

Children's Services

Annual Report
2017-18



Note to Readers:

Copies of the annual report are available on
the Alberta Open Government Portal website:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2371-9168>

**Alberta Children's Services
Communications**

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Children's Services

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Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. The Public Accounts consists of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of all 21 ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta contains ministers' accountability statements, the consolidated financial statements of the province and *Measuring Up* report, which compares the actual performance results to the desired results set out in the government's strategic plan.

The annual report of the Ministry of Children's Services contains the minister's accountability statement, the audited consolidated financial statements of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the ministry business plan. This ministry annual report also includes:

- **other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the ministry has anything to report.**

Minister's Accountability Statement

The ministry's annual report for the year ending March 31, 2018, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act* and the government accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at June 1, 2018 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

[Original signed by]

Honourable Danielle Larivee
Minister of Children's Services

Message from the Minister



As Minister of Children's Services, I work every day to make life better for the children and families across the province. Our government knows that the downturn was hard on everyone in Alberta and we responded by implementing new programs and policies that made life more affordable – like our \$25-a-day daycare pilots, our Alberta Child Benefit, and our Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit. While things are looking up, and more and more Albertans return to work each day, we know there's still more work for us to do before all families are feeling the recovery.

This past year has been busy for Children's Services because we've worked to move Alberta forward on a number of important areas. All children in Alberta, regardless of where they live, or their individual circumstances, deserve the same opportunities to thrive within strong, supportive communities. This is an essential part of the work that we've been doing over the last two years. Our government will continue to have the backs of families and children in Alberta and together we'll make life better for everyday Alberta families.

We know that by investing in children and families we're ensuring that we're building the social and economic foundation that help Albertans and our province grow and prosper for generations to come. That's why we've worked to strengthen and protect the front line services that everyday families rely on. Last year we opened 22 new \$25-a-day Early Learning and Child Care Centres in Alberta as part of our commitment to creating access to affordable, high-quality child care. No family should ever have to choose between somewhere that's safe or somewhere that's affordable and that's why we will continue our work to expand this pilot program to an additional 100 centres this year, for a total of 7,300 affordable child care spaces in communities all across the province. The Early Learning and Child Care Centre pilot is making a real difference for working parents by providing high-quality child care at a price they can afford.

Ensuring Albertans have access to affordable child care is only part of the work we're doing to make life more affordable for everyday working families in Alberta. We've also implemented the Alberta Child Benefit which gives lower income families a hand up with \$1,100 for families with one child, and up to \$2,750 for families with four or more children.

This little bit of extra support will make life a little easier for families so children never have to go without the things they need, like winter clothing or extra-curricular activities.

Our government and this ministry remain deeply committed to ensuring the momentum we have achieved toward reconciliation with Indigenous people continues. We continue to invest in frontline programming for culturally appropriate services and supports and we're committed to working with Indigenous families and communities to ensure that all children and families have the support they deserve. In January 2018, the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention presented recommendations that will guide us in our work toward providing Indigenous Albertans with the supports they need in ways that are reflective and respectful of their culture.

Government has accepted these recommendations and we have already begun working with families, communities, agency partners, First Nations and other Indigenous peoples to jointly develop a public action plan that will be released in June. Together, we will create a roadmap to a province where all children are supported in reaching their full potential, where all families can access the supports they need, and where every Indigenous child and family receives the same level of service, wherever they live.

Earlier this year, we also began working with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta, to develop an engagement plan that would lead to a meaningful apology to Indigenous survivors of the Sixties Scoop and their families in Alberta. This apology took place in May 2018 and I'm forever grateful for the work of the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta and to all the survivors who came forward to share their experiences and their stories in engagement sessions leading up to the apology. Our government is committed to continuing the important work of reconciliation and will work to ensure that this work never stops.

[Original signed by]

Honourable Danielle Larivee
Minister of Children's Services

Management's Responsibility for Reporting

The executives of the ministry have the primary responsibility and accountability for the ministry. Collectively, the executives ensure the ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and strategic plan, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements and performance results for the ministry rests with the Minister of Children's Services. Under the direction of the minister, I oversee the preparation of the ministry's annual report, including financial statements and performance results. The financial statements and performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – Information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source of data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandability – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparability – the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Completeness – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the ministry's Budget 2017.

As deputy minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control, which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money
- provide information to manage and report on performance
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under provincial administration
- provide Executive Council, the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Children's Services the information needed to fulfill their responsibilities
- facilitate preparation of ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executives within the ministry.

[Original signed by]

Darlene Bouwsema
Deputy Minister of Children's Services
June 1, 2018

Results Analysis

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

In 2017-18, Children's Services strived to achieve three outcomes:

Outcome One: Families are supported to provide a safe and healthy environment for children and youth

Outcome Two: Children and youth in need of child intervention are supported in order to achieve safety and well-being

Outcome Three: Greater collaboration between government, communities and Indigenous partners strengthens services and achieves shared social outcomes

Children's Services is composed of the areas described below.

Office of the Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister oversees the ministry under the direction of the Minister and is the liaison between the elected official and ministry employees. The Deputy Minister provides strategic advice, and oversees the ministry's day-to-day operations, budget, and program development.

Child Intervention

The Child Intervention division works in partnership with stakeholders and community partners to lead and support programs and services for vulnerable children, youth and families. The division supports children and families across the province so that children have the supports they need to remain at home safely. The division continues to build on a framework that includes culturally appropriate practices to ensure that children and youth in Alberta are resilient, safe, healthy, and grow up in environments that encourage the development of lifelong relationships.

When children are unable to remain in their family home, work is undertaken collaboratively with parents and extended family to maintain familial, cultural and community connections and to pursue reunification of children with their parents. When efforts to support a child's safety within their family are not possible, the Child Intervention division works to find permanent homes for children, often through Private Guardianship and Adoptions. The division continues to implement improvements within the child intervention system, focusing on keeping families together, addressing the conditions that bring children into care and promoting collaborative solutions to support child safety and well-being.

| MINISTRY OVERVIEW |

In Alberta, children and families receive child intervention services from seven regions across the province and 17 Delegated First Nation Agencies.

Key responsibilities include:

- supporting the delivery of services mandated by the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, the *Drug-Endangered Children Act* and the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*;
- enhancing outcomes for children, youth and families receiving child intervention services through evidence-based practice and collaborative service delivery with agencies and partners;
- developing and maintaining relationships with the Delegated First Nation Agencies and Indigenous Services Canada to support on-reserve child intervention service delivery and, with Métis stakeholders such as the Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association to support the needs of Métis children and families involved with child intervention services; and
- partnering with the ministries of Community and Social Services, Justice and Solicitor General, Health and Education, Alberta Health Services and police and to improve the safety and well-being of children and youth.

Family and Community Resiliency

The Family and Community Resiliency division works with other government ministries and community partners to support responsive relationships for children, youth and families. The division works to strengthen core life skills and resiliency; reduce risk factors; strengthen protective factors; and support and facilitate integrated service pathways based on the needs of children, youth and families in their communities. The division also leads the ministry in addressing addiction and mental health supports for vulnerable children, youth and families.

Key responsibilities include:

- providing accessible, affordable and quality child care options for parents and support for Early Childhood Development programs;
- supporting prevention-focused policy and programs for children and youth, including the Alberta Mentoring Partnership, Advancing Futures Bursary, addictions and mental health supports and suicide prevention; and
- conducting program evaluation and performance measurement activities for division programs and services.

| MINISTRY OVERVIEW |

Programs and services are delivered either centrally at the department level through the ministry's seven regional delivery areas and/or in partnership with community agencies.

Policy, Innovation and Indigenous Connections

The Policy, Innovation and Indigenous Connections division supports the ministry and its partners in taking a holistic perspective towards the needs of Indigenous communities and in building and strengthening relationships across the province. A specific focus is on improving outcomes for Indigenous children and families in Alberta through cultural understanding, relationship building and strategic leadership.

The division is also responsible for the ministry's strategic policy functions by providing strategic guidance to other divisions and cross-ministry partners. The division's focus on integration across programs, particularly of lessons learned and best practices, strengthens the ongoing activities of quality assurance and continuous improvement. The division works to frame and shape ministry policy, legislation and government priorities.

Key responsibilities include:

- working with key partners and stakeholders to coordinate strategies involving Indigenous people, stakeholders, communities and organizations including the identification of strategic priorities, internal coordination of ministry initiatives, engagement, and the evaluation of overall progress in achieving organizational and community outcomes;
- providing leadership within the ministry for Indigenous and community engagement with people and stakeholders who represent a range of social and community sectors across Alberta;
- promoting Indigenous cultural awareness throughout the ministry by enhancing understanding of Indigenous people and communities;
- working collaboratively with partners on initiatives relevant to children and families;
- leading strategic policy design, development and coordination for the ministry;
- providing support to the Child and Youth Services Council for Quality Assurance and a key liaison between the department, divisions, Minister's Office and the Council to improve the quality of child intervention services; and
- supporting the development and implementation of the ministry's Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement strategy.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services division provides services under a shared services model to the Ministry of Children's Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Areas of responsibility include financial planning and management, financial reporting, internal audit, accommodations, information and privacy, investigations, emergency planning and management, and procurement.

Key responsibilities include:

- monitoring the financial activities of the department and preparing quarterly and annual financial statements;
- ensuring ministry compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act);
- fraud investigations to support compliance and accountability;
- leading the coordination and cooperation for the ministry in the prevention, preparedness and response to disasters and emergencies;
- providing strategic direction and guidance for corporate procurement and grants to support an integrated approach; and
- providing guidance on the ministries information management and information sharing needs.

Communications

Through a service agreement with Communications and Public Engagement, the Communications branch offers the Minister and department strategic communications advice and consulting, strategic writing and communications planning services. Responsibilities also include clear and timely information to the public about the ministry's key initiatives, programs and services. Communications also provides strategic advice on issues management, media relations, specialized writing, social media, website content management, research and marketing services and product design services, as well as internal communications supports.

Human Resources

Works with ministry leadership, employees and other departments to ensure ongoing employee capacity with an engaged workforce to deliver upon the mandate. Responsibilities include human resource planning; supporting the attraction and engagement of employees; and building employee capacity to achieve business plan goals. Human Resources provides integrated human resource services to the ministries of Children's Services, Community and Social Services, Seniors and Housing, and Status of Women.

Effective April 1, 2018 Human Resources consolidated its functions into a single organization under the Alberta Public Service Commission. This consolidation is the first step in Human Resource System Innovation and, over the coming months, will transform many services.

Legal Services

Provides a full range of non-litigation services and related strategic advice, including legislative development, to all areas of the ministry.

Key responsibilities include:

- identifying, analyzing and providing advice to business areas on potential legal issues;
- providing strategic and legal advice on program and policy changes to meet legal requirements and legislated timeframes;
- liaising with other Justice and Solicitor General legal teams to provide access to litigation and other legal services; and
- providing legal advice and related support in the development of legislation, regulations and Ministerial Orders.

| STRATEGIC RISK UPDATE |

**ECONOMIC
CLIMATE**

Families experiencing poverty are more likely to struggle to provide the supports children need, which can increase the demand for the programs, services and supports offered by Children's Services. That's why our government is working across ministries to address the root causes of poverty and investing in the front line services and supports that families rely on. This includes investing \$308 million for the Alberta Child Benefit and the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit.

Gradual increases to the minimum wage have also benefitted everyday working families. We know that the majority of minimum wage workers are women, and one in three has a young family which is why these modest increases are so important. Even during the economic downturn, Alberta continued to have the lowest rate of children living in low-income households (12.8 per cent of all children) compared to other provinces (17 per cent overall for Canada). However, these rates are higher for Indigenous children in Alberta and vary depending on geographical location and other factors. So we know that there's more work for us to do.

Women in Alberta continue to have primary responsibility of caring for children and other dependent family members. The ability of women to participate in the work force is directly affected by the availability of affordable child care. Increased investments in child care programming was the first step towards being able to offer a wide range of Albertans with \$25-a-day high-quality, affordable child care, and to maintain a child care subsidy program with one of the highest eligibility thresholds in Canada.

Alberta experienced population growth slightly higher than the Canadian average, which played a role in increased overall client-load for the ministry.

RECONCILIATION

Alberta is home to one of the largest, youngest and fastest-growing Indigenous populations in Canada, yet Indigenous children still too often face unfair and unnecessary barriers to health and support services resulting in higher rates of poverty.

These inequalities result as part of broader systemic problems including marginalization, discrimination, as well as social, economic, political and historical factors that have been ignored by governments for decades. Government is committed to reconciliation and committed to working with all Indigenous leaders, families, and communities to address the legacies of colonialism, the Sixties Scoop and the Indian Residential School system on family systems and communities so we can work together to make life better for all Albertans.

| STRATEGIC RISK UPDATE |

PREVENTION AND
EARLY INTERVENTION

Children's Services continued on a path to reconciliation with meaningful engagement and implementation of the objectives and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in programs and services, and collaboration with Indigenous communities toward improved service planning and cultural connections for their children. In partnership with Indigenous Relations and the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta, Children's Services engaged with survivors of the Sixties Scoop to help shape government's apology in a meaningful way that promotes healing.

Many programs and services in Children's Services support families and youth in crisis. With limited resources, it can be challenging for government to focus on prevention and early intervention when immediate service needs are more apparent and acute. That's why it's so important to ensure that the financial support and investment for these programs are in place.

The ministry invested in prevention-oriented staff development and continued to work towards consistent implementation of an updated prevention and early intervention framework with increased involvement of Indigenous stakeholders. The ministry expanded investment for Early Learning and Child Care to increase access to and affordability of quality early learning and child care, which play an important role in promoting the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of young children and supporting positive lifelong benefits. The ministry participated in collaborative work with Alberta Health to improve addictions and mental health systems for children and youth.

A Ministerial panel examined the Child Intervention system to address the systemic issues that lead children into government care. Recommendations from the Panel included action on root causes for child intervention involvement, direct, long-term poverty-reduction strategies, family violence prevention, and access to meaningful, culturally congruent family supports. Our government knows that recommendations are only one part of the work that we need to do, the important thing is to take action. That is why within a month of receiving the report, our government passed Bill 18: *The Child Protection and Accountability Act* to increase support for the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. The ministry is currently working to implement the remaining recommendations.

| STRATEGIC RISK UPDATE |

INTEGRATED
SERVICES

Clients of Children's Services often have complex needs and connections with multiple service providers. An individual or family's involvement with the ministry can include a number of distinct programs and processes; this can be inefficient, cumbersome and confusing for the people served and creates a greater administrative burden on service providers. Above all, it is not a cost-effective approach for taxpayers. Integrated service delivery has the potential to offer seamless coordination of person-centred services to support improved outcomes and easier transitions for individuals and their families. Improved systems and infrastructure for simultaneous service provision by multiple areas of Children's Services, multiple ministries, or community service providers have supported a shift to integrated service delivery. In 2017, the government's Information Sharing Strategy was updated to support the sharing and management of Albertans' personal and health information appropriately and effectively when delivering social-based services. Now, a client's information can be accessed by multiple service providers. The ministry developed and implemented an Information Sharing Guide and Toolkit to support the Information Sharing Strategy. Online courses (*Information Sharing Under the Children First Act* and *Information Sharing in Practice*) are available to Children's Services staff, staff from other ministries, and members of the public to support this integrated service delivery initiative.

