



WET'SUWET'EN FIRST NATION

What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

NOVEMBER 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 Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

When we talk about 'jurisdiction', what we are really talking about is our own traditional governance 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 on raising their children in a good way.

In this report you will find an overview of what Wet'suwet'en First Nation members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is only the beginning; more community conversations are being planned to ensure no one is left behind.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Wet'suwet'en First Nation 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 bay | Nezkeh ba

For our Children

Project background

CSFS is working with Wet'suwet'en First Nation on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. Skak ha ba bay / Nezkeh ba (For our Children) represents our collective 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 Wet'suwet'en First Nation 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 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 Wet'suwet'en 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 has been one scheduled and one drop-in session for the jurisdiction project.



Scheduled Session

November 12, 2025 | Nec'igh Beyikh Hall, Burns Lake

What qualities do you think Elders representing your community on the Elders Council should have?

You said...

Willingness to listen, learn, and share knowledge

Understanding of tradition language, cultural practices, and community history

Good reputation in community and viewed as a trusted role model

Understanding of trauma and the impacts of colonization



How should people be chosen to be part of the Community Wellness Teams?

You said...

All candidates should be screened for appropriateness

Community should agree on candidates to ensure an unbiased hiring process

Should be fluent in traditional language(s)

Should have knowledge of tradition and cultural practices

SACRED KNOWLEDGE, TRUST and GOVERNANCE
CULTURE

What kind of training do you think Community Wellness Teams will need?

You said...

Trauma-informed training

Overview of MCFD and CSFS practices and policies

Family wellness and life skills

Self-healing and building awareness of own biases and behaviours

How should children and youth be involved in decision-making at different phases of the life cycle?

You said...

AGES 0 - 6

- Supported by parents and grandparents
- Begin learning land-based teachings and cultural practices.



AGES 7 - 12

- Learn rites of passage
- Learn about gender and hormonal balance
- Be involved in land-based teachings and cultural practices including crafting.

AGES 13 - 19

- Involvement in leadership to build confidence
- Learn shared responsibilities in the household and parenting skills
- Be involved in land-based teachings and cultural practices.



ALL AGES

- Practice culture to strengthen identity and heal
- Understand genealogy and family history
- Learn respect for self and for others.



Imagine you build a medicine basket with all the programs, tools, and resources your community needs to support children and families. What is in your basket?

You said...

Recreational infrastructure for children and youth

Traditional teachings and cultural practices, including food harvesting and preservation

Life skills programming for different ages

Safety education for children regarding sexual and family violence



Imagine the braid on the board representing three strands: community, families, and CSFS. How can CSFS and your Nation work together to keep the braid strong and support parents and families?

You said...

Provide mediation for families

Provide more life skills training and programming for parents and families

Improve communication and ensure all staff and social workers coming to community are respectful

Recognize the importance of traditional knowledge and incorporate Carrier language into the work



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 Wet'suwet'en First Nation.

We commit to:

- Create more opportunities for Wet'suwet'en First Nation community members to learn about the jurisdiction project.
- Increase use of social media to share information with the community.

How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Wet'suwet'en First Nation'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.





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