

**Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development**

**2020/21 – 2022/23  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2020**



## Minister Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Children and Family Development 2020/21 - 2022/23 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

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

Honourable Katrine Conroy  
Minister of Children and Family Development  
February 4, 2020

## Minister of State Accountability Statement



I am the Minister of State for Child Care and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2020/21:

- a) Continue to implement initiatives that support Government's universal child care plan that provides affordable, accessible, inclusive and high-quality care and early learning for every child whose family wants or needs it;
- b) Together with the federal government, engage in activities aimed at renewing the Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework agreement;
- c) Continue to engage with all levels of government, child care providers and the private and not-for-profit sectors to further inform implementation of the plan for universal and inclusive child care;
- d) Submit to Cabinet a report on the results referred to in paragraphs (a) through (c) on or before March 31, 2021.

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

Honourable Katrina Chen  
Minister of State for Child Care  
February 4, 2020

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## Purpose of the Ministry

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

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

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

The Ministry also supports the Minister in her governance responsibilities for the Columbia Power Corporation and the Columbia Basin Trust, Crown Corporations that prepare their own Service Plans, as well as with program coordination and administration of services related to the Columbia River Treaty.

## Strategic Direction

The Government of British Columbia remains focused on its three strategic priorities: making life more affordable, delivering better services, and investing in a sustainable economy.

Ministries are actively working to provide quality, cost-effective services to British Columbia families and businesses. By adopting the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens and Business and Economic Implications Framework to budgeting and policy development, ministries will ensure that equity is reflected in budgets, policies and programs.

Additional key initiatives underpinning lasting prosperity in 2020/21 and beyond are the implementation of:

- A Framework for Improving British Columbians' Standard of Living, which will provide the foundation for quality economic growth in our province and a pathway to a more inclusive and prosperous society,
- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, demonstrating support for true and lasting reconciliation, and
- The CleanBC plan, putting B.C. on the path to a cleaner, better future – with a low carbon economy that creates opportunities while protecting our clean air, land and water.

This 2020/21 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Children and Family Development will support the government's priorities, including selected action items identified in the [July 2017 Minister's Mandate Letter](#). Over the previous fiscal year, the Ministry of Children and Family Development made progress on these priorities by:

- Decreasing the number of children and youth in care. There were 5,805 children and youth in care as of December 2019, which is the lowest number of children and youth in care in well over twenty years.
- Continuing to implement Childcare BC – one of the biggest social policy changes in British Columbia's history - building an affordable, accessible and quality child care system across the province. As part of this initiative, in the last two years the government has funded over 10,000 new, affordable licensed child care spaces, giving parents much-needed relief and the chance to rejoin the workforce.
- Implementing amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)*, supporting collaborative practices with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and recognizing their shared rights and responsibility for the upbringing and well-being of their children. This included signing over 35 information sharing agreements (section 92.1 of the CFCSA), improving collaboration and engagement with Indigenous communities.
- Continuing to work with the Wet'suwet'en, Secwepemc Nation, Cowichan, Lake Babine, NSTQ, Huu-ay-aht, South Island Indigenous Authority, Ktunaxa and Métis on jurisdiction, law-making and treaty implementation.
- Ending the practice of issuing birth alerts and focusing on supporting high-risk expectant parents with keeping newborns safe and families together through a collaborative, rather than involuntary, model.
- Increasing the monthly maintenance rate provided to foster caregivers and out-of-care care providers that have an agreement with MCFD under the *CFCSA*, or who have adopted under the *Adoption Act*. This rate covers the basic living costs for those children and youth in their care. Increasing this rate (for the first time in a decade) addresses the financial disincentive against out-of-care placements and values the role that relatives and family friends play in taking care of vulnerable children and youth.
- Boosting children and youth with special needs (CYSN) respite funding – the first increase in respite funding since 1989.
- Commencing implementation of the federal legislation, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* within B.C. Among other things, this federal Act, which came into force January 1, 2020, affirms the rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services and sets out principles applicable, on a national level, to the provision of child and family services in relation to Indigenous children.

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

## **Performance Planning**

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

**Objective 1.1: Engage in discussions regarding increased decision making authority and child and family services jurisdiction with Indigenous communities that are interested and willing**

**Key Strategies:**

- Work with Indigenous communities seeking jurisdiction and authority to understand what is required and how to approach this work
- Work with the Government of Canada to support implementation of Canada's legislation, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*
- Work with Indigenous communities or Indigenous governing bodies and other recognized representative organizations, such as the Tripartite First Nations Children and Families Working Group, to support this systemic change
- In partnership with Indigenous peoples and our provincial colleagues, begin to explore implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – a legislative framework for recognizing the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous peoples

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

**Key Strategies:**

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

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<sup>1</sup> UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

**Key Strategies:**

- Demonstrate transparency and accountability through tools and processes, such as information sharing agreements and accountability statements which include how much funding is spent in support of Indigenous children, youth and families, the number of children in care, and the outcomes we are achieving in communities
- Work with Indigenous communities and the Government of Canada to improve our funding approach

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
1.3 Rate of children and youth (0-18) in care per 1,000 children and youth in the population <sup>1</sup>					
All children and youth	7.7	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.1
Indigenous children and youth	48.1	41.7	40.3	38.9	37.7
Non-Indigenous children and youth	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Integrated Case Management System (ICM)

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective:**

MCFD has been working to address the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the child and family services system. The impacts of colonization, the undermining of family and community systems and resultant inter-generational trauma, and the imposition of a legal regime foreign to the cultures and customs of the Indigenous peoples have all contributed to this over-representation.

This performance measure tracks the rate of (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) children and youth in care and, in doing so, the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in care.

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

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

**Key Strategies:**

- Advance a child-focused, family centered approach by identifying and addressing policy, practice and legislative barriers to keeping children with family, extended family and community, and strengthening families through practice, culture, and services
- In line with B.C.’s *A Pathway to Hope* roadmap, undertake projects that strengthen our continuum of mental health services, such as developing step-up/step-down services, supporting Integrated Child and Youth Teams, and enhancing targeted early childhood intervention services
- Implement the Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Service Framework to ensure that children, youth and families in all areas of the province have timely access to evidence-informed, appropriate and culturally safe mental health and wellness services
- Begin the phased implementation of the Children and Youth with Special Needs Service Framework (CYSN) promoting children and youth with support needs development and family quality of life, enabling them to reach their full potential

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast <sup>2</sup>	2020/21 Target <sup>2</sup>	2021/22 Target <sup>2</sup>	2022/23 Target <sup>2</sup>
2.1 Percent of children assessed with a protection concern that can safely live with family or extended family <sup>1</sup>					
All children and youth	85.8%	91.3%	91.7%	92.0%	92.3%
Indigenous children and youth	80.1%	86.5%	87.3%	87.8%	88.3%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	89.4%	94.0%	94.2%	94.4%	94.6%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: ICM

<sup>2</sup> 2019/20 forecast and out-year targets have been increased to reflect better than expected results from the Ministry’s family preservation efforts.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective:**

The percent of children and youth assessed with a protection concern that can live with family or extended family is an established measure of family preservation. Managing safety so that more children can continue to live with their families results in better education, health and social outcomes.



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

### Key Strategies:

- In partnership with the federal government, renew the Canada – British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Framework agreement and implement common priorities to advance B.C.’s universal early care and learning system with a focus on affordability, accessibility, inclusivity and quality
- Continue to improve the affordability of child care spaces
- Continue to work towards the goal of creating 22,000 child care spaces and increase the number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation
- Continue to increase accessibility and build on a Spring 2020 forum to inform the development of long-term strategies for inclusive child care
- Complete the evaluation of the Universal Child Care Prototype sites to inform future strategies
- Enhance quality of child care services through on-going implementation of the Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
2.2 Average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation <sup>1</sup>	108,110 <sup>2</sup>	120,700	128,000	135,000	136,500

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

<sup>2</sup> The 2016/17 baseline was adjusted from 105,830 to 108,110 in 2018, after a CCOF system upgrade enhanced tracking accuracy.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

The average monthly number of funded licensed child care spaces in operation measures the accessibility of child care relative to previous years.

New spaces that are approved for funding are not linked to this performance measure during the construction phase. This performance measure speaks to the number of licensed childcare spaces that are funded through the Child Care Operating Funding Program (CCOF) and the Universal Child Care Prototypes Sites and are operational. New spaces are not reflected in CCOF spaces until they become operational. Due to permitting, construction and licensing requirements, among other things, there is a time lag between when new spaces receive funding and when they become operational.

The targets set in 2018/19 were based on historical data and assumed an even distribution across the reporting cycle of new CCOF spaces becoming operational as a result of the New Spaces Fund. However, many organizations have needed more time to develop and prepare applications to the New Spaces Fund and a significant number of more complex projects are taking longer than the historical trend to complete. Both are expected to result in a more uneven distribution, with more of the spaces becoming operational later in the reporting cycle.

### Goal 3: Youth and young adults have the tools, resources and social supports to transition successfully to adulthood and adult services

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

##### Key Strategies:

- Finalize and begin to implement a Youth and Young Adult Transitions Service Framework with a focus on providing consistent services and supports that respond to the needs of youth and young adults and prepare them for adulthood
- Support youth and young adults to connect with their culture and community and have meaningful relationships
- Develop a Youth Justice Service Framework to inform on the continuum of supports, services, and interventions available to youth involved in the justice system, or at risk of being involved, to ensure the earliest interventions possible throughout the province

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.1a Percent of youth in care who turn 19 with a high school credential <sup>1 2</sup>					
All children and youth	55.4%	56.3%	56.8%	57.2%	57.7%
Indigenous children and youth	49.0%	54.5%	55.0%	55.5%	56.0%
Non-Indigenous children and youth	61.1%	58.0%	58.5%	59.0%	59.5%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: ICM and Ministry of Education enrolment data

<sup>2</sup> As the rate of children and youth in care goes down, the proportion of those that remain in care with complex needs increases, and thus impacts high school credential rates. Targets have been adjusted accordingly.

##### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

There is strong evidence that completing high school is conducive to present and future well-being. The Ministry works to ensure that youth in care have successfully completed secondary school by the age of 19, gaining the life skills and education necessary to live independently as adults.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
3.1b Youth under Continuing Custody Orders and Youth aging-out that receive an Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) benefit payment within the next year <sup>1</sup>	21.6% <sup>2</sup>	36.7%	39.2% <sup>3</sup>	41.5% <sup>3</sup>	43.6% <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: Resource and Payment System

<sup>2</sup> Baseline updated to reflect the correct results for 2016/17. 2017/18 results (based on the 2016/17 age out cohort) were mistakenly used in the 2019/20 service plan.

<sup>3</sup> 2019/20 forecast and out-year targets were increased to reflect better than expected performance.

##### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

One of the ways that the Ministry ensures successful youth transitions is by supporting eligible young adults through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program. The AYA program provides financial assistance for education, training and life skills. Improving the uptake of the AYA program ensures better transitions and, thereby, better outcomes for young adults.

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

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

#### Key Strategies:

- Begin implementation of the In Care Service Framework by building on wise practices to provide a network of placement options and wrap-around supports that respond to the full range of a child or youth's in care needs
- Begin to implement an outcomes-based Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring quality of services across all types of care which are responsive to the feedback from children, families and communities
- Begin to implement a redesigned Procurement and Contract Management Framework, ensuring that contracts issued by the Ministry are clear and include deliverables that focus on the needs and rights of children and youth in care

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2019/20 Forecast	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
4.1 Percentage of children and youth in care with no moves in the first 12 months since their last admission to care <sup>1 2</sup>	67.9%	65.2%	65.2%	65.5%	66.0%

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: ICM

<sup>2</sup> Targets for 2020/21 and beyond have been adjusted from the previous service plan. See rationale in the discussion section below

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective:

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

#### Discussion:

This year there was a focus on reassessing whether contracted residential agencies were meeting the needs of children and youth placed in their care, leading to additional moves. With the implementation of the federal Act, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, and a new obligation for ongoing reassessments of the placement of Indigenous children and youth in care, this metric may change. The impact of these reassessments is unknown at this time. Targets for 2020/21 have been kept at the 2019/20 forecast, although the stability results are expected to increase in the out years. Over the coming year, the Ministry will continue analyze the impact of this new obligation to better understand its effect on this performance measure.

**Resource Summary**

Core Business Area	2019/20 Restated Budget <sup>1</sup>	2020/21 Estimate	2021/22 Plan	2022/23 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	624,807	714,181	719,800	723,994
Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs	390,669	410,091	413,479	413,479
Child and Youth Mental Health Services	109,396	113,613	115,283	115,283
Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care Services	682,677	731,874	744,647	744,647
Adoption Services	34,752	34,888	35,107	35,107
Youth Justice Services	47,421	48,147	49,160	49,160
Service Delivery Support	159,121	156,620	158,030	158,030
Executive and Support Services	19,103	19,032	19,446	19,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,067,946</b>	<b>2,228,446</b>	<b>2,254,952</b>	<b>2,259,367</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Service Delivery Support	4,510	1,569	1,498	1,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,510</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>1,498</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services (Human Services Providers Financing Program)				
Receipts	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Requirement (Source)	(31)	(31)	(31)	(31)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirement (Source)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2019/20 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2020/21 Estimates.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

### **BC College of Social Workers:**

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

### **Provincial Child Care Council:**

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

### **Columbia Power Corporation:**

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

### **Columbia Basin Trust:**

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