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SEPTEMBER BUDGET UPDATE 2005

*Ministry of
Children and Family
Development*

**2005/06 – 2007/08
SERVICE PLAN UPDATE
SEPTEMBER 2005**



Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication Data

British Columbia. Ministry of Children and Family Development.

2005/06–2007/08 service plan update.

Rev. ed. of: British Columbia. Ministry of Children and Family Development.
Service plan. ISSN 1703-9126.

Available also on the Internet.

ISBN 0-7726-5420-4

1. British Columbia. Ministry of Children and Family Development
2. Children — Services for — British Columbia
3. Child welfare — Government policy — British Columbia
4. Family services — British Columbia.

I. Title. II. Title: Ministry of Children and Family Development 2005/06–2007/08 service plan update.

HV745.B7B74 2005

353.53'31'09711

C2005-960186-8

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Published by the Ministry of Children and Family Development

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

It is my privilege to present the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) 2005/06–2007/08 Service Plan Update September 2005. This plan outlines how the ministry will support government's Five Great Goals through providing services to the people of British Columbia.

Our highest priority is the health, safety and well-being of the thousands of vulnerable children, youth, and their families who depend on the ministry to provide quality services. We will continue to focus our ministry's efforts to plan and implement services that meet the needs of children, youth and their families that produce the most beneficial outcomes.

I have set challenging performance targets in our service plan to guide the ministry's efforts to move toward these desired results. For all of the ministry's services, ongoing monitoring assists with determining that needs are being met in the most effective and efficient manner and that the service delivery system is sustainable.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development, working together with other ministry partners including the Ministries of Health and Education, is committed to building an integrated system of programs and services to increase the capacity of families and communities to provide the optimal context in which to raise a child. The ministry will continue to foster and make improvements to services for young children and their families that support early childhood development, with a focus on prevention, early intervention and child care. By linking child care with early childhood development initiatives, the ministry will work to improve school readiness and school performance, helping to make B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Our ministry will take a cross-government leadership role for early childhood development, child care services and services for children with special needs, ensuring that critical links and partnerships are forged and maintained. Coordinated efforts with other ministry and community partners will assist in building the best system of support in Canada for children with special needs and children at risk.

We will continue the implementation of the multi-year Child and Youth Mental Health Plan across the province. The first two years focussed on making the existing services as effective and efficient as possible. In 2005/06, resource enhancements to children's mental health services are underway to reduce the gap between need and capacity. The ministry will continue to improve B.C.'s mental health service system in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

It is critical to our success that the ministry has effective and responsive approaches to build and support the capacity of families. The use of best practices by staff and service providers

will help to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of services. Strong partnerships and collaborative relationships with other ministries, stakeholders and community partners are also critical components. The ministry's service delivery partners include contracted community service providers, family foster homes, Aboriginal communities, delegated Aboriginal child welfare agencies, school districts and health authorities.

Reflecting the Province's new relationship with Aboriginal people, the ministry has partnered with Aboriginal leaders to address issues relating to the safety and well-being of Aboriginal children and families. The ministry is committed to improving services to better meet the needs of Aboriginal people. We are working with the Aboriginal community to enhance the capacity for service delivery and develop Aboriginal regional authorities to manage Aboriginal child and family services.

As Minister, I am responsible for supporting British Columbia's newest Crown agency, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC), to achieve its mandate to provide and improve upon services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The ministry worked in collaboration with the Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia (IA/CLBC) on the transfer of services from the ministry to the new permanent authority, CLBC. On July 1, 2005, CLBC was established. The province continues to be a leader in developing community-based services for adults with developmental disabilities. The next phase for CLBC will be to review, carefully plan and implement service improvements. This will enable individuals with developmental disabilities to more fully participate in and contribute to their communities. As Minister Responsible, I will ensure that CLBC's activities are monitored and that its obligations and reporting requirements are met.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development 2005/06–2007/08 Service Plan Update September 2005 was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of August 31, 2005 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.



Honourable Stanley B. Hagen
Minister of Children and Family Development

August 31, 2005



Message from the Minister of State for Child Care and Accountability Statement

I am honoured to be British Columbia's first Minister of State for Child Care. The Government of British Columbia recognizes the important role that quality child care plays in ensuring long term positive outcomes for children. B.C's children are our future and I am pleased to lead the child care initiative.

Research confirms that collaborative planning and community-based integrated service delivery, will serve communities well and maximize positive, effective results for children and their families. Government is committed to promoting quality child care and is providing increased supports for low-income parents.

Quality child care contributes to improved child development and increased school readiness, key factors in supporting one of government's Five Great Goals, making B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Establishing a baseline of school readiness for kindergarten-aged children in British Columbia has been a priority of government and is presented in this service plan. British Columbia is the first jurisdiction that has tracked this measure at a provincial level. This will inform future planning and help target new investments in early learning and child care.

It is my pleasure as Minister of State for Child Care to lead collaborative efforts to advance government's long term plan to increase affordable and quality child care, including enhanced supports for low-income parents. Government will be consulting with a number of stakeholders, including the Provincial Child Care Council, in the development of a long term child care plan. Making strategic investments in supports for low-income families supports government's goal of leading the way in North America in healthy living.

Government aims to build the best system of support in Canada for children with special needs. To that end, my responsibilities also include providing leadership in cross-ministry coordination of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) initiatives, disorders that have profound and lifelong effects on children and their families. Accordingly, it is important to focus on prevention as well as services and supports for those children, and their families, who are affected. With my colleagues in other ministries and within the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership, I will be working to increase public awareness and provide an integrated system of supports for those families affected by FASD.

I am confident that families, communities, service partner organizations and government working together can ensure that our young children — our most precious citizens — have every opportunity to succeed.

I am the Minister of State for Child Care and under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, I am accountable for achieving the following results for 2005/06:

- In consultation with the Minister of Children and Family Development and the Minister of Education and the Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, develop and present a plan to the Government Caucus Committee (GCC) on Social Development which outlines actions to strengthen linkages and build better partnerships between child care, early childhood development, and early learning initiatives, and to increase public awareness of the array of services available.
- Produce a draft Family Friendly Workplace strategy and action plan for consultation and present it to the Provincial Child Care Council.
- With other ministers and as a member of the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Partnership, develop a plan for BC's role in the promotion of research and evaluation in FASD prevention and support which is consistent with priorities identified in the provincial FASD Strategic Plan, and present it to the GCC on Social Development.
- Develop a plan in collaboration with the Ministers of Advanced Education and Health to increase the number of skilled and qualified behavioural interventionists for children with autism in B.C. and present the plan to the GCC on Social Development.



Honourable Linda Reid
Minister of State for Child Care

August 31, 2005

Ministry Overview and Core Business Areas

The ministry's mandate is to advance the safety and well-being of vulnerable children and youth; advance early childhood development through strategic investments; and advance and support a community-based system of family services that is sustainable, stable and flexible and promotes innovation, equity, and accountability. The ministry relies on its four core business areas to implement its strategic direction and achieve its goals and objectives.

1. Child and Family Development

This core business area provides a range of services for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children, youth and their families. It includes child protection services; residential; guardianship; foster care; permanency and adoption planning for children permanently in care; and services to strengthen and preserve families. It also includes community child and youth mental health services; community youth justice supervision services; and services to assist youth who are at-risk or who are commercially sexually exploited.

[2005/06: Budget: \$589,842,000 and 2,717 FTEs]

2. Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs

This core business area provides early childhood development, child care services, and services for children and youth with special needs and their families. Early childhood development includes services and initiatives to meet the diverse needs of children from birth up to six years of age. This core business area includes a child care system in which families can choose from a range of available, affordable, safe, quality child care options that meet their diverse needs and support healthy child development. It also includes developmental and support services for children and youth with special needs, such as services and funding for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and early intervention services. [2005/06: Budget: \$450,788,000 and 329 FTEs]

3. Provincial Services

This core business area provides for the administration of specialized provincial services for children and youth, such as youth custody centres, treatment programs for psychiatrically ill or conduct-disordered adolescents, and services for the deaf and hard of hearing. These services complement the delivery of regionally-based community services. This area is also responsible for the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan.

[2005/06: Budget: \$53,717,000 and 621 FTEs]

4. Executive and Support Services

This core business area provides overall advice, direction, leadership and support to ministry programs. This includes overarching policy and legislative support, intergovernmental relations, audit, staff development, performance management and related research functions, administrative and financial support and guidance.

[2005/06: Budget: \$17,632,000 and 205 FTEs]

Adult Community Living Services: Between April 1, 2005 and June 30, 2005, the ministry was responsible for the delivery of services to adults with developmental disabilities.

On July 1, 2005, this service delivery responsibility was transferred to CLBC.

[2005/06: Budget: \$524,664,000 and 80 FTEs]

In addition to overall responsibility for the ministry, the Minister is responsible for supporting CLBC to achieve its mandate to provide and improve upon services to adults with developmental disabilities. The following provide for these services and related responsibilities:

Ministry Services — Adult Community Living

This provides for services to adults with developmental disabilities from April 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005, and for the establishment of CLBC's new governance structure. This funding also provides for the Office of the Advocate for Service Quality and general support and advice to the Minister regarding his CLBC-related responsibilities.

Transfers to Community Living British Columbia

This provides for the funding transfer to CLBC for the governance, management, operations and delivery of services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities from July 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

Further Ministry Information

Further information regarding ministry services, locations and related legislation is available on the ministry website at: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/index.htm.

Resource Summary

| Core Business Areas | 2004/05 Restated Estimates ¹ | 2005/06 Estimates | 2006/07 Plan | 2007/08 Plan |
|--|---|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Operating Expenses (\$000) | | | | |
| Ministry Operations Vote | | | | |
| Child and Family Development ² | 573,369 | 589,842 | 601,982 | 605,588 |
| ECD, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs | 357,882 | 450,788 | 530,664 | 567,529 |
| Provincial Services | 55,106 | 53,717 | 53,548 | 54,059 |
| Executive and Support Services | 17,272 | 17,632 | 17,766 | 17,914 |
| Total Ministry Operations | 1,003,629 | 1,111,979 | 1,203,960 | 1,245,090 |
| Adult Community Living Services Vote | | | | |
| Ministry Services – Adult Community Living | 493,942 | 129,862 | 652 | 652 |
| Transfers to Community Living British Columbia ³ | — | 394,802 | 530,259 | 543,000 |
| Total Adult Community Living Services | 493,942 | 524,664 | 530,911 | 543,652 |
| Total Ministry | 1,497,571 | 1,636,643 | 1,734,871 | 1,788,742 |

¹ These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the September Update 2005 *Estimates* 2005/06. Schedule A of the September Update 2005 *Estimates* 2005/06, presents a detailed reconciliation.

² Based on readiness, the ministry will transfer the authority and responsibility for provision of child and family development services to authorities, where government retains the responsibility for funding, performance agreements, assessing accountabilities and monitoring. The authorities will be responsible for directing operations, enforcing standards, and managing funds and services. The regional authorities will be established incrementally based on readiness. The FTEs have been adjusted to reflect the proposed transfer of FTEs to the regional authorities. The number of actual FTEs transferred will depend on the timing of the transfer.

³ The ministry has transferred authority and responsibility to a single provincial authority, Community Living British Columbia, effective July 1, 2005. The Minister retains responsibility for funding, sets provincial standards and monitors the authority's performance. The authority will be responsible for directing operations, enforcing standards, and managing funds and services. The FTEs have been adjusted to reflect the transfer to this Crown agency effective July 1, 2005.

Ministry of Children and Family Development

| Core Business Areas | 2004/05 Restated Estimates ¹ | 2005/06 Estimates | 2006/07 Plan | 2007/08 Plan |
|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) | | | | |
| Ministry Operations Vote | | | | |
| Child and Family Development ² | 2,628 | 2,717 | 2,557 | 53 |
| ECD, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs | 322 | 329 | 338 | 338 |
| Provincial Services | 697 | 621 | 621 | 621 |
| Executive and Support Services | 182 | 205 | 205 | 205 |
| Total Ministry Operations | 3,829 | 3,949 | 3,728 | 1,221 |
| Adult Community Living Services Vote | | | | |
| Ministry Services — Adult Community Living | 302 | 80 | 5 | 5 |
| Transfers to Community Living British Columbia ³ | — | — | — | — |
| Total Adult Community Living Services | 302 | 80 | 5 | 5 |
| Total Ministry | 4,131 | 3,952 | 3,726 | 1,222 |
| Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000) | | | | |
| Ministry Operations Vote | | | | |
| Executive and Support Services | 11,070 | 17,022 | 18,444 | 16,583 |
| Total Ministry Operations | 11,070 | 17,022 | 18,444 | 16,583 |

¹ These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the September Update 2005 *Estimates* 2005/06. Schedule A of the September Update 2005 *Estimates* 2005/06, presents a detailed reconciliation.

