

Co-developing a Funding Model to Support First Nations Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services in BC



January 2024: Engagement Overview, Emerging Themes & Next Steps

Purpose

In September 2023, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) sent a discussion paper, *Building a Funding Model to Support First Nations Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services in BC*, to Indigenous partners and all 204 First Nations with an invitation to engage on a new funding model as a first step in co-development. This one-pager has been created to provide an update on the funding model engagements, summarize feedback gathered so far, and to discuss next steps.

Engagement Overview

From September to December 2023, MCFD gave introductory engagement presentations to 29 First Nations rights holders including Treaty partners, and other Indigenous partners. Follow-up sessions were also held in November and December. Representatives from either Indigenous Services Canada or Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Northern Affairs Canada, have been observers at these presentations. Several groups have provided written feedback and MCFD is coordinating responses.

Emerging Themes

- Block funding as the funding type has been generally well received. There has been some discussion of how the block is constructed.
- Concern that the co-development timeline is too short.
- There has been robust conversation around how to define membership population.
- Several partners have asked for clarification of the needs-based top up formula component.
- Treaty Nations have discussed how to integrate the funding model with their treaties.
- Several partners have raised transition costs and impacts to Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies if Nations deliver services to members directly.
- Clarification on the province's funding relationship with Canada.

Next Steps

MCFD is connecting with engagement partners in mid-January 2024 on next steps for the co-development process moving forward. MCFD is also in the process of compiling discussion and written feedback from engagements into an interim What We Heard Report for distribution in early 2024.

While we have concluded the introductory engagement phase, please reach out if you would like to be involved in the process moving forward. Written feedback is welcome at any time. Please connect with Andrew Hutton at Andrew.Hutton@gov.bc.ca or MCF.Partnership.and.Indigenous.Engagement@gov.bc.ca.