

Caring Society Update to the CHRT

November 2025

Consultation Workplan

1. Collaboration with AFN and NCCC:

The parties are combining their expertise and resources to fulfill the 2025 CHRT 80 workplan requirements. The Caring Society warmly welcomes the recent appointment of Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador Regional Chief Verreault-Paul as the AFN portfolio holder and looks forward to building on our collaboration.

2. Capacity Funding:

Canada advised in its November 4, 2025 update that it will not fund the Caring Society's or AFN's activities in bringing forward the plan required under 2025 CHRT 80. The Caring Society does not agree with Canada's position, as it views these activities as eligible under the Consultation Protocol signed by the parties on March 2, 2018. The Caring Society will include submissions on this matter with its submissions in support of its plan.

3. Regional Engagements:

First Nations and experts nationwide have submitted feedback using the engagement guide. The care, wisdom and dedication shown by First Nations leaders, Elders, youth and specialists—despite no funding or support from Canada—has been truly remarkable. Their extraordinary efforts demonstrate the love they have for their children and that national engagements are possible and necessary on vital matters relating to justice and reconciliation.

Consistent with the direction of First Nations Leadership, these regional engagements have included First Nations that are not members of the Assembly of First Nations.

4. Caring Society Engagement with Interested Party Applicants:

On October 24, 2025, the Caring Society hosted a session with legal counsel and clients from the interested party applicants to provide an update on the regional consultations.

5. Official Languages and Accessibility:

Engagement materials were provided in both English and French, and offered in several formats (online, fillable PDF, fillable Word) to accommodate diverse internet access among First Nations. French-speaking First Nations have also contributed submissions.

6. Distribution of Engagement Materials:

The National Children’s Chiefs Commission (Leadership and Technicians) and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society distributed materials via QR codes, handouts, presentations, and briefing notes.

7. Engagement Support Tools:

The Caring Society joined a National Children’s Chiefs Commission webinar on October 24, 2025, answering questions about the engagement materials. Over 200 people attended, with simultaneous translation available. Short videos were prepared to help clarify specific themes and suggest relevant resources.

8. National Engagement Results Roll Up and Analysis:

In partnership with the National Children’s Chiefs Commission, the Caring Society is working with a research scholar from a major university to design and implement a data analysis methodology that reflects best practices and achieves the aims set out in 2025 CHRT 80. This project will be jointly overseen by First Nations representatives, including from the NCCC and Caring Society, with relevant research expertise.

Timeline Update

Date	Milestone	Status
2025-10-01	Engagement materials completed in both English and French.	Complete
2025-10-01 – 2025-11-15	Engagements conducted with First Nations leadership, regional experts, and interested parties.	Complete
2025-11-15	Analysis of national engagement results begins, along with information sessions on how the materials will shape the plan and remedies.	In Progress
2025-12-22	Final plan including remedies to be submitted to CHRT.	Upcoming

Regional Forums

- Due to insufficient funding, regions supported engagement sessions through existing meetings and online platforms.
- Since the last CHRT report, the Caring Society has participated in 11 sessions (five in person, six virtual).

National Conference Presentations

- 2025-11-04: Child and family service experts attended an engagement session at the Our Children; Our Way National Conference in Squamish Nation, Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh Nation territory (Vancouver, BC).
- 2025-11-04: First Nations Leadership engagement session at Our Children; Our Way National Conference in the same location.
- 2025-11-04: The National Children's Chiefs' Commission presented a plenary panel on its role in national engagement at the conference.
- 2025-12-04 to 2025-12-06 (forthcoming): At the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, there will be an information table about the engagement process, which will feature bilingual resources. A dialogue session has also been confirmed.

Youth Consultations

- Regions were asked to incorporate youth, especially those with lived experience in and from care, into regional consultations.
- An Indigenous youth organization has been supported to roll up relevant feedback and recommendations from young people and to prepare a youth friendly approach to future engagements.

Expert Advisory Committee Update

- The Caring Society was notified that ISC will pay outstanding invoices to the EAC and set up a meeting on December 8, 2025.
- Canada has advised the Caring Society that it views the EAC role as restricted to overseeing a third-party evaluation of ISC versus providing advice on ISC programs. The Caring Society disagrees and cannot understand why ISC would not welcome the EAC's expert advice to address ISC's discriminatory conduct and prevent recurrence in its design, delivery and evaluation of First Nations child and family services and Jordan's Principle.

Provincial/Territorial Agreements

- The Caring Society has received from Canada the requested provincial and territorial agreements on child and family services and has shared those with the National Children's Chiefs' Commission to inform the regional engagements.

Process Following the Submission of the Plans Required Under 2025 CHRT 80

- Important work to prepare for this vital part of the proceedings is underway and the Caring Society will present its position, informed by the regional engagements and collaboration with AFN and the National Children's Chiefs Commission, to the Tribunal.

Summary

The Caring Society, alongside the National Children's Chiefs Commission (NCCC), has moved forward with the 2025 CHRT 80 workplan by engaging First Nations leaders and experts throughout Canada.

Despite limited funding, participants have devoted substantial effort and expertise. Distribution of engagement materials has occurred through various channels, including QR codes and presentations. A national webinar with over 200 attendees included facilitated Q&A with simultaneous translation. A scholar is assisting with data analysis under the direction of the Caring Society and NCCC.

Major milestones include completion of engagement materials by October 1, 2025, closing of engagements on November 15, 2025, and ongoing analysis leading to the final plan submission by December 22, 2025. Regional forums were organized autonomously due to budget limitations, with the Caring Society participating in 11 sessions since the previous report.