



# TAKLA

## 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.

Our initial conversations with Takla members living both in and away from community highlight a shared vision for children: growing up surrounded by love, culture and ceremony. Our work is guided by the dream that every Takla child grows up knowing who they are, where they come from and that they are loved.

When we talk about 'jurisdiction', what we are really talking about is our own traditional governance and 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 Takla members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is only the beginning of an ongoing relational process with Takla First Nation.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Takla 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 Takla 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 communities. This law will serve as a framework for Takla to develop their own unique 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 Takla First Nation through two types of relationship-building approaches: in-person, scheduled sessions and drop-in dialogue with community members (ie. booths at health fairs and community events).

To date, there have been two scheduled sessions and two drop-ins for the jurisdiction project.



# Scheduled Session

May 30, 2025 | Prince George

“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...

Repairing damages caused by colonial child welfare systems and having supportive, rather than punitive, systems of care for families

Carrying on the legacy work of Takla Elders in bringing children back to community

Autonomy to practice traditional governance and cultural teachings

Children knowing where they come from, who their families are, and their traditional practices



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

## You said...

Cultural accessibility for all children: intergenerational teaching and teaching of the potlatch

Established safe places for children to go when their home is not safe

Ceremony and celebration: welcome children back in potlatch, host rediscovery camps, cultural activities, land-based healing

Access to traditional foods and gathering practices



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

## You said...

More support for post majority youth

Establish a protocol between CSFS and all Takla families and clans for when a child is not safe

Support in-community wellness teams, staffing, recreation coordinators

Better response times when a family calls in for assistance



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

## **You said...**



Need designated ‘safe people’ in community who are ready to take children immediately when a child safety issue arises

Harm reduction supports and services for parents and families

Community-based committee that responds to child safety concerns

Family meetings and safety planning

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

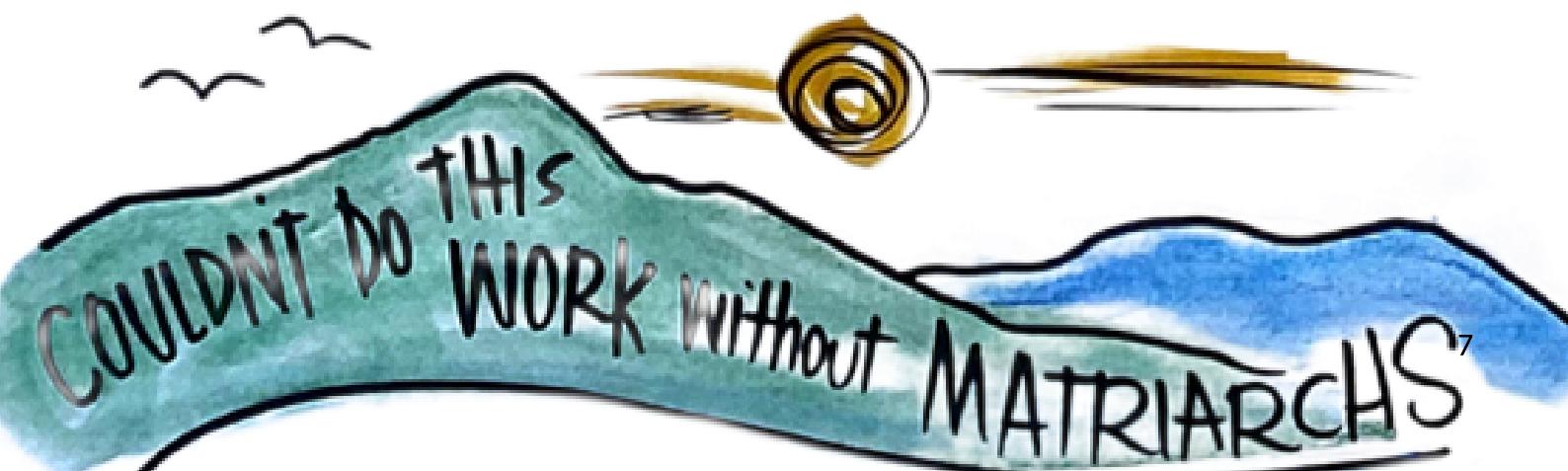
## You said...

Better communication between CSFS and Takla that accounts for different needs and preferences

More communication with those living away from community

Support with community staff recruitment and maintenance

Follow up support for community members post-treatment and for families who experience a child removal



# Scheduled Session

June 9, 2025 | Takla Landing

“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...

To keep children in community, connected to their family and their culture

Parents and families are supported with the resources they need to take care of children and themselves

Prevention programs and more opportunities for parents and families to heal together

Land-based healing and education for children and families to reconnect with Takla’s traditional ways of being

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

## You said...

Teach children traditional ways of being, provide traditional foods and opportunities to learn on the land

More resources for caregivers in community including funding to cover childcare needs

Space in community for ceremonies and cultural activities

Reconnect with children living away from community and create opportunities for them to return and meet their families



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

## You said...

Advocate for Takla Nation at the provincial and federal level and step in to support dealing with legal issues

Create more recreational opportunities for children and youth in community

Increase presence in community and collaborate with Takla teams to deliver services and programs

Check in on families in-person and help provide culturally-appropriate prevention and intervention services



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

## You said...

Safe place for children and family members to go when needed

Respite and care workers to support parents and caregivers

Community healing circles and non-judgmental supports for caregivers

Development of Community Wellness Team and improved communication between front-line teams



**“How can CSFS and your community work together to better support parents and families?”**

## **You said...**

More collaboration with Takla on engagement and responding to a family in need of support

Workshops and training to aid healing and provide community members with tools to be advocates for child safety in their own families

Culturally informed health and wellness education, including sexuality and traditional understandings of sexuality

Support relationship building with social workers and advocate for increased visitation for children living away from community

# Drop-In Sessions

November 13 - 14, 2024

**Total responses: 61**

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

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



June 17, 2025

**Total responses: 15**

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

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses

**Activities**

**8**

**Family**

**7**

**Culture**

**7**

**Community**

**4**

# Moving forward

We are continuously learning and listening to your feedback on how we can improve this relationship 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 Takla.

## We commit to:

- Collaborating with Takla First Nation to create more relationship building and knowledge sharing opportunities in community.
- Improving relationships and increasing communication with community members living away from community.

## How will my input be used?

The feedback you shared will assist in developing Takla'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.

# Nenyust'en!





CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES