

# Ministry of Children & Family Development

## *Budget 2023 Overview*

**February 28, 2023**

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## Summary of Changes

The Ministry of Children and Family Development’s 23/24 budget increased by \$171.5 million to \$1,912.1 billion. Increases include:

- Rate increases for our foster parents, kinship and out of care caregivers to address affordability, and increasing service fee rates and respite rates.
- New interim investments for underserved children and youth with support needs as well as enhanced engagement and evaluation of the family connections centre pilots.

This new funding adds to the funding provided in *Budget 2022* and *Budget 2021* for:

- Youth Transitioning into Adulthood
- Children and Youth with Support Needs services, and
- Child and Youth with Mental Health Services’ Pathway to Hope.

Core Business	22/23		22/23		23/24
	Estimates	Change	Estimates Restated	Change	
Early Childhood Development and Child Care Services	40.3		40.3	1.6	41.9
Services for Children & Youth with Support Needs	480.4		480.4	48.5	528.9
Child & Youth Mental Health Services	119.5		119.5	2.7	122.2
Child Safety, Family Support & Children In Care Services	835.8	(1.4)	834.4	100.8	935.2
Adoption Services	36.5		36.5	1.5	38.0
Youth Justice Services	51.3		51.3	-	51.3
Service Delivery Support	161.4		161.4	11.8	173.2
Executive & Support Services	17.0		17.0	4.5	21.5
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>1,742.0</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>1,740.6</b>	<b>171.5</b>	<b>1,912.1</b>

Note: Restated Estimates for 2022/23 due to transfer of the following budgets: (\$1.4M) Inter-Ministry Transfer- Youth Educational Assistance Fund (YEAFF) grant program - transfer to PSFS (AEST)

Major STOBs	22/23		22/23		23/24
	Estimates	Change	Estimates Restated	Change	
Salaries & Benefits	420.2		420.2	43.5	463.7
Operating Costs	66.7		66.7	4.2	70.9
Government Transfers	1,356.3	(1.4)	1,354.9	123.7	1,478.6
Other Expenses	30.0		30.0	-	30.0
Internal Recoveries	(46.1)		(46.1)	-	(46.1)
External Recoveries	(84.9)		(84.9)	-	(84.9)
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>1,742.0</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>1,740.6</b>	<b>171.5</b>	<b>1,912.1</b>

See table above for restatement explanation.

### Affordability Investments

New investments of \$84.9 million will fund rate increase for foster and kinship and other out-of-care care providers, and also increase foster care service rates and annual respite rates.

#### Investing in foster caregivers and kinship care

- This increase recognizes contributions of foster and other care providers to the ministry’s network of care and support retention and recruitment initiatives already underway.
- Increased funding for kinship and out-of-care caregivers increases the likelihood that a child or youth can be well supported without having to come into care, while maintaining connections with their family, community, and culture.
- Effective April 1, 2023, the maintenance rates for foster and kinship and out of care caregivers will see an up to 47% increase to their maintenance rates:

Maintenance Rates (Monthly)	Current Rate	Rate eff. April 1, 2023
Children aged 0-11	\$1024.64	\$1465.86
Youth aged 12 -19	\$1124.19	\$1655.91

- Monthly service payments for all levels of foster caregivers will also increase by nearly 30% (service payments refer to specialized care provided to children with physical, mental, behavioral or emotional needs).

Foster Parent Service Rates (monthly)	Current Rate	Rate eff. April 1, 2023
Level 1	\$458.02	\$591.90
Level 2 – 1 child	\$1140.40	\$1473.74
Level 2 – 2 children	\$1968.68	\$2544.13
Level 2 – 3 or more children	\$2692.92	\$3480.06
Level 3 – 1 child	\$1816.66	\$2347.67
Level 3 – 2 children	\$3113.12	\$4023.08

- Daily rates for relief care for all levels of foster caregivers will also increase by up to 36%.
- And a more than 30% increase to the annual maximum respite payment to \$4,135.55, will benefit families of children or youth with support needs in the province.
- Additional Budget 2023 funding will better support out-of-care and kinship caregivers through the introduction of the Enhanced Out-of-Care (EOOC) agreements. These agreements will provide comprehensive, wrap-around supports to eligible children and youth with significant functional support needs and their out-of-care/kinship care providers as we work to create a seamless network of care and supports to keep children and youth with family wherever possible, connected to community and culture

## Youth Transitioning into Adulthood

New investments of \$5.2 million for the continuation of the phased implementation of wrap around supports for youth transitioning from care into adulthood.

- Youth and young adults in and from government care deserve every opportunity to successfully transition into adulthood. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is making programs and services more inclusive, with greater flexibility to ensure youth and eligible young adults in and from care have access to the right supports when they need them.
- Additional funding will provide more transition workers, the continued implementation of the health and wellness benefits, new life-skills and culture support and , rent supplements.
- These increases build on accomplishments enabled through *Budget 2022* Including:
  - a no-limit earnings exemption; employment income is now exempt when determining the level of funding a young adult will receive through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program.
  - Youth Transition Workers to support youth in care starting as young as age 14 and guide them until age 25 in accessing services and supports.
  - The implementation of a new \$600 rent supplement program to help eligible young adults from care to live independently and afford their rent. 50% of the rent supplements are available to Indigenous young adults. A second intake is scheduled for March 2023.

## Child and Youth Mental Health Services Pathway to Hope

 New investments of \$2.7 million for the continuation of the phased implementation of the expansion of psychologists supports into the Childhood Development Centres

- In Budget 2021, we committed over \$70 million over three years towards expanding child and youth mental health services as part of government's new \$97-million investment in the Improved Wellness for Children, Youth and Young Adults pillar of A Pathway to Hope.
- This began with \$20 million in funding in 2021, \$23 million in 2022 and it continues this year with a further \$26 million.
- This includes:
  - Growing early years mental health programs, including funding for more infant mental health clinicians, behavioural supports, family support workers, and infant development and Indigenous infant development programs;
  - Supporting service delivery teams of clinicians and others to help youth who struggle with substance use issues;
  - And increasing preventative mental wellness activities in early years settings and in schools.



## Children and Youth with Support Needs (CSYN) Investments

New investments of \$34.5 million for services to children and youth with support needs that are currently underserved, enhanced engagement and evaluation of the family connections centre pilots.

- The budget will increase access to underserved children and youth with support needs including children and youth with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (known as FASD) to reach more children, Down syndrome and other neuro-cognitive developmental disabilities;
  - Providing funding for **an additional 90 foundational program therapists** across the province for programs such as infant development, early intervention, and school-aged therapies through investment in Childhood Development Centres or similar organizations in every community in the province
  - **Doubling the budget for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Key Worker** program which will allow support for approximately 2,500<sup>1</sup> additional families of children and youth with FASD.
  - **60% budget increase to agency-coordinated respite** which will enable the program to expand to all regions of the province,
  - Adding an **additional 175%** above the province's current investment in **School Aged Extended Therapy** by doubling hourly reimbursement rates from \$80/hr to \$160/hr and increasing the annual maximum reimbursement to \$5,760 per year.
- New funding will support service model engagement and evaluation; working with our Indigenous partners on the delivery of CYSN services for their communities, and workforce investments that increased services demand.
- The ministry recognizes its obligations under the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is committed to engaging with our partners on a cultural appropriate service delivery model for their communities. The budget provides for \$4 million dollars for engagement and service delivery planning.
- In addition to targeted program funding, Budget 23/24 :
  - Provides social work and therapist assistants to support social worker and therapists to spend more time with children, youth, and families.
  - Expands access to 'city-based remote workers'
  - Encourages additional workers into the sector through post – secondary and graduate incentives to attract new workers.
- These additional supports are in addition to the Province's commitment to continue individualized autism funding made in November 2022.

*eligibility*

*Aug 8th?*

*At home program*

**Additional investment of \$6 million** for the implementation of the four family connection centre pilots.

- Budget 2023 builds from Budget 2022 funding provided to support the four family connection centre pilots.

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<sup>1</sup> Service provisioning varies widely by service provider. Caseload increases are based on estimated current caseloads.