

Resource analysis in the provision of Indigenous and non-Indigenous child and family services in British Columbia

British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) is working with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) at the University of Ottawa to map the ecosystems of child and family services delivery for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in the province.

The purpose of the project is to map the different factors that impact service delivery and that influence cost, in order to assess their outcomes.

This project has two parts:

- 1) Mapping the service delivery mechanisms and outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in British Columbia;
- 2) Reviewing federal and provincial expenditure data for child and family services and related policy areas.

Our ask to service providers

This work will depend on the support and collaboration of service providers. IFSD is seeking Indigenous and non-Indigenous child and family services organizations, related service providers and First Nations to share their experiences in two ways:

- 1) Completing a short survey (attached to this email); or
- 2) Serving as a case study for this project (see Appendix 1 for an overview of the case study ask).

Why participate?

This project is designed to help the RCY, service providers, policy makers, politicians and the public better understand the differences, challenges, and opportunities in the Indigenous and non-Indigenous delivery of child and family services in the province.

The only way to understand outcomes and highlight inequities is through the participation of those delivering the services. As the experts on the ground, you are uniquely placed to highlight operating realities of the application of resources in practice.

Data and participation

The Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD), an affiliate of the University of Ottawa, is guided by ethical research guidelines respecting Indigenous Peoples and complies with the Tri-Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans in its work.

All data from the questionnaire and the case studies will be used exclusively for IFSD's report to RCY. **IFSD's standard practice is to anonymize all information shared by participants, unless they wish to be identified by name and provide permission to do so.**

All the data will be aggregated and anonymized (from the survey) and will be anonymized (from case studies). No individual organizations will be identified by name.

All data shared by organizations will be held on password protected cloud-storage system (OneDrive). Data shared will be accessible to IFSD staff directly engaged in the project as well delegated RCY staff. Any locally held data will be stored on IFSD research laptops only. Any physical copies of data or data shared on USB keys will be kept in a locked cabinet in a locked office at IFSD's office.

Participants in the survey or as case studies can withdraw at any time. Any data shared with IFSD will be destroyed.

About IFSD

IFSD is a research institute that uses money as a tool to analyze and solve public policy challenges. Led by Canada's first Parliamentary Budget Officer, Kevin Page, IFSD works in Canada and abroad to lend decision-support to governments, the broader public and private sectors. Since 2018, IFSD has been collaborating with First Nations and First Nations child and family services agencies on the costing, design and delivery of child and family services. IFSD is pleased to continue its work in this area, collaborating with and learning from those serving children and families.

Appendix 1 – Case studies

Case study organizations and First Nations will be asked to share their approach to service delivery, perceived successes, challenges, and data.

As contributors and partners in this work, the organizations and First Nations will be asked to share their insight on the delivery of child and family services, resource allocations, and considerations for the future. The information shared will be applied to map the approaches to the delivery of child and family services in British Columbia.

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IFSD recognizes the importance of your work and the demands on your time and is committed to working with your availability. ***IFSD depends on your insight and contributions to ensure representation and validity of its work.***

IFSD will work with case studies to schedule a virtual discussion via MS Teams, Zoom, phone or another platform selected by participants.

Guiding questions and themes for the exchange include:

- a) Funding sources, i.e. federal, provincial, other
- b) Total revenues, fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
 - a. Break-down by source of funds, i.e. federal, provincial, other
- c) Total expenditures, fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
 - a. Salaries and benefits (including training)
 - b. Capital expenses (incl. capital maintenance)
 - c. Operating expenses (excl. salaries, benefits, and training)
 - d. Prevention expenditures (programs, services, and other actions to avoid apprehension)
 - e. Protection expenditures (apprehension, maintenance, etc. based on mandate)
- d) Discussion of funding sources and allocation, i.e. are funding sources applied to specific expenditures or are they mixed/used as a single source?
- e) Interactions with other service providers, i.e. how does your organization collaborate or work with other service providers or organizations?
- f) Influence of context on nature of service delivery, e.g. programs to address poverty, etc.
- g) Access to funding, e.g. application, grant, fee-for-service, etc.
 - a. Are the information and effort required for application-based funding commensurate to their value?
- h) Overview of staff team by position type, e.g. social worker, outreach worker, family support worker, etc.
- i) Total case load
- j) Factors that influence program design and delivery



- k) Discussion of resource levels relative to mandate, i.e. are resources commensurate to mandate? What would be the ideal resource-mix to fulfil the organization's mandate?
- l) Do you have the resources you need to deliver on your mandate? What resources would you require to optimally deliver on your mandate?