

**Carrier Sekani Family Services**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Auditor General's Report Reflects What Delegated First Nations ' Agencies Have Been Saying for Years**

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The Auditor General's report reflects a number of the comments made by Delegated First Nations' Agencies regarding the concerns surrounding funding relationships. The report recommends identification of resources, both financial and human, needed to deliver child protection services. Warner Adam, Executive Director of Carrier Sekani Family Services, notes "We have been saying this since the inception of the delegation process that the Ministry must commit the resources required for us to take on protection services." Forcing First Nations Agencies to do more with less money puts children at risk and that is why you see reluctance by many agencies to take on the responsibility.

Our primary goal is to keep children safe and while we maintain that we have the right to the protection of our children we are cautious that the current system puts too many strains on our abilities to provide services in the manner we envision." The report speaks favorably to the work being completed by delegated agencies regarding child welfare practice.

The Auditor General even recommends that the Ministry adopt the protection standards used by Aboriginal agencies as their own for Aboriginal children and their families. "One of the key shifts we are looking at is prevention. Rather than putting all resources into protection our goal is to strengthen family and community so that the tools are there to keep children safe." says Adam.

There are additional concerns related to services provided to First Nations populations on and off reserve. The Auditor General recommends the provincial Ministry, in consultation with First Nations organizations and the Federal government (responsible for service on reserve), collect and evaluate meaningful information on any child protection service delivery gaps. The provincial and federal governments often dispute responsibility for services resulting in a lack of services to children. Policy, in the form of Jordan's Principle, named for a child who passed away while a jurisdictional dispute regarding healthcare services was taking place, was established in an attempt to alleviate such problems.

Adam notes, "It is good to see that the Auditor General recognizes the funding and jurisdictional issues. Now it is up to the Ministry and federal government to come to the table with Delegated Agencies and resolve these outstanding issues before more Aboriginal children are put at unnecessary risk."

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