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## Monthly Update

# Capital Needs Summary for FNCFS Agencies and First Nations Exercising Jurisdiction

March 2023

## Overview – Capital needs assessment

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- Capital assets and tools, e.g., vehicles, tipis, buildings, respite homes, etc., are essential to delivering child and family services.
- As part of Phase 3, IFSD is reviewing capital needs in the delivery of First Nations child and family services (FNCFS) in two ways:
  - 1) The FNCFS agency questionnaire
  - 2) Detailed capital needs assessments with the 20 collaborators (a mix of FNCFS agencies and First Nations exercising/contemplating jurisdiction)

## Principal Takeaways – What we learned

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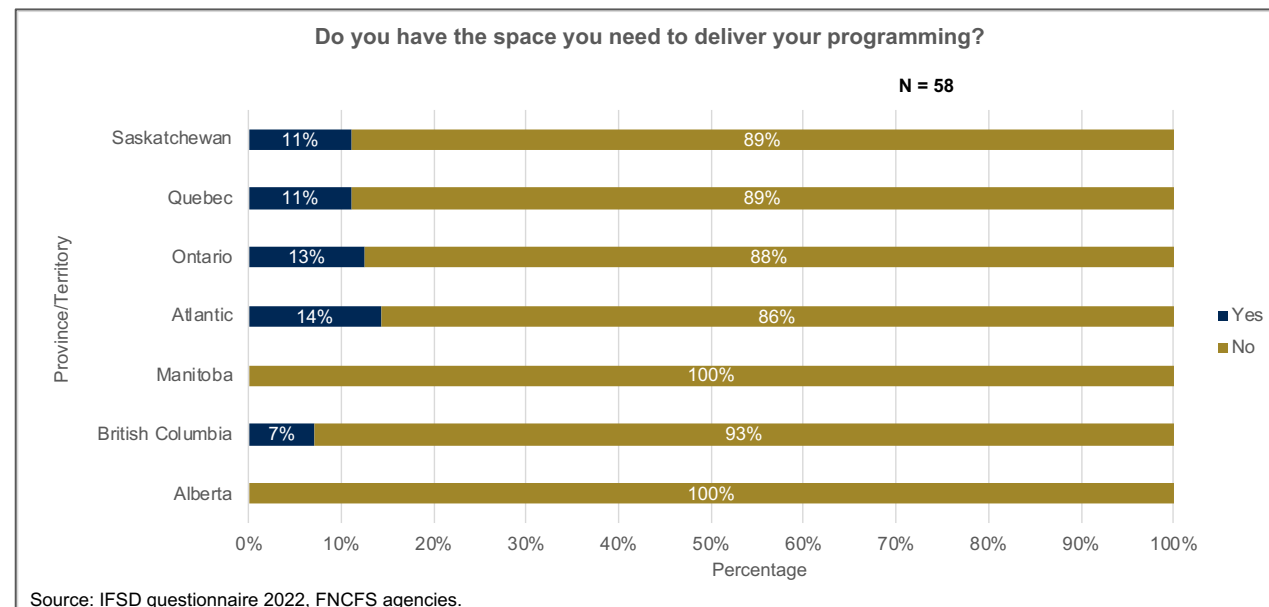
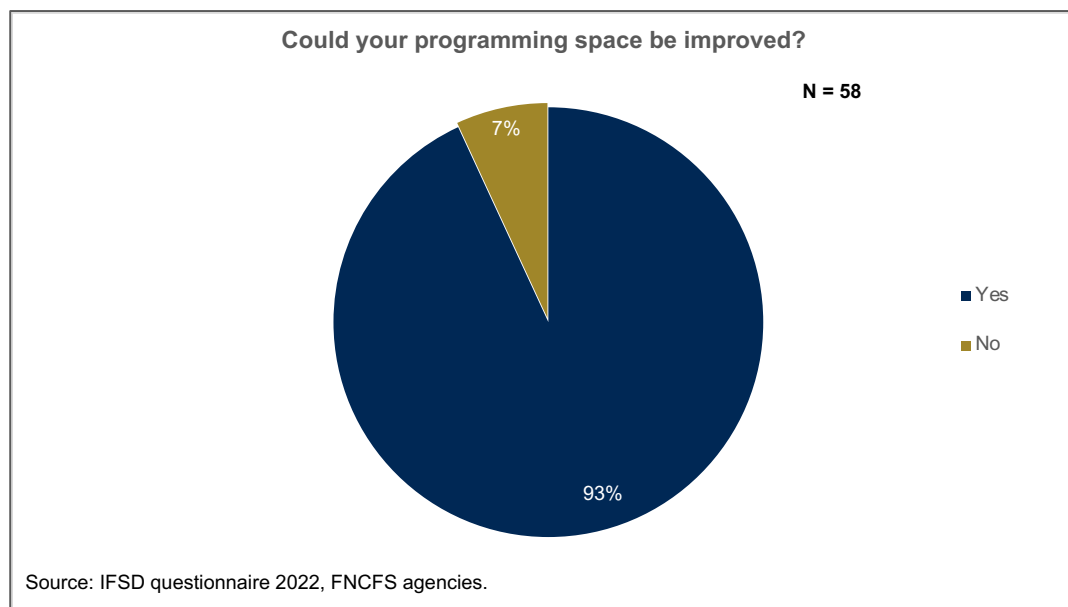
- FNCFS agencies responding to the questionnaire reported significant inadequacies in programming and office spaces
- Almost a third of FNCFS agencies reported that their spaces did not meet building codes
- Collaborators indicated that cultural assets and accommodations (e.g., respite homes, transition homes, residences), were needed (along with buildings and vehicles) to support well-being focused mandates



## **FNCFS agency questionnaire capital needs**

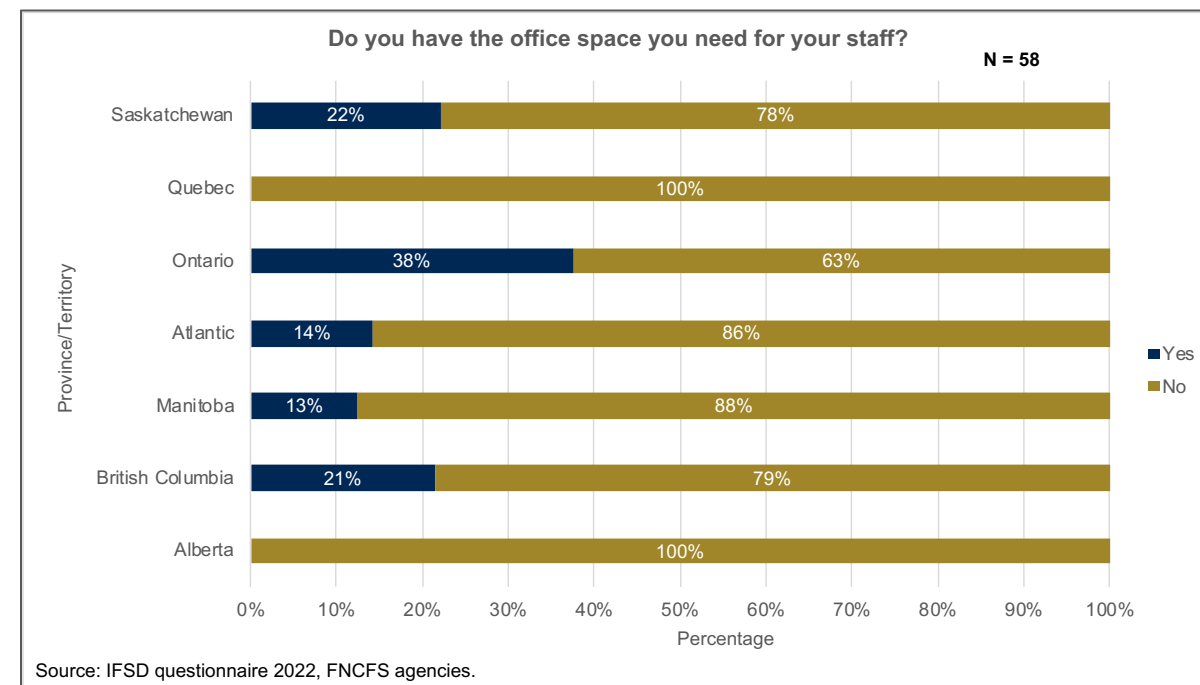
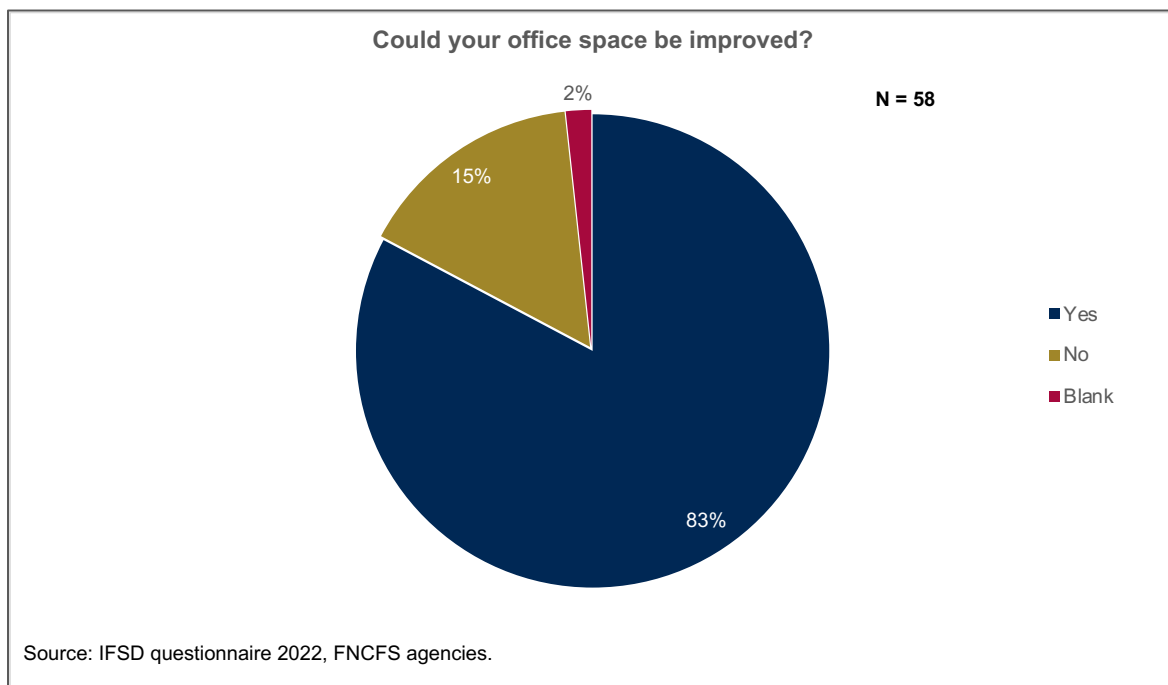
## Questionnaire Responses: Programming Space

