Child, Youth & Family Services - Nova Scotia
With Commentary on the Canadian Child Welfare System

Resilience Research Centre

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PART I - CANADA’S APPROACH TO CHILD WELFARE & CHILD PROTECTION

LEGISLATION

Introduction
While many of Canada’s federal policies have an indirect impact on the wellbeing and living conditions of Canadian youth and their families, an overarching national legislative framework for youth care and youth protection does not exist. Rather, the majority of youth policy and child welfare programs are the legislative and financial responsibility of provinces and territories and are delivered and implemented at either the municipal or community level. The result of this approach is that child welfare statutes in Canada can and do vary significantly (Franke, 2010). For example, whereas some provinces in Canada limit their investigation mandates to children under the age of 16, other jurisdictions extend to youth under the age of 19 (such as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador). Child welfare statutes in Canada also differ according to the different areas of maltreatment and abuse covered as well as procedures for investigation, and timelines for determining permanent custody of a child (Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal, 2010).

Existing federal child welfare and protection legislation in Canada can be found under various acts and international conventions, including:

- The 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- The Criminal Code of Canada
- The Divorce Act
- The Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child
- UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)
- Jordan’s Principle

The 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Appendix) which came into effect on April 17th, 1982 has served as one of the key premises to recognizing the rights of children and youth in Canada. Some of the Charter provisions used most often in children’s court cases include:

- Section 7: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.
- Section 12: Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.
- Section 15(1): Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

(Saskatchewan Children’s Advocate Office, 2009)
The Criminal Code of Canada

Canada’s *Criminal Code* plays an important role in protecting children against child abuse and exploitation. The Code is implemented a.) at the federal level and b.) through individual provinces’ and territories’ respective child welfare laws. In the past decade, Canada has introduced amendments that have added several child specific offenses to the *Criminal Code*, including:

**Bill C-15A**: first introduced in 2002 as an amendment to the *Criminal Code*, this Bill addressed the sexual exploitation of children, particularly with regards to child pornography and Internet.

**Bill C-2**: passed in 2006, it focused on increasing protective measures for children facing family violence. Specifically, the Bill implemented the following provisions to child protection under the Criminal Code:

- **Strengthen child pornography provisions by increasing penalties, prohibiting advertising, broadening the definition, and creating a clearer, narrower, harm-based “legitimate purpose” defence**
- **Create a new offence against sexual exploitation of youth (aged 14-18) to better protect youth against those who would prey on their vulnerability**
- **Increase penalties for child-specific offences involving abuse, neglect or being exploited for sexual purposes, including imposing mandatory minimum sentences for specific sexual offences against children**
- **Facilitate the testimony of child victims and witnesses under 18 years of age and other vulnerable victims and witnesses by providing a clearer and more consistent test for the use of aids such as screens, closed-circuit television and support persons**
- **Create a new test to enable children under 14 years of age to testify in any proceeding where they are able to understand and respond to questions and after they have promised to tell the truth**

*(Bill C-2, 2005).*

Controversy Surrounding Section 43 of the Criminal Code - “The Spanking Law”

Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* has been a controversial legislation in Canada due to its provision that force may be used against a child as long it is “reasonable” and that a parent, teacher or person acting in the place of a parent is justified in using force to correct a child that is under his/her care. Specifically, Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada states that:

*Every school teacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances*  

*(Criminal Code of Canada, 1985, C-34, s. 43).*
In November 1998, *The Canadian Foundation for Children & Youth* sought a declaration in Ontario that stated Section 43 of the Criminal Code is unconstitutional due to its infringement on children’s rights in sections 7 (security of the person), 12 (cruel and unusual punishment) and 15 (equality) under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Moreover, Section 43 was seen to be in violation of Canada’s obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Milne, n.d.).

In January 2000, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada was in fact constitutional and the appeal was dismissed. However, the Supreme Court narrowed its interpretation of Section 43 to highlight the following actions which would not be deemed as reasonable under the section:

- Force that causes harm or might cause bodily harm
- Force used because the person is angry, frustrated, have lost their temper or because they have an “abusive personality”
- Use of force on a child under 2 years old or a on a teenager
- Use of an object to hit a child
- Hitting a child on the head
- Doing anything degrading, inhumane or harmful
- Use of force on children who have disabilities which make it hard for them to learn
- Use of corporal punishment by a teacher.

(Milne, n.d.)

**United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)**

UNCROC is a legally binding international instrument which recognizes that people under 18 years of age require special protection and care which adults do not need. Incorporating the full range of human rights (civil, cultural, economic, social and political), the UNCROC lays out 54 articles which define and protect the rights of children (UNICEF, 2008).

The four main principles of the Convention are:

- Non-discrimination
- Devotion to the best interests of the child
- The right to life
- Survival and development
- Respect for the views of the child

International human rights conventions play an important role in shaping child policy and legislative debate in Canada. At the federal level the Department of Justice makes policy recommendations towards Canada’s legislative framework on the prevention of family violence and violence against women and children. Canada also focuses on meeting international convention obligations related to family violence before the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission for the Status of Women, the UN Commission on the Rights of the Child and the
UN Human Rights Committee. While the federal government cannot legislate over provincial issues, they have actively worked with provinces towards the implementation of UNCROC in matters relating to health and education (Law Library of Congress, 2008).

Canada signed the UNCROC on May 28, 1990, and ratified it on December 13, 1991. Responsibility for the implementation of the convention in Canada is divided between the federal and provincial governments.

There are a number of UNCROC articles that apply to care and protection of youth in Canada (See Appendix One), including:

**Article 2**: The right to protection from discrimination or punishment on any grounds

**Article 3**: The best interests of the child should be a primary consideration

**Article 4**: Government should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children

**Article 6**: The rights to life, survival and development

**Article 9**: Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is in their best interests

**Article 12**: The right for children to have an opinion and for that opinion to be heard in all matters affecting the child

**Article 18**: The principle that parents have primary responsibility for upbringing of a child and States are to give assistance and ensure institutions, services for care of children

**Optional Protocols to UNCROC endorsed by Canada**

In addition to UNCROC, Canada has also ratified/signed two Optional Protocols (See Appendix One). These Optional Protocols served as additions to the already existing UNCROC articles and were signed and adopted by the UN General Assembly to address two specific areas of child protection – 1) children in armed conflict and, 2) the sexual exploitation of children through trafficking and child pornography. These optional protocols are explained in further detail below:

1.) **The Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (ratified)** prohibits the compulsory recruitment and the direct participation in hostilities by the forces of a State of persons under the age of 18.

The term “Children and Armed Conflict” is used by the convention to capture the following six violations against children in situations of conflict:

- the recruitment and use of children as soldiers;
- rape and other grave sexual violence against children;
- killing and maiming of children;
- abduction of children;
- attacks against schools or hospitals;
- denial of humanitarian access for children.

*Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 2011*
2.) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (signed) prohibits the sexual and economic exploitation of persons under the age of 18 and requires countries to ratify that they will:

- have and enforce laws to prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- seize any items used in breaking those laws, as well as any money made by people who break those laws;
- cooperate with other governments to help investigations or criminal proceedings relating to those laws;
- develop public awareness, information and education campaigns to help protect children; and
- provide measures to help child victims recover from any psychological or physical harm (Department of Justice Canada, 2005).

Canada currently meets the requirements of the Optional Protocols through its federal legislation and policies (Department of Justice Canada, 2002). For example, the *Criminal Code* contains a number of criminal laws whose purpose is to protect children from abduction, kidnapping, abuse and sexual exploitation—including protection from child pornography and child prostitution (Department of Justice Canada, 2005). Other federal laws, such as the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* play important roles in the criminalization of human trafficking. More recently, the Government of Canada has been focussing on increasing offences for human trafficking and for people who possess, produce or distribute child pornography, and from other forms of child sexual exploitation.

**The Divorce Act – Federal Guidelines for Child Support**

The 1968 Divorce Act was revised in 1986 to establish a foundation for child and spousal support. Under the act, child support may be sought for any or all “children of a marriage.” “Children of marriage” are defined to include:

- Children of the two parties to a divorce who are under the age of majority
- Children who are 16 or older
- Children who are unable to withdraw from the charge of one or both parents, or unable to meet his or her own needs, because of illness, disability or other cause

(Douglas, 2001; Divorce Act 1985: s 2(2))

Child support is not generally terminated when a child reaches 16 or 18. This however can vary depending on the child’s individual circumstances and whether he or she is able to support themselves. In 1997 the Act was once again revised so that instead of determining child support on a case by case basis, Courts are now required to award child support in accordance with the *Federal Child Support Guidelines*, found under section 26.1 of the Divorce Act (Douglas, 2001).
Most provinces and territories – including Saskatchewan, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories and Yukon – have adopted or slightly modified the Federal Child Support Guidelines to address their respective provincial family law matters (Department of Justice, 2002: 18-19).

