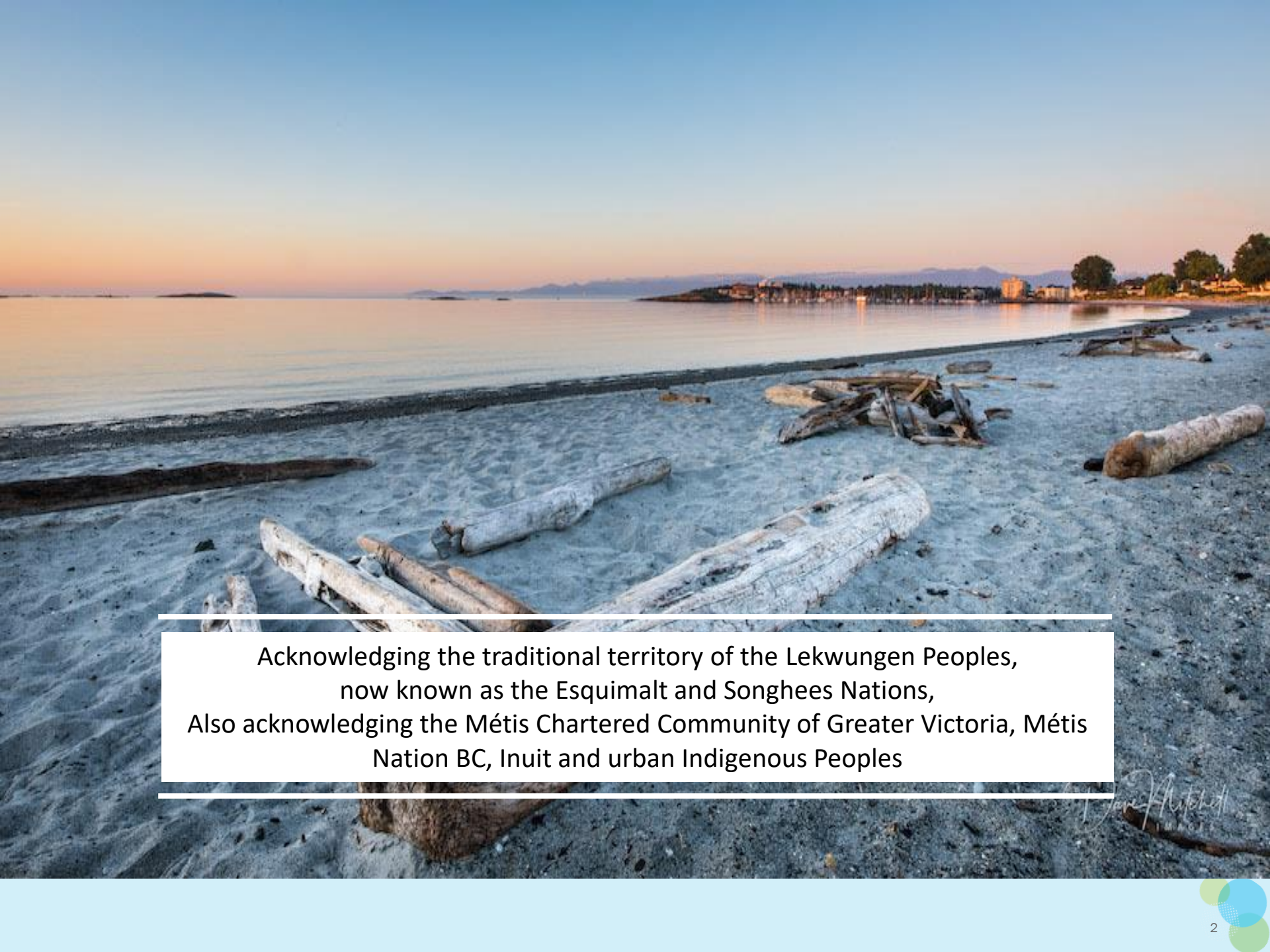




# Budget 2021

Technical Briefing for: The Federation of  
Community and Social Services

June 3, 2021



Acknowledging the traditional territory of the Lekwungen Peoples,  
now known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations,  
Also acknowledging the Métis Chartered Community of Greater Victoria, Métis  
Nation BC, Inuit and urban Indigenous Peoples



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# Context



**Increasing hospitalization for mental health and substance use services.**

From 2009-2017, there was an 86% increase in hospitalization for mental health and substance use issues for youth under 25.

**Overdose deaths due to an increasingly toxic illicit drug supply have risen to an all-time high during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

From Apr 2020 – Jan 2021, approximately 13% of OD deaths had extreme fentanyl concentrations as compared to 8% from Jan 2019 to Mar 2020

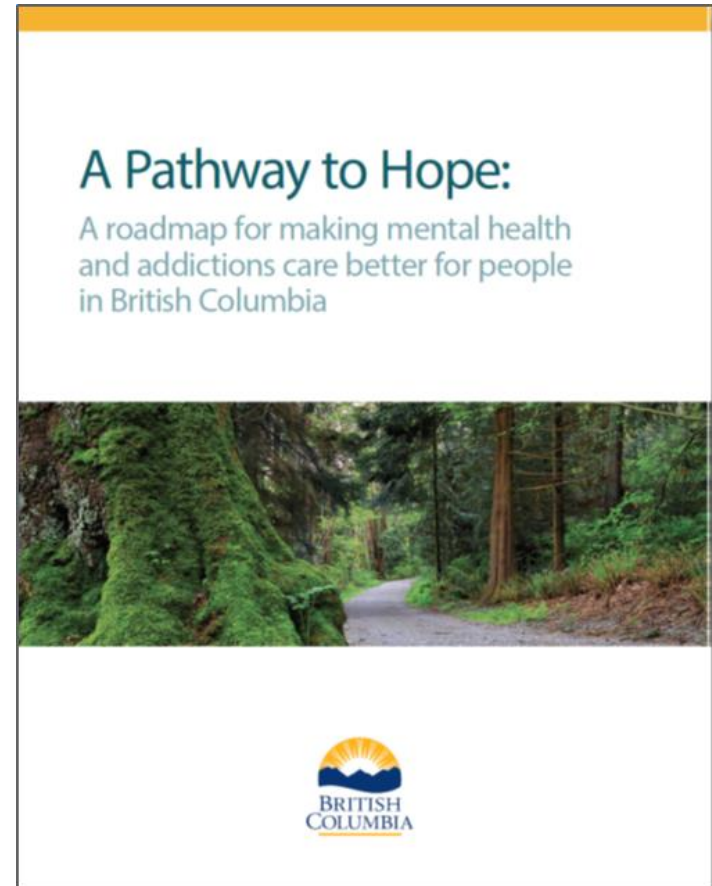
***In Plain Sight* found widespread systemic racism affecting Indigenous people in the BC health system.**

1 out of 4 Indigenous survey respondents said they are not safe when accessing mental health and substance use services.

*Government is undertaking a range of actions to address these challenges, and to build a better and more seamless system of mental health and substance use care for all British Columbians.*

# A Pathway to Hope

- 10-year vision and roadmap for a new system of care- emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and integrated service delivery.
- Partnering with First Nations, Métis, and Urban Indigenous people.
- Responding to what we heard from people, families, and direct service providers to better meet the diverse needs of people in BC.
- Budget 2019 provided **\$104M** funding for initial investments; significant gaps remain.



# Budget 2021: Investment Overview

- Funding: \$641M over three years, focused on four *Pathway to Hope* pillars\*:



- This historic investment will help build a more comprehensive, seamless system of mental health and substance use care for all British Columbians.

\*\$641M includes \$141M of contingency funding that is approved in principle

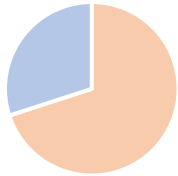
\*\*Funding through Budget 2017 and Canada-BC Bilateral Agreement

# Improved Wellness for Children, Youth, and Young Adults

- We know that most MHSU problems **start in adolescence**:



**50%** of people with a substance use disorder experience substance use challenges before the age of 20 (Public Health Agency of Canada)



**70%** of mental health problems emerge in adolescence (CAMH)

- We heard from children, youth, young adults, and their families that services need to be **more accessible, integrated, and culturally safe**.
- Budget 2021 investment of **\$251M** over three years will:
  - Expand prevention and early intervention services;
  - Promote integration of services; and
  - Create new services to ensure young people have access to the right care, at the right time, closer to home.



# Improved Wellness for Children, Youth and Young Adults

## Integrated Child and Youth Teams

- Expansion to 15 new communities (20 total) by FY 2023/24, and approx. 350 new FTEs.
- Children, youth, and families will receive wraparound mental health and substance use care from integrated multidisciplinary teams. Teams will connect to schools, primary care, early years services, and specialized services to ensure youth and families receive the right care, when they need it.

## Step-up/Step-Down Transition Supports

- Implementation of bed-based and intensive outreach services in the initial 5 *Pathway to Hope* communities
- Children, youth and families will be served through community bed-based or intensive outreach services, which are less intensive than hospitalization. This keeps children, youth and families closer to home in a more comfortable and safer experience.