- 91% of respondents do not have adequate programming space
- 93% of respondents report that their programming space could be improved
- 29% of respondents have programming spaces that do not meet building codes



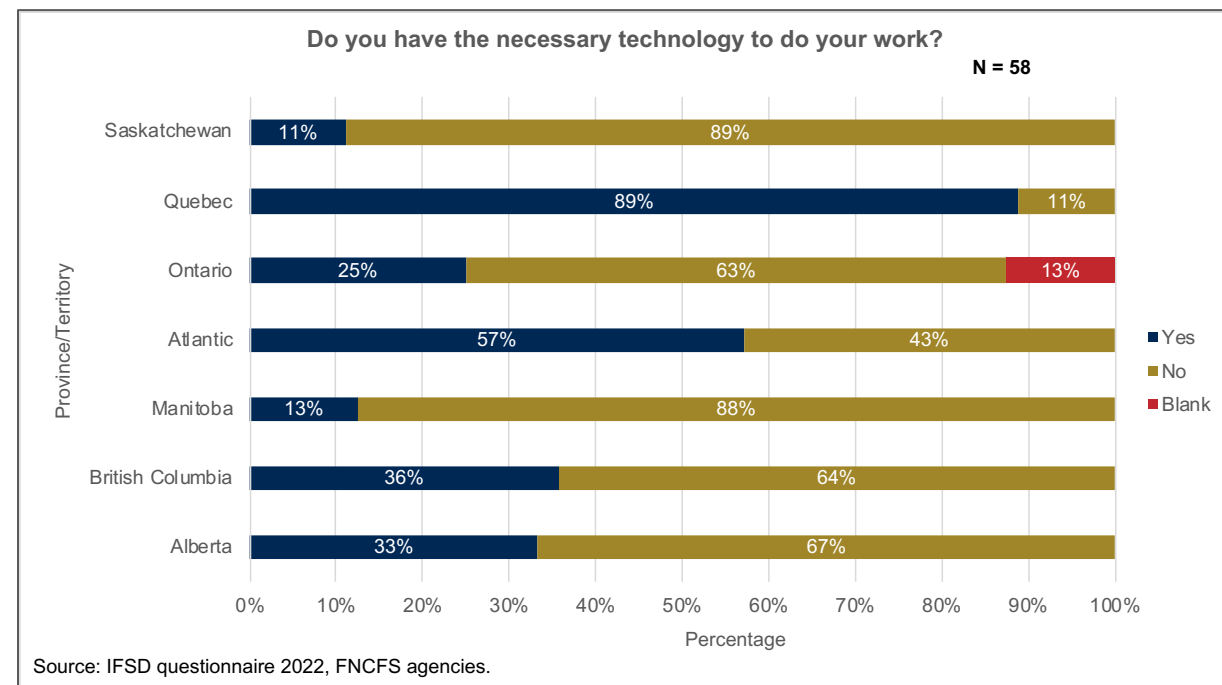
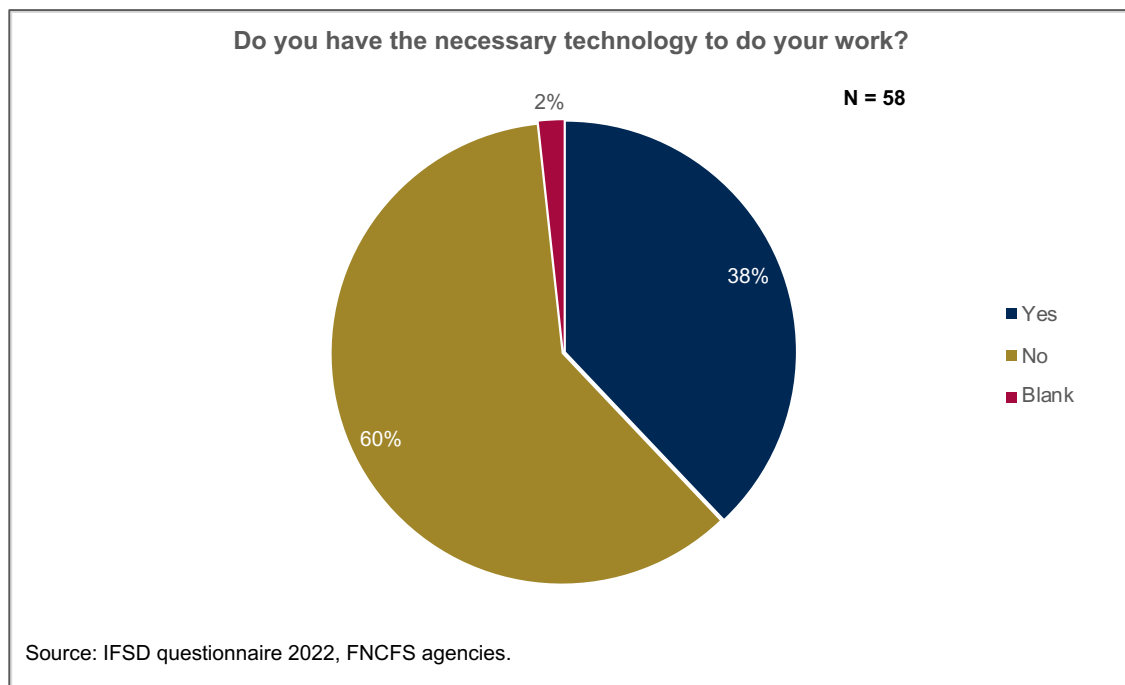
## Questionnaire Responses: Office Space

- 83% of respondents do not have adequate office space
- 83% of respondents report that their office space could be improved
- 31% of respondents have office spaces that do not meet building codes



# Questionnaire Responses: Technology

- 60% of respondents do not have the necessary technology to do their work
- Responses varied significantly by jurisdiction





## **Approach to assessing collaborators' capital needs**



## Capital needs assessments approach

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- Approach to capital needs assessments:
  - 1) **Define collaborators' current and future operating contexts:** capture current and desired programs and services, and identify demand levels for each service
  - 2) **Identify collaborators' capital needs:** determine which capital assets are required for collaborators to effectively deliver both their current and desired future services
  - 3) **Compare collaborators' capital needs to current asset bases:** assemble and compare collaborators' current assets inventories to their identified capital needs to determine the gap between what is required for effective service delivery and what currently exists

## Overview of capital needs assessment results

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- Key challenges faced by collaborators include intergenerational trauma (and associated issues such as substance misuse), and a lack of road access and/or remoteness impeding effective service delivery
- First Nations seeking jurisdiction often lack sufficient historical data and organizational memory to accurately predict their future CFS operational and capital requirements
- While representing a significant opportunity for First Nations control of CFS, the Act may have implications for agencies who may see their roles and mandates shift as the First Nations they serve develop and implement their own child welfare laws—this makes long-term capital planning difficult
- Some collaborators find that culturally appropriate and aesthetically welcoming buildings can reduce barriers to engaging with CFS, as it provides children and families with a sense of belonging

