



# STELLAT'EN

## What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES



JUNE 2025



## Hadih!

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services, I want to thank you for sharing your thoughts and your stories with us. This jurisdiction journey we are on comes with unique obstacles to navigate, and we are grateful to all of you for your continued support and guidance.

Through our conversations, the strength of Stellaquo and the knowledge passed down by generations of Elders rise to the surface. It is this strength that will move us toward a better future for children and families.

When we talk about 'jurisdiction', what we are really talking about is our own traditional governance and bah'lags laws that existed long before colonial governments came to these lands. Yinka Dene have always taken care of their children and it is Yinka Dene who are the experts when it comes to raising their children in a good way.

In this report you will find an overview of what Stellat'en members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is only the beginning of an ongoing relationship-building process with communities.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Stellat'en and ensuring all community members have a voice in the future of child and family services. I look forward to more conversations and am excited to see this good work continue.

Awetza.

**Lincoln Hallgren**  
Executive Director Jurisdiction



# **Skak ha ba beh | Nezkeh ba**

## **For the Children**

### **Project background**

CSFS is working with Stellat'en First Nation on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. 'Skak ha ba beh | Nezkeh ba (For the Children)' represents our collaborative journey to stand up a Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law based in the traditional governance of Nations. This law will serve as a framework for Stellat'en to develop their own community-specific regulations through.

The Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law will not be new to our people. Yinka Dene have had laws since time immemorial. What is new is the legal authority being recognized at a federal level through the passing of 'An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families'. The legal right to jurisdiction over child and family services is outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act.

The right to decision-making for children and families is inherent and was never surrendered by communities. Together, we are reawakening laws that cared for our people and saw children raised on their lands, with their families and surrounded by their clan.

**Learn more about the jurisdiction journey at**  
**[www.csfs.org/jurisdiction](http://www.csfs.org/jurisdiction)**



# What we've heard so far...

CSFS has been gathering feedback from Stellat'en First Nation through two types of relationship-building sessions: in-person, scheduled sessions and drop-in dialogue with community members (ie. booths at health fairs and community events).

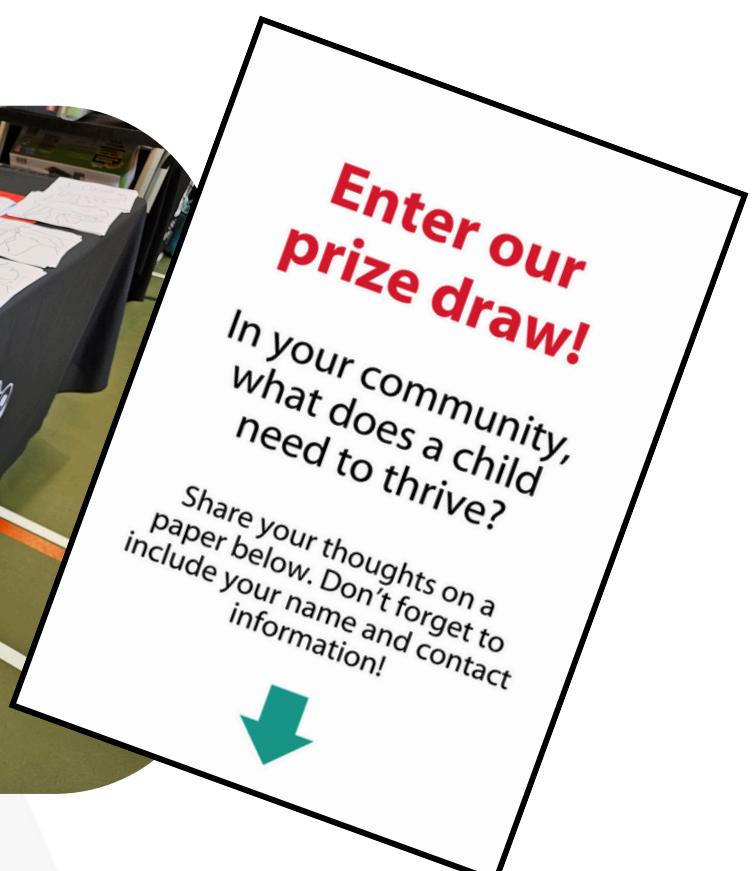
To date, there has been one scheduled and four drop-in sessions for the jurisdiction project.

