



STRONG, SAFE AND SUPPORTED:

B.C.'s COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

PROGRESS REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2009 TO MAY 30, 2009

Pillar 1: PREVENTION: GOVERNMENT WILL PLACE A PRIMARY FOCUS ON PREVENTING VULNERABILITY IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY PROVIDING STRONG SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

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

Pillar 1 - Action 1
Develop, cost and implement a comprehensive, innovative, cross-ministry five-year Early Years Plan [including child care and early childhood development], together with provincial, national and international experts/stakeholders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cross-ministry Early Years Plan Steering Committee continued work on the emerging Early Years Strategic Plan. The committee focused on developing potential qualitative and quantitative indicators by way of researching and reviewing work from a variety of potential sources including the following: the Human Early Learning Partnership; the B.C. ECD Evaluation Project; Statistics Canada; and the National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth.
Pillar 1 - Action 2 - COMPLETE
Develop and implement a new Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder strategic plan.
COMPLETED AND ONGOING
Pillar 1 – Action 3 - COMPLETE
Increase innovative youth development programs in each region - targeting the most vulnerable communities as a priority.
COMPLETED AND ONGOING
Pillar 1 - Action 4
Identify and implement youth crime prevention initiatives in collaboration with the Provincial Community Safety Steering Committee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The development of alternative evaluation options and strategies for the evaluation of the youth crime prevention initiatives has begun.

Pillar 1 - Action 5 - COMPLETE

Develop and implement parent/caregiver capacity development programs.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 2: EARLY INTERVENTION: GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

Outcome: An increase in the strengths, capacities and competencies of vulnerable children and youth and their families.

Pillar 2 - Action 1 - COMPLETE

Increase early intervention options on early childhood mental health.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 2 - Action 2 – COMPLETE

Expand use of community hubs providing early years programs.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 2 - Action 3 – COMPLETE

Increase use of collaborative practice, specifically Family Development Response [FDR].

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 2 – Action 4

Expand services for vulnerable youth at risk of sexual exploitation.

- Sexual exploitation materials produced by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection will be distributed to ministry district offices.

Pillar 2 - Action 5 – COMPLETE

Enhance, or establish, services in each region to respond to youth who are particularly vulnerable to self harm [e.g. addictions and suicide].

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 2 - Action 6 - COMPLETE

Review and revise the current kinship program within the continuum of services.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING: Kinship Care Program changes will be implemented with the redesign of residential care services.

Pillar 3: INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT: GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE INTERVENTION SERVICES AND SUPPORTS BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

Outcome: Children and youth receiving services from the ministry will demonstrate increased resilience and capacity to cope with their challenges.

Pillar 3 - Action 1
Implement MCFD's component of the cross-ministry CYSN plan, integrated with the ministries of Health and Education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional cross-sectoral teams are identifying key objectives and priorities for 2009/10 for submission to the Provincial Child and Youth Steering Committee. Regional priorities will be combined with provincial priorities to form the "2009/10 Action Plan for the Child and Youth Special Needs [CYSN] Framework for Action". ▪ The CYSN functional eligibility criteria continues to be refined through consultations with other ministries as well as work on the financial impacts and services required to support newly eligible children and families.
Pillar 3 - Action 2
Provide effective therapeutic and developmental support according to children and youths' assessed needs and their comprehensive plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress continues towards developing the Child and Family Support Assessment Planning and Practice, which will be the initial component of the Practice Framework to be implemented.
Pillar 3 - Action 3
Eliminate the backlog in screening of adoptive parents and placement of children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work towards meeting this Action is underway and ongoing.
Pillar 3 - Action 4 – COMPLETE
Increase recruitment of adoptive parents and post adoption support.
COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 3 - Action 5

Increase recruitment and retention of foster parents and other caregivers.

- Work towards meeting this Action is underway and ongoing.

Pillar 3 - Action 6

Re-design residential care services.

- This Action is under review.

Pillar 3 - Action 7

Enhance, or establish services in each region to respond to youth challenged by substance abuse and/or mental illness.

- Work towards meeting this Action has been substantially completed.

Pillar 3 - Action 8

Develop and implement services for young adults exiting care or on youth agreements.

- The revised ministry transition planning guides for youth with special needs are being amended to reflect the return transfer of contracts from Community Living Services BC. This Action has been substantially completed.

Pillar 3 - Action 9

Increase use of mediation and family group conferencing [FGC] as a means of increasing family and community involvement in case planning and decision making based on child's needs.

- Work towards meeting this Action has been substantially completed.

Pillar 4: THE ABORIGINAL APPROACH: ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WILL BE SUPPORTED TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION IN DELIVERING CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES.

