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MODERNIZING THE CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT

Backgrounder

Members of the Child Protection Project Committee

Date: 16 October 2019

Corinne P. Feenie (committee co-chair) graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia in 1988 and was called to the British Columbia Bar in 1989.

Corinne was Provincial Crown Counsel at 222 Main Street in Vancouver for a year before joining the law firm of Gove, McLachlan, Brown, acting for the Director of Child, Family and Community Services while maintaining a small criminal-defence practice.

In March of 1989, she became a partner in the law firm of Stewart Feenie (now Feenie MacDonald) where she continues to practice child protection as counsel for the Director in Vancouver for both the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) and for MCFD in North Vancouver, Squamish, and Pemberton.

Corinne is an active member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), an international interdisciplinary family-law association, and has been a regular speaker and Chair at continuing legal education courses on child protection over the past 20 years. Corinne has also provided educational seminars for social workers, Provincial Court judges, and child-protection lawyers in BC and Ontario.

Katrina Harry (committee co-chair) is the Manager, Indigenous Services, PLC, for Legal Services Society of British Columbia. Katrina opened the first Parents Legal Centre (PLC) for LSS, and now oversees the 10 locations across the province. The PLCs focus on collaborative practice and wrap-around support to clients engaged in the child-welfare system. In the last 10 years of practice Katrina focused mainly on child protection, which included

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representing clients at court at collaborative processes, writing or reviewing legal publications, presenting at or co-chairing conferences, and presenting as a guest lecturer at various law-related organizations. In her free time, she enjoys travel, food, music, and her wonderful family.

Holly Anderson is a Métis social worker whose roots lie in Manitoba. Holding a bachelor's of social work degree and a master's degree in Social Justice, she is the current Guardianship Manager with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services. Her focus is on practising from a restorative place with families, emphasizing an inclusive approach that is grounded in the belief that relationships with family, culture, and community are healing and in the best interest of the child. In her free time, Holly enjoys participating in her community and celebrating her family.

Fiona M. Beveridge is a lawyer in the Family Law Group at Watson Goepel LLP and has a specific focus on children, child protection, collaborative family law, and mediation. She is a certified Parenting Coordinator and is on the BC Hear the Child Society's roster of trained neutral child interviewers, providing reports that allow the views of the children to be considered in mediation or court cases.

Fiona has extensive experience in the area of child protection. Fiona was director's counsel for six years in the areas of Squamish and Pemberton. For the last seven years, Fiona has acted as counsel for parents and mostly for children in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development for British Columbia.

Fiona is the editor of the child-protection chapters for Continuing Legal Education publications, including the *Family Law Sourcebook*, *Annotated Family Practice*, and the *British Columbia Family Practice Manual*, as well as the professional legal training course materials. Fiona has presented at CLE conferences about Acting as Counsel for Children in Child Protection Proceedings. Fiona was previously an Executive Member of the Canadian Bar Association's Children's Law Section and is now on the board of the BC Parenting Coordinators Roster Society.

Fiona is a practising member of the Law Society of British Columbia and holds a bachelor of laws degree from the University of Alberta and a master of laws degree from the University of Cambridge. She was called to the British Columbia bar in 2003 after working as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Jennifer A. Davenport joined the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee in July of 1998. She was appointed Deputy Public Guardian and Trustee on 3 January 2012 after serving as Acting Director of Legal Services. Prior to this, Jennifer spent 12 years as legal counsel to the Public Guardian and Trustee both in the Child and Youth Services and Services to Adults divisions. As Deputy Public Guardian and Trustee, Jennifer was a member of the Executive Committee, the Director of Legal Services, and Chief Legal Counsel to the Public Guardian and Trustee.

Prior to joining the Public Guardian and Trustee, Jennifer practised law in Vancouver and Surrey, in the areas of small-business and wills-and-estates law.

Jennifer completed her bachelor of commerce degree at the University of British Columbia and obtained a juris doctor degree from the University of Victoria. She is the past Chair of the Canadian Bar Association Wills and Trusts subsection (Vancouver) and is currently the Chair of the Youth Futures Education Fund Advisory Committee (the fund provides financial assistance to former youth in care attending post-secondary education on a BC Tuition Waiver) and Secretary of the Burrard Yacht Club.

Meena Dhillon is a practising lawyer called to the bar of British Columbia in 2009 and a practising registered social worker. A sole practitioner, Meena has a practice focused on completing views of the child reports for family-law matters, handling wills-and-estates matters, plaintiff's personal injury, and conducting material damage arbitrations. Meena is a qualified roster member with the BC Hear the Child Society, qualified family-law mediation, and qualified arbitrator with the ADR Institute of British Columbia. Meena has worked in the area of child protection with the Ministry of Children and Family Development for 18 years. Meena's child-protection work experience is focused on emergency child protection with the After Hours Program at MCFD. In addition, Meena is a sessional professor at the University of the Fraser Valley School of Social Work and Human Service, where she teaches course work on child-welfare intersections with the law and child-welfare policy. Meena is passionate about ensuring children's voices are heard in matters involving them and access to justice. Meena is a regular volunteer with Access Pro Bono, a board member with the BC Trial Lawyers Association, a founding member of the South Asian Legal Clinic of British Columbia, and an executive board member with the Indian Summer Festival Society.

Robert Evans (committee member July 2019–present) is a partner with RWE Family Law and a lawyer who has appeared before all levels of court in British Columbia.

Robert practises law because he is committed to the principles of fundamental justice and due process. He crafts solutions to legal problems by listening carefully to his clients, without jumping to conclusions. Focusing on family law, Robert aims to make a positive difference in the community by representing clients from all cultural and economic backgrounds. Robert believes that legal representation means striving to advance the legal position of his clients with sound legal advice and with strong advocacy on their behalf.

In 2011 Robert was called to the bar in British Columbia and in the State of New York, 3rd appellate division.

Meghan Felbel is the Director, Legislation and Legal Support with the Ministry of Children and Family Development for British Columbia, with responsibility for legislative development for all statutes under MCFD's purview, including the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, *Adoption Act*, *Child Care BC Act*, *Child Care Subsidy Act*, *Social Workers Act*, and *Community Services Interim Authorities Act*.

Meghan has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Victoria, and has led legislative and regulatory development projects for the BC government since 2012. Meghan has only recently joined MCFD, having previously worked in health-profession regulation and oversight, and gaming policy and enforcement.

Carly Hyman is currently the Chief Investigator of the Reviews and Investigations team with the Representative for Children and Youth for British Columbia. She has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Manitoba, a law degree from the University of Victoria, and was called to the bar in British Columbia in 2002. From 2004 to 2008, Carly worked as an investigator with the Office of the Ombudsperson where she investigated hundreds of complaints concerning a variety of government programs. From 2008 to 2013, Carly worked as the first manager of the Ombudsperson’s systemic investigations team where she managed confidential, complex, and high-profile investigations. In 2014, Carly went to work at the Ministry of Health as the Manager of Seniors policy. Carly then worked as the Director of Policy, Legislation and Issues Management with the Court Services Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General where she was responsible for major projects aimed at reforming the court system and improving citizens’ experiences.

Serena Kullar is currently employed by Vancouver Coastal Health as a Program Coordinator for two pregnancy outreach programs, Youth Pregnancy and Parenting Program (YPPP) and Healthiest Babies Possible. Prior to this, she worked as the Perinatal Substance Use Social Worker at BC Women’s Hospital, Fir Square. Serena Kullar also has over 10 years of child-protection experience through her work at the Ministry of Children and Family Development as well as Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society. The views and opinions expressed through the BCLI Child Protection Project Committee are my own and do not necessarily represent those of my employer.

Claudia Liddle (committee member August 2019–present) is the Child Protection Practice Manager with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society. She is responsible for the oversight of all Family and Child Services files with the agency. Her responsibilities include general and complex case consultation, clinical and restorative supervision of both Team Leaders and Child Protection Social Workers, in addition to liaising with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and other Delegated Aboriginal Agencies within the province. Claudia has operated in various roles including Child Protection Social Worker and Team Leader since initially joining the agency in 2009.

Claudia has a bachelor of arts in Psychology with a minor in Family Studies from the University of British Columbia, where she was awarded a member of the Golden Key International Honors Society. Claudia has completed several trainings with specific focus on working with Indigenous communities and vulnerable populations. She has gained more than 15 years of experience supporting children and families across various contexts. She currently sits on the Shared Response Team committee, which is a partnership with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC Children’s Hospital as well as Child and Youth Mental Health. Claudia has been an invited presenter for both her agency’s 2019 conference and the Child Welfare League of America’s annual conference on topics around Restorative Child Welfare and Restorative Supervision.

Claudia strives to utilize her extensive knowledge and skill to empower and develop strong Indigenous child-welfare practice and hopes to participate in creating changes that will support better service for the families she works with.

Crystal Reeves (committee member July 2019–present) has devoted her scholarship and legal practice to advancing the interests of Indigenous peoples in Canada and internationally. She joined Mandell Pinder LLP in 2010 and focuses her litigation and advocacy on Aboriginal title and rights and regulatory matters for Indigenous clients. She has appeared at all levels of court in British Columbia as well as the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal. Most recently, Crystal was co-counsel representing Upper Nicola Band on the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project at the Federal Court of Appeal. She also appears in provincial court on criminal, child-protection, and family matters for Aboriginal clients, including on the Bella Bella and Bella Coola circuit courts. Crystal has also been involved in research projects involving the application of Indigenous laws in child-protection matters, marine-use planning, and governance. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Indigenous Community Planning stream at the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia.

Brandi Stocks is in-house legal counsel to the Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia (PGT), in Child and Youth Services. In that capacity, Brandi helps to protect the legal and property interests of youth in the province, advising the PGT when acting in her role as property guardian of minors in provincial care under the authority of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. Brandi initially gained experience in child protection while practising in the Vancouver office of a large international law firm, where her litigation practice included family law. Brandi enjoys being active in the legal community, including speaking and writing for the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia. Brandi has a law degree from the University of British Columbia.