## Considerations for capital asset planning

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- Ensuring CFS has sufficient space to include Elders in reformed service-model is a priority for multiple collaborators
- Cultural assets such as land-based camps, sweat lodges, tipis, etc. are deemed as key assets by most collaborators
- Though outside of the purview of CFS, housing issues were frequently cited as a key challenge by collaborators—a lack of sufficient housing both drives the need for protection services and makes it difficult for CFS to attract and retain staff

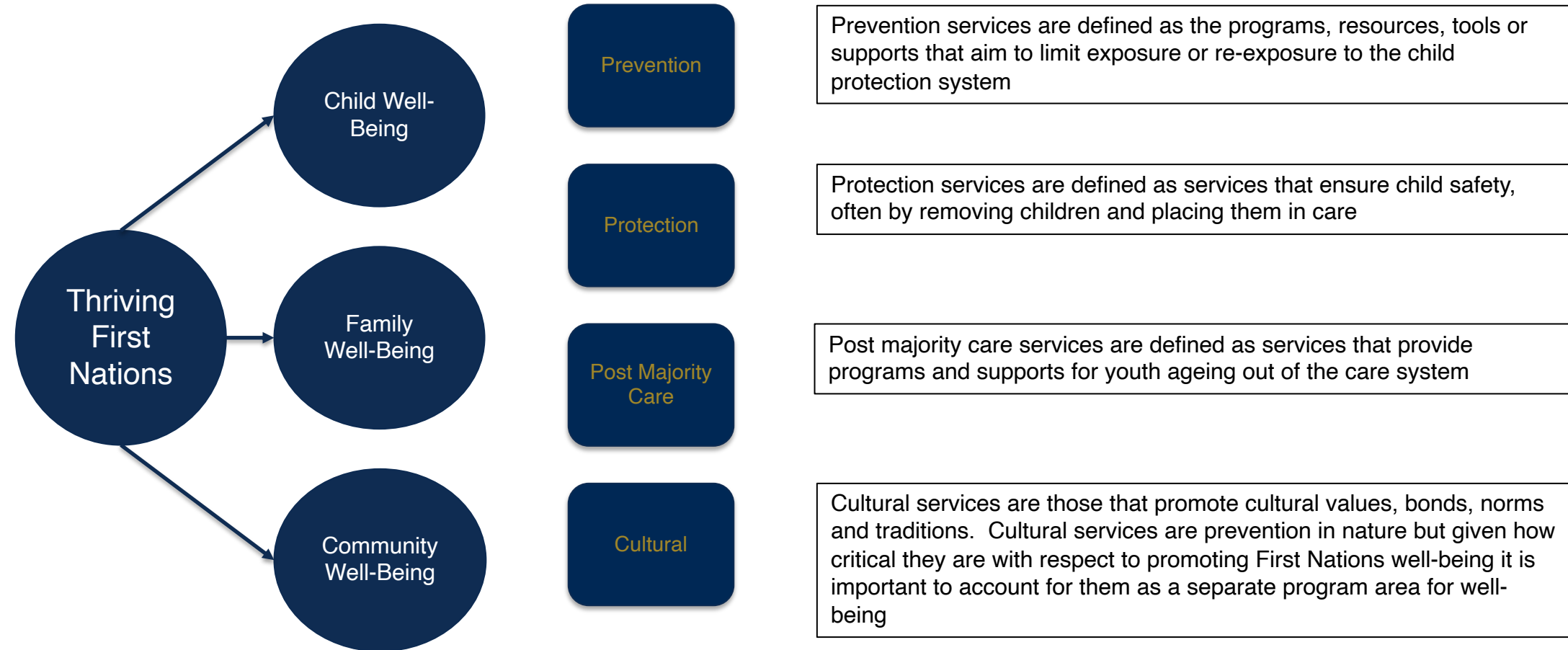
## Mapping Well-Being to Outcomes Program Areas

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- Thriving First Nations are built upon the well-being of children, families, and communities
- Child, family, and community well-being can be aligned to program areas in CFS, e.g., prevention, protection, post-majority, and culture, to identify capital needs unique to or shared among the activity areas
- The program view can be helpful for planning needs with changing program and service delivery

## Mapping Well-Being Outcomes to Program Areas (cont.)



## Considerations for capital asset planning

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- Capital assets will be integral to achieving CFS well-being goals
- From cultural assets, e.g., camps, tipis, cultural centres, to the housing-related assets, e.g., respite homes, transition spaces, etc., collaborators are indicating that prevention programming requires its own sets of tools
- The agency questionnaire findings and collaborators consistently indicate that building spaces are required for programming and office spaces
- When considering the long-term reform of FNCFS, capital will be integral to achieving results

## Get in touch

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