Data sharing within the ministry, with service partners and with the public was enhanced in 2017-18 as staff initiated the first phase of a web-based Child Information Management Data System. This project compiles and tracks internal process information related to quality assurance and continuous improvement, legislative responsibilities, and recommendation responses.

Strategic workforce planning connects and directs talent management activities to ensure the ministry has the proper human resource capital to deliver on its business. Strategic workforce planning in 2017-18 supports best practices by ministry staff, such as principles of integrated service delivery, included alignment of skills and competencies with staffing needs. Ministry staff developed the Child Intervention Learning and Development curriculum and learning pathway for training new Child Intervention staff, created human resource practice and competency profiles for Child Intervention Workers, assessed regional and provincial need for Practice Specialists to support program implementation, and developed a Provincial Consistent Practice Approach for Specialized Services.

Revenue:

Ministry revenue was \$119.9 million, approximately \$36.7 million higher than 2016-17 and \$54.6 million higher than Budget 2017.

Compared to 2016-17 Actual

Higher revenues are primarily from the Government of Canada for investments in early learning and child care.

Compared to Budget 2017

Higher revenues are primarily from the Government of Canada for investments in early learning and child care. Other increases in revenue are from higher program expense recoveries from the Government of Canada for services provided to on-reserve clients, and funding to help with the care and education of children under 18 years of age who are in the care of the ministry.

Expense:

Ministry spending was \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$147.4 million from 2016-17 and \$65.4 million higher than Budget 2017.

Compared to 2016-17 Actual

The increase is primarily attributable to:

- \$52.2 million increase in the Alberta Child Benefit program as the program launched in July 2017.
- \$67.7 million increase in the Child Care Program based on:
 - \$43.3 million for Early Learning and Child Care Centres throughout Alberta
 - \$24 million for growth in the Child Care Accreditation and Child Care Subsidy programs as more families were eligible for the Subsidy, and more programs became accredited.
- \$4.6 million increase for Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth because of an increase in the number of subsidies approved under the Advancing Futures Bursary Program, and increased spending in community based programming including Home Visitation.
- \$23 million increase in the Child Intervention Program primarily for caseload costs, with \$6.2 million due to liability related to obligations capturing available Registered Education Savings Plans for children in care.

Compared to Budget 2017

Ministry spending was \$65.4 million higher than Budget 2017, primarily attributable to:

- \$28 million increase for caseload increases in the Child Intervention Program, with \$6.2 million of the increase due to a liability related to obligations to capture available Registered Education Savings Plans for children in care.
- \$57.6 million increase in the Child Care Program:
 - \$43.3 million for the implementation of Early Learning and Child Care Centres across the province
 - \$14.3 million for growth in the Child Care Accreditation and Child Care Subsidy programs.
- \$15.8 million lower spending in the Alberta Child Benefit Program due to lower than anticipated uptake of the program.
- \$4.3 million lower spending in Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth due to project delays, and lower salary costs in Ministry Support Services.

Key Achievements at a Glance

Looking back on the past year, Children's Services undertook a number of key projects and innovations. These achievements continue to make life better for children and families in Alberta.

124,824

total licensed and approved child care spaces – more than 8,110 additional spaces since March 2017.

(page 21)

283,315

visits to the Alberta Mentoring Partnership website. Children's Services and Education provided funding to provide existing mentors with research and training resources, and work with communities and organizations to develop and enhance mentoring programs.

(page 30)

200

youth provided feedback to inform the Youth Suicide Prevention Plan via six HEADSTRONG Summits across the province. Approximately, 60 stakeholder groups and 19 Indigenous communities and youth representatives in partnership with Alberta Health Services were also engaged by Children's Services to inform the development of the Plan.

(page 28)

\$25-a-day Affordable Child Care

In addition to piloting \$25-a-day child care, Alberta's child care subsidy program has one of the highest eligibility thresholds in Canada. Families can earn up to \$50,000 per year and still qualify for the maximum subsidy.

(page 23)



Bill 18

The Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention recommendations to government resulted in the proclamation of Bill 18: *The Child Protection and Accountability Act* on March 30, 2018.

Recommendations from the Panel included strengthening and streamlining the child death review process.

(page 39)

\$24.5M

for operational grants to support 56 Parent Link Centres across the province. The goal of Parent Link Centres is to help parents and caregivers build capacity to develop nurturing environments that support early childhood development.

(page 26)

1,350

Personal Protection Kits and guidance on naloxone kits, were provided to Children's Services and contracted agency staff throughout the year, as part of Children's Services' Opioid Response Action Plan.

(page 29)

2,000

Over 2,000 sessions of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program were attended by nearly 6,000 participants. The Program offers parents strategies to help them confidently manage their children's behaviour, to build strong, healthy relationships.

(page 27)

1

OUTCOME

Families are supported to provide a safe and healthy environment for children and youth

Families of all backgrounds are more likely to thrive in healthy, supportive communities that include quality schools, strong public health care services, community organizations and appropriate government services. The ministry recognizes the importance of providing supports for children from their early years through their transition into adulthood in order to develop competencies and coping skills that influence life-long learning, behaviour and health. The ministry also works to provide parents with quality information, supports and services to strengthen family resilience.

KEY STRATEGIES identified to support the above outcome

- 1.1 Improve access to quality, affordable child care.
- 1.2 Enhance and promote community based early childhood services, parenting resources and supports.
- 1.3 Partner with Alberta Health to improve the addictions and mental health system, paying specific attention to children and youth.
- 1.4 Develop and implement the Children's Services Addiction and Mental Health Framework.
- 1.5 Promote and enhance youth mentoring supports and services.

1.1 Improve access to quality, affordable child care.

Affordable, quality child care is a challenge for many Alberta families. The ministry is committed to making life better for families, working and stay-at-home parents with pre-school and school-age children. In 2017-18, Children's Services invested approximately \$378 million in the child care system to:

- support quality as a growing number of child care programs became accredited;
- recruit and maintain qualified staff;

- provide child care subsidies to low income families; and
- monitor and respond to child care space pressures.

Affordable and accessible, quality child care supports job creation, economic growth, poverty reduction, women's equality and positive outcomes for Alberta's children.

The Minister of Children's Services has legislative responsibility for the *Child Care Licensing Act* and Regulations.

Regulated Child Care

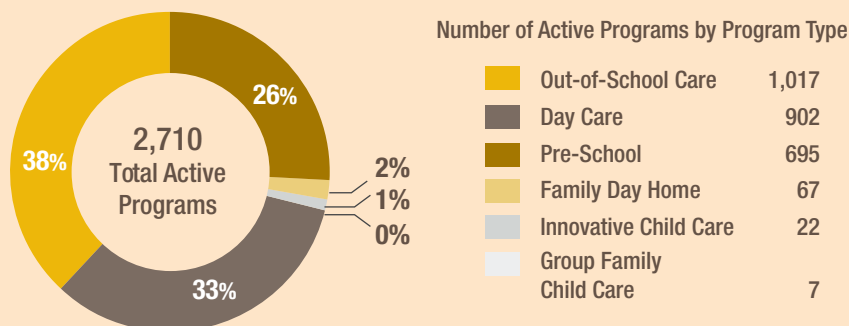
In Alberta, a license is required under the *Child Care Licensing Act* to operate a child care program that provides care for seven or more children, from infants to 12 years of age. Licensed programs are subject to Alberta's Child Care Licensing Regulation, which sets out the minimum standards that must be met in each licensed child care program to ensure the health, safety and developmental needs of children are met. Children's Services' seven regional delivery areas license, monitor and issue enforcement actions.

The ministry is responsible for ensuring children are safe and have access to child care that is developmentally appropriate by:

- Enforcing the legislative authority for the licensing of child care programs;
- Inspecting child care programs;
- Approval of family day homes;
- Certification of child care staff, educators and practitioners

QUICK FACTS

Licensed and Approved Child Care Programs



124,824
licensed and approved child care spaces
across Alberta – an increase of
more than 8,110 spaces from March 2017

In March 2018, there were 2,710 licensed and approved child care programs, an increase of 143 programs (6 per cent) since March 2017.

- Accrediting child care programs and administering accreditation funding;
- Providing quality assurance mechanisms to measure consistency of delivery practices, compliance with legislation and appropriate use of grant funding;
- Providing child care subsidy to eligible lower income families; and
- Providing funding to support access to child care for children with special needs.

In March 2018, there were 2,710 licensed and approved child care programs, an increase of 143 programs (6 per cent) since March 2017. The majority of the active child care programs operating across Alberta, fall into three categories: day care, pre-school and out-of-school care. The number of active programs by program type are illustrated in the Quick Facts chart on page 21. In March 2018, the ministry reported a total of 124,824 licensed and approved child care spaces, an increase of more than 8,110 spaces from March 2017 (7 per cent increase). Of these spaces, approximately 113,000 are in licensed programs and nearly 12,000 spaces were in approved family day homes.

Early Learning and Child Care Centres Pilot

In 2017-18, \$10 million was provided to pilot 22 Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Centres. This pilot was launched in 2016-17 to further enhance the provincial child care system. The pilot focused on quality, space creation, job creation and affordability with maximum fees for Albertans set at \$25-a-day.

As of March 31, 2018, 19 of the first 22 Centres were open and operating, resulting in:

- 1,133 licensed child care spaces, including 636 new spaces;
- 293 new enrollments in existing programs;
- 117 new child care jobs province-wide; and
- 328 parents, mainly women, able to enter the workforce.

The new Centres implemented improvements in child care support such as extended hours of operation, supports for children with diverse needs, supports for on-site professional development, and opportunities for parents to communicate whether the program is meeting the needs of their children.

All Centres are part of *Play, Participation, and Possibilities: An Early Learning and ChildCare Curriculum Framework for Alberta*¹, an evidence-based practice approach with a focus on relationships, play and a holistic approach to how children engage in activities that are most appropriate and support their development. The ministry continues to work with community partners, such as early learning and child care educators, academics and post-secondary institutions to support implementation of this Curriculum Framework.

The Centres collaborate with community programs to promote quality improvements, such as working with Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (GRIT). This integrated and responsive approach provides inclusive child care supports for children with diverse needs. GRIT provides access to training and on-site coaching to increase the capacity of child care programs to support the inclusion of all children.

Year one of a three-year evaluation of the 22 pilot sites is underway. This evaluation will inform future decisions about Alberta's child care system. Over the next two years, the evaluation will expand to include new ELCC Centres.

1. Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). *Play, participation, and possibilities: An early learning and child care curriculum framework for Alberta*. Retrieved from www.childcareframework.com.

Expansion of the Early Learning and Child Care Centres Pilot

Over the last year, Children's Services worked with the federal government and other provinces and territories to develop a national early learning and child care framework. A Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework with Federal, Provincial and Territorial partners was signed on June 12, 2017.

A Canada-Alberta Bilateral funding Agreement was signed in December 2017, resulting in \$45.6 million in federal transfers to enable the expansion of Alberta's pilot to support children and working families with \$25-a-day ELCC Centres. In December 2017, Children's Services launched an Expression of Interest process to select 100 new ELCC Centres which will bring

the total to 122 Centres across Alberta. The ministry issued grants to all eligible not-for-profit programs by the end of March 2018.

With 122 ELCC Centres across the province, Children's Services will continue creating a more affordable child care system while ensuring it meets the unique needs of all children. This includes supports for children with diverse needs by offering flexible child care and supporting vulnerable families. Evaluation findings will inform future funding and possible expansion of the program.

For more information visit <https://www.alberta.ca/elcc>.

Affordable Child Care

For too long, affordable child care was out of reach for many parents in Alberta. Government is committed to making life more affordable for everyday Alberta families and that is why in addition to piloting \$25-a-day child care, Alberta's child care subsidy program has one of the highest eligibility thresholds in Canada. Families can earn up to \$50,000 per year and still qualify for the maximum subsidy; partial subsidies are based on family income and the child's age.

There were over 100,000 children enrolled in licensed and approved child care programs in March 2018 with more than 27,000 receiving child care subsidy. Of those who received a subsidy, 81 per cent received full subsidy and 19 per cent received partial subsidy.

In 2017-18, Children's Services provided financial assistance to over 5,300 children under the Kin Child Care funding program. The Kin Child Care funding program helps eligible families with the costs of child care provided by a non-custodial relative who does not live in the same home as the child.

In addition to the Kin Child Care program, children with special needs may receive support from the Inclusive Child Care Program to attend a licensed day care centre, pre-school or family day home. Inclusive Child Care programs create flexibility to meet the individual needs of children with special needs within these child care settings.

The ministry also offers funding through the Infant Care Incentive Program, paying a universal grant of \$150 per month to licensed day cares and approved family day homes to offset the higher cost for infants under 18 months of age. In 2017-18, the ministry supported nearly 5,400 infant spaces under this program.

Lower-income families may also qualify for the Alberta Child Benefit and the enhanced Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit. These programs help lower-income families pay for child care.

Quality Child Care

Accreditation

All parents deserve to feel confident that when they drop their kids off for child care, they'll be safe and healthy when they pick them up at the end of the day. That's why, in Alberta, accreditation standards of excellence are over and above legislated requirements and reflect leading practices in providing high-quality care for families with children in child care. Accreditation focuses on outcomes related to children, staff, families and the community to help families choose the best environment for their children. Accreditation is available to licensed day care, out-of-school care programs and family day homes. Participation in accreditation is voluntary.

Children's Services invested approximately \$111 million in 2017-18 to support the growing number of child care programs in Alberta participating in the accreditation program. As of March 2018, approximately;

- 96 per cent of day care programs and family day homes (926 of the 969 eligible programs); and
- 85 per cent of out-of-school care programs (866 of 1,017 eligible) were participating in the accreditation program.

Accreditation funding to child care programs supports the recruitment and retention of qualified child care professionals through wage top-ups of up to \$6.62/hour paid to staff, professional development grants of up to \$1,000/year, and staff attraction incentive funding of up to \$2,500/year for up to two years. Wage top-ups paid to child care professionals account for 98 percent of the Child Care Accreditation Funding program budget.

85% of out-of-school care programs were participating in the accreditation program

Certification, Training and Educational Qualifications

Researchers, policy makers, and practitioners agree that well-prepared early childhood educators are of critical importance to high-quality learning environments and the experiences that shape child development.

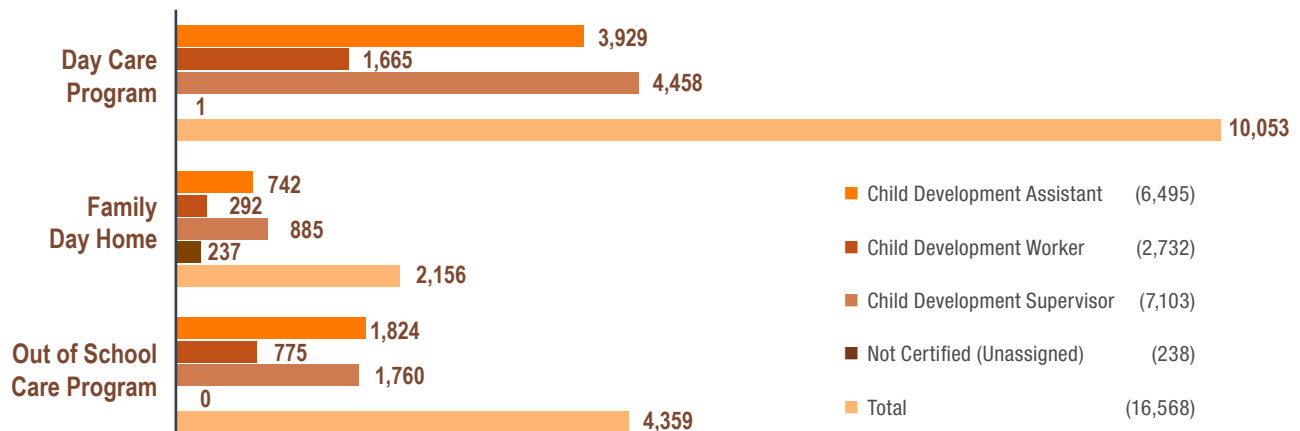
Child care professionals play a vital role in the quality of child care children receive. Under Alberta's *Child Care Licensing Act* and Regulation, all staff working directly with children in licensed day care, out-of-school care, and pre-school programs must be certified within six months of employment and must not have unsupervised access to children until certified. Under the provincial certification process, Children's Services assesses post-secondary educational training in the field of early childhood education to determine eligibility at one of the three levels of certification:

1. Child Development Assistant (Child Care Orientation Course or equivalent)
2. Child Development Worker (1-year ELCC post-secondary certificate or equivalent)
3. Child Development Supervisor (2-year ELCC post-secondary diploma or equivalent)

The chart on the following page illustrates the number of certified staff working in licensed day care, out-of-school care programs and approved family day homes in March 2018. The ministry assessed more than 8,300 professionals for certification.

Child care professionals with educational backgrounds in early childhood have specialized knowledge to support the healthy development and well-being of children in child care environments. Over the past year, Children's Services implemented changes improving the qualifications of certified child care staff by narrowing post-secondary equivalencies accepted for provincial certification.

Number of Certified Staff by Program Type and Certification Level (in March 2018)



Information about child care certification and equivalencies in Alberta is available online (www.humanservices.alberta.ca/family-community/child-care-providers-staff-certification.html) as well as in the *Child Care Staff Certification Guide* (www.humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/child-care-staff-certification-guide.pdf).

Children's Services funds the delivery of the Child Care Orientation Course, a non-credit course intended for individuals without formal training who are working in licensed and approved child care programs, as well as for high school students interested in pursuing a career in early learning and child care. The ministry contracts delivery of the Orientation Course to early childhood organizations for online or classroom-based instruction in English or French, at various locations across the province, including on-reserve, at no cost to the student. Course completion qualifies

individuals for certification as a Child Development Assistant. Children's Services recently updated the learning content and assignments in the Child Care Orientation Course according to current knowledge and practices. Changes include expanding the early childhood curriculum content, adding a new test bank of questions, and identifying standard course completion requirements. During 2017-18, more than 2,600 individuals working in child care programs registered for the course.

16,600 certified staff working in licensed day care, out-of-school care programs and approved family day homes

On-Reserve Child Care Licensing Pilot

All families deserve the same access to affordable childcare no matter where they live. This year, at the request of Kapawe'no First Nation, staff worked with the First Nation to assist their on-reserve child care program becoming licensed. Kapawe'no First Nation Child Care Society received a child care licence for 31 spaces in its day care program on July 10, 2017. Located in the northern Alberta community of Grouard, this is the first on-reserve Indigenous child care program to achieve provincial licensed status in Alberta.

This licensing enables families using the service to be eligible for child care subsidy to assist with child care fees and enables the program to participate in the Alberta Accreditation funding program, which offers wage top-ups for child care professionals.

Going forward, government will continue to work with Indigenous communities across the province to expand access to affordable licensed daycare facilities and \$25-a-day Early Learning and Child Care Centres.

1.2 Enhance and promote community based early childhood services, parenting resources and supports.

Community Based Early Childhood Development Programs and Services

Early intervention and prevention investments support families in their homes and communities, and helps reduce the need for more intensive crisis-based services. The ministry supports community-based prevention and early intervention programs and parenting resources for

children up to six years of age and their families to improve early childhood development and support positive parenting outcomes. Community-based prevention and early intervention programs include Parent Link Centres, the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program and the Home Visitation Program.

Parent Link Centres

Parent Link Centres are a provincial network of community-based family resource centres providing prevention-focused supports to increase families' strengths, minimize the impact of risk factors and support positive developmental and family wellness outcomes. The goal of Parent Link Centres is to help parents and caregivers build capacity to develop nurturing environments through Parent Link Centres with free resources and support, and also offer developmental screening and referrals to other needed services in the community.

In 2017-18, Children's Services invested approximately \$24.5 million for operational grants to support 56 Parent Link Centres across the province, including:

- Approximately \$1 million in communities where the Early Development Instrument (EDI) data results show overall developmental vulnerability that exceeded the provincial average of 29 per cent. The instrument measures the percentage of children developing appropriately in five key areas: social competence, emotional maturity, language and thinking skills, physical health and well-being, and communication skills and general knowledge;

- Approximately \$800,000 to the provincial Parent Link Centre Network to provide evidence-based training, technical support and coaching to enhance service delivery quality and ensure adherence to provincial Standards and Guidelines;
- \$350,000 to Siksika Family Services Corporation to develop a new Parent Link Centre pilot on reserve at Siksika First Nation; and
- Approximately \$500,000 for resources and training required for ongoing delivery of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program within Parent Link Centres to increase positive parenting skills and knowledge, and decrease the risk of child maltreatment.

According to the most recent survey results (2016-17), Parent Link Centres reported serving nearly 107,000 Albertans, an increase of 6.7 per cent from the previous year. Approximately 10 per cent of participants self-identified as First Nations, Métis or Inuit and 7 per cent as new Canadians (living in Canada fewer than three years).

Parent Link Centres administered nearly 8,900 Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) and 5,600 ASQ: Social and Emotional development screenings, which resulted in flagging 1,272 child referrals for further developmental assessment and support.

Triple P-Positive Parenting Program

This evidence-based program is proven to work across cultures, socio-economic groups and in a variety of family structures. Delivered by Parent Link Centres throughout the province, the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program offers parents simple and practical strategies to help them confidently manage their child's behaviour, prevent problems from developing and build strong, healthy relationships.

The most recent survey data available (2016-17) reported nearly 6,000 participants attended just over 2,000 sessions of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program. The program offers a free online self-directed Triple-P Positive Parenting course for parents and caregivers who may find it challenging to attend in-person parenting sessions, such as those living in rural or remote areas.

Home Visitation Program

Alberta's Home Visitation program serves families experiencing challenges that may prevent healthy child development or family wellness. The goal is to support a parent's understanding of child development, improve their skills and help them establish a connection to supports in the community. This will help prevent the need for escalated services in the future.

Home visitors help the family by providing information, supports and referrals and by facilitating goal setting. Involvement in the Home Visitation program is voluntary. Public health nurses, social workers and other community professionals make referrals, or the family may request services themselves.

Children's Services provided \$10.6 million in 2017-18, including an increase of \$1.1 million to address wait list pressures and service delivery gaps.

Ten Home Visitation agencies in Calgary, Edmonton and Central Regions received operational grants for service delivery, and the Alberta Home Visitation Network Association received a grant for delivery of evidence-based core training for Home Visitation agencies.

The most recent data (2016-17) shows 34 agencies provided Home Visitation services across Alberta, serving just over 11,000 clients, including parents, children, youth and other Albertans. Approximately 21 per cent of participants self-identified as First Nations, Métis or Inuit, and 26 per cent self-identified as new Canadians (living in Canada fewer than three years).

QUICK FACTS

Triple P-Positive Parenting Program

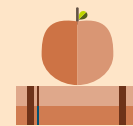
6,000
participants



attended

2,000+

sessions of the
Triple P-Positive Parenting Program



A free online self-directed course is offered for parents and caregivers who are unable to attend in-person parenting sessions.

For more information, visit the Triple P-Stay Positive website at www.triplep-parenting.ca.

1.3 Partner with Alberta Health to improve the addictions and mental health system, paying specific attention to children and youth.

Addictions and Mental Health Recommendations

Children's Services works with Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services to align addiction and mental health activities with those underway through the *Valuing Mental Health* initiative.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Children's Services is participating in the implementation of the 18 actions identified in the *Valuing Mental Health: Next Steps* report (<https://tinyurl.com/ycph8nnn>), which resulted from a comprehensive review of the addiction and mental health system in Alberta.

The recommendations responded to a wide range of needs in both urban and rural communities, among culturally diverse groups, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, and among many other stakeholders. The actions identified in the report include co-leading the development of a provincial youth suicide prevention plan. This plan will address the needs of specific populations, including Indigenous and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirited (LGBTQ2S) youth.

Youth Suicide Prevention

Children's Services engaged approximately 60 stakeholder groups including youth, service delivery organizations, and individuals with lived experience to inform the development of the Youth Suicide Prevention Plan. The ministry also partnered with Alberta Health Services to engage 19 Indigenous communities and youth representatives through the Honouring Life Summit in November 2017. A further 200 youth provided feedback to inform the Plan via six HEADSTRONG Summits across the province,

including two Indigenous focused summits. These summits were in collaboration with the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

A project was initiated to develop two comic books by and for youth (one for First Nations and one for Métis youth) focusing on suicide prevention through mental health promotion and cultural connection, which will be completed in fall 2018.

1.4 Develop and implement the Children's Services Addiction and Mental Health Framework.

Partnerships to Address Addictions and Mental Health for Youth

To support young Albertans with complex mental health challenges, Children's Services is working with Alberta Health Services on the development of a process to ensure youth discharged from an emergency department with complex mental health issues are connected to community-based services in a timely manner.

In collaboration with Alberta Community and Social Services, the ministry worked to clarify roles and responsibilities addressing addiction and mental health through the *Addiction and Mental Health Roles and Responsibilities: A Guide for Children's Services and Community and Social Services*. Prioritization of key activities is underway with implementation of this shared approach to proceed in 2018-19.

In 2017-18, Children's Services provided a \$100,000 grant to the Canadian Mental Health

Association (CMHA) to co-develop a Family-to-Family Peer Support program to provide compassionate support, information and resources to help families assist their dependents with mental health concerns, while maintaining their own mental health. CMHA regional offices launched Peer Support Networks across the province in Edmonton, Camrose, Calgary, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Wood Buffalo.

In response to the Fort McMurray wildfire, \$100,000 was provided to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo CMHA through federal disaster response funding. This funding provided information and guidance to parents concerned about the mental health of their children, including anxiety and depression, resulting from the wildfire.

Children's Services' Opioid Response Action Plan

Children's Services continues to work with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to monitor cannabis and fentanyl substance abuse and the potential impact on ministry clients with an aim to prevent or decrease the prevalence of substance abuse issues.

Opioid and other addictions-related resources and education, including 1,350 Personal Protection Kits and guidance on naloxone kits, were provided to Children's Services and

contracted agency staff throughout the year. An online practice webinar was held with Child Intervention workers in May 2017 to provide staff with information and resources to keep themselves safe from exposure to unsafe substances and about their role in safety planning with youth and families. Caregiver training was developed and piloted in October 2017 to support caregivers in recognizing the signs of opioid addiction and identify how to respond appropriately.

1.5 Promote and enhance youth mentoring supports and services.

Alberta Mentoring Partnership

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters Society of Edmonton, Children's Services co-leads the Alberta Mentoring Partnership (AMP). The AMP is a network of community agencies, government and youth working together to raise the profile of mentoring so young people thrive through mentoring relationships.

The AMP serves as a hub to collaborate and share best practices, allowing agencies to cater to the unique needs of each community.

In 2017-18, Children's Services provided the AMP with \$58,000 in funding to provide existing mentors with research and training resources to work with communities and organization to develop and enhance mentoring programs. The funding supports the first year of a new

three-year plan to strengthen Alberta's capacity to support and enhance mentoring programs.

The AMP increased visibility of mentoring by providing resources to the sector, as demonstrated by the 283,315 visits to and the 3,627 resources downloaded from its website.

The AMP increased awareness among educators through workshops created in collaboration with and offered by the Alberta Teachers' Association, through mail outs to 2,025 schools, and through updates to existing school resources; High School Teen Mentoring Handbook, Making Positive Connections, and Framework for Building Relationships in Schools.

The AMP also developed new resources in support of distinct populations (Resources for Mentoring Refugee, Immigrant & Newcomer Children and Youth, and Resources for Mentoring Indigenous Children and Youth)

Based on the success of the Alberta Mentoring Partnership's past work, the Government of Alberta has supported a fourth strategic phase that will span the period from 2017-2020.

Mentoring for Youth in Care

In 2017-18, 91 additional children and youth in care benefited from a mentoring opportunity through the Youth in Care Mentorship program, bringing the total to 261 since the program began in 2014.

The Alberta Mentoring Partnership completed an evaluation of the Youth in Care Mentorship Program in March 2017.

Results from the evaluation show youth participants who received mentorship opportunities through the program experienced increased confidence, improved communication skills and increased school engagement (i.e. better attendance, on track to graduate and looking at or attending post-secondary).

Best practices from the evaluation results are informing province-wide planning among services providers.

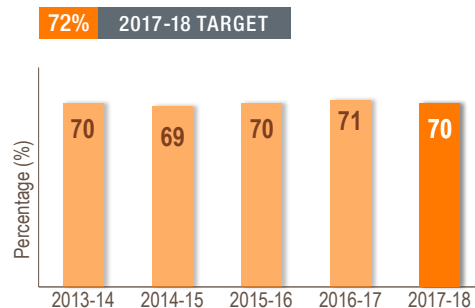
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OUTCOME

Performance Measures

The following performance measures demonstrates Children's Services commitment to provide families with a healthy environment for their children and to support youth transitioning out of government care to reach their full potential.

1.a Percentage of licensed child care programs compliant with the *Child Care Licensing Act* and Child Care Licensing Regulations



Source: Alberta Association for Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services, and Child Care Information System

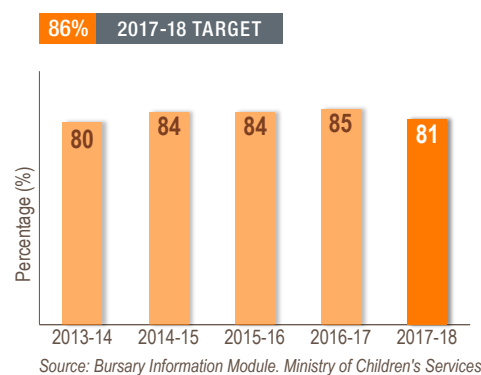
(This measurement excludes Family Day Home programs)

This measure tracks the percentage of Alberta licensed child care programs in compliance with the *Child Care Licensing Act* and Regulations. The results of this measure illustrate government's commitment to providing safe, high-quality learning environments for children.

All licensed child care programs, including existing and new programs, are inspected annually and include Day Care programs, Pre-School programs, Group Family Child Care programs, Innovative Child Care programs and Out of School Care programs. The performance measure results provide a reliable count of the number of child care programs with proven success in maintaining a safe and nurturing environment to children.

In 2017-18, there were 2,643 licensed child care programs in Alberta. Of those, 70 per cent were in compliance with the *Child Care Licensing Act* and Regulations. The result was 1.0 per cent lower than the 2016-17 result, and two per cent lower than the target. There was a significant increase of 144 more net new programs (6% more programs) licensed in 2017-18 than in comparison to the previous fiscal year. Net new is defined as programs opened within one year. During this same period, new programs received 35 per cent more non-compliances than existing programs. As new child care programs open, a period of learning takes place, resulting in an increase in non-compliance.

1.b Percentage of youth receiving Advancing Futures Bursaries who successfully completed their planned studies during the fiscal year



This measure demonstrates how well Children's Services is addressing the needs of youth transitioning out of government care into post-secondary and enabling them to reach their full potential through participation in advanced education.

Advancing Futures is a transitional support and funding program for youth who have been in care or are currently receiving services under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* to access a post-secondary education with the final goal of obtaining a long-term career.

Approximately 4,950 youth in care or formerly in care, between the ages of 18-24, met the eligibility criteria for Advancing Futures. The only program of its type in Canada. Program coordinators provide social and emotional supports for youth transitioning out of care to assist them in achieving educational success. Current and prospective students receive transitional support. In addition, financial assistance is provided to support the costs of educational expenses, student expenses and supplemental benefits. Youth in care, including First Nation youth living on or off reserve, are encouraged to apply if they would like to obtain their high school General Equivalency Diploma, upgrade through adult education or enroll in a post-secondary school for a degree, diploma, certificate or trade.

In addition to addressing financial needs, Advancing Futures assists students in achieving success by supporting them through transitional challenges, such as transitioning into adulthood, affordable housing, accessible health care, budgeting, navigating their community, learning

everyday life skills and how to be successful in school. Advancing Futures takes a strengths-based approach to supporting youth and recognizes the potential of students to reach their educational goals and to overcome challenges they may face. Measuring the percentage of youth successfully completing their planned studies provides Advancing Futures with the opportunity to assess both the students' and program success.

Between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, the Advancing Futures program received 16.8 per cent more applications than in 2016-17 (891 compared to 789). Among them, 730 students were approved to receive a bursary yet 161 students did not follow through to complete the application process.

Of the 730 students approved to receive a bursary, 658 enrolled in a program between May 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018 and of those, 81 per cent successfully completed their planned studies. This is lower than the target and a four per cent decrease from last year's actual result. Recognizing the results are lower compared to each of the last three years, driving factors for the decrease include the program coordinator to student ratios (890:5), increased mental and physical needs of students, and fewer eligible youth accessing the program. Inability to access supports in a timely manner may have contributed to lower completion rates.

Data also shows only 18.1 per cent of eligible youth applied to Advancing Futures, while the ministry saw a 4.6 per cent increase in the number of youths who either withdrew or were terminated.

The lower number of applicants may be due to a variety of factors. For example, there is currently a focus on ensuring eligible youth at the age of 18 are offered a Support and Financial Assistance Agreement which helps the transition into adulthood and can be open until the age of 24. As a result, youth may be relying more on Child and Family Services offices for transitional supports before accessing Advancing Futures.

In early 2016, the ministry improved its internal structure and communication process to facilitate biannual engagement with Child Intervention caseworkers who have eligible youth in their caseloads. The intent of this engagement is to identify eligible youth earlier and provide timely support in transitioning youth to post-secondary.

2 OUTCOME

Children and youth in need of child intervention are supported in order to achieve safety and well-being

Every child deserves to grow up in a home where they are safe and their well-being is nurtured. Children's Services supports preservation of families by offering targeted services and community-based supports so children can safely remain at home. The ministry intervenes to protect children and youth when necessary, seeking to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment free from abuse and neglect and one that encourages the development of stable lifelong relationships.

The ministry works collaboratively with parents and extended family to maintain familial, cultural, and community connections and pursue reunification of children with their parents. The ministry continues to build on preventive approaches and implementation of reforms in the child intervention system, focusing on keeping families together, addressing the conditions that bring children into care and promoting collaborative solutions to support child safety and well-being.

KEY STRATEGIES identified to support the above outcome

- 2.1** Continue to improve child intervention practice through the implementation of the Child Intervention Practice Framework and the Signs of Safety practice approach.
- 2.2** Implement the Prevention and Early Intervention Framework to prevent child maltreatment.
- 2.3** Respond to and implement recommendations from external reviews to improve and strengthen the child intervention system.
- 2.4** Support children in care to develop long-term, nurturing relationships.

2.1 Continue to improve child intervention practice through the implementation of the Child Intervention Practice Framework and the Signs of Safety practice approach.

Child Intervention Practice Framework

Through collaboration with service delivery and community partners, Children's Services continues to implement the Child Intervention Practice Framework (CIPF). The framework principles and core elements of leading practice that guide staff in working collaboratively with children, youth and families. These principles support an environment in which family strengths are recognized, and children and youth are respected and supported.

The framework sets the foundation for Signs of Safety (SofS) and other practice initiatives to ensure child intervention staff are supported in making decisions in a manner consistent with the ministry's organizational values and principles, and by ensuring staff have tools and approaches to provide the right kinds of services and supports. You can learn more about the CIPF including its underlying principles at: <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/17242.html>.

In the last year, the ministry developed competency profiles and practices for child intervention workers and kinship workers and aligned foster care worker profiles with the CIPF to support recruitment of appropriate competencies to the roles.

Children's Services assessed the regional/provincial needs for practice specialists to support framework implementation and aligned Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system enhancements to support the CIPF and the SofS practice approaches.

The ministry evaluated the CIPF and SofS, including gathering staff perspectives, their use of the practice approaches and shifts in their practice behavior and drafted an evaluation plan to capture experiences of children, youth and families served. Once implemented, the insights from this feedback will inform improvements to services.

The ministry also developed a Child Intervention Practitioner Training (CIPT) Pathway Learning and Development Model that:

- defines the sequence of learning and development activities a new child intervention practitioner undertake in their first three years to achieve proficiency in their role; and
- is separated into two categories of learning, Core (first 6 months) and Supplementary (month 7 to year 3).

Signs of Safety

Children's Services continues to implement Signs of Safety (SofS) practices across the province. This key initiative under the CIPF is an evidence-based approach to child intervention practices, which focuses on enhancing and leveraging the knowledge and skills of front-line workers to more effectively mitigate risk and support safety within families. Created in Australia, SofS is used across North America, Europe and Australasia. The Government of Alberta is in its fourth year of implementation.

Progress on this initiative included aligning provincial implementation plans to create province-wide consistency with focus on leadership, learning, organizational alignment and meaningful measurement. Practice approaches selected for implementation:

- focus on the relational aspect of child intervention work;
- help staff navigate the complex tension between child safety and family preservation through the adoption of evidence based tools and approaches to support critical thinking;

- identify and support children at imminent risk through multidisciplinary approaches;
- explicitly ensure Indigenous families and communities are engaged in planning for their children; and
- engage immediate and extended families in a more intentional way.

The ministry delivered two-day courses for new Child Intervention staff on Alberta SofS practices in alignment with CIPF training and developed a one-day SofS overview for agencies and caregivers.

By providing child intervention staff and practice specialists with over 900 hours of case consultation, coaching, and mentoring supports, SofS consultants can build capacity to fully embrace and master skills and tools needed which includes an opportunity to train, coach and mentor ministry SofS practice specialists.

Children's Services is completing a review as part of the CIPF evaluation to assess staff application of SofS practices.

Alignment of Provincial Specialized Services

In Alberta, specialized child intervention services exist to protect the most vulnerable, at-risk children. Children's Services is developing provincial delivery models for each of the specialized areas aimed at building capacity for equitable and accessible service delivery across the province. These services are collaborative, share accountability and require coordination of activities across multiple agencies.

Services include:

- Child Advocacy Centres (CAC) offering child friendly facilities in which professionals from child intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy sectors work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse and hold offenders accountable;

- Enforcement of the *Protection for Sexually Exploited Children Act (PSECA)*;
- The Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team (AVIRT), comprised of interdisciplinary teams of child intervention workers, public health nurses, and police service personnel who triage and assess risk, develop safety plans and work with families to provide guidance and support;
- Placement Resources Assessment Teams (PRAT) that assess allegations of abuse and neglect, or care concerns with the safety or well-being of a child in the custody or under the guardianship of the Statutory Director, and takes action ensuring the child is safe from abuse and receiving adequate care; and
- Secure Services allows an intervention worker to put the necessary means in place to protect a child or youth at risk of harming themselves or others.

Child Intervention Case Information Online

The electronic case management system, Child Intervention Case Information Online, received three updates in 2017-18 to better align with and support the Child Intervention Practice Framework and Signs of Safety. Improvements

also streamlined workflow by reducing duplication of work and simplifying data entry. Improvements increased access to information through electronic records storage to better support program delivery.

Child Intervention Quality Assurance

The government is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children requiring child intervention services in Alberta. As Children's Services continuously seeks to improve the quality of its services, a five-year quality assurance review spanning 2017-2021 was developed. In 2017-18, the Office of the Statutory Director completed a comprehensive internal review, which resulted in findings and recommendations to improve the ministry's internal review processes.

Under section 105.771 of the *Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act*, the review explored how to continuously improve the child intervention system leading to better outcomes for children and their families.

The ministry began revising its Internal Child Death and Serious Incident Review process in order to ensure it:

- is applied consistently across the province;
- provides for the production of findings and recommendations in a timely manner;
- disseminates the findings in a way that supports timely continuous improvement;
- supports immediate actions including practice reviews and assesses policy gaps; and
- considers the added value of reviews being completed by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

Child Intervention Practice Standards Review

Child Intervention Standards measure the practice and quality of services provided to children, youth, and families. Focusing on safety and positive outcomes, the standards highlight key areas of child intervention intended to complement and align with operational policy and legislation.

In 2017-18 six standards and 23 associated practice measures were reviewed to:

- include both Indigenous and non-Indigenous results;
- reflect real time results for current service delivery;
- address deficiencies in a timely manner;
- survey the entire population of children receiving child intervention services, in place of a sampling of children; and
- support public reporting.

Three new electronic practice measures are being added to the current metrics for public reporting in 2018-19 and are in response to recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General.

The new electronic practice measures:

- support continuous improvement in performance measurement and accountability through real-time measures reportable from the Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO);
- apply to all children with information in CICIO, in comparison to the current practice measures that are based on a statistically reliable sample; and
- provide real-time results for current service delivery with children and youth to address any deficiencies in a timely manner.

Injuries and Deaths of Children and Youth with Child Intervention Involvement

As a measure of accountability and transparency, Children's Services remains committed to sharing information that supports an understanding of the circumstances of children, youth and

families involved in the child intervention system. This includes posting public notification of serious injuries and deaths of children and youth in care or receiving services at the time of their death.

In 2017-18, there were 14 reports of serious injuries involving young people receiving intervention services. The injuries included one stabbing, five assaults, three drug overdoses, three car accidents and two suicide attempts.

The *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* defines a serious injury as a life-threatening

injury to a child or an injury that may cause significant impairment of a child's health.

In 2017-18, 33 Albertans receiving child intervention services died. As per the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* and the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, all 33 deaths were reported to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Child and Family Services Council for Quality Assurance.

Summary of Injuries and Deaths of Children and Youth with Child Intervention Involvement in 2017-18				
	Children in Care	Child Intervention Involvement (Children not in Care)	Over 18 years of age and receiving Support and Financial Assistance (SFA)	Total
Death	7	18	8	33
Serious Injury	3	3	8	14
Total	10	21	16	47

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Determination of Deaths of Children and Youth with Child Intervention Involvement in 2017-18							
Accidental	Natural	Undertermined	Suicide	Pending a Determination	Did Not Require Review	Occurred Outside of Alberta	Total
6	1	1	2	16	5	2	33

2.2 Implement the Prevention and Early Intervention Framework to prevent child maltreatment.

Prevention and Early Intervention Framework

Children's Services is committed to providing preventive and early intervention programming for children, youth and families to encourage positive and healthy outcomes. The ministry continues to work collaboratively with community partners to ensure the delivery of a wide range of effective prevention and early intervention programs and services.

In 2017-18, the ministry initiated a process to redevelop the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Framework to align it with current and emerging trends, research and Indigenous worldviews. The redeveloped framework supports defining key elements of services,

decision making around funding, evaluation and service delivery of the most effective programs, and communication of how the programs are providing prevention and early intervention services. Work with Indigenous partners, regional staff and community agencies is underway to ensure Indigenous ways of knowing, recommendations from the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention and current research are incorporated.

The updated PEI Framework, including processes to measure and report on the outcomes and effectiveness of these programs with Indigenous participants, is targeted for completion in 2018-19.

2.3 Respond to and implement recommendations from external reviews to improve and strengthen the child intervention system.

Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention

In response to reports from the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) the Office of the Auditor General, and in the Legislature regarding the Child Intervention system, the Government of Alberta appointed an all-party Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention to improve and strengthen Alberta's Child Intervention system. The mandate outlined requirements for two reports to inform legislative review of the child death review process and the Child Intervention system in Alberta.

A Secretariat supported Panel members to facilitate and coordinate panel and community meetings. They were provided expertise and resources to conduct cross-ministry engagement with the ministries of Executive Council, Health, Education, Justice and Solicitor General, and Indigenous Relations.

Between April 1, 2017 and January 24, 2018, the Panel visited five communities in three Treaty areas; conducted 25 meetings; heard 49 presentations from subject matter experts; received over 300 public submissions; and

reviewed over 3,000 pages of submissions and 300 past recommendations. The Panel engaged Alberta Indigenous communities and leaders including Delegated First Nation Agencies, First Nations Band Designates, First Nations Chiefs, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Settlements General Council, and community members from Bigstone Cree Nation, Paul First Nation and Piikani Nation. The Panel also gained insight hearing from child intervention experts, advocates and stakeholders, youth and families with lived experience in the system, foster and kinship caregivers, frontline staff, contracted agency and ministry staff, and the public.

The Panel delivered its mandate in two phases:

- Phase 1: Recommendations to government resulted in the proclamation of Bill 18: *The Child Protection and Accountability Act* on March 30, 2018; and
- Phase 2: Delivery of 26 consensus-based recommendations to strengthen the Child Intervention system and address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children.

QUICK FACTS

Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention

The panel received input and ideas from across Alberta. In addition to written submissions, many Indigenous communities and leaders generously shared their experiences and ideas.

communities visited
in three Treaty areas


5 



300+

past recommendations
reviewed

public submissions
received

300+ 



3,000+

pages of submissions
reviewed by the panel

Recommendations were based on the following principles:

- Co-creating a Positive Future;
- Reconciliation;
- Supporting Families and Communities;
- Sustaining Cultural Connections;
- Utilizing the Strengths of Family Systems and Kinship Care;

- Supporting a Strong, Stable Workforce;
- Combatting Discriminatory Mindsets; and
- Enabling the Change.

The Government of Alberta is now working with families, communities, and Indigenous and agency partners, to jointly develop a public action plan to implement recommendations and improve supports for children, youth and families.

Child Protection and Accountability Act

The *Child Protection and Accountability Act* was proclaimed into force on March 30, 2018. This Act is intended to make Alberta's child death review process more culturally sensitive and transparent. The Act requires the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate to conduct a review for any death of a child under 20 years who was receiving services or had received services

within two years prior to the death. The legislation resulted in the creation of a primary authority to review child deaths in Alberta, reduced duplication of work to establish consistency of the review processes, improved timelines regarding death reviews, and increase clarity and information-sharing to ensure the efficient and timely implementation of findings.

2.4 Support children in care to develop long-term, nurturing relationships.

Kinship care is the preferred placement option as it allows children to maintain important familial and cultural ties and is less traumatic for the child than being placed with strangers (foster or group care). Kinship caregivers are extended family members or persons who have a significant relationship with the child and family, or is a member of the child's cultural community. To increase the number of children connected to family and significant persons, the ministry is committed to enhancing and strengthening the Kinship Care program in Alberta.

