



BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

April 7, 2021

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President
Chief Don Tom, Vice President
Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer
Union of BC Indian Chiefs
401 - 312 Main Street
Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

Dear Grand Chief Phillip, Chief Tom and Kukpi7 Wilson:

Thank you for your email of March 9, 2021, regarding the Union of BC Indian Chiefs' (UBCIC) Resolution 2021-23: "Call for the Development of an Indigenous Youth Housing Action Plan." We appreciate the opportunity to share the work that is currently being undertaken at the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) on this important issue, as well as our collaborative efforts towards developing a housing strategy that is inclusive of Indigenous youth, which is in its early stages.

Both housing and the needs of Indigenous youth, especially those transitioning to independence, are priorities for our government. The significance of these commitments is reflected in our new [mandate letters](#). For the Minister of Children and Family Development, this includes expanding supports for youth in care, with particular attention to supporting the transition to independence and ensuring that supports reach all youth. It also includes supporting the work of the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those living in encampments. For the Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing, this also includes supporting the work of the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to bring the federal government to the table to build much-needed housing for Indigenous peoples both on and off reserve.

UBCIC's Resolution 21-/23 calling MCFD to work collaboratively to develop an Indigenous Youth Housing Action Plan highlights the importance of the mandates described above and the need to work together to achieve these. MCFD is currently working with MAG to develop a provincial strategy for youth housing, which will include the priority cohort of youth in and from government care. This work will give close consideration to the diverse needs of these young people, including Indigenous youth and young adults. In order to be successful, we understand this work must be collaborative in nature and inclusive of organizations such as the Coalition to End Youth Homelessness and the First Nations Leadership Council, who have highlighted the importance of housing security for youth from care.

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MCFD staff are also working towards fulfilling UBCIC's request to receive information no later than July 1, 2021 on the cohort of youth expected to transition to adulthood by March 31, 2022. As well, MCFD and Delegated Aboriginal Agency workers continue to actively transition plan with youth in care and those who have recently transitioned to independence on Temporary Housing Agreements or Temporary Housing Support Agreements, which have been extended until March 31, 2022. An action plan will be developed for those youth transitioning into adulthood following this date.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership to address the needs of youth. We value the opportunity to work collaboratively with UBCIC to ensure that youth leaving care have safe, secure and sustainable housing as part of their transition to adulthood.

Yours truly,



David Eby, QC
Attorney General and
Minister Responsible for Housing



Mitzi Dean
Minister of Children and
Family Development

pc: Cheryl May, A/Associate Deputy Minister, Housing, Construction Standards, and
Multiculturalism, MAG
Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Priorities, MCFD