**Jordan’s Principle**

*Jordan’s Principle* is based on the case of a 5 year old Cree boy (Jordan River Anderson) from Manitoba who had complex needs and required care from multiple service providers. Jordan became the centre of a jurisdictional funding dispute between the federal and provincial government when the two parties were unable to resolve who was financially responsible for meeting the boy’s home care needs. This prevented Jordan from leaving the hospital to receive the adequate care he needed and he passed away in 2005. On December 12, 2007, a Private Member’s Motion (M-296) was put forth stating that the government should immediately adopt a “child-first” principle, based on *Jordan’s Principle*, to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children. The motion received unanimous support in Parliament. The Bill establishes the right of children to have timely access to quality health care and social services, regardless of jurisdictional disputes. It also recognizes the right of parents and guardians to receive information about the services available for their children (Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, n.d.).

**POLICY**

**The Family Violence Initiative (FVI)**

The Family Violence Initiative is a long-term federal commitment that was first implemented in June 5, 1988 by the Department of Justice. The initiative included a $40 million in time-limited funding, to provide 200 new short-term shelter units for crisis assistance for abused women and their children and to establish a process for developing a long-term federal approach to family violence prevention (Family Violence Initiative (Jones & Lee, 2008: 1). Through the initiative, the following agencies and departments have shared an ongoing annual budget of $7 million:

- The Public Health Agency of Canada
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Department of Justice Canada
- Department of Canadian Heritage
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Statistics Canada
- Status of Women Canada

*(Jones & Lee, 2008)*
A Canada Fit for Children

*A Canada Fit for Children* (2004) is the Government of Canada's action plan for children in Canada and around the world, in response to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children. At the national level, the plan seeks policy and program initiatives that improve the wellbeing of Canadian children by defining healthy child development; adequate income for families with children; effective parenting within strong and cohesive families; and fostering supportive and inclusive communities as the main priorities for funding. Some examples of existing initiatives that are related to these priorities include:

i) **The Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)**

CCTB is a tax-free monthly payment and is the main federal instrument for the provision of financial assistance for families with children. The CCTB has two main elements: A base benefit for low- and middle-income families that includes a supplement for children under the age of seven. Currently, approximately 3.2 million Canadian families with 5.7 million children benefit from the CCTB base benefit which is over 80 percent.

ii) **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)’s Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP)**

CHMC assists in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters and to assist in the acquisition or construction of new shelters and second stage housing for women, children and youth who are victims of family violence as well as second stage housing for youth. The Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative facilitates the transfer of surplus federal properties to communities. Over the years, about 8,627 beds have been created, 399 food banks and soup kitchens have been enhanced or expanded, and 653 shelters have been improved. Another 50 surplus properties were transferred for low-income housing creating 212 affordable units.

iii) **The National Child Benefit (NCB)**

The National Child Benefit (NCB) supplement provides additional assistance to low income families with children. The NCB supplement is provided to 40 percent of Canadian families with children. In 2002-03, about 1.5 million families with 2.7 million children received the NCBS. The NCB supplement is the federal contribution to the National Child Benefit (NCB) initiative, under which federal, provincial and territorial governments act together to reduce child poverty while promoting parents’ attachment to the workforce.

iv) **Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI)**

Federal funding of $680 million over five years was allocated to the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) through cost-sharing agreements with the provinces and territories to increase the supply of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households, including families with children. Matching contributions from provinces, territories and others could increase this investment to over $1.36 billion.

*(A Canada Fit for Children, 2004).*
GAPS IN CANADA’S FEDERAL CHILD WELFARE POLICY & LEGISLATION

Canada’s lack of a common framework on child and youth protection is perhaps one of the major obstacles to effective policy making on child welfare and protection. The current system of distributing responsibility for child welfare statutes among provinces has left a disjuncture between federal commitments to international conventions such as UNCROC’s Best Interests of the Child[10], and actual federal policy. A report produced by the Canadian Coalition for Children’s Rights (CCCR) suggests that several gaps exist in Canada’s approach to child protection, including:

1. **A lack of a federal common outcomes framework to address children’s rights**
   CCCR suggests that a “common outcomes framework” is much needed to understand and measure how youth are in the country faring.[11]

2. **There is no mention of specific rights for children in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.**
   For example, discrimination, one of the core principles of the Convention, is also prohibited in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but it is rarely applied to issues relating to children.

3. **The Federal Government must take greater responsibility to ensure that children do not fall between the cracks of federal and provincial jurisdiction.** For example, Jordan’s Principle (see discussion above) must have an implementation strategy and be put into effect immediately.

   *(Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child, 2009).*

The CCCR makes the following recommendations to address Canada’s legislative and policy gaps with child welfare:

- Establishment of a standard poverty measure in Canada to help differentiate between poverty and neglect and lead to more appropriate responses for families with needs.
- A cost-benefit analysis of child welfare responses should be conducted, as a basis to strengthen the case for investments in prevention/support to vulnerable families.
- Section 43 of the Criminal Code (i.e. “The Spanking Law”) should be repealed because of the confusing message it communicates respecting violence against children.
- The federal government needs to take a lead by establishing a national family policy that puts the best interests of children at the centre.
- Canada should model our child welfare system after systems that take an integrated and holistic view (e.g. Australia).

   *(Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child, 2009: 33-34).*
STATISTICS

Maltreatment Related Investigations

There have been relatively few statistical studies undertaken to assess or measure trends in child welfare placement and investigations across Canada. Prior to the release of the Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) of reported Child Abuse and Neglect (1998), there were few national snapshots of the incidence of child maltreatment in Canada (Trocmé, Fallon, Black, MacLaurin, Hélie & Turcotte, 2010). Aside from the CIS, there continues to be a paucity of national statistical data on trends in child welfare placement in Canada; the primary reason being that majority of child welfare data is available only at a provincial or territorial level and cannot be easily aggregated (Trocmé et al. 2010: IV). It is estimated however, that approximately 200,000 children and youth come into contact with child welfare authorities every year across Canada and that an average of 67,000 children and youth can be found living in out-of-home care on any given day (Trocmé, MacLaurin, Fallon, Shlonsky, Mulcahy & Eposito 2009: 1).

The most recent CIS study (2008) tracked 15,980 child maltreatment investigations conducted in a representative sample of 112 Child Welfare Service organizations across Canada (Trocmé et al., 2010: 2). In 1998, the CIS demonstrated an estimated 135,261 investigations were conducted in Canada at a rate of 21.47 investigations per 1,000 children. In 2003, the number of investigations nearly doubled, with an estimated 235,315 investigations and a rate of 38.33 per 1,000 children. In contrast, the rate of investigations has not changed significantly between 2003 and 2008. In 2008, an estimated 235,842 maltreatment-related investigations were conducted across Canada, representing a rate of 39.16 investigations per 1,000 children (ibid).

The chart below examines the three cycles of the CIS to show the trend in child welfare placement (rates and types) in Canada in 1998, 2003 and 2008. It shows that overall, there was little change in placement rates across the three cycles (1998, 2003 and 2008) of the CIS, other than a minor increase in informal placements of children with relatives. (Trocmé et al., 2010:3).

Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect – 2008 *
Based on a sample of 7,544 investigations in 1998, 14,105 in 2003, and 15,945 in 2008, with information about child welfare placement (Trocmé et al., 2010:3).

The following chart shows that there was an estimated 85,440 substantiated child maltreatment investigations in Canada in 2008 (14.19 investigations per 1,000 children (Trocmé et al., 2010:4). The two most common types of substantiated child maltreatment were exposure to intimate partner violence and neglect. Thirty-four percent of all substantiated investigations identified exposure to intimate partner violence as the primary category of maltreatment (an estimated 29,259 cases or 4.86 investigations/1,000 children) (ibid).

Primary Category of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada in 2008*

Source: CIS 2008 * Total estimated No. of substantiated investigations is 85,440, based on sample of 6,163 substantiated investigations (Trocmé et al. 2010:4).

