



YEKOOCHE

What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

AUGUST 2025



Hadih!

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services, I want to thank you for continuing to share your time and your stories with us. This is an exciting moment in our multi-generational journey to jurisdiction as we prepare for Nations having the legal authority to be the decision-makers for their children and families.

The community conversations captured in this report highlight the importance of collaboration and amplifying the voices of community. No one knows children and families better than the communities that raise and care for them, and it is the community's voice that will guide the future of child and family services across Carrier and Sekani territory.

When we talk about 'jurisdiction', what we are really talking about is our own traditional governance and bah'lats 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 Yekooche members have shared with us on the journey so far. I look forward to more conversations and continuing this good work.

Awetza.

Lincoln Hallgren
Executive Director Jurisdiction



Nezkeh ba (For Our Children)

Project background

CSFS is working with Yekooche First Nation on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. 'Nezkeh ba (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 Nations. This law will serve as a framework for Yekooche 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



What we've heard so far...

CSFS has hosted two community conversation sessions with Yekooche First Nation. These sessions provide opportunities for community members to learn about the jurisdiction transition process and provide input on the future of child and family services in Yekooche.



Natsoojeh Let's grow together



Scheduled Session

August 13, 2025

Everyone in a community has a part to play in caring for children. Describe which roles and responsibilities you see for the following people in your Nation:

You said...

CHIEF & COUNCIL

- Serve all community members
- Communicate with the community
- Organize respite for families and caregivers

OTHER

- CSFS to assist with healing and caregiving guidance
- Teachers to incorporate culture into education

HEREDITARY CHIEFS

- Advise elected Chiefs
- Be patient and good listeners



- Teach potlatch protocols
- Help children learn their culture
- Engage youth and be there for all children

CLANS

Share your thoughts on how CSFS and your Nation can work together to keep the braid strong and to better support parents and families.

You said...

Continue working together to improve communication, build trust, and foster stronger relationships

Foster intergenerational knowledge sharing by involving Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and language speakers

Host more community events to bring people together

Listen to current and former children in care and learn from their lived experiences

Who/what are the people, teachings, or supports that guide children and help them stay connected to their community?

You said...

Parents, aunties, and uncles

Ceremonies through all stages of the life cycle

Connections to family, friends, Elders, and the wider community to create belonging and share teachings

Recreational activities in community and activities on the land

What are the things that children need to carry with them as they grow up and raise their own families?

You said...

Traditional teachings and stories that teach proper behaviour, values, and how to live on the land

Good role models who listen to children

Confidence in themselves and pride in their culture and where they come from

Opportunities to learn life skills and foster a sense of purpose and direction

What does your community need more of to be ready to respond to child safety matters?

You said...

Family and community outings to bring people together to learn on the land and have fun

Safety infrastructure in the community to keep families safe from animals and wildlife

Life skills programs and support programs for grief and loss

Yekooche and CSFS working together



What should CSFS do more of to keep kids safe and help the community move forward?

You said...



Have an office in community with all services in one place that can provide weekend coverage

More cultural activities and programming in community

Drug prevention education and programs, and aftercare support

What lessons, teachings, or practices should guide our journey?

You said...

Intergenerational knowledge sharing and involving the Elders in decision-making

Open lines of communication to improve emotional understanding and healing

Teaching traditional practices, culture, and language

every Carrier Sekani CHILD has the RIGHT to live up to their FULL POTENTIAL



Scheduled Session

March 26, 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...

