

NEWS RELEASE

PGT releases statement supporting the return of jurisdiction of child and family services to First Nations and Indigenous Peoples

VANCOUVER, January 15, 2024 – Today, provisions of Bill 38, The Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act, relating to Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) property guardian services for children and youth, and supporting Regulations come into force. The PGT is pleased to support these transformative changes promoting improved outcomes for Indigenous children and families in British Columbia.

Bill 38, which was passed by the Province on November 25, 2022, recognizes and affirms the inherent right of Indigenous communities to provide child and family services to their children. Effective today, Indigenous Governing Bodies that take on the role of guardian for their children and youth in care may also choose to enter into an agreement with the PGT to have the PGT provide property guardian services.

“We understand the significance of these legislative changes and are actively working with several First Nations and Indigenous Communities with respect to implementing Bill 38,” said Dana Kingsbury, the Public Guardian and Trustee. “Our priority is to build relationships and work collaboratively with First Nations and Indigenous communities, respecting their unique cultural values and supporting them as a strong partner in delivering financial and legal services to their children and youth.”

As the PGT works to build new relationships and implement these changes, the PGT remains committed to ensuring that the best interests of children are at the forefront of service provision.

“The PGT is dedicated to implementing culturally sensitive approaches to safeguarding the rights of Indigenous children and youth. We look forward to contributing positively to the protection and management of the financial and legal interests of Indigenous children and youth as First Nations exercise their jurisdiction,” continued Kingsbury.

The PGT will continue to engage in consultations with First Nations and Indigenous Communities and other service partners to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive implementation of the new law.

To learn how First Nations and Indigenous Communities can enter into [coordination agreements](#) with the PGT for property guardian services to children and youth in their care, please contact Child and Youth Services at CYS@trustee.bc.ca.

About the Public Guardian and Trustee

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is a corporation sole established under the Public Guardian and Trustee Act with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests. The mandate of the PGT is to:

- Protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years;
- Protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making; and

- Administer the estates of deceased and missing persons.

In 2022-2023, the PGT Child and Youth Services division administered \$58.8 million of assets for 4,514 property guardian clients.

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