



# LAKE BABINE NATION

## What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES

APRIL 2026



## Hadih!

On behalf of Carrier Sekani Family Services, I want to thank you for sharing your thoughts and your stories with us. We are grateful to all of you for your continued support and guidance on our shared jurisdiction journey.

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 Lake Babine Nation community members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is only the beginning of an ongoing conversation as we work toward a future of Nation-led child and family services.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Lake Babine 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 Child & Family Jurisdiction

# Skak ha ba bay | Nezkeh ba For the Children

## Project background

CSFS is working with Lake Babine Nation on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. 'Skak ha ba bay | 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 Nations. This law will serve as a framework for Lake Babine Nation 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](http://www.csfs.org/jurisdiction)**



## What we've heard so far...

CSFS is working together with member Nations to gather feedback on the jurisdiction project through scheduled events and pop-up sessions such as booths at community events.

Many of you shared your stories and ideas with us at the Lake Babine Nation 27th Annual General Assembly. This 'What We Heard' report captures common themes from your feedback.

This report is a living document and will continue to be updated as more voices join the conversation.

**65**

Community  
Workbooks filled  
out and returned

**264**

short-answer  
responses



**Enter our  
prize draw!**

In your community,  
what does a child  
need to thrive?

Share your thoughts on a  
paper below. Don't forget to  
include your name and contact  
information!



# Lake Babine Nation AGA

CSFS Jurisdiction Booth | February 23 - 27, 2026

## Community Workbooks

Community Workbooks include information about the jurisdiction project and a series of questions. These questions are intended to help identify current community needs and hopes for the future.

Why do you feel it is important that Lake Babine Nation is the decision-makers when it comes to their children and families? What does this look like?

### You said...

Keeping children with family, kinship, and community by preventing unnecessary removals

Healing from historical harm and ensuring the harms caused by the child welfare system are not repeated

LBN knows its children best. Jurisdiction is restoring decision-making to those most responsible and most connected to the children.

Revitalizing traditional governance and family roles, with Elders and Matriarchs central to protecting and guiding children



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

**You said...**

Keep children with their families and within their communities whenever possible

Teach children their culture and native language

Cultural guidance and intergenerational teaching from Elders, Matriarchs, and Hereditary Chiefs

Provide children with year-round programs, activities, and permanent spaces



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

**You said...**

Increase prevention-focused programs and early supports for families

Provide more mental health, counselling, and emotional safety for youth

Provide more consistent programs, activities, and safe spaces in the community

Prioritize keeping children in care connected to their families and extended families



What does Lake Babine Nation need to be better prepared to respond to a situation where a child is not safe?

**You said...**

Community-based response and solutions system

Prioritize keeping children with their families or a trusted caregiver

Safe houses/clan houses for immediate, culturally safe spaces where children can go without delay when there is a safety risk

Clear protocols, training, and community preparedness for when a child is not safe



How can CSFS and Lake Babine Nation work together to better support parents and families?

**You said...**

Collaborate and work together to share decision-making responsibilities

Work together to host more community gatherings and events to build relationships

Keep families at the centre of the work

Position cultural learning as foundational, not optional, for all workers



When it comes to raising children and keeping them safe, what is each community leader's role and responsibility?

## You said...

### CHIEF & COUNCIL

- Governance and leadership
- Administration
- Funding
- Communicating with members

### CLANS

- Sharing knowledge
- Fostering identity and belonging
- Upholding potlatch system

- Intergenerational teaching
- Cultural continuity
- Governance and decision-making

### MATRIARCHS & ELDERS

- Making family connections
- Providing care and love
- Supporting one another
- Sharing information with leadership

### FAMILIES

# Short-Answer Questions

CSFS Jurisdiction Booth | LBN AGA, February 23 - 27, 2026

Total responses: 57

What traditional teaching do you want to see passed on to the next generation?

## You said...

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



**Language**

**22**



**Land-based skills**

**13**



**Traditional arts**

**9**



**Bah'lats**

**6**



**Food preparation**

**5**

**Total responses: 65**

What does your community need to keep children safe, happy, and healthy?

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses

**Activities**

**23**

**Drug/alcohol-free community**

**10**

**Family**

**10**

**Community**

**8**

**Safe environments**

**5**

**Total responses: 51**

What does 'jurisdiction' mean to you?

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



**Law & authority**

**17**



**Child rights**

**11**



**Land & belonging**

**8**



**Safety**

**7**



**Community**

**6**

**Total responses: 56**

What do you want to know more about the Jurisdiction project?

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses

**More learning opportunities**

**16**

**Impact on children in care**

**10**

**More community engagement**

**10**

**Policies & legal rights**

**9**

**More workshops**

**4**

**Total responses: 47**

What do children need to stay connected to their culture?

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



**Language**

**18**



**Programs & mentoring**

**11**



**Cultural activities**

**9**



**Family & love**

**8**



**Intergenerational learning**

**6**

**Total responses: 35**

In your community, what do children need to thrive?

**You said...**

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



**Culture**

**11**



**Mentorship from Elders & Matriarchs**

**10**



**Structured activities**

**9**



**Family support**

**8**



**Language**

**6**



## 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 on the jurisdiction journey so far. This is only the beginning of an ongoing conversation.

### We commit to:

- Creating more opportunities for community input
- Working together with Lake Babine Nation communities to bring everyone into the circle
- Providing more educational materials and increasing knowledge sharing.

### How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Lake Babine'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!



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FAMILY SERVICES