Aboriginal Children and their Overrepresentation in the Foster Care System
Several studies have discussed the overrepresentation of child welfare investigations of First Nations children in foster care programs and child welfare referrals around Canada (Royal Commission of Canada, 1996; MacLaurin, Trocmé, Fallon, Blackstock, Pitman & McCormack, 2006). While the exact reasons the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in the child welfare system remains unclear, MacLaurin et al., (2006) suggest that this occurrence is strongly linked to the high prevalence of caregiver, household, and community risk factors among First Nations families. For example, in a 2003 study, it was found that in 56% of all substantiated First Nations child investigations (32.33 investigations per 1,000 children) neglect was the primary form of maltreatment noted with an estimated 6,833 neglect investigations. Being exposed to domestic violence was the second most frequently reported form of abuse in First Nations child investigations (11.24 investigations per 1,000 children) (MacLaurin et al., 2006).
The table below, taken from the CIS 2008 study, demonstrates that the rate of substantiated child maltreatment investigations was four times higher in Aboriginal child investigations than non-Aboriginal child investigations (49.69 per 1,000 Aboriginal children versus 11.85 per 1,000 non Aboriginal children) (Trocmé et al. 2010:5). Twenty-two percent of substantiated cases in Canada (an estimated 18,510 investigations) involved children of Aboriginal heritage, including 15% First Nations status, 3% First Nations non-status, 2% Métis, 1% Inuit and 1% with other Aboriginal heritage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aboriginal Heritage</th>
<th>Number of Investigations</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 children</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Nations status</td>
<td>12,751</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Nations, non-status</td>
<td>2,561</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis</td>
<td>1,828</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inuit</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Aboriginal</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total: all Aboriginal</td>
<td>18,510</td>
<td>49.69</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Aboriginal</td>
<td>66,930</td>
<td>11.85</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total substantiated investigations</td>
<td>85,440</td>
<td>14.19</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CIS 2008 ^ Based on a sample of 6,163 substantiated child maltreatment investigations. Percentages are column percentages. NA Child population counts by category is not available (Trocmé et al. 2010: 5).

The chart below gives an overview of placement decisions in First Nations and non-Aboriginal primary substantiated child maltreatment investigations across Canada (excluding Quebec) in 2003. The chart shows that Aboriginal maltreatment investigations were much more prone to lead to child welfare or informal kinship placements compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts. 29% of First Nations children in total had a change in residence during the initial substantiated maltreatment investigation, compared to 11% of non First Nations children under similar investigations (Maclaurin et al. 2006).

Source: MacLaurin et al. (2006).
PART II - NOVA SCOTIA’S CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Nova Scotia’s Child Welfare System - An Overview
In 2004, there were approximately 11,500 child welfare cases in Nova Scotia. About 840 of those involved court proceedings, and less than one per cent of all cases involved apprehending a child from the home (Child Welfare Services, Protecting Children, n.d.).

Each jurisdiction in Nova Scotia has its own legislation providing for the protection of children. Services may be provided to a child in need of protection through several means including:

1. **Preventive services** may be provided by child welfare authorities with the consent of the family to help resolve difficulties.
2. **Voluntary agreements** may be negotiated between child welfare authorities and the child’s family outlining each party’s responsibilities towards the care and custody of the child; these are usually temporary and may involve placement of the child outside the family home.
3. Where a child is considered to be in imminent danger, child welfare authorities may **apprehend** the child.
4. Where a child has been apprehended, or a voluntary agreement is not feasible or appropriate, a **child protection hearing** is scheduled. The court determines whether the child needs protection, and may issue an order concerning care and/or guardianship of the child.

*(F/P/T Directors of Child Welfare Committee, 2007)*

**LEGISLATION**

The Nova Scotia Child & Youth Family Act (CFSA)
All child welfare services operate under the legislation of the provincial *Children and Family Services Act (CFSA)*. Child protection is a core service mandated under the Act. Under the CFSA, designated social workers in child welfare agencies are required to assess reports of alleged child abuse and neglect. The Act makes it illegal to publish any information that would identify a child involved in a child welfare case. To ensure the confidentiality and safety of the child or youth, information about specific child welfare investigations can only be made available to the family, social work officials and the court (Child Welfare Service, n.d). Additionally, the legislation stipulates that:

- Families are a unit and should be preserved whenever/if possible.
- Children should be provided with continuity of care
- The views of the child should be taken into consideration when decisions about the child are being made
- The child’s cultural, racial and linguistic heritage must be respected when making decisions for the well-being of the child, especially for Aboriginal children, who have a unique status

*(Gough, 2006: 2)*
Child Protection Process under the CFSA
In Nova Scotia, child protection covers children and youth up to the age of 16. However, if a child has been taken into care before the age of 16, he or she may remain in care until the 19th birthday is reached. The court may extend care to the age of 21 if the youth is pursuing an educational program or has a disability (Gough 2006: 2). Reports that a child may be in need of protective services, including allegations of child abuse and neglect, are received from citizens or persons involved with children in a professional or academic setting. All reports can be taken confidentially. Once a report is submitted, the following actions are taken:

- a determination is made as to whether it fits within the mandate of the Children and Family Services Act,
- If it does, the social worker assesses the situation to ensure that the child lives in a safe environment

If a child is deemed to be in need of protection, the agency can take the following steps:

- Provide services to the family on volunterary basis.
- If needed, takes other steps to ensure the child’s safety such as, working with the family on a non-voluntary basis by involving the court
- Obtaining a court order of supervision or,
- Taking the child into care on a temporary or permanent basis.

(Forward Progress Working Group on Child and Family Services Information, 2002).

The Adoption Information Act
The purpose of the Adoption Information Act is to determine the principles under which:

(i) persons who are adopted and of the age of majority may have access to information concerning their birth families,

(ii) birth parents and adoptive parents of adopted persons may have access to information concerning their children, and

(iii) relatives and other persons may, in special circumstances, have access to information concerning the birth family of adopted persons;

(b) establish controls for adoptive parents over access by adopted persons under the age of majority to information concerning their birth families;

(c) provide for the circumstances under which reunions of persons separated as a consequence of adoption will be facilitated; and

(d) establish an appeal procedure for applications made pursuant to this Act.

1996, c. 3, s.2
(Adoption Information Act, 1996, c. 3, s. 1.)

First Nations Youth and the CFSA in Nova Scotia
In Nova Scotia, the CFSA makes refers to the importance of maintaining Aboriginal child and youth welfare services that are culturally sensitive by:
“...recognize[ing] that Indian and native people should be entitled to provide, wherever possible, their own child and family services, and that all services to Indian and native children and families should be provided in a manner that recognizes their culture, heritage and traditions and the concept of the extended family” (CFSA, 1990, c5, s 1[2,5]).

Specific reference is also made to First Nations children in Sections 36 and 68 of the CFSA.

Section 36 (3) of the CFSA states that:
“Where the child who is the subject of a proceeding is known to be Indian or may be Indian, the Mi’kmaq Family and Children’s Services of Nova Scotia shall receive notice in the same manner as a party to the proceedings and may, with its consent, be substituted for the agency that commenced the proceeding” (CFSA 1990, c.5, s1 36[3]).

In reference to adoption and voluntary placement protocol, Section 68 (11 and 12) of the CFSA adds that:
(11) Where an agency other than the Mi’kmaq Family and Children’s Services has reason to believe that a child who is to be the subject of an adoption agreement is or may be an Indian child, the agency shall not enter into an adoption agreement respecting the child until fifteen days after the agency has notified the Mi’kmaq Family and Children’s Services.
(12) Where, subsequent to the execution of an adoption agreement and prior to the placement for adoption of the child who is the subject of the adoption agreement, the agency determines that the child is or may be an Indian child, the agency shall, as soon as possible, notify the Mi’kmaq Family and Children’s Services and shall not place the child for adoption until fifteen days have elapsed from the date of such notification (CFSA 1990, c. 5, s. 68; 1996, c. 10, s. 10).

Challenges with the implementation of the CFSA
According to a report submitted by the Minister’s Advisory Committee on the CFSA in 2008, while the legislation of the CFSA is generally considered to be a good one, there are several challenges and obstacles to its effective implementation (NS DCS, 2008: 12). Some of the central challenges as outlined by the report include:

1. **A lack of resources**
The report highlighted a lack of resources as being a major obstacle to implementing the Act. These issues were made apparent through:
   - time restrictions affecting the quality of child protection services delivery,
   - restrictions, heavy caseload for social workers and a general lack of sufficient resources,
   - parents and guardians being frustrated and mistrustful of child protection services,
   - a general mistrust of the child protection system among the public.
2. **The CFSA’s age criteria for who counts as a child is problematic**

   According to the Minister’s Report, one of the identified “critical” gaps with the CFSA is the definition of a child as someone who is under the age of 16 years. A report submitted to the Minister by the Nova Scotia Association of Social workers following a questionnaire distributed to all child protection workers in the Province identified this issue as a serious gap in services. Currently, persons 16-18 years of age are provided services on a discretionary basis under section 14.2\textsuperscript{15} and under Section 19\textsuperscript{16} of the CFSA, by way of a special needs agreement. However according to the report, no special agreements have been made to date. Arguing that legislation must reflect how the circumstances of youth in this age bracket has changed substantially over the past few years, the report concludes that youth aged between 16-18 years of age are critically in need of continued guidance and support.

3. **Extended family have little involvement in child custody/protection plans**

   Although extended families, particularly grandparents, can play a fundamental role in the wellbeing and development of a child, extended families are given little say in child custody matters. The provisions of Section 3\textsuperscript{17} of the CFSA, which describes guardianship based on the best interests of the child, and Nova Scotia’s Maintenance Custody Act\textsuperscript{18} which provides limited recognition to extended families in the custody of a child or youth. Not only does this lead to frustration with extended family members who have been caring for the youth, but this gap in legislation also ignores diverse cultural approaches to parenting, whereby some communities do not view children as the sole responsibility of the child, but also the responsibility of the larger community (for example First Nations communities).\textsuperscript{19}

4. **There is a lack of clarity and divergent opinions regarding Section 22 of the CFSA**

   - *There appear to be gaps and confusion re: the Provisions of Section 22:*
     The report highlights problems concerning the wording of Section 22 of the CFSA, with particular attention to discrepancies in the interpretation of what constitutes abuse and neglect. For example, a lack of proper definition of what constitutes ‘substantial risk’ and ‘emotional harm’ under Section 22, were highlighted by parents who provided submissions to the Minister’s Committee on the CFSA.

   - *Section 22.2 (I) is controversial and contradictory:*
     The Minister’s report discusses how women’s representative groups have spoken of conflicting instructions between Criminal Courts (which are able to issue a no contact order) and Family Courts (that can in the same instance issue an access order). This was identified as being particularly problematic in situations of domestic violence and child protection, as women who are victims of violence face the risk of losing their children and thus are held accountable for being in an abusive situation.
5. **16-18 year olds receive inadequate protection, have insufficient services and have little input into decision making Section 48(1).**
For example, under the Maintenance and Custody Act, youth over 21 have a right to be supported by their parent(s) while they are still in school. Conversely, custody of children in care under the Children and Family Services Act is terminated at twenty-one years old regardless of whether the youth is still in an education program. The Minister’s Committee concluded that not only is this discriminatory, but it does not take note of shifting generational needs and family support. For example, just as young people in their twenties and over are being provided with care by their families the report suggests that “surrogate families” and youth agencies should have the means to provide for them in the same way.

6. **A lack of trust in the child protection system by services recipients and members of the public**
Parents have identified lack of trust of child care systems in Nova Scotia as a major ongoing issue citing examples such as feeling manipulated, feeling forced to comply with social worker demands and a general feeling of disempowerment. The report recommends addressing this issue through fostering a more collaborative involvement of family in the decision making process involving a child’s care.

7. **A need for the establishment of a Children’s Advocacy Office**
Associated with lack of trust with the system, the report also highlights individuals’ frustration in trying to get their concerns heard through the Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman despite the inclusion of a child and youth mandate. A suggestion for this is to create a Child Advocacy Office that would specifically address children’s and youths’ needs.

*(NS DCS, 2008).*

**POLICY**

**The Nova Scotia Child Benefit:**
The Nova Scotia Child Benefit is the provincial government’s contribution to the National Child Benefit (NCB) initiative. The Nova Scotia Child Benefit is provided to all low-income families to help them with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. Over 48,000 children in Nova Scotia receive this benefit each year. Since the NCB began, the percentage of low-income families in Nova Scotia declined from 19.7 percent in 1998 to 16.6 percent in 2000 (NS DCS, 2010).

**The Child and Youth Strategy - Our Kids Are Worth It**
In 2005, the Government of Nova Scotia launched the Nunn Commission to conduct a public inquiry and create recommendations in the aftermath of the death of Theresa McEvoy. Underlying this inquiry were deeper social issues about the effectiveness of services and their impact on youth in care. The Child and Youth Strategy, titled, *Our Kids Are Worth It*, was one of the key
recommendations of the Nunn Commission and was launched in 2007 to address the following key gaps in child and youth services and government departments in Nova Scotia:

- Health
- Community Services
- Justice, Education
- Health Promotion and Protection

In their second year (2009) report of *Our Kids Are Worth It*, the Department of Community explains that:

“...the Child and Youth Strategy sets out a comprehensive plan and vision to ensure children and youth are healthy, safe, nurtured, and responsible – and given the right opportunities to be the best they can be. It is not just about more programs and services, but about improved access and coordination of existing services into more sustainable and effective supports for children, youth, and families.”

*(Government of Nova Scotia, 2009:1).*

Examples of action plans and frameworks implemented by Child and Youth Strategy in relation to child welfare and protection include:

- **The Framework for Action Against Family Violence** – Partnered with the Department of Justice: The aim of this framework is to improve the response of the justice system to incidents of spousal/intimate partner violence.
- **Healthy Beginnings Program: Enhanced Home Visiting** – Partnered with the Department of Health Promotion and Protection (Delivered by the District Health Authorities):
  Provides families facing challenges with intensive home visiting support for the first three years of their child’s life. The program focuses on promoting a healthy parent-child relationship, fostering healthy childhood development, and linking families with community resources that further enhance opportunities for the healthy growth and development of both the child and the family. Provincial Outcome Evaluation completed in July 2009.
- **Improving Services for Children and Families** – Partnered with the Department of Community Services:
  Reviews and strengthens four key areas of child welfare service delivery: placement services, emergency after-hours services for child protection, foster and adoption services, and opportunities for shared services between the province and community child welfare agencies.
- **Social Policy Framework Weaving the Threads** – Partnered with the Department of Community Services:
  A coordinated, collaborative effort on behalf of all social policy departments that provides a context for issues and initiatives promoting the social vision for Nova Scotia.
• Poverty Reduction Strategy – Partnered with the Department of Community Services, Labour & Workforce, Development, Health, Justice, and Health Promotion & Protection:
A multi-year poverty reduction strategy aimed at addressing poverty in Nova Scotia.


CYFS SERVICES DELIVERY
The Youth and Family Division of the Department of Community Services is located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Department of Community Services is responsible for overseeing the quality and delivery of child welfare services and ensuring protection for children who are in custody or are in residential, foster or adoptive care.

Child welfare service delivery in Nova Scotia is organized within four regions: Eastern, Northern, Central and Western Nova Scotia. Each region also has a Child Welfare Specialist who reports to a Regional Administrator. Regional Administrators are responsible for all service delivery within their respective regions, and allocate child welfare program budgets from a set amount of funding provided by the Department (F/P/T Working Group on Child and Family Services Information, 2002).

Most services are provided by a network of independent not-for-profit children’s aid societies, family and children’s services agencies, and government-run district offices. The Department of Community Services develops policies and programs, ensures that services are delivered in compliance with the Child and Youth and Family Services Act, and provides funding to the independent agencies focussing primarily on issues pertaining to child abuse, neglect and care. It also provides services for international adoption and adoption disclosure, licenses residential care facilities, and provides a secure care facility for youth and children (Nova Scotia Community Services, 2008).

Twenty child welfare agencies make up the province’s service delivery system. Six are provincial government district offices and 14 are independent agencies, including the Mi’kmaw Family and Children’s Services Agency, which provides services to Aboriginal families in Nova Scotia.

The role of the Minister of Community Services
The Minister of Community Services is required under Section 88 of the CFSA to establish an advisory committee that monitors the operation of the CFSA and all services related to it. The Minister appoints community members to the committee, including: parents of children who have received or may need protective services; an Agency representative; a Ministerial representative; a legal aid lawyer; two minority representatives; and up to three non-defined individuals. The committee’s annual report to the Minister comments on whether the principles and purpose of the CFSA are being achieved.
Child Protection and Family Services available through the Department of Community Services
The following services are available to young people and their families through the Department of Community Services:

- Adoption
- Foster Care Program
- Child Abuse Register
- Community Child welfare boards
- Community Residential Services (Children in care)
- Secure Care at the Wood Street Centre

A description of each service is offered below:

Adoption Services
Two types of adoption services are available in Nova Scotia:

- **Agency Facilitated Adoptions**
  
  19 publicly funded agencies and district offices of the Department of Community Services provide adoption services in Nova Scotia. Most children in adoption care are older with special placement needs. Adoptive families of children in care and custody are provided with financial assistance as well as support for any emotional, behavioural, physical or cognitive problems that the youth may have.

- **Private Relative Adoptions**
  
  Private relative adoption services are provided by 17 of the 19 publicly-funded agencies and district offices. Private relative adoptions are usually undertaken by the birth parent of a child who wants their spouse or common law partner to adopt the child, or by the relatives of a child who was placed with them by the birth parents. If neither of the adoptive parents is a birth parent, or the matter is contested, the agency will conduct a home study and make recommendations regarding the home’s suitability to the Director of Family and Children’s Services. The agencies are not involved in uncontested step-parent adoptions.

Foster Care Program
The Foster Care Program is overseen and funded by the Department of Community Services. The Provincial Joint Committee on Foster Care is responsible for overall policy development and recommendations consists of social workers, supervisory staff, and foster families. The Committee also includes the Provincial Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia and is chaired by the Provincial Coordinator of Foster Care.

3 types of foster care are available in Nova Scotia:
• **Regular foster care homes**
• **Special relative/non-relative foster homes**
  Includes families who are friends or relatives of a child in care and have been approved specifically for a child or sibling group. These are child-or youth-specific homes initiated through child protection and eventually approved through the Foster Care Program.
• **Parent counsellor homes**
  These foster families receive supplementary training and therapeutic support to provide care for children and youth with a high level of special needs. Families receive a monthly honorarium, as well as a per diem for the child/youth that is placed in their care.
  
  *(F/P/T Directors of the Children’s Welfare Committee, 2006).*

**Child Abuse Register**

The *Child Abuse Register* contains the names of persons who have been found by the court to have abused children. The register is used by child protection workers to help determine whether or not a child is in need of protective services. It is also used to screen prospective foster and adoptive parents.

Under Sections 63 of the Children and Family Services Act, child protection workers and designated social workers in child welfare agencies are required to assess reports of alleged child abuse and neglect. Based on Section 62 of the Child and Family Services Act the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services outlines the following types of child abuse:

1. **Physical abuse** The intentional use of force on any part of a child’s body that results in injury.
2. **Emotional abuse** Anything that causes serious mental or emotional harm to a child, which the parent does not attempt to prevent or address.
3. **Sexual abuse** The improper exposure of a child to sexual contact, activity or behaviour.
4. **Neglect** Any lack of care that may cause significant harm to a child’s development or endangers the child in any way (NS DCS, 2010a).

**Community Residential Services**

There are 31 residential child-caring facilities in Nova Scotia. These residential programs serve as few as three children/youth to as many as 16, with the majority providing beds for between eight to 12 individuals. These facilities serve troubled children/youth in the care of a child welfare agency who are primarily between the ages of six and 18 years (inclusive) with the majority of the children/youth between ages 12—16. Services are provided using a youth-care model, with rotating staff.

The Nova Scotia Department of Community Services provides funding for the provision of residential child caring facilities located at various locations throughout Nova Scotia. These residential child caring facilities provide
community-based placement options for children and youth with a range of emotional and behavioral problems and require a greater amount of supervision and structure than is available in family foster care.

All residential child caring facilities operate 24 hours a day with professional youth care staff who provide individual and/or group counselling. Some facilities provide additional programs such as:

- anger management
- life skills
- educational support
- clinical support
- treatment services

Care at Wood Street Centre
Truro, NS
The Wood Street Centre is mandated under the Children and Family Services Act and provides a secure treatment program for at risk youth who:

- Are in the care of the Minister of Community Services
- Are suffering from an emotional and/or behavioural disorder
- Require confinement to get adequate treatment
- Refuse or are unable to consent to treatment

The average age of youth who access the program is between the ages of 12 and 18. Youth admitted to the centre receive individualised treatment plans developed in response to social, behavioural, and emotional histories. Services may include: psycho-educational (social and emotional learning) youth programming, case management, classroom education, individual treatment plans, counselling and/or therapy. The Interdisciplinary Team at Wood St Centre consists of:

- Youth workers and social workers
- Teachers
- Registered nurse
- Psychologist
- Clinical director
- Unit supervisor
- Coordinator of Youth Services
- Consulting psychiatrist and medical doctor

All referrals must go through the local child welfare district office, Department of Community Services. The Wood Street Centre only serves children and youth in the care of the Minister of Community Services (NS DCS, 2010b).

Community Child Welfare Boards (CCWBs)
CCWBs act as links between the community and the local child welfare services, as well as between members of the public and the Minister of Community Services.
The commitments of CCWBS are to:

• advance the prevention of child abuse and neglect
• assure the best interests of children
• promote the integrity of the family
• recognize and promote the preservation of children’s cultural, racial and linguistic heritage
• work with other community and social services to prevent, alleviate and remedy the personal, social and economic conditions that might place children and families at risk

STATISTICS

The following section outlines key statistics regarding poverty rates, government spending on CYFS and availability of such services to young people and their in Nova Scotia


![Graph showing Nova Scotia Child Poverty Rates 1989, 1997, 2003 (Before & After LICOS)](image)

*Source: Nova Scotia Poverty Report Card, 2010 (Frank, 2010: 4).*

**Child Poverty**

According to the 2008 Nova Scotia Child Poverty Report Card, Nova Scotia had a higher child poverty rate (7.9% after tax LICO) in 2008 than New Brunswick (5.4%) and Prince Edward Island (4.5%) and a lower rate than Newfoundland and Labrador which was 9.1%. Most significantly, the report indicates that in 2008, Nova Scotia had made the least improvement in lowering child poverty when compared to all other Atlantic province (Frank, 2010:12).

Children living close to or below the poverty line in Nova Scotia increasingly live in a family comprised of at least one parent working full time/full year in the labour force. In 2007, the percentage of poor children in Nova Scotia who lived in a family with at least one full time/full year earner was at an all-time high (58.8%), indicating that more than half of all poor children in this province were in working families (ibid).
Departmental expenditures have increased at a rate of 8.8% per annum, from $82.5M in 2000/01 to $106.4M in 2003/04 (budget). Child protection and children in care services and residential services generally account for over 95% of the total budget. This increase in expenditures is in line with the increases in demand.

2002/03 CWS Expenditure Breakdown* (by Program)

- Child Protection and Children in Care/Custody: 81%
- Residential: 15%
- Foster Parent: 1%
- Policy: 2%
- Service System Mgt: 1%

Source: NS DCS 2004*Includes both Operating and Maintenance expenditures. Expenditures are based on actual expenditures except for 2003/2004 which are based on the budget.

Child Welfare Cases in Nova Scotia and Children in Care
- Child welfare activity in Nova Scotia has remained relatively stable since the year 2000, with approximately 8,200 new child protection cases each year (Gough, 2006).
- During the 2002-03 year, there were 2,154 children in care in Nova Scotia compared to 1,967 in the 1999-2000 year. At the same time, there has been a decline in the availability of foster homes, (991 foster homes for the period 1999-2000, reduced to 713 in the 2002-03 year). Consequently, 187 more children in Nova Scotia were in need of care and protection in 2002 with 278 fewer foster homes (NS DCS, 2008: 16).
• Although the child population has been decreasing provincially (with a relatively stable child population in Halifax), demand for child welfare services is increasing, with a high volume of intakes processed through child protection services and a significantly higher number of cases before the Court as well. During 1999-2004, the child population of Nova Scotia declined at a rate of 1.4% per year throughout the Province. The largest decline was in Guysborough County (CAGR: -5.0%) and the smallest decline was in Halifax County (CAGR -0.4%). At the same time, demand for child welfare services increased, most significantly in the number of court cases and investigations (up by 12.2% from 2000-2004) (NS DCS, 2004).

• In 2004, there were approximately 11,500 child welfare cases in Nova Scotia. About 840 of those involved court proceedings, and less than one per cent of all cases involved apprehending a child from the home. In 2006, there were approximately 2,050 children in care, of whom about 1,160 were permanent wards of the province (Child Welfare Services, n.d.).

NS rate of Children in Care by placement type - March 31, 1999

Source: F/P/T Working Group on Child and Family Services Information, 2002
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE NS DCS

The Family & Youth Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services supports a number of independent community based organizations including women’s centres, transition houses, family resource programs, men’s intervention programs and youth service organizations across Nova Scotia. The majority of these programs and services do not have a fee. Services and organizations funded by the Family and Youth Division include:

**Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS)**

THANS provides crisis and transitional housing for women and their children who are experiencing violence and abuse. THANS works from a feminist-based perspective that seeks to work collaboratively with other community organizations and the three levels of government, as allies, in addressing barriers and eliminating violence against women and children.