The ministry redesigned the Immediate Assessment and Support for Kinship Caregiving forms incorporating required information. This tool will be useful for the entire spectrum of child intervention involvement, from immediate kinship needs to supporting caregivers in their application for legal permanency when appropriate, and development of a practice guide to facilitate kinship assessments to accompany the kinship Assessment tool. Children's Services is developing a plan to pilot the tools in seven regional delivery areas and in Delegated First Nations Agencies across Alberta, in the Fall of 2018.

Child Intervention Information and Statistics Summary 2017-18 Fourth Quarter (March) Update			
Approved Foster and Kinship Homes	2015-16	2016-17	As of March 29, 2018
Authority Foster Homes	1,344	1,201	1,228
Agency Foster Homes	613	529	531
Kinship Homes	1,529	1,806	2,041
All Approved Homes	3,486	3,536	3,800

Source: <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/child-intervention-info-stats-summary-2017-18-q4.pdf>

Caregiver Training and Support

Children's Services is working to ensure infants, children and youth involved with Child Intervention are nurtured by empathic, responsive caregivers who accept them as they are, respond to them in a developmentally appropriate manner, interpret their behaviour through a trauma informed lens, and have an appreciation for the impact of their grief and loss. The ministry recognizes Indigenous infants, children and youth have unique identity and cultural connection needs that must be supported by the adults in their lives. As such, Children's Services is refreshing caregiver training to ensure caregivers have the latest tools and supports to promote child well-being.

In the past year, the ministry:

- created the Foundations of Caregiver Supports education modules to inform caregivers

on the effects that trauma, loss and grief can have on children and families;

- piloted the education modules with staff and caregivers;
- gathered input on training modules from Delegated First Nations Agencies (DFNAs) and the Elders Wisdom Table to incorporate Indigenous perspective; and
- trained 55 Government of Alberta and DFNA trainers.

It is expected all child intervention and DFNA staff, supervisors and managers throughout the province will receive the training and the modules will be incorporated into the refreshed Core Training for Caregivers by the Fall of 2018.

Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections

Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections is a spectrum wide approach to safety and well-being for children, youth and families. It provides staff with tools and processes that focus on ensuring critical thinking in decision-making and ensuring strong, meaningful connections in four domains (physical, relational, legal and cultural) are an active part of planning with families, children and youth. Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections will have impacts on policy, training and practice with a desired outcome of supporting a consistent approach to working with children and youth within child intervention in

Alberta. Policy updates are occurring to support imbedding the approach in practice, including:

- setting out timelines and decision points for terminating permanent guardianship orders;
- increased involvement of indigenous and other relevant cultural connectors; and
- facilitating relevant and sustainable supports during transitions.

In 2017-18, four regional service delivery offices piloted the Lifelong Connections practice strategies and province wide implementation is expected to be completed by Fall 2018.

Family Finding Model

The Family Finding model facilitates finding, engaging and nurturing connections for children and youth in care and is a key tool within Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections. In 2017-18, Children's Services contracted a youth permanency and Family Finding expert trainer to support and mentor staff.

- The expert trained approximately 100 ministry, Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNA) and

contracted agency staff in March 2018, on how to facilitate family meetings to ensure all parties are supported, have their concerns met, and address the wellbeing of the child.

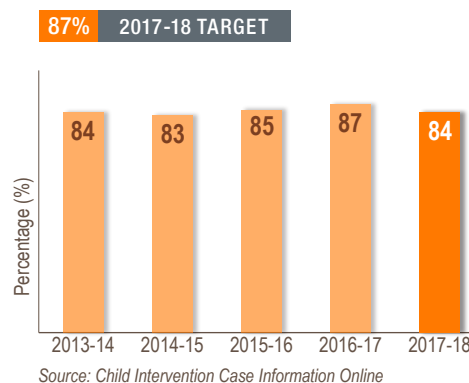
- Held "boot camp" sessions for approximately 100 child intervention, DFNA and contracted agency staff to teach practical skills on how to find families to build connections for children and youth in-care.

2 OUTCOME

Performance Measures

The performance measure demonstrates the number of children and youth who have received child intervention services that do not return for additional services and demonstrates how well the ministry is doing to provide permanent and stable living situations for children who received intervention services.

2.a Percentage of children and youth with a new child intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months



Child intervention services are guided by legislated principles under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*. The Act places emphasis on assessment in determining the need for intervention and the type of intervention to be provided to children, youth and families. This is based on the belief that a thorough assessment of child and family strengths and needs will result in better case planning and more effective interventions and shorter timeframes to achieve the intervention objectives. With more than 10,000 children and youth currently receiving child intervention services across Alberta for those in or out of care, child intervention services promotes well-being, stability and continuity of relationships with biological families or legal guardians, while protecting children from further maltreatment.

The measure reports on the percentage of children and youth, both in and out of care with a new child intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months. Child intervention services support safe and healthy children and families by looking at the family's situation and identifying the most effective ways of helping the family through their challenges. This may mean providing some short-term services to a child and family, or referring them to get support from a community program.

In 2017-18, 84 per cent of the children and youth opening a child intervention file under a not-in-care or in-care legal authority did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months.

This suggests the number of vulnerable children who were previously involved with child intervention are being supported to live at home with their families, independent of the child intervention system.

The result while positive did not meet the target set at 87 per cent, the slight variance in results over the last five years is mainly due to:

- families being able to cope with day-to-day issues, rather than approach the ministry;
- the volume of need having decreased, meaning there are fewer children and youth who require multiple files;
- improved assessments resulting in better case planning and more effective interventions under shorter timeframes; and
- families requiring additional services typically have many complex issues.

The target of 87 per cent is achievable, aimed at motivating and inspiring case workers and management. Children's Services aims to reduce the rate of recurrence by providing families with the supports they require, understanding that in some cases, families may return for additional services as time progresses and their needs change. Of all the children and youth that come to the attention of Children's Services, almost 90 per cent can be assisted without needing to open a child intervention file. Therefore, the selection of

a target of 87 per cent is based on a continuous improvement model.

Based on the feedback from frontline staff and internal/external recommendations, the ministry is continuing its efforts to develop new and innovative ways to serve at-risk children, youth and families. The Child Intervention Practice Framework supports an environment where family strengths are recognized and children and youth are respected and supported. The ministry is accelerating the implementation of the Framework by promoting initiatives to ensure child intervention staff are supported in making decisions in a manner consistent with the ministry's organizational values and principles and that they have tools and approaches that will provide the right kinds of services and supports.

Working with service delivery staff, government, agencies and research partners, the ministry is supporting evidence-based improvements in child intervention policy and practice. This will provide additional supports for child intervention workers in their day-to-day interactions and decision-making with children, youth and families. Child intervention services support safe and healthy children and families by looking at the family's situation and identifying the most effective ways of helping the family through their challenges. This may mean providing some short-term services to a child and family, or referring them to get support from a community program.

2.a

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: Children receiving Child Intervention services as a percentage of the child population in Alberta

This indicator describes the percentage of children and youth, ages 0-17 years, receiving child intervention services as a proportion of the total child population in Alberta. The Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system identifies how many unique children and youth had an open child intervention under legal authority at any point during the calendar year. Tracking the number of children receiving services can help the ministry plan and prepare resources to address caseload demands.

Monitoring the percentage of children and youth receiving child intervention services as a direct proportion of the total child population in Alberta helps the ministry track whether any progress has been made to the overall safety, security and well-being of children in the province. Specifically, if the percentage stabilizes when Alberta's child population is growing every year, it may indicate the ministry's success in strengthening families and communities to keep children in safe and stable environments. The percentage of children receiving child intervention services has remained below two per cent since 2013. An increased focus on relationships and collaboration during initial contact with families has led to a better understanding of the issues families face, resulting in fewer matters requiring further assessment.

Despite child population growth in Alberta, child intervention services appear to be decreasing which may be a direct correlation to families being better equipped to support their children without child intervention services. The ministry is focusing on new approaches such as bringing staff and family together to identify challenges and the kinds of supports that will help the family heal. By building this foundation, trusting relationships are being established.

The Government of Alberta is committed to supporting families, protecting vulnerable children and youth, and strengthening the child intervention system. Safety and well-being of children and families is a top priority. Intervention services are provided when there are concerns a child or youth is being neglected or abused by the parent or guardian.

Collaboration with various external and internal partners is central to the ministry's work. In the last few years, the Government of Alberta has introduced a number of resources that target client groups across a range of service providers. For instance, greater collaboration between government ministries allows for better sharing of timely information.

The ministry continues to evolve to achieve improved outcomes for children, youth and families through implementation of the Child Intervention Practice Framework to create organizational culture and structures to support practice excellence.

Children Receiving Intervention Services as a Percentage of the Child Population in Alberta					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Percentage	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%
Number of children receiving child intervention services	17,277	15,636	14,834	15,564	15,726
Number of children in Alberta	872,956*	890,209*	906,245*	923,042	935,861

* Number of children in Alberta from 2012 to 2017 has been updated using the Statistics Canada Statistics Canada CANSIM (database) Table 051-0001 – Estimates of Population, by age group and sex.

3

OUTCOME

Greater collaboration between government, communities and Indigenous partners strengthens services and achieves shared social outcomes

Indigenous children are over-represented in all aspects of the child intervention system, which highlights the need for partnership with Indigenous leaders and communities to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and to build on strengths in communities.

KEY STRATEGIES identified to support the above outcome

- 3.1** Work with Indigenous communities, leaders and partners to strengthen relationships and develop collaborative strategies that support Indigenous people.
- 3.2** Work closely with Indigenous leaders to review ministry programs and policies to identify ways to implement the objectives and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 3.3** Improve information-sharing practices within government and with service agencies to support the best outcomes for the health, education and safety of children, youth and families.
- 3.4** Collaborate with Indigenous communities toward improved service planning and cultural connections for their children.
- 3.5** Work with Indigenous leaders and the federal government to identify options to formally adopt Jordan's Principle to ensure that meeting the needs of all children, including First Nations children, takes precedence over any jurisdictional issues.

3.1 Work with Indigenous communities, leaders and partners to strengthen relationships and develop collaborative strategies that support Indigenous people.

Collaborative Pilot Projects

In 2017-18, three pilot projects were initiated to address ongoing socio-economic challenges facing Indigenous communities across Alberta.

1. Paul First Nation Community Strategic Plan

- Through collaboration with Paul First Nation and support from the Cross-Ministry Committee on Indigenous Communities (CMCIC), a two-day Community Strategic Planning session was held in July with approximately 60 community members.
- The CMCIC will be working to implement the strategic plan throughout 2018.

2. Kapawe'no First Nation

- As part of ministry efforts to address barriers faced by Indigenous children and families, Kapawe'no First Nation Child Care Society became the first on-reserve Indigenous child care program to achieve provincial licenced status in Alberta in July 2017.

- The Society received a licence for 31 spaces in its child care program for children up to age five.
- Licensing of the child care program in the First Nations community enables parents to access the provincial child care subsidy and child care programs to apply for child care accreditation funding.

3. Bigstone Cree Nation Pekewe Project

- Children's Services is supporting the development of a reunification home called the Pekewe Project. The goal of the home is to bring Bigstone children and youth in care back to their home community and provide a safe and healthy home where they can remain connected to their community.
- Support from the ministry is helping to develop program policies and a governance model to enable the home to become operational in 2018.

Reconciliation and Support for Indigenous Research

Over the past year, Children's Services continued to research, document, organize and disseminate best practices and establish culturally respectful approaches for ministry staff working with Indigenous peoples and communities. Specifically the ministry works with internal and external groups to support an array of Indigenous research and knowledge sharing opportunities, including:

- the Kihîw Library continues to be maintained and updated with current and relevant literature, an online subject guide, Community Profiles and other culturally appropriate resources, which are available to all staff.
- a report, *Of the Heart: Summary Report of a Scoping Review of Indigenous Youth Suicide and Prevention*, was completed and findings from all data components were presented and

framed by Alberta-based advisors' insights, perspectives and priorities. This report and the findings will inform the development of the Indigenous Stream for the Provincial Youth Suicide Prevention Plan.

- the Indigenous Youth Suicide and Trauma, Child Development Healing and Resilience: A Review of Literature with Focus on Indigenous Peoples and Communities was completed. The ministry will develop a video to offer cultural training for staff focusing on the intergenerational impacts of colonization on Indigenous peoples. The literature review can be accessed here: <https://aventa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Trauma-Child-Development-Healing-Resilience.pdf>.
- the Indigenous Speaker Series commenced in 2017 and continues to provide opportunities for ministry staff to connect with Indigenous

experts and thought leaders on a quarterly basis. These opportunities allow staff to share best practices and gain a better understanding of the range of issues impacting indigenous children and families.

- Children's Services staff attended National Aboriginal Day, Orange Shirt Day, and Métis Week as a way to recognize and celebrate Indigenous cultures.

Engagement, Relationships and Capacity Building

In 2017-18, Children's Services continued to develop and make resources available to support and promote collaboration and cooperation between communities and the Government of Alberta.

The initial development of a system to manage community stakeholder contact information was completed. Once populated, it will house stakeholder contact information, track emerging issues and store feedback from stakeholders. Engagement is an important component in the development of legislation and policy and there was a lack of an integrated tracking system.

Development of an online toolkit containing resources, templates and other information related to stakeholder engagement was completed. The toolkit, when launched in 2018, will be available to any staff seeking support for engagement.

Approximately 450 Children's Services employees attended nine webinars focusing on best practices and trends in the engagement, awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture.

3.2 Work closely with Indigenous leaders to review ministry programs and policies to identify ways to implement the objectives and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Proposal 4A and 4B

A cross-ministry working group has created an engagement approach for Proposal 4A. The Proposal recommendation is to approach First Nations and the federal government about the possibility of entering into a trilateral and cost-sharing agreement addressing enhanced early-intervention and prevention services for children and families on-reserve." Engagement on Proposal 4A commenced and will be completed in the spring 2018.

An engagement approach for proposal 4B is being led by the ministry which is to approach the federal government about the possibility of entering into a cost-sharing agreement for enhanced early childhood development and learning to align with the growing awareness of the life-long impact of investing in the early years." Engagement on Proposal 4B will commence in the fall 2018.

Strengthening Relationships with Indigenous Communities in Alberta

Aside from Proposals 4A and 4B for which Children's Services has a lead role on behalf of the Government of Alberta, the ministry is leading a number of other initiatives to support government's commitment to renew its relationship with Indigenous people based on trust and respectful engagement.

Sixties Scoop Apology Engagement

In March 2017, the Premier and Minister of Children's Services stood before the Legislature to acknowledge that work needs to be done on moving forward with a meaningful apology to Indigenous Albertans who were placed or adopted into non-Indigenous homes. The ministry partnered with Indigenous Relations and the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta to support a public engagement with survivors of the Sixties Scoop to help shape how our government can apologize in a way that is meaningful and promotes healing.

Six engagement sessions were held between January and March, 2018 in Peace River, St. Paul, Fort McMurray, Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton. Sessions began with cultural ceremony, smudge and prayers, followed by opening remarks and a short presentation. Attendees were then invited to participate in sharing circles which were led by a facilitator to encourage meaningful and respectful conversation. 862 people participated in the engagement with 576 participating in person at the six engagement sessions and 286 participating through on-line, mail, phone and email.

Child and Family Services Trilateral Engagement Process

Children's Services continues to participate in the Child and Family Services Trilateral Engagement Process (CFSTEP), which is a collaborative partnership among the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Treaty 7, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta. The CFSTEP partners are committed to developing a holistic and culturally

appropriate approach to address the over-representation of First Nations children in care in Alberta.

The Registration of First Nations Children in Care and Band Designate Tables were established to:

- Incorporate Early Intervention and Prevention Supports;
- Explore options that enable First Nations to assert jurisdiction and control over Child and Family Services in a manner that enhances the well-being and safety needs of Indigenous children (Urban Office Concept); and
- Develop a strategy for all eligible children in care to register for Indian status

In response to the over-representation of First Nations children in care, Children's Services supported the exploration of an Early Intervention/Prevention and Urban Office strategy for Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 by providing funding and in-kind support. Treaty 8 First Nation Child and Family Services Urban Office Society have moved forward with the establishment of a Treaty 8 First Nation Child and Family Services Urban Office.

As part of Phase 1, the office is focused on coordinating and providing early intervention and prevention services to children, youth and families on and off reserve. As part of Phase 2, the Society intends to provide child intervention case management services both on and off reserve. The intention is to begin discussions in early 2018. On February 20, 2018, the Treaty 8 Urban Child and Family Services Office held its grand opening. Ministry staff attended the event.

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA)

Children's Services recognizes that in order to improve outcomes for Métis children, youth and families, efforts to establish a collaborative approach with the MNA that reflects the unique needs of Métis people is necessary. This effort is supported by the 10 year Framework Agreement that the Government of Alberta and the MNA signed in February 2017. The priority actions of this agreement are to:

- further clarify and strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship;
- support recognition and respect of Métis rights and promote reconciliation;
- develop collaborative cross-government approaches to address the particular needs and issues of Métis people; and
- increase economic opportunities to enhance community and individual well-being

In January 2018, Children's Services hosted a collaborative workshop to discuss programs and services provided by the MNA and Children's Services for Métis children and families and to find ways to strengthen collaborative relationship between the MNA and Children's Services.

Métis Settlement General Council (MSGC)

Children's Services maintained a close relationship with the MSGC through in-person meetings and ongoing discussion. Children's Services continues to explore areas where the MSGC and Children's Services may work collaboratively.

Protocol Tables

Protocol Agreements provide structure for continued collaboration between the Government of Alberta and First Nations in Alberta. The ministry is the lead for the Women and Children Table, one of six tables established under the Treaty 8 Protocol Agreement, and provides leadership and support to other Government of Alberta Protocol Tables.

In November 2017, the Women and Children Table led by Children's Services completed a draft action plan identifying the following priorities:

- Statistics on Child Intervention to provide a compilation of relevant Treaty 8 statistics to inform decision making on a timely and relevant basis;
- Resources Report to provide a compilation of resources available with the intent to ensure equitable funding for Treaty 8 children;
- Cultural Training for anyone whose work affects Treaty 8 children/youth and families. The intent is to foster good relations and ensure policies, programs and services are developed and delivered supporting better outcomes for Treaty 8 children/youth and families;
- Establishment of a Women Sub-Table to provide a compilation of relevant Treaty 8 statistics on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) that examine and identify possible trends and root causes; and
- Proposals 4A and 4B of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A Statistics Working Group was established and drafted a Terms of Reference and a Work Plan. The Working Group is collaborating to provide statistics and expert interpretation of data for the Women and Children Table. A draft environmental scan based on information available through Treaty 8, Children's Services and Indigenous Relations has been developed.

3.3 Improve information-sharing practices within government and with service agencies to support the best outcomes for the health, education and safety of children, youth and families.

Information Sharing Approach

The Ministry developed and implemented an Information Sharing Guide and Toolkit to support collaborative and integrated service delivery, through which Albertans will be supported in achieving better outcomes. By working together in a transparent manner, and sharing information

appropriately, government organizations and their service delivery partners will be in a better position to assist Albertans, without requiring them to repeat their stories. Resources/tools can be found on the <http://infosharing.alberta.ca> website.

Child and Youth Data Lab

The Child and Youth Data Lab (CYDL) Longitudinal Project is a research project involving the integration of individual-level administrative data from a number of programs serving children and youth across several ministries. This research provides opportunities to more fully understand the critical factors that impact the lives of children and youth in Alberta.

CYDL is administered by PolicyWise for Children and Families, a charitable, not-for-profit corporation established in 2003 in partnership with Alberta's universities, with the goal to improve well-being by leading, creating, enabling

and mobilizing research and evaluation for evidence-informed policy and practice.

In 2017-18, the project released a number of population profile reports, including Mental Health Services, Child Care Subsidy, Youth and Young Adult Corrections, Post-Secondary Students and Mental Health, Cerebral Palsy and Autism Spectrum Disorder. The results are used, where possible, to inform policy and program development across several ministries. For more information, please visit: www.policywise.com/initiatives/cydl/.

3.4 Collaborate with Indigenous communities toward improved service planning and cultural connections for their children.

Cultural Connections

In 2017-18, the ministry furthered its work on cultural connections by collaborating with and involving Indigenous communities and agencies to support Indigenous children, youth and families involved with the child intervention system, including the Delegated First Nation Agencies, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Métis Settlements General Council, and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association.

Children's Services understands maintaining a cultural connection has a positive impact on the lives of children and youth. The ministry supports the registration of eligible children for Indian Status, identifying Band affiliation, attaining Band membership, identifying Métis Settlement affiliation and/or connections to other Métis resources (i.e., the Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association).

This year the ministry worked to identify and implement practices, policies, processes and training to ensure Indigenous children and youth who are in government care maintain a connection to their culture, language, community and legal rights.

Specifically, the ministry began development of a cultural planning approach for all children with Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO) status, who are children or youth who do not have legal parents or guardians.

Edmonton and Calgary regions have completed a review of all PGO files to determine if there are cultural plans in place. Development started on a tool kit for staff to use with families in cultural planning.

The ministry worked with DFNAs to define culturally specific intervention practice within their Nations, began including cultural planning into training for caregivers and gathered input from 18 contributing stakeholder tables to ensure modifications to the ministry reporting system align with improvements to the cultural planning approach. These stakeholders are internal and external to the ministry as shown in the chart below.

Internal and External Stakeholders		
External to the Ministry	Internal to the Ministry	Mixture of Internal and External to the Ministry
Delegated First Nation Agencies Service Delivery Directors	Child Intervention Practice Committee	Alberta Foster Kinship Partners
Elders Wisdom Circle	Child Intervention Regional Directors	Foundations of Caregiver Support Project Steering Committee
ALIGN Association of Community Services – Indigenous Advisory Group	Child Intervention Practice Specialists Team	Kinship Assessment Advisory Committee
ALIGN Association of Community Services – Edmonton		Multicultural Populations Committee
ALIGN Association of Community Services – Calgary		Collaborative Service Delivery
ALIGN Association of Community Services – Red Deer		Provincial Committee Adoption and Permanency Specialists
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate		Placement Resources Table
Youth Advisory Group		

Elders Wisdom Circle

The Elders Wisdom Circle (EWC) advises Children's Services to help ensure programs and services are culturally appropriate for Indigenous children, families, and communities.

In 2017-18 the seven-member EWC advised ministry staff on Indigenous protocol, cultural events and ceremonies and informed the following ministry initiatives:

- Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework
- Indigenous Gifting and Protocol Guidelines

- Cultural Connections for Indigenous Children in Care engagement
- Children's Services' Caregiver Training
- Kinship Assessment and Support Project
- Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Cultural events and ceremonies
- Tempcare Plan
- Early Intervention and Prevention Framework

The Elders Wisdom Circle will be involved in the co-creation of the Action Plans be used to implement Ministerial Panel recommendations.

Children's Services thanks the Elders Wisdom Circle for their invaluable contributions into ensuring ministry programs and services are able to more effectively serve its Indigenous clients.

Indigenous Internship Program

The Indigenous Internship Program (IIP) focuses on providing recent Indigenous post-secondary graduates with challenging and enriching roles within Children's Services and Community and Social Services.

The IIP is run and administered by Human Resources. Interns are provided with mentoring, coaching and skills training in order to prepare them for future employment. Children's Services benefits from the Indigenous cultural knowledge, experience and perspectives of the interns.

In 2017-18, Children's Services was assigned four interns who were placed in roles supporting strategic policy and early childhood development, foster and kinship care and work related to indigenous caregiver recruitment and cultural education.

Key learnings and successes are currently being documented to support further enhancement and longevity of the program. Positive feedback received from the interns included:

- The internship provided them exposure to government processes such as business planning, policy work and front line delivery work which prepared them for a career in the APS;
- Meaningful work was provided – real life assignments, projects;
- Stretch assignments that developed skills which the intern may not have or was not aware that they have;
- Learning from managers and mentors;
- Learning more about their own culture and the Indigenous communities; and
- Developing competencies such as agility, systems thinking and collaboration.

Potential to be Registered Initiative

In the scope of reconciliation, Children's Services is working to ensure all children and youth of Aboriginal ancestry have their inherent right to be registered or to obtain membership as an Indian, Métis and Inuit respected.

In the past year, the Potential to be Registered Initiative (PtBRI) has worked to enhance relationships with external stakeholders including Indigenous Services Canada, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Settlements and Inuit Land Claims. At the same time staff completed comprehensive file reviews to identify practices, policies, processes and training to ensure

children and youth in permanent care are registered or obtain membership with their respected Nations or associations.

The initiative started in 2015-16 and has since worked to ensure all Aboriginal children in permanent care have their files reviewed for Indian Status. The PtBRI is presently working to expand the scope to include all intervention statuses. The ministry, through this initiative, will continue to improve its practices and policies ensuring all Aboriginal children and youth receiving intervention services are correctly identified and are connected to their culture, family and community.

Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework

The ministry finalized the Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework and supporting evaluation plan in February 2018. The framework is intended to set the future direction for Children's Services regarding holistic learning and development approach for Indigenous cultural understanding. The training was designed to inform ministry staff of the long-term effects of colonization and residential schools on Indigenous children, families and communities.

The Blanket Exercise is a half-day experiential teaching tool that explores historic challenges of Indigenous land rights and loss. This interactive training teaches the history of treaty making, colonization and indigenous empowerment in Canada. The Blanket Exercise was delivered six times in 2017-18, with 359 participants, (225 ministry staff, 130 other Government of Alberta staff, 158 external). As part of this, the Blanket Exercise was provided to the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention and during the Assistant Deputy Ministers conference.

3.5 Work with Indigenous leaders and the federal government to identify options to formally adopt Jordan's Principle to ensure that meeting the needs of all children, including First Nations children, takes precedence over any jurisdictional issues.

Jordan's Principle

The Government of Alberta is committed to working with the Government of Canada to ensure First Nations children's needs are met without delay or denial. Since July 5, 2016, the Government of Canada has established a Child First initiative intended to enable First Nations children to access existing government services, as well as to fill any gaps in services through a Service Access Resolution Fund.

Children's Services is currently leading the implementation of Jordan's Principle within the Government of Alberta while collaborating with the Department of Indigenous Services of Canada. Since 2015, the ministry has been leading a Jordan's Principle Cross-Ministry

Working Group, and has developed a process to support Indigenous Services Canada in navigating provincial services for First Nations children by identifying key ministry contacts through the Cross-Ministry Working Group.

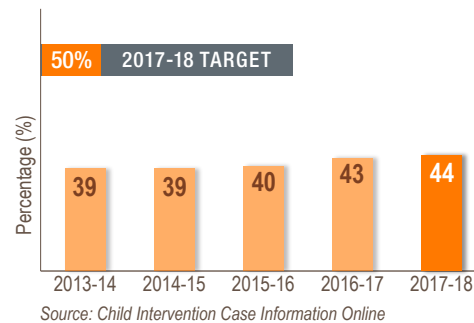
Children's Services is also working alongside Indigenous Services Canada and First Nations partners to develop a Memorandum of Understanding on Jordan's Principle in Alberta. This agreement will formalize a collaborative working relationship between the parties, enable information sharing, and establish a committee to develop processes for implementation.

3

OUTCOME Performance Measures

The following performance measure demonstrates how well the ministry is doing to provide permanent and stable living situations for children who received intervention services.

3.a Percentage of Indigenous children in foster care/kinship care who are placed with Indigenous families



This measure is an indicator of Indigenous children and youth receiving culturally appropriate services through foster care or kinship care. The decision to remove a child from their biological family and bring the child into care is not an easy one or taken lightly. While the overall number of Indigenous children and youth coming into care has shown reductions, there is still a high number of Indigenous children separated from their families and communities while in care.

Children's Services is committed to keeping Indigenous families together whenever possible. When it is necessary to bring an Indigenous child

into care, attempts made to place the child in their community, with extended family members, with individuals emotionally connected to the child, or with a family of a similar Indigenous culture or who shares a cultural, community, or religious connection. Indigenous families can provide care to children either through kinship care, which is more like traditional practices, or through foster care, adoption or private guardianship. Kinship care is the preferred placement option, as it allows children to maintain important familial and cultural ties and is less traumatic for the child than being in foster care or group care.

The trend has jumped up five per cent since 2013-14, which demonstrates the ministry's commitment in strengthening connections among communities by increasing the numbers of children or youth placed with extended family members, with individuals emotionally connected to the child, or with a family of a similar Indigenous culture or who shares a cultural, community, or religious connection.

The target of 50 per cent for 2017-18 stems from a desire for continuous improvement of results. Although a stretch target, the results for this performance measure have steadily increased each year. This commitment towards keeping Indigenous families together whenever possible aligns with the principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention. Much like other jurisdictions in Canada, Alberta is experiencing challenges in recruiting caregivers. This is due in part to the changing demographics of Canadian families: more lone-parent families and more families where both parents are employed outside of the home. There are a number of factors impacting the target:

- A reduction in community-capacity (fewer families available as caregivers and fewer in each geographical location)

- Changes in how caregivers are supported by regional implementation practice strategies, such as Signs of Safety

An analysis of kinship care since 2013 revealed the proportion of children placed in kinship care in the province has increased steadily since 2012-13. Kinship care is a leading practice that can contribute to maintaining a child's connection to his or her extended family and community. Results show 44 per cent of Indigenous children or youth in foster care or kinship care were with an Indigenous foster or kinship care family between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. Among the 5,128 Indigenous children and youth in foster care or kinship care, 2,281 were with an Indigenous foster or kinship care family between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. For the first time, the number of kinship homes in Alberta exceeds the number of foster homes.

The ministry continues to work with Indigenous communities and caregivers to recruit Indigenous foster parents and kinship caregivers. Differences remain in how regions and Delegated First Nations Agencies manage their kinship programs; therefore, work is underway to clarify service delivery approach, file transfers, the role of family, and the role of the Delegated First Nations Agencies in identifying, assessing, approving, and supporting kinship arrangements.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE
and INDICATOR METHODOLOGY

Outcome One: Performance Measures

1.a Percentage of licensed child care programs compliant with the *Child Care Licensing Act* and *Child Care Licensing Regulation*

Source: Ministry of Children's Services.
Child Care Information System.

This measure tracks the percentage of Alberta licensed child care programs in compliance with the *Child Care Licensing Act* and Regulations. All licensed child care programs, including existing and new programs, are inspected annually and include Day Care programs, Pre-School programs, Group Family Child Care programs, Innovative Child Care programs and Out of School Care programs. The performance measure results provide a reliable count of the number of child care programs with proven success in maintaining a safe and nurturing environment for children.

While inspection visits are intended to ensure licensed child care programs adhere to the *Child Care Licensing Act* and Regulations; non-compliance can be used as one indicator to measure the quality of a child care program as the ministry monitors and addresses non-compliance.

Data for this measure is obtained from Children's Services which manages the Child Care Information System (CCIS). Upon inspection completion, the licensing officer documents details of the investigation. If a license holder is required to take measures to remedy the non-compliance(s) resulting from the investigation, the licensing officer will complete a follow-up inspection to confirm the non-compliance(s) addressed.

Indigenous Child Care Program licensing is not included in this performance measure, as the ministry does not enforce the Act on First Nations. Family Day Home Programs are also not captured in this measure. The percentage is calculated by dividing the number of licensed child care programs in compliance in each fiscal year

divided by the total number of licensed child care programs inspected in each fiscal year.

$$\frac{\text{total \# licensed child care programs compliant with the Child Care Licensing Act and Regulations}}{\text{total \# licensed child care programs inspected}} \times 100\%$$

1.b Percentage of youth receiving *Advancing Futures* Bursaries who successfully completed their planned studies during the fiscal year

Source: Ministry of Children's Services – Bursary Information Module

This measure calculates the percentage of youth successfully completing their planned studies (the program the student enrolled in at the beginning of the semester) during the fiscal year. The results include those students who did not withdraw from the institution they were attending or whose award was not "terminated" by *Advancing Futures* due to lack of attendance or course incompleteness during a school term.

The total number of withdrawals and terminations is subtracted from the total number of recipients divided by the total number of students who were approved for a bursary during the school year.

Results are taken from the Bursary Information Module, an internal database used to track *Advancing Futures* Bursaries program recipients and captured in a Regional Report. The report is based on the fiscal year start and end dates (April 1 – March 31). Bursary recipients with a program end date prior to May 1, 2017 were removed from the calculation (start date in one fiscal year, but a term end date in the next fiscal year).

$$\frac{\text{total \# recipients} - (\text{withdrawals} + \text{terminations})}{\text{total \# recipients approved for a bursary}} \times 100\%$$

Outcome Two: Performance Measures

2.a Percentage of children and youth with a new child intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months

Source: Ministry of Children's Services. Child Intervention Case Information Online system

Child intervention services are guided by legislated principles under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*. The Act places emphasis on assessment in determining the need for intervention and the type of intervention to be provided to children, youth and families. This is based on the belief that a thorough assessment of child and family strengths and needs will result in better case planning and more effective interventions and shorter timeframes to achieve the intervention objectives. With more than 10,000 children and youth currently receiving child intervention services across Alberta in or out of care, child intervention services promotes well-being, stability and continuity of relationships with biological families or legal guardians, while protecting children from further maltreatment.

The measure reports on the percentage of children and youth with a new Child Intervention file who did not have a file closure in the previous 12 months. The total number of children with newly opened files and no previous closure within the last 12 months divided by total # children who opened a file with Child Intervention in the fiscal year and multiplied by 100.

The results were determined by extracting data from the Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system to assess whether those children and youth had a previous child intervention file closure (i.e. the conclusion of services under a Family Enhancement Agreement or Child Protection file) in the last 12 months. Only youth whose file closure occurred prior to his/her 18th birthday were used to calculate the results. The new file does not have to be related to the previous reason for service.

$$\frac{\text{total \# of children with newly opened file and no previous closure within the last 12 months}}{\text{total \# children who opened a file with Child Intervention in the fiscal year}} \times 100\%$$

Outcome Two: Performance Indicators

2.a Children receiving child intervention services as a percentage of the child population in Alberta:

- Percentage
- Number of children receiving child intervention services
- Number of Children in Alberta

Source: Ministry of Children's Services. Child Intervention Case Information Online system and Statistics Canada. CANSIM (database) Table 051-0001 – Estimates of Population, by age group and sex.

NOTE: The reported number of children receiving child intervention services is subject to change as source information is entered into the system. Data for 2017 is current as of May 11, 2018.

This indicator describes the percentage of children and youth, ages 0-17 years, receiving child intervention services as a proportion of the total child population in Alberta. Only children and youth whose file closure occurred prior to their 18th birthday are included. The Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system identifies how many unique children and youth had an open child intervention legal authority at any point during the calendar year. Tracking the number of children receiving services can help the ministry plan and prepare resources to address caseload demands.

Monitoring the percentage of children and youth receiving child intervention services as a direct proportion of the total child population in Alberta helps the ministry track whether any progress was made to the overall safety, security and

well-being of children in the province. Specifically, if the percentage stabilizes when Alberta's child population is growing every year, it may indicate

the ministry's success in strengthening families and communities to keep children in safe and living in stable environments.

Outcome Three: Performance Measures

3.a Percentage of Indigenous children in foster care/kinship care who are placed with Indigenous families

Source: Ministry of Children's Services. Child Intervention Case Information Online system.

This measure looks at the placement of Indigenous children in foster or kinship care homes where the foster or kinship family has an Indigenous background. A foster or kinship care family is determined to be Indigenous if the home is denoted as Indigenous or the caregiver's self-reported racial origin is identified as Indigenous in the Child Intervention Case Information Online (CICIO) system.

Results are calculated from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 by dividing the number of Indigenous children in foster/kinship care placed with Indigenous families by the total number of Indigenous children in foster/kinship care, multiplied by 100.

Ministry staff, including caregivers, supervisors and support staff from Child Intervention Regions and Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNAs), use CICIO to record case management information about the children and families. Data is extracted from a live data source, and is subject to change as more information is entered into the system.

$$\frac{\text{\# of Indigenous children in foster or kinship care placed with an Indigenous family}}{\text{total \# Indigenous children in foster or kinship care}} \times 100\%$$

Financial Information

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2018

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended March 31, 2018

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Ministry of Children's Services, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the statements of operations, change in net debt and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry of Children's Services as at March 31, 2018, and the results of its operations, its changes in net debt and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by W. Doug Wylie, FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D]

W. Doug Wylie FCPA, FCMA, ICD.D
Auditor General

June 1, 2018
Edmonton, Alberta

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018		2017
	Budget	Actual	Actual (Restated - Note 3)
(in thousands)			
Revenues (Schedule 1)			
Government Transfers			
Federal and other Government Grants			
Services on First Nations Reserves	\$ 30,543	\$ 39,886	\$ 39,066
Other Transfers	24,430	64,356	30,019
Other Revenue	1,971	9,909	14,085
Internal Government Transfers	8,342	5,713	
	<u>65,286</u>	<u>119,864</u>	<u>83,170</u>
Expenses - Directly Incurred (Note 2(a), Schedule 2, 3, and 6)			
Programs			
Ministry Support Services	18,055	15,346	15,514
Child Intervention	765,826	793,849	770,826
Child Care	321,076	378,647	310,968
Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth	102,570	100,973	96,322
Alberta Child Benefit	174,000	158,158	105,977
	<u>1,381,527</u>	<u>1,446,973</u>	<u>1,299,607</u>
Annual Deficit	<u>\$ (1,316,241)</u>	<u>\$ (1,327,109)</u>	<u>\$ (1,216,437)</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at March 31, 2018

	2018	2017 (Restated - Note 3)
	(in thousands)	
Financial Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 10	\$ 37
Accounts Receivable (Note 4)	57,278	56,543
	<u>57,288</u>	<u>56,580</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities (Note 6)	99,134	99,163
Deferred Revenue (Note 7)	2,288	-
	<u>101,422</u>	<u>99,163</u>
Net Debt	<u>(44,135)</u>	<u>(42,583)</u>
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	15,328	9,775
Prepaid Expenses	-	16
	<u>15,328</u>	<u>9,791</u>
Net Liabilities	<u>\$ (28,807)</u>	<u>\$ (32,792)</u>
Net Liabilities at Beginning of Year	\$ (32,792)	\$ (50,335)
Annual Deficit	(1,327,109)	(1,216,437)
Adjustment to Net Liabilities (Note 13)	-	5,492
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	1,331,094	1,228,488
Net Liabilities at End of Year	<u>\$ (28,807)</u>	<u>\$ (32,792)</u>

Contingent Assets (Note 5)

Contingent Liabilities and Contractual Obligations (Notes 9 and 10)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT
Year ended March 31, 2018**

	2018		2017
	Budget	Actual	Actual
			(Restated - Note 3)
	(in thousands)		
Annual Deficit	\$ (1,316,241)	\$ (1,327,109)	\$ (1,216,437)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	(9,881)	(1,045)	(1,494)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	1,789	1,205	3,148
Transfer (in)/out of Tangible Capital Assets		(5,713)	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepaid Expenses		16	(16)
Net Financing Provided from General Revenue		1,331,094	1,228,488
(Increase) / Decrease in Net Debt		\$ (1,552)	\$ 13,689
Net Debt at Beginning of Year		(42,583)	(56,272)
Net Debt at End of Year		\$ (44,135)	\$ (42,583)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017 (Restated - Note 3)
	(in thousands)	
Operating Transactions		
Annual Deficit	\$ (1,327,109)	\$ (1,216,437)
Non-Cash items included in Net Operating Results		
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	1,205	3,148
Transfer of Tangible Capital Assets from Other Government Departments	(5,713)	-
	<u>(1,331,617)</u>	<u>(1,213,289)</u>
(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(734)	(23,267)
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	16	(16)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(29)	9,406
Increase in Deferred Revenue	2,288	-
Cash Provided by (Applied to) Operating Transactions	<u>(1,330,076)</u>	<u>(1,227,166)</u>
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	(1,045)	(1,494)
Cash Provided by (Applied to) Capital Transactions	<u>(1,045)</u>	<u>(1,494)</u>
Financing Transactions		
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	1,331,094	1,228,488
(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>(27)</u>	<u>(172)</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	37	209
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 37</u>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2018**

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Ministry of Children's Services operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Chapter G-10, and Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

Children's Services delivers supports and services to children, youth and families. The ministry was established to create an increased focus on ensuring that children in Alberta are provided with the services and supports they need to thrive in healthy families and healthy communities.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenue

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which goods and services have not been provided by year-end is recognized as deferred revenue.

Government transfers

Transfers from the all levels of governments are referred to as government transfers.

Government transfers are recognized as deferred contributions and deferred revenue if the eligibility criteria of the transfer or the stipulations together with the ministry's actions and communications as to the use of transfers create a liability. These transfers are recognized as revenues, as the stipulations are met and, when applicable, the ministry complies with its communicated uses of these transfers.

All other government transfers, without stipulations for the use of the transfer, are recognized as revenue when the transfer is authorized and the ministry meets the eligibility criteria (if any).

Transfer of Tangible Capital Assets from Other Government Departments/Entities

Transfers of tangible capital assets from other government departments or entities are recognized as revenue.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018**

**NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES
(cont'd)**

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (cont'd)

Expenses

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Ministry has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

Grant Expense

Grants are recognized as expenses when authorized, eligibility criteria, if any, are met by the recipients and a reasonable estimate of the amounts can be made.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets;
- pension costs which comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year;
- valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities; and
- transfer of tangible capital assets to other government departments/entities.

Incurring by Others

Services contributed by other related entities in support of the Ministry's operations are not recognized but are disclosed in Schedule 6.

Valuation of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's-length transaction between knowledgeable and willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of Cash and Cash Equivalents, Accounts Receivable, and Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018**

**NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES
(cont'd)**

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (cont'd)

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for consumption in the normal course of operations.

Financial assets of the ministry are limited to financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes deposits in the Cash Control Account of the Province of Alberta. Interest on these deposits does not accrue to the Ministry.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the Ministry to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

- (a) are normally employed to deliver government services;
- (b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
- (c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets of the Ministry are limited to tangible capital assets and prepaid expenses.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018**

**NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES
(cont'd)**

(a) Basis of Financial Reporting (cont'd)

Non-Financial Assets (cont'd)

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets of the Ministry are recognized at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is \$100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000. All land, with the exception of Crown lands, is capitalized.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

When tangible capital assets are gifted or sold for nominal sum, the net book value of the tangible capital assets, less any nominal proceeds, are recognized as grants in kind.

Other Assets

Intangible assets, inherited natural resources, Crown lands, art and historic treasures and assets acquired by right are not recognized in these financial statements.

(b) Change in Accounting Policy

The Ministry has prospectively adopted the following standards from April 1, 2017: PS 2200 Related Party Disclosures, PS 3420 Inter-Entity Transactions, PS 3210 Assets, PS 3320 Contingent Assets and PS 3380 Contractual Rights which are reflected in Note 2, Note 5, Schedule 5 and Schedule 6.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018**

**NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES
(cont'd)**

(c) Future Accounting Changes

The Public Sector Accounting Board has issued the following accounting standards:

- **PS 3430 Restructuring Transactions (effective April 1, 2018)**
This standard provides guidance on how to account for and report restructuring transactions by both transferors and recipients of assets and/or liabilities, together with related program or operating responsibilities.
- **PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations (effective April 1, 2021)**
Effective April 1, 2021, this standard provides guidance on how to account for and report a liability for retirement of a tangible capital asset.
- **PS 3450 Financial Instruments (effective April 1, 2021)**
Adoption of this standard requires corresponding adoption of PS 2601 Foreign Currency Translation, PS 1201 Financial Statement Presentation, and PS 3041 Portfolio Investments in the same fiscal period. These standards provide guidance on: recognition, measurement and disclosure of financial instruments; standards on how to account for and report transactions that are denominated in a foreign currency; general reporting principles and standards for the disclosure of information in financial statements; and how to account for and report portfolio investments.

Management is currently assessing the impact of these standards on the financial statements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018

NOTE 3 PROGRAM TRANSFER / GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

(in thousands)

Effective September 1, 2017, Communications and Public Engagement branches were transferred from each department to the Department of Treasury Board and Finance. Comparatives for 2017 have been restated as if the current organization structure had always been the same. The opening net assets (or liabilities) and net financial assets (or debt) as at April 1, 2016 are restated as follows:

The total expenses \$873 (2017 - \$617) related to Communications were transferred to the Department of Treasury Board and Finance.

Net Liabilities on April 1, 2016 are made up as follows:

Net Liabilities as previously reported	\$ (50,353)
Transferred to Department of Treasury Board and Finance	18
Net Liabilities at April 1, 2016	<u>\$ (50,335)</u>

Net Debt on April 1, 2016 is made up as follows:

Net Debt as previously reported	\$ (56,290)
Transferred to Department of Treasury Board and Finance	18
Net Debt at April 1, 2016	<u>\$ (56,272)</u>

NOTE 4 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

(in thousands)

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

	<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>	
	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>for Doubtful</u>	<u>Realizable</u>	<u>Realizable</u>
		<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Value</u>
Accounts Receivable	\$ 51,749	\$ -	\$ 51,749	\$ 53,457
Accounts Receivable – Other	5,529	-	5,529	3,086
	<u>\$ 57,278</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 57,278</u>	<u>\$ 56,543</u>

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018

NOTE 5 CONTINGENT ASSETS
(in thousands)

The Ministry initiated insurance claims where possible assets are being sought. The outcomes from these matters will likely result in recognition of assets. The contingent assets include outstanding claims against the Alberta Risk Management Fund amounted to \$15 (2017: \$0).

These amounts have not been recognized in the financial statements.