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Ministry of Children and Family Development

| Core Business Areas | 2004/05 Restated Estimates ¹ | 2005/06 Estimates | 2006/07 Plan | 2007/08 Plan |
|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Capital Plan (\$000) | | | | |
| Ministry Operations Vote | | | | |
| Child and Family Development ² | 2,660 | 625 | 625 | 625 |
| ECD, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs | — | — | — | |
| Provincial Services | 2,132 | 9,000 | 4,454 | — |
| Executive and Support Services | — | — | — | — |
| Total Ministry Operations | 4,792 | 9,625 | 5,079 | 625 |
| Adult Community Living Services Vote | | | | |
| Ministry Services – Adult Community Living | 7,040 | — | — | — |
| Transfers to Community Living British Columbia ³ | — | 1,458 | 8,064 | 7,324 |
| Total Adult Community Living Services | 7,040 | 1,458 | 8,064 | 7,324 |
| Totals | 11,832 | 11,083 | 13,143 | 7,949 |
| Other Financing Transactions (\$000) | | | | |
| Executive and Support Services | | | | |
| — Human Services Providers Financing Program | | | | |
| Receipts | 146 | 148 | 142 | 140 |
| Disbursements | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Cash Source (Requirements) | 146 | 148 | 142 | 140 |

¹ These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the September Update 2005 *Estimates* 2005/06. Schedule A of the September Update 2005 *Estimates* 2005/06, presents a detailed reconciliation.

² Based on readiness, the ministry will transfer the authority and responsibility for provision of child and family development services to authorities, where government retains the responsibility for funding, performance agreements, assessing accountabilities and monitoring. The authorities will be responsible for directing operations, enforcing standards, and managing funds and services. The regional authorities will be established incrementally based on readiness. The FTEs have been adjusted to reflect the proposed transfer of FTEs to the regional authorities. The number of actual FTEs transferred will depend on the timing of the transfer.

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Strategic Context

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

The Ministry of Children and Family Development envisions a province where children are healthy, families are responsible, and all live in safe, caring and inclusive communities.

Mission

Our mission is to promote and develop the capacity of families and communities to support healthy child development, access and provide quality child care, and care for and protect vulnerable children and youth.

Values

- We believe that government must acknowledge and reinforce the capacity of communities to enhance the resilience of children and families. This is demonstrated through our support of community-based early childhood development initiatives, quality child care options, community child and youth mental health and youth justice services and providing assistance for children and youth with special needs and their families. We place an emphasis on adoption for children in permanent care and we are committed to community-based service delivery models.
- We believe in the right and primary responsibility of families to protect and support the growth and development of children and youth. This ministry believes it should provide the least intrusive intervention necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable community members. This is demonstrated through agreements with the child's extended family and close friends and greater use of family development approaches, such as mediation and family group conferencing, to keep families safely together.

Planning Context and Key Strategic Issues

Changing Demographics and Service Needs

In British Columbia there are approximately 907,000 children and youth, representing 21.5 per cent of the province's total population. An estimated 583,000 are children aged 0–12, including 247,000 children under age six. The child population (0–12 years) has declined by six per cent since 2001.

Aboriginal Children and Families

Aboriginal children represent approximately nine per cent of the child population in the province. While the overall child population in B.C. has declined over the past five years, the number of Aboriginal children has decreased at a slower rate than the population of non-Aboriginal children. The percentage of the province's child population that is Aboriginal continues to increase.

Within the current MCFD service delivery structure, Aboriginal children continue to be over-represented in child welfare services, accounting for 49 per cent of all children-in-care (August 2005). Aboriginal children are also over-represented in the youth justice system. The Province recognizes the need to work with Aboriginal communities to support families to care for their children. In September 2002, the Province and Aboriginal political leadership established a joint-dialogue and decision making process regarding issues relating to the safety and well-being of Aboriginal children and families. Since then, the ministry, in partnership with Aboriginal stakeholders, has been implementing a joint multi-year plan to move authority and responsibility for services closer to Aboriginal communities.

Children and Youth with Special Needs

There are approximately 52,000 children and youth with special needs in British Columbia aged birth to 18 years of age. These children require medical, health, educational and social supports in order to fully participate in family, school and community life. Improvements in diagnostic tools, coupled with increased public awareness of special needs and advances in medical science and technology, have contributed to increased demand for services. Medical technology has afforded a 70-fold increase in the survival rate of low birth weight infants. However, as many as 80 per cent of extremely low birth weight infants will have some form of disability — 22 per cent with severe life long disabilities. Better diagnosis and screening has resulted in the identification of more children with disabilities including those with autism.

Child Care

Of the approximately 583,000 children aged 0–12 in B.C., an estimated 42 per cent (approximately 250,000 children) receive some child care services while their parents are

working, going to school or participating in community activities. For 2004/05, an average of 25,082 children aged 0–12 were supported through child care subsidies.

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agreement with the federal government provides five years of federal funding to enhance early learning and child care in British Columbia in regulated settings for children under the age of six. Based on this agreement, the ministry's budget has been increased by \$55.2 million in 2005/06, \$122.4 million in 2006/07 and \$151.7 million in 2007/08.

Early Childhood Development

Experiences in early childhood have a profound impact on the health, well-being and development of individuals over the course of their lives. The early years have the most important influence of any time in the life cycle on brain development and subsequent learning, behaviour and health. In B.C., there are 247,000 children under age six. Studies indicate that approximately 25 per cent of all children in B.C. are developmentally vulnerable when they enter school. In partnership with the federal government, the Province has made strategic investments in evidence-based early childhood development programs and services that support young children, their families and communities.

