

# Interim What We Heard Report July 2024

Co-Developing a Funding Model to Support  
First Nations Jurisdiction over Child and Family  
Services

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## Acknowledgements

We want to acknowledge the diverse territories of First Nations within BC. We are grateful to carry out our work on these lands.

We want to thank each person who participated in our engagement gratefully; your time and energy are essential in creating a positive and creative path forward for systemic reform. We acknowledge the bravery it takes to share your thoughts and stories and are grateful for your courage and vulnerability. We hope that you see yourselves reflected in these pages.

This document was drafted within the traditional territories of the Lekwungen Peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations and sqilxw/Syilx (Okanagan) peoples. We recognize their special and historical relationship to these lands continues today. We are committed to building meaningful relationships with the Indigenous peoples we serve, partner with, and who we work alongside.

## Intention Statement

The Interim What We Heard report is intended to reflect the diverse range of feedback received up to and including the April 25, 2024 workshop on how a funding model could support Indigenous jurisdiction. We heard from First Nations, Modern Treaty Nations, Indigenous Governing Bodies, Indigenous organizations, and consulted with Métis Nation BC. The report summarizes common themes as well as key distinctions in the perspectives shared.

# Executive Summary

The province of British Columbia (BC) is committed to reducing the number of Indigenous children in its child welfare system, as guided by the Declaration Act Action Plan principles. A key action within this plan is the commitment to co-develop a BC-specific funding model in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, and in consultation with key Indigenous organizations, to support and move forward with jurisdiction over child and family services. First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services in BC reflects the inherent right of those First Nations in BC to decide on the welfare and upbringing of their children, rooted in their unique traditions and values.

This report is intended to represent the early perspectives of First Nations and other Indigenous partners without any modifications or bias. The report is an interim step in the co-development process, which aims to gather feedback to establish a new funding model to support First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services in British Columbia. This initiative aligns with the Declaration Act Action Plan and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which seeks to bring about a transformational shift in acknowledging and respecting Indigenous rights and interests.

In September 2023, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) distributed the ["Building a Funding Model to Support First Nations Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services in BC"](#) discussion paper to 204 First Nations in BC and other Indigenous partners, and was also released via the [govTogetherBC website](#). This paper was intended as a first step in the co-development of BC's funding model. It aimed to outline the current state of funding for Indigenous child and family services and BC's initial thoughts on a funding model to support the effective exercise of First Nations jurisdiction over those services. The discussion paper was used as a foundation and reference document for the Fall 2023 initial engagement session discussions described in this report.

The co-development timeline and process itself emerged as a central theme during this engagement. Many First Nations requested more time to co-develop the funding model than was proposed in the discussion paper, noting that that meaningful co-development could not take place in the timeline initially proposed. First Nations also emphasized the need for a transparent and inclusive co-development process where their voices are heard and actively shape the outcomes. The call for a more engaged and informed co-development process stood out as a pivotal requirement for the success of the funding model. Throughout the engagement sessions, there were many different conversations, interests, questions, and concerns vocalized by the First Nations and the partners that attended. The key themes from the introductory and follow-up sessions are summarized below under three primary categories: Co-Development Process; Funding Model Specifics; and Strategic Planning and Policy Development.

## Key Themes:

1. **Co-Development Process:** Partnerships and co-development emerged as central themes in discussions between First Nations, Modern Treaty Nations, Indigenous organizations and MCFD. There were concerns about the compressed timelines and the need for a transparent, collaborative, inclusive process that respects Indigenous sovereignty and ensures the funding model reflects the unique circumstance of each Nation. The need to take a clearer distinctions-based approach between First Nations (for example, recognizing BC's unique relationship with Modern Treaty Nations) also emerged as a significant point of discussion.
2. **Funding Model Specifics:** Many partners signaled that a block funding approach to jurisdiction made sense as a starting point for funding model co-development and was generally aligned with promoting self-government and self-determination. Some partners expressed concerns with block funding based on previous experiences with different levels of government and ministries. The feedback from introductory sessions highlighted the need to tailor funding to address the unique needs of each First Nation and recognize various cost drivers. In particular, the funding model must be able to recognize any unique treaty responsibilities and relationships. Partners also generally noted that it is critical to prioritize needs-based factors in the funding model to effectively address each First Nation's unique circumstances.
3. **Strategic Planning and Policy Development:** Engagement feedback revealed challenges related to funding model implementation such as addressing block funding limitations, sustainable financial planning, and developing responsive funding models. There is also a need to clarify BC and Canada's roles in bearing costs, especially transitional costs, before implementing jurisdiction. Policy considerations and other dynamics were suggested to be addressed.

## Response to Initial Engagement

MCFD has taken feedback from the Fall 2023 engagement sessions seriously and has revised the timeline to allow for successful co-development. To ensure effective communication, a new approach has been taken to virtual engagement. Bi-weekly co-development sessions began in March of 2024 to delve into detailed topics of identified components and recommendations made by Indigenous Partners. These sessions are two hours long and are held with various distinctions-based groups. The group composition will be adjusted as required to better meet the participants' needs. The sessions consist of both Discovery Sessions and Recommendation Sessions. The approach in this ongoing bi-weekly engagement is to provide the opportunity for Indigenous Partners to gain a deeper understanding of each component and understand which considerations may impact the final model before providing a recommendation; in turn, these sessions provide an opportunity for MCFD to take the pulse of participants with respect to these components and also provide MCFD with a greater understanding of the unique perspectives,

circumstances, and challenges of Nations in BC. The sessions also offer a space to share concerns, suggestions, and feedback amongst their groups and MCFD. In addition, an in-person workshop was held in Vancouver in April of 2024.

## Introduction

This report serves as a comprehensive summary of the feedback obtained from First Nations and Indigenous partners during the introductory engagement sessions and follow-up sessions held between September and December 2023, subsequent ongoing bi-weekly co-development sessions, and the April 2024 in-person workshop. The objective of this report is to provide an interim summary of the feedback that was received during these sessions. This feedback has been instrumental in shaping the overall process and ensuring that it is inclusive and transparent. As a result of the feedback received, MCFD has added an additional number of co-development sessions to the process. Furthermore, an extended timeline has been established to ensure that all partners' inputs are considered. This report marks the first of two "What We Heard" Reports. The Next Steps section of this report provides more details on the upcoming steps in the process.

### What is First Nations Jurisdiction Over Child and Family Services?

First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services in BC reflects the inherent right of First Nations located in BC to decide on the welfare and upbringing of their children, anchored in their unique traditions and values. The significance of this jurisdiction is underscored by the historical overrepresentation of Indigenous children in care. In recognizing and supporting this jurisdiction, there is an opportunity to confront and rectify these longstanding issues. It ensures cultural preservation, upholds Indigenous self-determination, and provides a pathway to address systemic imbalances and ensure Indigenous children grow within environments honouring their identity, history, and cultural connections.