NOTE 6 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES
(in thousands)

	2018	2017
		(Restated - Note 3)
Accounts Payable	\$ 245	\$ -
Other Accrued Liabilities	98,889	99,163
	<u>\$ 99,134</u>	<u>\$ 99,163</u>

NOTE 7 DEFERRED REVENUE
(in thousands)

	2018	2017
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ -	\$ -
Cash Contribution Received During Year	45,630	-
Less: Amounts Recognized as Revenue	(43,342)	-
Balance at End of Year	<u>\$ 2,288</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018**

NOTE 8 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
(in thousands)

Estimated Useful Life	Equipment ⁽¹⁾	Computer Hardware and Software	Other	2018 Total	2017 Total
	3 - 15 years	5 years	5 – 10 years		
Historical Costs⁽²⁾					
Beginning of Year	\$ 754	\$ 63,012	\$ 100	\$ 63,866	\$ 42,572
Additions	7	1,038	-	1,045	1,494
Transfers	-	5,713	-	5,713	19,800
	<u>\$ 761</u>	<u>\$ 69,763</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 70,624</u>	<u>\$ 63,866</u>
Accumulated Amortization					
Beginning of Year	\$ 647	\$ 53,376	\$ 68	\$ 54,091	\$ 36,634
Amortization Expense	23	1,174	8	1,205	3,148
Transfer	-	-	-	-	14,309
	<u>\$ 670</u>	<u>\$ 54,550</u>	<u>\$ 76</u>	<u>\$ 55,296</u>	<u>\$ 54,091</u>
Net Book Value at March 31, 2018	<u>\$ 91</u>	<u>\$ 15,213</u>	<u>\$ 24</u>	<u>\$ 15,328</u>	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2017	<u>\$ 107</u>	<u>\$9,636</u>	<u>\$ 32</u>		<u>\$ 9,775</u>

(1) Equipment includes vehicles, equipment, office equipment and furniture and other equipment.

(2) Historical cost includes work-in-progress at March 31, 2018 totalling \$9,739 (2017: \$5,050) comprised of computer hardware and software.

NOTE 9 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES
(in thousands)

The Ministry is involved in legal matters where damages are being sought. These matters may give rise to contingent liabilities.

As at March 31, 2018, the total amount claimed for all likely claims is \$125,610 (2017: \$122,100). Included in the total likely claims are claims in which the ministry has been jointly named with other ministries. Included in the total likely claims are claims covered in whole or in part by the Alberta Risk Management Fund.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
MARCH 31, 2018**

NOTE 9 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES (Cont'd)

(in thousands)

The Ministry has been named in forty nine (2017: forty eight) claims, the outcome of which are not determinable. Of these claims, forty five (2017: forty four) have a total amount claimed of \$461,323 (2017: \$477,765). The remaining four (2017: four) claims have no amount specified. Included in the total claims, thirty seven claims totalling \$450,133 (2017: thirty seven claims totalling \$ 464,700) are covered in whole or in part by the Alberta Risk Management Fund.

The resolution of indeterminable claims may result in a liability, if any, that may be significantly lower than the claimed amount.

NOTE 10 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

(in thousands)

Contractual obligations are obligations of the Ministry to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

The Ministry contracts with organizations to provide specific programs and services for children under the care of the Ministry when needed. The Ministry has contracts for specific programs and services for the year ended March 31, 2018 similar to those provided by these organizations during the year ended March 31, 2017

As at March 31, 2018, the Ministry had the following contractual obligations:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Obligations under Operating Leases, Contracts and Programs	\$ 401,489	\$ 375,200

Estimated payment requirements for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>
2018 – 19	\$ 343,733
2019 – 20	22,733
2020 – 21	13,784
2021 – 22	9,074
2022 – 23	5,971
Thereafter	6,194
	<u>\$ 401,489</u>

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
 MARCH 31, 2018**

NOTE 11 BENEFIT PLANS
 (in thousands)

The Ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan (MEPP), Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP) and Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers (SRP). The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of \$30,577 for the year ended March 31, 2018 (2017 - \$34,951). The Ministry is not responsible for future funding of the plan deficit other than through contribution increases.

At December 31, 2017, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$866,006 (2016: surplus \$402,033), the Local Authorities Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$4,835,515 (2016: deficiency of \$637,357), the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$1,275,843 (2016: deficiency \$302,975), and the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers reported a deficiency of \$54,984 (2016: deficiency \$50,020).

The Ministry also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2018, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported a surplus of \$111,983 (2017 – surplus \$101,515) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan a surplus of \$29,805 (2017 – surplus \$31,439). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 12 TRUST FUNDS UNDER ADMINISTRATION
 (in thousands)

The Ministry administers trust funds that are regulated funds consisting of public money over which the Legislature has no power of appropriation. As the province has no equity in the funds and administers them for the purpose of various trusts, they are not included in the Ministry's financial statements.

At March 31, 2018, the trust funds under administration were as follows:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Child Resources Rebate Trust Fund	\$ 684	\$ 698

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont'd)
 MARCH 31, 2018**

NOTE 13 ADJUSTMENTS TO NET LIABILITIES
 (in thousands)

The reconciliation of adjustments to net liabilities is as follows:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Non-Grant Transfer of Tangible Capital Asset from/(to) other Government Departments/Entities	\$ -	\$ 5,492

NOTE 14 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Effective: (1) April 1, 2018, the government consolidated human resource functions under the Public Service Commission within the Department of Treasury Board and Finance; (2) April 1, 2018, the government consolidated the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) delivery services under the Ministry of Service Alberta; (3) April 1, 2018, the government consolidated the information management and technology services under the Ministry of Service Alberta.

NOTE 15 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 2017 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2018 presentation.

NOTE 16 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Revenues
Year ended March 31, 2018

Schedule 1

	2018		2017
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	(in thousands)		
Government Transfers			
Federal and other Government Grants			
Services on First Nations Reserves	\$ 30,543	\$ 39,886	\$ 39,066
Other Transfers	24,430	64,356	30,019
	<u>54,973</u>	<u>104,242</u>	<u>69,085</u>
Other Revenue			
Refund of Expenses	\$ 1,394	\$ 8,625	\$ 13,006
Miscellaneous	577	1,284	1,079
	<u>1,971</u>	<u>9,909</u>	<u>14,085</u>
Internal Government Transfers	8,342	5,713	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 65,286</u>	<u>\$ 119,864</u>	<u>\$ 83,170</u>

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Expenses - Directly Incurred Detailed by Object
Year ended March 31, 2018

Schedule 2

	2018		2017
	Budget	Actual	Actual (Restated - Note 3)
	(in thousands)		
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 304,556	\$ 281,026	\$ 305,848
Supplies and Services	558,835	602,108	557,502
Grants	342,283	404,041	327,065
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 8)	1,789	1,205	3,148
Other Statutory Amounts(Alberta Child Benefit)	174,000	158,158	105,977
Other	64	435	67
Total Expenses	\$ 1,381,527	\$ 1,446,973	\$ 1,299,607

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Lapse/Encumbrance
Year ended March 31, 2018

Schedule 3

	Voted Estimate ⁽¹⁾	Supple- mentary Estimate	Adjust- ments ⁽²⁾	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals ⁽³⁾	Unexpended (Over Expended)
(in thousands)						
Program - Operating Expense						
1 Ministry Support Services						
1.1 Minister's Office	\$ 905	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 905	\$ 900	\$ 5
1.2 Deputy Minister's Office	800	-	-	800	777	23
1.3 Human Resources	3,930	-	-	3,930	3,738	192
1.4 Strategic Services	8,115	-	-	8,115	5,620	2,495
1.5 Corporate Services	4,305	-	-	4,305	4,207	98
	18,055	-	-	18,055	15,242	2,813
2 Child Intervention						
2.1 Program Planning and Delivery	35,477	-	-	35,477	28,202	7,275
2.2 Child Intervention Services	493,679	39,600	(8,200)	525,079	511,057	14,022
2.3 Supports for Permanency	56,312	7,100	(1,800)	61,612	61,568	44
2.4 Foster Care Support	177,069	15,200	(5,000)	187,269	190,165	(2,896)
	762,537	61,900	(15,000)	809,437	790,992	18,445
3 Child Care						
3.1 Program Planning and Delivery	3,639	(100)	-	3,539	3,433	106
3.2 Child Care Subsidy and Supports	216,035	46,157	(557)	261,635	263,177	(1,542)
3.3 Child Care Accreditation	101,152	4,850	-	106,002	111,606	(5,604)
	320,826	50,907	(557)	371,176	378,216	(7,040)
4 Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth						
4.1 Early Intervention and Early Childhood Development	92,535	900	(1,000)	92,435	89,762	2,673
4.2 Youth in Transition	10,035	-	-	10,035	11,184	(1,149)
	102,570	900	(1,000)	102,470	100,946	1,524
Total	\$ 1,203,988	\$ 113,707	\$ (16,557)	\$ 1,301,138	\$ 1,285,396	\$ 15,742

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Lapse/Encumbrance
Year ended March 31, 2018

Schedule 3 (Cont'd)

	Voted Estimate (1)	Supple-mentary Estimate	Adjust- ments (2)	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals (3)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
(in thousands)						
Program - Capital Grants						
3 Child Care						
3.2 Child Care Subsidy and Supports	\$ 250	\$ (175)	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ 75
Total	\$ 250	\$ (175)	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ 75
Lapse						\$ 75
Program - Capital Investment						
2 Child Intervention Services						
2.1 Program Planning and Delivery	\$ 1,539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,539	\$ 1,038	\$ 501
2.2 Child Intervention Services	-	-	-	-	7	(7)
Total	\$ 1,539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,539	\$ 1,045	\$ 494
Lapse						\$ 494

(1) As per "Expense Vote by Program", "Capital Investment Vote by Program" and "Financial Transaction Vote by Program" page of 2017-18 Government Estimates.

(2) Adjustments include encumbrances, capital carry over amounts, transfers between votes and credit or recovery increases approved by Treasury Board and credit or recovery shortfalls. An encumbrance is incurred when, on a vote by vote basis, the total of actual disbursements in the prior year exceed the total adjusted estimate. All calculated encumbrances from the prior year are reflected as an adjustment to reduce the corresponding voted estimate in the current year.

(3) Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Salary and Benefits Disclosure - Department
Year ended March 31, 2018**

Schedule 4

	2018			2017	
	Base Salary ⁽¹⁾	Other Cash Benefits ⁽²⁾	Other Non-Cash Benefits ⁽³⁾	Total	Total
	(in thousands)				
Senior Official					
Deputy Minister ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 294	\$ -	\$ 66	\$ 360	\$ 73
Executives					
Assistant Deputy Ministers					
Family and Community Resiliency	206	5	48	259	50
Corporate Services ^{(5) (6)}	200	14	17	231	262
Child Intervention	200	-	44	244	253
Policy, Innovation and Indigenous Connections	194	-	44	238	239
Executive Director, Human Resources ^{(7) (8)}	167	29	38	234	207

(1) Base salary includes regular salary and earnings such as acting pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include vacation payouts, and lump sum payments.
There were no bonuses paid in 2018.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include government's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition fees.

(4) Automobile provided, no dollar amount included in other non-cash benefits.

(5) The incumbent's services are shared with the Department of Children's Services which contributes its own share of the cost of salary and benefits. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this schedule.

(6) The position was occupied by 2 individuals during the year. The occupancy of the position occurred between April 1, 2017 - June 26, 2017 and June 27, 2017 - March 31, 2018.

(7) The position was occupied by 3 individuals during the year. The occupancy of the position occurred between April 1, 2017 - June 16, 2017, and July 17, 2017 - March 31, 2018. With a period of acting between June 17, 2017 - July 16, 2017 and February 12, 2018 - March 16, 2018.

(8) The incumbent's services are shared with the Ministry of Children Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Seniors and Housing and Ministry of Status of Women which contributes its own share of the cost of salary and benefits. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this schedule.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Related Party Transactions
Year ended March 31, 2018
(in thousands)

Schedule 5

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel in the ministry and their close family members.

The Ministry and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for premiums, licences and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties reported on the Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	Other Entities	
	2018	2017
	(Restated - Note 3)	
Revenues:		
Other ⁽¹⁾	\$ 5,715	\$ -
Expenses:		
Grants	\$ 6,403	\$ 2,655
Other Services	7,046	6,239
Services Provided by Other Ministries	57,351	10,176
	\$ 70,800	\$ 19,070
Tangible Capital Assets Transferred In		
Ministry of Service Alberta	\$ 5,713	\$ 5,492
Receivable from (Payable to)		
Ministry of Advanced Education	\$ 5	\$ (23)
Ministry of Education	14	11
Ministry of Service Alberta	-	(1)
Ministry of Community and Social Services	366	(29)
Ministry of Municipal Affairs	200	-
	\$ 585	\$ (42)

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Related Party Transactions
Year ended March 31, 2018
(in thousands)

Schedule 5 (Cont'd)

	Other Entities	
	2018	2017 (Restated - Note 3)
Contractual Obligations		
Ministry of Advanced Education	\$ 1,796	\$ 241
Ministry of Education	400	1,227
Ministry of Health	2,034	2,215
Ministry of Community and Social Services	34,158	34,158
	\$ 38,388	\$ 37,841

The above transactions do not include support service arrangement transactions disclosed in Schedule 2.

(1) Other revenue includes transfer of capital assets from other ministries.

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not reported in the financial statements and are disclosed in Schedule 6.

	Other Entities	
	2018	2017 (Restated - Note 3)
Expenses - Incurred by Others:		
Accommodation	\$ 32,081	\$ 28,716
Legal Services	8,556	8,063
Business Services	3,443	6,361
	\$ 44,080	\$ 43,140

SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Allocated Costs
Year ended March 31, 2018
(in thousands)

Schedule 6

Program	2018					2017	
	Expenses⁽¹⁾	Accommodation Costs⁽²⁾	Legal Services⁽³⁾	Business Services⁽⁴⁾	Total Expenses	(Restated - Note 3)	
Ministry Support Services	\$ 15,346	\$ 1,513	\$ 890	\$ 162	\$ 17,911	\$	\$ 15,936
Child Intervention	793,849	28,418	7,526	3,050	832,843		810,952
Child Care	378,647	1,704	-	183	380,534		312,889
Early Intervention Services for Children and Youth	100,973	446	140	48	101,607		96,959
Albert Child Benefit	158,158	-	-	-	158,158		105,977
	\$ 1,446,973	\$ 32,081	\$ 8,556	\$ 3,443	\$ 1,491,053	\$	\$ 1,342,713

(1) Expenses - Directly Incurred as per the Statement of Operations.

(2) Accommodation costs, includes grants in lieu of taxes, allocated by the number of employees per program.

(3) Legal Services costs allocated by estimated costs incurred by each program.

(4) Business Services costs, including charges for IT support, vehicles, and other services allocated by costs in certain programs.

Ministry of Children's Services
Statement of Remissions, Compromises and Write-Offs
For the Year Ending March 31, 2018

The following Statement has been prepared pursuant to section 23 of the *Financial Administration Act*.
The Statement includes all Remissions, Compromises and Write-offs of the Ministry of Children's Services made or approved during the Fiscal Year.

	(in thousands)
Remissions under section 21 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> :	\$ -
Compromises under section 22 of the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> :	\$ -
Bankruptcies:	\$ -
Write-Offs:	
Child Care Subsidy- Children's Services	2,183
Other	2
Sub total	2,185
 TOTAL	 2,185

Other
Statutory Reports



Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

Section 32 of the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* requires the chief officer of a department to report annually on all disclosures made to the designated officer of the department, public entity or office of the Legislature for which the chief officer is responsible.

This constitutes the annual report of the chief officer of the department covering the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Chief Officer Report as at March 31, 2018

There was one disclosure of wrongdoing filed with the designated officer for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. The investigation on this disclosure is ongoing.