



TS'IL KAZ KOH

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 Ts'il Kaz Koh 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 Ts'il Kaz Koh 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 | Ne^zkeh ba

For our Children

Project background

CSFS is working with Ts'il Kaz Koh on the right to be the decision-maker for child and family services. 'Skak ha ba bay / Ne^zkeh ba (For our Children)' represents our collaborative journey to stand up a Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law based in traditional governance. This law will serve as a framework for Ts'il Kaz Koh to develop their own community-specific regulations through, like one large tree with many branches.

This law will not be new to our people; Yinka Dene had laws to protect and raise children in a good way long before colonial governments came to these lands.

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 Act reaffirms our rights as Indigenous people to self-governance as 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 Yinka Dene and saw children raised on their lands, with their families, and surrounded by their clans.

Learn more about the jurisdiction journey at

www.csfs.org/jurisdiction



What we've heard so far...

Working together with Ts'il Kaz Koh, community input is being gathered through group discussions at scheduled events and short-form questions during pop-up activities like health fairs and AGAs.

This 'What We Heard' report captures common themes from responses shared by community members. This report is a living document and will continue to be updated as more voices join the conversation.

49

responses recorded
at scheduled events



Scheduled Session

March 17, 2026

Community members were asked to share their ideas on community-based governing bodies. These bodies will work together under the new child and family law to strengthen communities and support family wellness.

Whu Neeh Nee “Wise Ones”



A group of representatives appointed by Nations responsible for providing guidance on, and oversight of, ongoing initiatives and regulations under the law.

“How do you see your Nation choosing representatives?”

You said...

Should be a community decision

Follow tradition of Elders raising up young leaders into positions of responsibility

Need to have a clear understanding of the responsibilities involved

Need to have training available and honorariums for Elders who provide historical information

"What qualities should members have?"

You said...

Good rapport and connection with community members

Respectful, non-violent, and trusted by the community

On their own healing journey

Know and practice cultural protocols



"If no one in community is available, how would you want to fill the positions?"

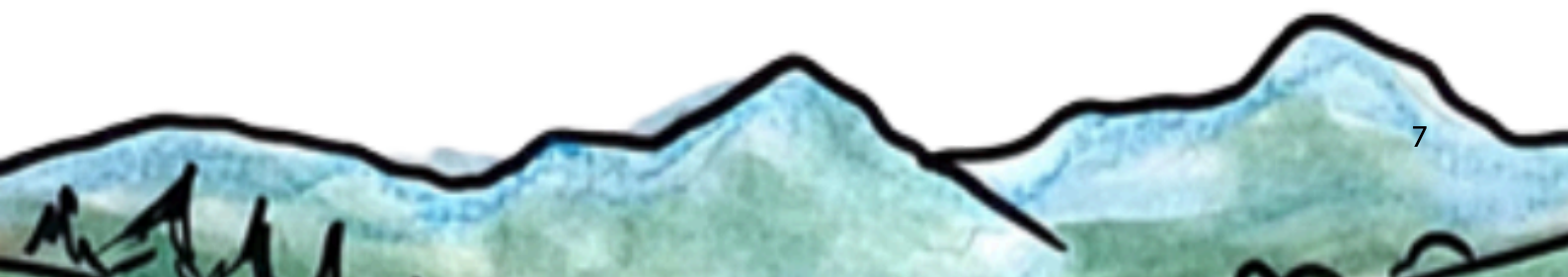
You said...

Have a community
roundtable for
decisions

Work with other
Nations to build
capacity

Look to legal
support or a
lawyer

Depending on the
situation, the
community will
accept help from
whomever can
help best



Elders Council



A council made up of two to four Elders from each member Nation who make decisions about how children are cared for when consensus cannot be reached among families.

“How do you see your Nation choosing representatives?”

You said...

Needs to be an unbiased representative, potentially an Elder from another community

Should be grassroots with family ties

Need to have equal gender representation on the Council

Will need to be monitored with annual reviews to determine what is working and what is not

“What qualities should members have?”

You said...

