



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development



Driftpile  
Cree Nation



## Strengthening Driftpile Cree Nation's Voice in Decisions Affecting Its Children in BC

### Child & Family Services in British Columbia

Driftpile Cree Nation (DCN) is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to advance DCN's inherent jurisdiction over the wellbeing of DCN children and families in British Columbia (BC). Since June 2025, DCN and MCFD have actively collaborated and achieved the following results:

#### 1. New Information Sharing Agreement

DCN and MCFD signed a new Information Sharing Agreement in June 2025. The agreement enables timely, transparent, and culturally responsible information sharing between the two parties. It strengthens DCN's involvement in planning for DCN children and families engaged with MCFD and supports DCN's work to resume jurisdiction over child and family services in BC.

#### 2. Section 12 Notice of Significant Measures Completed

DCN notified MCFD of its intention to be added to MCFD's list of Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) for Section 12 Notice of Significant Measures pursuant to An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (Federal Act). This ensures MCFD notifies and involves DCN whenever major decisions affect DCN children in BC. BC added DCN to its list of IGBs in September 2025, and MCFD issued a ministry-wide notice directing staff to follow this requirement. Since then, DCN's band designate has consistently received calls from BC to provide DCN's views on proposed significant measures.

#### What is a Significant Measure?

A significant measure is an action the director takes after deciding on a plan or course of action for a child. Significant measures include situations where:

- the director applies for a court proceeding that requires notice under the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA);
- the director removes a child or enters into/renews an agreement for the child to be in care;
- the director enters into/renews a Youth Agreement;

- a child has a new placement or a placement change, or the CFCSA director consents to the child's adoption; and
- the director withdraws from court proceedings or returns the child to a parent.

### **3. Ongoing Relationship Building**

DCN Chief and Council and the Chief Kinosêw Awasak Mîkiwâhp (CKAM) board of governors have met with senior MCFD leadership to build relationships and learn how BC delivers child and family services. DCN and BC commit to exploring approaches that support and uphold DCN's jurisdiction over child and family services in the province.

### **4. Next Steps**

While DCN does not yet exercise jurisdiction over child and family services for DCN children and families residing in BC, this remains a priority. Since June 2025, DCN has made progress in its engagement with MCFD and continues to work through the applicable federal processes and requirements that must be addressed prior to full implementation, which will take time.

DCN will continue working with MCFD to develop a service delivery plan that reflects DCN's laws, priorities, and the needs of DCN members living in BC.

### **5. What does this mean for DCN members in BC?**

- Members can expect DCN to continue advocating for DCN children and families living in BC and to remain involved when major decisions are being considered.
- DCN will provide ongoing updates as key milestones are reached, including progress on federal discussions and the BC service delivery planning work.
- DCN will also share information about how members can provide input into service delivery planning so the approach reflects community needs.

DCN leadership and staff continue to prioritize this work and remain actively engaged with both provincial and federal partners.