## Background

The Province of British Columbia (BC) is committed to reducing the number of Indigenous children in BC's child welfare system and supporting First Nations in resuming their inherent jurisdiction over child and family services. A key action in the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) is the commitment to co-develop a BC-specific funding model in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, and in consultation with key Indigenous organizations, to support and move forward with jurisdiction over child and family services. First Nations' jurisdiction over child and family services in BC reflects the inherent right of First Nations in BC to decide on the welfare and upbringing of their children, rooted in their unique traditions and values.

This paper is intended as a first step in the co-development of BC's funding model and aims to outline the current state of funding for Indigenous child and family services, BC's proposed approach to co-development, and BC's initial thoughts on possible funding models to support the effective exercise of First Nations jurisdiction.

## Purpose of Document

MCFD does not have a pre-determined vision or formula for the funding model to support First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services in BC. While this document is an “Interim What We Heard” Report, efforts to hear from and co-develop with First Nations and Indigenous partners in BC are ongoing. This document is intended as an early opportunity to seek transparency and a “check-in” with First Nations to support the co-development of the new funding model.

This “Interim What We Heard Report” summarizes the feedback and insights gathered so far from First Nations and other Indigenous partners on co-developing a funding model for First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services in BC. It represents an interim compilation of diverse perspectives aimed at informing and enhancing the ongoing co-development process.

The report captures key themes, challenges, and recommendations, highlighting the critical need for a responsive, inclusive model tailored to the unique needs of First Nations resuming jurisdiction. It serves as a foundational tool to guide further discussions, ensuring that the co-development of the funding model remains a collaborative, transparent, and community-focused endeavour. This report is instrumental in shaping a framework for the next steps in the co-development phase that addresses current concerns and lays the groundwork for a sustainable and effective partnership in fiscal policymaking.

## What is a Funding Model?

Reference to a funding model in this report outlines the financial bounds, responsibilities, and guidelines for financial decision-making within:

*A funding model* refers to a set of rules, principles, and arrangements that govern the financial aspects of agreements involving one or more parties.

- A **tripartite** agreement between Canada, BC, and an Indigenous Governing Body (within the framework of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* or pursuant to a modern treaty agreement) and;
- A **bilateral** agreement between BC and Indigenous communities.

A funding model is a strategic way to fairly and transparently decide how funding is allocated and distributed to support jurisdiction.

## Engagement Approach

The overall engagement approach for Fall 2023 was based on the understanding that the engagement was to be the first step in a co-development process. As that first step in the process, the engagement was designed to facilitate initial relationship building, communicate an overview of the discussion paper, explore emerging themes with partners, and to listen to partner feedback on the proposed timeline and process.

As MCFD is a part of the provincial government, it is obligated to align its policies and operations with the broader commitments and regulations set by BC. MCFD believes that engaging with this funding model should strongly emphasize cultural responsiveness and respect towards the unique cultures, histories, and priorities of Indigenous Peoples. MCFD's further assumptions about the initial engagement approach for the funding model were:

- Co-development will focus on establishing and strengthening relationships, identifying priorities, understanding, and supporting community capacity building, and continuous improvement.
- MCFD must take a distinctions-based approach to co-development, recognizing that rights holders have diverse cultures, languages, histories, customs, and practices. For example, MCFD recognizes BC's treaty obligations and unique relationships with Modern Treaty Nations. Each of these treaties varies depending on the particular obligations, interests, rights, jurisdictions, and authorities that are recognized and represent a critical element within a distinctions-based approach.
- BC does not have a predetermined vision or outcome for a new funding model.
- The September 2023 discussion paper was designed to provide a starting point for discussion.
- MCFD must engage regularly throughout the process, including providing rights holders, Indigenous partners, and Canada with information needed to make informed decisions and participate in substantive policy discussions.
- Since this is a provincial funding model, BC is co-developing the funding model with rights holders and Indigenous partners with Canada joining as an observer.

# Engagement Partners

MCFD connected with 29 First Nations (including all Modern Treaty Nations through the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations), the First Nations Leadership Council through the Fiscal Framework Development Team, the Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors Our Children Our Way Society, and the federal government (Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) (see Appendix A). Several partners also opted to provide written feedback, for which MCFD coordinated responses. MCFD also consulted with Métis Nation BC.

# Engagement Process

## Invitation to Co-Develop

During the week of August 28th, 2023, MCFD carried out an engagement outreach program to connect with First Nations and other Indigenous partners. MCFD used various channels for the outreach, including sending formal invitation letters via email and regular mail, sharing the Indigenous Child and Family Services Newsletter with Indigenous partners, which referenced the Discussion Paper and upcoming engagement, and sharing the 2023 Discussion Paper on the [govTogetherBC website](#).

The formal invitation package consisted of a detailed cover letter that explained the purpose and anticipated timeline of co-development, along with the Discussion Paper, Placemat, and other relevant documents. Partners were encouraged to participate in the engagement by expressing their interest through an email to MCFD staff.

After receiving the responses, MCFD staff organized the engagements accordingly.

## Introductory Sessions

The primary purpose of these introductory sessions was to ensure that all partners had the opportunity to receive an inclusive and consistent introduction to the concept of the funding model and the various pathways to funding and to start considering some of the factors that would go into the funding model.

Between September 26th and November 6th, 2023, MCFD met with First Nations, including Modern Treaty Nations, and other Indigenous partners to provide an introduction and overview of the Discussion Paper "Building a Funding Model to Support First Nations Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services in BC." Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) also joined these sessions as observers. MCFD met one-on-one or in group settings, depending on each partner's preference.

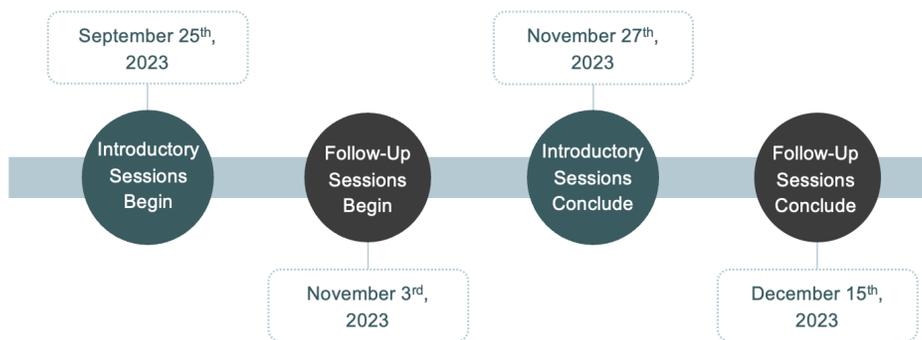
The sessions provided First Nations and Indigenous partners a platform to voice their initial thoughts, ask questions, raise concerns, and provide individual feedback. They also provided an opportunity for MCFD to solicit specific feedback on funding model specifics.

**34** Total Sessions Held via Video Conference

**25** Different Groups Participated

MCFD logged each partner's questions and action items to ensure follow-up on outstanding items. This allowed for a continuous and transparent exchange of information between the parties and to ensure all concerns and feedback were addressed.

Image 1: Introductory Engagement Timeline



## Follow-Up Sessions

Between November 3rd and December 15th, 2023, follow up meetings were held with partners who had participated in the Introductory Sessions and requested further discussion. The primary objective of these meetings was to provide an opportunity to discuss and expand upon the action items and key takeaways that had been identified during the introductory sessions.

Prior to the follow-up sessions, MCFD exchanged questions, comments, and action items with some partners via email. The email exchanges were then used to guide subsequent virtual conversations.

During the follow-up sessions, some new concerns or questions that had not been previously discussed were raised, providing MCFD with further insight into the potential challenges and opportunities associated with implementing the proposed model. Overall, the follow-up meetings provided an opportunity for feedback that could be used to refine and improve the co-development process and highlight considerations for MCFD to contemplate in its approach to the funding model.

## Moving Co-Development Forward Sessions

During the week of February 20th, 2024, First Nation partners and representatives were invited to a session to gain insight and understanding into the process that MCFD has put forward to make recommendations for the design of the funding model, as well as to provide an opportunity for feedback and suggestions on how spring and summer engagement could look, structured through bi-weekly sessions, where Indigenous partners can engage in distinctions-based groups with MCFD and Deetken Insight.

Deetken Insight staff and new resources within MCFD from the Indigenous Fiscal Policy team were introduced to the participants. It's important to note that Deetken staff are not responsible for communicating MCFD's policy positions during co-development. Rather, their role is to act as neutral third-party subject matter experts who can support and facilitate the co-development discussions, provide economic modelling expertise, and provide neutral explanations of the pros and cons of various approaches.

During the "Moving Co-Development Forward" sessions, the participants aimed to establish a common understanding of how the funding model would apply differently across each Nation. They also sought to explain the functionality and integration of the Options Map into the decision-making processes.

The Deetken Insight staff led an overview of the Options Map. This detailed design created in Miro, an online collaborative whiteboard platform, strategically outlines various choices designed to help formulate a funding model. Each option point on the map included multiple cascading choices and questions that needed resolution to finalize a structure. The map covers different funding approaches, including block funding, resource-based funding, and outcomes-based funding.

## Ongoing Bi-Weekly Sessions

Bi-weekly co-development sessions started on the week of March 4th, 2024, with each session taking two hours. MCFD meets bi-weekly with separate co-development groups, including Modern Treaty Nations, Indigenous governing bodies at coordination agreement tables, and First Nations that are not part of the aforementioned groups. For those First Nations interested, one-on-one sessions are also offered. Deetken Insight staff are present at each session to support and facilitate the discussions.

As the process moves forward, the group composition will be adjusted as required to better meet the participants' evolving needs. Communication through email is encouraged to ensure that any questions or concerns that were not adequately addressed during the sessions or that arise between sessions can be addressed promptly.

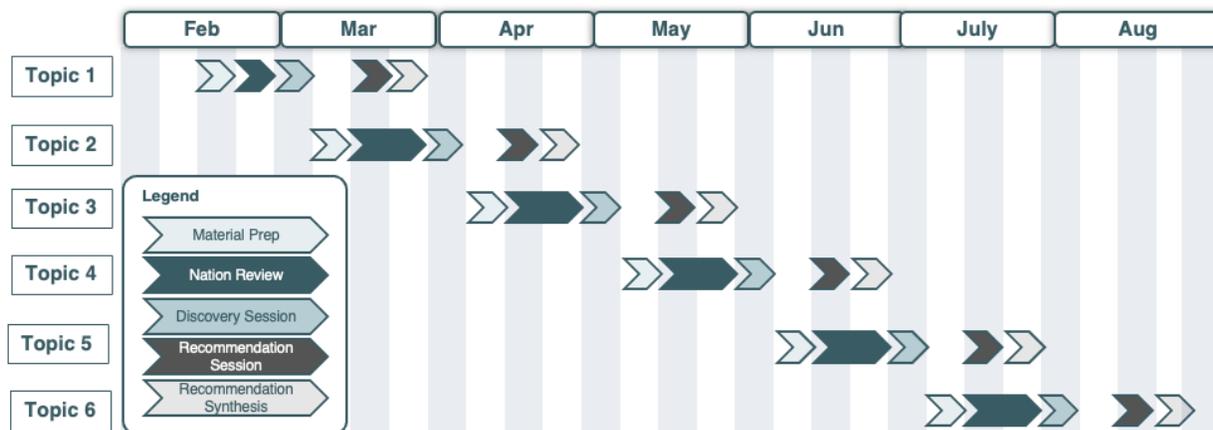
At the beginning of each bi-weekly session, an overview of the discussions among the various groups is given to provide each group with insight into the conversations happening concurrently. To prepare for each meeting, MCFD will create and share a presentation deck two weeks before the session. This advance distribution ensures that all Indigenous partners have sufficient time to review the material before the session. The sessions will rotate between Discovery Sessions and Recommendation sessions. Additional Information Sessions will occur when there are outstanding questions or concerns about specific topics.

**Discovery Sessions** are intended to introduce a new topic, discuss related questions and concerns, and provide a neutral and in-depth overview of considerations related to the topic and how they may impact the final model.

**Recommendation Sessions** are dedicated to developing a consensus recommendation based on the topic discussed in the previous session. Participants also have the opportunity to voice concerns or considerations that they wish to share with MCFD and other participating Indigenous partners.

Once a consensus recommendation is achieved between groups, MCFD will communicate this recommendation to all partners. If MCFD finds any reason to disagree with the recommendation, MCFD commits to providing reasons and offering an opportunity to discuss further. The goal is to achieve mutual understanding and agreement on each topic as the process moves forward.

Image 2: Illustrative Representation of Bi-Weekly Session Components



# What We Heard

## Introductory and Follow-Up Sessions Engagement Summary

The engagement process has provided an opportunity to hear initial thoughts to better understand the diverse needs, challenges, and expectations regarding the proposed funding model from all partners. The feedback gathered from discussions with partners highlights key themes and concerns that will shape the development and implementation of the funding model. The themes collected have been sorted into **three primary categories**:

**Co-Development  
Process**

**Funding Model  
Specifics**

**Strategic Planning  
and Policy  
Development**

To ensure that the feedback is well organized, subcategories have also been created within each of these three primary categories.

