



PRINCE GEORGE

What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

AUGUST 2025



Hadih.

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services, I want to thank you for coming out to our first urban community feedback session for the jurisdiction project.

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 community members shared with us at our July 18, 2025 community gathering. This is only the beginning of an ongoing relational process with community members living away from community.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with community members and ensuring everyone has a voice in the future of child and family services. I look forward to more conversations and am excited to see this good work move forward.

Awetza.

Lincoln Hallgren

Executive Director Jurisdiction



Skak ha ba bay | Nezkeh ba For our Children

Project background

CSFS is working with member Nations on the right to be the decision-makers for child and family services. 'Skak ha ba bay | 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 communities. This law will serve as a framework for Nations 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



What we've heard so far...

CSFS has begun the process of gathering feedback from member Nations through scheduled sessions where everyone is welcome to share ideas for the future of child and family services.

We have hosted one urban session in Prince George as of August 2025. Work is underway to plan more sessions in urban centres to ensure the voices of those living away from community are heard.



578

responses from
community
members

July 18, 2025

Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park, Prince George

"What does a home need to be a safe place to raise a child?"

You said...

Safe, warm homes
with security features,
and alcohol- and
drug-free
environments.

Unconditional love
from family and
friends; emotional
support from family
members.

Healing from
colonization and
Residential Schools;
access to mental
health resources.

Good nutrition and
stable access to
healthy foods.



What does a community need to be a safe place for children?

You said...

Love for children, families, and the community; healing together through cultural and spiritual practices.

Safe houses, safe adults, and proper supervision throughout the community.

Access to recreational activities and groups including cultural programming.

Transparency and consistent information sharing to build trust in institutions.



"What grounds children in culture and community?"

You said...

Culture and tradition:
cultural events,
learning history, and
learning on the land.

Grandparents,
Elders, and parents
being involved in a
child's life and
learning journey.

Personal
connections with
family and
community.

Safe places to learn
and grow.



“Who or what helps our children grow strong and proud of who they are?”

You said...

Family and intergenerational support; emotional safety and the love of family and friends.

Passing on cultural traditions and values; opportunities to participate in traditional activities and ceremonies.

A strong community that loves and supports one another.

Physical and mental wellness rooted in stable routines; clean and sober lifestyles.

"Write the name or the person who helped you heal or supported you through a tough time."

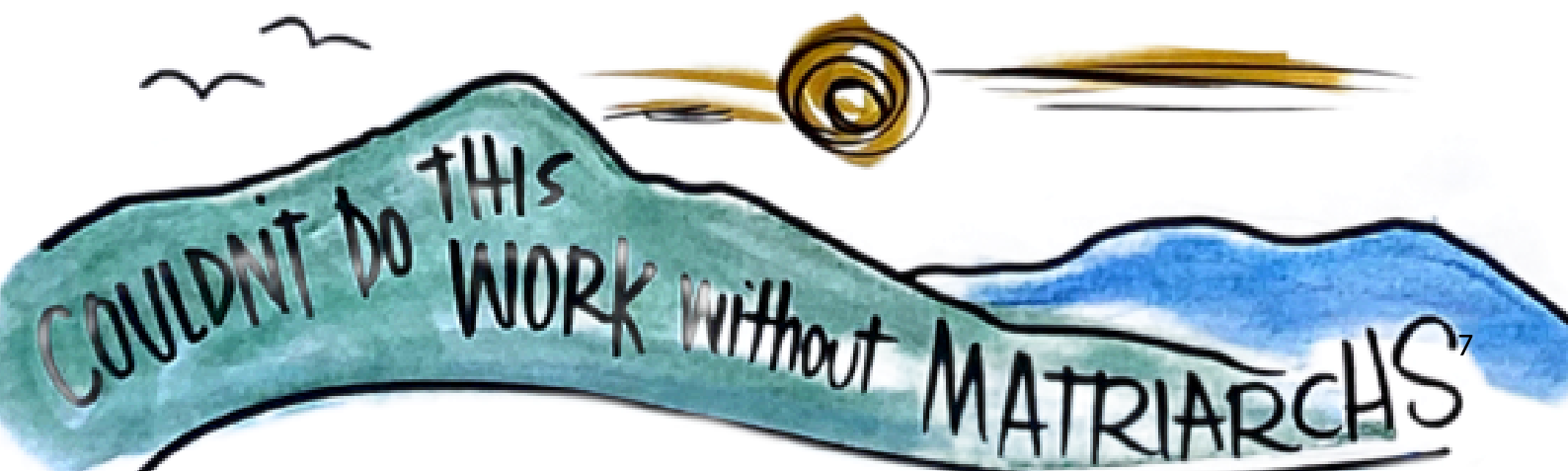
You said...

Immediate and extended family, with a strong focus on mothers and fathers.

Community and support networks like CSFS and men's groups.

Mentorship from role models in community including leaders, teachers, Chiefs, and Elders.

Connection to the land and traditional foods.



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 the communities we serve.

We commit to:

- Improving our public engagement process to ensure more voices are at the table.
- Creating more opportunities for community members living away from home to learn, share, and connect.

How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in planning the future of programs and services 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.





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