

First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Project – Phase 2 Monthly Update

December 2019

IFSD is pleased to provide the fourth monthly update to its stakeholders on the progress of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Project – Phase 2.

Principal updates

- Following the update on the results framework, this update will focus on the related necessary data.
- Relevant, available, comparable, and consistently captured data is necessary to give life to a results framework.
- IFSD has prepared a draft alignment of necessary data and data gaps in the current universe of available information. Consult the full update for details.
- Overall participation in the questionnaire has increased to 42%. Saskatchewan's participation has improved significantly to 37% (over double its previous rate). Important gaps remain however, for Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan. The goal is to achieve **at least 50% participation** from each province/region to ensure agencies are represented. IFSD wishes to thank all those agencies that have participated and is asking that all agencies who have not yet participated to [download](#) and return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible.
- IFSD is now working with an Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) team tasked with delivery of the data consistent with the project's requirements.
- **IFSD welcomes your feedback throughout this work.**

Are you an agency that hasn't yet participated in the questionnaire?

[Connect with IFSD](#) or [download the questionnaire](#)

Data alignment and data gaps

There are a variety of indicators proposed in the performance framework to capture progress across the four sub-strategic outcomes defined in Phase 1 – *Enabling First Nations Children to Thrive*. The table below summarizes the linkage between sub-strategic objective, measure and indicators, and includes the feasibility of accessing the data required.

<p style="text-align: center;">Green <i>Feasible</i></p>	Green means feasibly accessible because the data is already being captured or an agency could easily collect the data.
<p style="text-align: center;">Yellow <i>Somewhat feasible</i></p>	Yellow implies somewhat feasibly accessible. While the data may not exist publicly, nor is it likely being captured by agencies, the request falls within the agency's mandate and the data could be feasibly collected by an agency.
<p style="text-align: center;">Red <i>Difficult</i></p>	Red indicates some challenge in accessing the data as it falls outside of a typical agency's mandate, and may require collaboration with a third party to capture the information.

Sub-objective	Performance Area	Measure	Indicators
Safety	Protection	Protection from all forms of maltreatment	Recurrence of maltreatment
			Serious injuries/deaths
			Recurrence of child protection concerns after ongoing protection services
			Non-accidental child injury
			Child sexual abuse
	Permanency	Permanency status	Out of home placement rate
			Number of moves in care
			Timeliness of family reunification
			Timeliness of adoptions
		Out of home care	Percentage of children placed with kin and/or Indigenous families within their community
Quality of caregiver and youth relationship			
Child well-being	Cognitive development	School readiness	Percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds participating in funded early years education

			Basic literacy score
			Basic numeracy score
			Advanced literacy score
			Interest in literacy/numeracy and memory score
		Educational attainment	Literacy and numeracy test scores (middle childhood)
			Positive attitude towards school/learning
			Youth who intend on going to full-time post-secondary (e.g. college, trade school, university)
			Youth who report positive relations with their parents or caregiver
	Social relationships	Social support and belonging	Youth with 5 or more close friends
			Youth who report positive relations with siblings and extended family
			Youth who report positive relations with non-family adults
			Youth who report strong ties with elders in the community
			Social engagement
		Youth who participate in extracurricular activities	
Psychological and emotional well-being	Child behaviour	Anxious and fearful behaviour	

			Aggressive behaviour
			Hyperactivity and inattentive behaviour
		Social competence	Communication skills
			Prosocial and helping behaviour
			Social intelligence (e.g. cooperation, conflict resolution, trust, intimacy)
		Subjective well-being	Self-reported happiness/life satisfaction
			Self-reported mental health
		Esteem	Sense of purpose
			Optimism and hope
			Resilience
			Confidence
			Agency
	Cultural and spiritual well-being	Spirituality	Sense of belonging to cultural group
			Pride in Indigenous identity
			Sense of connection to the land

		Tradition	Participation in spiritual practice/knowledge/ceremony
			Speaks traditional language
			Eats traditional foods
	Physical health and well-being	Overall physical health	Low birth weight
			Breastfed for at least 6 months
			Children living with a disability or chronic illness
		Healthy habits	Eating habits
			Level of physical activity
			Sleep habits
		Risk management	Teenage birth rate
			Percentage who report using illicit drugs in the past month
			Percentage who report binge drinking in the last month
	Smoking in the last month		
		Self-sufficiency	

