



March 31, 2011

*Your file - Votre référence*

*Our file - Notre référence*

**VAN-E6595-18**

All First Nations  
All Tribal Councils  
First Nation Administering Authorities  
British Columbia Region

**Re: Update on Child Out of the Parental Home Program**

Further to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) letter of July 5, 2010, I am writing to update you on the administration of the Child Out of the Parental Home (COPH) program by INAC, BC Region.

Although we had originally contemplating ceasing to accept new applications beginning April 1, 2011, upon further analysis we have concluded that there would be a benefit to a longer notice period in order to allow communities and administering authorities to adjust. Accordingly, INAC is implementing a one year transition period to assist Delegated Agencies and First Nation support workers in developing grand parenting plans for on-reserve clients.

Persons who apply for COPH on or before March 31, 2012 will be assessed according to policy existing on the assessment date. As of April 1, 2012, BC Region will continue to administer the COPH program for existing clients only under current funding arrangements as an Income Assistance Program. New applications to COPH will not be accepted as of April 1, 2012.

As you may know, INAC introduced COPH on January 1, 2010 as part of the Region's Income Assistance program. COPH offers on-reserve residents comparable services to off-reserve residents through the Province of British Columbia's Child in Home of Relative (CIHR) program. On April 1, 2010, the Province ceased accepting applications to CIHR while introducing the Extended Family Program (EFP).

The Province of British Columbia's EFP as delivered by the Ministry of Children and Family Development has been in place with interim policies and procedures for the last year. Additional information may be found on the following provincial websites:

- [http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online\\_resource/verification\\_and\\_eligibility/cihr/](http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/verification_and_eligibility/cihr/)
- [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/alternativestofostercare/extended\\_family.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/alternativestofostercare/extended_family.htm)

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During the upcoming one year transition period, INAC will continue working with the Province, First Nation communities and First Nation Child and Family Services Agencies to ensure comparable services are being delivered on reserve, especially in regards to ensuring the safety of children.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Andy Butler, Manager, Income Assistance Unit, at (604) 666-5102, e-mail: [andy.butler@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:andy.butler@inac-ainc.gc.ca) or Megan Reiter, A/Manager, Child and Family Services Unit, at (604) 775-5781, e-mail: [megan.reiter@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:megan.reiter@inac-ainc.gc.ca).

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.



Eric Magnuson  
Regional Director General  
British Columbia Region  
600 - 1138 Melville Street  
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c.c: Grand Chief Edward John, First Nations Summit  
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs  
Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould, BC Assembly of First Nations  
Bobbi-Jo Leo, Interim Coordinator, First Nations Child and Family Wellness Council  
All First Nations' Band Social Development Workers  
First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies  
First Nations Social Development Society  
Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Representative for Children and Youth  
Debra Foxcroft, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Jane Rousseau, Manager, Aboriginal Policy & Legislation Team, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Don Cumming, Senior Project Manager, Support to Practice, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Rob Parenteau, Director of Operations, Aboriginal Policy and Service Support, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Ann Johns, After Hours Program, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Molly Harrington, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Research Division, BC Ministry of Social Development  
Alison Bath, Director, Policy, Employment and Income Assistance, BC Ministry of Social Development  
Denise Sandison, A/Manager, Intergovernmental Relations Unit, BC Ministry of Social Development  
Funding Services Officers, Funding Services, INAC BC Region



**CORRESPONDENCE APPROVAL ROUTING SLIP**

ASSIGNED TO:	DATE ASSIGNED:	DATE DUE:
FSP&P	February 18, 2011	March 22, 2011

**SUBJECT:**  
Decision Briefing Note for RDG re: Update on Child Out of the Parental Home Program

Incoming CIDM:	Outgoing CIDM:

	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
1.	Evan Jones Advisor, IA		March 22, 2011
2.	Andy Butler Mgr. IA		Mar 22, 2011
3.	Megan Reiter A/Mgr. CFS		Mar 22/11
4.	Jehan Casey Sr. Advisor		March 22, 2011
5.	<del>Kathy Hankin</del> Casey NANTAL A/Director - FSP&P		Mar. 23/11
6.	Al-shamsh Ladha Advisor		Mar 23/11
7.	<del>Ted Adnitt</del> A/ABDG		23/3/11
8.	<del>Brian Carlson</del> Eric Magnusson A/RDG		MAR 31 2011

**COMMENTS:**  
Dates kept in in order to clarify application deadlines for clients. Wording in 1st + 2nd paragraphs modified to clarify timelines + rationale.  
Pls make noted changes MMR  
The briefing is overly long, but reaches the right conclusion. The letter is fine B

- Please Note:**
1. Insert the names of actual managers and directors (rather than the people acting for them).
  2. Return to (Emmanuel Guison 6-4891) once complete.
  3. Scan both the correspondence and the routing slip into CIDMS once complete.