

We respectfully acknowledge that our offices are located on traditional, ancestral, and unceded Coast Salish homelands, including the territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔt/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations (colonially identified as the City of Vancouver).

March 9, 2023

Via email: MCF.SocialWorkEngagement@gov.bc.ca
Ministry of Children and Family Development
PO Box 9783 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9S3

Re: Joint Submissions in response to MCFD's Social Work Oversight Engagement

Dear Honourable Minister Mitzi Dean:

These submissions have been prepared jointly by West Coast LEAF, Rise Women's Legal Center, Battered Women's Support Services, Feminists Deliver, and individual signatories, Frances Rosner and Meena Dhillon, to provide input into your Ministry's work on social work oversight. We write to provide insight into necessary reforms to social work practice within the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) on behalf of those with experience in and of the system, in our capacity as organizations providing front-line family support services, parents and kinship carers who have had engagement with MCFD, and legal advocates with expertise in child protection law and practice.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspectives on what must be front and centre to align MCFD social work practice with the province's commitments to advance reconciliation and implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). As explained further in these submissions, we call on you to prioritize the following in your work on addressing social work oversight:

1. Acknowledging and addressing the longstanding and ongoing colonial harms of social work on Indigenous parents, families, and children;
2. Upholding family and parental rights and recognizing that the maintenance of family and cultural ties is essential to the well-being of children;
3. Accountability and transparency to families, Indigenous Nations and communities; and
4. Establishing a timely and responsive complaints process in the CFCSA.

In August 2022, we provided submissions to MCFD in its engagement on modernizing the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA). The recommendations offered in these submissions build on and emphasize our many past recommendations that MCFD and social workers authorized to act under the CFCSA engage in decolonizing change by upholding family and parental rights, shifting from apprehension to prevention, prioritizing family and cultural ties, and ensuring accountability and transparency for parents, families, Indigenous Nations, and communities.

We use the term family policing¹ throughout these submissions to describe what is known as the “child protection system” or “child welfare system.” In our collective experience, the CFCSA authorizes and enables a system that maintains power and control over the lives of families and children—most often Indigenous families and children—through surveillance, regulation, and punishment. Those working within the system are thus operating under a legislative scheme that is more aptly described as policing families instead of ensuring child protection or welfare.

1. Acknowledging and addressing the longstanding and ongoing colonial harms of social work on Indigenous parents, families, and children

“[S]ocial work must look in the professional mirror to see its history from multiple perspectives including that of those who experienced the harm.”²

Any meaningful reform of social work oversight must first acknowledge and address the role of social workers in the historic and ongoing colonization of Indigenous children, youth, families, communities, and Nations. Cindy Blackstock’s research reveals that as early as 1946, the Canadian Association of Social Workers and Canadian Welfare Council were not only aware of residential schools but were active participants in the placement of Indigenous children in residential schools until as late as the 1960s.³ Social workers’ (and lawyers’) ignorance of, or willful blindness to, the systemic impacts of colonization and their support for assimilationist and racist colonial policies contributed to the removal and displacement of thousands of Indigenous children over many decades including the Sixties Scoop.⁴ Along with the legal system, the discipline of social work has been instrumental in advancing and upholding settler colonialism by displacing and dispossessing Indigenous children from their families, Nations, and homelands, forcing assimilation, and perpetuating genocide. The removal of children

¹ upEND Movement. “Glossary: family policing system.” 2023. <https://upendmovement.org/family-policing-definition/>; Rise. “Abolition is the Only Answer: A Conversation with Dorothy Roberts.” October 20, 2020. <https://www.risemagazine.org/2020/10/conversation-with-dorothy-roberts/>

² Blackstock, Cindy. “The Occasional Evil of Angels: Learning from the Experiences of Aboriginal People’s and Social Work.” *First Peoples Child & Family Law Review* 4, no. 1 (2008): 35. <https://fpcfr.com/index.php/FPCFR/article/view/74/4>.

³ Blackstock, “The Occasional Evil of Angels,” p. 29-30.

