

**Ministry of
Children and Family
Development**

**2021/22 – 2023/24
SERVICE PLAN**

April 2021



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Children and Family Development 2021/22 – 2023/24 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 "M. Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Mitzi Dean
Minister of Children and Family Development
March 31, 2021

Minister of State's 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 2021/22:

- (a) continue implementation initiatives that support government's universal child care plan that provides affordable, accessible, inclusive and high-quality care and early learning for every child whose family wants or needs it;
- (b) engage with all levels of government, Indigenous organizations, school districts, child care providers and other sector stakeholders to further inform the implementation of universal and inclusive child care and transfer responsibility for child care delivery to the Ministry of Education by 2023;
- (c) renew the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework agreement with the federal government and continue monitoring the implementation;
- (d) submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (c) on or before March 31, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Chen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care
March 31, 2021

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Purpose of the Ministry

The primary focus of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is to support the well-being of all children and youth in British Columbia – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to live in safe, healthy and nurturing families, and to be strongly connected to their communities and culture. The Ministry approaches its work through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, delivering services that are inclusive, intersectional, responsive, accessible, and culturally safe.

The Ministry supports children, youth and their families, emphasizing the principles of early intervention, prevention and cultural and community connections to keep families together, where possible, and connect children and youth with permanent living arrangements when needed. Services include those for early childhood development and child care, children and youth with support needs, child and youth mental health, adoption, child protection, youth justice and supporting youth transitioning to adulthood.

For information on specific programs and services, visit the [Ministry of Children and Family Development's](#) website.

Strategic Direction

In 2021/22, British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Government has identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribute to COVID recovery: putting people first, lasting and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2021/22 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Children and Family Development will support Government's priorities, including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [Minister's Mandate Letter](#) and [Minister of State's Mandate Letter](#).

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]¹ and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Objective 1.1: Continue to work with Indigenous partners and the federal government, where applicable, regarding systemic change, including increased decision-making authority and child and family services jurisdiction

Key Strategies

- Continue to work with Indigenous partners and the federal government to reform the child welfare system, including implementing *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the principles of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, as it pertains to jurisdiction
- Continue to work with Indigenous governing bodies, partners and communities to ensure systemic change reflects their priorities and distinctions-based self-determination, including a multi-jurisdictional child and family services model in B.C.
- Work with Indigenous partners to align policy, practice and legislation with *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
- Continue to work with Indigenous communities seeking child welfare jurisdiction and increased authority

Objective 1.2: In collaboration with Indigenous peoples, design and implement restorative policy, practice and services with cultural humility and the intention to honour traditional approaches and better serve Indigenous children and families

Key Strategies

- Following the Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework, transform policy, practice, services, and programs to reflect the priority of keeping children and youth safely at home and connected to their community and culture. Ensure a diversity of Indigenous voices, history and wise practices are reflected in collaboration with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and Indigenous communities
- With Indigenous peoples, develop and continue to implement tools and resources to support Ministry staff in continuous learning and practice changes, in order to provide services in a culturally safe manner

¹ UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Objective 1.3: Ensure transparency and accountability to Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities in order to work together to ensure our efforts achieve tangible results for this generation of families and those that follow

Key Strategies

- Continue to work with communities to develop and implement information-sharing agreements and/or collaboration agreements under s. 92.1 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA), to increase accountability and transform practice when working with Indigenous peoples
- Work with Indigenous governing bodies, partners and communities, in addition to others such as the Government of Canada, to improve our funding approach, inclusive of reporting on how funding is spent in support of Indigenous children, youth and families, the number of children in care and other outcomes
- Support increased connections between Indigenous children and youth and their community by enhancing the ability to share information about Indigenous children and youth involved in the child welfare system and/or receiving child and family services

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1 Rate of children and youth (0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population					
All children and youth	7.7	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3
Indigenous children and youth	48.1	37.6	37.0	36.5	36.0
Non-Indigenous children and youth	3.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8

Data source: Integrated Case Management System (ICM)

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

MCFD is working to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare system. The impact of colonization, the imposition of a legal regime foreign to the cultures and customs of Indigenous peoples, and the undermining of family and community systems and the resultant inter-generational trauma have all contributed to this overrepresentation. This performance measure tracks the rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth in care and, in doing so, the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in care.

Discussion

Targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have been adjusted based on forecasted performance to maintain relevance moving forward.

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

Objective 2.1: Review and adjust the Ministry’s allocation of time, effort and funding dedicated towards prevention, early intervention and voluntary services

Key Strategies

- In collaboration with our partners, and informed by the voices of those we serve, define the services required to respond to prevention, early intervention and intensive family support needs by developing a service framework
- In line with B.C.’s *A Pathway to Hope* roadmap, strengthen the continuum of mental health services, such as by beginning to implement step-up/step-down services, supporting the incremental implementation of Integrated Child and Youth Teams, and enhancing targeted early childhood intervention services. As part of this work, continue to implement and strengthen the Child and Youth Mental Health Service Framework
- Improve supports for families of children and youth with support needs, ensuring that the new Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Service Framework is designed to serve the needs of a broad range of families, leveraging lessons learned during the pandemic and insights from the Minister’s Advisory Council on CYSN
- In response to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry, develop and begin to implement an action plan to better support 2SLGBTQ+ children, youth and families

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.1 Percent of children assessed with a protection concern who can safely live with family or extended family					
All children and youth	85.8%	92.7%	92.7%	93.0%	93.3%
Indigenous children and youth	80.1%	88.7%	88.7%	89.0%	89.3%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	89.4%	95.1%	95.1%	95.4%	95.7%

Data source: ICM

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The percentage of children and youth assessed with a protection concern who can safely live with family or extended family is an established measure of family preservation. Children continuing to live with their family or extended family also have improved social outcomes, such as better health and education.

Discussion

The percentage of children assessed with a protection concern who could safely live with family or extended family in 2020/21 is expected to exceed the Ministry’s targets for 2021/22. Based on this, out year targets have been adjusted to maintain relevance moving forward.

Objective 2.2: Continue the development and implementation of a universal early learning and child care system

Key Strategies

- Expand the number of \$10-a-day child care spaces across British Columbia
- Continue to expand the number and availability of child care spaces and increase access to child care spaces on school grounds
- Enhance the quality of child care services through the ongoing implementation of the *Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy*, including improving Early Childhood Educator wages
- Expand access to, and support for, Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development programs for families across British Columbia
- Continue to work with Indigenous communities to identify how to best implement Indigenous-led child care and expand Aboriginal Head Start programs across British Columbia
- Work with the Minister of Education and the Minister of State for Child Care to integrate child care into the broader learning environment by developing a strategy to move delivery of child care into the Ministry of Education by 2023

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.2 Average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation	108,110	126,700	132,000	136,500	139,500

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

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation measures the accessibility of child care relative to previous years, which is essential for a universal early learning and child care system.

Discussion

Due to permitting, construction and licensing requirements, among other things, there is a time lag between when new spaces receive funding and when they become operational. This lag is seen in the projections of more spaces becoming operational later in the reporting cycle. The target for 2021/22 has been lowered to reflect this.

Goal 3: Youth and young adults have the tools, resources and social supports to transition successfully to independence

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

Key Strategies

- Through continued engagement with youth and young adults, as well as with those who serve and/or support them, Indigenous partners and provincial ministries and agencies, finalize and begin to implement a Youth and Young Adult Transitions Service Framework that will provide consistent programs and services and support youth and young adults' connection to community and culture
- Build on expanded supports for youth in care, with particular attention on supporting their transition to independence and ensuring that supports reach all youth and young adults who need them
- Through continued work with partner organizations, review post-secondary funding sources and support the work of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to expand the Tuition Waiver Program to all former youth in care, regardless of their age
- Support the work of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness and collaborate with BC Housing to develop a youth housing strategy that identifies and prioritizes opportunities to meet the needs of youth transitioning to adulthood
- Continue to develop a Youth Justice Service Framework, while at the same time advancing the work in youth justice with a focus on providing trauma-informed and culturally safe services, increased use of restorative justice approaches, and improved access to youth transition services. This will be informed by the Ministry's work with Indigenous partners and other key justice and social service partners

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.1a Percent of youth in care who turn 19 with a high school credential					
All children and youth	55.4%	56.8%	57.5%	58.0%	58.5%
Indigenous children and youth	49.0%	52.0%	55.5%	56.0%	56.5%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	61.1%	62.0%	62.5%	63.0%	63.5%

Data source: ICM and Ministry of Education enrolment data

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

There is strong evidence that completing high school is linked to future well-being. MCFD is working to ensure that children and youth in care have completed high school by the time they turn 19, acquiring the education and life skills needed to live independently as adults.

Discussion

Out year targets for “all children and youth” and “non-Indigenous children and youth” have been adjusted to reflect better-than-expected results.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.1b Youth under Continuing Custody Orders and Youth transitioning to adulthood that receive an Agreements with Young Adults benefit payment within the next year	21.6%	36.4%	41.5%	43.6%	45.6%

Data source: Resource and Payment System

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

One of the ways in which the Ministry helps ensure successful youth and young adult transitions is through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program. The AYA program provides young adults with financial assistance for education, training and life skills. Improving the uptake of the AYA program ensures better transitions and, therefore, better outcomes for young adults as they age into independence.

Discussion

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this performance measure is still unclear. In the interim, targets have been maintained.

Goal 4: A child or youth’s needs drive their in care placement, and the services they receive support their well-being

Objective 4.1: In collaboration with partners, implement an in care network of high quality placements and services that meet a child or youth’s needs, nurtures a sense of love and belonging, and prioritizes cultural and family connections

Key Strategies

- Publish and begin to implement the In Care Service Framework by engaging with partners and members of the public on key prevention and early intervention contracted services – such as respite and relief care, stabilization supports, connection to culture and community and specialized care. This will help create a network of placement options and wrap-around supports for children and youth that will respond to the full range of their in-care needs
- Continue to implement an outcomes-based Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring that the quality of services (across all types of care) are responsive to feedback from children, families and communities

- Continue to implement a redesigned Procurement and Contract Management Framework, ensuring that contracts issued by the Ministry are clear and include deliverables that focus on the needs and rights of children and youth

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
4.1 Percentage of children and youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care	67.9%	70.5%	65.5%	66.0%	66.5%

Data source: ICM

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Placement stability is essential for children and youth to develop a secure attachment to a caregiver – a fundamental determinant of their well-being and sense of belonging. Children and youth with stable in care placements that are driven by their needs achieve better outcomes in terms of safety, permanency, attachment and well-being.

Discussion

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this performance measure is still unclear. In the interim, targets have been maintained.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates ¹	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	712,679	774,342	813,961	814,907
Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs	410,091	440,635	432,035	432,035
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	110,613	134,294	137,020	139,746
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	731,874	780,868	780,868	780,868
Adoption Services	34,888	35,238	35,238	35,238
Youth Justice Services	48,147	50,359	50,359	50,359
Service Delivery Support	156,032	157,478	157,478	157,478
Executive and Support Services	19,032	19,541	19,778	19,794
Total	2,223,356	2,392,755	2,426,737	2,430,425
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Service Delivery Support	1,569	527	456	456
Total	1,569	527	456	456
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 (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Total Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 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

As of April 20, 2021, the Minister for Children and Family Development is responsible and accountable for the following:

BC College of Social Workers:

[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.

Minister’s Advisory Council on Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN):

[The Minister’s Advisory Council on CYSN](#), which will include parents/caregivers, an Indigenous Elder, a youth representative and others, provides a forum to build collaborative and respectful relationships through ongoing communications and engagement; discusses important issues related to planning and the delivery of the full range of CYSN services; and provides advice on the CYSN services model and how best to implement the new proposed CYSN Service Framework in a coordinated and collaborative way.

As of April 20, 2021, the Minister for Children and Family Development and the Minister of State for Child Care are responsible and accountable for the following:

Provincial Child Care Council:

[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: Indigenous communities, the business sector, child care providers, the education system, the non-profit sector, and local government.