



STELLAT'EN

What We Heard Report



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

MAY 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 Stelat'en community members have shared with us on the journey so far. This is an ongoing conversation as we work toward the future of Nation-led child and family services.

CSFS is committed to improving how we communicate with Stelat'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 Stelat'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 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 Stelat'en 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...

CSFS has been gathering feedback from Stellat'en First Nation through two types of relationship-building sessions: scheduled in-person sessions and drop-in dialogue with community members (ie. booths at health fairs and community events).

To date, there have been two scheduled and four drop-in sessions with Stellat'en for the jurisdiction project. This report captures common themes we have heard from your community, and will continue to be updated as more voices join our ongoing conversation.

216

responses recorded
at scheduled
session

139

responses from
drop-in sessions



**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!




Scheduled Session

April 29, 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...

Have a mix of women and men as representatives

Create a nomination list that is then reviewed by Chief and Council

Require a criminal record check

Allow anyone to apply for the position and host a community vote

What qualities should members have?

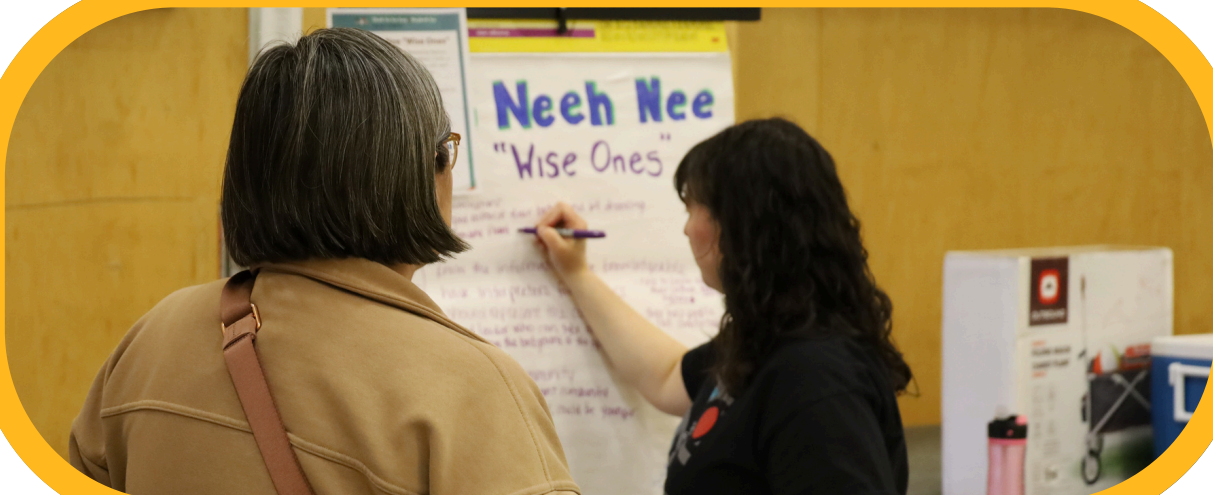
You said...

Have traditional knowledge they are willing to share

Need to be reliable and have leadership skills

Should be compassionate and nurturing people that others feel comfortable around

Respectful and able to not take things personally



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

You said...

Look to
neighbouring
communities such
as Nadleh

Expand to include
Stellat'en members
who may have moved
away or transferred to
another Nation

Look for more
resources and
focus on finding
someone suitable



Elders Council



A collective 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...

Require a
criminal record
check

Membership
through nomination
and have a roster of
people to support

Potential members
should be assessed
on their parenting
knowledge and
knowledge of
custom adoption

What qualities should members have?

You said...

On a healing journey and are dealing with their own trauma

Have both traditional knowledge and knowledge of their current community

Fluency in, or willingness to learn, Carrier language

Good communication skills and able to work well with others



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 Stellaquo 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...

Safe support people to talk to and get guidance from

Resources and supports for self harm and suicide prevention

Cultural knowledge sharing and opportunities to learn about traditions like bah'lats and food preparation

Access to necessities and comforts



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.

We asked who you would want to be part of a Stellat'en Community Wellness Team.

16

community
members
nominated



You shared a list of community Matriarchs, Elders, Hereditary Chiefs, Knowledge Holders, advocates, and peers you felt would best represent Stellat'en as CWT members. The CSFS Community Wellness Workers will use this list as a starting point to grow the Stellat'en CWT.

Scheduled Session

March 25, 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...

Stellat'en First Nation knows their children and families best, and are in the best position to make decisions about their well-being

Strengthen the clan system and traditional governance

Empower children and families to use their voices to advocate for themselves and for others

Create and maintain a sense of belonging



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

You said...

Include youth in decision-making processes

Provide activities for youth in community (language classes, land-based, recreation, etc.)

Create opportunities for youth living away from community to visit and participate in community activities

Have role models in the community; support and encouragement for youth



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

You said...

Be present and visible in Stellaquo and engage with community more regularly

Monitor and evaluate child safety and programming with follow-up provided to leadership and community

Provide more information on research and legislative drafting

Increase land-based healing and cultural programming

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

You said...

Community building and support within families; build confidence in family members to speak up on behalf of a child in danger

Counselling and mental health services for families

Training to identify and mitigate child safety risks

A safe place for children to stay when home is not safe



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

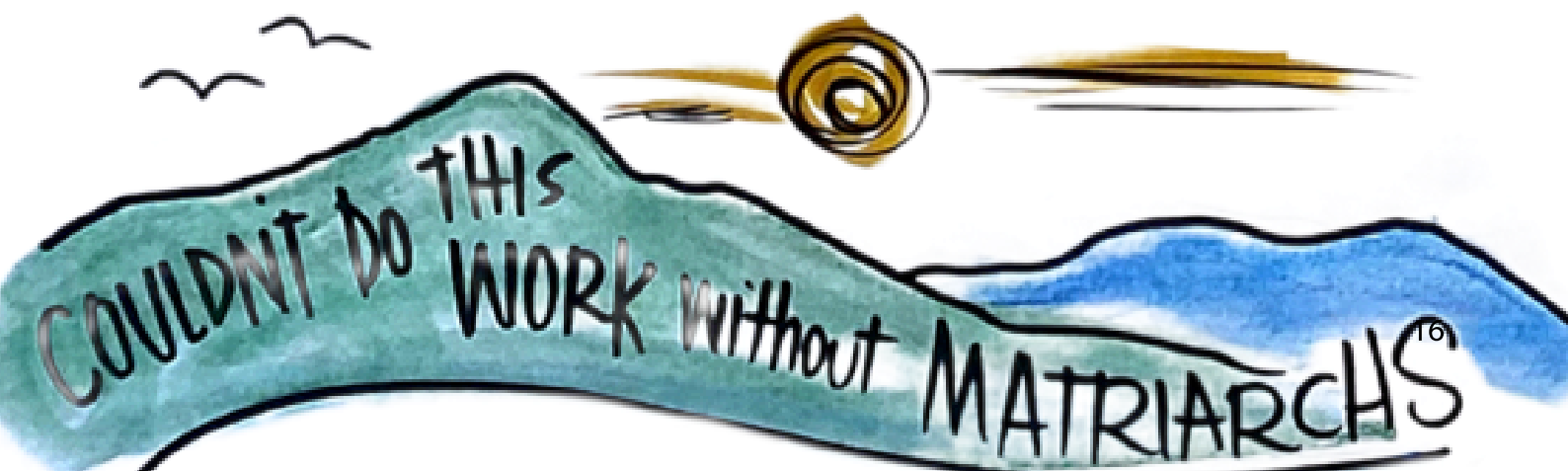
You said...