## What We Heard - Co-Development Process

### Engagement and Implementation Timeline

- Concerns regarding the timeline for funding model implementation proposed in the September 2023 Discussion Paper were expressed by many partners. A majority of partners who raised the timeline for discussion said that it was far too short to allow for a meaningful co-development process.
- There is a need to understand the timelines for developing the draft framework of the funding model and its alignment with the ongoing development of jurisdiction and coordination of funding agreements by various nations. This includes the current developments taking place in the space of urban prevention services.
- Concerns about how the upcoming provincial election may impact the project if there is an engagement timeline extension.

### Need for Transparency and Inclusivity in Co-Development Process

- All parties are strongly committed to a co-development process and agree that it is essential to shaping the funding model.
- The discussions revealed a significant concern regarding a lack of detailed information in the discussion paper, posing challenges in providing comprehensive feedback and grounding a meaningful co-development process within timelines set out in the discussion paper.
- The co-development process was emphasized, calling for greater transparency and collaboration on how the co-development process would unfold moving forward. Concerns

were raised regarding a lack of information on what the co-development process would look like beyond Fall 2023.

- Emphasis on a timely and efficient consultation due to the pressing concerns of Nations currently negotiating interim coordination agreements.
- There is an acknowledgment of the confidentiality involved in negotiations and a desire for transparency regarding the processes and positions being taken by BC and ISC.
- Experts, including the Institute of Fiscal Studies & Democracy, should be actively engaged. Past publications such as the Measuring to Thrive framework and Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders should be utilized.
- There are ongoing requests for preliminary models for community critique and feedback and an estimated range of funding for each Nation.
- Transparency is required in determining what decisions have already been made and how past feedback has been incorporated into the current work.
- Requests for more information to ensure all engagement steps are meaningful, with new information, objectives of meetings, and deliverables expected to be provided before each engagement session.
- Requests for more insight into what fiscal items are addressed within interim coordination agreements.
- There needs to be a focus on aligning the work of different organizations, including the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, to ensure a coordinated approach to the transition.
- The process needs to strengthen collaboration with ISC, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), and other partners for policy development and refinement.
- There is a desire to avoid a “black box period” during co-development where, after initial consultations, there is a long period of internal work followed by a decision that may differ greatly from the feedback provided during co-development.

The co-development process emerged as a central theme. First Nations and partners agreed with MCFD that **genuine co-development** is seen as essential, with a partnership approach required in shaping the funding model. There were concerns about the **lack of detailed information** in the initial discussion papers and the **compressed timelines** for the co-development process, suggesting a need for a **transparent** and **inclusive process** that allows Nations to shape the outcomes actively. This would ensure that the funding model reflects the unique needs and circumstances of each Nation, adhering to **principles of self-determination** and respecting the sovereignty of Indigenous communities.

### **Data-Informed Decision-Making**

- The need for concrete data to guide the planning process and anticipate costs was highlighted.
- Clarifications on specific definitions and terminologies were requested to ensure a common understanding.
- Specific data is required to best plan for Northern Communities that MCFD may hold, i.e., expenditures on itinerant staff, workforce planning, and existing formulas.
- Requests for comprehensive information on provincial expenditures were made.

## **What We Heard - Funding Model Specifics**

### **Block Funding as the Proposed Approach**

- Most partners signaled that a block funding approach to jurisdiction made sense as a starting point for funding model co-development and was generally aligned with promoting self-government and self-determination. The move towards giving Nations more control over funding by using a block funding model was thought to work well with jurisdiction as a concept.
- Some partners raised concerns about the effectiveness of a block funding model based on past experiences. There is a need for more specific numbers and data to provide feedback on block funding effectively. In contrast, others shared positive feedback on how block funding works within their relationship with the First Nations Health Authority.
- There were some concerns that block funding was a step backward, as in the past, ISC/INAC provided block funding, but it was later abandoned due to its inefficiency. Canada noted that it continues to provide block funding in the context of core ISC funding to First Nations and Tribal Councils.
- It was recognized that providing block funding based on rough calculations or federal budgets has not met expectations.
- There may be a lack of flexibility within block funding that is needed to care for all children and families. This must be mitigated in any block funding approach.
- Transparency is an essential factor while implementing any formula, but it becomes even more crucial with a block funding model. As a result, it is imperative to engage First Nations in the entire process of developing the formula and take their input into consideration to reach a consensus.
- Discussions highlighted concerns about the mechanisms for yearly adjustments in funding and the establishment of baseline costs.

## Diverse Cost Drivers

- Participants expressed the need to recognize various cost drivers, including those specific to individual First Nations and broader systemic factors.
- Requests were made to understand how cost drivers are prioritized to address varying community needs.
- Needs-based top-ups present challenges, notably in preventing a "race to the bottom" in funding based on need, a challenge previously encountered in fiscal policy discussions.
- Participants underscored the importance of tailoring the funding model to address the distinctive circumstances of each Nation, accounting for demographic variations and specific infrastructure needs.
- There was an emphasis on the need to include various elements in funding, such as infrastructure costs, transition-related expenses, and capacity-building requirements.
- There were some questions regarding how geographic remoteness factors into the funding model and whether current definitions, such as those used by StatsCan, are suitable.
- Some partners emphasized the urgency of addressing infrastructure and capital funding deficits in communities.
- Several partners emphasized the need for funding post-majority services to support Indigenous youth transitioning out of care on a legacy, ongoing, and future basis.
- A potential cost driver to be considered is the cost of standing up a dispute resolution body specific to child and family services that would adjudicate matters under a First Nation's law.
- The model should consider the potential for one First Nation to provide services to others (within the context of the provision of services to members of blended families or when a First Nation enters into an agreement to provide services to members of another First Nation). Within a Modern Treaty Nation context, there are treaty provisions that require the provision of services to non-Treaty members residing on treaty lands.
- Re-evaluation of foster care criteria and emphasis on cultural practices.
- Family finding services and genealogy costs should be considered as cost drivers.
- The importance of considering cultural services and supports in the funding model, recognizing their unique value and cost. For example, facilitating cultural immersion,

The feedback collected during the engagement sessions identified several themes regarding the funding model specifics, including the need to recognize **various cost drivers** and to tailor the model to address the distinctive circumstances of each Nation. There was also an emphasis on the need to include various elements in funding, such as **infrastructure costs, transition-related expenses, and capacity-building** requirements. In addition, partners emphasized the need for funding **post-majority services** to support Indigenous youth transitioning out of care. The desire for an equitable distribution of funds that considers the unique needs of each community was also emphasized. Ensuring **needs-based factors** are primary considerations in the funding model, not just supplementary top-ups, is critical to effectively addressing each First Nation's unique circumstances and recognizing distinct treaty responsibilities.

access to traditional practices, and the importance of children's rights to cultural connections, such as language and dance.