Returning to traditional culture, values and governance

Healing as a community to move forward together

Keeping families together

Having a healthy community that makes decisions together



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

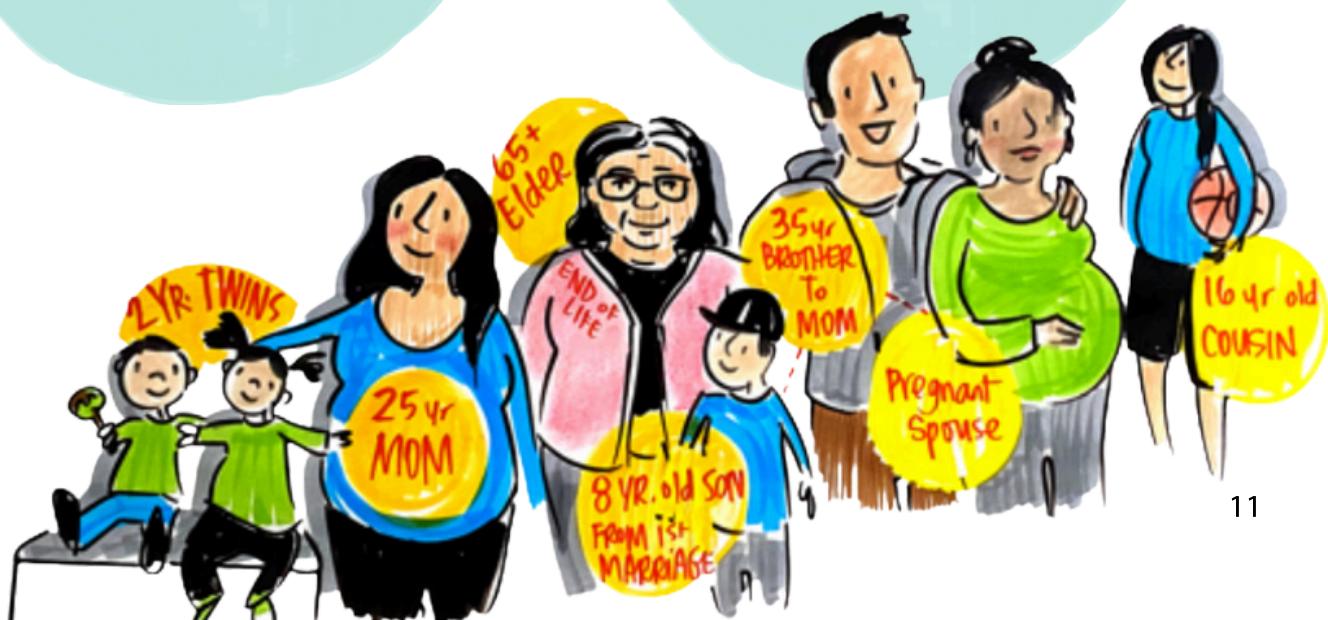
You said...

A safe place for kids living in community and for those visiting to stay

Access to prevention and social services in community

Genealogy and identity – children need to know where they come from

Cultural celebrations and activities



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

You said...

Communicate staff roles and expertise better so community members know what help is available and can utilize CSFS's expertise

Support those living away from community to attend in-community events

Revitalize the Wellness Committee

Programming to support healing, including addictions services and follow-up support for those who have finished treatment

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

You said...

Opportunities for parents to heal

Addressing division in community – need to listen to everyone and move forward together

An emergency response for when children are not safe in community

Community supports for those working through or recovering from addiction



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

You said...

Creation of a safe place in community where children who need to be removed from their home can go

Address trauma as a root cause of behaviour and move forward together through healing

Culture programs and activities

Host more meetings in community to get to know everyone



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 Yekooche.

We commit to:

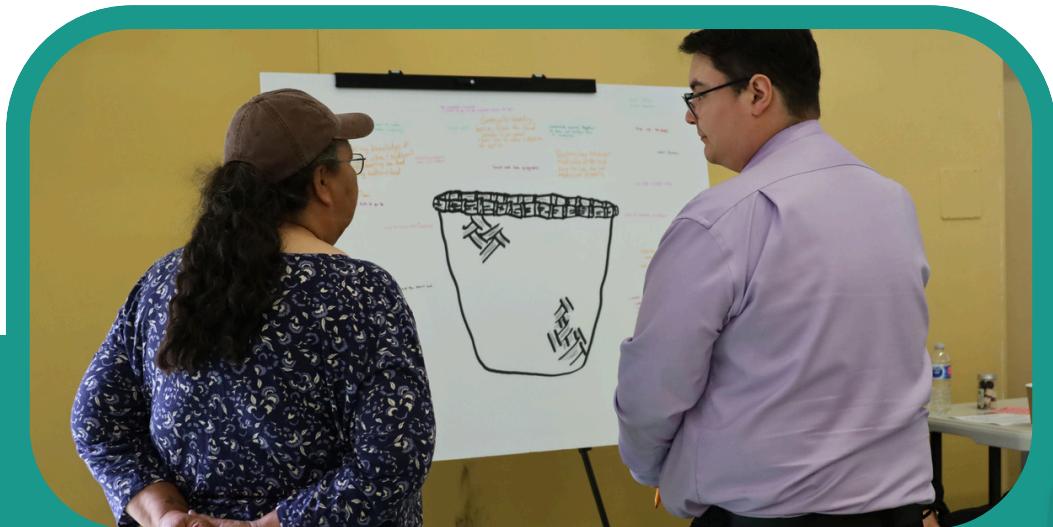
- Collaborating with community members when scheduling events to ensure all community members have the opportunity to join.
- Sharing updates for the jurisdiction project to community members.
- Incorporating community feedback into our jurisdiction information sharing process.

How will my input be used?

The feedback you shared will assist in developing Yekooche'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' la!





CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES