



VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 279445

June 23, 2023

Jane Bouey
Executive Director
Parent Support Services Society of BC
E-mail: jane.bouey@parentsupportbc.ca; kinshipcare@parentsupportbc.ca

Dear Jane Bouey:

Following the announcement made on June 10, 2023, by the Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development, I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is introducing a new annual affordability payment for families receiving financial assistance through the Child in Home of Relative (CIHR) program.

We have heard the concerns of CIHR families and know that kinship caregivers increase 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. MCFD also recognizes that global inflation is impacting families and we are focused on making sure all families have the supports they need.

As of summer 2023, the new annual affordability payment will help support children/youth in the care of relatives under the CIHR program and address specific concerns raised by families. The annual affordability payment is prorated up to \$5,964.64 per child/youth, per year and offered until the child/youth's 19th birthday, concluding by fiscal 2028/29 when the last youth remaining in the program turn 19.

You can access information on the new annual affordability payment, including the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Sample Consent Letter, and the Direct Deposit Application Form on the MCFD website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/fostering>. The website is being updated shortly, so please check back in if the information is not available when you search for it.

Additionally, eligible relatives in CIHR are invited to explore MCFD's Extended Family Program (EFP), if desired, to best meet the needs of their families. EFP offers additional supports for children/youth and families with a focus on family reunification and operates under the *Child, Family, and Community Service Act* (CFCSA). EFP care providers may receive monthly benefit payments of \$1,655.91 per child/youth 12 years of age and older. Aman Gill, Out of Care Consultant, Provincial Practice Branch, is available to support interested families with more information on the EFP application process. Aman can be reached at Amanjoat.Gill@gov.bc.ca or 778-257-5043. .../2

Under the EFP, young adults who have at least 24 months in an eligible care status under the CFCSA between ages 12-19 may be eligible for MCFD's post-majority supports. Please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/youth-and-family-services/youth-transitions> for more information on MCFD's post-majority supports.

I would like to thank you for your important role in providing advocacy, guidance, and support for kinship care providers, and for helping us to spread the word about this important new benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Godin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Godin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Finance and Corporate Services
Ministry of Children and Family Development

pc: Aman Gill