**Men’s Intervention Programs**

Men’s intervention programs offer counselling, education and general outreach aimed at men who have been involved in domestic violence and abusive relationships. Various men’s intervention programs are available throughout Nova Scotia, including:

- **New Start**  
  *Halifax, NS*  
  New Start Counselling is a non-profit community based program offering education and counselling to men who have used abuse toward their female partners. It also offers education, counselling and support to the partners of the men involved as well as community workshops and public education.
• **New Leaf**  
*New Glasgow, NS*  
New Leaf offers group counselling for men on the issue of domestic violence, referral to counselling services to women who have been impacted by domestic violence, counselling adolescent males who are showing signs of becoming abusive and doing school presentations on dating violence, healthy relationships, and sexual harassment.

• **Bridges**  
*Truro, NS*  
Bridges offers anger management and domestic abuse counseling. Bridges is committed to helping people move away from abuse and toward respectful and caring relationships. Bridges focuses on how the decision to use abuse is often influenced by sexism, racism, homophobia and so forth. Bridges is a non-profit organization funded through the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and private funding.

• **New Direction**  
*Amherst, NS*  
Group support for abusive men who choose to change their behaviours, including safety planning and information on programming for abusive partners, public awareness and public education programs in schools, businesses and various community groups, information and referral programs and services.

*(NS DCS, 2010c)*

**Women’s Centres**  
Women’s Centres offer support, counselling and referral services to women and adolescent girls who are experiencing violence, are in need of housing and employment assistance and/or are at-risk in their home environments. Numerous Women’s Centres are available across Nova Scotia, including:

• **Tri-County Women’s Centre**  
*Website: [http://www.tricountywomenscentre.org/](http://www.tricountywomenscentre.org/)*  
*Yarmouth, NS*  
Tri-County Women’s Centre is a volunteer, community based, not for profit women’s organization that offers services to women and adolescent girls who are at risk. The centre primarily focuses on providing counselling and assistance with issues relating to parenting, sexual violence, healthy sexuality and housing. The emphasis of the centre is to provide tools to for women and young girls facing crisis to cope with their circumstances and assist them in moving forward to achieve their educational and work goals.

• **The Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre (AWRC) & Sexual Assault Services Assoc. (SASA)**  
*Website: [http://www.antigonishwomenscentre.com/our-work.htm](http://www.antigonishwomenscentre.com/our-work.htm)*  
*Antigonish, NS*  
AWRC -SASA is a feminist, community-based women’s organization.
The Centre provides services to individual women and adolescent girls that include crisis and ongoing problem-solving support, information, advocacy, accompaniment and referral in the following areas:

- Sexual violence, harassment and abuse
- Poverty, Social Assistance and Finances
- Housing and Tenancy Rights
- Employment and Education
- Separation, Divorce, Custody, Maintenance and Access
- Physical, Mental and Emotional Health
- Family and Social Relationships and Parenting

**Family Resource Centres**

Family Resource Centres in Nova Scotia play an essential role in providing support and services for children, youth and families experiencing challenges.

**Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) – Family Resource Centre Support**

In addition to receiving support from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, some Family Resource Centres in Nova Scotia are funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada’s *Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)* which provides long-term funding to community groups to deliver programs that address the health and social development of children from birth to age 6. CAPC prioritizes support for children of adolescent mothers, families with low incomes, and those who are socially or geographically isolated. CAPC funds 14 projects in Nova Scotia through 23 permanent family resource centres and over 100 outreach sites throughout the province (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008).

A few Family Resource Centres that are available across Nova Scotia are listed below:

- **Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre**
  
  Website: [http://www.bayerswestwoodfrc.com/](http://www.bayerswestwoodfrc.com/)
  
  Halifax, NS

  Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre is a non-profit community based agency established in 1991, with a programming focus on families with children aged birth to six years. The mandate of the resource centre is to offer a safe, welcoming, respectful and supportive environment for participants, children, community members and volunteers. Programs offered include social, interactive, educational and empowering opportunities for parents, caregivers and community members supporting participants strengths and skills.

  The centre’s *Parenting Journey Family Support Program* offers free, in-home support to families of children aged 3 to 16 who are facing challenges. A Home Visitor is assigned to each participating family to offer support in such areas as managing behaviour, building relationships in the family, school attendance, family conflicts and divorce among other issues.
• **Cape Breton Family Resource Coalition***

*Various locations in Cape Breton, NS*

The Cape Breton Family Resource Coalition operates as a network of family resource centres and programs across Cape Breton Island. Each of the four counties has a family resource centre; these are located in Sydney, Inverness, D'Escousse, and Ingonish Beach. The goal of the project is to reduce risk for young children and their families in an area where services and resources are limited. The coalition offers a range of coordinated services to promote the well-being of young children including a toy library, group and drop-in play, early intervention, and parent education sessions. A mobile van containing toys, books on parenting, and child care resources provides information to families in more than 20 rural communities.

*Website unavailable*

• **Dartmouth Family Centre**

*Website: [http://www.dartmouthfamilycentre.ca/](http://www.dartmouthfamilycentre.ca/)*

*Dartmouth, NS*

Dartmouth Family Centre is a non-profit organization located in the area of Dartmouth North. The Centre offers programs and services to support families with children prenatal to age six. Our main activities include prenatal and post-natal support, child development programs, programs for parents and children together, and parenting support. Programs and supports for families take place at the Centre, at outreach locations, and in their homes.

• **Eastern Shore Family Resource Association**

*Website: [http://www.esfamily.org/](http://www.esfamily.org/)*

*Porter’s Lake, NS*

Eastern Shore Family Resource Association acts as a referral to other agencies and it has a family life educator on staff who provides one-on-one counselling. provide programs and services for families along the Eastern Shore from Lawrencetown/Lake Echo to Lower Ship Harbour. The Eastern Shore Family Resource Association has a variety of early learning opportunities for children and their parents/caregivers.

• **Kids First**

*Website: [http://www.kids1st.ca/](http://www.kids1st.ca/)*

*Antigonish, Pictou County and Guysborough, NS*

Kids First offers a parent education program and is part of the Antigonish and area family violence prevention committee.
CYF PROGRAMS & SERVICES IN THE HRM
The following is a list of child protection and welfare organizations, services and programs that are located in the HRM and Halifax metro area:

Halifax Region Children’s Aid Foundation (HRCAF)
Website: www.hrcaf.org
The Halifax Region Children’s Aid Foundation focuses on strengthening community by enhancing the well-being of vulnerable children and youth through education, prevention and development.

Phoenix Youth Programs
Website: http://www.phoenixyouth.ca/
Phoenix is a non-profit, community based organization located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada offering at-risk and homeless youth, aged between 12 – 24 services that focus on breaking away from homelessness and finding alternative solutions to life on the street. Phoenix offers an extensive variety of programs (ten in total) and services to address the individual needs of each client including:
- prevention,
- crisis assistance
- emergency shelter
- long-term supportive and structured living
- independent living
- personal skill development
- education
- health services
- after care services

Homebridge
Website: www.homebridgeyouth.ca/
Homebridge is a non-profit, charitable organization which was created in response to a need identified by child welfare workers for a facility to serve youth that foster homes were not appropriate for, and for whom community-based residential services did not exist. In sum, the society functions on the following basic principles and goals:
- Servicing youth, male and female, between 12 and 18 years of age.
- To provide facilities that are community based and located in residential neighbourhoods.
- To prioritize service for the Halifax Regional Municipality
- Youth must be in the care of a Child Welfare Agency to be admitted to any HomeBridge Youth Society facility.

Services offered at Homebridge include:
- Emergency access & crisis stabilization.
- Long term residential placement.
- An accredited school program
- Music and art therapy
• Therapeutic interventions and life skills (ex: anger management, conflict education, counseling, school support, fitness activities).
• Through daily life events we teach self-reliance and healthy independence.
• Opportunities for individual and group learning.
• Connectedness with community as a core focus of treatment.
• Psycho-educational assessments and testing.
• Training placements for youth care, social work, and clerical students.

Homebridge received/fundraised over $140,000 in the fiscal year of 2009/2010. The organization was founded and is primarily funded by the Department Community Services. Homebridge also receives support from the following Government Agencies: the Department of Justice, Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection, Youth Development Initiative and Youth Employability Project.

