



Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office
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"Young People Have A Voice!"



March 7, 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 for Proposed Amendments to the Child and Family Services Act

Dear Minister McPhee,

The Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office has completed a formal Child Rights Impact Assessment Report ("CRIA Report") of proposed amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act*. We understand that these proposed amendments will be tabled shortly in the Legislative Assembly as a draft Bill (the "Draft Bill"). In this respect, our CRIA Report is a companion document to the Draft Bill and that, when read together, the CRIA Report provides a better understanding of how the Draft Bill may impact the rights of Yukon children and youth.

The CRIA Report forms part of our broader policy review, pursuant to s. 12(1) of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, of the Child and Family Services Act Implementation Project (the "Project"). It is our view that the Project will impact the rights of children and youth in accessing services from the Department of Health and Social Services ("HSS") and thus requires careful scrutiny by the Child and Youth Advocate Office.

I understand that you intend to table the Draft Bill during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly. In order to promote public education about the role of the Child and Youth Advocate and about children's rights enshrined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and expanded upon in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and the final report of *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, it is my recommendation that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly table our CRIA Report concurrently with the Draft Bill. By tabling the CRIA Report alongside the Draft Bill, members of the Legislative Assembly, as well as the public, may be better informed while engaging in the discussions and questions in respect of the Draft Bill and the extent to which it serves to uphold the rights of Yukon children and youth.

I am confident that our CRIA Report will assist you and the Legislative Assembly in upholding the highest standard for children's rights with special regard for youth participation and healing and recovery for Indigenous families and the children of tomorrow. I would also welcome the opportunity to be called as a witness to answer questions from members of the Legislative Assembly in respect of our CRIA Report as it relates to the Draft Bill.

Further, I acknowledge the commitment of HSS to undertake a Child Rights Impact Assessment of policy changes that will necessarily flow from amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act*. I note that our CRIA Report provides child rights centered recommendations in this regard. We look forward to working together with HSS on this initiative and lending our expertise in this regard to ensure the views and rights of children and youth are meaningfully considered in policy revisions.

Please advise as to when you anticipate tabling the Draft Bill in the Legislative Assembly so that I may ensure that our CRIA Report is in the hands of the Speaker to be tabled concurrently.

Respectfully,


Annette King
Child and Youth Advocate

- c. Stephen Samis, Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services
- c. Sandy Silver, Honourable Premier
- c. Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition
- c. Kate White, Leader of the Third Party
- c. Jeremy Harper, Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly