

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
(Hereinafter referred to as the “MOU”)

Between:

**First Nations Health Council**  
(Hereinafter referred to as “FNHC”)

-and-

**Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada**  
As represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
(Hereinafter referred to as “Canada”)

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS  
CANADA AND THE FIRST NATIONS HEALTH COUNCIL IN  
RELATION TO SERVICES FOR FIRST NATION CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

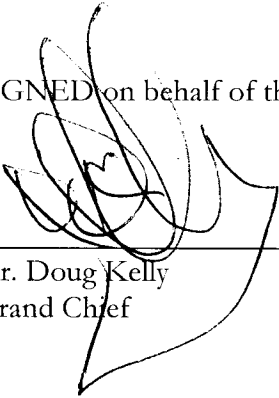
1. The Government of Canada (GoC) and the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) have agreed to work together to make progress on the social determinants of health. With the collaborative goal of building healthy communities, and as a first step and shared priority, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the FNHC have agreed to engage First Nations in British Columbia on ways to improve the health and wellbeing of First Nation children, youth and families, including measures that address the disproportionate rate of Indigenous children being taken into care.
2. INAC and the FNHC agree to uphold the principles endorsed by BC First Nations in Consensus Paper 2011 (British Columbia First Nations Perspective on a New Health Governance Arrangement) in the implementation of this agreement: Community-Driven, Nation-Based; Increase First Nations Decision-Making; Improve Services; Foster Meaningful Collaboration and Partnership; Develop Human and Economic Capacity; Be Without Prejudice to First Nations Interests; and Function at a High Operational Standard.
3. INAC and the FNHC will work with the Province of British Columbia and BC First Nations and all willing partners to undertake a process of engagement that is Community-Driven and Nation-Based over a period of 18 months. Consistent with the principles of the ‘engagement and approvals pathway’ endorsed by BC First Nations in Consensus Paper 2012 (Transitioning to a New First Nation Health Governance Structure), this process will include Regional Caucuses and a minimum of one province-wide Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey forum.
4. This process is without prejudice to First Nations interests and does not limit, impede or alter existing agreements or discussions between First Nations and the federal and provincial government.

5. INAC and the FNHC agree that the process will be inclusive, comprehensive and community-led. This process will allow federal, provincial and First Nation partners to build consensus on proposals for new priorities, models and processes that can be implemented at local, regional and provincial levels. This process will be underpinned by the understanding that First Nations are full and equal partners in the development of new policy, structures or programs and that these changes can be informed and facilitated by the processes described in this agreement. The goals of this engagement process will be to:
- i. Collaboratively develop a new funding and accountability framework in BC that addresses existing inequities, provides increased investment and greater flexibility in the design, management and delivery of community-based prevention services, and establishes mechanisms for reciprocal accountability.
  - ii. Collaboratively develop new structures that recognize First Nation decision-making and service delivery capacity at local, regional and provincial levels, and provide opportunities for First Nations to partner in the design, planning, funding and delivery of culturally appropriate and safe services accessed by First Nation children, youth and families.
  - iii. Find constructive and collaborative processes for the reform of child and family services policies as it applies to First Nation children, youth and families in BC.
  - iv. Develop strategies that strengthen linkages between agencies that provide services to First Nation children, youth and families in BC, including, but not limited to, the health, education, justice, public safety, employment and training, social services and child welfare systems.
  - v. Develop strategies that increase the integration and coordination of early childhood development services, ensuring First Nation children, youth and families have equitable access to a system of responsive, high quality, culturally safe and increasingly integrated services.
  - vi. Develop approaches that address the root causes that contribute to the disproportionate rate of Indigenous children being taken into care, including mental wellness and substance use, intergenerational trauma, and poverty.
  - vii. Support First Nations to build capacity to design local systems that reflect and promote the values, traditions and cultures of their Nations.

6. INAC and the FNHC agree to co-develop an engagement workplan that will address priorities, timing, funding, and implementation of this agreement. This workplan will be made public as a measure to track and report on progress to BC First Nations. INAC and the FNHC agree that resources invested in engagement processes will be used in a manner that is coordinated, efficient and cost-effective.
7. The implementation of this agreement will be supported by regular meetings between the FNHC and INAC officials, meetings of the Deputy Minister's Committee on the Social Determinants of Health, and an annual meeting between the FNHC and the Minister of INAC.
8. These meetings provide a means for feedback on the progress of the engagement process, to monitor commitments made, discuss emerging priorities and expectations of BC First Nations, jointly review proposals for reforming services for First Nation children and families in BC emerging from the engagement, and ensure a process of shared preparation for engagement efforts.

SIGNATURE PAGE

SIGNED on behalf of the First Nations Health Council, as represented by the Grand Chief

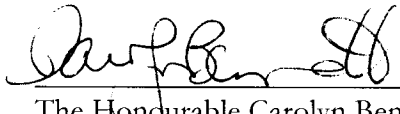


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Mr. Doug Kelly  
Grand Chief

Date: Feb 14, 2017

SIGNED on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development



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The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Date: February 14, 2017



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Witness

Date: FEBRUARY 14, 2017