

Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

2009/10
Annual Service Plan Report



Ministry of Children and Family Development

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



I am pleased to present the Ministry of Children and Family Development *Annual Service Plan Report* in which we outline our progress and achievements for 2009/10.

2009/10 continued to be a challenging year for British Columbia and the Ministry was no exception. Ongoing budget pressures necessitated some very difficult decisions in order to, as much as possible, protect critical front line services. In partnership with the Federation of Community Social Services of British Columbia, whose members deliver some services on our behalf, we developed principles to guide our decisions. The goals we set for ourselves continued to be high, and while challenged in achieving those goals, progress was made in almost every area.

We continue to move forward with the process of transformation, shifting toward a holistic strengths-based, developmental approach to child and family practice, aimed at improving outcomes for children, youth and families. This comprehensive approach is about strengthening the whole child and family service delivery system, as described in the Ministry's framework *Strong, Safe and Supported: A Commitment to B.C.'s Children and Youth*.

Supporting First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal people as they work toward designing and delivering their own services remains a top priority for the Ministry. In 2009/10 we continued to see a shift in the number of Aboriginal children in care served by a delegated Aboriginal agency, with 41.3 per cent of Aboriginal children in care being served by a delegated agency. This was a 2.2 percentage point increase over 2008/09, which exceeded our performance target. Recognizing more work needs to be done in this area, we increased the budget for delegated agencies by nearly \$9 million. We continue to work with Aboriginal and First Nation communities to establish additional delegated agencies to support more children, youth and families.

We also achieved our performance target in adoption, which means more children in care with adoption as their permanent care plan found a permanent home. It is important to note that the number of children and youth in care of the ministry continued to decline to 8,528 – a 4.8 per cent decrease over 2008/09. This is the lowest level in more than a decade.

Key investments in major child care capital are coming to fruition. This year alone we increased the number of licensed child care spaces funded in the province by over 4,400 to reach a total of 97,163 spaces – exceeding our target for the year by more than 6,000 spaces. This investment has built an infrastructure that will serve B.C. families well for years to come.

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2009/10 was a significant year for children and youth with special needs and their families, as children's services were transferred back into the Ministry from Community Living BC. A new Cross-Ministry Transition Planning Protocol for Youth with Special Needs was also implemented, which will ultimately provide a smoother and easier transition from child to adult services. We worked closely with community partners and the ministries of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Education, Housing and Social Development, Health Services and Public Safety and Solicitor General to develop this important first step toward a collaborative and coordinated transition process for youth with special needs.

Our commitment to quality assurance remained strong, as we continued working towards a rights-based approach where children, youth and families' voices are sought out and heard. By evaluating our programs and services regularly, we allow ourselves the opportunity to address challenges, build best practices and continually work to improve the important services we provide to the families of British Columbia.

It is through the hard work and dedication of Ministry staff, contracted agencies, service providers and our network of community partners that our accomplishments are made possible. It is the effort of thousands of people across the province that truly impacts and improves the lives of children, youth and families.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development's *2009/10 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results in the Ministry's *2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan Update*. I am accountable for those results.



Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Children and Family Development and
Minister Responsible for Child Care

June 21, 2010

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Highlights of the Year

Strong, Safe and Supported: A Commitment to B.C.'s Children and Youth

In April 2008, the Ministry released *Strong, Safe and Supported: A Commitment to B.C.'s Children and Youth*, providing the overarching framework for delivering services to children and families. The *2009/10 Annual Service Plan Report* reflects the progress against the five pillars that form the key elements of a developmental strengths-based approach.

Pillar 1: Prevention

The primary focus of the Ministry is to prevent vulnerability and support the healthy development of children, youth and their families through programs that range from early childhood development to youth services.

- The Child Care Operating Funding program supported 97,163 licensed child care spaces in licensed group and family child care settings. The families of 52,782 children received child care subsidies to help meet child care costs, and the Special Needs Supplement was provided to families of 2,979 children. The Ministry issued 1,093 new Early Childhood Educator licenses and provided minor capital funding to 240 licensed group child care centres.
- In partnership with the Family Network for Deaf Children, Canadian Deaf Blind Association and Deaf Children's Society, the Ministry offered a range of activities from learning sign language to experiences related to being deaf-blind at the annual *Hands Talkin'* tent at the Vancouver International Children's Festival. Approximately 1,500 people attended this public awareness event held May 13 - 16, 2009.
- On Vancouver Island, the Ministry, the Health Authority and twelve school districts agreed to support three frameworks: early years services, school aged children and youth, and distinct Aboriginal service needs. These frameworks formed the foundation for a Memorandum of Understanding on common approaches to services across health, education and social service sectors.

Pillar 2: Early Intervention

The Ministry continues to provide early intervention services to vulnerable children, youth, their families and communities. The Ministry works collaboratively across ministries to ensure families' experiences are seamless.

- Approximately 72 children between the ages of 18 and 36 months were screened through the Early Childhood Screening Program. This program, a partnership between the Fraser Region and the Fraser Health Authority, provides screening for vision, dental and hearing development and an immunization review for children in care of the Ministry. As a result of an evaluation of the program in 2009, steps have been taken to improve the referral process and create stronger links between screening and follow-up services when necessary.

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- Over the past three years, approximately 2,000 children living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and their families, accessed services provided by 56 contracted agencies. A ministry evaluation of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Key Worker and Parent Support Program indicated the program has successfully provided families and caregivers with practical and/or emotional and advocacy-related support.
- On November 1, 2009, a Cross-Ministry Transition Planning Protocol for Youth with Special Needs came into effect. The Protocol is an agreement between nine government organizations to support the transition of youth with special needs to adulthood.
- The Vancouver Coastal Region, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, Sunnyhill Hospital, Provincial Health Services, Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society, the Developmental Disabilities Association and the Human Early Learning Partnership, established the Fostering Early Development Screening Initiative. This initiative provides all children in care of the Ministry under the age of six with a developmental screening.

Pillar 3: Intervention and Support

The Ministry recognizes that each child or youth's needs are different, that not all vulnerability can be prevented. Some children, youth and families will have challenges stemming from family violence, child abuse, substance abuse or mental health issues and require more intensive intervention services. The Ministry and its contracted community-based agencies provide a comprehensive continuum of services to vulnerable children, youth and families.

- In 2009/10, the use of family development response to build family capacity to safely care for children increased throughout the province by 46 per cent compared to the previous year. In early 2010, family development response learning sites provided valuable feedback that led to improvements in the process.
- In collaboration with other ministries, health authorities and community partners, the Ministry developed a provincial framework for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention. As the first phase of implementation, the Interior Region partnered with the Interior Health Authority and hosted community development events in 100 Mile House and Castlegar involving approximately 75 community partners. The publication *Strengthening the Safety Net: A Summary on the Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Initiative for BC* is available at <http://suicidepipinitiative.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/suicide-pip-summary-report-final1.pdf>
- The Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, in partnership with Simon Fraser University, expanded the Connect Parent Group by training, supervising, and certifying more than 83 leaders. Parents of 399 teens completed the 10 week intensive program. Evaluations continue to show high levels of satisfaction and impact with parents and their children.

Pillar 4: The Aboriginal Approach

The Ministry supports Aboriginal people to exercise jurisdiction in providing for the safety and well-being of their children, including the development of alternative models of service delivery that reflect Aboriginal culture and traditional ways of practice.

- In March 2010, the Ministry and the Nisga'a Nation entered into a unique delegation agreement that supports the Nisga'a Nation in the provision of services to their children on and off Nisga'a Lands and supports the Nisga'a Nation to exercise jurisdiction with respect to their children off reserve lands. This unique delegation agreement is an important component of the new five year Fiscal Financial Agreement signed between the province, the federal government and the Nisga'a Nation.
- In partnership with delegated Aboriginal agencies, the Ministry and Aboriginal communities in the North Region began work on the implementation of a reconciliation process known as Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families. This process supports the development of a collective vision and an action plan to help coordinate our collective efforts to create a better child and family services system for all Aboriginal children.
- Through a partnership between the Ministry and delegated Aboriginal agencies in the North Region, the Collaborative Transformation and Succession Project was initiated to identify and train existing workers for future leadership roles in child welfare. Approximately 25 workers have been participating in this program since September 2009.

Pillar 5: Quality Assurance

Integrated quality assurance increases the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of supports and services for children, youth and their families through internal and external research and evaluations.

- The Ministry modified some of its performance measures to better align with *Strong, Safe and Supported*. All measures from the 2009/10-2011/12 *Service Plan Update* were tracked and reported through the *March 2010 Public Reporting of Performance Measures* document available at http://www.cf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/performance.htm
- The Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre, Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services and the Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing all achieved re-accreditation. Accreditation is a process that encourages an organization to achieve high standards and implement best practices.
- In 2009/10, the Fraser Region surveyed clients, parents and caregivers to determine their satisfaction with child and youth mental health services. Over 300 surveys covering 12 communities indicated average satisfaction ratings of between 7.46 and 8.61 out of a possible 10. Based on recommendations from respondents, the region is developing an improvement plan regarding child and youth mental health practice to be implemented in Fall 2010.
- The Ministry has established a common policy and process for managing complaints. A provincial complaints tracking and reporting system has been implemented which will allow for service improvement.

Purpose of Ministry

The Ministry of Children and Family Development promotes and develops the capacity of families and communities to care for and protect vulnerable children and youth, and supports healthy child and family development to maximize the potential of every child in British Columbia.

The Ministry is responsible for regional and province wide delivery of services and programs. In order to effectively and efficiently deliver services and programs, the Ministry is organized into five regions: North, Interior, Fraser, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island (refer to Appendix A for Ministry Contact Information).

The Ministry offers a continuum of programs, services and initiatives which support children, youth and families in communities throughout the province. MCFD is responsible for family development and support services, early childhood development, services for children and youth with special needs and their families, child care, child protection, residential, foster and alternative care options, adoption for children and youth permanently in care, community child and youth mental health services, programs for at risk or sexually exploited youth and community youth justice services.

In addition, the Ministry is responsible for a number of provincial services, such as youth custody, youth forensic psychiatric services, services for deaf and hard of hearing children and youth, and the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre.

The Ministry continues to work with Aboriginal communities and delegated Aboriginal agencies to support Aboriginal people in making decisions about the policies and practices that affect their children, youth and families.

Ministry service delivery partners include: contracted service agencies, family foster homes, communities, school districts, health authorities, Community Living BC and other ministries.

The Ministry's legislative mandate includes the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, the *Adoption Act*, the *Youth Justice Act*, the *Child Care BC Act*, the *Child Care Subsidy Act* and the *Social Workers Act*.

Strategic Context

The Ministry of Children and Family Development works to support the best outcomes for children, youth and families. The following section provides a summary of the opportunities and challenges that influenced the Ministry's performance in 2009/10.

Strong, Safe and Supported: A Commitment to B.C.'s Children and Youth

In April 2008, the Ministry released *Strong, Safe and Supported: A Commitment to B.C.'s Children and Youth* which provides overall direction for the Ministry's program and service delivery. *Strong, Safe and Supported* focuses on a strengths-based approach to practice. Evidence suggests that all children, youth and families have inherent strengths and a capacity to overcome challenges when provided the necessary supports.

During 2009/10, *Strong, Safe and Supported* continued to guide the Ministry in an integrated child centred approach to service delivery and in developing family and community capacity. *Strong, Safe and Supported* guides the Ministry's transformation work including supporting First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal people to develop and deliver service approaches based on their culture and traditions.

During 2009/10, practice change orientation sessions were held in each region. Practice change includes refining assessment and planning for children, an integrated quality assurance system and a realignment and redesign of services across the continuum. Through practice change, the Ministry will embed strengths-based practices into all program areas and develop new ways to serve our clients that reflect the principles outlined in *Strong, Safe and Supported*.

Workforce Planning

Continued fiscal pressure faced across government due to the global economic downturn resulted in the need for ministries to examine how services are delivered and to look for innovative approaches to meeting staffing needs. Within the Ministry, hiring employees new to government was limited to critical front-line positions. The Ministry continued to work in partnership with delegated Aboriginal agencies and the social service sector to improve service delivery models and explore human resource strategies to provide the supports our communities require.

Collaboration with Other Ministries

Collaboration with other ministries is an integral part of the Ministry's work in developing and delivering seamless services for children and families. The Ministry partnered with the ministries of Education, Healthy Living and Sport and Advanced Education and Labour Market Development on various activities related to the implementation of full-day kindergarten and the provision of preschool/pre-kindergarten for three to four year olds.

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The Ministry collaborated with Community Living BC and the Ministry of Housing and Social Development to guide the transfer of children's services from Community Living BC back to the Ministry. The Ministry and Community Living BC developed a number of agreements to support the transfer including a Youth Transitioning Operating Agreement that articulates the procedures and approach to be used for youth transition from the Ministry to Community Living BC services. Bringing Community Living BC children's services back to the Ministry enables improved integration and coordination of all services for children, youth and families, consistent with principles and strategies of the Child and Youth with Special Needs Framework for Action.

The Ministry, in cooperation with the ministries of Housing and Social Development and Citizens' Services, has been planning for the implementation of an integrated case management technology system. Integrated case management will provide the technical platform to support business transformation and case management across the range of programs and services of the ministries of Children and Family Development and Housing and Social Development.

Children and Youth Population

The number of children and youth in the province is a key determinant of the Ministry's caseload. Changes in the total population of children and youth have the potential to impact Ministry operations and its fiscal and service targets. The Ministry closely monitors these and other population and socio-economic based changes to align Ministry programs and services to the changing needs of children, youth and their families.

The total population of children and youth (aged 0 - 18 years) in British Columbia was 908,878 in 2009, representing 20.4 per cent of the Province's total population. British Columbia's child and youth population declined by 4.2 per cent between 2001 and 2009 and is forecast to decline until 2011. Beyond 2011, the child and youth population is forecast to increase.

The Aboriginal child and youth population increased 11 per cent between 2001 and 2009 while the Aboriginal youth population (age 15 to 18) increased by nearly 32 per cent.

Aboriginal children continue to be disproportionately represented among children in the Ministry's care. As of March 2010, Aboriginal children represented approximately eight per cent of children in British Columbia and approximately 54 per cent of the 8,528 children in the Ministry's care.

Performance Management

Performance management is a continuous quality improvement process that includes development of performance measures. The Ministry continues to develop and refine measures consistent with *Strong, Safe and Supported* and support a culture of organizational learning and knowledge.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: Place a primary focus on preventing vulnerability in children and youth by providing strong supports for individuals, families and communities.	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
<p>An increase in the health and well-being of children and youth, and a decrease in preventable vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Total number of Ministry funded licensed child care spaces.</p>	91,000	97,163 EXCEEDED
Goal 2: Provide early intervention services to vulnerable children and youth within their families and communities.	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
<p>An increase in the strengths, capacities and competencies of vulnerable children and youth and their families served by the Ministry.</p> <p>Number of children who are identified as having to leave their parental home due to risks to the child's safety and well-being, that are able to remain with the extended family or community.</p>	800	738 NOT ACHIEVED
Goal 3: Provide intervention services and supports based on the assessment of individual needs.	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
<p>Children and youth receiving services from the Ministry will demonstrate increased resilience and capacity to cope with their challenges.</p> <p>Per cent of children in care under continuing custody orders whose grade level is as prescribed for their age.</p> <p>Rate of recurrence of child neglect and/or abuse by family.</p> <p>Per cent of children with adoption plans who have been placed.</p>	82.5%	78.9% NOT ACHIEVED
	18.9%	20.2% NOT ACHIEVED
	17.0%	17.0% ACHIEVED
Goal 4: Aboriginal people will be supported to exercise jurisdiction in delivering child and family services.	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
<p>Aboriginal children, youth and their families are receiving services through an Aboriginal service system which strongly connects children and youth to their culture and tradition.</p> <p>Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies.</p>	41.0%	41.3% EXCEEDED

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Place a primary focus on preventing vulnerability in children and youth by providing strong supports for individuals, families and communities

The foundation of all Ministry programs is the recognition of the inherent strengths and rights of all children, youth and families. The Ministry continues to support programs and services that provide opportunities for families and communities to increase their capacity and in turn improve the experiences of children and their families.

Objective: An increase in the health and well-being of children and youth, and a decrease in preventable vulnerabilities

Strategies

- Develop a cross ministry five-year Early Years Plan that integrates key activities and priority directions, based on the input of provincial, national and international experts and stakeholders.
- Implement the ten-year Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder provincial plan.
- Strengthen parents' or caregivers' ability to cope with challenges and promote healthy development in their children.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Total number of Ministry funded licensed child care spaces	82,347	87,538	92,729 ¹	91,000	97,163 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Children and Family Development, Child Care Operating Funding Program Datamart

¹ As a result of data revisions the 2008/09 actual result has been revised to 92,729 from 92,743.

Discussion of Results

This performance measure represents the total number of licensed child care spaces supported by the Child Care Operating Funding Program. The number of funded child care spaces is dependent on the number of licensed providers that apply for operating funding.

In 2009/10, the number of licensed child care spaces funded through the Child Care Operating Funding Program exceeded the target and increased by 4,434 spaces when compared to 2008/09. The Ministry responded to this increase in demand by funding more licensed childcare providers than was planned at the beginning of the 2009/10 fiscal year.

While the performance measure presents the total number of funded licensed child care spaces during a fiscal year, the monthly average number of licensed child care spaces provides further information about the supply of child care spaces. In 2009/10, the average monthly number of active licensed child care spaces funded through the Child Care Operating Funding Program was 88,109, an increase from 84,387 in 2008/09.

Goal 2: Provide early intervention services to vulnerable children and youth within their families and communities

Early intervention programs and services are designed to strengthen children, youth and families by providing them with the supports they need to increase resilience and decrease vulnerability.

Objective: An increase in the strengths, capacities and competencies of vulnerable children and youth and their families served by the Ministry

Strategies

- Improve access to supports and services through the implementation of the cross government Children and Youth with Special Needs Framework for Action.
- Work with First Nations and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to develop and implement a new federal/First Nations model for on-reserve services.
- Continue improving capacity to intervene early.
- Increase the use of collaborative planning mechanisms.
- Increase the use of alternatives to bringing children and youth into care.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of children who are identified as having to leave their parental home due to risks to the child's safety and well-being, that are able to remain with extended family or community	635	761	724	800	738 NOT ACHIEVED

Data Source: Management Information System and Social Worker System

Discussion of Results

This measure identifies the number of children who were placed by agreement in an out of care arrangement by either the Ministry or a delegated Aboriginal agency. Out of care agreements are alternative care arrangements with extended family or close friends for children at risk of abuse or neglect or who are temporarily unable to live with their parents. These agreements are based on the belief that permanent relationships are a major determinant of whether children feel safe and secure.

While the Ministry did not achieve its target, there was an increase in the number of out of care arrangements from 724 in 2008/09 to 738 in 2009/10. The Ministry and delegated Aboriginal agencies remain committed to involving family members and adults with a significant relationship with the child, in planning and decision making for the child.

Over the past three years delegated Aboriginal agencies' use of out of care options has increased from 12 in 2006/07 to 63 in 2009/10. During 2009/10, approximately nine per cent of all out of care options were arranged by delegated Aboriginal agencies.

In 2009/10, the Ministry reviewed out of home care options within the context of practice change, current literature and best practice from other jurisdictions. As a result, the Ministry has introduced the Extended Family Program to add to the range of out of care options. It offers financial and other services to support an out of home living arrangement, without the child coming into care, where an extended family member or significant person in a child's life cares for the child.

Goal 3: Provide intervention services and supports based on the assessment of individual needs

In order to protect children and build on their inherent strengths, the Ministry provides a continuum of services which range from prevention and early intervention to more intrusive but necessary services. The continuum of services aims to provide children and youth with services that best meet their individual needs.

Objective: Children and youth receiving services from the Ministry will demonstrate increased resilience and capacity to cope with their challenges

Strategies

- Re-design residential care services.
- Continue to use mediation and family group conferencing as a means of increasing family and community involvement in case planning and decision making based on the child's needs.

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- Implement the Children and Youth with Special Needs Framework for Action in collaboration with the ministries of Health Services and Education.
- Work in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Social Development to improve developmental outcomes for youth with special needs transitioning to adulthood.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Per cent of children in care under continuing custody orders whose grade level is as prescribed for their age	81.6%	78.1%	78.7%	82.5%	78.9% NOT ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Education enrolment data, Management Information System and Social Worker System

Discussion of Results

This measure identifies the percentage of children in care under a continuing custody order who are at a grade level that is appropriate for their age in September of each year. There was a slight increase from 2008/09; however the 2009/10 target of 82.5 per cent was not achieved.

The Ministry continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Education through the *Joint Educational Planning and Support for Children and Youth in Care: Cross-Ministry Guidelines*. These guidelines were created to assist social workers and teachers in improving information sharing, strengthening practice and joint planning and promoting effective communication among educators, school-based teams, child-welfare workers, caregivers and family members. Designated staff members within each school oversee the planning and monitoring of educational success for children under a continuing custody order and review their achievements and ongoing needs.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Rate of recurrence of child neglect and/or abuse by family ¹	20.9%	20.1%	20.9%	18.9%	20.2% NOT ACHIEVED

Data Source: Management Information System and Social Worker System

¹ Neglect is defined as failure by the parent or guardian to provide for a child's basic needs. Neglect may include failure to provide food, shelter, basic health care, supervision or protection from risks, to the extent that the child's physical health, development or safety is, or is likely to be, harmed. Abuse is defined as physical or sexual maltreatment or emotional neglect.

Discussion of Results

When it has been established that a child is at risk, the Ministry works with the family to reduce the risk of future harm by providing services that will address the needs of the child and family.

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This measure identifies how well the Ministry is doing at meeting those needs and reducing further incidents of abuse and/or neglect.

To measure the rate of recurrence, protection findings of all families investigated were reviewed to see if there was another incident within the previous 12 months. The rate of recurrence compares the number of families with more than one protection finding to the total number of families with at least one protection finding. In 2009/10, the rate of recurrence decreased from the previous year; however the target was not achieved.

At 20.2 per cent, the 2009/10 rate was 0.7 percentage points lower than the 2008/09 rate. This percentage point drop was composed of two positive results: a decrease in the number of families with recurring protection findings (7.7 per cent), and a decrease in the number of families with a protection finding (4.8 per cent) compared to 2008/09. Moreover, the number of families with a protection finding has declined consistently over the past three years, contributing to the rate of recurrence remaining flat.

Fiscal Year	Number of Families with Recurring Protection Findings	Number of Families with Protection Findings	Rate of Recurrence
	(1)	(2)	$\frac{\text{column 1}}{\text{column 2}}$
2006/07	962	4,615	20.9%
2007/08	898	4,459	20.1%
2008/09	919	4,408	20.9%
2009/10	848	4,198	20.2%
Changes from 2008/09	-71	-210	-0.7%
	-7.7%	-4.8%	

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Per cent of children with adoption plans who have been placed	15.1%	18.2%	16.6%	17.0%	17.0% ACHIEVED

Data Source: Adoption Management System

Discussion of Results

This measure represents the number of children who are placed for adoption within the fiscal year as a percentage of all children in permanent care who have a plan for adoption. The number of adoptions of children who have been in care of the Ministry illustrates how many of these children are now part of a permanent family. In 2009/10, of the 1,711 children in permanent care with a plan of adoption, 291 were placed for adoption.

During 2009/10, the Ministry achieved its target; 17 per cent of all children in permanent care with an adoption plan were placed for adoption. As the Ministry continues to move forward with a strengths-based approach that focuses on supporting families staying together, it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in the number of children requiring adoption plans. However, there will remain circumstances where reunification with parents or extended family members is not possible for the child. In these circumstances adoption provides stable and continuing lifelong relationships for children.

Goal 4: Aboriginal people will be supported to exercise jurisdiction in delivering child and family services

The Ministry continues to support Aboriginal communities in the development of traditional child and family service delivery models in order to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and youth.

Objective: Aboriginal children, youth and their families are receiving services through an Aboriginal service system which strongly connects children and youth to their culture and tradition

Strategies

- Support Aboriginal people in making a choice of government model/s and facilitate, through funding, capacity development and any necessary legislation, the successful implementation of the chosen governance model(s).
- Support Aboriginal people in the work of designing a child and family development service system that reflects their culture and traditions.
- Support the development of a five-year Early Years Plan for Aboriginal children.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies	30.4%	31.9%	39.1%	41.0%	41.3% EXCEEDED

Data Source: Management Information System and Social Worker System

Discussion of Results

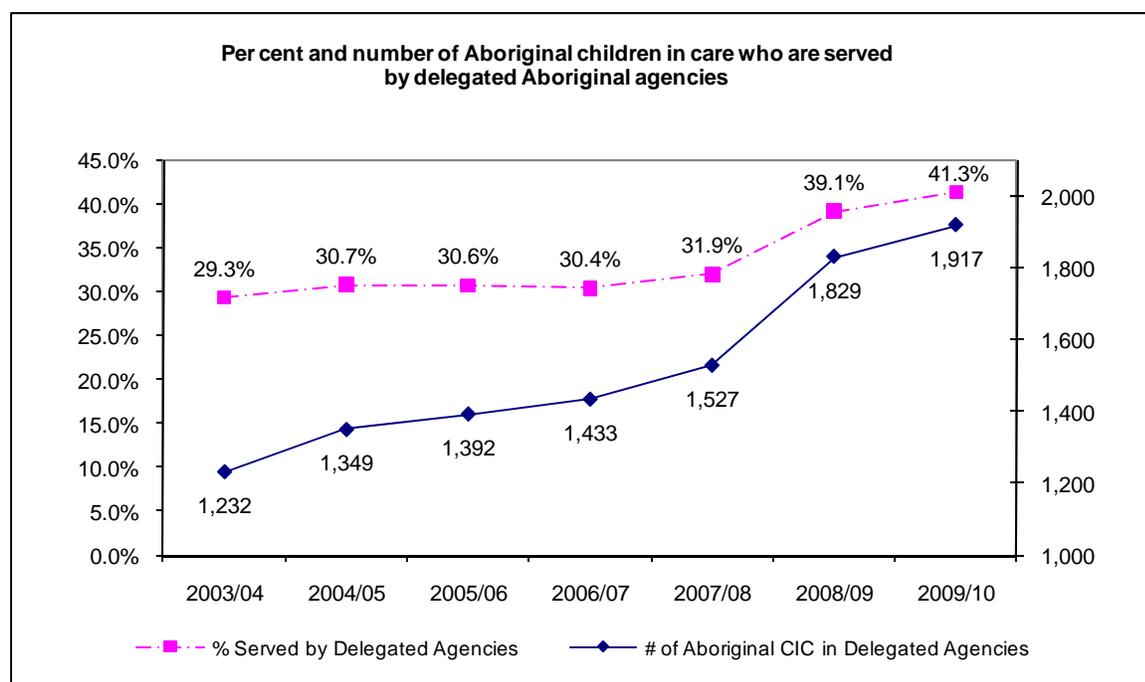
This measure indicates the proportion of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies. The 41.3 per cent represents a 2.2 percentage point increase over 2008/09 and exceeds the Ministry's target of 41.0 per cent. On March 31, 2010, 1,917 Aboriginal children

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in care were being served by delegated Aboriginal agencies compared to 1,829 on March 31, 2009.

There has been a steady increase in the number of Aboriginal children transferred to delegated Aboriginal agencies over the last six years. Transferring responsibility for Aboriginal children in care to a delegated Aboriginal agency is a comprehensive process which entails the Ministry devolving its services to those Aboriginal agencies having the capacity to assume responsibility. Ministry funding to delegated Aboriginal agencies increased from approximately \$64 million¹ in 2008/09 to \$74 million in 2009/10. The Ministry is engaged with a number of First Nations and Aboriginal communities in planning for the development of new delegated Aboriginal agencies.

The following chart illustrates the steady increase in the number of Aboriginal children in care served by delegated Aboriginal agencies. Over the past six years the number of Aboriginal children in care served by a delegated Aboriginal agency has increased from 1,232 to 1,917 – a 55 per cent increase.



¹ This figure was reported incorrectly as approximately \$67 million in the 2008/09 Annual Service Plan Report.

Goal 5: Child, youth and family development services will be based on evidence gathered through a strong quality assurance system

The Ministry's quality assurance system includes regular monitoring of outcomes. The Ministry strives to support a culture of continuous quality assurance through evidence informed policy, practice and public reporting. Fundamental to the Ministry's quality assurance process is a rights-based approach which means the voice and participation of children, youth and families are included and valued.

Objective: Increased effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of supports and services for children, youth and their families served by the Ministry

Strategies

- Strengthen quality assurance and reporting at the provincial and regional levels.
- Increase provincial and community-based organizations' engagement and involvement in service delivery evaluation.
- Support continuous learning and service improvement through a range of research and human resource development activities.

In 2009/10, the Ministry developed a performance measure aimed at increasing accountability and transparency and has included this measure in the *2010/11 – 2012/13 Service Plan*. This measure expands the overall number of performance measures that the Ministry reports publicly and includes measures no longer being reported on through the Service Plan. The ministry will be reporting this information annually at: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/performance.htm.

Report on Resources

The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides a variety of regionally and provincially delivered services and programs to protect and support vulnerable children and youth and support healthy child and family development. This section provides information by core business areas on the Ministry's operating and capital expenditures for 2009/10.

Core Business Areas	Estimated ¹	Other Authorizations ²	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance ³
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Child and Family Development	793,630		793,630	782,403	(11,227)
Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs	520,264		520,264	519,453	(811)
Provincial Services	62,887		62,887	60,465	(2,422)
Executive and Support Services	17,358		17,358	15,435	(1,923)
Total Ministry Operations	1,394,139		1,394,139	1,377,756	(16,383)
Adjustment of Prior Year's Accrual ⁴				(1,949)	(1,949)
Total Ministry	1,394,139		1,394,139	1,375,807	(18,332)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	1,098		1,098	1,079	(19)
Total	1,098	0	1,098	1,079	(19)
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services (Human Services Providers Financing Program)					
Receipts	123		123	34	(89)
Disbursements	0		0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	123	0	123	34	(89)
Total Receipts	123		123	34	(89)
Total Disbursements	0		0	0	0
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	123	0	123	34	(89)

¹ The amounts in the "Estimated" column correspond to the *Estimates* as presented to the legislative assembly in September 2009.

² "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies.

³ Variance represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated." If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

⁴ Adjustment of Prior Year's Accrual of \$1.949 million is a reversal of an overestimated accrual in the previous year.

Explanation of Resource Summary

Operating Expenditures

The 2009/10 Ministry budget is based on assumptions contained in the *2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan Update*.

The Ministry ended the year with an operating surplus of \$16.383 million (1.2 per cent of the budget). Accruals for the 2008/09 fiscal year were slightly overestimated - this overage was added to the operating results for the 2009/10 fiscal year according to accounting guidelines. The final surplus was \$18.332 million.

- Hiring challenges continued for the Ministry in 2009/10 resulting in lower staffing costs than anticipated. Historically, the Ministry has had difficulty recruiting to rural and remote communities.
- The Ministry realized surpluses in both office and travel expenses.
- Caseload trends in most Ministry programs remained relatively stable in the third and fourth quarters of 2009/10. Therefore, funds set aside to manage unexpected caseload increases were unspent.

Capital Expenditures

The under expenditure of \$0.019 million (or 1.7 per cent of the budget) was due to minor spending reductions in all classes of capital.

Annual Service Plan Report Appendices

Appendix A Ministry Contact Information

General Ministry enquiries:

Client Relations: **250 387-7027** (in Victoria), or toll-free: **1 877 387-7027**
or E-mail: MCF.CorrespondenceManagement@gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address:

**PO Box 9770 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9S5**

Ministry's Regional Offices

Fraser

Mailing/Physical Address:
101 – 10221 153rd Street
Surrey BC V3R 0L7
Telephone: 604 586-4100
Facsimile: 604 586-4151

Vancouver Coastal

Mailing/Physical Address:
601 – 700 West Georgia Street
Vancouver BC V7Y 1B6
Telephone: 604 660-2433
Facsimile: 604 660-1090

Interior

Mailing/Physical Address:
400 – 1726 Dolphin Avenue
Kelowna BC V1Y 9R9
Telephone: 250 470-0888
Facsimile: 250 470-0890

Vancouver Island

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9727 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9S2
Telephone: 250 952-4707
Facsimile: 250 952-4282

North

Mailing/Physical Address:
462 – 1011 Fourth Avenue
Prince George BC V2L 3H9
Telephone: 250 565-4367
Facsimile: 250 565-4427

Physical Address:

140 – 4460 Chatterton Way
Victoria BC V8X 5J2

Appendix B Hyperlinks to Additional Information

About Us

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/index.htm

Contact Us

www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/contacts.html

Ministry's Homepage

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca

Ministry Regions

www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/regions/index.htm

Community Living British Columbia

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

Ombudsperson

www.bcombudsperson.ca

Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia

<http://www.trustee.bc.ca/>

Representative for Children and Youth

www.rcybc.ca