

*Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development*

**2005/06  
Annual Service Plan Report**



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For more information on the British Columbia  
Ministry of Children and Family Development, contact:

**Ministry of Children and Family Development**  
**Client Relations Branch**

PO BOX 9770  
STN PROV GOVT  
VICTORIA BC  
V8W 9S5

Or visit our website at:

[www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/)

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## Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the Annual Service Plan Report for the Ministry of Children and Family Development reporting on progress and achievements for 2005/06.

I am honoured to continue serving as the Minister for Children and Family Development. It is a privilege to work with ministry staff and our service providers each day. Over the past year I have met with frontline workers and foster parents throughout British Columbia and it is from them that I have learned the most. Through listening to what they have to say, I am kept in touch with what is happening in communities throughout the province. I intend to spend even more time this coming year continuing these face-to-face meetings.

I believe in the principle of continual improvement. That is why I called for two independent reviews on different aspects of the ministry. Both these reviews, and other self-initiated reviews, provided many excellent recommendations to assist us in our approach to continual improvement. Rather than telling us to stop, turn around and go back, the recommendations suggest we continue on our path while building upon the strengths we have already established. The recommendations provide answers to questions we had on where we should focus our attention in our quest to build the best system of support for our children, youth and families.

During 2005/06, the ministry continued to improve child and family service delivery to better support children and their families. We are identifying those at risk and offering support services at a time when families need it most. These supports include enhanced approaches to ensure health, safety and well-being through community-based, integrated, comprehensive and accessible services that focus on:

- Preventative, early intervention and evidence-based research.
- Family and community-based alternatives to care.
- Mechanisms to increase family and community participation in planning for children in care of the ministry that promote family continuity, permanency, and life-long attachments.

Children are the heart of all communities. When the Transformative Change Accord was signed last year, it was based on a number of principles, the most important of which are mutual respect and responsibility. We are continuing to work with our partners to keep children in their Aboriginal homes and communities. In 2005/06, Aboriginal planning processes were initiated in all regions through five Regional Aboriginal Planning Committees, as together, we move towards Aboriginal regional governance.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is a key partner in government's Five Great Goals for a Golden Decade. The ministry supports the Five Great Goals through:

- Working in partnership with the Ministry of Education and providing materials to be included in Ready, Set, Learn kits, and promoted involvement in Ready, Set, Learn to strengthen linkages between and among early learning, child care, and early childhood

development initiatives to improve readiness to learn when entering school. This will help us realize Great Goal 1: “Make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.”

- MCFD initiatives in child care centres and programs aimed at vulnerable children, as well as collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Health’s ActNow! BC initiative, contribute to Great Goal 2: “Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.”
- Implementation of Phase I of Canada’s first Child and Youth Mental Health Plan. This plan will be instrumental in achieving Great Goal 3: “Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.”

Highlights and activities in 2005/06 included:

- New investments that benefited children and youth with special needs and their families by increasing access to therapies, infant development, respite and supported child development programs.
- Transferred responsibility for adult Community Living Services from the ministry to Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) on July 1, 2005. B.C. now has a community-based service delivery system that promotes choice, innovation and shared responsibility.
- Continued implementation of the comprehensive strategy developed by the Premier’s Task Force on Homelessness, to tackle homelessness, mental illness and addictions. MCFD is strengthening the services provided to homeless youth who are vulnerable to drug abuse, sexual exploitation and criminal activities by investing an additional \$2 million for supports to sexually exploited youth. Examples of services include outreach; one-to-one support workers; counseling; family mediation; assistance with basic needs like food and clothing; and, repatriation to family.

The ministry continued to roll out the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan to better serve the almost 140,000 children and youth in B.C. with mental illness disorders. B.C.’s Child and Youth Mental Health Plan is the first of its kind in Canada, and other provinces are interested in following our lead.

The ministry met or substantially met its performance measure targets for 2005/06 that support the objectives of the ministry, except for where there was either no target or baseline set.

The 2005/06 Ministry of Children and Family Development Annual Service Plan Report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the ministry’s 2005/06 – 2007/08 Service Plan Update September 2005. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Stan Hagen  
Minister of Children and Family Development

June 30, 2006



## Message from the Minister of State for Child Care and Accountability Statement

As Minister of State for Child Care, I am pleased to present and report on progress and achievements for 2005/06 related to child care.

Child care is vital to meet the needs of thousands of B.C. families, and quality early childhood development contributes to a child's long term success in life. Child caregivers come in many forms — from grandparents to Early Childhood Educators, from family caregivers to teachers and parents themselves.

Ensuring that our children — our youngest citizens — have every opportunity to thrive is dependent on families, communities, and partner organizations working together. I am always heartened by the commitment of ministry staff, our service and community partners, and the strong start they give our children.

This government is committed to the development of a high quality, accessible and sustainable early learning and child care system that meets the needs of children and their families in all parts of the province.

By increasing families' choices in early childhood development, we support them to grow strong and resilient.

Child care plays a key role in contributing towards government's Five Great Goals and contributes to making B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent and supports healthy development for young children and their families through public awareness, services provided through child care centres and collaborative community-based strategies.

Significant progress has been made to provide B.C.'s families with a range of quality, accessible, affordable and safe child care options that meet their diverse needs and support healthy child development.

In 2005/06, we undertook a strategy of building a strong working relationship with the federal government — a collaborative approach — to achieve the best possible child care arrangement for B.C. families.

Child Care accomplishments during 2005/06 included:

- Enhanced the Child Care Subsidy program to support low and moderate income families to meet the costs of quality child care so that more families are eligible to receive subsidy and more families receive an increase in their existing subsidy.
- Increased access to quality child care spaces, with over 79,000 government funded licensed child care spaces in B.C. through the Child Care Operating Funding Program.
- Increased supports for eligible licensed group and family child care providers serving children under six to help meet the day to day costs of providing care, including staff recruitment and retention.
- Established six new Child Care Resource and Referral Programs in the province, bringing the total to 43 programs and two provincial agencies serving over 300 communities across

the province. The new Child Care Resource and Referral Programs are in Courtenay, Gibsons, Elk Valley, Kitimat, North Peace and Walnut Grove and surrounding areas.

- Funding approval for approximately 1,500 new spaces under the Child Care Major Capital Program.
- Professional development for Early Childhood Educators and encouraging more people to enter the profession through bursaries to educational institutions.

Other accomplishments:

- Provided funding for the *Provincial Atlas of Child Development*, a community planning tool that maps the readiness to learn of B.C.'s children by school district, community and neighborhood. The Atlas was developed in partnership with the Human Early Learning Partnership, a consortium of four B.C. universities and ministry partners.
- Continued to implement initiatives such as the Early Development Instrument (measuring readiness to learn), community asset mapping and Success By 6®, that equip communities to make informed decisions about their communities and complement existing community services. There were 96 priority communities identified (based on work done with the Atlas).
- Piloted 10 Seeds of Empathy sites in communities across B.C., including four Aboriginal sites.
- Provided new supports for families of young children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder including new regional key worker services and new assessment, diagnosis, education and support services, in partnership with the Ministries of Health and Education.

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

- Produce a draft Family Friendly Workplace strategy and action plan for consultation and present it to the Provincial Child Care Council.
- With other ministers and as a member of the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership, develop a plan for B.C.'s role in the promotion of research and evaluation in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention and support which is consistent with priorities identified in the provincial Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Strategic Plan, and present it to the Government Caucus Committee for Social Development.
- Develop a plan in collaboration with the Ministers of Advanced Education and Health to increase the number of skilled and qualified behavioural interventionists for children with autism in B.C. and present the plan to the Government Caucus Committee Social Development.

These strategies and plans were developed and presented to the Government Caucus Committee for Social Development, and implementation is ongoing.



Honourable Linda Reid  
Minister of State for Child Care

June 30, 2006

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# Highlights of the Year

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) would like to highlight the following achievements toward building stronger families and communities throughout British Columbia.

## Practice Shifts

- The Minister of Children and Family Development initiated two independent reviews to assess and inform improvements to the ministry's child protection system and practices, to ensure the best system of support for vulnerable children and youth in B.C. The reviews completed to date<sup>1</sup> provide a balanced assessment and reaffirmed the practice shifts already being undertaken by the ministry. The recommendations from these reviews provide opportunities for government and the ministry to continue to strengthen its quality assurance systems and services.
- Continued to implement practice shifts in child protection and family support, emphasizing prevention, long-term planning, family and community-based alternatives to government care, and increasing family and community participation in planning and decision-making, all of which contributed to better outcomes for children, youth and families. For example, in 2005/06, 642 children were able to be cared for by extended family or in the community, and 276 children left government care to be placed into permanent adoptive homes.
- Built family capacity for children and families to safely care for their children through Family Development Response. The practice is supported by both families and child protection workers and is a new approach that engages families and communities to keep children safe.
- Assisted families to develop their own solutions, with a particular focus on Aboriginal families, to identify child safety issues through a \$2 million grant to the Law Foundation for Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Improved ministry contracting practices by moving to performance, output-based contracting to ensure that contracted service providers are held accountable for providing the best services for British Columbians.

## Capacity Building

- Promoted parent awareness of, and community support for, early childhood development through events such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder research forums; resources such as toy lending libraries; cross-sectoral partnerships with businesses, non-profit organizations and communities; and targeted outreach to Aboriginal communities such as

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<sup>1</sup> Special reports regarding the investigation into the death of a First Nations child, are available at: [http://www.gov.bc.ca/cyo/popt/javascript\\_version/investigation\\_reports.htm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/cyo/popt/javascript_version/investigation_reports.htm) and the B.C. Children and Youth review, is available at: [http://www.childyouthreview.ca/down/BC\\_Children\\_and\\_Youth\\_Review\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_April\\_4.pdf](http://www.childyouthreview.ca/down/BC_Children_and_Youth_Review_Report_FINAL_April_4.pdf).

a culturally appropriate Aboriginal Infant Development policy and procedures manual for consultants working with Aboriginal families.

- Provided 45 training sessions for 942 child and youth mental health practitioners, focusing on the latest evidence-based approaches, including advanced cognitive behavioural therapy for depression, early psychosis intervention and dialectical behavioural therapy. The training was among the most extensive of its kind in B.C.'s history.
- Developed online and classroom post-secondary training for behavioural interventionists to work with children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder in B.C. The ministry's investment of \$550,000 will increase the number of qualified service providers available to work with children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Training capacity is projected at 150–200 people per year.

### **Collaboration with other Ministries, Stakeholders and Community Partners**

- Responded to the life-long needs and goals of individuals and families by completing the transfer of services for individuals with developmental disabilities to a new provincial Crown agency. Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) was formally established on July 1, 2005, to provide adults with developmental disabilities with choices regarding community living services that meet their individual needs.
- Ongoing collaboration with five Aboriginal planning committees to plan for regional and local approaches to services and supports for Aboriginal children, youth and families in preparation for regional Aboriginal authorities assuming responsibility for Aboriginal service delivery.
- Completed planning for the transfer of the Child Care Subsidy Program from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The transfer is expected to be completed in 2007.
- Made significant investments in autism research by funding the inclusion of 100 BC children in a five year national study on autism intervention. MCFD, in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education, committed \$1.27 million. This study, which will be conducted from 2005 to 2009 is the largest ever autism research study undertaken in Canada.
- Educated an additional 22,500 Grades 4 and 5 students about anxiety disorders through continued implementation of the FRIENDS program with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and B.C. school districts. Since FRIENDS was launched in August 2004, over 47,500 students have participated in 45 out of 60 school districts.
- Funded \$2.5 million to the Human Early Learning Partnership which released the Provincial Atlas of Child Development, a tool that maps children's readiness to learn, community by community.
- The Human Early Learning Partnership supported an analysis of children's readiness to learn in 30 of 125 First Nations Band Schools. This analysis helps to ensure the efficient and targeted use of resources to optimize outcomes for Aboriginal children and youth.

## **Culturally Appropriate Services**

- Increased the number of delegation agreements with Aboriginal agencies by three to 23. These agreements provide a legal framework for delegated Aboriginal agencies to deliver child protection and family support services to Aboriginal communities.
- Established a camp to connect children in permanent care with extended family members in their home communities. One ministry employee in the North region received the Premier's Leadership Award for her leadership role in establishing the first cultural camp for children. As a result of the camp, seven families entered into discussions with the ministry to find permanent placements for their children and eight other families established ongoing contact and regular visits.
- Strengthened and improved access to programs, services, training and networking by increasing the number of Aboriginal early childhood development initiatives. Of the 90 Aboriginal initiatives in place in 2005/06, 41 were early childhood development programs, 28 were infant development programs serving over 500 children and their families per year, 11 were Family Resource programs and 10 were Building Blocks programs.
- Supported more than 100 Aboriginal children to reconnect with their birth families, communities and cultures through the Roots Program that helps children to learn about their community and culture.
- Continued dialogue and joint decision-making with Aboriginal leadership through a joint Aboriginal management committee that identifies how services to Aboriginal children and families can be improved.

## **Increasing Access to Services**

- Funded the creation of approximately 1,500 quality child care spaces. The Major Capital Funding for Creation of New Child Care Spaces program now provides grants for 50 per cent of the cost of a project up to \$300,000 per project (up from \$250,000). A new Targeted Major Capital Grants program for non-profit child care providers in Aboriginal and other priority communities identified through the Early Development Instrument, were eligible for 90 per cent of the cost of the project up to \$500,000.
- Expanded the Child Care Subsidy program for children under six, to make the subsidy available to approximately 6,500 additional children and their families, and to increase subsidy amounts for another 6,000 children and their families.
- Created six new Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) programs in Courtenay, Gibsons, Elk Valley, Kitimat, North Peace and Walnut Grove to enhance both access to, and quality of child care services. Child Care Resource and Referral Programs help parents find quality care in their communities, and provide a range of supports to child care providers in over 300 communities across the province.
- Increased capacity for the Supported Child Development program by funding \$10 million to assist in reducing waiting times for services. This provides for extra staff, training, support and consultation to families and child care providers to assist children with special needs to participate in community child care settings.

- Over \$15 million in new investments in 2005/06 benefited children and youth with special needs and their families by: increasing access to therapies, infant development, respite and supported child development programs; enhancing services for children with complex health needs and children with sensory impairments; initiating the development of new supports for families of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and similar conditions; and addressing service demand for autism intervention, Nursing Support Services and Medical Benefits. The Infant Development Program provides home-based services through 52 community agencies to over 6,600 infants, who have, or are at risk for a developmental delay.
- Funded 15 additional youth emergency shelter and safe house beds for youth at risk in Kelowna (7 beds) and Surrey (8 beds) and 10 transitional housing beds in Prince George.
- Allocated \$12.7 million in additional funding to child and youth mental health services. The funding created 100 new staff positions to expand treatment and support, reduce risk and build family and community capacity, and carry out evidence-based training.

## **New Investments**

- Government approved one-time investments of \$23.5 million with on-going benefits in:
  - The Children and Youth with Special Needs Supports Fund, \$10 million administered by the Vancouver Foundation to assist eligible parents of children with special needs to access equipment, vehicle conversions and home renovations that will increase access in the child's home and the community. This fund will be aligned with the Family Independence Fund, a CLBC supported fund for individuals with developmental disabilities.
  - The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Action Fund, \$10 million administered by the Victoria Foundation to promote prevention, public education, and parent and caregiver education. It will also support demonstration projects intended to focus on improving outcomes for children and youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
  - Canuck Place Hospice, \$3.5 million to provide access to services and supports for children with progressive life-limiting illnesses and their families. This includes respite and transition care, therapeutic support services, symptom management, end-of-life care, as well as grief and bereavement support, counselling and outreach services.



# 2005/06 Performance Plan Summary Table

Ministry Mission				
Our mission is to promote and develop the capacity of families and communities to care for and protect vulnerable children and youth, and to maximize the potential of every child in B.C. by supporting healthy child development.				
Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Measures / Indicators	Result	
1. Children and youth are healthy and safe in their families and communities.	1.1. A comprehensive and responsive child welfare system that promotes safety, family continuity and permanency for children.	Number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care.	95% Achieved	
		Number of families referred to family support services.	Target Exceeded by 57%	
		Number of adoptions of children in care of the ministry.	92% Achieved	
	1.2. An increasingly culturally appropriate service delivery system for Aboriginal children and families.	Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies.	93% Achieved	
		Per cent of Aboriginal children in care of the ministry who are cared for by Aboriginal families.	Baseline Not Determined	
	1.3. Enhanced services for specific child and youth populations, such as young offenders, children and youth at risk for or with mental disorders, and children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited.	Rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12–17 year olds (per 10,000).	Target Exceeded by 30%	
		Number of children and youth served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services.	Baseline Not Determined	
	2. Children and youth, including those with special needs, are supported to achieve their full potential.	2.1. Increased family and community capacity to support early childhood development.	Number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance early childhood development services for young Aboriginal children and their families.	Target Achieved
			Per cent of children who enter kindergarten "ready to learn."	No Set Target
2.2. Accessible and quality child care.		Number of funded licensed child care spaces available.	93% Achieved	
		Number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy.	Target Exceeded by 3%	
2.3. Increased access to early intervention and support services to assist families caring for children and youth with special needs.		Per cent of children under six with special needs and their families who receive supported child development services within three months of service request.	Baseline Not Determined	
		Per cent of children under six with special needs receiving an (initial) early intervention therapy within three months of service request.	Target Achieved	

**Ministry Mission**  
 Our mission is to promote and develop the capacity of families and communities to care for and protect vulnerable children and youth, and to maximize the potential of every child in B.C. by supporting healthy child development.

Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Measures / Indicators	Result
3. Adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are served by effective, efficient and accountable community-based service delivery systems.	3.1. Creation of a provincial community living authority.	An authority established under legislation assumes responsibility for delivery of some or all community living services.	Target Achieved
	3.2. Creation of regional authorities to oversee delivery of child and family services.	Number of regional authorities established under legislation that assume responsibility for delivery of child and family services.	No Set Target

## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides a wide variety of services to support better outcomes for children, youth and families. MCFD's responsibilities include:

- child protection;
- residential and foster care;
- adoption for children permanently in care;
- family development;
- community child and youth mental health;
- community youth justice services;
- programs to assist at-risk or sexually exploited youth;
- early childhood development;
- child care; and,
- services for children and youth with special needs and their families.

The ministry is also responsible for a number of specialized provincial services, including youth justice, youth forensic psychiatric services, the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, and services for the deaf and hard of hearing. MCFD's overall purpose is to help ensure the best possible outcomes for children, youth and families, especially those who are vulnerable and/or have special needs.



## Vision, Mission and Values<sup>2</sup>

### Vision

The Ministry of Children and Family Development envisions a province where children are healthy, families are responsible and all live in safe, caring and inclusive communities.

### Mission

Our mission is to promote and develop the capacity of families and communities to care for and protect vulnerable children and youth, and to maximize the potential of every child in B.C. by supporting healthy child development.

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<sup>2</sup> The ministry's vision, mission and values were revised in the 2006/07–2008/09 Service Plan to better reflect its direction and priorities.

## Values

As an organization the Ministry of Children and Family Development values:

**Service Excellence:** Providing and supporting the delivery of quality, effective, evidence-based services that strive for the optimal use of resources.

**Partnerships with Aboriginal Peoples:** Transforming relationships to work with Aboriginal communities to develop, implement and deliver services for Aboriginal children and families.

**Dynamic Organizational Culture:** Focusing on accountability, innovation and excellence.

The following values guide the planning and delivery of ministry services:

**Protection of Vulnerable Children and Youth:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children and youth is the paramount consideration.

**Primacy of Family:** Supporting the right and primary responsibility of families to protect and support the growth and development of children while providing the least intrusive measures to keep children safely within their families when possible.

**Integrity:** Promoting relationships of mutual trust, confidence and respect.

**Participation:** Involving children, youth, their families and communities in the planning and delivery of services.

**Fostering Community Capacity:** Recognizing and supporting communities so they can enhance the resilience of children and families.

## Strategic Context

Throughout 2005/06, the Ministry of Children and Family Development served a wide range of clients from communities throughout British Columbia, including some of the most vulnerable people in the province. Our mandate was to advance the safety and well-being of children and youth; to advance early childhood development; and to support a sustainable, flexible, community-based system of family services that promote innovation, equity and accountability.

The following section provides a summary of challenges, risks and mitigation strategies, and highlights the external and internal factors that affected the ministry throughout 2005/06.

### Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

A number of factors posed significant risks to the ministry's ability to meet its goals, objectives and performance targets in 2005/06. A number of the ministry's programs and services are demand driven (e.g., child care subsidy, child care operating funding). Other programs are provided to meet health and safety needs (e.g., particular services for children with special needs) or are required through legislation (e.g., child protection services, youth justice). It is often challenging to accurately predict and plan for services. Ongoing challenges include: changing demographics, reporting capacity and meeting the changing expectations for services from clients, their families and the public.

The ministry's service delivery system is complex and is dependent on a diverse range of community-based contracted service agencies. Challenges included the potential for inconsistent service delivery, as 53 per cent of ministry services are delivered through approximately 5,600 third party contracts. An additional challenge is a lack of adequate information systems infrastructure that compromises the integrity of the data used to monitor and report on performance; including data provided by contracted service providers.

The following strategies were used in 2005/06 to help the ministry manage and address identified risks and challenges:

- The ministry continued to maintain and develop collaborative partnerships and effective working relationships with contracted service providers, community-based organizations and government partners.
- The ministry continued to maintain a skilled, responsive and motivated professional workforce. A healthy working environment was supported through programs including: Employee Wellness, Employee Learning and Development, Occupational Health and Safety, Succession Planning, Employee Recognition and Long Service Awards.
- The ministry continued to improve accountability through a process shift to performance-based contracts with service providers to improve service quality and ensure the most effective use of available resources.

- The ministry continued to improve performance monitoring and reporting processes with third party contracted service providers.
- The ministry continued to improve its information systems to support planning and service delivery.

The ministry also emphasized and applied research-based approaches and practices in order to provide staff, service providers and community partners with the tools they need to support the planning and delivery of services and, ultimately, to support better outcomes for children, youth and families.

## External Factors

### Independent Reviews of Ministry Services

In the fall of 2005, significant public concern centered on the tragic death of a First Nations child. At the time the child was being cared for by relatives under a “kith and kin” agreement facilitated by a delegated Aboriginal child welfare agency.

Throughout the fall, five external reviews were initiated. Three of the five reviews have now been received by government. The first two reviews were completed by the Child and Youth Officer and focused on the administrative aspects of the ministry’s internal review of the case. These two reports are available at:

[http://www.gov.bc.ca/cyo/popt/javascript\\_version/investigation\\_reports.htm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/cyo/popt/javascript_version/investigation_reports.htm).

The third review, *B.C. Children and Youth Review*, available at: [http://www.childyouthreview.ca/down/BC\\_Children\\_and\\_Youth\\_Review\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_April\\_4.pdf](http://www.childyouthreview.ca/down/BC_Children_and_Youth_Review_Report_FINAL_April_4.pdf) was completed by the Honourable Ted Hughes and relates to advice on the system of reviewing child deaths, child advocacy, the monitoring of the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the public reporting aspects of those issues. The remaining two reviews will look at the systemic issues related to “kith and kin” agreements and service delivery by Aboriginal agencies and the particular circumstances related to the decision-making on the placement of the sibling of the First Nations child.

Some early feedback received during 2005/06 was consistent with the series of improvements the ministry had already begun to make internally. These improvements primarily addressed the issue of quality assurance in the child welfare system and included: implementation of a common audit tool for Aboriginal agencies to support reviews of specific child welfare practices; continued development of management information systems to improve the tracking of fatalities, critical incidents and recommendations; and new online case audit supports for social workers. The ministry also evaluated and revised practice standards for delegated Aboriginal agencies.

There will always be risks associated with serving children and families, many of which are beyond the ministry’s control. However, improvements to quality assurance and the planned implementation of recommendations from external reviews will help to mitigate these risks in the future.

## Change in Federal Government

In 2002/03, an estimated 54 per cent<sup>3</sup> of B.C. children aged 0–12 (approximately 300,000 children) received child care services while their parents worked, went to school or participated in community activities. Since then, demand for child care has continued to rise. In recent years, B.C. has partnered with the federal government through multi-lateral agreements to provide accessible, affordable quality child care.

British Columbia signed the most recent of these, the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement-in-Principle in September 2005. It provided the framework for integrated early learning and child care where children and families benefit from increased quality, more developmental programs, and greater early learning and child care opportunities. The agreement was to provide \$633 million over five years to enhance early learning and child care in B.C. in regulated settings for children under the age of six. In February 2006, a new federal government was elected and subsequently cancelled the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement-in-Principle. The Province will receive funding for 2006/07 but it will be the last year of federal government support under this agreement.

The new federal government has made commitments to child care through a universal child benefit plan. The provincial government remains committed to its vision to provide access to quality early learning and child care in B.C. communities. The ministry will continue to work with the federal government, and with other provinces and territories, to encourage the creation of more child care spaces, and to advocate for the needs of B.C. children and families.

## Demographic Changes

In British Columbia, the child and youth population (aged 0–18 years) is approximately 900,000 or 21 per cent of the province's total population. Since 2000/01, the child population has declined by 5 per cent. The non-Aboriginal child population declined by 5.4 per cent, while the Aboriginal child population declined by 1.2 per cent. As a result, Aboriginal children make up a growing proportion of the total B.C. child population, increasing from 9.0 per cent in 2000/01 to 9.4 per cent in 2005/06. See Table 1.

The number of children in care decreased by 13.6 per cent from 2000/01 to 2004/05, while increasing slightly in 2005/06. The number of Aboriginal children in care has increased while the number of non-Aboriginal children in care has decreased. See Chart 1.

Aboriginal children continue to be disproportionately represented and account for 49 per cent of children in care. Therefore, the ministry continues to work with Aboriginal communities to enhance their capacity to support the well-being of Aboriginal children, youth and families.