⁴ Blackstock, “The Occasional Evil of Angels,” p. 30; Fortier, Craig and Wong, Edward Hon-Sing. “The settler colonialism of social work and the social work of settler colonialism.” *Settler Colonial Studies* 9, no. 4 (2019): 443. <https://med-fom-osot-inclusive-campus.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2021/01/The-settler-colonialism-of-social-work-and-the-social-work-of-settler-colonialism.pdf>

from their families, communities and lands is not an act of history; today's Millennium Scoop is an ongoing, colonial act of dispossession, displacement and alienation from community, kin and homelands.

Today's family policing system laws and procedures, along with the social work policies and practices they authorize and effect, continue to be rooted in settler colonialism, which prioritizes child apprehension and the surveillance, regulation, and punishment of families profiled as risky or deficient, which has particular impacts on Indigenous families. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission found that ongoing colonial interference in the lives of Indigenous families through the "child welfare" system has "simply continued the assimilation that the residential school system started."⁵ The laws, policies and practices that provide the scaffolding for the family policing system enable the continued complicity of social work in the ongoing interference in the lives of Indigenous families leading to the apprehension of Indigenous children.

Apart from acknowledging and addressing the roots of social work practice as a pillar of colonialism, the laws and policies that empower and guide social workers must go further to facilitate and support Indigenous self-determination and Indigenous Peoples' inherent jurisdiction over the well-being of their children and families. This work can only take place once a transformative reimagining of the role of social workers takes place, shifting from a mindset of risk and apprehension to one of support and prevention. For many Indigenous Nations, self-determination cannot be truly achieved if the family policing system continues to remove Indigenous children from their kin, communities, and homelands.

Social work practice must transform from a colonial, Eurocentric, saviour approach which regards Indigenous children as separate from their families, communities, lands, and cultures to one that is family and relationship-centered, wholistic, culturally safe and which upholds Indigenous rights.⁶ Most importantly, a decolonial approach requires that social workers empowered under the CFCSA understand that they are not the experts on families; rather, families are the experts in anything that impacts them.⁷

We recommend that:

1. MCFD implement Call to Action 1(iii) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report that social workers are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools. We also add that social workers should be properly educated and trained about the history and impact of the Sixties Scoop, and the present-day Millennium Scoop.

⁵ Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. "Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada." (2015), p. 138.

⁶ West Coast LEAF. "Pathways in a Forest: Indigenous Guidance on Prevention-Based Child Welfare." (September 2019), p. 13-18. <https://www.westcoastleaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/West-Coast-LEAF-Pathways-in-a-Forest-web-Sept-17-2019-002-Online-Version-2021-compressed4.pdf>

⁷ West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 15.

2. MCFD implement Call to Justice 12.12 of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls that all child and family service agencies engage in recruitment efforts to hire and promote Indigenous staff, as well as to promote the intensive and ongoing training of social workers with respect to the following:
 - The history of the child-welfare system in the oppression and genocide of Indigenous Peoples
 - Anti-racism and anti-bias training.
3. Build on the success of networks of Care Committee Models as recommended by the First Nations Leadership Council.⁸ Care Committees are designed to provide oversight of how social workers are managing the well-being of children in care.
4. Social workers be educated and trained on family-centered, relationship-centered, and wholistic approaches to working with families, Nations, and communities. This training must be mandatory, comprehensive and ongoing. Specifically, this calls on MCFD staff, including social workers to:
 - Recognize the importance of working collaboratively with parents and caregivers, supporting families to maintain dignity and hope in their unique circumstances, and recognizing Indigenous conceptions of family and kinship.⁹
 - Recognize and actively consider how local cultures and histories can be part of MCFD's programs and services.
 - Familiarize themselves with the distinct historical and ongoing impacts of colonialization on the communities they work within.
5. Social workers be educated and trained on harm reduction approaches.¹⁰ While harm reduction approaches have largely been associated with substance use, these principles have wider application and provide a strong basis upon which MCFD's work must be framed to meaningfully attend to the needs of the families that come under its purview. The principles of harm reduction seek to recognize the harms people are experiencing, facilitate opportunities to meet people where they are at, and work with dignity and compassion for all people. These principles can also be applied by social workers by requiring them to consider a range of options that could diminish instead of increase harm for families and to weigh the potential harms caused by interventions such as removing a child from their parents and community.¹¹
6. Any professional oversight body or association established for social work oversight must demonstrate a plan and commitment to addressing colonialism in social work. We caution that professional bodies, regulators, and associations have historically furthered colonial policies and practices in the social work profession and other professions alike. Merely creating or appointing an