# Improved Wellness for Children, Youth and Young Adults

## MCFD Early Childhood Service Expansion

- Expansion to 15 new communities (20 total) by FY 2023/24 with new positions in child development centres and other early childhood intervention serving agencies.
- Young children and their families will be better served through increased direct service hours, enhanced behavioural and developmental supports, and stronger linkages to Child/Youth Mental Health system of services and supports.

## Foundry

- Add 4 Foundry centres (23 total), so more young people across BC will have access to 'one-stop-shop' centres for health and wellness resources, services, and supports.
- Expand Foundry Virtual capacity, so more young people will be able to access integrated services virtually regardless of where they live.

# Improved Wellness for Children, Youth and Young Adults

## Youth Substance Use Services

- Expand school- and community-based prevention and early intervention resources across the province.
- Expand community-based youth substance use and concurrent disorder services.
- Enhance and fill gaps in youth substance use crisis intervention and stabilization services.
- Create wraparound youth substance use services to support the ongoing expansion of youth substance use bed-based services.
- Fund system enablers, which will help create a more seamless system of care for youth substance use.
- These investments will help build a full continuum of services and supports, so that children, youth, young adults, families will have greater access to the care they need when they need it, closer to home.

# Improved Wellness for Children, Youth and Young Adults

## Mental Health in Schools

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- Provide capacity-building grants to all 60 school districts.
- This investment will support school districts to implement mental health initiatives for children and youth in K-12 schools province-wide.

## Living Life to the Full Program

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- Expansion to reach up to 1,000 youth ages 13-18 per year, with 70 courses per year.
- The expansion will help youth address mental health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, as demand for services remains high.

# Improved Wellness for Children, Youth and Young Adults

## Early Psychosis Intervention Care (EPI)

- Expansion of existing programs to better align with the EPI Provincial Standards and Guidelines, and increased monitoring and evaluation to report on services provided.
- This funding will help improve treatment outcomes for young people experiencing psychosis through access to fully resourced, evidence-based EPI services.

# Improved Access, Better Quality

- We know from people with lived and living experience and service providers that:

People's needs **are diverse** and require a person-centered approach.

Demand for mental health and substance use programs **exceeds service capacity**.

People are **often not able to access the care they need** until their condition is severe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has **highlighted existing gaps** in the system of care.

- Budget Investment of **\$8M** over three years will:
  - Expand prevention and early identification services;
  - Enhance existing services to meet the demand and reduce wait times;
  - Expand access to virtual supports to ensure that people have access to care, before problems get worse.

# Improved Access, Better Quality

## Suicide Prevention/Life Promotion

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- Canadian Mental Health Association-BC will administer Zero Suicide Framework implementation grants in each regional health authority.
- Focus on system wide culture change, workforce training, suicide risk identification, suicide care management, and effective care transitions.

## Eating Disorder Care

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- Funding for the Looking Glass Foundation will increase access to virtual peer supports for those living with eating disorders.
- Expand existing eating disorder services by 2 new FTEs in regional health authorities, ensuring that more young people can access care when they need it.

# Improved Access, Better Quality

## Community Counselling Services

- Providing an additional year of funding to 20 community counselling organizations and enabling programs to be delivered virtually.
- This funding will help underserved or hard to reach populations access services for mental health and substance use concerns.

# Substance Use: Better Care, Saving Lives

- We know that substance use disorder is a chronic, relapsing condition, requiring a comprehensive system of care that identifies proactively **identifies, engages, retains, and re-engages** individuals with substance use challenges.
- For people living with substance use challenges, the current system is difficult to navigate, confusing and fragmented with significant service gaps and access barriers:

People are **not supported during key transition points**, so they become disconnected from care

Services are not capable of meeting **increasingly complex client needs**

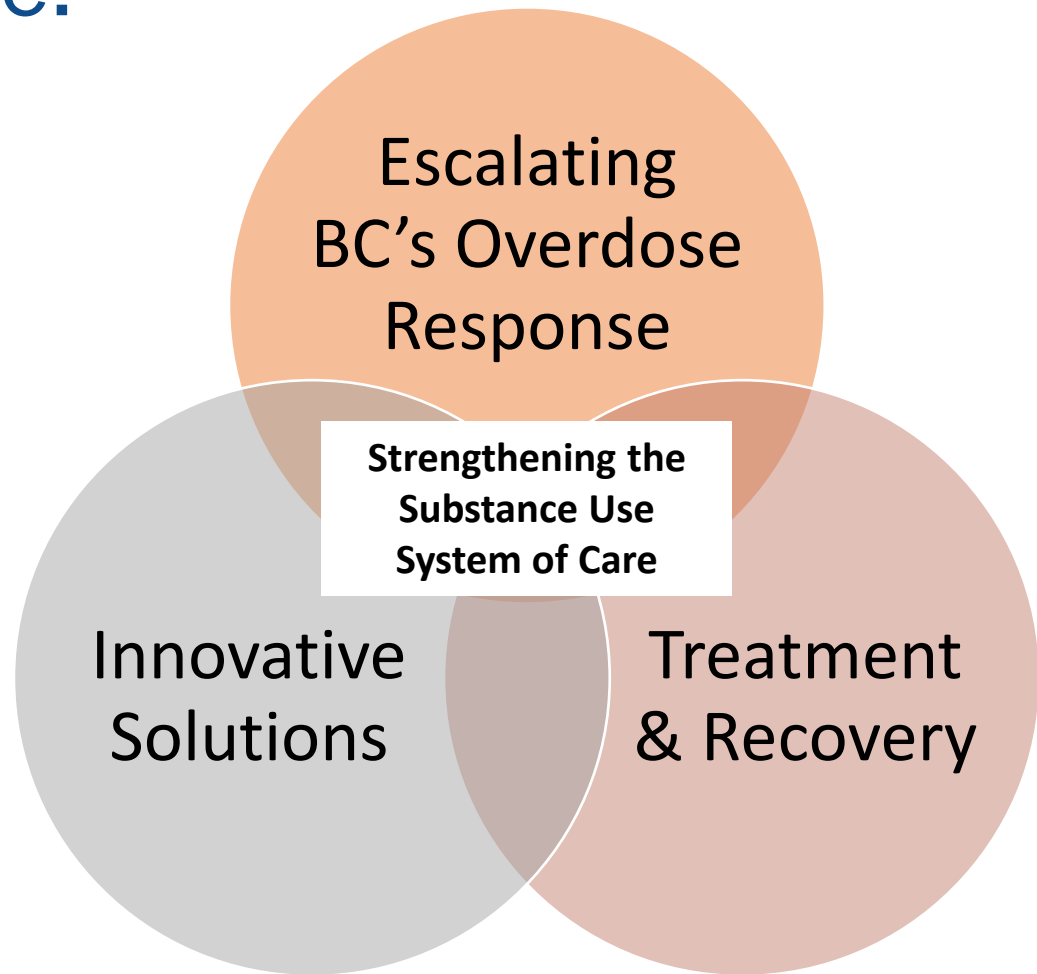
There is **inequitable access** throughout B.C. and persistent gaps

The **overdose emergency has amplified these challenges** as communities across BC continue to experience sustained overdose events and illicit drug toxicity deaths



# Substance Use: Better Care, Saving Lives

*Building a System  
of Care – 3 Key  
Areas for  
Investment*



# Substance Use: Better Care, Saving Lives

- Budget investment of **\$383M** over three years will:
  - Accelerate B.C.'s response to the overdose crisis across the full continuum of care, including safe prescription alternatives.
  - Expand the availability of treatment and recovery services, including bed-based services.
  - Support innovation and novel approaches as we strengthen the system of care.
- Investments are responsive to requests from families, communities, service providers and health system partners to strengthen the system of care and ensure services are available to address increasingly complex mental health and substance use needs.

# SU: Overdose Emergency

## Accelerated Overdose Funding

- Enhancing access to overdose prevention services, including inhalation and inhalation supplies, interdisciplinary outreach teams, and nurse care to support the implementation of pharmaceutical alternatives.
- This investment will extend the funding announced in August 2020 to support these services to save more lives.

## Pharmaceutical Alternatives

- Supporting the development and implementation of forthcoming provincial guidance for the prescribing of pharmaceutical alternatives to the toxic drug supply.
- This investment will help prescribers separate more people from the highly toxic illicit drug supply with the goals of reducing drug toxicity-related injuries and deaths as a key priority in BC's ongoing response to the overdose emergency.

# SU: Overdose Emergency

## Nurse Prescribing

- Providing nursing FTEs and supporting training and the development of educational pathways for registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses to prescribe OAT and pharmaceutical alternatives.
- This investment will expand access to these life-saving services, especially in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

## Continued Key Overdose Initiatives

- Supporting the provision of core substance use services, expanding connections to care/system navigation, optimizing access to addiction medicine, optimizing opioid agonist treatment (OAT/iOAT), HA work with FNHA, and Lifeguard app.
- This investment ensures the sustainability of life-saving enhanced treatment services and Hope Initiatives provided through the one-time federal Emergency Treatment Fund.

# SU: Overdose Emergency

## First Nations Health Authority

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- Supporting FNHA to provide culturally safe substance use care including harm reduction and treatment services.
- This investment will enable FNHA to scale up service provision, including overdose prevention services, OAT services, more nasal naloxone for First Nations communities, enhanced community-facing clinical education, housing-based services for Indigenous women, and Indigenous peer networks in communities experiencing high rates of overdose.

# SU: Treatment & Recovery

## Withdrawal Management Service

- Enhancing access to bed-based and outpatient withdrawal management as well as sobering and assessment services to ensure people are safe and supported through the sobering process and during the acute stages of withdrawal.
- Specific investments will increase beds, establish outpatient services, develop new facilities, fund new staffing positions and provide outpatient supports.

## Transition and Assessment Services

- Expanding access to transition beds to ensure that people can transition seamlessly between services and stay connected to care.

# SU: Treatment & Recovery

## Treatment and Wraparound Services

- Improving access to a range of bed-based substance use treatment and recovery services as well as initiatives targeting alcohol and stimulant use disorders.
- Focused on increasing system capacity and targeting specific system gaps to ensure people have access to a broader range of services across the province.

## Aftercare and Psychosocial Supports

- This investment includes new community transition teams, wellness and recovery centres, and increased peer support.
- Funding will increase access to community-based recovery focused supports and follow-up services post treatment. These evidence-informed approaches will reduce risk and support people on their long-term recovery journey.

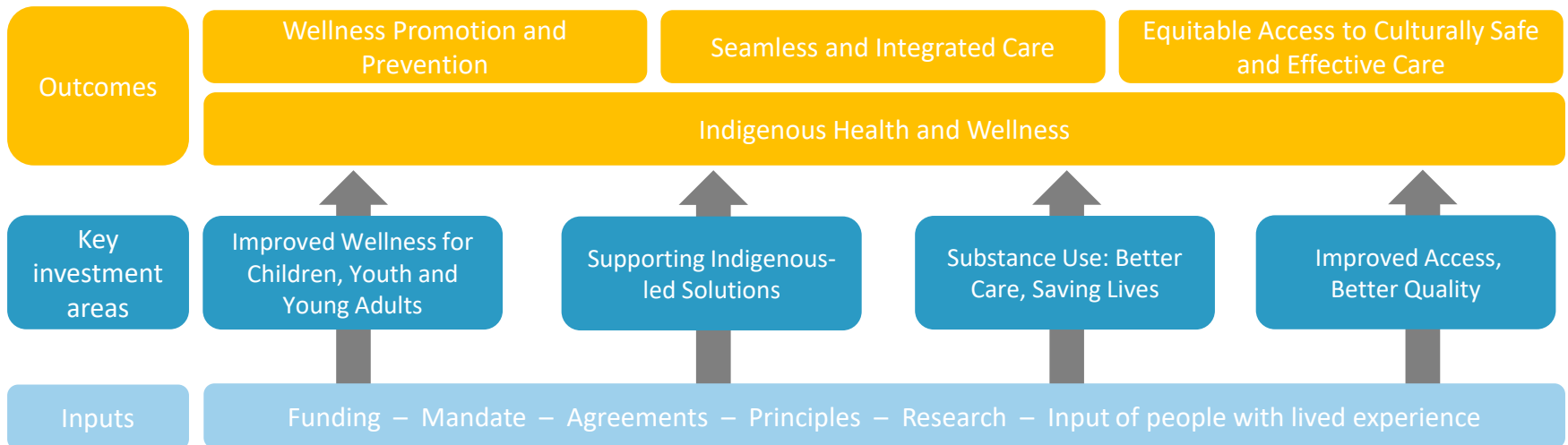
# Supporting Indigenous-led Solutions

- Indigenous peoples have identified mental health and wellness as a top priority and an important pillar of reconciliation
- A key focus is supporting self-determination and addressing Indigenous-specific racism in the health care system
- Province has established partnerships to support Indigenous-led approaches to mental health and wellness, including for:
  - New First Nations-led mental health and wellness models
  - Replacement of 6 First Nation-run treatment facilities
  - Land-based and culturally safe treatment services for youth and families
  - Indigenous health and culture-based services
  - Capacity-building of Métis and urban Indigenous partners



# Monitoring and Evaluation

- New initiatives will be included in the Pathway to Hope performance monitoring and evaluation framework.
  - Implementation progress is measured through initiative-specific deliverables, outputs, and short-term outcomes.
  - Longer-term transformation that occurs as a result of the Pathway's actions over 10 years will be measured through a set of population and system outcome measures.



# Discussion