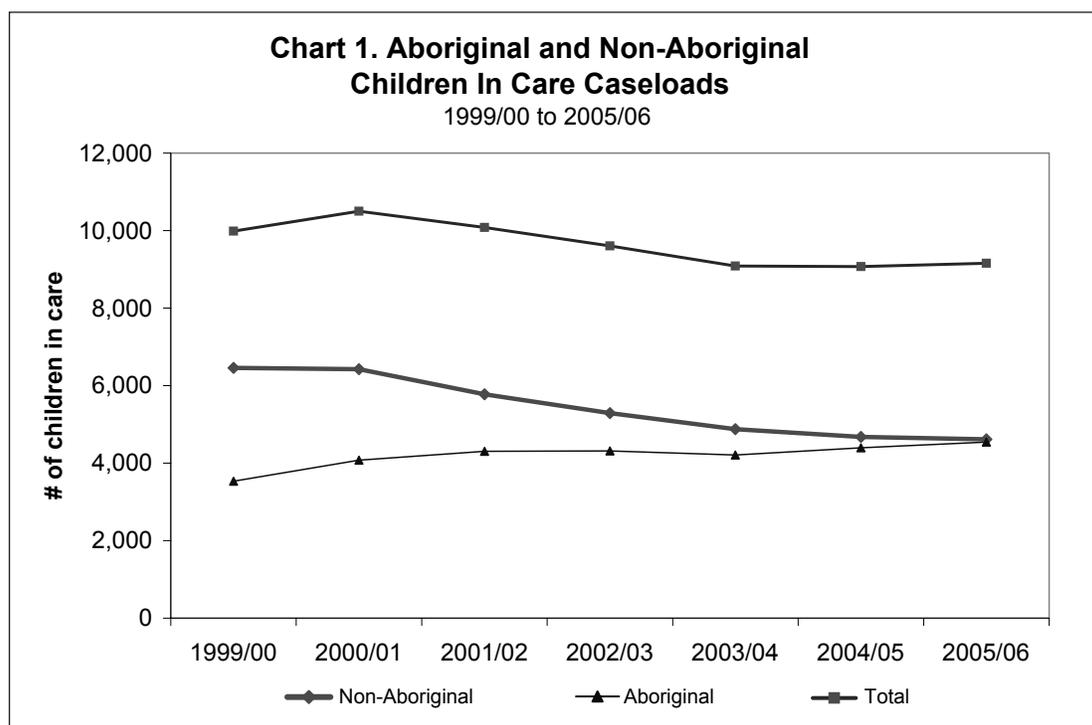
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<sup>3</sup> The April 2006 release of Statistics Canada's Summary of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth shows that the number of families using child care increased to 54% in 2002/03, up from 42% in 1994/95.

**Table 1.**

Year	Child population (0–18)		Children In Care	
	Total	% Aboriginal	Total	% Aboriginal
2000/01	949,362	9.0%	10,498	36.6%
2001/02	939,069	9.1%	10,082	41.3%
2002/03	928,252	9.2%	9,603	44.3%
2003/04	918,944	9.3%	9,086	45.6%
2004/05	909,065	9.3%	9,071	47.6%
2005/06	901,464	9.4%	9,157	49.1%

**Data Source:** Decision Support Branch, MCFD; Total Child population is based on 0–18 population data from BC STATS.



**Data source:** Decision Support Branch, MCFD.

While the number of youth aged 12 to 17 years has remained relatively stable (325,086 in 2001/02 and 319,913 in 2005/06), the rate of youth in custody has declined from 7.9 to 4.2 per 10,000 over the same time period. Aboriginal children represent 38 per cent of youth in custody.

### **Children and Youth with Special Needs**

There are approximately 52,000 children and youth with special needs in B.C. These children require medical, health, educational and social supports to participate fully in family, school and community life. Improvements in diagnostic tools, in addition to increased public awareness of special needs and advances in medical science and technology, have contributed to increased demand for services. Demand for services are driven by the often complex needs of clients.

The ministry will continue to address demand in this area by increasing access to services and reducing waiting times; improving service delivery using current research to improve both outcomes and service efficiency; increasing emphasis on early identification of special needs and early intervention; maintaining a skilled and responsive workforce; assisting in the development of recruitment, retention and training strategies; and furthering cross-ministry coordination and collaboration at provincial and regional levels.

### **Children and Youth at Risk**

Despite everyone's best efforts, some children experience negative influences that affect their well-being. Some develop serious mental health problems. Others are abused, neglected, sexually exploited or at risk for other reasons. As it is in our common interest to see the children and youth of B.C. thrive, the ministry provides services to prevent and reduce these risks, and to support the positive growth and development of children and youth.

Government receives approximately 30,000 reports of children and youth in need of protection every year. While this number has remained fairly constant since 2001/02, the numbers of children and youth in ministry care have been declining — from 10,498 in March 2001 to 9,157 in March 2006. These figures include children and youth with special needs and those in care by parental agreement. There are fewer children in care primarily due to practice shifts that encourage the placement of children and youth at risk with extended families, friends or community members, rather than the ministry. The ministry continues its efforts to find adoptive homes for children in permanent care.

The ministry also serves children and youth affected by mental illness and those youth considered to be high-risk. Approximately 140,000 (15 per cent) of B.C.'s children and youth experience some form of mental disorder that impairs their functioning at home, at school, with peers and in the community. An estimated one per cent of 16–18 year-olds (about 1,700 individuals) are considered high-risk and are in situations that jeopardize their safety and well-being. These individuals have particularly complex needs, often compounded by a growing desire for independence as they approach adulthood, which can encourage resistance to accessing services.

Risks in this area include that services are driven by client needs that are often complex and the system's capacity to provide those services is finite. The ministry addresses these risks by working to continually improve its service delivery practices, consistent with current research to improve both outcomes and service efficiency; maintaining a skilled and responsive workforce; progressive implementation of B.C.'s Child and Youth Mental Health

Plan; and providing tools to support effective and accountable service delivery by ministry staff, community partners and contracted service providers.

## **Internal Factors**

### **Great Goals for a Golden Decade**

The government's Strategic Plan for 2006/07 – 2008/09 is built around Five Great Goals:

1. Make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.
2. Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.
3. Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.
4. Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
5. Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

These goals provide an overarching focus and direction for all provincial ministries and agencies. MCFD's work in 2005/06 focused on supporting the first three Great Goals.

MCFD assumed a leadership role with other government ministries and agencies to identify opportunities to strengthen linkages between and among early learning, child care and early childhood development initiatives to improve school readiness and school performance. These initiatives will help make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

The ministry contributed to Great Goal 2 through health and physical fitness initiatives in child care centres and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, through the ActNow! BC initiative. ActNow! BC is a comprehensive health promotion program combining cross-government and community-based approaches to address common chronic disease risk factors through programs and initiatives that support healthier eating, physical activity, ending tobacco use and promoting healthy choices during pregnancy.

MCFD contributed to Great Goal 3 through its ongoing commitment to, and improvements in, child protection, family support, implementation of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, services to children and youth with special needs and their families, and services for individuals with developmental disabilities. MCFD worked closely with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to improve prevention, screening, assessment, diagnosis, intervention and support services for children and youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other complex developmental behavioural conditions. The ministry continued to review and make improvements to its service system with its ministry partners to improve developmental and educational opportunities for vulnerable children and youth.

MCFD worked in collaboration with other ministries to review and identify opportunities that will help support the needs of children and youth in the province to ensure that they have the strongest start possible.

## Quality Assurance

During 2005/06, in tandem with independent and external reviews, the ministry reviewed areas in which it could improve its performance and services. Quality assurance was a focus, and the ministry developed a number of strategies to strengthen service monitoring, reporting and accountability. Quality assurance is the assessment and review of whether a ministry service meets pre-determined standards, policies, practices and legislative requirements. The ministry improved contracting practices by moving to performance output-based contracting.

The ministry also supported the accreditation of 161 contracted agencies. Accreditation is a requirement of agencies that receive \$500,000 or more annual ministry funding. Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services also became accredited and the accreditation process was well underway for the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre and the Burnaby Youth Custody Services Centre. Achieving and maintaining accreditation means that the organization meets internationally recognized service standards that focus on effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and accessibility, and benefits adults with disabilities, children, youth and their families.

## Community Living Services

On July 1, 2005, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) was formally established as a provincial Crown agency, dedicated to ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to participate in, and contribute to, their communities and to live a full and valued life. CLBC is responsible for directing operations, enforcing standards and managing funds related to the delivery and transformation of services. The ministry retains responsibility for funding, performance agreements, and monitoring and assessing accountabilities for the agency. For further information regarding CLBC please go to: <http://www.communitylivingbc.ca>.

During 2005/06, CLBC was the main point of contact on behalf of MCFD for children's community living services. MCFD and CLBC worked together during the year to support CLBC's vision of providing independent planning support and family support services for children and youth with developmental disabilities and their families in accordance with the Children's Agreement.<sup>4</sup> We will continue to work together to ensure those with developmental disabilities and their families are well served.

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<sup>4</sup> For additional information on the Children's Agreement:  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/pdf/fs\\_childrens\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/pdf/fs_childrens_agreement.pdf).

# Service Delivery and Core Business Areas

## Legislative Mandate

The Ministry of Children and Family Development administered 10 provincial Acts in 2005/06, these include the:

- *Adoption Act*;
- *Child Care BC Act*;
- *Child Care Subsidy Act*;
- *Child, Family and Community Service Act*;
- *Community Living Authority Act*;
- *Community Services Interim Authorities Act*;
- *Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act*;
- *Human Resource Facility Act*;
- *Social Workers Act*; and,
- *Youth Justice Act*.

In addition, the ministry's work was also guided by the *Community Care Facility Act*, *Family Relations Act*, *Mental Health Act* and *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Canada).

## Service Delivery

Approximately 53 per cent of ministry funding supports services delivered through contracts with community-based service providers. These include: early childhood development, residential and foster care, family support and services for children with special needs and their families, and some child and youth mental health services. In addition, the ministry provides child care subsidies to parents and grants to child care providers. Most child protection services are delivered directly by specially trained ministry child protection social workers; the majority of family development, child and youth mental health and youth justice services are also delivered directly by ministry staff. Most services are delivered through the ministry's five regions while provincial services, such as youth justice and services for the deaf and hard of hearing, are delivered through the ministry's Provincial Services Division. For a map of the ministry's service delivery regions, see Appendix 4.

Regionally delivered services include:

- child protection;
- residential and foster care;
- adoption for children permanently in care;
- early childhood development, such as the infant development program and supported child development services;
- therapy services such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language pathology;
- child care resource and referral centres;
- family development, such as family and community support services;
- community child and youth mental health;

- community youth justice services;
- programs to assist at-risk and/or sexually exploited youth; and,
- community living services for adults with developmental disabilities and children and youth with special needs and their families from April 1 – June 30, 2005. CLBC assumed responsibility for service delivery July 1, 2005.

## **Partners, Clients and Stakeholders**

The ministry's service delivery partners include: contracted service providers, other ministries, family foster homes, Aboriginal communities, delegated Aboriginal child welfare agencies, school districts and health authorities.

The ministry's primary clients are children, youth and families.

Stakeholders include service provider organizations and advisory bodies; local, Aboriginal, federal and provincial governments; school boards; health authorities; unions; professional organizations; planning committees and umbrella organizations for service providers.

## **Core Business Areas Overview**

The Ministry of Children and Family Development had four core business areas in 2005/06.

### **1. Child and Family Development**

This core business area provided a range of services for children, youth and their families to maintain and improve the safety and well-being of vulnerable children and youth in B.C. Services included: child protection; residential, guardianship and foster care; permanency and adoption planning for children permanently in care; and services to strengthen and preserve families. Services also included: community child and youth mental health services; community youth justice supervision services; and services to assist youth who are at risk for or experiencing sexual exploitation.

**Budget in 2005/06: \$590,653,000**

**Expenditures: \$586,616,505**

**Actual Full-Time Equivalency: 2,790**

### **2. Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs**

This core business area was responsible for early childhood development services for children aged 0 to 6, child care, and services for children and youth with special needs and their families. These services supported children and youth to achieve their full potential. Early childhood development included services and initiatives such as infant development, parenting and family support programs. Child care services included a range of affordable, safe, quality options that meet families' diverse needs and support healthy child development. This core business area also included developmental and support services for

children and youth with special needs, such as early intervention services and supports for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Budget in 2005/06: \$450,788,000**

**Expenditures: \$453,929,270**

**Actual Full-Time Equivalency: 300**

### **3. Provincial Services**

This core business area provided for the administration of specialized services for children and youth, such as youth custody centres, treatment programs for psychiatrically ill or conduct-disordered adolescents, services for the deaf and hard of hearing, and migrant services (i.e., supports for unaccompanied children who arrive in B.C. unexpectedly from other countries). This core business area was also responsible for the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan.

**Budget in 2005/06: \$53,717,000**

**Expenditures: \$53,504,205**

**Actual Full-Time Equivalency: 596**

### **4. Executive and Support Services**

This core business area provided overall advice, direction, leadership and support to ministry programs. This included: overarching policy and legislative support; intergovernmental relations, audit, staff development, performance management and related research functions, administrative, contract and financial support.

**Budget in 2005/06: \$17,632,000**

**Expenditures: \$17,888,104**

**Actual Full-Time Equivalency: 210**

**Adult Community Living Services:** Between April 1, 2005 and June 30, 2005, the ministry was responsible for the delivery of services to adults with developmental disabilities. On July 1, 2005, this service delivery responsibility was transferred to CLBC.

In addition to overall responsibility for the ministry, the Minister was responsible for supporting CLBC to achieve its mandate to provide and improve upon services to adults with developmental disabilities. The following provided for these services and related responsibilities:

#### **Ministry Services — Adult Community Living**

This provided for services to adults with developmental disabilities from April 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005, and for the establishment of CLBC's new governance structure. This funding also provided for the Office of the Advocate for Service Quality and general support and advice to the Minister regarding his CLBC-related responsibilities.

**Budget in 2005/06: \$129,862,000**

**Expenditures: \$129,861,200**

**Actual Full-Time Equivalency: 78**

**Transfers to Community Living British Columbia**

This provided for the funding transfer to CLBC for the governance, management, operations and delivery of services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities from July 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

**Budget in 2005/06: \$394,802,000**

**Expenditures: \$394,802,000**

**Actual Full-Time Equivalency: Not Applicable**

**Further Ministry Information**

For more information on ministry programs and services go to: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/>.