Mentally, spiritually,
emotionally, and
physically healthy

Dedicated and
committed to
the role

Objective and not
influenced by
personal politics

Need to be
compassionate,
understanding, and
trusted by the
community

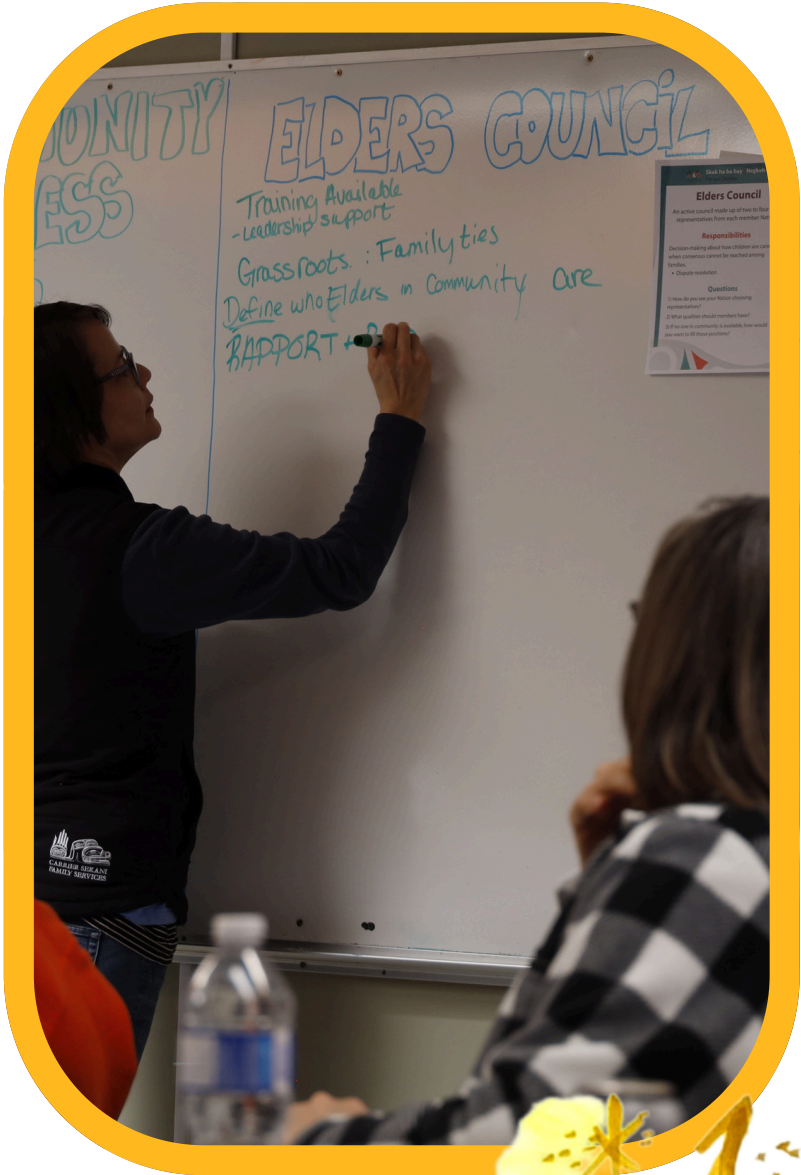
Thick-skinned with
demonstrated
integrity

“If no one in community is available, how would you want to fill the positions?”

You said...

Look to CSFS to help build capacity

Evaluate each scenario and decide on what/who is needed



TRANSFORMING
to OUR OWN
LAWS

Community Wellness Team



A community-based group that collaborates with CSFS on prevention programs and monitors the well-being of children and families in the community.

“How do you see your Nation choosing representatives?”

You said...

Needs to be
Nation-led

Consider
Coordinators
within the
community



“What qualities should members have?”

You said...

Working on
healing
themselves

Can provide
guidance to
community
members

Have knowledge
of traditional
language, culture,
and customs

“If no one in community is available, how would you want to fill the positions?”

You said...

Follow traditional
practices of
raising young
leaders

Clan House



A Nation-owned building in the community with culturally-informed services where children and families can go when they are in need of a safe space.

If a child in Ts'il Kaz Koh needed a safe place to stay, what would you want them to experience in a Clan House so they feel safe, cared for, and connected to their family and culture?

You said...

Traditional activities and food preparation

Clear rules, guidelines, and realistic expectations

Scheduled activities, routine, and shared responsibilities like chores

Recreational activities



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 Ts'il Kaz Koh.

We commit to:

- Working closely with Ts'il Kaz Koh on the jurisdiction project to centre the work in community needs.
- Collaborating with Ts'il Kaz Koh to create more opportunities for community members to make their voices heard.

How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Ts'il Kaz Koh's own regulations under the Carrier Sekani child and family well-being law.

Your voice is guiding the development of community programs, services and capacity building as we work toward Nation-led child and family services for the next generations of Yinka Dene children, youth and families.

Nanyoost'en si!





CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES