

Bill 18: The *Child Protection and Accountability Act*

A stronger, more effective OCYA

- If passed, Bill 18 would increase accountability, empower the Child and Youth Advocate and make Alberta's child death review process more culturally sensitive and transparent.
- The OCYA would be required to review every death of a child under 20 years old who was receiving services or had received services within two years prior to their death.
- It would be required to publicly report on every child death review.

Enhanced accountability and transparency

- Under the proposed legislation, the OCYA would be required to report to a committee of the Legislature every six months on the number of completed reviews and the status of all incomplete reviews.

Improved timeline in death reviews

- The OCYA would be required to complete child death reviews within one year after notification of death, whenever possible.
- When not possible, the OCYA would report the delay to a committee of the Legislature.
- This would include delays in receiving information from other bodies.
- Enhanced information-sharing would also reduce delays.

Increased cultural competence

- The OCYA would be required to ensure culturally relevant experts participate in each review.
- It would also be required to create a roster of Indigenous advisors to help shape individual reviews and the OCYA's overall approach.

Increased clarity across the system

- The OCYA would be the primary authority on reviewing child deaths in Alberta.
- An Advisory Audit Committee, similar to the Office of the Auditor General would be established to ensure recommendations are clear and actionable.
- Government departments would be required to respond to recommendations within 75 days.

Improved information-sharing across the system, including with law enforcement agencies

- All relevant bodies would be notified and required to proactively share any relevant information with the OCYA for each death review.
- The OCYA would be required to communicate with law enforcement and the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General before beginning a review to assess if a review would interfere with an ongoing investigation.
- Under the proposed legislation, when a delay is requested in writing, the OCYA must communicate with law enforcement and the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General every six months on the status of the investigation.
- An information-sharing protocol would be signed with law enforcement agencies, the Government of Alberta and the OCYA to reduce gaps and delays.