



<b>OAG Recommendation 2:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry adopt the protection standards used by Aboriginal agencies as their own for Aboriginal children and their families.</p>	<p>MCFD and Delegated Agencies joint Aboriginal Operational and Practise Standards (AOPSI), Operational Standards Review, including complaint resolution process has been completed.</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>Review of practice standards begins - Spring 09</p> <p>The Ministry and Aboriginal agencies will consider whether AOPSI standards should be used by the ministry. A decision will be made with our Aboriginal partners within the context of work to design an Indigenous approach for services to children, youth and families.</p>

<b>OAG Recommendation 3:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, develop and monitor measures that determine whether a child's needs are met and if good outcomes are achieved.</p>	<p>MCFD is committed to further develop an approach to assessment and services that emphasizes meeting the needs of the child and achieving developmental outcomes. Working with Aboriginal partners, quality assurance will be strengthened through the development of a comprehensive strategy for reporting on child and youth outcomes.</p>	In Progress	Identification of key data elements
	<p>MCFD is also undertaking a major initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and the Ministry of Labour and Citizen Services to develop a new computerized integrated case management system. The new system will assist information sharing and support the data collection necessary for effective quality assurance. Product software has been selected.</p>	Ongoing	Comprehensive Evaluation Strategy for Child and Youth Outcomes implemented - Spring 09
		In Progress	Completion of current phase - 2010

<b>OAG Recommendation 4:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
We recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, obtain province-wide, community-by-community knowledge of Aboriginal child protection needs.	Please see recommendation 9 for our detailed response.		

<b>OAG Recommendation 5:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, determine the resources (including social workers and support services) required to meet those needs in a culturally appropriate way.</p>	<p>A number of initiatives as outlined in our operational plan are underway to further clarify and augment required resources, including region-specific analysis related to Aboriginal services transformation and a standardized costing framework for delegated agencies. This work will directly link with the work under recommendation 9.</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>Standardized Costing Framework project to provide information on the equitable allocation of funding to agencies being developed - Summer 08</p>
	<p>MCFD has been working with First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies and INAC on the framework for a new model for federal on-reserve funding, inclusive of prevention services.</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>A project charter has been developed to guide this process which includes the following timelines:  January 2008 – proposal is in place  July 2008 – the service model is complete and costing out begins  September 2008 – the model is costed out and the proposal is submitted to INAC HQ  March 2008 – INAC seeks approval for funding  Summer/Fall 2009 – Implementation begins</p>

<b>OAG Recommendation 6:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry make a persuasive business case for the funding needed to deliver the services in an effective way.</p>	<p>MCFD will continue to work in partnership with Aboriginal delegated agencies, service providers, and INAC to identify resource requirements for a full range of culturally appropriate services and supports for Aboriginal children, youth and families.</p>		
	<p>As resource requirements are identified through the above process, MCFD will request additional funding from the Province as part of the annual budget process. Funding request submitted for 09/10 – 11/12 Fiscal Plan.</p>	Ongoing	Annual Budget Submissions
	<p>MCFD will also continue negotiations with INAC to increase on-reserve funding to ensure that ministry’s mandated services available for on-reserve children and families are comparable to the rest of the Province.</p>	Ongoing	Federal government decision expected by Spring 09

<b>OAG Recommendation 7:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry, in partnership with Aboriginal agencies, develop Aboriginal human resources to meet the needs of both the Ministry and delegated Aboriginal agencies.</p>	<p>Between January 2006 and March 2008, the total number of Aboriginal staff in the ministry doubled from 119 to 239. Of those hired, one was and ADM and three were Directors.</p> <p>MCFD is working with delegated agencies to recruit, retain and train social workers and care providers. Some initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Aboriginal Child Protection Recruitment Project in the North of the province integrates recruitment and core training. Current cohort completion – Spring 09</li> <li>• The Aboriginal Social Worker Training is under review (2008-09) to enhance the accessibility, availability and affordability of training for delegated Aboriginal agencies.</li> <li>• The Aboriginal Youth Exchange Program was piloted in July 2008. The program was designed for Aboriginal high school students to provide a short summer work opportunity with the ministry and a first-hand look at social services as a career. Nine students participated for 2 weeks in the program at locations throughout the province. Evaluations from participants (both students and staff) are being conducted to determine the viability for next fiscal.</li> <li>• MCFD is working with Douglas College to establish a new Aboriginal Child and Youth Care Stream which will ladder into the existing Child and Youth Care Diploma Program, commencing in September 2008.</li> </ul>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress &amp; Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>The Ministry plans to develop an HR strategy which will include an analysis of existing staff training requirements.</p>

<b>OAG Recommendation 8:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
We recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, establish an effective change management strategy.	MCFD is working in conjunction with the Indigenous Child at the Centre Forum – July 2008 – and will take direction in regards to Governance and jurisdiction.	Ongoing  Planned for Fall 08	Forum completed Follow-up forum planned for Fall 08  MCFD will establish an Aboriginal service delivery/practice forum in consultation with Aboriginal service providers which can immediately undertake an evaluation of urgent issues and gaps in service delivery and implement an effective change management strategy as new approaches are developed.

<b>OAG Recommendation 9:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry, in consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada collect and evaluate meaningful information on any child protection service delivery gaps; and find solutions to close those gaps.</p>	<p>MCFD, in partnership with Aboriginal communities, service providers and INAC, will complete an analysis of service requirements including knowledge of Aboriginal child protection needs for all First Nations and will establish strategies and solutions together with communities for addressing the identified gaps.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Complete a gap analysis on the full range of service requirements for vulnerable Aboriginal children and youth and establish a strategy for addressing gaps.</p>
	<p>MCFD has been working with First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies and INAC on the framework for a new model for federal on-reserve funding, inclusive of prevention services.</p>	In Progress	See recommendation #5
	<p>A cross government implementation plan on Jordan's principle is being developed</p>	In Progress	<p>Completion - Fall 08 Implementation commences - Spring 09</p>
	<p>The new computerized integrated case management system is under development and will provide office-specific data to assist with planning and monitoring.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Project underway Completion of initial phase by 2010</p>

<b>OAG Recommendation 10:</b>	<b>Ministry Response:</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Actions Planned:</b>
<p>We recommend the ministry provide information to the Legislative Assembly and the public on the cost, successes and challenges of the Aboriginal child welfare program, consistent with the B.C. Reporting Principles.</p>	<p>MCFD will report progress on Strong, Safe and Supported Operational Plan regularly to the Select Standing Committee for Children and Youth. <b>Progress report for June 2008</b> released.</p> <p><i>Strong, Safe and Supported, A Commitment to BC's Children and Youth</i> and <i>Strong, Safe and Supported, Operational Plan, 2007–2011</i> also specifies reporting commitments and timeframes for the various specific initiatives in the plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>We will also further explore options to enhance public reporting in consultation with our Aboriginal partners.</p>