CHILD WELFARE & FAMILY SERVICES FOR FIRST NATIONS YOUTH

The Mi’kmaw Family and Children’s Services Nova Scotia (MFCSNS)
MFCSNS provides child welfare and family services to First Nations families in Nova Scotia. The agency reports to a Board of Directors and is overseen by a Regional Office and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). The two main offices are located on mainland Nova Scotia and Cape Breton with satellite offices on most reserves.

The agency functions as a private one and is mandated by the CFSA to provide a complete range of child protection services to 13 First Nations bands located in Nova Scotia including Status and Non Status Indian, Métis and Inuit children who have transferred into its care from other agencies (Gough, 2006). Before commencing child welfare or adoption proceedings with an Aboriginal child, notification must be given to this agency.

Culturally appropriate services offered for First Nations families on reserves by the Mi’kmaw Family and Children’s Services include:
• Prevention,
• Family support
• Crisis and shelter programs
• Support and consultation to Mi’kmaw and other First Nations individuals and families not living off reserves and to those agencies that are working with them.

Native Council of Nova Scotia - CHIP Program
Various locations across Nova Scotia
Website: http://ncns.ca/programs-services/child-help-initiative-program-chip/
The Native Council of Nova Scotia is the self-governing authority for the community of Mi’kmaq/Aboriginal peoples residing off-reserve in Nova Scotia throughout traditional Mi’kmaq territory.
The Child Help Initiative Program (C.H.I.P) is offered by the Native Council of Nova Scotia and supported by the NS DCS to provide a supportive, culturally empowering and flexible program for off-reserve Mi’kmaq/ Aboriginal parents and their children aged 0 to 6. Services and activities are offered through the program include:

- C.H.I.P. facilitators that meet with clients to provide guidance, advice, resources and/or programs for Aboriginal families and their children.
- A Resource Bus is available to travel to various locations across the province of Nova Scotia from April to November to provide information, library services, video viewing, craft supplies, games.
- Facilitators that help organize and support the Aboriginal Parent Groups implement event, workshops, programs and other activities that the Parent Groups see as needed within their area.

Mi’kmaw Family Healing Centres (MFHC)

MFHC delivers direct child welfare legislative and Family Violence Protection, Treatment and Prevention Services to all 13 Mi’kmaw First Nation Bands in Nova Scotia. The centres are located on Waycobah, NS and Millbrook First Nation Communities. There are four family units within each Centre.

MFHC’S CIRCLE OF HEALING

Mi’kmaw Family Healing Centres (MFHC) operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide the following services:

- Protection, safety, shelter, and basic life necessities to women and children.
- 24-hour crisis support telephone line.
- Support and information to women, men, and children to enable them to develop and maintain a healthful and violent-free lifestyle.
- Individual and Group Counselling for women, men, and children.
- Outreach services to women, men, and children.
- Referral and follow-up to other social services programs.
- Community Education in Family Violence Intervention, Treatment, and Prevention.

MFHC also offers community based Outreach and Men’s Program are. The Programs also work with other social service agencies to deliver joint programming to address the needs of Mi’kmaw women, men, and children who experience family violence. When women, men, and children are referred to off-reserve programs, the counsellors ensure that the family member successfully accesses and receives services. This type of holistic programming is well established and practiced by MFCS.
Mi’kmaq Child Development Centre
Halifax Metro Area
The Mi’kmaq Child Development Centre is sponsored by the Micmac Native Friendship Centre. The Centre provides a supportive environment to Native families living in the Metro Halifax area while developing and preserving the Mi’kmaw culture. A Parent Steering Committee of parents and grandparents participate in developing the programs offered at the Centre, including a community food bank, formal caregiver support, intercultural training, parenting and survival skills training, fetal alcohol syndrome workshops, and a resource and toy lending library. The centre offers a school readiness program and other family related programs.
## APPENDIX ONE: SUMMARY OF UNCROC RIGHTS / PRINCIPLES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Summary of rights / principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UNCROC applies to everyone under 18 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The right to protection from discrimination or punishment on any grounds*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The best interests of the child should be a primary consideration*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Government should make UNCROC rights a reality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Government should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The rights to life, survival and development*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The right to a name, to acquire a nationality and to know and be cared for by parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The right to an identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is in their best interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or reunite as a family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Children should not be taken out of the country illegally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The right for children to have an opinion and for that opinion to be heard in all matters affecting the child*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The right to freedom of expression*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The right to privacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>The right of access to all media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The principle that parents have primary responsibility for upbringing of child and States to give assistance and ensure institutions, services for care of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>The right to protection from harm or maltreatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The right to special protection and support for children who cannot live with their parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Best interests of child to be the paramount consideration in system of adoption, and that adoption take place on basis of informed consent, limiting intercountry adoptions and ensuring intercountry adoptions have same safeguards as national adoptions, and preventing financial gain in intercountry adoptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The right to special protection and support for refugees and children seeking refugee status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>The right to special care and education for children who are mentally or physically disabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>The right to the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for treatment and rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The right for children placed away from home to have their treatment reviewed regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>The right to benefit from social security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>The right to an adequate standard of living, including material assistance and support to parents or others responsible for care regarding nutrition food, clothing and housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>The right to education, and to dignity in administering school discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>The right to the kind of education that develops one’s personality and abilities and encourages a respect for people’s rights and values and the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>The right for indigenous children and children in minority groups defined by race, religion or language to enjoy their own culture, practise their own religion, and use their own language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>The right to recreation and participation in cultural life and the arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>The right to protection from economic exploitation and work that is bad for health or interferes with education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>The right to be protected from dangerous drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>The right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>The right to protection from abduction and sale and trafficking</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>The right to protection from any other kind of exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>The right not be punished in a cruel, degrading or hurtful way or deprivation of liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that arrest, detention or imprisonment to be as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period; the right, if deprived of liberty to be treated with humanity and respect for dignity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>The right to protection in times of armed conflict; under-15-year-olds should not be eligible to join an armed forces or participate in hostilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>The right to help and support for children who have been abused or maltreated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>The right to a range of protections for children accused of breaking the law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>States may provide for further compatible rights offered to children above and beyond UNCROC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Information about UNCROC should be widely disseminated by the Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Articles 43 - 54 detail the processes by which States’ UNCROC commitments are entered into, reported on and administered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional Protocols to UNCROC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (ratified by NZ in 2001)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ENDNOTES

1. The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC) argues that while policy decisions in Canada are not always directly aimed at addressing children’s needs, many policies do have considerable impacts on the lives of young people. CCRC suggests that the question of how policy impacts youth is not given enough attention or examination. The CCRC cites the example of how a recent amendment made to the Citizenship Act lead to several limitations to intercountry adoption; something which could have been prevented through a closer examination of the amendment and its implications for children (CCRC 2009).

2. With the exception of federally funded services to First Nations peoples living on reservations. According to a 2008 CIS Report however, even the structure of Aboriginal child welfare services is changing rapidly. Increasingly, services are being provided either by Aboriginal organizations or by Aboriginal counseling services that work in conjunction with mandated services (Trocmé, Fallon, Black, MacLaurin, Hélie & Turcotte, 2010).

3. This approach to implementing youth policy has been criticized by some as the federal government “passing the buck” to provinces rather than directly addressing the living conditions and policies affecting Canada’s youth (CCRC 2009; Franke 2010).

4. In sum, The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes:
   - Primary fundamental freedoms of expression and association.
   - Democratic rights such as the right to vote.
   - Mobility rights such as the right to live anywhere in Canada.
   - Legal rights such as the right to life, liberty and security of the person.
   - Equality rights that provide equal treatment under the law to ensure non-discrimination on grounds such as age, gender, race, etc.
   - Official language rights including the right to use either English or French.
   - Minority language education rights including the right of French and linguistic minorities to an education in their language.

5. According to the Family Violence Initiative Performance Report, April 2004 – March 2008: “Though the Criminal Code also contains several child-specific offences to protect children and youth, it does not define “child abuse.” In addition, there is no single comprehensive national data source on violence and abuse against children and youth; information is drawn from a number of sources, which include self-report surveys, police-reported data and surveys of child-protection workers.” (Family Violence Initiative, 2009: 11)

6. In July, 2005, Canada created a new offence of sexual exploitation to increase protection of young people under the age of 18. These measures are found in An Act to amend the Criminal Code (protection of children and other vulnerable persons) and the Canada Evidence Act. Canada has also taken steps to fight human trafficking through Bill C-49, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons), and by developing a broad federal anti-trafficking strategy (Department of Justice Canada, 2005).