**105**

responses recorded  
at scheduled  
session

**139**

responses from  
drop-in sessions

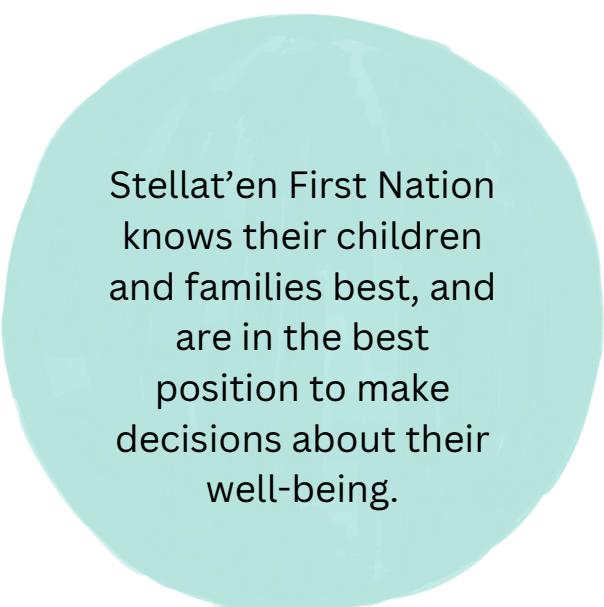


# Scheduled Session

March 25, 2025

“Why do you feel it is important that Nations are the decision-makers when it comes to their children and families? What does this look like?”

## You said...



Stellat'en First Nation knows their children and families best, and are in the best position to make decisions about their well-being.



Strengthen the clan system and traditional governance.



Empower children and families to use their voices to advocate for themselves and for others.



Create and maintain a sense of belonging.



"What do you think is the most important thing your Nation can do to keep children connected to the community?"

## You said...

Include youth in decision-making processes.

Provide activities for youth in community (language classes, land-based, recreation, etc.)

Create opportunities for youth living away from community to visit and participate in community activities.

Have role models in the community; support and encouragement for youth.



"What would you like to see CSFS do more of, or do differently, to help keep kids safe?"

## You said...

Be present and visible in Stellaquo and engage with community more regularly.

Monitor and evaluate child safety and programming with follow-up provided to leadership and community.

Provide more information on research and legislative drafting.

Increase land-based healing and cultural programming.



**“What does your community need to be better prepared to respond to a situation where a child is not safe?”**

## **You said...**

Community building and support within families; build confidence in family members to speak up on behalf of a child in danger.

Counselling and mental health services for families.

Training to identify and mitigate child safety risks.

A safe place for children to stay when home is not safe.



"How can CSFS and your community work together to better support parents and families?"

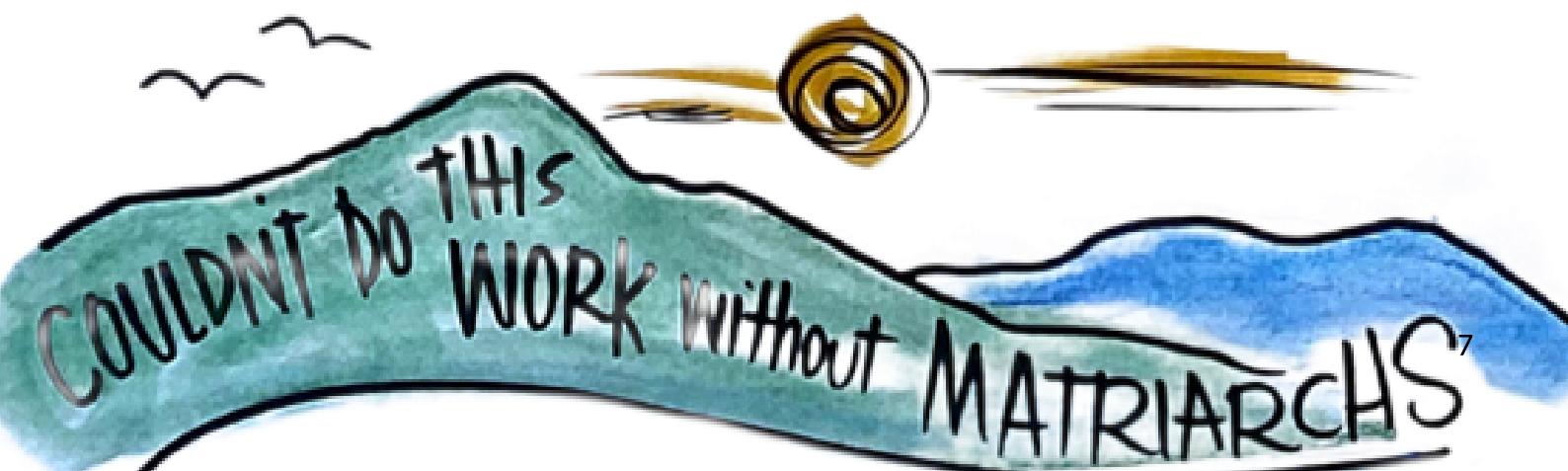
## You said...

Develop and support community-based committees.

Develop and maintain Community Wellness Teams.

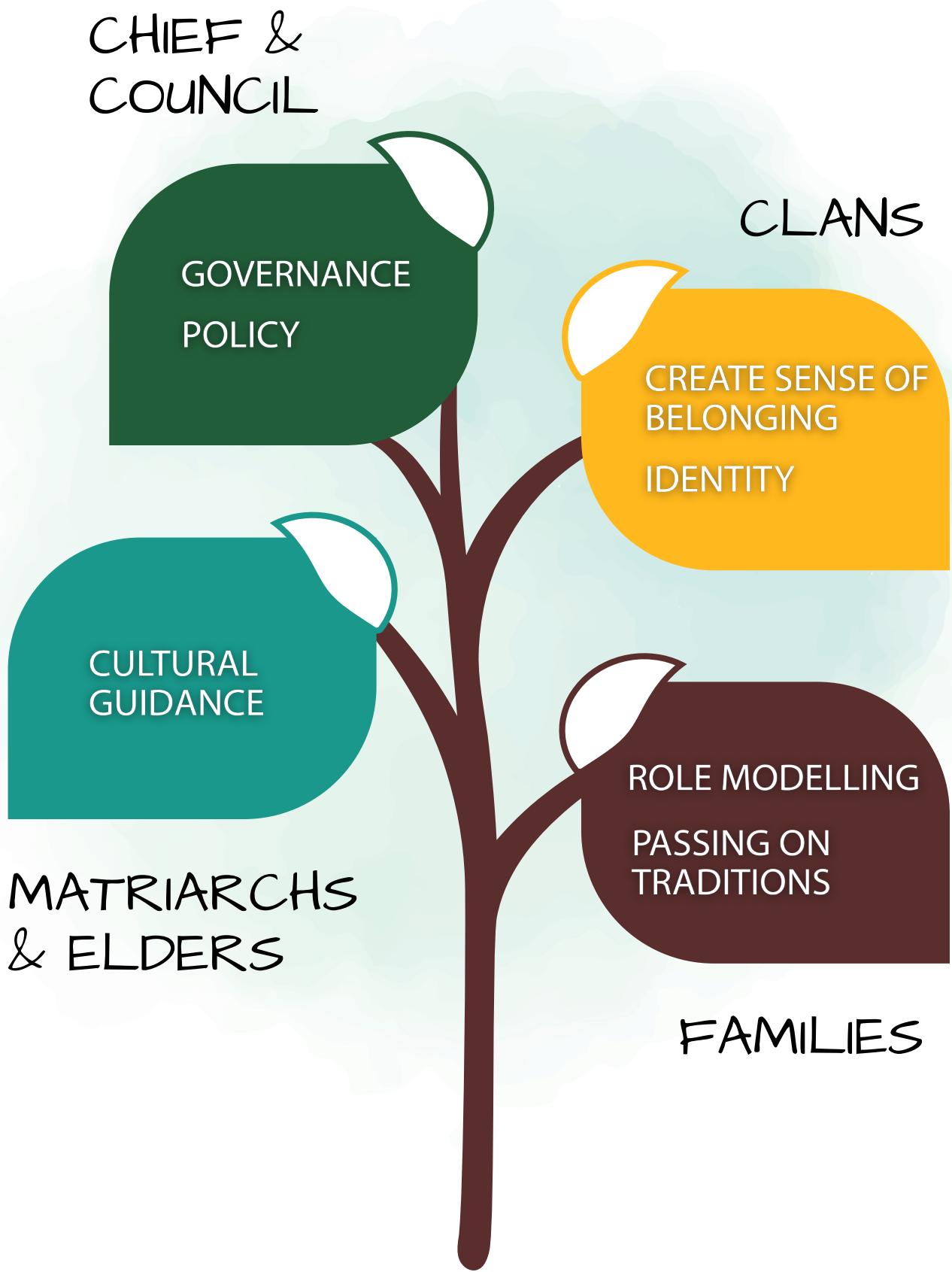
Promote training opportunities to community members.

Return to clan-based ways so children can learn their traditional values, culture and how to thrive on the land.



"When it comes to raising children and keeping them safe, what is each community leader's role and responsibility?"

**You said...**



# Drop-In Sessions

November 21 & 28, 2024

**Total responses: 55**

"In your community, what do children need to thrive?"

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



**Elders**

**28**



**Culture**

**21**



**Activities**

**17**



**Family**

**15**



**Education**

**14**

February 13 - 14, 2025

**Total responses: 84**

“What do children need to stay connected to their community and culture?”

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses

**Activities**

**21**

**Elders**

**18**

**Family**

**14**

**Learning**

**11**

**Language**

**10**

# Moving forward

We are continuously learning and listening to your feedback on how we can improve this relational process. We want to thank everyone who has shared their input and provided guidance on how we can build trust and a stronger relationship with Stellat'en.

## We commit to:

- Providing more notice for dialogue sessions.
- Increasing the amount of jurisdiction materials shared with Stellat'en to ensure all community members are aware of progress updates and can participate in sessions.
- Providing more educational materials and increasing knowledge sharing to help bring community members into the circle.

## How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Stellat'en's own regulations under the Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law.

Your voice is guiding the development of community programs, service delivery and capacity building as we look ahead to providing child and family services for the next generations of Yinka Dene children, youth and families.

## Nanyoost'en si!





CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES