

**Ministry of
Children and Family
Development**

**2019/20 – 2021/22
SERVICE PLAN**

February 2019



Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Children and Family Development 2019/20 - 2021/22 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrine Conroy".

Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Children and Family Development
February 4, 2019

Minister of State Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Child Care and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2019/20:

- a. Continue implementation of initiatives that support government's universal child care plan that provides affordable, accessible and high-quality care and early learning for every child whose family wants or needs it;
- b. Monitor and report publicly on results achieved through the implementation of BC's actions under the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework agreement with the federal government;
- c. Continue engagement with all levels of government, child care providers, and the private and not-for-profit sectors to further inform implementation of the plan for universal child care;
- d. Submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs a. through c. on or before March 31, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrina Chen".

Honourable Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care
February 4, 2019

Purpose of the Ministry

The primary focus of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is to support all children and youth in British Columbia, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families and be strongly connected to their communities and culture. The ministry's approach is to deliver inclusive, culturally respectful, responsive and accessible services that support the well-being of children, youth and families in BC.

The ministry delivers on its mandate through approximately 5376 ministry staff working in partnership with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, Indigenous service partners, approximately 5955 contracted community social service agencies and foster homes, as well as cross-government and social-sector partners. The ministry supports vulnerable children and their families, emphasizing the principles of early intervention and prevention to keep families together, where possible, and connecting children and youth with permanent living arrangements when needed. Services include early childhood development and child care, children and youth with special needs, child and youth mental health, child welfare, adoption, youth justice, and supporting youth transitioning to adulthood.

Ministry programs and services are coordinated through a provincial office located in Victoria and are delivered through 13 geographic Service Delivery Areas and 24 Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. For information on specific programs and services, visit the [Ministry of Children and Family Development](#) internet site.

The ministry also supports the Minister in her governance responsibilities for the [Columbia Power Corporation](#) and the [Columbia Basin Trust](#). These Crown Corporations prepare their own Service Plans.

Strategic Direction

The Government of British Columbia is putting people at the heart of decision-making by working to make life more affordable, improve the services people count on, and build a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

Over the past year, significant government investments in areas including housing, child care and the elimination of fees, such as Medical Service Premiums, have contributed to making life more affordable for British Columbians today and into the future. Ministries are engaged in ongoing work to improve the availability of services citizens rely on including those related to primary medical care, education and training, transportation, the opioid crisis and poverty.

A strong economy that works for all regions of BC is diversified, resilient and improves the standard of living for people across the province. With that in mind, government is focusing on sustainable economic growth that strengthens our natural resource sectors, continues the development of the emerging economy, supports small business and uses innovation and technology to solve BC problems. A key priority in 2019/20 and beyond will be driving economic growth with cleaner energy and fewer emissions. At the same time, ministries continue to build prudence into budgets and plan for challenges.

Underpinning the work of all ministries are two shared commitments: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and consideration of how diverse groups of British Columbians may experience our policies, programs and initiatives. As part of these commitments, ministries are working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and Gender-Based Analysis+ policy and budgeting.

In July 2017, each Minister was given a formal mandate letter that identifies both government-wide and ministry-specific priorities for implementation.

This service plan outlines how the Ministry of Children and Family Development will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the [Minister's Mandate Letter](#) and [Minister of State's Mandate Letter](#). Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Children and Family Development made progress on these priorities:

- Launched Childcare BC Plan in February 2018, committing to \$1 billion over three years to create a new affordable, accessible and quality early learning and care system – one of the biggest social policy changes in BC's history.
- Provided \$6.4 million to First Nations and Métis communities and organizations to support prevention activities.
- Committed \$7.7 million in the Agreements with Young Adults Program to expand to a year-round benefit, increase the monthly payment to \$1250, and extended eligibility for youth up to their 27th birthday.
- Introduced changes to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* so that First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples and communities will have greater involvement in child-welfare decisions to help keep their children out of care, safe in their home communities, and connected to their cultures.
- Signed a joint commitment for the exercise of Métis child welfare authority with Métis Nation BC and signed tripartite Memorandums of Understandings with the Wet'suwet'en Nation, the Secwepemc Nation, and the Cowichan Tribes to explore how BC, Canada and the Nations can work together to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.
- Emphasized working with Contracted Residential Agencies to increase compliance with ministry standards for screening and approval of caregivers and eliminated the backlog, increasing our confidence in the quality of care provided to children in the ministry's care.
- Began development and consultation on a new Strategic Framework to support transformative change for the children, youth and families we serve. The Strategic Framework's four high-level strategies align to the goals in this service plan and to the Minister and Minister of State mandate letters.

The following performance plan outlines how the Ministry of Children and Family Development will continue to track progress on key mandate letter commitments and other emerging government priorities.

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Recognize the right of Indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education, and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child [UNDRIP] and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Objective 1.1: Engage in discussions regarding jurisdiction over child welfare with Indigenous communities that are interested and willing

Key Strategies:

- Work with communities which are seeking jurisdiction to understand what is required and how to approach this work
- Work with the Government of Canada to support federal legislation
- Develop legislation for BC regarding jurisdiction in collaboration with the Government of Canada, Indigenous communities and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)
- Work with the Tripartite Working Group on Children and Families to support this systemic change

Objective 1.2: In collaboration with Indigenous peoples, design and implement restorative policy, practice, services and cultural humility to support and honour cultural systems of caring and resiliency

Key Strategies:

- Implement legislative amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*
- Continue the engagement and advisory process with Indigenous communities to effect the necessary changes to the system, including legislative changes, to recognize the effect of custom adoption
- Improve practice through best practices workshops, training and improved collaboration with communities and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies to reflect the priority of keeping children and youth safely at home and connected to community and culture
- Improve our current approach to funding prevention by working closely with the Government of Canada and Indigenous communities

Objective 1.3: Create transparency and accountability to Indigenous children, youth, families and communities to work together to ensure our efforts achieve real results for this generation of families

Key Strategies:

- Distribute annual accountability statements to inform communities how much funding is spent in support of Indigenous children, youth and families, and also the number of children in care, and the outcomes we are achieving in their communities
- Work with Indigenous communities and the Government of Canada to improve the ministry’s funding approach

Performance Measure		2016/17 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
1.1	Rate of children and youth in-care per 1,000 (0-18) population ¹					
	All children and youth	7.7	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.3
	Indigenous children and youth	48.1	44.1	41.7	40.3	38.9
	Non-Indigenous children and youth	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.5

¹ Data Source: Integrated Case Management System (ICM)

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Rate of children and youth in-care per 1,000 (0-18) population measures the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in-care.

Goal 2: Strengthen supports and prioritize resources for families and children based on their needs, and in collaboration with communities and other partners to keep families safely together and support improved outcomes

Objective 2.1: Recognize the importance of prevention, early intervention and voluntary services in keeping families safely together and review the ministry’s allocation of time, effort and funding dedicated towards these activities

Key Strategies:

- Advance a child focused, family centered approach by identifying and addressing policy and practice barriers to keeping children with family, extended family and community, and strengthening families through practice, culture, and resources
- Continue to implement the Early Years Service Framework to provide a strong, healthy foundation for families
- Implement the Child and Youth Mental Health Service Framework
- Develop and implement the Children and Youth with Special Needs Service Framework

Performance Measure		2016/17 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.1	Percent of children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family ¹					
	All children and youth	85.8%	89.5%	89.7%	89.9%	90.2%
	Indigenous children and youth	80.1%	84.5%	85.0%	85.5%	86.0%
	Non-Indigenous children and youth	89.4%	92.4%	92.5%	92.6%	92.7%

¹ Data Source: ICM

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The percent of children assessed with a protection concern that can live with family or extended family is a measure of family preservation.

Objective 2.2: Implement short-term strategies and develop medium-and long-term strategies for a universal early care and learning system

Key Strategies:

- Fund the creation of 22,000 licensed childcare spaces between 2018/19 and 2020/21
- Continue to improve affordability of child care services
- Enhance quality of child care services through development and implementation of the Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention strategy

Performance Measure		2016/17 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
2.2	Average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces ¹	108,110	115,000	121,000	128,000	135,000

¹ Data Source: Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) Program Datamart and Prototype Site data

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Increasing the number of licensed child care spaces is part of the ministry’s strategy on affordable, accessible, and quality child care and early learning system. Work is underway on performance measures to assess progress towards accessibility, affordability and quality of childcare.

Goal 3: Engage young people and work with the rest of government to design a social support system for youth and young adults who are transitioning into adulthood from ministry services

Objective 3.1: Support youth and young adults to successfully transition to adulthood

Key Strategies:

- Review the flexibility of programs that support transitions to adulthood, with an emphasis on reflecting the diverse needs of youth in-care and young adults formerly in-care
- Support youth and young adults in or from care to connect with their culture and community and have meaningful relationships
- Improve collaboration and communication across government, and with communities, external organizations and contractors to better support youth and young adults

Performance Measure		2016/17 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.1a	Percent of youth in-care who turn 19 with a high school credential ¹					
	All children and youth	55.4%	55.5%	57.0%	57.5%	58.0%
	Indigenous children and youth	49.0%	51.7%	52.0%	52.5%	53.0%
	Non-Indigenous children and youth	61.1%	62.0%	62.5%	63.0%	63.5%

¹ Data Source: ICM, Ministry of Education enrolment data

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

There is strong evidence that completing high school is conducive to general well-being throughout life.

Performance Measure		2016/17 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
3.1b	Youth under Continuing Custody Orders and Youth aging-out that receive an Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) benefit payment within the next year ¹	27.0%	34.4%	36.0%	38.0%	40.0%

¹ Data Source: Resource and Payment System

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Enhancing supports and improving the uptake of the Agreements with Young Adults program for youth aging out of care or Youth Agreements, will ensure better transitions and better outcomes for young adults. Work is underway on performance measures to assess the successful transition of youth to adulthood.

Goal 4: A child or youth’s needs drives their placement

Objective 4.1: In collaboration with partners, design a high quality network that meets a child or youth’s needs, nurtures a sense of love and belonging, and prioritizes cultural and family connections

Key Strategies:

- Strengthen the family-based care system to meet the needs of today’s children, families and communities
- Explore opportunities to develop a network of homes and services that respond to the full range of a child or youth’s needs, beginning with a comprehensive understanding of needs of children, youth and families served
- Increase financial assistance to family-based caregivers in alignment with a comprehensive review of services and supports
- Develop a continuous improvement feedback approach so the voices of children, youth, families, communities and partners will continue to drive improvement in the system
- Enhance oversight and management of the network to ensure consistent standards across all types of care

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2018/19 Forecast	2019/20 Target	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target
4.1 Percentage of children and youth in-care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care ¹	67.9%	66.9%	68.0%	68.5%	68.8%

¹ Data Source: ICM

Note: This measure includes both planned and unplanned moves.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

Children and youth with stable and appropriate in-care placements achieve better outcomes in terms of safety, permanency, attachment and well-being.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2018/19 Restated Estimates ¹	2019/20 Estimates	2020/21 Plan	2021/22 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	443,724	624,807	733,207	733,206
Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs	361,468	386,669	387,590	387,590
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	98,925	109,396	112,942	112,942
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	640,834	682,677	690,785	697,684
Adoption Services	31,699	34,752	34,713	34,713
Youth Justice Services	45,890	47,421	47,253	47,253
Service Delivery Support	151,474	159,902	158,439	158,438
Executive and Support Services	18,441	19,103	19,021	19,021
Total	1,792,455	2,064,727	2,183,950	2,190,847
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Service Delivery Support	4,580	4,510	4,268	4,268
Total	4,580	4,510	4,268	4,268

Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	31	31	31	31
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash (Requirements)	31	31	31	31
Total Receipts	31	31	31	31
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	31	31	31	31

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2018/19 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2019/20 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates.

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

BC College of Social Workers:

<http://www.bccollegeofsocialworkers.ca/>

The British Columbia College of Social Workers regulates the social work profession in British Columbia. Its mandate is to protect members of the public from preventable harm while they are interacting with Registered Social Workers. The College maintains an online registry of all social workers authorized to practice as Registered Social Workers.

Provincial Child Care Council:

<http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca>

The Provincial Child Care Council provides advice on the policies and programs that affect the affordability, quality, stability and accessibility of child care. Its members are appointed from throughout the province, and represent five key sectors: Aboriginal, law/business, child care, education and non-profit/local government.

For More Information:

PO Box 9778 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9S5

Tel: 250 356-1126, Fax: 250 356-2317

Columbia Power Corporation:

<http://columbiapower.org/>

The Columbia Power Corporation mission is to efficiently develop and operate commercially viable, environmentally sound and safe power project investments for the benefit of the Province and the residents of the Columbia Basin. In making power project investments, Columbia Power Corporation's goal is to support the employment, economic development and resource management objectives of the Province and Columbia Basin Trust, within the constraints of a commercial enterprise.

Columbia Basin Trust:

<https://ourtrust.org/>

The Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust) is mandated under the Columbia Basin Trust Act to manage Columbia Basin Trust's assets for the ongoing economic, environmental and social benefit of the region, without relieving governments of any obligations in the region. The Trust is also mandated under the Columbia Basin Management Plan to include the people of the Basin in planning for the management of the assets and to work with others to coordinate activities related to the purpose of the Trust.