



West Moberly First Nation Jurisdiction Project

AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

On January 1, 2020, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth, and Families (commonly referred to as “Bill C-92”) became law in Canada. This law allows Nations to enact their own laws regarding child welfare including prevention and cultural supports, family services, and child protection.

In October 2020, West Moberly First Nations Chief and Council contracted Kaniikaniit Consulting (Kathy Waddell, Crystal Jack, & Gaileen Flaman) to explore Bill C-92 jurisdiction. After initial consultation, WMFN Chief and Council decided to pursue full jurisdiction of Child and Family Services under Bill C-92.

WMFN law will apply to all children and families regardless of where they live in BC. This will give WMFN citizens living away from home unprecedented access to support and programs. Citizens living in or near home will also benefit from increased support.

It is important to take a thoughtful and careful approach to creating laws, governance, policies, programs, and services for children. This is a multi-year project that will need input from parents, Elders, youth, and West Moberly community members (including those who live away from home). Your family Council representative will be reaching out to you in the coming months to start the conversations, hear your stories, and begin to understand the hopes and dreams and concerns for West Moberly children and youth.

To begin the task of law-making, we will first define the Best Interests of the West Moberly Child (BIOC). These are a set of principles and standards that must be met to ensure children are safe, healthy, supported, and connected to West Moberly culture, community, and lands. The BIOC will set the stage for laws and designing programs and services for children and families.

There will be newsletter updates, WMFN webpage content and social media to help you understand the many parts of creating the WMFN law!

Kathy, Crystal, and Gaileen are looking forward to coming to West Moberly Lake to meet you once COVID-19 is safely behind us. If you are interested in talking with us sooner, please email kathy@kaniikaniitconsulting.ca or call 250-720-6640!