### **Equitable Funding Approach**

- Pursuing substantive equality within the context of MCFD policies was a major concern of partners. Partners emphasized the importance of understanding and defining this concept and how it can be achieved, particularly in relation to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) decisions and orders on this subject.
- There is a need to identify the necessary steps that need to be taken to ensure substantive equality is pursued and achieved in practice.
- The desire for an equitable distribution of funds that considers the unique needs of each community was emphasized.
- Partners emphasized that MCFD should ensure that needs-based factors are primary considerations in the funding model, not just supplementary top-ups, to address the unique circumstances of each First Nation effectively and also to recognize distinct treaty responsibilities.

### **Scope of Jurisdiction**

- Discussion on defining and funding jurisdictional scope, encompassing voluntary and involuntary services. Consideration should be given to utilizing cost analyses and scope-demand evaluations to align jurisdiction differences with funding and resource allocation.
- Transitioning from protection to needs-based approaches bring challenges in measuring and costing prevention-focused models.
- Requests for MCFD to explore and identify additional cost drivers beyond membership and geography, emphasizing the need for a nuanced funding approach that accounts for each community's specific needs and circumstances.
- Questions arose regarding how geographic boundaries and regional districts impact funding and services and exploring the impact of geographic service areas, especially when a First Nation's membership is concentrated or dispersed (including populations in other provinces or countries). Within the treaty context, under Treaty, there may be obligations of Treaty Nations to provide voluntary services to all members, regardless of residence.
- Recognition of varying priorities and capacities among different nations necessitates reconciling these differences for equitable funding.
- First Nations may want to exercise different jurisdiction for involuntary and voluntary services.

## What We Heard – Strategic Planning and Policy Development

### Funding Model Implementation

- Identify solutions to address block funding limitations and ensure sustainable year-end financial planning.
- Must discuss strategies for addressing scenarios where funding capacity falls short to ensure that service delivery remains effective and comprehensive.
- Investigate the challenges and opportunities the economy of scale presents in service provision.
- Evaluate the impact of increased bureaucracy on service funds and propose streamlining measures.
- Develop scalable incremental funding models responsive to progress and changing needs.
- Discuss further and plan for potential recruitment and capacity-building challenges.
- The issue of transitional costs, including operational costs and capacity building before implementing jurisdiction, is highlighted as a critical concern, as well as the need to clarify who bears these costs and how they will be funded.
- Address challenges in measuring and costing prevention as part of the transition from a protection-focused to a prevention-focused model.
- Challenges related to transitioning children and families, understanding capacity, and addressing diverse transition scenarios were discussed, primarily focusing on preventing service interruptions.
- Concerns expressed about the timing of implementation and how funding mechanisms will be coordinated, especially considering the slower pace at federal tables, as well as the upcoming provincial election.

Engagement feedback identified several challenges related to the **funding model implementation**, such as identifying solutions to address **block funding limitations**, ensuring **sustainable year-end financial planning**, and developing **scalable and incremental** funding models responsive to progress and changing needs. It also highlighted the need to clarify the **roles of BC and Canada** in bearing the costs and how they will be funded, especially regarding **transitional costs**, including **operational costs** and **capacity building**, before implementing the funding model for jurisdiction. There were suggestions of **policy considerations** and other dynamics that should be addressed.

### BC's Collaboration with Canada

- Concerns about reliance on Canada's accountability in the provincial model were expressed.
- Clarity was sought on the relationship between BC and Canada's funding obligations and how that may impact existing and future relationships and negotiations between Nations and Canada.
- An emphasis on the need for cohesive approaches and clear role delineation between Canada, and BC, in line with Bill C-92 (*An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis*

*children, youth and families*) federal approaches. Coordinated efforts between Canada and BC are crucial for a smooth transition to the new funding model. It is also vital to define how BC and Canada will transition from the current to the new model and determine their respective funding responsibilities to prevent disputes.

- The importance of addressing the technicalities and overarching questions related to fiscal policies and coordination between Canada and BC, stressing the need for clear delineation and understanding of the financial frameworks and their implications.

### **Funding Different Pathways to Jurisdiction**

- Questions arose regarding uniform baseline funding for all First Nations or variations based on agreement types.
- Consideration of how existing fiscal financing agreements interact with potential coordination agreements.
- Certain First Nations are considering adopting either 92.1 Community Agreements or Declaration Act agreements for a few years before transitioning to partial or full jurisdiction through a coordination agreement or other suitable means.

### **Reporting, Accountability, and Effectiveness**

- Establishing criteria for evaluating service and program effectiveness was seen as crucial.
- There is a pressing need for the development of evaluation criteria to assess the impact and effectiveness of services and programs comprehensively. This evaluation process should be conducted collaboratively and guided by decolonized principles.
- Evaluation should involve qualitative and quantitative metrics to track changes within Child and Family Services in BC.
- There is a requirement for continuous funding for governance, which goes beyond capacity building.
- There are concerns regarding the current reporting procedures and how they can be improved to be more efficient and less burdensome. One suggestion was to allow communities to report in a manner that is sensible to them. This may include using non-traditional methods like pictorial or anecdotal reports.
- Issues related to insurance and liability, especially in the context of First Nations assuming jurisdiction, are brought up, highlighting the need for clarity and planning in these areas.

### **Adaptability of the Funding Model**

- The necessity for regular reassessment and adjustment of the funding model was discussed, allowing it to adapt to changing service needs and evolving conceptions of jurisdictional responsibilities.
- Defining prevention services to align with funding can be challenging due to varying definitions of prevention across nations. Canada or BC's narrow interpretations may limit service scope. It's important to base definitions on each First Nation's needs to avoid future disputes over funding levels and ensure services meet community requirements.

- The funding model must be tailored to each First Nation, with Self-Governing Indigenous Groups identifying their own drivers and cost factors. Flexibility and collaboration among Indigenous governments are crucial to ensure that funding models accurately reflect diverse needs and realities.
- How to address the unique needs of children and provide flexible funding options for cases of emergency or unforeseen circumstances. Funding agreements should include provisions for exceptional circumstances that may arise.
- Having a policy for unexpected situations is crucial. First Nations should be prepared for unforeseen circumstances that may cause funds to increase or decrease unexpectedly. This will help address the situation appropriately and proportionately.