## Report on Performance

The following section describes the goals and objectives that guided the ministry's work in 2005/06, explains their importance and details the strategies used to achieve them, as well as the results achieved. The section also discusses performance measures, analyzes results and explains any variances from expected targets.

All results reported in this section reflect the ministry's three goals:

1. Children and youth are healthy and safe in their families and communities;
2. Children and youth, including those with special needs, are supported to achieve their full potential; and,
3. Adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are served by effective, efficient and accountable community-based service delivery systems.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development uses several reporting systems to track its progress on performance measures. Performance measures evolve and improve over time as the ministry's needs, resources and priorities change and as new and/or better performance information becomes available. All identified data issues are discussed with the relevant performance measures. The ministry recognizes data collection and validity as a challenge and continues to review and improve its data systems for possible improvements to ensure data validity and reliability.

Improvements to the performance management and reporting systems are supported by the implementation of the ministry's Information Resource Management Plan. Progress made in 2005/06 included:

- implementation of the Brief Child and Family Phone interview, a screening intake tool for child and youth mental health services;
- began implementation of the Community and Residential Information System (CARIS) in the Provincial Services Division;
- development of a catalogue of services that provides standardized deliverables to improve outcomes for services through third party agreements;
- completion of the Adoption Management System, which reports on adoption services that are provided by the ministry. This system replaced a number of smaller, unlinked systems;
- implemented word processing capability for the Social Worker System to make the system easier to use for social workers;
- completion of the Family Group Conferencing system, an alternate dispute resolution system. This alternative dispute resolution system provided services to enhance family capacity to care for their children; and,
- completed extensive planning for the ministry case management, contract management and data management projects.

The ministry continues to collect, monitor and make available additional statistics and reports on trends and outcomes associated with services for children, youth and families. For further information visit our website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/>.

## Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

### **Goal 1: Children and youth are healthy and safe in their families and communities.**

This goal recognizes the ministry's role in supporting the safety and well-being of children and youth. Research and evidence confirm that this is best achieved in the context of family and community, with the primary responsibility for protecting children and supporting their development resting with their families. The ministry works with communities, individuals and families to build resiliency and enhance their capacity to support positive outcomes for children and youth.

The ministry faced several challenges in meeting this goal in 2005/06. These included: inconsistencies in communities' capacity to provide services; accommodating the diversity of Aboriginal interests; the need for greater training for ministry service providers; and difficulty in recruiting and retaining dedicated, qualified staff, particularly for remote areas of British Columbia. These challenges were addressed through corresponding strategies that included capacity building of staff and service providers through training and support initiatives and recruitment activities.

**The core business areas that support Goal 1 of the ministry include: Child and Family Development, Provincial Services, and Executive and Support Services.**



The following table provides a summary of performance measures related to Goal 1.

<b>Goal 1: Children and youth are healthy and safe in their families and communities.</b>				
<b>Objective 1.1: A comprehensive and responsive child welfare system that promotes safety, family continuity and permanency for children.</b>				
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2005/06 Target</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Reference Pages</b>
Number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care.	675	642	95% Achieved	32-33
Number of families referred to family support services.	557	874	Target Exceeded by 57%	33-34
Number of adoptions of children in care of the ministry.	300	276	92% Achieved	35-36
<b>Objective 1.2: An increasingly culturally appropriate service delivery system for Aboriginal children and families.</b>				
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2005/06 Target</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Reference Pages</b>
Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies.	33%	30.6%	93% Achieved	37-38
Per cent of Aboriginal children in care of the ministry who are cared for by Aboriginal families.	Establish Baseline	Baseline Not Determined	Baseline Not Determined	38-39
<b>Objective 1.3: Enhanced services for specific child and youth populations such as young offenders, children and youth at risk for or with mental disorders, and children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited.</b>				
Rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12–17 year olds (per 10,000).	Max. 6 per 10,000	4.2 per 10,000	Target Exceeded by 30%	40-42
Number of children and youth served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services.	Establish Baseline	Baseline Not Determined	Baseline Not Determined	43

## Goal 1: Objectives

### Objective 1.1: A comprehensive and responsive child welfare system that promotes safety, family continuity and permanency for children.

Safety, continuity and permanency are critical to children’s well-being and therefore can be seen as key indicators of a comprehensive and responsive child welfare system. The ministry supports this direction by providing more out-of-care options to keep children safe within their families and communities. Out-of-care options are alternative care arrangements with extended family or close friends for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are temporarily

unable to live with their parents. Out-of-care placements build on family and community strengths and maintain the continuity of significant relationships with family and others in community, contributing to better outcomes for the children, youth and families served.

The ministry works with a child's extended family and others to develop a plan to keep the child safe, and to support the continuity of family and community relationships and maintain cultural identity and connections. When a child is unable to live permanently with parents or extended family, the ministry seeks a home for the child through adoption or other permanent out-of-care options. The ministry also supports ongoing relationships with the child's biological family and cultural community.

## **Strategies**

1. Supporting families to keep children safe at home.
2. Expanding planning options with families to provide increased opportunities for joint decision-making and increased involvement in care plans by family and community members.
3. Increasing the use of non-court processes such as family conferencing, alternate dispute resolution processes and mediation to resolve child protection issues.
4. Helping children in care to develop and maintain permanent family and other life-long relationships.
5. Working to apply greater utilization of out-of-care options.

## **Progress towards the objective**

- MCFD implemented a number of practice shifts to ensure that vulnerable children are protected through a regional network of community-based, integrated, comprehensive and accessible services that promote:
  - preventative, evidence-based approaches using early intervention and collaboration including the Family Development Response, which supports families to build on their strengths;
  - family and community-based alternatives to care for vulnerable children and youth, including 284 "kith and kin" agreements and 525 youth agreements in 2005/06; and,
  - effective planning for children in care that promotes family continuity, permanency and life-long attachments including mechanisms to increase family and community participation in case planning and decision-making, and options such as mediation and family group conferencing to avoid adversarial processes.
- The ministry, with the assistance of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, strengthened the criminal background checking process for prospective out-of-care providers.
- Launched a new data system and delivered training to ministry staff to improve data quality and allow for a comprehensive review of the outcomes associated with Family Group Conferencing. In 2005/06, 444 Family Group Conferences occurred.

- Began work on a Caregiver Support System framework to promote quality care for children in care that includes maintaining permanent family and other life-long relationships.
- Provided \$2 million to the Law Foundation for alternative dispute resolution initiatives for children and communities.
- Delivered training on strength-based collaborative practice in child welfare to a group of team leaders, consultants, staff and representatives from delegated Aboriginal agencies.
- In 2005/06, 420 mediations were completed as a part of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process.

## Performance Measures Objective 1.1

### Measure 1.1.1: Number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care.

This measure reflects the importance of maintaining the continuity of family and community relationships for vulnerable children. It is the sum of the number of children placed in “kith and kin” agreements under section 8 and new out-of-care placements under sections 35(2)(d) and 41(1)(b) of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

The measure is a proxy of the impact of practice shifts that keep children with their families, relatives and friends wherever possible. This is preferable to children being in the care of the ministry as out-of-care placements build on family strengths, maintain the continuity of relationships and contribute to better outcomes for children, youth and families.

The 2005/06 target for the measure was based on forecasts and historical trends in intakes and admissions.

Measure 1.1.1	Year	2005/06 Target	Actuals	Variance	Target Met?
Number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care.	2005/06	675	642	↓ 33	95%
	2004/05		668		
	2003/04		613		
<b>Data Source:</b> Social Work System and Management Information System					

## INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

- Performance analysis**
- 642 children were placed with extended family or in communities.
  - The number of out-of-care placements increased in 2004/05 and decreased slightly in 2005/06. Based on the benefits of this practice, the ministry continues to support the use of alternatives to care, such as increasing supports for caregivers.
- What are we doing to improve results?**
- To retain and increase the number of care providers outside the foster care system, the ministry recognizes that additional community-based services and supports are needed to meet the needs of these families.
  - New funding of \$1.29 million is being allocated in 2006/07 to enhance supports to out-of-care providers. The funding will further assist in supporting and increasing the number of children placed with extended family or community as an alternative to ministry care.
- What else is important about this measure?**
- The count for the measure does not include children served by delegated Aboriginal agencies.
  - Amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* in June 2002 provided social workers with the ability to use out-of-care provisions. The first full fiscal year of data was available starting 2003/04.
  - Caution should be used in comparing the results to those in other jurisdictions as child welfare legislation is unique to each province.

### **Measure 1.1.2: Number of families referred to Family Support Services.**

Family support services refers to supportive services provided to families that come to the attention of the ministry, but whose children are not found to be in need of protection. Family support services are intended to improve family functioning and prevent problems that might lead to children coming into ministry care. They include counseling, parenting education, and referrals for substance misuse or mental health treatment. The measure is a proxy of how well the ministry is supporting families to continue to care for their children.

The measure counts all intakes or referrals to the ministry's child welfare offices that are coded as a Family Development Response (FDR) in the Social Worker System/Management Information System (SWS/MIS). It demonstrates the impact of practice shifts to help ensure that child protection investigations are only used when alternative approaches, such as FDR services, would not ensure a child's safety.

Measure 1.1.2	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Number of families referred to Family Support Services.	484	15% Over Baseline (557)	874	↑ 317	Target Exceeded by 57%
<b>Data Source:</b> Social Work System and Management Information System					

## INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

### Performance analysis

- The 2005/06 target was exceeded by 317 referrals.
- The target was exceeded because the ministry implemented a comprehensive service delivery plan for Family Development Response that included enhanced staff training and support for families to improve child and youth safety.
- As the use of family support services increases, it is anticipated that maltreatment and other child protection concerns will be reduced.
- Higher than expected demand for these services may affect the capacity of regions to deliver them.

### What are we doing to improve results?

- To address the increased demand for these support services, regions will be provided with funding of \$4.16 million in 2006/07 to increase access to FDR supports, including the hiring of more staff to support the capacity of families to address child and youth safety issues.

### What else is important about this measure?

- The use of FDR by delegated Aboriginal agencies was excluded from the count.
- As child welfare legislation is unique to each province, caution should be used in comparing the results.
- FDR was first introduced in November 2003 and continues to be implemented in phases. The ministry expects that the use of FDR will continue to grow each year as the program is fully implemented across the province.
- As more families are referred to Family Support Services, there is an improvement in the ministry's ability to increase the number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care (measure 1.1.1).
- The ministry will continue to monitor this measure internally but it has been excluded as a measure in the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan.
- For further additional statistics about ministry services view: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/>.

### Measure 1.1.3: Number of adoptions of children in care of the ministry.

The goal of permanency planning is seeking a permanent family home for all children who would otherwise remain in ministry care until they reach adulthood. The measure counts the number of children in care placed for adoption within a year by the ministry.

Measure 1.1.3	Year	2005/06 Target	Actuals	Variance	Target Met?
Number of adoptions of children in care of the ministry.	2005/06	300	276	↓ 24	92%
	2004/05		308		
	2003/04		333		
	2002/03		348		
	2001/02		244		

**Data Source:** Adoption Management System

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

##### Performance analysis

- 276 adoptions were completed, achieving 92 per cent of the planned target.
- There were less provincial adoption recruitment activities in 2005/06 than in previous years, while regional recruitment activities targeted specific children or groups in the community. This resulted in a strong interest in adoption, creating challenges in some regions to respond to applicants in a timely manner.
- Adoptions staff are also responsible for providing post-adoptive support to the growing number of adoption placements. Post-adoption support is important in maintaining adoption placements until the child reaches the age of majority.

##### What are we doing to improve results?

- The ministry continues to promote adoption awareness, recruitment and emphasize support for the adoptions program including post-adoption supports.
- For more information regarding the ministry's adoption program view: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/index.htm>.

**What else is important about this measure?**

- Service delivery practice shifts in child protection and family support, which places emphasis on prevention, family and community-based alternatives to government care, and increased family and community participation in planning and decision-making has contributed to fewer children coming into care. Therefore, fewer children require adoption.
- The wording and definition of the measure has been changed to reflect a more appropriate measure of proportion rather than a number count in the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan.
- The Adoption Management System tracks adoptions by date of placement. In some instances there is a delay from the date of placement to when it is recorded.
- Caution should be used in comparing the results as child welfare legislation is unique to each province.

**Objective 1.2: An increasingly culturally appropriate service delivery system for Aboriginal children and families.**

To improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families, the ministry worked in 2005/06 to increase the cultural appropriateness of services to better meet Aboriginal needs. This included services provided by the ministry, as well as work to increase Aboriginal community capacity and practice for service delivery.

The ministry supported the development and expansion of delegated Aboriginal agencies. These agencies are delegated to provide child welfare services consistent with the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. They provide Aboriginal children and families with services that are more consistent with their culture, and support children to retain connections with their communities, extended families and cultural heritage.

**Strategies**

1. Developing new delegated Aboriginal agencies and expanding the scope of existing Aboriginal agencies.
2. Implementing initiatives to recruit and support Aboriginal foster and adoptive parents.
3. Increasing cultural awareness.
4. Hiring and retaining Aboriginal staff.
5. Allocating funding from the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan for the development of Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health services delivered by Aboriginal agencies.

**Progress towards the objective**

- In 2005/06, three more Aboriginal agencies were delegated with the legal responsibility to provide child welfare services for children and families in their communities. This brings the provincial total to 23 agencies, each of which strengthens community resources and makes culturally appropriate services more accessible for Aboriginal children and their

families. The ministry also worked with existing delegated Aboriginal agencies to ensure they are meeting mandatory requirements under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

- Supported more than 100 Aboriginal children to experience increased connection with their birth families, communities and culture through the ministry's Roots program. The program complements cultural planning for Aboriginal children and youth in continuing care of the ministry.
- Implemented strategies to encourage the hiring and retention of Aboriginal staff throughout the ministry.

## Performance Measures Objective 1.2

### Measure 1.2.1: Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies.

As part of its commitment to provide Aboriginal children and families with culturally appropriate services, the ministry delegates its authority under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* to Aboriginal agencies, which are required to meet the same professional standards as the ministry. The number of Aboriginal children in care served by these agencies (rather than the ministry) expressed as a percentage of the total number of Aboriginal children in care is a measure of culturally appropriate service delivery.

Measure 1.2.1	Year	2005/06 Target	Actuals	Variance	Target Met?
Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies.	2005/06	33%	30.6%	↓ 2.4%	93%
	2004/05		30.7%		
	2003/04		29.3%		
	2002/03		23.6%		
	2001/02		14.4%		
	2000/01		12.8%		
<b>Data Source:</b> Social Work System and Management Information System					

**INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE**

- Performance analysis**
- 30.6% of Aboriginal children in care were served by delegated Aboriginal agencies, achieving 93% of the target.
  - A significant number of the delegated Aboriginal agencies had been expected to begin providing a full range of services; however, their scope of practice did not increase as anticipated. As a result, the ministry was not able to transfer as many children as planned.
  - Delegated Aboriginal agencies continue to serve more Aboriginal children each year, increasing from 12.8% in 2000/01 to 30.6% in 2005/06.
- What are we doing to improve results?**
- The ministry will be implementing strategies to support delegated Aboriginal agencies to expand their scope of practice and enable them to serve more Aboriginal children and families.
- What else is important about this measure?**
- Children in the care of delegated Aboriginal agencies are primarily funded by the federal government.

**Measure 1.2.2: Per cent of Aboriginal children in care of the ministry who are cared for by Aboriginal families.**

Wherever possible, the ministry places Aboriginal children in its care with Aboriginal families to maintain their connections to their cultural heritage, community and family. Research and experience has demonstrated that this approach supports better outcomes for Aboriginal children.

The measure counts the number of Aboriginal children in care (served by the ministry or delegated Aboriginal agencies) who have been placed with Aboriginal families, divided by the total number of Aboriginal children in care.

Measure 1.2.2	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Per cent of Aboriginal children in care of the ministry who are cared for by Aboriginal families.	Baseline to be established in 2005/06	Establish Baseline	Baseline Not Determined	Not Applicable	Baseline Not Established

## INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

- Performance analysis**
- The baseline was not determined.
  - The ministry expected to establish a baseline and targets in 2005/06 following the introduction of an electronic interface with delegated Aboriginal agencies to support more effective data collection and monitoring.
  - Previously identified data was based on incomplete information due to ministry data collection and systems issues that do not always identify the cultural background of the foster parent.
- What are we doing to improve results?**
- The ministry is implementing initiatives to hire and retain additional Aboriginal social workers.
  - The ministry continues to work to recruit more Aboriginal foster families.
  - The ministry will continue to work to enhance its information systems to improve the collection of data for Aboriginal children in care.
- What else is important about this measure?**
- The measure has been removed from the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan as we work to improve the data for this measure.

### **Objective 1.3: Enhanced services for specific child and youth populations such as young offenders, children and youth at risk for or with mental disorders, and children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited.**

To assist in achieving Goal 1, the ministry continued work in 2005/06 to provide better services for these population groups. This included enhancing services through the continued implementation of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. MCFD also strengthened services for sexually exploited youth, and continued to provide a broad range of community-based services for children and youth in conflict with the law. These targeted services are vital to improving outcomes, given that these children and youth are among the most vulnerable in British Columbia.

### **Strategies**

1. Expanding community-based mental health treatment and support services.
2. Providing early intervention and support resources in schools to help children and youth develop healthy coping skills.
3. Implementing new services for youth who are commercially sexually exploited.
4. Continuing to use innovative, non-custodial approaches like community-based alternatives to custody for youth in conflict with the law.

## Progress towards the objective

- British Columbia continues to have the lowest rate of per capita youth custody and youth probation in the country as a result of effective community-based alternatives.
- As part of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, provided \$12.7 million in new treatments and support services throughout the province, including the creation of 100 new staff positions.
- Implementation of the Brief Child and Family Phone Interview, an electronic intake tool for child and youth mental health services in all regions with 267 clinicians certified and over 3,700 interviews recorded.
- Expanded implementation of the FRIENDS program, with 29 teacher training sessions held across the province, representing over 45 school districts and many private/independent school personnel. The program, which educates children about anxiety disorders, was presented to 22,500 students in grades 4 and 5 for a total of over 47,500 since the program was launched in August 2004.
- Allocated \$2 million for services for sexually exploited youth to address issues of short-term safety and longer term supports, and funded the establishment of 15 additional safe house emergency shelters and 10 additional transitional housing beds for high-risk youth. Examples of services included: outreach, one-to-one support workers, counselling, family mediation, assistance with basic needs like food and clothing, and repatriation.
- Produced and premiered the documentary, *Struggle for Control: Child and Youth Behaviour Disorders*, the 4th documentary in a series regarding mental health issues facing children and youth.

## Performance Measures Objective 1.3

### Measure 1.3.1: Rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12 – 17 year olds (per 10,000).

Per capita custody rate is a standard measure across Canadian jurisdictions. It counts the annual average daily population of youth in custody per 10,000 individuals aged 12 – 17 years, as a proportion of all 12 – 17 year olds.

The measure gauges how much the youth justice system relies on incarceration and indicates the availability and effectiveness of community-based alternatives to custody. The target is based on historical youth custody and demographic trends in B.C.

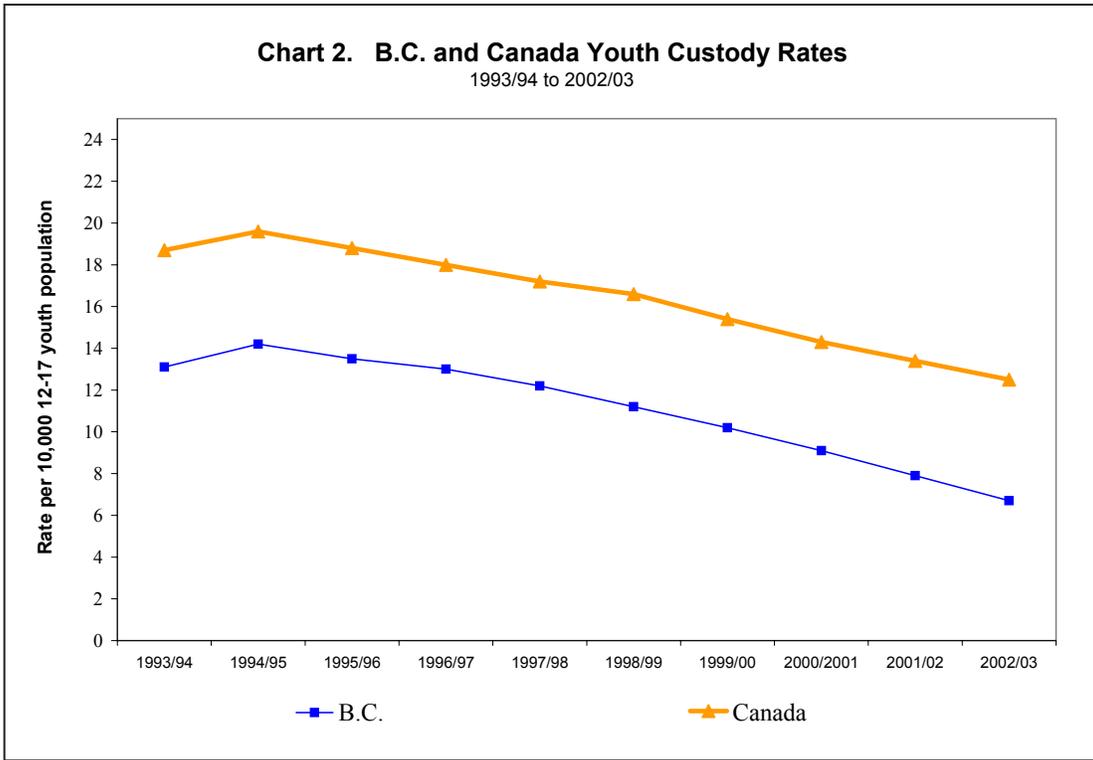
Measure 1.3.1	Year	2005/06 Target	Actuals	Variance	Target Met?
Rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12–17 year olds (per 10,000)	2005/06	Maximum 6 per 10,000	4.2 per 10,000	↓ 1.8 per 10,000	Target Exceeded by 30%
	2004/05		4.8 per 10,000		
	2003/04		4.7 per 10,000		
	2002/03		6.7 per 10,000		
	2001/02		7.9 per 10,000		
	2000/01		9.1 per 10,000		

**Data Sources:** The MCFD Management Analysis Reporting System (MARS) and B.C. Stats

### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

- Performance analysis**
- The 2005/06 target was exceeded by 1.8 per 10,000.
  - While the number of youth in this age group remains fairly stable, the rate of youth in custody is declining. This demonstrates progress toward the goal of minimizing youth involvement in the criminal justice system through options for formal and informal diversion from court, treatment services and community-based alternatives to custody.
  - Diverting youth with low needs and less serious offences to community justice programs has left a higher concentration of youth in custody with special needs (e.g., Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or mental health disorders) and more serious offence histories. Although there has been a reduction in system capacity and overall staffing, there has been no reduction in client/staff ratios, or in services for the smaller number of youth in custody or under community supervision.
- What are we doing to improve results?**
- The most recent information from 2002/03, indicates B.C. has the lowest youth custody rate in Canada. See Chart 2. B.C. and Canada Youth Custody Rates.
  - Strategies and policies currently in place, including community based alternatives to custody, will continue to be maintained and enhanced.
- What else is important about this measure?**
- Custody centre counts are reported daily and averaged over the fiscal year.
  - Comparable data up to 2002/03 is published by Statistics Canada and is available for all other Canadian provinces and territories.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2002/03 Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 24, No. 9.



Data Source: Statistics Canada

### Measure 1.3.2: Number of children and youth served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services.

Enhanced access to mental health services is a primary focus of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, which supports early identification and treatment of children and youth who are at risk of, or have, a mental disorder. Early identification and treatment has been shown to reduce the severity and consequences of mental health problems.

This measure captures the number of clients served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services during the fiscal year and therefore reflects access to services for this population. The ministry expected to establish a baseline in 2005/06, consistent with regional Child and Youth Mental Health Implementation Plans.

Measure 1.3.2	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Number of children and youth served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services.	New Measure	Establish Baseline	Baseline Not Determined	Not Applicable	Baseline Not Established

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

##### Performance analysis

- The baseline was not determined.
- Implementation of the Community and Residential Information System (CARIS) was delayed due to data conversion challenges from the current client systems.

##### What are we doing to improve results?

- CARIS is to be fully implemented in 2007/08, and will provide more reliable and comprehensive data, including identification of clients served by contracted mental health service providers.

##### What else is important about this measure?

- This measure has been removed from the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan.
- The ministry will monitor progress on this measure and will make this information available on the ministry's website.

## **Goal 2: Children and youth, including those with special needs, are supported to achieve their full potential.**

British Columbia is committed to giving children the strongest possible start by increasing supports available for child care and early childhood development programs, all of which should increase the proportion of children entering school ready to learn. The years between birth and age six are a critical time in a child's life. The nurturing that occurs in early childhood influences health, well-being and learning skills for a lifetime.

This goal reflects the recognition that the quality of care children receive in their early years is critical to their success later on in life. Optimal early childhood development delivers significant long-term benefits for individuals and society. All stages in life are significant, but research confirms that the period from conception to school age is particularly crucial to children's physical, intellectual, social and emotional development.

The ministry is committed to developing and supporting initiatives that increase families' and communities' capacity to support early childhood development. Collaboration and cooperation are critical to success and MCFD works with other ministries, families, service providers and communities to help ensure that young children have every opportunity to thrive.

In 2005/06, the ministry provided a broad range of intervention and support services that assist children with special needs to live as fully and independently as possible within their homes and communities. These services were targeted to children's individual needs and intended to promote healthy development, maximize quality of life and assist families in their role as primary caregivers. Programs were based on a family-centred approach and offered parents as much choice as possible.

The ministry faced several challenges in meeting this goal. These included: growing awareness of early childhood development needs, which increased service pressures; increasing demand for services for children and youth with special needs and their families resulting from increased public awareness of special needs; and difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified professionals. Strategies to counter these challenges included: creation of additional licensed child care spaces, support for focused training, equipment upgrades, initiatives to improve access to services for children and youth with special needs and their families, development of culturally appropriate supported child development materials and outreach to the Aboriginal community regarding supported child development.

**The core business areas that support Goal 2 of the ministry include:  
Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs, and Executive and Support Services.**

The following table provides a summary of performance measures related to Goal 2.

<b>Goal 2: Children and youth, including those with special needs, are supported to achieve their full potential.</b>				
<b>Objective 2.1: Increased family and community capacity to support early childhood development.</b>				
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2005/06 Target</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Reference Pages</b>
Number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance early childhood development services for young Aboriginal children and their families.	90	90	Target Achieved	47-48
Per cent of children who enter kindergarten "ready to learn."	Not Applicable (2007/08 Target is 78%)	Data Available in 2007/08	No Set Target	48-49
<b>Objective 2.2: Accessible and quality child care.</b>				
Number of funded licensed child care spaces.	85,000 <sup>1</sup>	79,190	93% Achieved	50-51
Number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy.	22,000 <sup>2</sup>	22,612	Target Exceeded by 3%	52-53
<b>Objective 2.3: Increased access to early intervention and support services to assist families caring for children and youth with special needs.</b>				
Per cent of children under six with special needs and their families who receive supported child development services within three months of service request.	Establish Baseline	Baseline Not Determined	Baseline Not Determined	54-55
Per cent of children under six with special needs receiving an (initial) early intervention therapy within three months of service request.	Establish Baseline	Baseline Established (34%)	Target Achieved	55-56

<sup>1</sup> 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan forecasts achieving 79,000 child care spaces.

<sup>2</sup> 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan restates the revised target at 22,000. This number was revised to count unique children, and avoids double counting.

## Goal 2: Objectives

### Objective 2.1: Increased family and community capacity to support early childhood development.

The ministry is committed to investing in community-based initiatives throughout the province that support the Five Great Goals, including making B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Early childhood development services support this goal directly and represent a long-term investment in the future, in partnership with families and communities. Strong evidence indicates that early childhood development programs and services encourage healthy development and support better outcomes for older children and youth, as well as reducing the need for intervention in families' lives.

#### Strategies

1. Building on existing services to support communities to integrate and enhance their early childhood development delivery systems, which support and promote children's healthy growth, development and lifelong learning.
2. Supporting Aboriginal communities as they develop and implement early childhood strategies to meet their needs.
3. Working closely with the Ministries of Health and Education to improve screening, assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and support services for children with developmental behavioural conditions.

#### Progress towards the objective

- Continued to build community capacity, support sustainable community partnerships and improve access to appropriate early childhood development services through further investments in the Success by 6<sup>®</sup> initiative with an additional grant of \$3 million in 2005/06.
- Provided a cross-ministry leadership role in planning and strengthening early childhood development services in B.C. in collaboration with other ministries, including the Ministry of Health.
- Worked to provide parents with the information they need about early childhood development and increased service choice and flexibility.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, MCFD developed an overall approach to early learning and literacy, recognizing that strategic investments in early childhood development give children the foundation skills they need to thrive and succeed in life.
- Provided professional development funding to support Aboriginal Early Childhood Development program staff to attend the Community Action Program for Children; Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program; and Aboriginal Head Start Early Childhood Development Conference "Healthy Children, Healthy Families".

## Performance Measures Objective 2.1

### Measure 2.1.1: Number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance Early Childhood Development services for young Aboriginal children and their families.

One of the ministry's priorities is to work with Aboriginal communities in order to build capacity to deliver culturally appropriate services, including those with an emphasis on early childhood and family development. This is based on research and experience linking culturally appropriate services to improved outcomes for Aboriginal children.

The measure counts the number of initiatives that enhance early childhood services for young Aboriginal children and families. It does not count the number of children and families served.

Measure 2.1.1	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance ECD services for young Aboriginal children and their families.	86	90	90	0	Target Achieved
<b>Data Source:</b> Regional reporting					

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

##### Performance analysis

- The 2005/06 target was met, 4 new Aboriginal Seeds of Empathy sites were established, bringing the total number to 90 initiatives.
- The number of Aboriginal early childhood development (ECD) initiatives has continued to increase since 2002/03. Multi-year data is not available because in 2005/06 there was a shift from counting the number of communities to counting the number of initiatives.
- The results reflect the increasing capacity of Aboriginal communities to deliver culturally appropriate services, including those with an emphasis on early childhood and family development.

##### What are we doing to improve results?

- The ministry will continue to enhance and support ECD initiatives in Aboriginal communities.

**What else is important about this measure?**

- The target was selected to encourage regions to support ECD initiatives and takes into consideration funding dedicated to the Aboriginal population in general.
- The measure includes additional ECD initiatives that have a specific Aboriginal focus, such as Aboriginal Infant Development, Aboriginal Building Blocks and Aboriginal Family Resource programs.
- This measure does not reflect the complete range of Aboriginal ECD programs and services that are supported at provincial and regional levels and excludes services provided under one-time grants.
- The measure has been removed from the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan, but will continue to be monitored by the ministry. For more information regarding Aboriginal ECD initiatives, please visit: [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early\\_childhood/index.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood/index.htm).

**Measure 2.1.2: Per cent of children who enter kindergarten “ready to learn”.**

This measure is related to the ministry’s increased focus on early childhood development (ECD). Data is collected using the Early Development Instrument (EDI), which is a teacher-rated assessment of students’ “readiness to learn”. In addition to reflecting children’s school readiness, the EDI reveals differences in their development across neighbourhoods and assesses how well communities are supporting young children and their families. The findings help educators, policy-makers, parents, experts and other community partners improve early childhood development services in the province and assist in identifying ECD priorities and targeting resources effectively.

The EDI is administered on a three-year cycle. The 2007/08 target of 78 per cent was selected based on the estimated impact of community planning initiatives to integrate and deliver programs more effectively, and on the allocation of resources for ECD and child care.

Measure 2.1.2	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Per cent of children who enter kindergarten “ready to learn”.	75%	Data collected every 3 years		Not Applicable	No Set Target

**Data Source:** Human Early Learning Partnership, <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca>

**INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE**

**Performance analysis**

- There was no 2005/06 target for this measure as data for the province is collected every three years. Data will be reported in 2007/08.

**What are we doing to improve results?**

- The ministry will continue to invest the Early Learning and Child Care funding for 2006/07, but this will be the last year of federal government support under this agreement. The provincial government remains committed to its vision to provide access to quality early learning and child care in B.C. communities.
- Using composite index scores from the EDI, the proportion of children who fall below the “vulnerable range” (those who are not entering school ready to learn) are being identified and strategies to assist their development are being implemented.

**What else is important about this measure?**

- The provincial baseline was established in 2004/05. Year-to-year updates and a multi-year trend are not available as the EDI is administered on a three-year cycle.
- Kindergarten teachers use the EDI to rate students’ performance in five major domains: physical health, language/cognitive skills, social competence, emotional maturity and communication/general knowledge. When applied province-wide, this provides a comprehensive picture of the status of B.C. children’s school readiness.
- B.C. is the first province to implement the EDI province-wide and map the results on a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood basis (<http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca>).

**Objective 2.2: Accessible and quality child care.**

Provincial child care investments focus on meeting the needs of families and increasing the quality of child care. Quality child care has been shown to contribute to improved child development and increased readiness to learn. MCFD has a cross-ministry leadership role for child care services in the province.

**Strategies<sup>6</sup>**

1. Developing and implementing the Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan.
2. Investing federal dollars to increase funded, licensed child care spaces and support parents.
3. Improving the identification of community needs when targeting investments to provide low and moderate income families with increased access to child care.
4. Moving to a more efficient electronic child care subsidy administration system.
5. Identifying opportunities for service improvements, including increasing the quality of early childhood education and increasing the number of qualified early childhood educators.

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<sup>6</sup> These strategies were developed under the assumption that the 2005 Early Learning and Child Care Agreement-in-Principle would continue.

## **Progress towards the objective**

- Completed a public consultation process on early learning and child care, in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The purpose was to share B.C.'s vision, principles and goals for early learning and child care, seek input from stakeholders and interested parties from across the province on their priorities for investing Early Learning and Child Care Federal funds, and solicit feedback from the community. The community consultation process identified a broad range of opinions and priorities, including the need for government to focus on quality early learning and child care that is accessible and affordable to all B.C. families. The ministry will continue to work with ministry partners in emphasizing the early years to ensure that children have the strongest start possible.
- Funded the creation of approximately 1,500 new spaces as part of the Child Care Major Capital Fund program that spent \$12 million in 2005/06.
- Increased the number of children whose families are eligible for subsidy by 6,500 while approximately 6,000 saw an increase in the amount of subsidy available for children under age six in regulated and licensed child care settings.
- Increased the rate for Child Care Operating Funding by 36.6 per cent for almost 4,000 licensed child care facilities to promote a steady supply of affordable spaces.
- Introduced the B.C. Early Childhood Education Bursary, a time-limited award to assist eligible students enrolled in Early Childhood Education programs at recognized educational institutions. The bursary provided \$200 for each eligible course, covering the period of study from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006. 181 applications were approved by March 31, 2006, providing over \$200,000 in direct assistance to students.

## **Performance Measures Objective 2.2**

### **Measure 2.2.1: Number of funded licensed child care spaces**

This measure reflects the accessibility of quality child care in B.C. Licensed child care spaces are approved and monitored by licensing staff through health authorities and are the most closely regulated child care spaces in the province. The number of spaces funded is one indicator of government's support for child care providers and, by extension, children and families.

The measure counts the total number of licensed child care spaces approved for funding under the Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) program. The program is voluntary; not all eligible providers apply, and some child care arrangements are not eligible for funding (e.g., child-minding services provided at fitness centers).

The target was based on the projected participation of child care operators, and the expectation of new funding under the 2005/06–2009/10 Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement-in-Principle. In February 2006, a new federal government was elected and subsequently cancelled the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement-in-Principle. The Province will receive funding for 2006/07 but this will be the last year of federal government support under this agreement. As a result, further adjustment to the measure may occur in the future.

Measure 2.2.1	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Number of funded licensed child care spaces.	76,440	85,000 <sup>1</sup>	79,190	↓ 5,810	93% Achieved
<b>Data Source:</b> MCFD Child Care Operating Funding Datamart System.					

<sup>1</sup> 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan forecasts 2005/06 at 79,000 and revises the 2006/07 target.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

### Performance analysis

- The ministry funded 79,190 licensed child care spaces, achieving 93 per cent of the target.
- The CCOF program is dependent on applications from eligible child care providers. All eligible providers who applied received funding; however, not all eligible providers applied.

### What are we doing to improve results?

- Targets have been adjusted in the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan to reflect the actual number of new licensed child care spaces created in 2005/06. The new targets also account for the lag between the creation of funded spaces and when those spaces are licensed and eligible for the CCOF.

### What else is important about this measure?

- In 2005/06, an improved methodology to assess and set child care targets was implemented.
- The CCOF program assists child care providers with the cost of providing care.
- The baseline and targets may be adjusted due to ongoing improvements to the data reporting systems, and once analysis of the impacts of the cancellation of the federal funding is complete.

## Performance Measures Objective 2.2

### Measure 2.2.2: Number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy.

This measure reflects the accessibility of quality child care, especially for families with low or moderate incomes. The subsidy helps families with the cost of quality care. The measure counts the average number of children supported by the subsidy per month.<sup>7</sup>

The target was selected based on the uptake expected due to new eligibility criteria, introduced in 2004/05, and further changes made in 2005/06 flowing from the 2005/06 – 2009/10 Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement-in-Principle with the federal government.

The 2004/05 baseline and 2005/06 target were restated to reflect refinements in the data reporting system, including the elimination of double counting of children.

Measure 2.2.2	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy.	21,704 (restated from 25,082)	22,000 <sup>1</sup> (restated from 27,500)	22,612	↑ 612	Target Exceeded by 3%
<b>Data Source:</b> MCFD Subsidy Datamart					

<sup>1</sup> Number restated in 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan to eliminate double counting.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

##### Performance analysis

- An average of 22,612 subsidies per month were paid to families in 2005/06, exceeding the restated target of 22,000.
- Refinements were made to the MCFD Subsidy Datamart, including the elimination of double counting inherent in the previous system, that provide a more accurate count of children whose families are receiving a subsidy. This resulted in a revised baseline (21,704 in 2004/05) and targets, including a restated target of 22,000 for 2005/06. The restated figures are included in the 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan.
- In 2005/06, the families of 46,516 children received a child care subsidy, for all or part of the year.
- As a result of program changes introduced in October 2005, it was anticipated that the number of children whose families receive subsidy would increase incrementally over time.

<sup>7</sup> Counts are based on the number of unique children whose families receive a subsidy as indicated on child care provider claims.

**What are we doing to improve results?**

- A phased transfer of the child care subsidy program from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance to MCFD began in June 2006 and is scheduled for completion in 2007. The transfer was designed to improve access for parents by providing better integration of child care programs and services.
- The baseline and targets may be adjusted once analysis of the impacts of the cancellation of the federal funding is complete.

**What else is important about this measure?**

- The measure represents the average count of children whose families receive a subsidy in a month. It does not represent the total number of children whose families receive a subsidy in a given year.
- Child Care Subsidy is a demand-driven program, dependent on applications from families. All eligible families who apply receive funding; however, not all eligible families apply.
- Until recently, there had been a downward trend in the number of children whose families received a subsidy over the last five years. Program enhancements have resulted in an increase in the number of children eligible for subsidy and the amount of subsidy available to children under age 6 in regulated and licensed child care settings.

**Objective 2.3: Increased access to early intervention and support services to assist families caring for children and youth with special needs.**

The ministry provides a range of intervention and support services for children and youth with special needs, including those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and their families. In 2005/06, MCFD committed new resources to increase access and reduce waiting times for many of these services, including: early intervention therapies, school-aged therapies, infant development programs, supported child development, respite services, and supports for children with complex health needs and those with sensory impairments. The ministry is working collaboratively with the Ministries of Health and Education to improve the integration of services in B.C. for families of children and youth with special needs, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Strategies**

1. Increasing access and reducing waiting times for services and supports for children and youth with special needs and their families.
2. Creating a range of appropriate and effective services and supports for children and youth with special needs and their families, taking into account developmental milestones and transitions.
3. Improving access to information about services.

4. Improving cross-ministry planning and co-ordination of provincial and community-based services.

### Progress towards the objective

- Allocated new funding of over \$15 million to increase access and reduce waiting times for intervention and support services, develop new supports for families of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and similar conditions, enhance services for children with complex health needs and children with sensory impairments, and address service demand for autism intervention, Nursing Support Services and Medical Benefits.
- Distributed over 9,000 copies of the *Your Future Now* and *Community Support Transition* planning guides. The guides provide community partners, such as school personnel, social workers and community members, with useful information and practical tips for supporting successful transition planning for youth with special needs as they prepare for adult life.

## Performance Measures Objective 2.3

### Measure 2.3.1: Per cent of children under six with special needs and their families who receive supported child development services within three months of service request.

Supported child development (SCD) services help children with special needs attend and participate in community child care settings. SCD has two components: a consultation service and extra staff supports. The measure assesses the length of time from when a child's individual plan is completed to when a child begins receiving the extra staff support.

The ministry expected to develop a baseline and targets in 2005/06. Targets will reflect an anticipated reduction in waiting times that could result from additional services being provided.

Measure 2.3.1	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Per cent of children under six with special needs and their families who receive supported child development services within three months of service request.	New Measure	Establish Baseline	Baseline Not Determined	Not Applicable	Baseline Not Established

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

- Performance analysis**
- The baseline was not determined.
  - A delay in setting the baseline did not affect service delivery or improvements. It only delays the measurement of impacts.

**What are we doing to improve results?**

- The ministry is focusing on reducing waiting times for services, in addition to monitoring the number of families requiring these services.
- Data system development and collection will continue and this measure will be reported when regional data collection and analysis are completed.

**What else is important about this measure?**

- SCD services are provided through community agencies under contract with the ministry through regional offices. As a result, data is collected through these community agencies and there are issues with respect to agency capacity to provide data and data consistency. The ministry is working towards addressing these challenges.
- The availability of regulated child care spaces in communities and the availability of trained early childhood educators with the special needs designation may impact timely access to SCD services.

## Performance Measures Objective 2.3

### Measure 2.3.2: Per cent of children under six with special needs receiving an (initial) early intervention therapy within three months of service request.

Children with special needs receive significant benefits from early intervention services that promote physical, cognitive, social, emotional and communication skill development. Early Intervention Therapy services include speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy for children with special needs under age six. Initial therapy services include: the initial consultation or assessment by a therapist, or a child’s participation in a therapy group. The measure demonstrates the timeliness with which initial therapy service is provided.

The baseline was established using data collected from January 1 to March 31, 2005. The three-month sample time period was chosen as a baseline prior to the allocation of new funding in April 2005.

Measure 2.3.2	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Per cent of children under six with special needs receiving an (initial) early intervention therapy within three months of service request.	34%	Establish Baseline	Baseline Established	Not Applicable	Target Achieved
<b>Data Source:</b> 2005 Provincial Early Intervention Therapy Baseline Data Summary Report					

## INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

### Performance analysis

- The baseline was established at 34 per cent using a three month sample period (January – March 2005); and reflects all children accessing services during the three month period.
- The measure allows the ministry to assess timely access to initial early intervention therapy services.
- The low rate is the result of an increased demand for early intervention services over the past few years, combined with significant challenges in recruiting and retaining therapists in communities across B.C.

### What are we doing to improve results?

- New funding of \$2.3 million was allocated in 2005/06 to early intervention and school-aged therapies to improve access for children with special needs.

### What else is important about this measure?

- “Service request” is the date at which formal intake occurred and family priorities and/or the type of therapy(ies) required were determined.



### **Goal 3: Adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are served by effective, efficient and accountable community-based service delivery systems.**

The ministry is committed to developing governance authorities that bring decisions regarding services closer to those who use them. The ministry believes adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth and their families are best served through a community-based service delivery system where safety, service quality and accountability are paramount considerations.

In 2005, MCFD and the Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia worked together to plan and implement a smooth transition of services. As a result, on July 1, 2005, the responsibility for adult community living services was transferred to Community Living British Columbia (CLBC).

The ministry also continued to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to establish regional Aboriginal authorities, which will assume responsibility for services to Aboriginal children and families.

The ministry faced several challenges in meeting this goal. The primary challenge involved ensuring adequate consultation around the enabling legislation for the establishment of regional Aboriginal authorities. To address this challenge, the ministry deferred the introduction of legislation to allow more time for collaborative planning.

In working toward the development of regional authorities, the ministry continued to make improvements to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of its services and service systems. This work required strong partnerships and collaborative relationships with the ministry's stakeholders and community partners.

#### **Progress included:**

- 161 ministry funded community-based contracted agencies achieved accreditation status. The ministry requires agencies that receive \$500,000 or more in annual ministry funding to be accredited. Accredited agencies meet internationally recognized organizational and service standards, focus on effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and accessibility, and benefit adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth and their families.
- Accreditation of the ministry's Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre and Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services.
- Increased awareness and compliance with government procurement policy by establishing tighter internal control procedures and creating procurement committees to enhance the quality of professional service contracts.
- 133 contract/program managers and administrators completed courses from the government procurement and contract management program.

- Developed tools to enhance the ministry's contracting practices including a new Catalogue of Services and Third Party Service Agreements that will be fully implemented in 2006/07.
- Amendments to the *Human Resources Facilities Act* to enable capital grants for research and administrative facilities to enhance service delivery for the community.
- Approval to proceed with construction for the replacement of the Burnaby Youth Custody Services Centre. The planned replacement of the Burnaby Youth Custody Services Centre includes co-locating the Burnaby Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services programs on the same site.

**The core business areas that support Goal 3 of the ministry include: Child and Family Development, Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs, Provincial Services, and Executive and Support Services.**

The following table provides a summary of performance measures related to Goal 3.

<b>Goal 3: Adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are served by effective, efficient and accountable community-based service delivery systems.</b>				
<b>Objective 3.1: Creation of a provincial community living authority.</b>				
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>2005/06 Target</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Reference Pages</b>
An authority established under legislation assumes responsibility for delivery of some or all community living services.	Establish CLBC	CLBC Established	Target Achieved	59-60
<b>Objective 3.2: Creation of regional authorities to oversee delivery of child and family services.</b>				
Number of regional authorities established under legislation that assume responsibility for delivery of child and family services.	0	0	No Set Target	60-61
<b>Deregulation and Regulatory Reform</b>				
Per cent increase to the number of regulatory requirements set at June 2004.	0% Increase	3.3% Decrease	Target Exceeded by 3.3%	62

## Goal 3: Objectives

### Objective 3.1: Creation of a provincial community-living authority.

The ministry's move to community governance shifts the planning and management of programs and services closer to recipients and increases the ability of programs and services to respond appropriately to individual needs. Community Living BC is accountable for the quality and effectiveness of services for adults with developmental disabilities and for the management of public funds.

## Strategy

1. Developing accountability requirements and measures for the new provincial authority and supporting the ongoing development of CLBC.

## Progress towards the objective

- On July 1, 2005, CLBC was established as a Crown agency in accordance with legislation passed in October 2004. For further information view <http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/>.
- Established accountability framework, including Shareholders Letter of Expectations, which sets out the relationship between CLBC and the Minister and sets out the corporate mandate of CLBC. It also sets out the roles and responsibilities of CLBC and the Minister. For further information view [http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/pdfs/letter\\_of\\_expectations\\_july05.pdf](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/pdfs/letter_of_expectations_july05.pdf).
- CLBC's progress is reported in its annual service plan report. For further information, view [http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/public\\_legis.htm](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/public_legis.htm).

## Performance Measures Objective 3.1

**Measure 3.1.1: An authority established under legislation assumes responsibility for delivery of some or all community living services.**

Measure 3.1.1	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
An authority established under legislation assumes responsibility for the delivery of some or all community living services.	0	Establish CLBC	CLBC Established July 1, 2005	Not Applicable	Target Achieved

## Objective 3.2: Creation of regional authorities to oversee delivery of child and family services.

The creation of regional authorities has been focused on the implementation of Aboriginal authorities. Once the authorities are established, they will be accountable for service delivery, and the quality and effectiveness of service delivery. They will also be accountable for the management of public funds. The authorities' responsibilities to individuals and communities will be addressed as part of their accountability requirements.

## Strategy

1. Implementing a jointly developed plan to establish regional Aboriginal authorities.

## Progress towards the objective

- The government and Aboriginal leaders reaffirmed their commitment to establishing regional Aboriginal authorities.
- Through targeted investments, further supported and developed more culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal children and families.
- Regional Aboriginal Planning Committees expanded on service delivery models and plans for how they would like to see services delivered to Aboriginal children and families in the future. Regional mapping, whereby information was provided on the full range of existing regional services was also completed to support the Committees' planning processes.
- Established a provincial advisory committee on regionalization of child and family services.

## Performance Measures Objective 3.2

### Measure 3.2.1: Number of regional authorities established under legislation that assume responsibility for delivery of child and family services.

No authorities were planned for 2005/06. The authorities will be considered established when they assume responsibility under legislation for delivering some or all services.

Measure 3.2.1	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Number of regional authorities established under legislation that assume responsibility for delivery of child and family services.	0	0	0	Not Applicable	No Set Target

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEASURE

- Performance analysis**
- No target was set for 2005/06.
  - The ministry, in partnership with Aboriginal communities, is implementing a joint multi-year plan to establish regional Aboriginal authorities.

**What are we doing to improve results?**

- The ministry is committed to providing the necessary resources and supports to ensure the successful devolution to regional Aboriginal authorities, and will continue positive engagements with Aboriginal leaders, stakeholders and communities.

**What else is important about this measure?**

- The measure reflects only the establishment of new governance structures and does not capture progress toward their creation.



## Deregulation and Regulatory Reform

In the three years ending in June 2004, the ministry reduced its regulatory burden by 53 per cent, from the baseline of 16,963 regulatory requirements down to less than 8,000. This accomplishment exceeded government's commitment to reduce government regulatory requirements by one-third, as well as the ministry's 40 per cent reduction target.

To demonstrate its commitment to controlling its regulatory burden, the ministry has targeted to maintain its regulatory target based on the June 2004 baseline. All new regulatory requirements were evaluated against the regulatory reform criteria and related policy. Wherever possible, the ministry identified opportunities to further reduce regulation and to move to results-based regulation.

Measure	2004/05 Baseline	2005/06 Target	2005/06 Actual	Variance	Target Met?
Per cent increase to the number of regulatory requirements set at June 2004.	8,543	0 % Increase	3.3% Decrease	↓ 3.3%	Target Exceeded by 3.3%



## Resource Summary Table 2005/06

	Estimated <sup>1</sup>	Other Authorizations <sup>2</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance <sup>3</sup>
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>					
<b>Ministry Operations Vote</b>					
Child and Family Development.....	589,842	811	590,653	586,617	4,036
ECD, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs .....	450,788	0	450,788	453,929	(3,141)
Provincial Services.....	53,717	0	53,717	53,504	213
Executive and Support Services .....	17,632	0	17,632	17,888	(256)
<b>Total Ministry Operations.....</b>	<b>1,111,979</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>1,112,790</b>	<b>1,111,938</b>	<b>852</b>
<b>Adult Community Living Services Vote</b>					
Ministry Services — Adult Community Living.....	129,862	0	129,862	129,861	1
Transfers to Community Living British Columbia.....	394,802	0	394,802	394,802	0
<b>Total Adult Community Living Services.....</b>	<b>524,664</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>524,664</b>	<b>524,663</b>	<b>1</b>
Adjustment of Prior Year's Accrual .....				(621)	621
<b>Total Ministry.....</b>	<b>1,636,643</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>1,637,454</b>	<b>1,635,980</b>	<b>1,474</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>					
<b>Ministry Operations Vote</b>					
Child and Family Development.....	2,717	0	2,717	2790	(73)
ECD, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs .....	329	0	329	300	29
Provincial Services.....	621	0	621	596	25
Executive and Support Services .....	205	0	205	210	(5)
<b>Total Ministry Operations.....</b>	<b>3,872</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,872</b>	<b>3,896</b>	<b>(24)</b>
<b>Adult Community Living Services Vote</b>					
Ministry Services — Adult Community Living.....	80	0	80	78	2
Transfers to Community Living British Columbia.....	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Adult Community Living Services.....</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Ministry.....</b>	<b>3,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,952</b>	<b>3,974</b>	<b>(22)</b>

Ministry of Children and Family Development

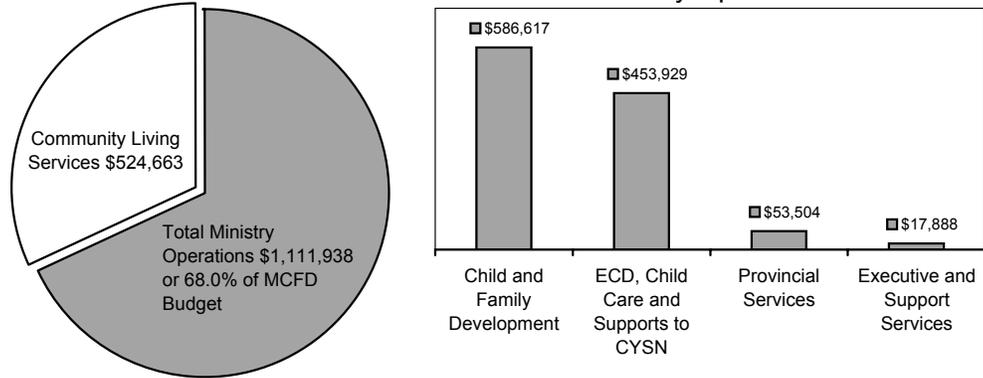
	Estimated <sup>1</sup>	Other Authorizations <sup>2</sup>	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance <sup>3</sup>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>					
<b>Ministry Operations Vote</b>					
Executive and Support Services .....	17,022	0	17,022	13,514	3,508
<b>Total Ministry Operations .....</b>	<b>17,022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,022</b>	<b>13,514</b>	<b>3,508</b>
<b>Consolidated Capital Plan Expenditures (CCP) (\$000)</b>					
<b>Ministry Operations</b>					
Child and Family Development.....	625	0	625	0	625
Provincial Services .....	9,000	0	9,000	1,546	7,454
<b>Total Ministry Operations .....</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>8,079</b>
<b>Adult Community Living Services .....</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1,349</b>
<b>Total Ministry .....</b>	<b>11,083</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,083</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>9,428</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>					
<b>Ministry Operations</b>					
Executive and Support Services — Human Services Providers Financing Program .....					
Receipts .....	148	0	148	30	118
Disbursements .....	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Source (Requirements) ...</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>118</b>

<sup>1</sup> The "Estimated" amount corresponds to the *Estimates* as presented to the Legislative Assembly September 14, 2005.

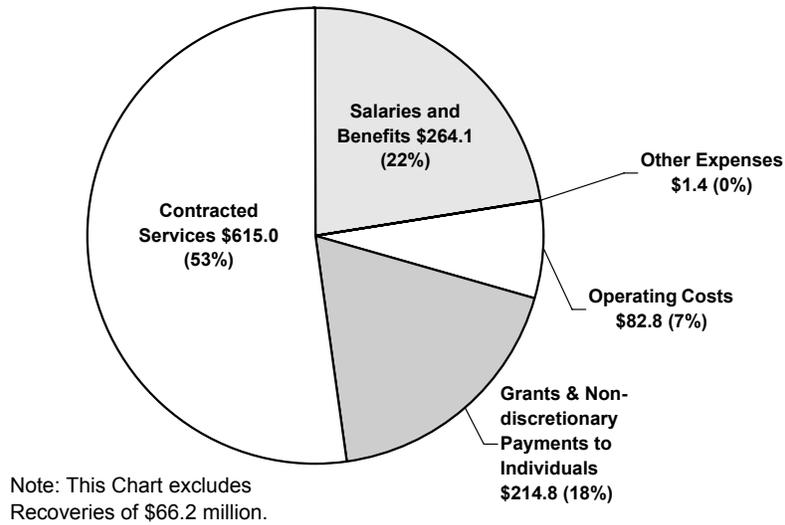
<sup>2</sup> Other "Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies.

<sup>3</sup> Variance is the "Total Estimated" minus the "Actual". Where spending is greater than budgeted, the Variance is displayed with a bracket.

**Chart 3. MCFD 2005/06 Expenditure by Core Business**  
(in thousands of dollars)



**Chart 4. MCFD Operations 2005/06 Gross Expenditures of \$1,178.1 million by Type**  
(\$ millions)



## **Explanation of Resource Summary**

The annual ministry budget is based on assumptions contained in the ministry's 2005/06 – 2007/08 Service Plan September Update 2005. The plan was based on forecasts of expenditures and caseload trends, plus anticipated impacts of legislation, policy and program changes. The variance between the total estimated and the actual expenditures for each Core Business reflect fluctuations primarily in caseload and program demand. The ministry met its overall budget target for 2005/06.

### **Child and Family Development**

- The under expenditure of \$4.0 million (or 0.6% of the budget) was mainly due to lower than anticipated number of special needs children in care.

### **Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs**

- The over expenditure of \$3.1 million (or 0.7% of the budget) was due to one time spending for children with special needs.

### **Capital Expenditures**

- The under expenditure of \$3.5 million (or 21% of the budget) was mainly due to delays in development of Information Systems for the case and contract management system.

### **Capital Plan**

- The under expenditure of \$7.5 million in Provincial Services was due to revised project timelines for the Burnaby Youth Custody Services Centre project.
- The under expenditure of \$1.3 million in Adult Community Living Services was due to unbudgeted proceeds of sales from existing Group Homes.

### **Additional Expenditures**

- The ministry received \$811,000 in additional funding to pay for the costs of the external review carried out by the Honourable Ted Hughes.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Information to Note

### About Us

For online information about the ministry view:  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about\\_us/index.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/index.htm).

### Contact Information

For telephone numbers and addresses of ministry offices see the provincial government blue pages of a telephone book, or view the information online:  
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/regions/index.htm>. The mailing address for the Ministry of Children and Family Development is: PO Box 9721 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, B.C. V8W 9S2.

### Helpline for Children in British Columbia

Phone **310-1234**, free from anywhere in the province anytime; to use the telephone device for the deaf, dial **1 866 660-0505**. The Helpline for Children provides round-the-clock access to professionals to respond to concerns that a child under the age of 19 years may be abused. Abuse can be abandonment, desertion, neglect, ill-treatment or failure to meet physical, emotional or medical needs. Calls can be anonymous — and abuse can be stopped. For online information view:  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child\\_protection/reporting\\_child\\_abuse.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/reporting_child_abuse.htm).

### Adoption Site — for information on adopting one of B.C.'s waiting children

For information on adopting a child, phone toll-free in B.C.: **1 877 ADOPT 07 (1 877 236-7807)** or phone a nearby ministry office. Hundreds of children in the permanent care of the ministry are waiting to be adopted into permanent, loving families. Applicants do not need to be married, wealthy or own their own home to adopt a waiting child. Please phone today for information or view: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/index.htm>.

### Be a Foster Parent — B.C.'s foster parents make a positive difference for vulnerable children in need

For information, phone the B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations' Fosterline at **1 800 663-9999** (outside B.C. phone **1 604 660-7696**) or the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents toll-free at **1 866 291-7091**. For online information view:  
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/index.html>.

### **Child Care B.C. Helpline — for information on child care**

For information and referrals for B.C. child care programs and services for parents and child care providers phone **1 888 338-6622**. For online information view:  
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/>.

### **Autism Site — information for parents on Autism Spectrum Disorders**

For online information view: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/index.htm>.

### **Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) Site — for information on early childhood development research**

For information on the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) an interdisciplinary research partnership related to early child development view:  
<http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>.

### **Community Living British Columbia's Website**

The provincial community living authority's website provides up-to-date information on services for adults with developmental disabilities. For online information view:  
<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/> or phone **1 877 660-2522**.

## Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR):** an option for resolving family differences instead of going through the court system. Examples include family group conferencing and mediation.

**CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH:** refers to children and youth with mental disorders that interfere significantly with daily functioning, such as anxiety disorder, conduct disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, any depressive disorder, substance abuse, pervasive development disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, Tourette's disorder, any eating disorder and bipolar disorder.

**CHILD CARE:** refers to the care and supervision of a child in a child care setting, other than: a) by the child's parent; or, b) while the child is attending an educational program provided under the *School Act* or the *Independent School Act*.

- **LICENSED CHILD CARE:** refers to child care spaces that are licensed under the Child Care Licensing Regulations of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*. It includes any group or family child care provider licensed in B.C. These regulations govern safety and health factors and the factors related to the delivery of child care, including: the qualifications of the caregiver; the group size; and the ratio of qualified caregivers to the number of children that are permitted. The Ministry of Health is responsible for licensing child care facilities.
- **LICENCE-NOT-REQUIRED CHILD CARE:** child care providers that provide care to less than three children are not required to have a licence and are not subject to qualifications or standards for education as set out in the regulations of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*. These providers are encouraged, but not required, to register with the Child Care Resource and Referral program. Registration means that these caregivers have met a number of important requirements including: criminal record checks; character references; a home-setting review; a physician's report on their physical and emotional capacity to care for children; and first aid training.
- **REGULATED CHILD CARE:** refers to programs that meet safety and health standards that are established and monitored by provincial governments. It includes both licensed child care that is monitored by the Ministry of Health licensing officers and licence-not-required child care that is registered with the Child Care Resource and Referral program.

**CHILD IN CARE or CHILDREN IN CARE:** refers to any child under 19 years of age in the care of the Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** children with special needs have significant impairments in one or more of the following areas: health, cognition, behavioural, communication, sensory motor, social/emotional/behavioural or self-help (adaptive), and require specialized supports to enhance or improve their health, development or participation in daily activities at home, school and in their communities.

**DELEGATED ABORIGINAL AGENCIES:** refers to Aboriginal agencies with delegated child welfare authority under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

**FAMILY DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE (FDR):** an alternative to child protection investigations that focuses on parental involvement, assessing a family's strengths and risks, and providing services as required by the child and family. These may include parenting programs, anger management, counselling, mental health and other services.

**HIGH-RISK YOUTH:** refers to youth aged 16 to 18 who experience significant and often multiple challenges in their transition to adulthood such as sexual exploitation, alcohol and drug misuse, living on the street, and mental health problems.

**KITH AND KIN AGREEMENT:** a written agreement between a social worker and a child's extended family member or other person known to the child, to care for and financially support the child's living arrangement. The child is not under government care and the parent remains the legal guardian. The parent agrees to this arrangement and is involved in the child's care plan.

**MENTAL ILLNESS and MENTAL DISORDER:** used interchangeably to mean any emotional, behavioural, or brain-related condition that causes significant impairment in functioning as defined in standard diagnostic protocols.

**OUT-OF-CARE OPTIONS:** options, including kith and kin agreements, that can be utilized either to prevent a child coming into the child welfare foster care system, or to leave the foster care system to be cared for by someone other than the parent.

**SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH:** refers to a person under the age of 19 who has been manipulated or forced to engage in sexual activity in exchange for money, drugs, food, shelter or other considerations.

**SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT:** a range of consulting and support services that support children with special needs to participate in inclusive community child care settings, including preschool.

## Appendix 3: Ministerial Accountability Statements

Under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, Ministers of State are accountable for specific results for each year. During 2005/06, the Ministry of Children and Family Development had two sets of accountabilities for the Minister of State. The following outlines the Accountability Statements for the Minister of State for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and for the Minister of State for Child Care. Progress on these accountabilities were reported to the Government Caucus Committee for Social Development on March 20, 2006. Both sets of accountabilities were met with the outcomes listed below:

Minister of State for ECD Accountability Statement	Outcome
Increasing the number of children with special needs and their families that receive supported child development services from 5,277 to 5,500 by March 31, 2006 and reporting on the results in the MCFD Service Plan Report for 2005/06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved. There were over 5,500 supported child development services that were provided to children with special needs and their families in 2005/06.</li> </ul>
Increasing the number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance early childhood development services for young Aboriginal children and their families from 86 to 90 by March 31, 2006 and reporting on the results in the Ministry of Children and Family Development Service Plan Report for 2005/06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved. There were four new Aboriginal Seeds of Empathy initiatives established in Aboriginal Head Start programs in 2005/06. As a result there are a total of 90 Aboriginal initiatives.</li> </ul>
Establishing baselines for all communities, by school district and neighbourhood, of the percentage of children who enter kindergarten "ready to learn" by November 30, 2005 and reporting the results in the MCFD Service Plan Report for 2005/06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved. Baselines were established for all communities, school districts and neighbourhoods.</li> <li>All B.C. school districts have now implemented phase one of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to kindergarten students across B.C. to measure "readiness to learn." Over 95 per cent of B.C.'s kindergarten children have been assessed.</li> </ul>

Minister of State for Child Care Accountability Statement	Outcome
<p>In consultation with the Minister of Children and Family Development and the Minister of Education and the Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, develop and present a plan to the Government Caucus Committee (GCC) for Social Development which outlines actions to strengthen linkages and build better partnerships between child care, early childhood development, and early learning initiatives, and to increase public awareness of the array of services available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieved. The Minister of State presented a plan to the GCC for Social Development on March 20, 2006.</li> </ul>
<p>Produce a draft Family Friendly Workplace strategy and action plan for consultation and present it to the Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieved. The strategy and action plan were presented to the PCCC in February 2006.</li> </ul>
<p>With other ministers and as a member of the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership (CNFASDP), develop a plan for B.C.'s role in the promotion of research and evaluation in FASD prevention and support which is consistent with priorities identified in the provincial FASD Strategic Plan, and present it to the GCC for Social Development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieved. The Minister of State presented the plan that described B.C.'s role in the promotion of research and evaluation in FASD prevention and support to the GCC for Social Development on March 20, 2006.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop a plan in collaboration with the Ministers of Advanced Education and Health to increase the number of skilled and qualified Behavioural Interventionists for children with autism in B.C. and present the plan to the GCC for Social Development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieved. A cross-government plan was developed in collaboration with stakeholder ministries.</li> <li>• The Minister of State provided the plan to the GCC for Social Development on March 20, 2006.</li> <li>• A Behavioural Interventionists Training project is underway and includes a curriculum for core training for Behavioural Interventionists.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4: Ministry Service Delivery Regions

As illustrated by the map below, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is organized into five service delivery regions:

1. North
2. Fraser
3. Vancouver Coastal
4. Vancouver Island
5. Interior



For further information regarding profiles of the Ministry of Children and Family Development regions, highlights of regional activities, as well as contact information, publications and related links, visit: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/regions/index.htm>.

