

Frequently Asked Questions

DEVELOPING OUR FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY WELLBEING LAW

General Questions

What is the First Nations Child & Family Wellbeing Law?

This law is a formal exercise of our Nation's inherent sovereignty and unsundered Treaty rights. It returns complete jurisdiction over child and family services to our community. It ensures that decisions regarding our children are made by our own people, rooted in our values, customs, and kinship systems.

Why are we creating our own law instead of using the federal Bill C-92 framework?

While Bill C-92 acknowledges Indigenous control, the funding tied to it forces Nations into time-limited, program-based federal agreements subject to annual government approvals. This creates constant funding uncertainty. By taking an inherent rights approach, we reject government interference and demand a stable, perpetual Nation-to-Nation fiscal framework directly with the Treasury Board.

Does this law apply to members living off-reserve?

Yes. Our inherent jurisdiction is tied to our people, not just our land. Our law will protect and serve all children and families of our Nation, **regardless of residency**, establishing legal paramountcy over provincial systems across Canada.

Cultural & Community Impact

How will this law change how families are supported?

Our system shifts the focus completely from the colonial model of crisis-intervention and child apprehension to **holistic family preservation and prevention**. Funding will be directed into helping parents and families *before* a crisis occurs through housing support, mental wellness, traditional parenting, and integrated healing circles.

What is a "Kinship-First" care model?

Under our law, children are viewed as sacred gifts. If a child's immediate parents cannot safely provide care, our custom standards dictate that the child must be placed within their extended family (kinship) or within our community first. This keeps children permanently connected to their identity, language, and culture.

How are Elders and community members involved?

Elders and community members are the heart of this process. Elders will guide the development of our custom tribal standards and oral laws. Once the system is active, traditional custom tribunals or family circles will replace external provincial courts to resolve family matters.

Timeline & Next Steps

Why are we using an accelerated 12-to-15 month timeline?

Protecting our children cannot wait. By running community consultations, legal text drafting, and structural planning at the same time (in parallel), we can safely fast-track our system without compromising community input or legal rigor.

Will the community have a say before the law becomes official?

Yes, absolutely. Community ownership is mandatory. Once the drafting team synthesizes community feedback into a legal framework, the final law must be brought back to the membership for a formal ratification vote before it is served to the government.

How can I share my thoughts or get involved?

We need the voices of families, youth, and Elders to make this law strong. You can participate by attending upcoming community consultation circles, submitting feedback directly through our online resource portal, or contacting our community coordinator to share your family's traditional care perspectives.

This document is for informational purposes only. For legal or strategic planning guidance, please consult with your governance council and legal experts.