### Treaty Considerations

- Concerns were raised about the engagement process and taking a distinctions-based approach, emphasizing the need for more inclusive and detailed collaboration with Modern Treaty Nations going forward.
- Concerns were generally raised about the potential for a one-size-fits-all universal model and the need for recognition of the distinct responsibilities to Treaty Nations. The model should also be flexible and able to accommodate the unique drivers and cost factors of each community.
- The relationship of the Treaty Fiscal Financing Agreement and a jurisdiction funding model under the federal Act still needs to be clarified. coordination agreements Clarity is needed on how the funding model will connect and interact with BC's broader New Fiscal Framework.
- A block funding model with needs-based top ups, which seem to factor in a limited number of indicators of need such as remoteness, transition costs and capacity building, is not sufficient to meet the needs of all Modern Treaty Nations; the sufficiency of a block funding model can't be determined until further details are known.
- Recognition of a treaty pathway for jurisdiction, focus on flexible block funding, ensuring funding is membership rather than geographically based (or otherwise meets the specific needs under Treaty of Modern Treaty Nations), and BC's acknowledgement that BC has no role in determining service priorities or service costs for First Nations are all positive elements of the proposed approach in the discussion paper.
- BC must put in place interim funding for First Nations, including Treaty Nations, that are ready to exercise jurisdiction or to cooperate with BC on the delivery of child and family services.
- Question on whether treaty amendments could affect the funding for Modern Treaty Nations and future negotiations with Canada.
- Concern about how the model would interact with Fiscal Financing Agreement funding discussions.
- Some Treaty partners raised questions about how the funding model would align with Canada's collaborative self-government fiscal policy. There was a general request for greater transparency in how the provincial and federal governments will work to align

their funding approaches. There was a desire to understand BC's plan to ensure Canada's support of BC's funding model in this context.

- There was a request to incorporate [Canada's collaborative self-government fiscal policy](#) (the "Green Book") principles into fiscal planning for child and family services.
- There were requests to see how feedback from Modern Treaty Nations is not only being heard but also how it is being incorporated.
- Modern Treaty Nations are interested in working with BC to ensure that reporting is:
  1. Minimal and integrates with existing reporting wherever possible (e.g. makes use of current Modern Treaty Nation budget processes and audited financial statements);
  2. Beneficial to both the Modern Treaty Nations and BC; and,
  3. Allows BC to fulfill its own reporting obligations under provincial law.
- There was a question of how BC views membership base for the funding model in light of treaties, and feedback that treaty provisions in this respect must be taken into account. There may also be a different scope of membership for voluntary vs. involuntary services.

### **Urban Indigenous Population**

- The representation and service accessibility challenges for urban Indigenous communities are major concerns that need to be addressed urgently. To tackle this issue effectively, it is essential to develop targeted strategies that ensure equitable resource distribution to urban populations.
- There is a concern that the funding model may not adequately address the needs of urban Indigenous populations who are not affiliated with specific nations.
- There was discussion about whether the funding model could fund Nations who wish to provide services under Indigenous laws to local urban Indigenous populations.

### **Safeguarding Delegated Agencies' Role**

- Address concerns about the impact of jurisdictional changes on delegated agencies, ensuring their continued support, especially for communities that may not have the capacity to take on full jurisdiction.
- Evaluate measures to prevent erratic funding shifts and maintain necessary support for local and urban populations under agency care.

### **Membership and Geographic Dynamics**

- Explore solutions for interprovincial and cross-border issues affecting community members.
- Membership determinations should not be based on factors like blood quantum or status registration, as many Indigenous families are diverse and often interracial, with some children residing on territorial land who may not be registered.
- Relying on factors such as Indian Status ignores the fact that Indigenous people may have ties to communities in which they are not registered. Membership determinations must consider this diversity and complexity to ensure fairness and inclusivity.

## Concerns and Additional Insights

- There was concern regarding BC's role in relation to Canada's funding commitments and how this might impact subsequent negotiations between First Nations and the federal government.
- The concept of a "Me Too" clause in funding agreements was discussed to ensure fairness and equitable treatment among different First Nations.
- The disproportionate representation of Métis children in care systems was brought to the forefront, stressing the importance of a funding formula that effectively supports Métis jurisdiction.
- Some partners expressed a need to address historical underfunding of Indigenous people and a need for a funding model that would meet basic needs and enhance cultural connections.
- Separate capital funding is required to ensure that the basic needs of children and families can be met.
- Analyze the impact of MCFD's historical leadership on the lack of policy evolution, resulting from the same voices and perspectives at the decision-making table.

# What We Heard – Biweekly Sessions

As this report is being released, biweekly sessions that began in March 2024 are currently in progress. Below is a summary of the first three sessions.

## Type of Funding Model (Discovery Session)

### General Considerations for All Funding Models:

- Participants expressed that key design considerations should include model flexibility, CHRT alignment, Jordan's Principle alignment, the role of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC, First Nation-driven membership definitions, and community needs.
- All funding models require accountability to First Nation members and families, aiming for outcomes regardless of the model type.
- First Nations may find that different models or combinations thereof better meet their needs.
- Costs associated with governance, IT, insurance, transition phases, and service evaluation are crucial considerations for all funding models.

### Block Funding Model:

- The block funding model provides autonomy and flexibility in how funds are allocated.
- It poses a general risk of disputes over fund allocation, potentially more so under resource-based models.
- Allows communities to plan effectively at a local level.
- Volatility in annual costs, such as food, transportation, and fuel, necessitate inclusion in inflationary adjusters.
- Emergencies or disasters would need to be addressed in the model's unforeseen circumstances clause.

### Resource-Based Funding Model:

- Challenges include the extensive data collection required, making management cumbersome.
- Concerns about retrospective payments, especially in child and family services in BC, emphasize the need for mechanisms to manage unexpected costs.
- Growing interest in exploring how this model can accommodate actual expenditures and recover unexpected costs.

### Outcomes-Based Funding Model:

- Focuses on whether specific goals are being met, necessitating strong evaluation support.
- Assessing outcomes is challenging, especially for smaller Nations or those with extensive programs.

- Intergenerational trauma and other deep-seated issues challenge the effectiveness of any single funding model.
- Differences in perspectives on goal achievement can make consensus difficult within this model.

## Type of Funding Model (Recommendation Session)

During the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>, MCFD engaged with the four biweekly co-development groups on a funding model recommendation.

Participants across various groups engaged in discussions about potential funding models. Initially, some groups expressed the need for more information and clarity on different aspects of the proposed models. Key considerations included safety measures, mechanisms to address exceptional circumstances, flexibility in funding agreements, and the inclusion of diverse family compositions and geographic expansion.

During the initial recommendation session, three of the four groups reached recommendations, while the fourth group requested more time and information before moving forward with a recommendation. After more information was provided and concerns and questions were addressed, the fourth group also recommended block funding with adjusters.

The block funding model is favoured for its potential to be flexible and adaptable, allowing adjustments based on changing needs and unforeseen circumstances. The consensus highlights the importance of a model that can accommodate varying needs and provide stability, emphasizing the need for effective reconciliation and preventive services within the funding framework.

## Overview of Funding Model Types (Information Session)

Based on the previous weeks' discussions, Deetken and MCFD prepared additional information on existing funding approaches to explore with co-development participants. In addition to providing more context and detail into MCFD's current funding approach, an in-depth overview of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy's (IFSD) model was also provided, as there has been an interest in this model since the beginning of the co-development process. The following themes emerged from this discussion.