⁸ First Nations Leadership Council. "Bill C92 in British Columbia: Children and Families Jurisdiction Engagement: Recommendations & What We Heard." November 2022, p. 21.

https://www.fnlcchildrenandfamilies.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FNLC_Full_Report_Final_Digital.pdf

⁹ West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 13-18.

¹⁰ West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 17.

¹¹ West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 17.

oversight body for social workers working in the family policing system is insufficient to uproot colonial policies and practices in the field without a bold, actionable plan for transformative, decolonizing change.

2. Upholding family and parental rights and recognizing that the maintenance of family and cultural ties is essential to the well-being of children

Social work practice standards must uphold and advance the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and pursuant to BC's enactment of DRIPA , which recognize that Indigenous families and communities "share responsibility for the upbringing, training, education, and well-being of children."¹²

The failure to support and empower parents, families, communities, and Nations throughout their engagement with MCFD has specific acute impacts which ripple out from the child, their parents, and kin to the broader community, and which persist for generations. Apart from the impact on children being taken from their parents, families and communities, there are negative health outcomes for parents as well.¹³ This includes but is not limited to: a significantly increased risk of overdose in the period following the child's apprehension;¹⁴ increased risk of homelessness for families following removal of children¹⁵; and an intergenerational cycle where children who are removed from their families are more likely to experience their own children being removed through the family policing system.¹⁶

Within the system at present, MCFD staff, including social workers have immense power over parents and caregivers in ways that make collaboration and support difficult – if not impossible – to achieve. Parents and families are subjected to suspicion, surveillance, regulation, and punishment. This may lead to negative outcomes as parents who may benefit from and be open to engaging with supportive services may not seek them out because they fear the consequences of outting themselves as "bad

¹² UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly*, 2 October 2007, A/RES/61/295, p. 5.

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf; West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 36.

¹³ West Coast LEAF and Keeping Families Together. "Submission Regarding Specialized Homes and Support Services Redesign." (2022), p. 4. <https://www.westcoastleaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/WCL-and-KFT-MCFD-Specialized-Homes-and-Services-Redesign-Submission-March-30-2022-Small.pdf>

¹⁴ Thumath, Meaghan et al. "Overdose among mothers: The association between child removal and unintentional drug overdose in a longitudinal cohort of marginalized women in Canada." *International Journal of Drug Policy* 91 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2020.102977>

¹⁵ Pivot Legal Society and West Coast LEAF. "Complaint to the Ombudsperson of British Columbia regarding the conduct of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development: Shelter allowance cuts when children are in the temporary care of the Ministry of Child and Family Development." (2010).

¹⁶ Kenny, Kathleen S et al. "Family Separation and Maternal Self-rated Health: Evidence from a Prospective Cohort of Marginalized Mothers in a Canadian Setting." *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 23, v. 9 (2019): 1232-1239. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7806192/>

parents.” Parents have raised concerns that systemic barriers, such as the lack of affordable and sizable rental housing stock and difficulties in accessing mental health supports, among other barriers, are used against them in decisions about child apprehension. Systemic failures cannot be placed on parents’ shoulders and should never be factored into decision-making about child removal, for even short periods of time.

MCFD practice standards must shift the role of its staff from policing parents and families to valuing them “as full participants in their families, communities, and services rather than as dysfunctional individuals” and engage the family in caring for the affected child(ren).¹⁷ The standards of practice must also require social workers to be proactive in identifying, on an ongoing basis, least intrusive measures, alternatives to removal, and impose on them a positive obligation and the commensurate authority to support families in accessing prevention support services. Awaiting approvals for prevention services from other actors erodes trust between workers and families and adds barriers in a system already plagued with informational asymmetries and delays.