Based on direction received from First Nation Chiefs at the July 2008 Indigenous Child at the Centre Forum, MCFD has shifted from establishing regional Aboriginal authorities for Aboriginal children and families to a nation-based governance and jurisdiction approach. Pillar 4 is being revised to align with this new approach. Reporting on Pillar #4 will be reflected in a subsequent report.

Pillar 4 - Action 1
As indicated by the Tsawwassen Accord, support communities and regions to develop a common vision for governance of the child welfare system, undertake widespread consultation in making a choice of governance model/s and facilitate through funding, capacity development and any necessary legislation the successful implementation of the chosen governance model/s.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Based on the shift towards the development of a nation-based governance and jurisdiction approach, there is no new progress on this Action to report at this time.
Pillar 4 - Action 2
Contribute to “Closing the Gap” as indicated in the Transformative Change Accord.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cross-ministry discussions are underway with Ktunaxa Nation regarding their proposal for the development of holistic services.
Pillar 4 - Action 3 - COMPLETE
Support First Nations, INAC and Delegated Agencies to develop and implement a new approach for Federal funding on reserve.
COMPLETED AND ONGOING - A joint MCFD/Indian and Northern Affairs Canada working group has been established to draft new guiding principles to inform and direct the revisions of the Federal/Provincial Memorandum of Understanding for services delivered by MCFD on reserve for which the Federal government is financially responsible.

Pillar 4 - Action 4

Implement Jordan's Principle based on the commitment made on January 25, 2008 by Premier Gordon Campbell.

- Implementation of Jordan's Principle is on target for Spring 2009. In April, external and internal communication packages were finalized and ministry regions were briefed on the scope, practice and billing procedures.

Pillar 4 - Action 5 - COMPLETE

Improve contractual processes and infrastructure support for Aboriginal service providers, including information systems.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 4 – Action 6

Support Aboriginal people to identify and reclaim indigenous child protection and development practices which existed in the past.

- Work towards meeting this Action is underway and ongoing.

Pillar 4 - Action 7

Support Aboriginal people in the work of designing a child and family development service system which is founded on their culture and traditions.

- Proposals from Chehalis First Nation, Shuswap First Nation, and Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council have been funded for the 2008/09 fiscal year to develop Nation based approaches to governance of their child and family services.

Pillar 4 - Action 8

Support communities and Aboriginal service providers to increasingly address the needs of vulnerable children and youth, with a particular emphasis on culture and traditions and a community-based approach.

- Collaboration continues with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies to address concerns related to Aboriginal service provider needs.

Pillar 4 - Action 9 – COMPLETE

Support Aboriginal service providers in implementing their own plans for capacity development, including equitable access to training, and support in the recruitment and retention of staff.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 4 - Action 10 - COMPLETE

Support Aboriginal people in the development of complaint resolutions, policy, standards and quality assurance which reflects the new service system.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 4 - Action 11

Support the development and implementation of a comprehensive, innovative five-year Early Years plan for Aboriginal children.

- Off-reserve Aboriginal Early Years Strategic Planning: Feedback received on the first and second drafts of the Aboriginal Early Years Strategic Plan has been incorporated into a final draft that was approved by the Aboriginal Advisory Circle and is to be submitted to government in June 2009.
- First Nations Early Years Strategic Planning: The First Nations ECD Council is working towards the development of the First Nations Early Years Plan. The Council's draft work plan includes a high level framework and engagement strategy anticipated to be completed by summer 2009.

Pillar 5: QUALITY ASSURANCE: CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES WILL BE BASED ON EVIDENCE GATHERED THROUGH A STRONG QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM.

Outcome: Increased effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of supports and services for children, youth and their families served by the ministry.

Pillar 5 - Action 1
Foster a culture of continuous improvement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Work towards meeting this Action has been substantially completed.
Pillar 5 - Action 2
Strengthen quality assurance and reporting at the provincial and regional level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A proposal for ministry public data reporting has been drafted for feedback. An independent evaluation of the existing audit program is underway. Inventories of ministry research and evaluation work have been created. A draft Terms of Reference has been prepared for a ministry Continuous Quality Improvement Strategic Review Committee. This committee will provide integrated ministry leadership on continuous quality improvement and related quality assurance activities.
Pillar 5 - Action 3
Monitor complaint resolution processes and conduct systematic analyses of complaints.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ As part of the detailed planning within the ICM Project, a decision was made to amalgamate the planned September 2009 release, which included the complaints tracking system functionality, into the April 2010 release. A working group is also looking at short term measures to improve systems support available until April 2010.
Pillar 5 - Action 4
Establish and sustain effective advocacy and monitoring within MCFD of child and youth rights in relation to the UNCRC, rights of indigenous children, child and youth participation and any other special rights such as Rights of Children and Youth in Care.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Child Rights Monitoring training, to assist with the development of the child rights monitoring, is scheduled for fall 2009.

Pillar 5 - Action 5 - COMPLETE

Revise the current MCFD reviews of child injury and death to increase the effectiveness of the review process.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 5 - Action 6 - COMPLETE

Increase the capacity to gather comprehensive and detailed data across all services.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 5 - Action 7 - COMPLETE

Increase the capacity to undertake analysis, reporting and evaluation of service delivery within the new quality assurance approach.

COMPLETED AND ONGOING

Pillar 5 – Action 8

Together with other ministry partners, develop a comprehensive strategy for monitoring and reporting on child and youth outcomes.

- Based on analysis of the availability and practicality of measures used most frequently by other jurisdictions, a five "domain" or categorization model has been developed by the ministry for the evaluation of child and youth outcomes. Outcome measures for children, youth and families can generally be grouped as health, education, economic-wellbeing, care and safety and social responsibility.

Pillar 5 - Action 9

Increase provincial organizations engagement and involvement in service delivery evaluation.

- A research and evaluation project has been initiated by the ministry's Advocacy Team to inform and contribute to a Youth Engagement Evaluation Framework that is under development. Work also continued on the development of a youth engagement evaluation tool. A youth and user-friendly toolkit, the Indicator Resource Kit, is under construction to better define and assess youth engagement work taking place across the ministry. Work is being done in collaboration with a group of youth, ministry staff and UVIC student researchers to further develop and refine the toolkit.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES FOR THE SYSTEM

The commitments in the 5 pillars and the service improvements, which support the pillars, require changes or enhancements to both infrastructure and resources across the system in order to be effective. This section of the Operational Plan speaks to that support. As new supports are identified over the months and years, this section will change to include them. This section applies to the full child and family development system, including Delegated Agencies, the full range of service providers and MCFD itself.

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 1 - COMPLETE
Provide staff with training and experience regarding diversity and knowledge on Aboriginal cultural and tradition.
COMPLETED AND ONGOING
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 2
Increase effectiveness of supervisory support to all practitioners in the system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ An evaluation tool has been piloted in the ministry's child welfare training. The new tool measures on the job learning to better inform the training program. This approach will be implemented for all ministry learning programs as part of the learning evaluation framework.▪ A review of supervision competencies and training curricula has begun across program areas.
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 3
Address existing and future needs of MCFD and its service providers through innovative recruitment and retention strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Work towards meeting this Action has been substantially completed and is ongoing.
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 4 - COMPLETE
Review and align qualifications, competencies and training to support the continuum of integrated services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Work towards meeting this Action is underway and ongoing.

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 5
Re-align resources to enable practitioners to spend more quality time working directly with children, youth, families and communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work is underway with the Integrated Case Management (ICM) Project and ministry Leadership to address the ministry's plans for ICM to act as a catalyst for a child and family support assessment planning and practice process.
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 6 - COMPLETE
Monitor and report on transformation processes, projects and outcomes.
COMPLETED AND ONGOING
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 7
Implement a transformation communication strategy and continued, effective communication by MCFD to staff and the public.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work towards meeting this Action is ongoing.
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 8 - COMPLETE
Align the provincial and regional roles and responsibilities to reflect regionalization of service delivery and decision-making.
COMPLETED
Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 9 - COMPLETE
Establish a bottom-up approach to planning and budgeting.
COMPLETED

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 10 - COMPLETE

Review and revise finance policies and legislation that reflect practice principles.

COMPLETED

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 11

Improve processes that support good procurement and contracting practices and principles, in collaboration with the social services sector.

- Over 60% of non-residential contracts have been converted to performance-based. A common definition of Performance Based Contracting was accepted by the Procurement and Contract Steering Committee.

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 12

Develop an integrated information management framework, in consultation with service providers and other ministries that identify needs and barriers to information sharing and provide a strategy to address them.

- A decision was made for the initial strategy of the Information Management Strategy to focus on improving Information Sharing and Privacy decision making tools for front line staff. An Information Sharing and Privacy workshop with cross-program regional representation was held and the outcomes of the workshop have been presented to the Information Management Leadership Steering Committee.

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 13

Develop an integrated case management solution, in consultation with service providers and other ministries that supports integrated practice and the social sector information management project.

- The selection of the systems integrator is in the refinement phase. Work is underway with the Integrated Case Management Project and ministry Leadership to address the ministry's plans for the Child and Family Support Assessment Planning and Practice.

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 14

Create a descriptive document of the ministry's continuum of services.

- This action is under review.

Infrastructure and Resources for the System - Action 15

Develop and implement a change management strategy.

- Information was developed and shared with other program areas on evidence-based change management practices in order to support the ministry towards a culture shift from a protection / intervention model to a strengths-based developmental approach.
- A change management strategy is being developed to accommodate the work of the Child and Family Support Assessment Planning and Practice, which will be the initial component of the Practice Framework to be implemented.