

SELF-ASSESSED PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS



Report 3, 2008/09 – Management of Aboriginal Child Protection Services

As at July 2010

Introductory comments from Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is pleased to provide an update on further progress in implementing the outstanding recommendations of the Management of Aboriginal Child Protection Services report. MCFD continues to focus on the priority of supporting Aboriginal people to exercise jurisdiction in delivering services to their children youth and families in a manner consistent with their customs and tradition. Our supportive role in this developmental and often incremental agenda is reflected in numerous collaborative initiatives currently underway in First Nation, Métis and Urban Aboriginal communities, including MCFD involvement in new Treaty initiatives, Nation-based models of service delivery and planning for new Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. Significant progress has been made over the last two years.

Recommendations addressed in previous follow-up report(s)

RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
Recommendation 1: The ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, determine whether transfer of all child protection services to Aboriginal agencies is still viable and, if not, adjust the service delivery approach to support some continued ministry service that meets the needs of Aboriginal children and their families.	Alternative action taken
Recommendation 2: The ministry adopt the protection standards used by Aboriginal agencies as their own for Aboriginal children and their families.	Alternative action taken
Recommendation 3: The ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, develop and monitor measures that determine whether a child's needs are met and if good outcomes are achieved.	Alternative action taken
Recommendation 6: The ministry make a persuasive business case for the funding needed to deliver the services in an effective way.	Substantially implemented
Recommendation 7: The ministry, in partnership with Aboriginal agencies, develop Aboriginal human resources to meet the needs of both the Ministry and delegated Aboriginal agencies.	Substantially implemented
Recommendation 8: The ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, establish an effective change management strategy.	Alternative action taken
Recommendation 9: The ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, collect and evaluate meaningful information on any child protection service delivery gaps; and find solutions to close those gaps.	Alternative action taken
Recommendation 10: The ministry provide information to the Legislative Assembly and the public on the cost, successes and challenges of the Aboriginal child welfare program, consistent with the B.C. Reporting Principles.	Substantially implemented



Outstanding recommendations

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

STATUS

Recommendation 4: Recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, obtain province-wide, community-by-community knowledge of Aboriginal child protection needs.

Alternative action taken

The Ministry is fully engaged at the regional and provincial levels with Aboriginal Delegated Agencies representing 130 First Nations and obtains knowledge of Aboriginal child protection needs through several developmental, relationship-building processes involving various levels of engagement with Aboriginal communities. An example includes the Aboriginal Partnership Forum, wherein leaders from the Ministry, INAC and all Aboriginal Delegated Agencies gather on a quarterly basis to share information pertaining to Aboriginal Child Welfare and collaboratively develop service provision and resourcing recommendations.

The Ministry also obtains knowledge of First Nation child protection needs through involvement in the development of Nation-based models of service delivery and is also playing an increasing role at Treaty tables, developing specific solutions that can be applied to specific negotiations. For example, the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) recently signed the first urban treaty in Canada and exercised their authority to implement their own child and family legislation. Both TFN and MCFD expect to sign a protocol agreement to achieve the mutual goals of protecting and supporting TFN children, reducing the need for child protection intervention and minimizing the amount of time a child spends in care. The Nisga'a Fiscal Financing Agreement under their Treaty process also completed the signing of a new 5 year financing agreement to support long term planning for child protection needs at the community level.

The evolving landscape of the Aboriginal "community" - as well as the Ministry's commitment to support Aboriginal self-determination through service delivery initiatives that are developed, evaluated and driven by the Aboriginal community - supports developmental, relationship-building processes as the most appropriate method of obtaining fulsome, culturally relevant knowledge of Aboriginal child protection needs.



Recommendations continued...

RECOMMENDATION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	STATUS
<p>Recommendation 5: Recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, determine the resources (including social workers and support services) required to meet those needs in a culturally appropriate way.</p> <p>Actions taken, results and/or actions planned</p> <p><i>The recently developed Framework for Aboriginal Service Delivery Change commits to aligning human resources and staff roles within the ministry to ensure we are structured to support Aboriginal children, youth and families as a top priority of the ministry. Approximately 200 Delegated Aboriginal Agency social workers have been hired to work in since the Management of Aboriginal Child Protection Services Report of April 2008, and the Ministry continues to provide annualized funding for culturally appropriate training of these workers through the Caring for First Nations Children Society.</i></p> <p><i>Further examples of MCFD - in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations - determining resources to meet needs in culturally appropriate ways include the tri-partite First Nations Directors Partnership forum, where leaders from the Ministry, INAC and all Aboriginal Delegated Agencies gather on a quarterly basis to collaboratively develop resourcing recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>A Standardized Costing Framework has been completed and is now used to help inform decisions in relation to the transfer of resources to delegated agencies following a delegated agency assuming responsibility for children previously in MCFD's care.</i></p>	<p>Fully or substantially implemented</p>