Since 2019, West Coast LEAF has recommended that the BC government and MCFD must ensure that each parent engaging with MCFD has access to a community-based support worker to help them navigate the child protection process. PACK BC has emphasized the need for peer-based support in particular.¹⁸ However, front-line support workers have disclosed that despite their work with a particular family for years, social workers in the family policing system may refuse to engage with them.¹⁹ MCFD must not resist the involvement of support workers for families as their efforts can often make the difference between a child being placed into care or a family remaining together. These workers support parents to identify issues and explore solutions for their family, ensure accountability from social workers, and can assist by sharing with social workers a broad picture of the obstacles the family faces and the strengths it possesses.²⁰

We recommend that social work practice standards:

1. Require social workers to demonstrate that they have actively and diligently pursued less disruptive measures on an ongoing basis. Social workers must investigate, consider and choose the least disruptive approach for children, parents, and families.
2. Require social workers to demonstrate they have implemented a harm reduction approach that considers the range of options that could diminish instead of

¹⁷ Joan Pennell et al, “Taking Child and Family Rights Seriously: Family Engagement and Its Evidence in Child Welfare”. *Child Welfare* 90, v. 4 (2015), p. 9-10. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221891362_Introduction_taking_child_and_family_rights_seriously_Family_engagement_and_its_evidence_in_child_welfare

¹⁸ West Coast LEAF et al. “Joint Submissions in response to MCFD’s Child, Family and Community Service Legislative Reform.” (2022), p. 8. <https://www.westcoastleaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-08-30-West-Coast-LEAF-and-Collective-Submissions-on-BC-CFCSA-Reform.pdf>

¹⁹ West Coast LEAF, “Pathways in a Forest,” p. 66.

²⁰ West Coast LEAF, “Pathways in a Forest,” p. 66.

increase harm for families. Social workers must weigh the benefits and harms that can be caused by the apprehension and placement of children in care, including in cases where a parent or guardian:

- Lacks the same or similar economic and social advantages as others in BC;
 - Engages in substance use or is coping with substance use;
 - Has a disability;
 - Has had engagement with the criminal justice system; and/or
 - Is experiencing domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and/or family violence. In such cases, MCFD needs to create and implement a strategy with adequate policy, standards, resources, and training to prevent the near automatic involvement of MCFD for women who report abusers to the police.²¹
3. Require social workers to reassess parents' and families' circumstances on a continuing basis including to determine if a child can be returned to the parent or family, or to demonstrate that active efforts to return the child proved unsuccessful.
 4. Require social workers to facilitate the most possible and least intrusive means of access for parents and caregivers even after a child has been apprehended. Where possible, social workers should also work with community-based organizations that support parents to exercise their access rights.
 5. Require social workers to maintain written documentation of active efforts to consider the children's and parents' needs and wishes with respect to placement.
 6. Require social workers to demonstrate active and ongoing consideration of whether placement with extended family, kin, and community members is viable before removing a child, and in the case of removal, that efforts to place the child within their community were unsuccessful.
 7. Require social workers to demonstrate how they considered and supported cultural continuity for Indigenous children in their decision-making.
 - Social workers must take active and diligent steps promptly, once the decision to remove a child from their family and community is made, to create a comprehensive ancestral family tree tracing both maternal and paternal lineages to ensure that family and cultural connections are discovered and restored in cases where they have been lost due to colonization.
 - Social workers must make active efforts to support ongoing relationships between parents, families, communities, and Indigenous Nations, or at the least, access to children's family of origin.²²
 8. Require social workers to respond to alternative proposals for placement of a child by parents, Nations, and community-based organizations that support the parent, and to provide prompt written reasons if these proposals are rejected.

²¹ West Coast LEAF et al, "Joint Submissions in response to MCFD's Child, Family and Community Service Legislative Reform," p. 9; West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 67-60.

²² Yellowhead Institute. "An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families Does Bill C-92 Make the Grade?" (2019), p. 20. https://yellowheadinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/does-bill-c-92-make-the-grade_-full-report.pdf

9. Require social workers to demonstrate what prevention services and supports were available to parents and families and what steps were taken to provide and facilitate access to these services, including remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the child's family.
10. Require social workers to support families to secure all available provincial and federal benefits and connect families with community and social services to alleviate and remedy socio-economic conditions that place families at risk.
11. Require social workers to ensure that each parent engaged with MCFD has access to a trained community-based support worker, which includes peer support, to help them navigate the family policing process.

3. Accountability and transparency to families, Indigenous Nations and communities

All MCFD staff, including social workers, must be subject to robust accountability and transparency measures to ensure that the aims of prevention, best interests of the child, and maintaining family, community and cultural ties are upheld. Staff must record and communicate thorough, accurate, and detailed reasons for their decisions so that accountability and transparency to families, communities, and Indigenous nations are prioritized at every stage of the process. Decisions must be recorded in a manner that allows for meaningful review of the reasons and the decision-making process in order to safeguard the rights of children, parents, families, Indigenous Nations, and communities.

The current state of a lack of accountability has resulted in an unhealthy and unjust power dynamic between MCFD staff and the families that come within the Ministry's purview. This dynamic makes parents' interactions with social workers traumatizing and adversarial. It also perpetuates distrust that vastly undermines prevention efforts. Parents must not be made to feel they are at the whim of social workers or be required to abandon all rights to their dignity and autonomy in order to meet shifting requirements from those who hold such incredible power over them.²³

We recommend that:

- Ministry staff, including social workers must be required to promptly notify and provide written reasons to parents, families, Indigenous Nations, and communities about the decision to remove a child, including with respect to the how least intrusive measures were considered and what prevention supports were made available. Written reasons must be clear and in plain language.
 - We have heard that some parents and families have not received written reasons for their child's removal. For those that have received reasons, these reasons were perceived to be inconsistent or insufficient. In *LS v. BC*, the BC Supreme Court found that the mother and the First Nation had

²³ West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 62.

tried hard to obtain reasons for the baby's removal, but they had only "received various inconsistent verbal explanations" from the director.²⁴

- Social workers must document the steps taken to identify and implement least intrusive measures and these reasons must be provided to the court before the removal of a child, including with respect to placement of the child within kinship and community relations.
- Social workers document their efforts to provide prevention services and support to parents and families that are culturally relevant, safe, trauma-informed, and accessible.
- Social workers must have an obligation to provide full disclosure to all parties in a court proceeding as soon as a court proceeding is commenced. It is unfair that the social worker and Director's Counsel control when and which documents are shared with parents in a court proceeding, especially in light of the vast power difference that exists within the family policing system. In many respects, CFCSA proceedings are more akin to a criminal proceeding than they are to a civil suit.
- Social workers must be required to accurately and in plain language explain processes to parents, families, and communities.
- Social workers must be required to provide timely, important information to parents and families about their children. We heard from a parent that it had taken weeks before anyone had contacted her to let her know that her child had attempted suicide.²⁵
- Where parents, families, and Nations have identified less disruptive measures, social workers must provide prompt and clear written reasons for rejecting these measures.²⁶

4. Establishing a timely and responsive complaints process in the CFCSA

Oversight of social workers must address inconsistencies in social work practice and identify and remedy instances where social workers do not follow policies and standards of practice. A robust, timely, impartial, accessible, and fair complaints and remedies process must be established in the CFCSA. We believe this process must be legislated. The current approach of MCFD acting as the arbiter of complaints against its own social workers lacks the procedural safeguards to be an effective tool for accountability. An independent process is essential.

We recommend that:

- An independent complaints and remedies process must be established, that is separate and apart from the MCFD, and which enables parents, families,

²⁴ *L.S. v. British Columbia (Director of Child, Family and Community Services)*, 2018 BCSC 255, para 11.

²⁵ West Coast LEAF, "Pathways in a Forest," p. 57.

²⁶ West Coast LEAF et al, "Joint Submissions in response to MCFD's Child, Family and Community Service Legislative Reform," p. 10.

communities and Indigenous Nations to challenge decisions made by social workers and to participate in the review of these decisions. This complaint process must be set out in the CFCSA to further strengthen the legal obligation to uphold parental rights.

- This process must include remedies and forms of redress for parents and families, including extended families and kinship carers, should social workers' decisions not align with the goals and safeguards set out in legislation, policies, and standards of practice. The remedies must include reconsidering or reversing decisions, expediting action, reviewing and amending policies and procedures to prevent future problems, and providing explanations for errors made. When fault is found, the remedies must include steps that the social worker will take to prevent errors from happening again and acknowledgement of errors.²⁷
- The complaint process must be effective and timely, giving importance to the urgency of addressing and reversing social workers decisions with respect to the removal of children and decisions that impact the bond between the child and its parent, family, community and Indigenous Nation.
- The complaint decisions must be publicized in a public registry to allow for transparency and accountability.
- Social workers must be required to act in a timely manner and must be responsible for adhering to legislative and court-ordered timelines.
 - Social workers' workloads, vacation schedules, and leave of absence cannot excuse significant delays in upholding parental rights.
 - We have heard from parents that have experienced delays in being able to visit with their children. Parents shared that their visitation was canceled because the social worker went on vacation. Delays in visitation can cause trauma to parents, families, and children.
- The independent complaints process must be equipped to assess complaints with a critical and nuanced understanding of racism, especially anti-Indigenous racism. Parents, families, communities and Indigenous Nations must be able to challenge social workers' approaches, demeanor, decisions, and assessments that are perceived as biased and rooted in stereotypes and assumptions. The complaint process must effectively and appropriately identify and respond to unconscious and systemic racism by social workers.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide submissions on this important issue. We are available to respond to questions and to discuss these submissions with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,

²⁷ Office of the Ombudsperson of British Columbia. "Complaint Handling Guide: Setting up Effective Complaint Resolution Systems in Public Organizations." Special Report No. 36 (2020). <https://bcombudsperson.ca/assets/media/OMB-ComplaintsGuide-Dec2020web.pdf>

Humera Jabir (she/her), Staff Lawyer at West Coast LEAF

West Coast LEAF is a BC-based legal advocacy organization. We use legally rooted strategies of litigation, law reform and public legal education to dismantle gender-based discrimination and move toward gender justice. We aim to transform society by advancing access to justice, healthcare and economic security, promoting freedom from gender-based violence, supporting child and family well-being, and ensuring protection for the rights of those who are criminalized.

Kim Hawkins (she/her), Executive Director at Rise Women’s Legal Center

Rise Women’s Legal Centre is a pro bono community legal clinic and teaching facility serving women and gender diverse people all over BC. We provide unbundled legal services for clients otherwise unable to access legal help. Our clients include people who are economically disadvantaged, members of marginalized groups, and people seeking protection from family violence. In addition to providing direct service to clients we conduct original research into family violence and the legal system and provide support and training to provincial advocacy programs.

Angela Marie MacDougall (she/her), Executive Director at BWSS

Battered Women’s Support Services (BWSS) provides education, advocacy, and support services to assist survivors experiencing gender-based violence. We work from a feminist perspective to eliminate gender-based violence and to promote gender equity. For over forty years, BWSS has been working towards ending violence against women, girls, femmes, LGBTQ2S, and non-binary survivors of violence. Our specialized services team provides crisis intervention, legal advocacy, counselling and support, and information services to meet survivors’ individual complex needs. We also provide violence prevention and intervention services, as well as community education and training programs to end gender-based violence.

Feminists Deliver is a grassroots collaboration of BC-based organizations whose disciplines span working with and supporting women, femmes, and gender non-conforming people. We aspire to work with and support Two-Spirit people, non-binary folks, Indigiqueer, trans women, lesbian women, and cis women and girls, and the organizations that support them.

Frances Rosner (she/her) is a Métis lawyer working as a sole practitioner in Vancouver, practicing primarily in family and prison law.

Meena Dhillon (she/her) is a South Asian lawyer working as a sole practitioner in Port Coquitlam, with a practice focused on child centered dispute resolution, children’s law and child protection law. A former social worker with MCFD, Meena is now dedicated to advocating for children and families to receive racially equitable and culturally relevant child welfare services that are rooted in transparency and accountability.