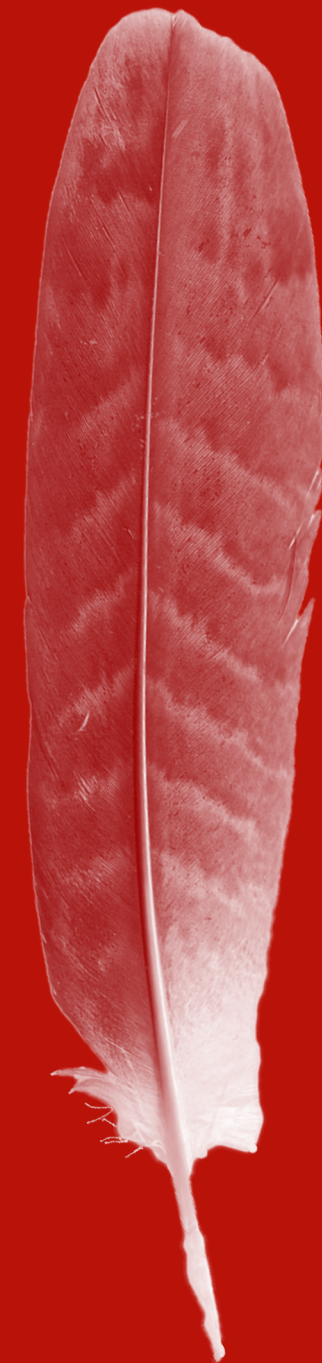


**TRANSFORMING FIRST NATIONS CHILD
& FAMILY WELL-BEING**

ONTARIO SPECIAL STUDY

**FINAL REPORT OVERVIEW
& NEXT STEPS**

**INDsight Consulting
May 20, 2021**





Overview

- Key events leading to child welfare reform
- Transformation from protection to prevention
- The transformation process
- COO Needs Assessment Manual
- Questions



Background

Date	Key event
2005	<i>Wen:de: We are coming to the light of day</i> released but excludes Ontario due to 1965 Agreement
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AFN and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) bring case against the Government of Canada to the CHRT• The Chiefs in Ontario (COO) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) granted “Interested Party” status
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHRT found FNCFS Program and related funding models and federal-provincial agreements discriminatory• Ordered ISC to immediately cease its discriminatory practices and reform the FNCFS Program and the Ontario 1965 Agreement



Background

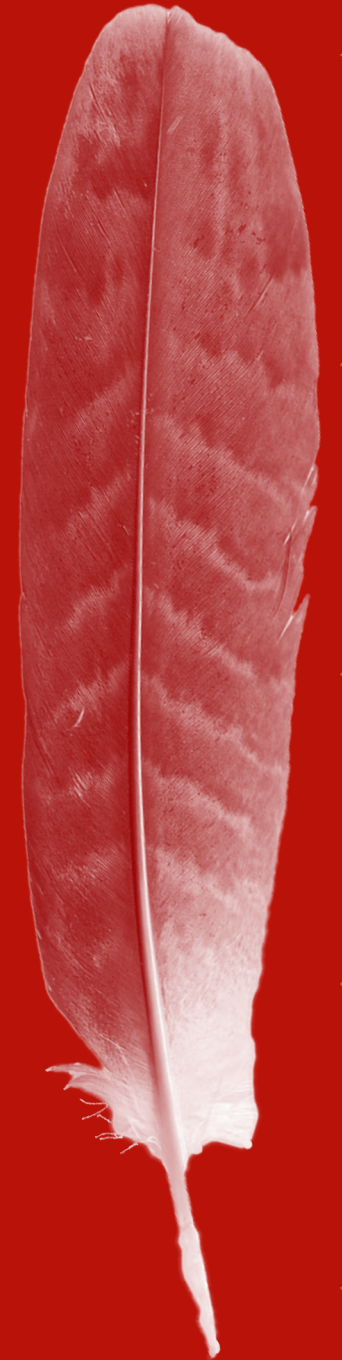
- “The [Complainants, Commission and Interested Parties] request that...a special study be...conducted...[that] would determine the adequacy of the *1965 Agreement* in achieving comparability of services; culturally appropriate services that account for historical disadvantage; and, ensuring the best interest of the child are paramount.” (*CHRT 2016, p.30*)

Background

Date	Key event
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The COO Special Chiefs Assembly, Resolution 21/17 requires Special Study “[P]rovide options on a new First Nations family well-being policy, program delivery, and funding approach that is family-centered, community-directed, and supports better outcomes by focusing on prevention...” (October 25, 2017)
2018	COO commissions the Special Study to focus on prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none">convenes a Technical Table on Child and Family Wellbeing with wide representationcontracts with INDsight Consulting to guide, research, and prepare the Study
2019	COO Technical Table First Nations representatives deliver Special Study calling for transformation from protection to prevention with 7 pillar and 28 recommendations
2020	Special Chiefs in Assembly, Resolution 20/14 accepts the Ontario Special Study calls for implementation

Transformation

- **Protection to prevention -7 pillars**
- **The process - 4 stages**





Transformation - protection to prevention

Current child welfare system has operated over decades and requires

- significant reform with funding that meets or exceeds substantive equality
- at least ten-years to reach a steady state

Over time, the assumption is that communities and agencies transform in function and service delivery. Transformation moves significantly away from protection to addressing child and family well-being in community

There are 7 pillars and 28 recommendations for transformation

Seven pillars and sample recommendations

Outcome

Child, youth and family well-being

Keep families together and reduce number of children in care

3. Determinants of well-being	4. Services	5. Services supports	6-7. Funding & agreements	Policy and legislation support pillars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantive equality (income, housing, etc.) • Language and culture • Systemic racism & discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service & costing of well-being services • Service transformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and communication technologies and broadband • Select/monitor performance measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable, long-term funding approach • New inter-governmental agreement(s) in Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inherent jurisdiction • Statutory funding • Compliance with UNDRIP and UNCRC • Support First Nations care models

CHRT substantive equality

Partners: First Nations, First Nations organizations and ICWBAs, and federal and provincial governments

1. Self-determination and inherent jurisdiction

2. Language and culture

Transformation process – 4 stages

Stage One

First Nations- engagement and preparation for program, service, and supports



Stage Two

Intermediate accomplishments (implementing programs, services and supports)



Stage Three

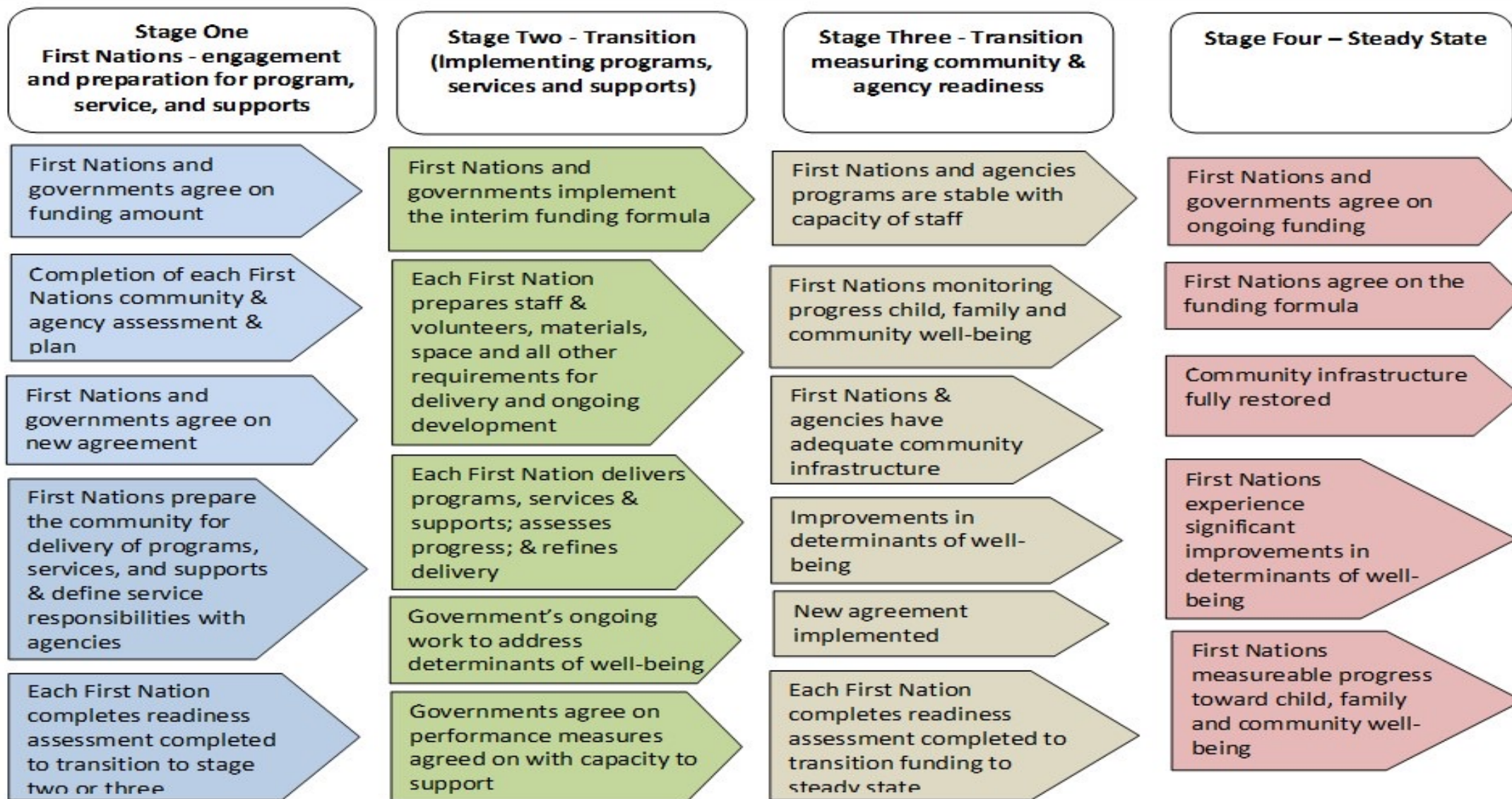
Early results (immediate child, family and community changes)



Stage Four

Later results (longer-term child, family and community well-being)

Child & Family Well-being – The Transformation Process





Transformation process

- Respects Indigenous right to self-determination and First Nations jurisdiction over children and community well-being
- Assumes each First Nation
 - determines the pace of transformation
 - assumes responsibility for programs and services based on their needs and plans
 - allows for various ways for First Nations and their respective Indigenous Child Well-Being Agencies (ICWBAs) to address child and family well-being (e.g., addressing infrastructure, progress on the First Nations determinants of well-being, etc.)
- Assumes services
 - First Nation and ICWBA determine how best to deliver services
 - follow children and youth up to age 25, and support their transition into adulthood

Transformation process

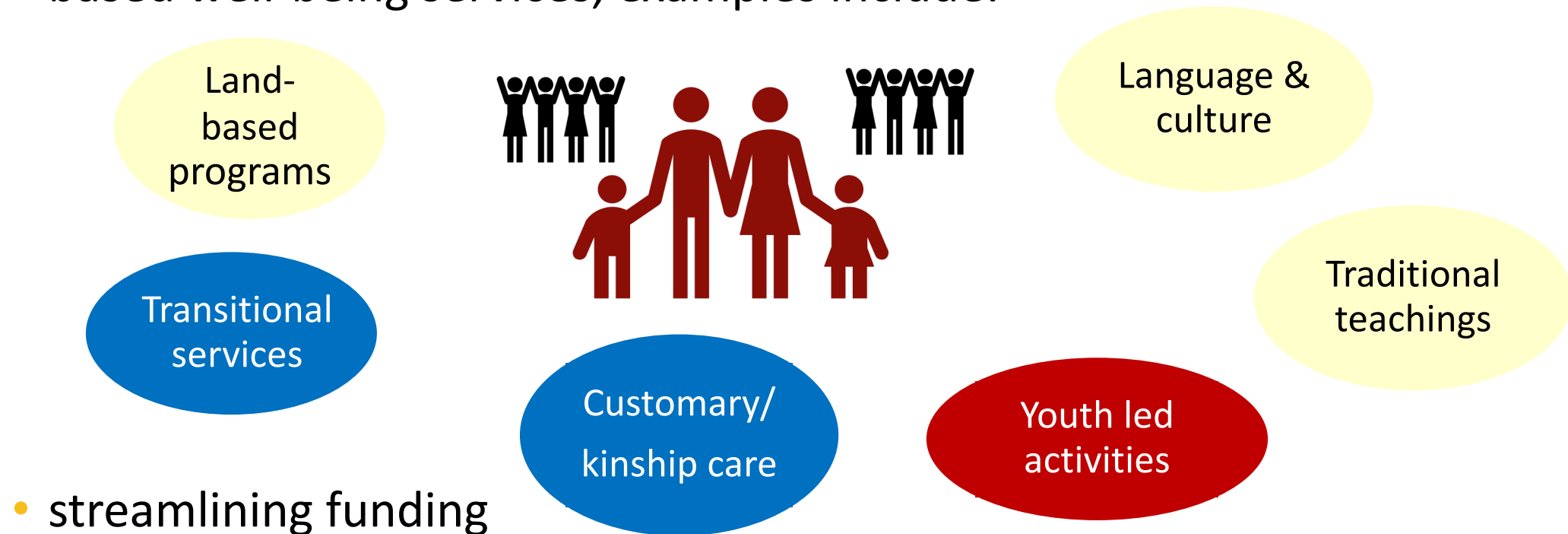
Recognizes distinct First Nations requirements and costs for example:

