

The campaign 'Message Box'



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Funding cuts lead to crisis

- The B.C. Liberal government has failed to prioritize proper funding for services and supports for vulnerable children and their families for the last decade.
- Since 2008, Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funding has been cut by \$44 million, before inflation.
- Before long, another child or youth is going to get hurt or die. Nearly 600 child deaths were reported to the Representative for Children and Youth between 2007-2013, as well as 1,453 critical injuries.
- Every year, MCFD provides services to around 155,000 children and youth and their families—or about 17% of BC's population under age 18.
- In January 2015, nearly 35,000 British Columbia families received income or disability assistance from MSDSI.

On the frontlines, it's not about the job - it's about not being able to do the job

- Less than one in five frontline child, youth, or family workers has a caseload consistent with best practices.
- Nearly half of workers surveyed reported working on over 30 active cases and ten percent reported caseloads exceeding 70 per month.
- Nearly one-third of workers surveyed were also carrying another worker's caseload as well as their own.
- Frontline workers can't always get to those who most urgently need help.
- Workers have been told to manage high volumes of work by reducing the amount of time they spend with clients.
- Child, youth and family workers are buried under massive caseloads, severe staffing shortages and a lack of resources and they are burning out.
- Child, youth and family workers are using failed integrated case management (ICM) software, putting children at risk.

What's needed to fix the system?

The Choose Children report includes recommendations to fix BC's broken child welfare system. The provincial government must:

- Restore at least \$44 million in MCFD funding cut between 2008 and 2014 adjusting for inflation.
- Create a comprehensive, transparent, and accountable staffing strategy that includes:
 - 100 new FTEs per year over three years to address significant workload pressures at MCFD;
 - A plan to address workplace violence and staff working alone; and
 - Caseload standards for MCFD and MSDSI workers based on best practices.

Read the full report at ChooseChildren.ca