



Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office
Unit 19 – 2070 2nd Ave. Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A 1B1
Phone: 867-456-5575 ; Email: annette.king@ycao.ca
“Young People Have A Voice!”

March 10, 2022

Office of the Minister
Health and Social Services
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Attn: The Honourable Minister Tracy-Anne McPhee

Re: Child Rights Impact Assessment of Bill No. 11, Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act (2022)

Dear Minister McPhee,

We are pleased to enclose our Child Rights Impact Assessment (“*CRIA*”) of Bill No. 11, *Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act (2022)*. The intent of our *CRIA* is to ensure the *Child and Family Services Act* complies with the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which Canada is signatory, and upholds the highest standard for children’s rights with special regard for healing and recovery for Indigenous families.

As Child and Youth Advocate, it is my recommendation that our *CRIA* be tabled in the Legislative Assembly to compliment Bill No. 11. By tabling our *CRIA* alongside Bill No. 11, members of the Legislative Assembly, as well as the public, may be better informed in the discussion and questions in respect of Bill No. 11 and the extent to which it serves to uphold the rights of Yukon children and youth.

To our knowledge, this is the first time in Yukon’s history that a formal *CRIA* has been applied in the legislative process. Applying a child rights lens is an important step toward healing from the past and providing the best possible outcome for children receiving services from government.

The proposed amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act*, as set out in Bill No. 11, along with this *CRIA*, demonstrate Yukon’s commitment to leading the country with exemplary and transformational child-centered legislation that protects children and addresses the systemic harm Indigenous families have experienced. This is a foundational step toward reconciliation and an opportunity to transform how systems support children.

Robust recognition and promotion of children's rights is integral to the achievement of equality and dignity for all members of society. For this reason, it is my recommendation as Yukon Child and Youth Advocate that, on a prospective basis, a CRIA form part of all government processes that may impact children, including in government decision making and in the development of legislation, regulation and policy.

Finally, I would welcome the opportunity to be called as a witness to answer questions from members of the Legislative Assembly in respect of our CRIA of Bill No. 11, as well as the scope of the rights of children implicated by the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Respectfully,



Annette King
Child and Youth Advocate

- c. Jeremy Harper, Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
- c. Sandy Silver, Honourable Premier
- c. Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition
- c. Kate White, Leader of the Third Party