

# WHAT IS AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES?

***An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, Métis children, youth, and families*** (the Act), formerly known as Bill C-92, entered into force on January 1, 2020. The Act affirms Indigenous peoples inherent right of self-determination and upholds a pathway for Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) to determine their own laws, policies, and practices in relation to child and family services.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), as the designated IGB for Métis citizens in Saskatchewan, is working to exercise this jurisdiction to protect our children, strengthen families, and foster resilience within our communities.

## WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE ACT AND HOW DOES IT APPLY?

The Act applies to all agencies, including provincial, territorial, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations, responsible for providing child and family services to Indigenous children and families. It mandates the application of national standards of care specifically designed for Indigenous children. Additionally, it applies to IGBs that seek to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services within their communities.

## WHY IS THE ACT IMPORTANT?

The Act not only reaffirms the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples but also grants law-making authority to IGBs over child and family services. It establishes specific core principles and national standards for service delivery to Indigenous children across the country.

## WHAT IS THE ACT'S PURPOSE?

The primary purpose of the Act is to transform how child and family services are delivered to Indigenous children, with the aim of reducing the number of Indigenous children in care. The Act empowers IGBs to exercise jurisdiction over child and family service systems and promotes a shift from apprehension-based systems to one focused on prevention. It prioritizes services that support families and prevent separation. Key elements of the Act ensure that future child and family service systems protect the best interests of the Indigenous child, keep families together, and preserve children's connection to their cultural identity.