7. The objectives of these Guidelines are:
   - to establish a fair standard of support for children that ensures that they continue to benefit from the financial means of both spouses after separation;
   - to reduce conflict and tension between spouses by making the calculation of child support orders more objective;
   - to improve the efficiency of the legal process by giving courts and spouses guidance in setting the levels of child support orders and encouraging settlement; and
   - to ensure consistent treatment of spouses and children who are in similar circumstances (Department of Justice, 2002).

8. The federal government is at various stages of discussion on Jordan’s Principle with the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Newfoundland and British Columbia. For further information on the Principle, refer to: http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/39-3/b203e.php

9. It is important to note that although this report was published in 2008, it neglects to mention that in 2006 the Conservative Government undertook a 40% cutback in funding to the Status of Women Canada as well as several other social programs in Canada. An article by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives provides a discussion on this: http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/conservative-ideology-dressed-rhetoric-fiscal-responsibility
The Best Interests on the Rights of the Child was one of the core principles of UNCROC stating that: “In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.” (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3.1 – See Appendix One)

In terms of research and policy, a similar criticism has been echoed by report produced the CECW, stating that, “While ...[youth and children living in out of home care] is one of the most high risk groups of children in Canada, there is currently no common framework for tracking how well children receiving child welfare services are doing”

The full legislation can be viewed online at: http://nslegislature.ca/legc//statutes/childfam.htm

Section 9 of the Act specifies the functions of an agency as follows:
(a) protect children from harm;
(b) work with other community and social services to prevent, alleviate and remedy the personal, social and economic conditions that might place children and families at risk;
(c) provide guidance, counseling and other services to families for the prevention of circumstances that might require intervention by an agency;
(d) investigate allegations or evidence that children may be in need of protective services;
(e) develop and provide services to families to promote the integrity of families, before and after intervention pursuant to this Act;
(f) supervise children assigned to its supervision pursuant to this Act;
(g) provide care for children in its care or care and custody pursuant to this Act;
(h) provide adoption services and place children for adoption pursuant to this Act;
(i) provide services that respect and preserve the cultural, racial and linguistic heritage of children and their families;
(j) take reasonable measures to make known in the community the services the agency provides;
and
(k) perform any other duties given to the agency by this Act or the regulations.

Under the current provisions of the Adoption Information Act, the Director of Child Welfare has the discretion to release identifying information to the applicant, except where she/he believes the information may pose a risk to the health, safety or well-being of any person to whom the identifying information relates. A 2008 Report by the Minister’s Advisory Committee on the CFSA and Adoption Information Act received 9 submissions strongly recommending that adoption records are made fully open to adults who were adopted and seeking access to their adoption records. In 2003, this provision was also questioned by the UNCROC who recommended that birth records and information about biological parents be made fully available to children as well as adults who were adopted (Ministry Advisory Committee, 2008).

Section 14 (2) states that: “The Minister may provide to a person sixteen years of age or more but under nineteen years of age the same services or placement as to a child. 1990, c. 5, s. 14.”

Section 19, Special-needs agreement with child 16 to 18 states that:
(1) A child who is sixteen years of age or more but under the age of nineteen years, is not in the care of the child’s parent or guardian and has a special need as prescribed by the regulations may enter into a written agreement with an agency or the Minister for the provision of services to meet the child’s special needs.
(2) A special-needs agreement made pursuant to this Section shall be made for a period not exceeding one year, but may be extended for further periods each not exceeding one year, with the approval of the Minister.
(3) A special-needs agreement made pursuant to this Section shall be in the form prescribed by the regulations. 1990, c. 5, s. 19.

Section 3 (2) states that: Where a person is directed pursuant to this Act, except in respect of a proposed adoption, to make an order or determination in the best interests of a child, the person shall consider those of the following circumstances that are relevant:
(a) the importance for the child’s development of a positive relationship with a parent or guardian and a secure place as a member of a family;
(b) the child’s relationships with relatives;
(c) the importance of continuity in the child’s care and the possible effect on the child of the disruption of that continuity;
(d) the bonding that exists between the child and the child’s parent or guardian;
(e) the child’s physical, mental and emotional needs, and the appropriate care or treatment to meet those needs;
(f) the child’s physical, mental and emotional level of development;
(g) the child’s cultural, racial and linguistic heritage;
(h) the religious faith, if any, in which the child is being raised.

Section 8 of the Maintenance Custody Act describes duty of parent or guardian as every one
(a) who is a parent of a child that is under the age of majority; or
(b) who is a guardian of a child that is under the age of majority where the child is a member of the guardian’s household, is under a legal duty to provide reasonable needs for the child except where there is lawful excuse for not providing the same.

Section 9 describes Maintenance order
Upon application, a court may make an order, including an interim order, requiring a parent or guardian to pay maintenance for a dependent child. 1997 (2nd Sess.), c. 3, s. 4. Full legislation can be viewed online: http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/maintcus.htm

Ibid. A recommendation provided by the Minister’s report is to model Nova Scotia’s CSFA to New Zealand’s Family Group Conference (FGC) approach implemented through the NZ Children, Young Persons and their Families Act (CYFP). The FGC has been an effective tool in New Zealand for developing protective plans for children in need of care and the CYPFA facilitates the involvement of family members, grandparents and those with close ties to the child/youth in decisions involving the care of the child/youth.

Around the same time the Minister’s 2008 report was submitted, the Department of Community Services made an amendment to its policy 6.9.6 Post-Secondary Education - Educational Bursary program to approve an extension in provisions for youth in care who are attending an educational program and who are over 21 years of age.

Theresa McEvoy was killed October 12, 2004 when a young person driving a stolen car during a police chase hit her vehicle. The responsible youth had a long history of crime and had just been released from custody two days prior to the fatal accident causing strong public outcry and prompting the provincial government to make a public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the accident, with the aim of developing recommendations to strengthen the youth justice system to prevent similar future occurrences.

Section 88 of the CFSA states that:
(1) The Minister shall establish an advisory committee whose function is to review annually the provisions of this Act and the services relating thereto and to report annually to the Minister concerning the operation of the Act and whether the principles and purpose of the Act are being achieved.

Section 88 of the CFSA states that:
(2) The advisory committee shall be appointed by the Minister, after consultation with the relevant groups and individuals, and shall include
(a) two persons whose children have been, are or may be in need of protective services;
(b) a representative from an agency;
(c) a representative of the Minister;
(d) a legal aid lawyer;
(e) two persons drawn from the cultural, racial or linguistic minority communities; and
(f) such other persons, not exceeding three, as the Minister may determine.

(3) Appointments to the advisory committee shall be for one year and may be renewed.
(4) The advisory committee shall choose one of its number to chair the committee (CFSA 1990, c. 5, s. 88)

The Federation of Foster Care Families of NS also provides support services for Foster families undergoing allegations of abuse or neglect. Specifically, the objectives of this support service are intended to:
- increase availability of Foster Allegation Support Services
• advocate and support foster families who are undergoing allegations of abuse or neglect
• advocate and support foster families who are involved in the appeal process as a result of an investigation
• provide educational resources for foster families, agencies, district offices regarding safeguarding precautions in foster care
• provide accountable documentation for service delivery and program evaluation as requested by the Department of Community Services [http://www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca/allegation.html](http://www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca/allegation.html)

24 The Department of Community Services has endorsed the following rights for children in care:
• to be placed in a home of their own religion, language, race, and culture, if possible
• to participate in making plans for their care
• to be told what their rights are and to complain if they think they are being treated unfairly
• to have their own lawyer or guardian ad litem as appropriate in court proceedings if they request it and if the judge decides it is in their best interest
• to be cared for in a kind, wise, and thoughtful manner
• to visit regularly and in private with their family, relatives, and friends unless their situation suggests that this may be harmful [http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/documents/Children_in_Care_Manual/Children_in_Care_Section_1.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/documents/Children_in_Care_Manual/Children_in_Care_Section_1.pdf)

25 The Mi’kmaw F&CS Agency is not included in this data set
26 A complete list is available on: [http://www.nsdomesticviolence.ca/resource-map/type/womens-centres](http://www.nsdomesticviolence.ca/resource-map/type/womens-centres)
27 Exceptions can be made. Depending on availability, youth from across Nova Scotia may also utilize Homebridge’s Services
28 Off reserve assistance is offered to individuals for three months after an individual or family has left a reserve to live elsewhere and is contingent on the resources available to the agency.
29 For further information, see THANS website: [http://www.thans.ca/Content/Mi%27kmaw%20FHC](http://www.thans.ca/Content/Mi%27kmaw%20FHC)
BIBLIOGRAPHY


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