



February 23, 2021

Hon. Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2  
[Educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Educ.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Anne Kang  
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training  
PO Box 9080, Stn Prov Gvt  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2  
[Aved.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aved.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Hon. Mitzi Dean  
Minister of Children and Family  
Development  
PO Box 9057, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2  
[MCF.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Whiteside, Minister Dean and Minister Kang:

**Re: First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol Oversight Table Meeting**

We are writing to request a meeting of the Oversight Table under our First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol.

As you are aware, the Province of British Columbia (as represented by the Minister of Education, the Minister of Children and Family Development, and the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training), the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEC) entered into the Protocol on May 26, 2020, committing to work together to support improved educational experiences and outcomes for First Nations children and youth in care, and youth formerly in care. The signing of this protocol marked an important first step in responding to the educational needs of Indigenous children in care through strong collaboration between your Ministries, FNEC and FNLC.

Under the Protocol, we agreed to hold meetings bi-annually involving each of you, the FNLC and FNEC (“the Oversight Table”) to identify and discuss priority issues related to the implementation of the Protocol. In light of your recent appointments, we would like to convene a meeting of the Oversight Table to discuss the spirit and intent of the Protocol and to set the direction for work in the coming months. While technical representatives have had some preliminary discussions, we feel it is necessary to convene this Table to set direction, particularly given the change in leadership.

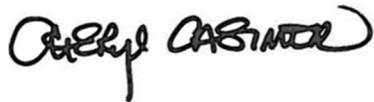
Recognizing the urgent need for a comprehensive strategy to address the challenges that First Nations children and youth in and from government care are currently facing during the pandemic, it is our priority to advance these matters as quickly as possible. We are requesting a meeting at your earliest convenience, ideally in February or early March.

Please have your offices contact our representatives Dawn Johnson, Senior Policy Analyst for Children and Families, FNLC ([djohnson@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:djohnson@ubcic.bc.ca)) and Mary Mollineaux, K-12 Policy Manager, FNEC ([marym@fnesc.ca](mailto:marym@fnesc.ca)), to coordinate a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

**FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

**On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT**



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

**On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:**



Regional Chief Terry Teegee

**On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE:**



Tyrone McNeil  
FNEC President

- Cc. Allison Bond, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education  
Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training