



June 17, 2025

Statement by the Child and Youth Advocate

The Child and Youth Advocate is pleased to see the public review of the **Children, Youth and Families Act**, issued by the Department of Families and Affordability.

“Children and youth deserve to be seen, heard, and considered in all matters that affect them. I, and my team, work every day to amplify the voices of young people and ensure that their rights are respected and protected,” said Karen Gray, Child and Youth Advocate (A).

The **Children, Youth and Families Act** guides the delivery of child protection, in care and youth services programs throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. It came into force in June 2019 and was amended in 2021. This legislation brought welcomed changes, however, there is still work to be done to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people.

“The **Children, Youth and Families Act** is a critical piece of legislation for children and youth in this province, and it includes special recognition of the unique circumstances of Indigenous young people. My Office will be making a written submission regarding the enhancements we feel are necessary to ensure the best interests of, and best outcomes for all children and youth. I encourage youth serving organizations, as well as young people, their families, and adults with lived experience in child protection, in care, and/or youth services systems to provide their feedback as well,” said Gray.

The **Review of Children, Youth and Families Act Discussion Guide 2025** can be found by visiting: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/cssd/review-of-children-youth-and-families-act-discussion-guide-2025/>. A number of ways to participate are listed on their website.

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