**Iterations of the IFSD Model:** The IFSD funding model is still under development, and new iterations should be considered as co-development moves forward. There was also an interest in talking to IFSD regarding the outlined drawbacks.

**Protection-only Baseline:** The exclusion of prevention funding from the baseline amount in the IFSD model was identified as a barrier for First Nations who wish to assert jurisdiction over only prevention services because top-up amounts would not be available to those First Nations based on the model's design.

**Historical Costs & Underfunding Risk:** Historical costs as a basis for funding were cautioned due to historical underfunding. Should historical costs be used to baseline funding amounts, adjustments would be required.

**Results Top-Up:** The concept of funding data collection efforts was viewed positively as it enables tracking outcomes for children, youth, and families and measurement of the effectiveness of services.

**Data Challenges and Opportunities:** The funding model's significant challenges and opportunities include data availability and access.

- Funding for the capacity to collect and analyze data would be required.
- Not all First Nations are in a position to capture data reliably or accurately.
- Investing in Indigenous people's capacity for data collection in compliance with the data sovereignty principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession, could be an opportunity. As capacity grows, this data could be used meaningfully to fill in the gaps that are currently causing challenges in this process.
- It was emphasized that qualitative information and experiential data are crucial factors to consider when creating the funding model to support the needs of children, youth, and families. Some of this information may not be easily quantifiable or measurable in a way that can be applied to a formula.

**Remoteness Misclassification:** Remoteness was considered a cost driver for child and family services. However, a single metric such as IFSD's road access metric would risk misclassifying a First Nation. Resource proximity and safety when travelling are important considerations.

**Outcomes Framework:** An outcomes framework was raised as an important part of jurisdiction.

**Census Participation:** In addition to challenges with census data, such as lack of frequency of collection and First Nation representation, the issue of low census participation amongst many Indigenous individuals was raised as a key concern with using census data for the purpose of the model.

## What We Heard – In-Person Workshop

MCFD held an in-person workshop on April 25th, 2024, in Vancouver. All active co-development partners were invited, including participating First Nations, staff from the First Nations Leadership Council, Indigenous Services Canada Executive and staff, MCFD Executive and staff and Deetken Insight supporting staff.

MCFD engaged an Indigenous facilitator from Xwchiyò:m First Nation to lead the workshop, and Minister Grace Lore and Deputy Minister David Galbraith provided remarks. Indigenous Services Canada presented on Canada’s federal interim funding framework for Indigenous child and family services. A question-and-answer period with federal Assistant Deputy Minister Catherine Lappe followed this presentation. The workshop also included sessions focused on two activities: a First Nation Vision Board activity to share visions for the jurisdiction of child and family services, and a Scope of Funding activity to invite discussion on components crucial to a funding model. For each session topic, two break-out rooms were provided. To wrap up the day, there was a sharing circle where First Nation partners were given space to share their thoughts and reflections. MCFD representatives were invited to listen during this time.

### Workshop Proposed Objectives

**Strengthen Relationships:** Foster mutual understanding and respect by sharing information, perspectives, and experiences among all participants.

**Progress Funding Model Topics Through Transparent Discussions:** Provide clarity regarding funding model options and support future co-develop funding model recommendations on key discussion topics.

**Provide Opportunities for Questions and Answers from Government Representatives:** Facilitate discussions where participants can directly engage with government representatives, facilitating a structured question-and-answer format that encourages open dialogue, informed discussions, and transparent communication.

**Make Space for Indigenous Partners’ Perspectives:** Listen to Indigenous partners’ perspectives to inform and shape a strategic funding model geared towards their view of implementation success.

**Outline the Next Steps and Commitments:** Clarify the next steps and commitments, including the timeline, summer engagement sessions, transparency in policy decision-making, and service mapping costing.

Image 3: April 25, 2024, In-Person Workshop Agenda

Item	Description
<b>Breakfast</b>	
Opening Ceremony	
Welcome, Introductions & Plan for the Day	
Opening Remarks by Deputy Minister	Opening Remarks by Deputy Minister
Federal Presentation & Q/A	Overview of the current Interim Federal Funding Model with an opportunity for a question-and-answer period.
<b>Coffee break</b>	
First Nations' Vision Board Kick Off	First Nations share their visions for jurisdiction over child and family services. What does the future state look like for your Nation? How can we prioritize these items in the provincial funding model? What is your Nation most concerned about?
First Nations' Vision Board (Breakout)	
<b>Lunch break</b>	
Scope of Funding Kick Off	An opportunity to break open some of the components that have been identified as crucial to the model. Through discussing these components, the overall scope of funding for the model becomes clearer and meeting participants can identify key opportunities and challenges to be considered moving forward.
Scope of Funding Group Activity (Breakout)	
<b>Coffee break</b>	
Remarks by Honourable Minister Grace Lore	Remarks by Honourable Minister Grace Lore – Ministry of Children and Family Development
First Nations-Only Time	An opportunity for First Nations representatives to meet without government representatives (as requested.)
Sharing Circle, Reflections & Commitments	An opportunity for both provincial and First Nations representatives to summarize the day's achievements and outline the next steps, including timelines and responsibilities for continuing the co-development process.
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	

The following themes aim to capture the complexity and depth of the discussions held during the workshop.

### Prioritize and Enable Prevention, Community Healing and Equitable Funding:

*“It will likely take seven generations, not the two to five years you have on your timeline. It will take time for our people to build the infrastructure to heal our communities.”*

- Develop a holistic model that extends beyond simple interventions to address deep-rooted familial and community issues.
- Nurturing initiatives that support parental well-being and family unity, which contribute significantly to long-term community resilience.
- Eliminate the off reserve/ on reserve dichotomy and geography-based funding, ensuring all children and families are adequately funded.
- Eliminate the prevention/protection language and dichotomy.
- Move towards the goal of having children thriving in community with wrap around supports, ensuring that funding is connected to children and families thriving, not having funding based on the number of children in care.

### **Adaptive Funding Model Development Enabling Funding Model Options and Customization:**

- Create a funding model responsive to cultural, administrative, and practical needs, as identified through ongoing dialogues with Nations.
- Consider a flexible framework that allows for adjustments based on additional co-development, a Nation's priorities and preferences, development timelines, and available resources.

### **Refine Engagement Approach to Support Nations with Less Bandwidth:**

- There are challenges in translating MCFD language and service definitions through an Indigenous lens. The language and nuances often do not align with how First Nation communities perceive or define services.
- Develop engagement strategies that respect each Nation's needs and capacity.
- Adopt a process that is flexible, provides for learning inclusive of everyone and adapts more culturally relevant translations and explanations to support common understanding and bridge communication gaps.