Child Protection and Adoption

Government receives approximately 30,000 protection reports for children and youth each year. The number of children in care, which dropped from a high of 10,775 in June 2001, was stable throughout 2004/05. As of March 2005, there were 9,071 children in care. These figures include some children and youth with special needs including some children and youth in care by parental agreement. There are almost 1,700 children whose after-care plan is adoption. There were over 300 adoption placements in 2004/05. Recruiting adoption applicants, particularly applicants from minority cultures, continues to be a ministry priority.

Children and Youth at Risk

Approximately 140,000 (15 per cent) of B.C.'s children and youth experience some form of mental disorder causing significant distress that impairs their functioning at home, at school, with peers and in the community. An estimated one per cent of young people aged 16–18 years (about 1,700 individuals) are considered to be at high-risk and are living in situations that jeopardize their safety and well-being. Risk factors could include sexual exploitation, misuse of alcohol and drugs, significant mental health issues, involvement in criminal activities, homelessness, and detachment from family, school and work.

Youth in Custody

Youth custody counts remained stable in 2004/05. An average of 153 youth (aged 12–17 years) were in custody at facilities throughout the province in 2004/05, and an average of

2,469 youth were on supervision in the community. In 2004/05, approximately 38 per cent of the total number of youth in custody were Aboriginal and 15 per cent were female.

Community Living Services

On July 1, 2005, Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) was formally established as a provincial Crown agency. The goal of the ministry and the Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia (IA/CLBC) in establishing CLBC was to create an organization dedicated to ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities participate in and contribute to their communities and live a full and valued life. CLBC is responsible for directing operations, enforcing standards, and managing funds related to the delivery and transformation of services. Government retains responsibility for funding, performance agreements, and the monitoring and assessing of accountabilities of the agency. Demographics and service needs for this population are addressed in CLBC's service plan.

Children's Community Living Services are presently being administered by CLBC. At this time, the Ministry retains budget, policy, monitoring and accountability for these services. Over the next year, MCFD and CLBC will work together to support CLBC's provision of independent planning support and family support services for children and youth with developmental disabilities ages six to 18 and their families. For families of children with developmental disabilities under age six, independent planning and support will be available to those who request services. All other services to children and youth with special needs will be provided by the ministry.

Risks and Assumptions

There are a number of factors, risks and assumptions that impact the ministry's ability to meet its planned goals, objectives and performance targets. As well, a number of the ministry's programs and services are demand driven (e.g., child care subsidy); are provided to meet health and safety needs (e.g., particular services for children with special needs); or are required through legislation (e.g., child protection services, youth justice). Challenges for the ministry's service delivery system include changing demographics; meeting the expectations for services from clients, their families and the public; and providing these services within the ministry's budget and resource allocation.

The following assumptions form the basis of this service plan and will contribute to its success:

- The ministry will continue to maintain and develop collaborative partnerships and effective working relationships with our contracted service providers, community-based organizations and government partners.
- The ministry will continue to maintain a skilled, responsive and motivated professional workforce; improve working conditions for staff; and foster a healthy working environment where staff contributions are recognized.

- Within a three-year period, the ministry will implement a client management and contract management system that will enable the ministry to effectively link client information to services provided and expenditures. The availability of effective and efficient information systems and processes for the ministry's operations are essential to supporting the ministry's ability to manage and make informed decisions regarding its programs and services. The ministry is working collaboratively with other ministries to implement its Information and Resource Management Plan (IRMP). It is the ministry's vision that delegated Aboriginal agencies providing ministry-funded services will use a common information system.
- The ministry will continue to improve the accountability of contracted social services. This will support socially and fiscally responsible management of community-based social services throughout the province. The ministry will be implementing performance-based contracts with contracted agencies and community organizations to improve service quality and ensure the most effective use of available resources.
- The ministry emphasizes and applies research-based approaches and practices to provide staff, service providers and community partners with the tools they need to support the planning and delivery of its services.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

This section presents the ministry's goals and outlines how specific objectives, strategies and performance measures are helping to achieve these goals. Brief descriptions are provided on some of the initiatives and activities the ministry will undertake to achieve its goals and objectives. Progress towards goals and objectives will be monitored and reported by performance measures. For each performance measure, baseline data are provided along with annual performance targets for the next three years.

Service plan performance measures will continue to develop over time as the ministry's needs, resources and priorities change and as new and better performance information becomes available. The ministry will be evaluating its performance measures to ensure they are meaningful and focus on the desired outcomes for the individuals receiving services.

The ministry continues to collect, monitor and make available additional statistics¹ and report on service trends and outcomes associated with services provided to children and families.

Ministry Goals and their Linkage to the Five Great Goals

The following diagram displays the linkages between the Five Great Goals and the ministry's mission, goals, key objectives and performance measures. The ministry supports the Five Great Goals through its work in areas such as child protection, early childhood development, child and youth mental health, and child care, including services to children and youth with special needs.

¹ <http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcfd>

Ministry Performance Plan Summary

| Five Great Goals | Ministry Mission | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| | Our mission is to promote and develop the capacity of families and communities to support healthy child development, access and provide quality child care, and care for and protect vulnerable children and youth. | | |
| | Ministry Goals | Ministry Key Objectives | Measures / Indicators |
| <p>To make B.C. the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. To lead the way in North America in physical fitness and healthy living. To build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors.</p> | <p>1. Children and youth are healthy and safe in their families and communities.</p> | <p>1.1. A comprehensive and responsive child welfare system that promotes safety, family continuity and permanency for children.</p> | <p>Number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care. Number of families referred to family support services. Number of adoptions of children in care of the ministry.</p> |
| | | <p>1.2. An increasingly culturally appropriate service delivery system for Aboriginal children and families.</p> | <p>Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies. Per cent of Aboriginal children in care of the ministry who are cared for by Aboriginal families.</p> |
| | | <p>1.3. Enhanced services for specific child and youth populations, such as young offenders, children and youth at risk for or with mental disorders, and children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited.</p> | <p>Rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12-17 year olds (per 10,000). Number of children and youth served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services.</p> |
| | <p>2. Children and youth, including those with special needs, are supported to achieve their full potential.</p> | <p>2.1. Increased family and community capacity to support early childhood development.</p> | <p>Number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance early childhood development services for young Aboriginal children and their families. Per cent of children who enter kindergarten "ready to learn".</p> |
| | | <p>2.2. Accessible and quality child care.</p> | <p>Number of funded licensed child care spaces available. Number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy.</p> |
| | | <p>2.3. Increased access to early intervention and support services to assist families caring for children and youth with special needs.</p> | <p>Per cent of children under six with special needs and their families who receive supported child development services within three months of service request. Per cent of children under six with special needs receiving an early intervention therapy within three months of service request.</p> |
| | <p>3. Adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are served by effective, efficient and accountable community-based service delivery systems.</p> | <p>3.1. Creation of a provincial community living authority.</p> | <p>An authority established under legislation assumes responsibility for delivery of some or all community living services.</p> |
| | | <p>3.2. Creation of regional authorities to oversee delivery of child and family services.</p> | <p>Number of authorities established under legislation that assume responsibility for delivery of child and family services.</p> |

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

Goal 1: *Children and youth are healthy and safe in their families and communities.*

Maintaining and improving the well-being and safety of children and youth are principal outcomes for the ministry. Research and experience confirms that this is best achieved in the context of family and community. The primary responsibility for protecting and supporting the positive growth and development of children and youth rests with families. Ministry services work to enhance the resiliency of children, youth and families. This is addressed by working with communities, individuals and families to build their capacity to support positive outcomes for children.

Despite everyone's best efforts some children experience negative factors that impact their well-being. Some develop serious mental health problems and some are sexually exploited or are at risk for other reasons. As it is in our common interest to see the children and youth of B.C. thrive, the ministry provides services to reduce risk and to prevent and reduce the effects of these conditions. We acknowledge that some children and youth lack safe, nurturing family relationships or engage in risky or criminal behavior. When these vulnerable children are placed in our care or custody, or are engaged with our services, the ministry takes appropriate responsibility for protecting and supporting their positive growth and development.

A goal of the child welfare system is a safe and nurturing home for all children who come to the attention of the ministry. The ministry seeks a permanent family home for all children who would otherwise remain in the care of the ministry until they reach adulthood.

Research and consultation with Aboriginal communities concerning the health and well-being of Aboriginal children, youth and families indicate that a strong cultural component in services yields improvements in health and well-being. The ministry is committed to increasing the cultural appropriateness of child and family services received by Aboriginal families.

Core Business Areas: *Child and Family Development, Provincial Services, Executive and Support Services.*

Objective 1.1: *A comprehensive and responsive child welfare system that promotes safety, family continuity and permanency for children.*

The ministry envisions a child welfare system that promotes safety, continuity and permanency. To support this direction, the ministry is providing more out-of-care options to keep children safe within their families and communities. "Out-of-care options" refer

to alternative care arrangements with extended family or close friends for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are temporarily unable to live with their parents. Out-of-care placements build on family and community strengths and maintain the continuity of family and community relationships, contributing to better outcomes for the children, youth and families served. The ministry also works with a child's extended family and others to develop a plan to keep the child safe, and to support the continuity of family and community relationships for the child. When it is not possible for a child to live permanently with parents or extended family, the ministry seeks a home for the child through adoption or other permanent out-of-care options. Relationships with the child's natural family — and, in the case of an Aboriginal child, the Aboriginal community — continue to be supported by the ministry.

Key strategies include: supporting families to keep children at home safely; expanding planning options with families to provide increased opportunities for joint decision-making and increased involvement in care plans by family and community members; increasing the use of non-court processes such as family conferencing, alternate dispute resolution processes and mediation to resolve child-protection issues; helping children in care to develop and maintain permanent family and other life-long relationships; and greater use of out-of-care options.

Performance Measures:

One of the key elements of the child welfare system is attempting to place children with people who know them and will maintain a life-long relationship with them and their families when they return to their parents. The first measure reflects the service delivery direction to move from ministry care arrangements to care arrangements that support and recognize the importance of maintaining the continuity of family and community relationships for children.

“Family support services” (also known as “family development response”) refers to supportive services provided to families that come to the attention of the ministry but whose children are not found to be in need of protective services. Family support services are intended to improve family functioning and prevent problems that might lead to a child welfare investigation and children coming into the care of the ministry. Services include counselling, referrals for substance misuse or mental health treatment and parenting education. Tracking the number of families provided with support services is an indication of how well the ministry is supporting families to continue to care for their children.

In the 2006/07–2008/09 Service Plan, the ministry will incorporate the federal/provincial/territorial Child Welfare National Outcome measures. Additional ministry statistics regarding child protection services can be found online at:

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/stats_results_intro.html.

The key feature of permanency planning is seeking a permanent family home for all children who would otherwise remain in ministry care until they reach adulthood. The ministry made this a priority. Between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2005, 888 children in the care of the ministry were placed into permanent family homes. The number of adoptions of children who have been in the care of the ministry illustrates how many of these children now belong to a permanent family. The level of adoption activity has increased dramatically over the past three years. There were approximately 1,200 children registered for adoption and approximately 291 families with approved home studies as of March 31, 2005.

| Performance Measures | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Number of children placed with extended family or in community as an alternative to coming into care. | 668 | 675 | 700 | 740 |
| Number of families referred to family support services. | Baseline to be established in 2005/06 ¹ | 15% over baseline | 5% over 2005/06 (actual) | 5% over 2006/07 (actual) |
| Number of adoptions of children in care of the ministry. | 308 | 300 | 300 | 300 |

¹ New data collection requirements will allow for a more accurate count later in 2005/06.

Objective 1.2: *An increasingly culturally appropriate service delivery system for Aboriginal children and families.*

In order to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families, the ministry is working to increase the cultural appropriateness of services provided to Aboriginal children and families in B.C. This includes services provided directly by the ministry and efforts to increase Aboriginal capacity for service delivery. As of April 1, 2005, 21 Aboriginal agencies have been “delegated” with the legal responsibility to provide child welfare services for children and families in their community. This strengthens community resources and makes culturally appropriate resources more accessible for Aboriginal children and their families. The ministry is also working with delegated Aboriginal agencies to increase the scope of services they provide. The ministry supports and consults with delegated Aboriginal agencies, assisting these agencies in meeting mandatory requirements under the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act*.

