



NOTICE

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Tansi, Hello!

SCHEDULE OF CFS ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:

Central region: August 7 – Sheraton Cavalier Hotel (South Room), Saskatoon, SK
Northern region: August 21 – Indian & Métis Friendship Center, Prince Albert, SK
Southern region: September 11 – Delta Regina, Regina, SK

PURPOSE:

- Facilitated discussions at three engagement sessions are planned for **August 7, 21 and September 11, 2019**. The sessions will start at 8:00am with breakfast and end at approximately 4:00pm. Each of the three regional engagement session will have 3-4 hours of conversation time by the participants.
- Participants include frontline childcare providers, social workers, experts, federal partners, provincial government officials, elders and Métis citizens. Our approach with the engagements is connecting directly with child and family services system workers, federal, provincial and Métis governments with respect to the welfare of Métis children.
- Engagements are part of a broader effort to develop jurisdictional frameworks affirming Métis inherent rights of self-government and to support evidenced-based policy options to inform future decision-making that ultimately secures long-term positive outcomes for Métis children, families and communities.
- The goal of the engagements is to solicit the input and direction of the participants on the development of plans that addresses the needs of Métis children and help ensure that there are no gaps in services that are provided; to eliminate the over-representation of Métis children in child and family services systems; establishes holistic standards and approaches for the welfare of Métis children and enact Métis legislation for the benefit of Métis Nation children.
- At each engagement a historical overview of MN-S CFS developments will be provided to all of the participants including the review of the new federal legislation respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (received Royal Assent, June 21, 2019). The MN-S Minister for Child and Family Services will be on hand for all the engagement sessions.
- The result of the engagements will form part of a MN-S CFS Final Report summarizing “**What We Heard**”, research methodologies, literature review, leading practices, transitional plans and recommended next steps. The Final Report is targeted to be ready by early November, 2019.
- While it is hoped that our engagement will provide guidance to staff, technicians and others involved in developing frameworks and strategies in CFS, it is important to note to participants that these engagements serve as an early “touch-point” with leadership for the ongoing call for fiscal arrangements based on direct transfers from the Federal Government that is predictable,



stable, sustainable, needs-based and consistent with the '*principle of substantive equality*' in order to secure long-term positive outcomes for Métis children and their families.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CONVERSATION:

We will have three engagement sessions that will draw on years of experience and work of frontline childcare providers, social workers, government partners, elders and Métis citizens to identify opportunities to address decades of Métis children being removed from their families unnecessarily and to focus on providing every chance for Métis children to grow up feeling valued and connected to their families, cultures, languages and the Métis Nation. Participants will have an opportunity to set out key principles that will prevent children from being taken from their homes, promote children to stay in their communities, Métis Nation and ensure the '*best interest of the child principle*' and is applied from a Métis lens for Métis children and families. As a recognized Nation and government, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, as part of the transition and in collaboration with other governments, will look toward exercising its legislative authority in relation to the provision of child and family services services and support measures on behalf of its Métis citizens.

Everyone is welcome to attend and you will be responsible for your own travel and accommodation (i.e. hotel, mileage, etc.). Breakfast and lunch will be provided at each of the sessions. Please register your attendance at childfamilyservices@mns.work and for which location you plan on attending in advance of the scheduled engagement session.

I look forward to your participation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Gervais".

Wendy Gervais
Minister
MN-S Child and Family Services