



# NADLEH

## What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES

JULY 2025





## **Hadih.**

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services, I want to thank you for sharing your thoughts and your stories with us. This is the beginning of an ongoing process and I am excited to begin such important conversations with Nadleh Whut'en.

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 Nadleh Whut'en members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is only the beginning of an ongoing relational process with Nadleh.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Nadleh 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



# **Nezkeh**

## **For our Children**

### **Project background**

CSFS is working with Nadleh Whut'en on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. 'Nezkeh (For our 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 Nadleh 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 begun the process of gathering feedback from Nadleh Whut'en 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 has been one scheduled and two drop-in sessions for the jurisdiction project.



# Scheduled Session

July 15, 2025 | Nadleh Whut'en

"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...

Everyone is responsible for caring for children. Community needs to feel trusted and listened to when it comes to decision-making.

Keep kids in community and close to their culture.

Our future is wellness being organized for and with community members, with proper funding.

More voices from family and community at the table before external organizations become involved.



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

## You said...

More Indigenous foster parents in community.

Children in care need more opportunities to visit community and get to know their family.

More cultural activities and events to build community and engage children in traditional practices.

Make supervised visits more informal to allow families time to connect without feeling watched and judged.

**SACRED KNOWLEDGE, TRUST  
and GOVERNANCE**  
**CULTURE**

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

## You said...

Improve communication with Nadleh and be more present in community.

Host events for children and families to strengthen community and build relationships.

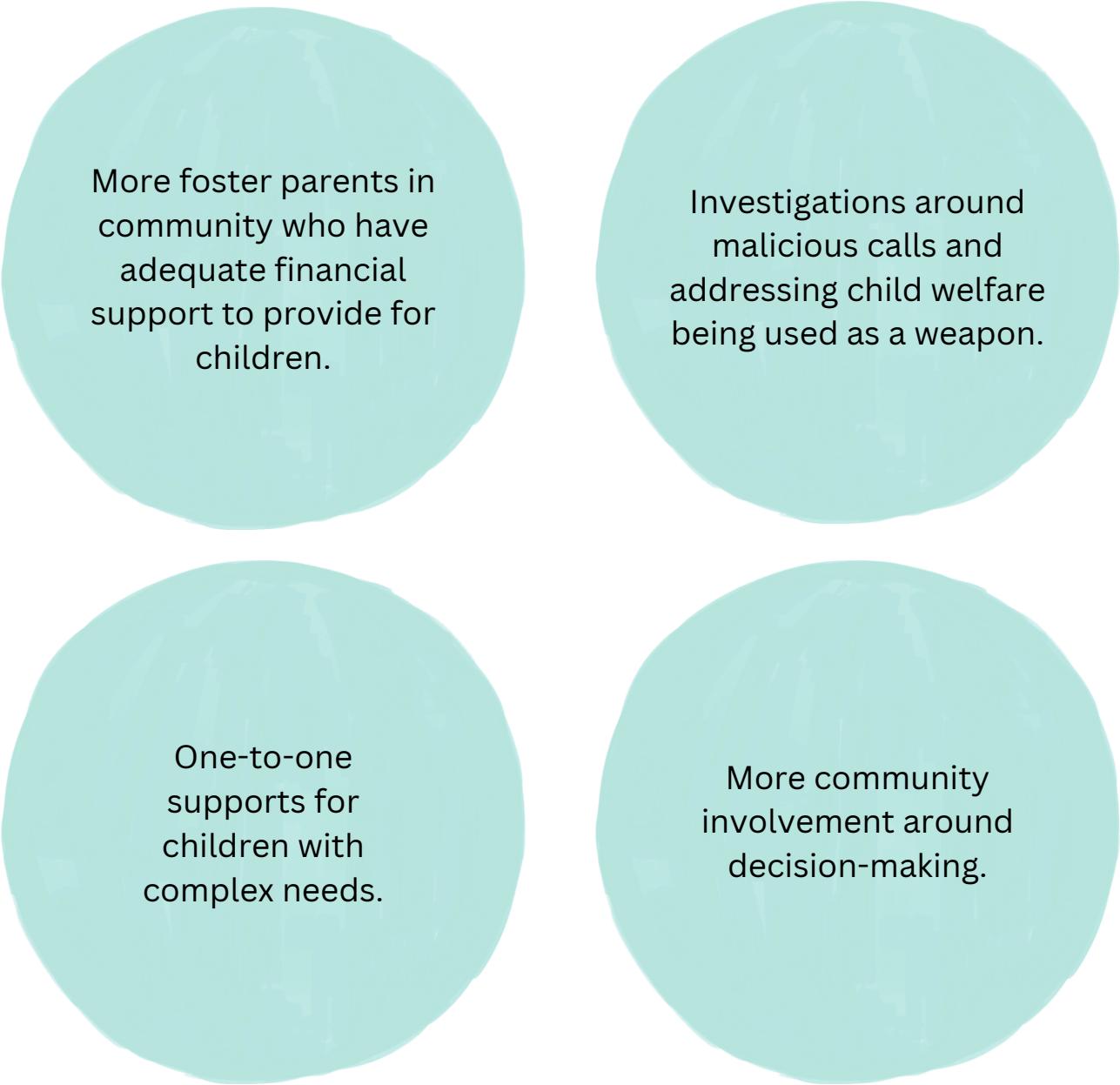
Be more present in child safety cases where the Ministry is involved.

Provide more funding for basic housing goods and childcare needs.



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

## **You said...**



More foster parents in community who have adequate financial support to provide for children.

Investigations around malicious calls and addressing child welfare being used as a weapon.

One-to-one supports for children with complex needs.

More community involvement around decision-making.

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

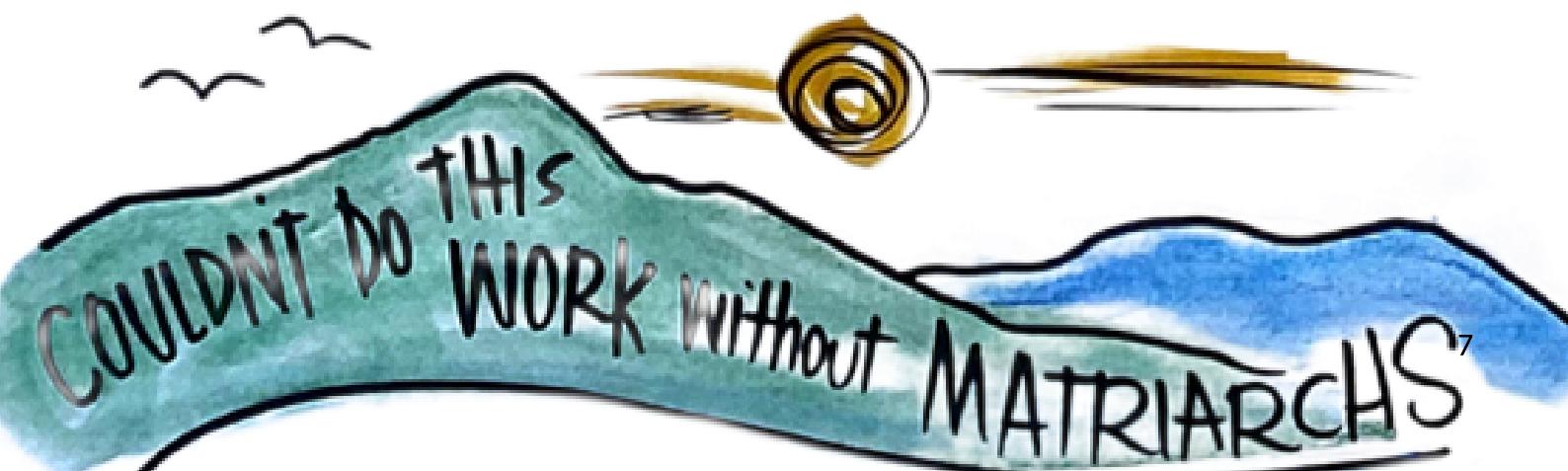
## You said...

Improve financial supports for foster parents in community.

Improve communication between CSFS workers and the community.

Develop more structures and supported community teams within Nadleh.

More support for community members living in poverty and for food security.



# Drop-In Sessions

October 24, 2024 | Nadleh Health Fair

December 5, 2024 | Nadleh AGA

**Total responses: 55**

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

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses

**Family**

**41**

**Wellness**

**29**

**Culture**

**25**

**Safety**

**18**

**Education**

**9**

# 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 Nadleh Whut'en.

## We commit to:

- Improving our public engagement process to ensure more voices are at the table.
- Improving communication with Nadleh Whut'en and strengthening relationships.
- Being more present in community to share jurisdiction project work and input opportunities.

## How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Nadleh'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