



October 20, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Ref: 282530

Carolyn Broady  
President  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
E-mail: c/o [myuen@BCSTA.ORG](mailto:myuen@BCSTA.ORG)

Dear Carolyn Broady:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 2023, addressed to the Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care and me, regarding the British Columbia School Trustees Association's (BCSTA) resolutions to review the family connections centre (FCC) model being piloted in British Columbia. Your request was to include public education partners, school boards, and rights holders in the consultation and planning on how a broader rollout of FCCs in British Columbia would impact public education in the province.

As you know, FCCs are one part of a new service delivery approach being piloted in four British Columbian communities: Kelowna, Prince Rupert, Terrace, and Smithers. The pilot FCCs are operated by community-based organizations and provide a range of voluntary services, delivered by multidisciplinary teams, that can be accessed by children, youth and families without the involvement of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or ministry staff. These services will include supports like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language services, behaviour supports, inclusive child care supports, child and youth care workers, as well as family education and coaching.

This new service delivery approach will be evaluated by the end of 2024 to learn more about how this model supports families of children and youth with support needs. MCFD has contracted MNP – a professional services firm – and the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC) to develop and implement an evaluation framework for these pilots. This framework will be used to review and assess the implementation of the pilot FCCs.

In the development of the evaluation framework, MNP has consulted with a number of organizations and groups with interest in the pilot service approach. To date these have included:

- BC Association for Child Development and Intervention
- Representative for Children and Youth
- Minister's Advisory Council for Children and Youth with Support Needs
- Indigenous Advisory Circle for Children and Youth with Support Needs
- First Nations Leadership Council's technical staff
- Health Sciences Association of BC

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Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

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The FCCs, Indigenous Peoples, service provider associations, and community members will also be engaged in the evaluation process. It is at MNP's and SPARC BC's discretion to involve more participants in consultation and evaluation of the pilot service approach. We will be happy to convey BCSTA's interest in including school boards in this process to MNP and SPARC BC for consideration.

Concurrent with this evaluation process, the province is also engaging with families, service providers, advocates, Indigenous Peoples, First Nations rights and titleholders, and others with lived experience to explore what is needed in a children and youth with support needs service system.

The Province is asking people to share their ideas on how to improve services for children and youth with support needs through a new engagement portal. The online portal provides an accessible way to connect people with opportunities to provide input and recommendations to help shape the services they need. I encourage you to share your perspectives to help inform the path forward and explore opportunities to be involved in engagement sessions here: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/children-youth-support-needs>

For more information and FAQs on how FCCs are working, please see the following website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/child-behaviour-development/support-needs/pilot-family-connections-centres-in-four-communities>

Thank you for writing and for your advocacy for children and youth with support needs.

Sincerely,



Mitzi Dean  
Minister of Children and Family Development

pc: Honourable Rachna Singh