Key strategies include: developing new delegated Aboriginal agencies and expanding the scope of existing Aboriginal agencies; implementing initiatives to recruit and support Aboriginal foster and adoptive parents; increasing cultural awareness; hiring and retaining

Aboriginal staff; and allocating funding from the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan for the development of Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health services delivered by Aboriginal agencies.

Performance Measures:

The per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies (rather than the ministry) is a measure of how many children are receiving culturally appropriate services.

Wherever possible, the ministry places Aboriginal children in its care with Aboriginal families, to maintain the child’s connection with their cultural heritage, community and family. Measuring the per cent of Aboriginal children who are cared for by Aboriginal families is an indication of success in this approach.

| Performance Measures | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Per cent of Aboriginal children in care who are served by delegated Aboriginal agencies. | 30.7% | 33 % ¹ | 36% | 39% |
| Per cent of Aboriginal children in care of the ministry who are cared for by Aboriginal families. ² | To be determined in 2005/06 | To be determined in 2005/06 | To be determined in 2005/06 | To be determined in 2005/06 |

¹ The 2004/05 target from the 2004/05 service plan was not achieved. Consequently, the targets for 2005/06 and subsequent years have been revised.

² The definition of this measure has been revised to include those Aboriginal children cared for by delegated Aboriginal agencies. Baseline and targets for the revised measure are to be determined in 2005/06.

Objective 1.3: *Enhanced services for specific child and youth populations, such as young offenders, children and youth at risk for or with mental disorders, and children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited.*

The ministry is working to provide better services for specific child and youth populations, such as young offenders; children and youth at risk of, or suffering from, mental disorders; and children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited. The ministry continues to enhance services to children and youth through implementation of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. MCFD will be strengthening services for commercially sexually exploited youth, with a view to introducing Safe Care legislation, as well as continuing to provide a broad range of community-based services for children and youth in conflict with the law.

Key strategies include: expanding community-based mental health treatment and support services; providing early intervention and support resources in schools to help children and youth develop healthy coping skills; implementing new services for youth who are commercially sexually exploited; and continuing to use innovative, non-custodial approaches like community-based alternatives to custody for youth in conflict with the law.

Performance Measures:

Monitoring and reporting on the rate of youth in custody is a standard measure across Canadian provinces and territories and indicates the use of one of the justice system’s responses to youth crime.

Improved access, a primary focus of the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan, will support earlier identification and treatment of children and youth who are at risk of, or have, a mental disorder, thereby reducing the severity and consequences of mental health problems. The number of clients served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services measures access to services for this population. For more information on the plan, see the website at: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/mh_publications/cymh_plan.htm#about.

| Performance Measures | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12-17 year olds (per 10,000). ¹ | 4.8 per 10,000 ¹ | Maximum 6 per 10,000 | Maximum 6 per 10,000 | Maximum 6 per 10,000 |
| Number of children and youth served by Child and Youth Mental Health Services. | New Measure | Establish Baseline | To be determined in 2005/06 | To be determined in 2005/06 |

¹ Restated figure based on data revisions.

Goal 2: *Children and youth, including those with special needs, are supported to achieve their full potential.*

The ministry recognizes that the quality of care that children receive in the early years is critical to their success in school and in life. There are significant long-term benefits for individuals and society of supporting optimal early childhood development. All stages in life are significant, but research confirms that the period from conception to school age is particularly crucial to the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of a child. In Canada, significant differences in developmental status exist among children by the time they enter school. Approximately one quarter of Canadian children enter school requiring further developmental support. Early childhood development programs encourage healthy and optimal development of children and lead to better outcomes for individuals, families and communities. The ministry is committed to developing and supporting initiatives that will increase the capacity of families and communities to support early childhood development. By working with our ministry partners and with the support of families, service providers and communities, young children will have every opportunity to thrive.

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) agreement with the federal government provides five years of federal funding to enhance early learning and child care in British Columbia in regulated settings for children under the age of six. Our commitment is to initiate and enhance programs, including quality child care options, in order to maximize children's growth and development and increase families' abilities to provide a safe, nurturing environment. Cross-ministry working partnerships and cooperation will be important to support this overall approach.

The ministry supports a broad range of services that assist children with special needs to live as fully and independently as possible within their homes and communities. The ministry provides intervention and support services for children and youth with special needs and their families, which range from infant development programs to nursing support services. Children with special needs may require intensive, specific intervention, on a short-term, periodic or long-term basis. Services and supports are intended to promote healthy development, maximize quality of life and assist families in their role as primary caregivers. Families of children with special needs have access to programs that are based on a family-centred approach and offer parents as much choice as possible.

Core Business Areas: *Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to Children with Special Needs; and Executive and Support Services.*

Objective 2.1: *Increased family and community capacity to support early childhood development.*

The ministry provides a cross-ministry leadership role in planning and strengthening early childhood development services in B.C. in collaboration with other ministries including

the Ministry of Health. MCFD is working to provide parents with the information they need about early childhood development and to increase service choice and flexibility. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, MCFD is planning an overall approach to early learning and literacy. These efforts will support government's goal to make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent. By making strategic investments in early childhood development, children will have the foundation skills to thrive and succeed in life.

The ministry is committed to investing in community-based initiatives throughout the province that are supportive of the Five Great Goals and include a strong community investment focus. The enhancement of community resources through initiatives like *Success by 6* helps to build community capacity, supports sustainable community partnerships and improves access to appropriate early childhood development services.

Key strategies include: building on existing services to support communities to integrate and enhance their early childhood development delivery systems that support and promote children's healthy growth, development and lifelong learning; and supporting Aboriginal communities to develop and implement early childhood strategies to meet their needs. The ministry is also working closely with the Ministries of Health and Education to improve screening, assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and support services for children with developmental, behavioural conditions.

Performance Measures:

One of the ministry's key efforts is to build capacity within Aboriginal communities to deliver culturally appropriate services, including those with an emphasis on early childhood and family development. The first measure reflects the ministry's commitment to providing and supporting initiatives and services that support the early childhood development needs of young Aboriginal children and their families. The second measure relates to the government and ministry priorities for early childhood development services that support children's readiness to learn. British Columbia is the first jurisdiction to track this measure at a provincial level. Provincial baseline data from 2004/05 show that 75 per cent of kindergarten students are "ready to learn." However this indicates that 25 per cent of B.C. kindergarten children are vulnerable in one or more developmental areas. Progress regarding this measure will be reported in the ministry's service plan report for 2007/08, as the provincial level assessment data for this measure is collected over a three-year period.

| Performance Measures | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|--|---------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Number of Aboriginal initiatives that enhance early childhood development services for young Aboriginal children and their families. | 86 | 90 | 95 | 100 |
| Per cent of children who enter kindergarten “ready to learn”. | 75% | N/A (Data collected every three years) | N/A (Data collected every three years) | 78% |

Objective 2.2: Accessible and quality child care.

Provincial child care investments focus on meeting the needs of families and increasing the quality of child care. Quality child care contributes to improved child development and increased school readiness. The ministry is responsible for taking a cross-ministry leadership role for child care services in the province. Under the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) bilateral agreement between the province and the federal government, the ministry will be developing and releasing an ELCC Action Plan for B.C.

Key strategies include: developing and implementing the ELCC Action Plan; investing federal dollars to increase funded, licensed child care spaces and support parents; improving the identification of community needs when targeting investments to provide low and moderate income families with increased access to child care; moving to a more efficient electronic child care subsidy administration system; and identifying opportunities for service improvements including increasing the quality of early childhood education and increasing the number of qualified early childhood educators.

Performance Measures:

The ministry is working to build a sustainable, accessible, safe, quality child care system by increasing child care resources. The number of funded licensed child care spaces available and the number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy are measures of accessibility regarding quality child care in B.C. Government support for child care spaces helps to make child care more affordable for parents. Funded licensed child care spaces are those that are funded under the child care operating funding program. The number of spaces receiving this funding is one indicator of government’s support for child care service providers. The child care operating funding program is a voluntary program. Not all eligible providers apply for funding. Some child care arrangements are not eligible for funding (e.g., child minding services provided at shopping malls and ski hills).

Baseline and target numbers will be updated for the 2005/06 Annual Service Plan Report as the current information system is being redeveloped to improve the accuracy of the existing and future child care subsidy data.

| Performance Measures | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|---|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of funded licensed child care spaces available. ¹ | 76,440 | 85,000 | 95,000 | 105,000 |
| Number of children whose families receive a child care subsidy. | 25,082 ² | 27,500 | 33,000 | 40,000 |

¹ Targets reflect anticipated ELCC funding

² The current baseline figure is subject to change as a result of ongoing improvements in data reporting systems.

Objective 2.3: *Increased access to early intervention and support services to assist families caring for children and youth with special needs.*

The ministry provides services that include prevention, screening, assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and support services for children with developmental behavioural conditions including children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Over the next three years, MCFD will commit new resources to increase access and reduce waiting times for early intervention therapies, school-aged therapies, infant development programs, supported child development, respite services, supports for children with complex health needs and children with sensory impairments. The ministry is working collaboratively with the Ministries of Health and Education to improve the integration of services in B.C. for families of children and youth with special needs, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Key strategies include: increasing access and reducing waiting times for services and supports for children with special needs and their families; creating a range of appropriate and effective services and supports for children and youth with special needs and their families, taking into account developmental milestones and transitions; improving access to information about services; and improving cross-ministry planning and co-ordination for provincial and community-based services.

Performance Measures:

Supported Child Development (SCD) Services are provided to families for children with special needs to help them to attend community child care settings. There are two components to SCD: a consultation service and extra staff supports. Monitoring the time from when an individual support plan is completed and when services are requested to when a child begins receiving the extra staff supports, will help the ministry to assess how well we serve families and to determine how best to distribute resources.

Children with special needs receive significant benefits from early intervention services that promote physical, cognitive, social, emotional and communication skill development. An important component of the ministry's services to children with special needs is early intervention therapies: speech/language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Monitoring the time from when a family requests a therapy service to when they begin receiving an early intervention therapy service will help the ministry to measure access to these services.

| Performance Measures | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Per cent of children under six with special needs and their families who receive supported child development services within three months of service request. | New Measure | Establish Baseline | To be determined in 2005/06 | To be determined in 2005/06 |
| Per cent of children under six with special needs receiving an early intervention therapy within three months of service request. | New Measure | Establish Baseline | To be determined in 2005/06 | To be determined in 2005/06 |

Goal 3: *Adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are served by effective, efficient and accountable community-based service delivery systems.*

The ministry is committed to the development of authorities that will bring decisions regarding services closer to those who use them. The ministry believes adults with developmental disabilities, children, youth, and their families are best served through a community-based service delivery system. Safety, service quality and accountability are paramount considerations in developing effective, efficient service delivery systems.

In early 2005, MCFD and the Interim Authority for Community Living British Columbia (IA/CLBC) worked together to plan and implement a smooth transition of services. As a result, on July 1, 2005, the responsibility for adult community living services was transferred to Community Living British Columbia (CLBC).

The ministry is working in partnership with Aboriginal communities to establish regional Aboriginal authorities that will take over responsibility for services to Aboriginal children and families.

The ministry continues to make improvements to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of services and service systems. This work requires strong partnerships and collaborative relationships with the ministry's stakeholders and community partners to achieve the service plan's goals and objectives. This includes improving contract management and financial practices with service providers. The ministry will continue to focus on improving the ministry's project management and monitoring and accountability systems, including quality assurance mechanisms such as accreditation, audits and reviews.

Core Business Areas: *Child and Family Development;
Early Childhood Development, Child Care and Supports to
Children with Special Needs;
Provincial Services;
Executive and Support Services; and
Adult Community Living Services.*

Objective 3.1: *Creation of a provincial community living authority.*

The ministry's move to community governance shifts the planning and management of programs and services closer to recipients and increases the ability of those programs to respond appropriately to individual needs. CLBC is accountable for the quality and effectiveness of services for adults with developmental disabilities and for the management of public funds. On July 1, 2005, the community living authority, CLBC, was established as a Crown agency in accordance with the legislation passed in October 2004 that provides for the authority and for its assumption of responsibility for service delivery.

Key strategies include developing accountability requirements and measures for the new provincial authority and supporting the ongoing development of CLBC.

Performance Measure:

CLBC is responsible for a service delivery system that meets strict accountability requirements for effectiveness, quality, efficiency and financial management. Performance measures will be determined by CLBC with the Minister’s approval and will be included in CLBC’s Service Plan. Progress towards these performance measures will be reported in CLBC’s Annual Service Plan Report.

| Performance Measure | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| An authority established under legislation assumes responsibility for the delivery of some or all community living services. | 0 | CLBC established (accomplished July 1, 2005) | Future performance measures and targets will be detailed in CLBC’s Service Plan | Future performance measures and targets will be detailed in CLBC’s Service Plan |

Objective 3.2: *Creation of regional authorities to oversee delivery of child and family services.*

Implementation of regional authorities will focus first on the establishment of the Aboriginal authorities. The regional Aboriginal authorities, once established, will be accountable for the quality and effectiveness of services and the management of public funds. The authorities’ responsibilities to individuals who require services, and to their broader communities, will be addressed as part of the accountability requirements placed on the authorities.

Key strategy: implementing a jointly developed plan to establish regional Aboriginal authorities.

Performance Measure:

The establishment of the regional Aboriginal authorities is expected to occur in 2006/07, followed by the regional authorities for non-Aboriginal child and family services in 2007/08. The authorities will be considered established when they assume responsibility under legislation for the delivery of some or all services. Authorities will be required to meet accountability requirements.

Ministry of Children and Family Development

| Performance Measure | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Number of regional authorities established under legislation that assume responsibility for delivery of child and family services. | 0 | 0 | 5 regional Aboriginal authorities | 5 Regional child and family services (non-Aboriginal) authorities |

Related Initiatives and Planning Processes

Deregulation and Regulatory Reform

In the three years ending in June 2004, the ministry reduced its regulatory burden by 53 per cent. This accomplishment exceeded government's commitment to reduce government regulatory requirements by one-third, as well as the ministry's 40 per cent reduction target.

The ministry is committed to maintaining its regulatory burden at the June 2004 baseline level. All new regulatory requirements will be evaluated against the regulatory reform criteria and related policy. Where possible, the ministry will identify opportunities to further reduce regulation and to move to results-based regulation.

| Performance Measure | 2004/05 Baseline | 2005/06 Target | 2006/07 Target | 2007/08 Target |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Per cent increase to the number of regulatory requirements set at June 2004. | 7,945 | 0% increase | 0% increase | 0% increase |

Resource Management Plan

Human Resource Management Plan

The ministry's Human Resource Management Plan overview is available on the ministry website at: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/service_plan.htm.

Information Resource Management Plan

The ministry's Information Resource Management Plan overview is available on the ministry website at: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/service_plan.htm.

Appendix 1: Information to Note

About Us

For online information about the ministry visit:
http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/index.htm.

Key Contact Information

For phone numbers and addresses of ministry offices see the provincial government blue pages of a telephone book, or view the information online:

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/regions/index.htm>. The mailing address for the Ministry of Children and Family Development is: PO Box 9721 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9S2.

Helpline for Children in British Columbia

Phone **310-1234**, free from anywhere in the province anytime; to use the telephone device for the deaf, dial **1 866 660-0505**. The Helpline for Children provides round-the-clock access to professionals to respond to concerns that a child under the age of 19 years may be abused. Abuse can be abandonment, desertion, neglect, ill-treatment or failure to meet physical, emotional or medical needs. Calls can be anonymous — and abuse can be stopped. For online information visit:

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/reporting_child_abuse.htm.

Adoption Site — for information on adopting one of B.C.'s waiting children

For information on adopting a child, phone toll-free in B.C.: **1 877 ADOPT 07 (1 877 236-7807)** or phone a nearby ministry office. Hundreds of children in the permanent care of the ministry are waiting to be adopted into permanent, loving families. Applicants do not need to be married, wealthy or a certain age to adopt a waiting child. Please phone today for information or visit: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption/index.htm>.

Be a Foster Parent — B.C.'s foster parents make a positive difference for vulnerable children in need

For information, phone the B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations' Fosterline at **1 800 663-9999** (outside B.C. phone **1 604 660-7696**) or the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents toll-free at **1 866 291-7091**. For online information visit:

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/index.html>.

Child Care B.C. Helpline — for information on child care

For information and referrals for B.C. child care programs and services for parents and child care providers phone **1 888-338-6622**. For online information visit:
<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/>.

Community Living British Columbia's Website

The provincial community living authority's website provides up-to-date information on services for adults with developmental disabilities. For online information visit:
<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/>.

Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR): an option for resolving family differences instead of going through the court system. Examples include family group conferencing and mediation.

CHILD CARE: refers to the care and supervision of a child in a child care setting, other than: a) by the child's parent; or, b) while the child is attending an educational program provided under the *School Act* or the *Independent School Act*.

CHILD-IN-CARE or CHILDREN-IN-CARE: refers to any child under 19 years of age in the care of the Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Children with Special Needs have significant impairments in one or more of the following areas: health, cognition, behavioural, communication, sensory motor, social/emotional/behavioral or self-help (adaptive), and require specialized supports to enhance or improve their health, development or participation in daily activities at home, school and in their communities.

DELEGATED AGENCIES: refers to Aboriginal agencies with delegated child welfare authority under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE (FDR): an alternative to child protection investigations that focuses on parental involvement, assessing a family's strengths and risks, and providing services as required by the child and family. These may include parenting programs, anger management, counselling, mental health and other services.

HIGH-RISK YOUTH: refers to youth that are at risk of being sexually exploited, addicted to drug(s) or alcohol, living on the street, or who have a mental health problem.

SAFE CARE: refers to the provision of brief periods of involuntary care to protect commercially sexually exploited youth and to develop a plan for voluntary community supports and services.

SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH: refers to a person under the age of 19 who has been manipulated or forced to engage in sexual activity in exchange for money, drugs, food, shelter or other considerations.

SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT (previously referred to as supported child care): a range of consulting and support services that support children with special needs to participate in inclusive community child care settings, including preschool.