Develop and support community-based committees

Develop and maintain Community Wellness Teams

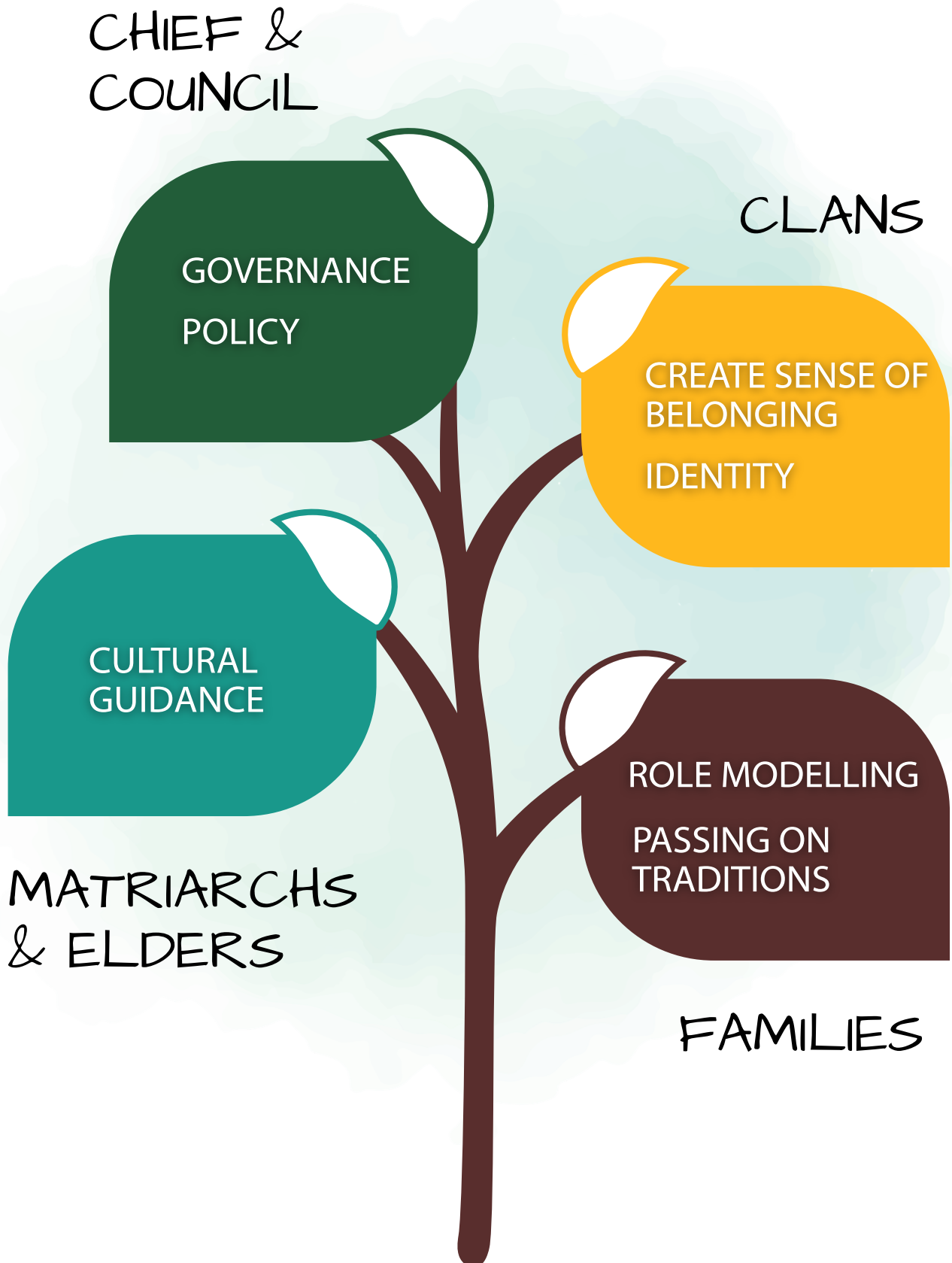
Promote training opportunities to community members

Return to clan-based ways so children can learn their traditional values, culture and how to thrive on the land



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

You said...



Drop-In Sessions

November 21 & 28, 2024

Total responses: 55

In your community, what do children need to thrive?

You said...

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



Elders

28



Culture

21



Activities

17



Family

15



Education

14

February 13 - 14, 2025

Total responses: 84

What do children need to stay connected to their community and culture?

You said...

Number of times the theme appeared in responses



Activities

21



Elders

18



Family

14



Learning

11



Language

10

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 Stellat'en.

We commit to:

- Providing more educational materials and increasing knowledge sharing to help bring community members into the circle.
- Working together with Stellat'en on planning and booking sessions, and finding more opportunities to connect.

How will my input be used?

The feedback you share will assist in developing Stellat'en'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 si!



Appendix: Record of CSFS Jurisdiction Engagement Activity with Stellat'en First Nation

This list reflects CSFS engagement activities within Stellat'en First Nation and partner events in the surrounding area. It is not a comprehensive list of all CSFS Jurisdiction engagements across member Nations. Sessions are ongoing across member Nations and urban centres.

Stellat'en First Nation

Stellat'en Community Update | November 21, 2024

Stellat'en Health Fair | November 28, 2024

Stellat'en Open House | February 13, 2025

Stellat'en Community Engagement | March 25, 2025

Stellat'en Health Fair | October 24, 2025

Stellat'en Community Engagement | April 29, 2026

Urban

All Nations Jurisdiction Picnic in the Park (Prince George) | July 18, 2025

Matriarchs Voices, Jurisdiction Input Session (Prince George) | August 20, 2025

Carrier Sekani Child, Family and Youth Legislation – Leadership Forum | September 19, 2025

Foster Parent Conference, Presentation & Info Booth (Prince George) | October 8, 2025

Jurisdiction Key Message Validation Session (Burns Lake) | February 3, 2026

Jurisdiction Key Message Validation Session (Vanderhoof) | February 4, 2026

Youth Conference, Chaperone Workshop (Prince George) | March 21, 2026

Community Development Symposium, Info Booth (Prince George) | March 25 - 27, 2026

Virtual

Skak ha ba bay / Nezkeh ba (For our Children) Introduction Webinar | February 24, 2026

Visit the calendar at www.csfs.org/jurisdiction and follow the CSFS social media accounts for engagement announcements and schedules.



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UPDATED MAY 2026



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