and communities.
- Shared learning, natural networks and collaborative partnerships help different sectors, or areas of the system, to work together to better support families.
- A robust approach to early help and family support requires that we take a look at what underlies and leads to protection concerns and address these quickly and comprehensively so that abuse, neglect and violence do not take root.

- Indigenous nations, organizations and service providers are demonstrating the value of community-defined, culturally appropriate and holistic approaches in their work.
- Community-led groups and partnerships that centre social connection, intergenerational relationships and shared support are models of promising practice that can be learned from and built on across the province.
- Family well-being and community resilience are possible when there is a collective response to provide non-judgmental early help, support and services.

“We talked about wanting more conversations like these where we can bring our perspectives and questions out of our silos and into collective wisdom”

Appendix A – Registration Overview

The Early Help and Family Support convening brought together participants from across government, Indigenous leadership, health, education, advocacy, justice and community-based services. The over 300 registrants reflected a broad network of organizations working at the intersection of family support, child well-being, accountability and relational practice. The following overview lists participation by sector.

Community-Based Services and Early Learning

ARC Programs
 Aspire Preschool
 Caring Families Society
 Clements Centre Society
 Coastal Mountain Child Youth Services Ltd. and Integrity Family Services Ltd.
 Covenant House Vancouver
 Encompass Support Services Society
 Family Action Network
 Family Services of Greater Vancouver
 Interior Community Services
 Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
 Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative
 Langley Community Services Society
 Leo Street Youth and Family Services
 Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families
 North Okanagan Neurological Association (NONA Child Development Centre)
 Northwest Child Development Centre
 Pacific Community Resources Society- Broadway Youth Resource
 Pivot Point Family Growth Centre Inc.
 PLEA Community Services
 RayCam Co-operative Centre
 Shuswap Children's Association
 Sources Community Resource Centres
 Terrace Child Development Centre

Thrive Social Services Society
 Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre
 Yukon Child Development Centre

Indigenous Government, Leadership and Organizations

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
 Carrier Sekani Family Services
 Denisiqi Services Society
 Gitxsan Child and Family Services
 Heiltsuk Kaxla Child and Family Services Society
 Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society
 Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services
 Métis Nation British Columbia
 Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child and Family Services Society
 Northwest Inter-nation Family and Community Services Society - NIFCS
 Nzen'man' Child and Family Development Centre Society
 Our Children Our Way Society
 Prince George Native Friendship Centre
 Tl'etinqox Government
 Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society
 Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
 Usma Nuw Chah Nulth Family and Child Services
 Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services
 Xyolhemeylh Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society

Childhood Development and Family Support Organizations

Autism BC
 Autism Community Training Centre
 BC Association for Child Development and Intervention
 BC Blink Sports and Recreation
 BC Centre of Ability
 BC Early Hearing Program
 BC Foster Parents Association
 Board Voice Society of BC
 Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia

Community Action Initiative
 Defence for Children International - Canada
 Family Smart
 Family Support Institute of BC
 Keeping Families Together
 Federation of Community Social Services of BC
 Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks
 First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society
 Inclusion BC
 Learning Disabilities Association of BC
 LDS – Learn. Develop. Succeed.
 Moms Stop the Harm
 Parent Support Services Society of BC
 The Sonar Foundation
 YWCA BC

Child and Youth Advocacy Centres and Integrated Service Models

BC Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres Society
 Big Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre
 Foundry

Housing, Anti-violence and Anti-Poverty Sector Organizations

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
 BC Society of Transition Houses
 Cowichan Women Against Violence Society
 Cythera Anti Violence Society
 NOW Canada Society
 Threshold Housing Society
 Prince George Sexual Assault Centre
 Reach Child and Youth Development Society

Justice, Legal and Advocacy Partners

BC First Nations Justice Council

Cedar & Sage Law
 Society for Children and Youth of BC – Child and Youth Legal Centre
 West Coast LEAF

Academic, Research and Knowledge Partners

At-Risk Youth Study – BC Centre on Substance Use
 Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP, UBC)
 McCreary Centre Society
 University of British Columbia
 University of Northern British Columbia
 University of Victoria

Independent Consultants and Other Participants

Catalyst for Change Collective
 Heart and Soul Counselling & Consulting
 Family - *Grandma*
 Thomas Robinson Consulting Smithers

Health Authorities and Health System Partners

First Nation Health Authority
 Northern Health
 Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)
 Vancouver Coastal Health

Municipal Government

City of Merritt
 City of Courtenay
 District of Kitimat
 Village of Tahsis
 Vancouver-Little Mountain Community Office (MLA Christine Boyle)

Provincial Government and Oversight Bodies

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Public Guardian and Trustee of BC
BC Coroners Service
BC Ombudsperson