Family well-being		Secure parental employment and parental participation in the labour force	Job tenure/permanency
		Ability to meet basic needs	Household income sufficient to meet basic needs for transportation, housing and utilities, food, clothing, childcare and other necessary expenses
	Family health and protective factors	Physical health status of parents or caregivers	Chronic conditions
			Eating habits
			Drug use (alcohol, smoking, illicit drugs, prescription medication)
		Mental health status of parents and caregivers	Self-reported mental health
			Symptoms of anxiety and depression
			Thoughts of suicide/self-harm
		Family protective factors	Parental resilience
			Social connections
Knowledge of parent and child development			
Concrete support in times of need			
Community well-being	Access to basic needs	Developmental parenting and attachment	
		Access to potable water	Number of long-term drinking water advisories affecting FN water systems
		Access to suitable housing	Percentage of homes that are suitable
			Percentage of homes in need of major repairs
		Access to broadband connectivity	Percentage of homes with internet connectivity
Community infrastructure	Presence of point of community assembly, health centre, elementary school, recreational space or facility		
Overall poverty level	Median household income compared to provincial or national poverty line		

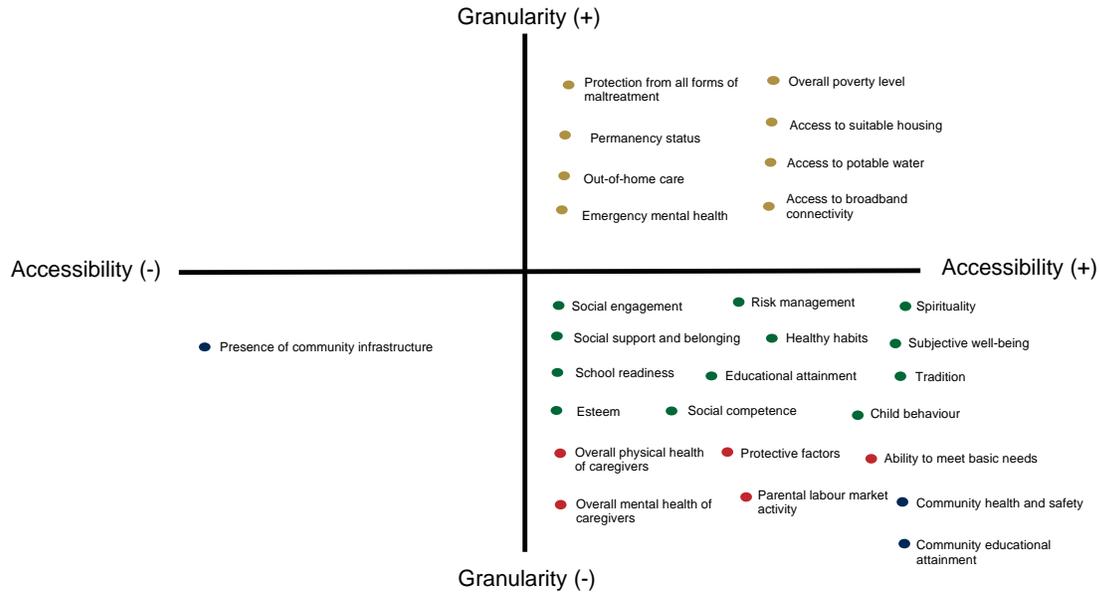
			Mental health and counselling services
			Child and family services/social services
			Health and medical services
			Respite care
			Transportation and accommodation (medical and non-medical appointments)
	Public safety and community health	Health and safety	Rates of reported suicide attempts
			Rates of reported heavy drinking
			Rates of reported drug use
			BMI rates
			Rates of chronic health conditions
			Rates of violent crime
		Educational attainment	High school graduation rate
			Rate of post-secondary education

IFSD welcomes your feedback on the alignment of data and indicators. IFSD looks forward to continuing to refine this framework with its stakeholders.

Beyond the availability of data, there are considerations relative to its accessibility and its sufficient detail for analytic use. Publicly accessible data tends to be available (e.g. housing, access to potable water) but aggregated, which limits its applicability for decision-support in specific domains. Granular data may be available at the level of the individual agency or First Nation, but is not always readily available, comparable or consistently captured (i.e. loss of time series).

The draft diagram below plots the indicators from the performance framework based on their **current-state** accessibility and granularity. A significant majority of indicators are accessible but insufficiently granular (bottom right quadrant). This suggests that while there is aggregate data at the level of a First Nation, a province or region, the data may not have the necessary detail to measure the indicator defined in the performance framework. For instance, there may be data at the level of the First Nation on alcohol and drug misuse (for assessment of the risk management indicator), but that data may not be available for the individual child. Even though individual data will not be shared, it is a useful internal metric for agency decision-support and planning for the child and family. The mismatch between accessibility and granularity is not insurmountable. It will require agency action with requisite resources.

The upper right quadrant is both accessible and sufficiently granular. Most of this data relates to child safety, as it is expected that agencies already collect this information at the level of the individual child for their case files. It is anticipated that while this data will not be made public at the level of the individual, the aggregated data can be a reliable source of information to assess overall outcomes for children and families in a community. Some community level data is also included, as it can be accessed from public sources at the level of the First Nation. Such data includes housing suitability and access to potable water to fulfill certain indicators. The two community well-being indicators related to infrastructure and health and social services in the bottom left corner are deemed both insufficiently granular and insufficiently accessible because the data does not tend to exist. It would be up to individual communities or agencies to collect or produce this data.



To help to close the data gaps and ensure data is relevant for the proposed results framework, a mix of existing and new data will have to be collected and analysed.

This is an opportunity for agencies to standardize the capture of relevant data to support planning, decision-making, and the alignment of activities and resources for the well-being of children, families and communities.

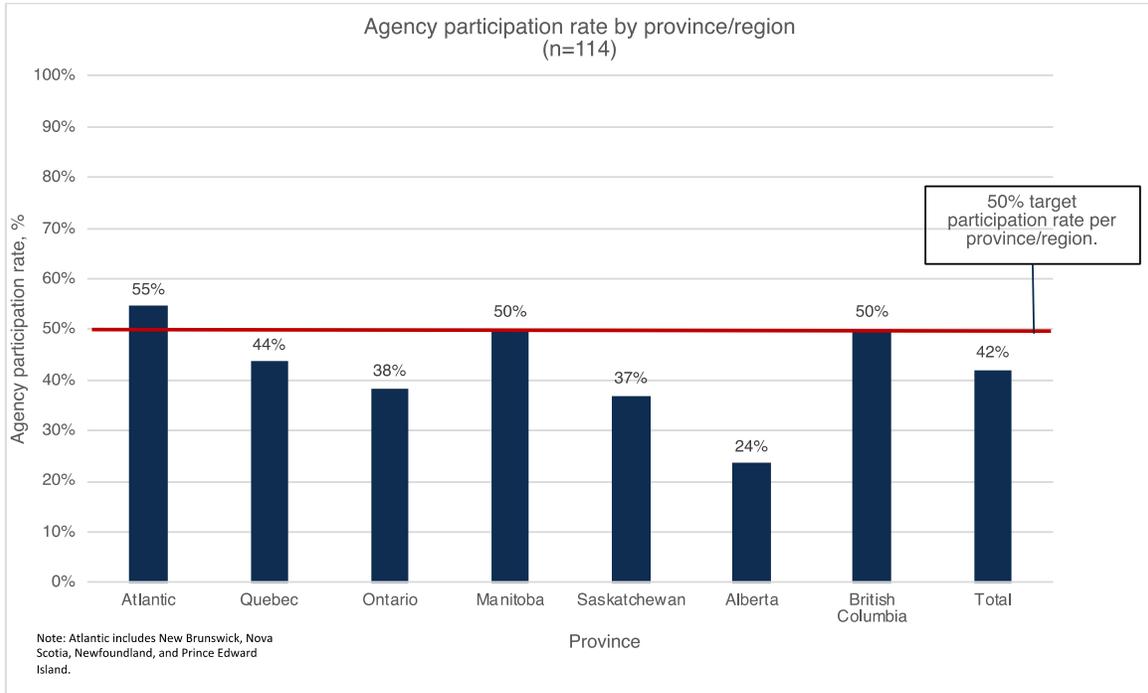
In the coming months, IFSD looks forward to sharing a data framework that agencies may wish to leverage to capture their own information.

Participation gaps – questionnaire

Manitoba and British Columbia have reached the 50% participation threshold, and the Atlantic region has surpassed it at 55%. Saskatchewan has more than doubled its participation rate in less than four weeks. IFSD is grateful for this effort. To reach the 50% target participation rate per region, we are asking agencies in Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec to continue to complete the questionnaire if they have not already done so.

The information from the questionnaire will help IFSD to ensure alignment to need as a funding approach is developed and more accurately cluster agencies to model the effects of transition.

By sharing your experience, you're making this work more representative and reflective of your agency's reality.



Next steps

1. Present a full draft results framework and data alignment to working group members, including case study agencies and experts (scheduled to meet in February 2020).
2. Continue to build comparative assessments of results-focused funding approaches.
3. Finalize FNCFS agency participation to complete the questionnaire and analyze data provided through the questionnaire.
4. Continue to work with ISC to complete the data request.

Contact information

IFSD is pleased to respond to requests for further information or to provide individual briefings on the project and its project. For questions about the project or to participate, please contact:

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