

# Distinct Indigenous Approach (1/2)

The work will be guided by the ongoing implementation of the co-developed Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy (OICYS).

- First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples are constitutionally recognized peoples in Canada, with their **own laws, and distinct cultural, political and historical ties** to the Province of Ontario. This, along with their unique relationships to Ontario, is acknowledged in the Preamble of the CYFSA.
- The provincial legislative regime under the CYFSA includes a **variety of provisions that are unique to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis** children and youth, as well as bands and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.
- First Nations and Ontario have taken steps toward helping ensure greater control over child and family services for communities: **12 of 50 societies in Ontario are Indigenous societies**, and 2,710 (~22%) of 12,056 children in care in Ontario are in the care of Indigenous societies. Additionally, in 2019-20, there were 1,636 children in ministry-funded customary care arrangements.
- The ministry has continued to **maintain collaborative relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous partners**, guided by the OICYS, an established strategic framework built on partner perspectives that is well-positioned to transform service delivery.
- **Self-determination can be important to well-being outcomes.** Research demonstrates that children and communities can significantly benefit when their communities and nations pursue and exercise effective self-governance.

# Distinct Indigenous Approach (2/2)

The ministry continues to implement the **Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy (OICYS)**, the strategic framework co-developed with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous partners across Ontario to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and youth. The distinct Indigenous approach to the Child Welfare Redesign Strategy will also advance as part of the OICYS.

## The Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy

### VISION

First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous children and youth are healthy, happy, resilient, grounded in their cultures and languages and thriving as individuals and as members of their families and Nations/communities

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Children and youth centred
- ▶ Culture and identity as foundational
- ▶ Respect rights and jurisdictional aspirations
- ▶ Co-development and partnership
- ▶ Outcomes focus
- ▶ Responsive to youth voice
- ▶ Flexibility
- ▶ Shared accountability
- ▶ Reconciliation (acknowledge the past, act now, and look to the future)

### PILLARS

#### First Nations Jurisdiction and Control / Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous Control

First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous communities/ organizations have authority to care for their children and youth.

#### Prevention, Culture and Opportunities

First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous children and youth have access to preventive services focused on well-being, culture and opportunities

#### Coordinated and Responsive Circle of Care

The child and youth service workforce is equipped to provide high quality, integrated and culturally appropriate services

#### Monitoring, Evaluation and Shared Accountability

Progress is tracked through culturally and contextually appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches

#### Transformed Relationships and Collaborative, Holistic Action

Systemic change through collaborative action and transformed relationships with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous partners

