

January 12, 2022

Fair and Equitable Funding for Indigenous Child & Family Services Open Letter to Honourable Rochelle Squires and Honourable Patty Hajdu

The Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families (the Act) came into force on January 1, 2020. This *Act* provides legal authority for Indigenous People to establish their own legislation to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. Although *the Act* was co-developed by Indigenous Peoples, the Government of Canada and provincial/territorial governments, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba have failed to shift necessary funding to Indigenous communities to meaningfully support the implementation of *the Act*.

As Indigenous child and family services agencies in Manitoba prepare to implement autonomous child and family services legislation in 2022, the Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW) calls on the federal and provincial governments to demonstrate a meaningful commitment to reconciliation. Canada and Manitoba must partner with Indigenous communities through Coordination Agreements that provide predictable, equitable, sufficient and immediate funding in the spirit of reconciliation.

Manitoba College of Social Workers Calls to Action

MCSW calls upon Manitoba and Canada to immediately and in full cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies to:

1. Provide equitable funding for on and off reserve child and family services as ordered by the [Canadian Human Rights Tribunal](#)
2. Provide timely development funding for the first 10-years of operations
3. Provide predictable infrastructure funding at the onset and going forward
4. Use the [evidence-informed funding approach](#) developed by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy
5. Coordinate all relevant provincial and federal laws, in cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies
6. Clarify and coordinate the roles and responsibilities of all involved government departments
7. Create a binding dispute resolution mechanism to end senseless and costly court litigation
8. Fully implement and uphold the law related to [Jordan's Principle](#)
9. Adopt the [Spirit Bear Plan](#)

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