Appendix B- Resources and Services Gathered in the Zoom Chat

Resource / Organization	Population served	Type	Notes
No Time to Wait - RCY	Children, youth, families	Advocacy / research	Review of MCFD's child welfare workforce
Early Years Help Strategy (North Yorkshire, UK)	Public, systems	Strategy / Framework	UK strategy that aims to create a shared approach to meeting child and family needs across wider child and family care systems
Nzen'man' Child and Family Development Centre	Children, youth, families	Indigenous service organization	Children and family service provider within Nlaka'pamux Nation
Wrapping Our Ways Around Them	Indigenous child and family service providers	Guidebook	Resource for Indigenous Nations and community involvement in caring for Indigenous children
HELP UBC	Researchers, public, systems	Research / Data	Collaborative research centre at University of British Columbia focused on childhood development, social determinants of health and equity.
Early Years Disrupted	Researchers, public, systems	Research / Data	HELP research initiative documenting decline in developmental health for kindergarten children

			following COVID-19 pandemic
<u>Family Smart</u>	Children, youth, families	Provincial network / services	Support for parents / caregivers whose children are experiencing mental health and / or substance use problems
<u>Building Connections for Valley Families Project</u>	Children, youth, families	Community based project / services	Community program serving rural communities with early years programming
<u>Carrier Sekani Family Services</u>	Children, youth, families	Indigenous service organization	Child and family service provider for First Nations people in the Carrier and Sekani territories
<u>UBC HEAL</u>	Children, youth, families	Education / support	Aims to empower youth to understand the healthcare system, and to encourage youth to take care of themselves
<u>Inclusion BC</u>	Children, youth, families	Advocacy / education / provincial network	A federation of members that work together to build inclusive communities
<u>Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services</u>	Children, youth, families	Indigenous service organization	Indigenous-led, fully delegated, non-profit child and family services agency within City of Vancouver
First Nation Family Facilitators	Children, youth, families		

<u>Situation Tables</u>	Service providers	Network / services	Collaborative, multi-agency groups that bring together police, health, education, and social service professionals to provide proactive support
<u>Family Support Institute</u>	Children, youth, families	Advocacy / education / provincial network	Network supporting families who have a member with any disability
<u>Métis Nation BC</u>	Children, youth, families	Indigenous service organization	Governing organization representing / advocating for Métis citizens in BC
<u>Health Justice Alliance</u>	Children, youth, families	Advocacy / research / education	Interdisciplinary partnership designed to address factors driving health inequities
<u>Community Living BC</u>	Children, youth, families	Advocacy / provincial services	Supporting adults with developmental disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
<u>Northwest Child Development Centre</u>	Children, youth, families	Community services	Provides family-centered health and social services to children and youth
<u>BC Association for Child Development and Intervention</u>	Children, youth, families	Advocacy / education / provincial network	Represents non-profit agencies providing services to children / youth with special needs and their families

Parent Support Services Society of BC			Provides free support to parents, grandparents and kinship caregivers
WANLA March 2026 Playlist	Everyone	Self-care	Tech host, Amanda Fenton's playlist that was shared during convening

Appendix C – Questions Gathered from Zoom Chat

Verbatim Question	Responses / Notes / Context
A participant asked me if the recording will be made available after the event?	We will be recording the session, and Dr. Charlesworth's presentation and the Fireside Chat will be shared.
How long is this session?	9am – 12 noon
How can a family experience relational care when social workers change so frequently (especially in protection) and CYSN social workers have unmanageable caseloads and too often never even get to meet the child and family?	Jennifer responded to this question: Such an important point. This is one of the reasons that we did 2 additional companion reports entitled <u>No Time to Wait</u> Part one and Part two that spoke to the staffing capacity needed within MCFD to achieve this shift towards early help and family support. Seventeen recommendations were made to ensure MCFD staff were better supported. Having said that, it is also important to think about what the role of MCFD is right now, and what other parts of the broader ecosystem need to step in to provide those preventive/early intervention services, and how we can

	shift the orientation towards them seeing their critical role to support families. We also learned from North Yorkshire in the UK that implemented an early help model with tremendous outcomes. See the Early Years Help Strategy. Similar early help models are in place in other jurisdictions so we know it is possible. Our fireside chat guests will speak in to their experiences on supporting families and early help and ways to get from where we are to where children and families need us to be. I have no doubt it is possible, however shifting mindsets and related structures, processes and practices is not easy so collective persistence is key.
Thank you, Ramona I would love to know more about how you're able to reduce need for forms. This is something we see that our Indigenous agency has difficulty with since we have to balance existing in colonial systems and laws.	Romona responded to this question during the fireside chat: “We don't approach families with forms and that sort of thing, we recognize we have to keep our documentation, we have to do that important work, but it's definitely not something that we bring into homes and with families straight

	away. That stuff can come later, so for us, it's about building relationship."
Who keeps the data and how can it be accessed?	<i>@Corinne Thunderchild - can you clarify your question so we make sure we get the information you are looking for, please and thanks!</i>
Has there been progress on inter-agency/Min responses (MCFD, Edu, etc.) following the release of the report?	Jennifer responded to the question: Government accepted all recommendations in July 2024, and our systemic advocacy team is monitoring progress on the recommendations. We articulated quick impact recommendations and longer-term recs. Some progress has been made in a number of areas...and we are hoping that government will launch a child well-being strategy, action plan and outcomes measurement soon - which will reflect the all-of-government approach that we called for. Slower progress than I would like, but baby steps are happening.