

From: **MCF Info MCF:EX** <MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca>

Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 5:59 PM

Subject: Letter from Allison Bond, Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 236639

Dear Chief, Council and Executive:

I am writing to inform you about proposed amendments the Ministry of Children and Family Development is considering to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA). The CFCSA is the provincial statute related to child protection. These amendments reflect what we have heard from First Nations over the past few years, at Regional Health Council Caucus sessions, in discussions on protocol agreements, through Grand Chief Ed John's Report and through one-on-one discussions on issues around child welfare.

The proposed amendments support our common objective of keeping Indigenous children out of care and in their home community. To this end, the amendments will ensure that Indigenous communities are meaningfully involved in planning and caring for their own children.

The amendments also support a shared approach to child welfare through improved information sharing with Indigenous communities. Please see [Potential Amendments to the Child, Family and Community Service Act](#) for more information on the anticipated amendments.

While the Province, Canada and Indigenous communities continue to work together to develop a new legislative framework that supports Indigenous jurisdiction over child welfare, these amendments are focused on the generation of children in front of us now, and are not related to jurisdiction. The amendments are only a first step, and they are a sign of our commitment to change.

Thus far, briefings have been provided to the Tripartite Working Group, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and Métis Leadership. I have also attended the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations meeting on March 8.

If you would like an opportunity to receive a briefing on the proposed amendments, and to provide individual feedback, please contact Sarah Gosman, Acting Director of Child Welfare Policy, at: Sarah.Gosman@gov.bc.ca.

This work is just the beginning; we will continue towards child welfare reform through ongoing collaboration with Indigenous communities and participation in the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group.

Original letter to follow by mail.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Allison Bond

Deputy Minister

pc: Sarah Gosman