### **Data and Information Sharing:**

- A seamless sharing environment where MCFD and Nations can exchange data effectively, which is critical for strategic planning and service tailoring.
- The need for data to be usable and accessible, enabling informed decision-making about children currently in care and the customization of services.
- Access to information both on data related to the children receiving services from MCFD, and on data related to the current funding of those services.

### **Cultural Knowledge and Elders' Wisdom in Governance:**

- First Nations' elders and community leaders should guide the development and governance of funding models, ensuring that these models are culturally relevant and rooted in traditional knowledge.
- Integrate traditional governance structures and practices into the funding model to strengthen community-led decision-making and service delivery.

*"If you don't vet this through an Indigenous lens, we will keep spinning our wheels. Everything from Chief and Council are imposed systems. Our people have a way of selecting their matriarch, and they need to get back into the proper position of caring for our children."*

### **Comprehensive Understanding and Support for Jurisdictional Transition:**

- The extensive scope of work involved when First Nations assume jurisdiction was highlighted, including the need to negotiate with governmental and law enforcement bodies and manage fiscal resources and broader support structures.
- Request for BC to lead the co-development with Indigenous partners and ISC of a comprehensive checklist for First Nations that are new to coming to coordination tables because the scope of resuming jurisdiction is much more complicated than expected e.g. IGBs may consider use of the Public Guardian Trustee (PGT), Representative for

Children and Youth (RCY) or First Nations-led oversight body, police services and courts.

- There are benefits of First Nations forming communities of practice or collectives to share knowledge, provide mutual support, and learn from First Nations with long-standing delegated authority, enhancing the collective capability to manage and enforce their laws effectively.

*“There is an urgency for Nations to resume their inherent jurisdiction. Every day counts.”*

## Next Steps

MCFD has scheduled bi-weekly co-development sessions until August 2024 and may resume discussions after the Provincial election if further co-development sessions are needed. MCFD is aiming to complete the co-development of the funding model in early 2025.

### **Synthesizing Insights into a**

**Coherent Framework:** Integrating diverse needs and insights to reflect each nation's unique contexts.

### **Direct Engagement for Model**

**Validation:** Tailoring the model to specific needs through direct sessions, testing its applicability in diverse contexts.

### **Iterative Development and**

**Continuous Feedback:** Continuously refining the model based on co-development feedback, enhancing its relevance and effectiveness.

While recognizing the complexity of each recommendation asked of from Indigenous Partners, MCFD commits to considering all feedback heard during this phase of engagement and to developing a comprehensive co-development plan to ensure that the rights of First Nations and partners are upheld and that a funding model is meaningfully co-developed.

As the co-development of a funding model progresses, insights from consultations continue to shape the approach to engagement and build of a model with an aim for a funding framework that is practical, viable, and culturally respectful.

The next steps involve refining an approach to the model build to integrate previously gathered information into a coherent and unified model framework. This model will aim to encapsulate the diverse needs and insights of First Nations, presenting a structured and comprehensive view. The method involves synthesizing earlier discussions to form a strong foundational model that consolidates design parameters and priorities while integrating the diverse needs and insights of each First Nation.

To validate and adapt the model, MCFD is planning direct engagement with First Nations. This phase is crucial not only to demonstrate the model's operation across various contexts but also to collect feedback on its applicability. It also supports the translation of MCFD services into approaches that First Nation communities find relevant and effective. Through direct engagement, the model is tailored to meet the specific cultural and administrative contexts of each First Nation.

In parallel with this direct engagement, there will be a shift towards a dynamic and holistic review process. This approach will enable broader, strategic discussions, allowing co-development partners to provide feedback on specific components as well as the overall integration of the model. The model will undergo several iterations, each influenced by ongoing feedback, ensuring it remains responsive and adaptable to the evolving needs of the First Nations.

To ensure that all co-development partners are equally informed and aligned prior to the interregnum period preceding the Provincial election, MCFD plans to host an in-person workshop in late summer. The objectives of this workshop are to provide unambiguous communication

regarding the current status of co-development leading into interregnum, and outline what to anticipate during the interregnum period and following the Provincial election when a new government is formed.

*Image 4: Revised Funding Model Timeline*



Note: The revised funding model timeline in this image is subject to change.

## Conclusion

This report reflects what we have heard from fall 2023 introductory and follow-up sessions and the discussions held during the initial bi-weekly sessions in early 2024, as well as during the April 2024 In-Person workshop.

MCFD acknowledges that there is more work to do to co-develop the funding model moving forward. MCFD remains committed to working collaboratively with First Nations and Indigenous partners and communities to ensure that Indigenous children and families in BC are supported and empowered to thrive.

First Nations and other Indigenous organizations that have not engaged with MCFD on the funding model are encouraged to contact MCFD if they are interested in joining the co-development process.

Engagement is open to First Nations and other Indigenous partners in BC. If you are interested in participating or would like more information about the engagement process, please contact [MCF.Partnership.and.Indigenous.Engagement@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.Partnership.and.Indigenous.Engagement@gov.bc.ca).

# Appendix A:

## Funding Model Co-Development Partners (Fall 2023)

### Modern Treaty Nations

- Huu-ay-aht
- Ka:yu:'k't'h' / Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
- Maa-nulth Treaty Society
- Nisga'a Nation
- Tla'amin Nation
- Toquaht Nation
- Tsawwassen First Nation
- Uchucklesaht
- YuułuꞀitꞀath Government

### Indigenous Governing Bodies

- Cowichan Tribes
- Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations
- T̓silhqot̓in National Government
- South Island Indigenous Authority
- Sts'ailes

### First Nations

- Ditidaht First Nation
- Gitanmaax
- Ktunaxa Nation
- Lake Babine Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- 'Namgis
- Northern Shuswap Tribal Council
- Okanagan Indian Band
- Simpcw
- Skawahlook First Nation
- Splatsin
- Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation
- T'it'q'et
- Tl'etinqox
- Tsawout

### Indigenous Organizations

- Alliance of Modern Treaty Nations

- First Nations Leadership Council
- Our Children Our Way Secretariat/ Indigenous Family and Child Services Directors
- Métis Nation BC

# Appendix B:

## Bi-Weekly Distinction-Based Groups (2024)

### Modern Treaty Nations

- Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- Ka:yu:'k't'h' / Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
- Nisga'a Nation
- Tla'amin Nation
- Toquaht Nation
- Tsawwassen First Nation
- Uckucklesaht Tribe

### Indigenous Governing Bodies at Coordination Tables

- Cowichan Tribes
- Sta'ailes

### Non-Treaty First Nations

- Ditidaht First Nation
- Gitanmaax Tribe
- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- 'Namgis
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- South Island Indigenous Authority

### Partners Who Have Requested One-to-One Sessions

- Simpcw First Nation
- Fiscal Framework Development Team (FFDT)

