

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

What is the The Act?

The Act was enacted on January 1 2020, and creates a national standard for child and family services and gives space for Indigenous communities to re-claim jurisdiction over their children and family services

What is the purpose of The Act?

The Act is intended to affirm the inherent right and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples, including jurisdiction relating to child and family services, including child protection. It creates a national standard in areas such as the best interests of the child, cultural continuity, and substantive equity. This will create space for indigenous peoples to develop their own laws, which would take precedence over all other laws (e.g. BC's Child, Family, Community, Services Act)

What are the benefits to creating our own laws?

WMFN can develop laws, and support programs, that focus on prevention, keeping families together, community led supports, and cultural values to ensure parents are well supported to care for their children. WMFN will also develop their own "Best Interests of the Child" principles, which include the national standards and articulate the unique needs of WMFN children, that must be applied when decisions are being made about WMFN children



West Moberly
First Nations



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

What does this mean for West Moberly First Nation?

WMFN can negotiate a coordination agreement with Canada and BC that provides the Nation with adequate funding to build and sustain child and family services laws and programs, as well as build internal WMFN capacity. WMFN's laws would extend to all WMFN children living in BC regardless of where they live (and could extend to other provinces where WMFN children live) . Most importantly, it would mean no child would be removed due to socio-economic conditions alone (e.g. housing, poverty, health of caregiver)

What's Next?

WMFN government will develop foundations for the laws and best interests of the child through in depth, meaningful, community engagement early and often through the drafting processes.

Watch for next month's update on "WMFN Pathway to Jurisdiction" in newsletters and at www.westmo.org



West Moberly
First Nations