- Language/Culture/Ceremony places Child Protection & Prevention in a distinct cultural context
- Intergenerational trauma creates more complex needs: Residential Schooling and Sixties Scoop sever connections with community/ancestors; closes avenues for learning basic skills and Indigenous language/culture; contributes to mental health issues and addictions
- Larger family unit more children and more family members located in communal notions of family
- Deficient Community Substructure - such as housing, income, education, employment, water advisories, food insecurity

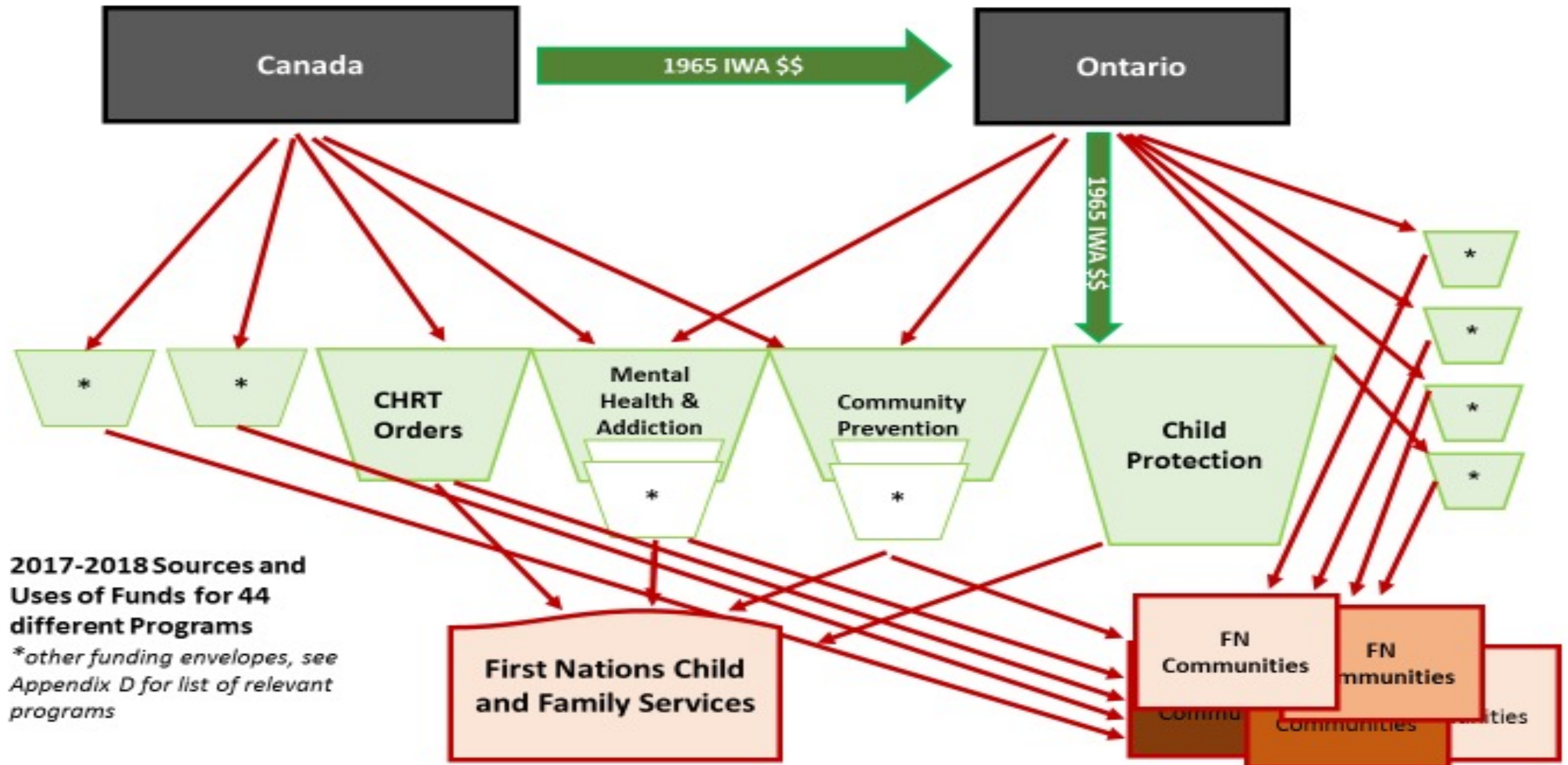
Transformation - Service delivery and funding

First Nations holistic approaches to child and family well-being requires

- broadening services beyond agency services to include community-based well-being services, examples include:

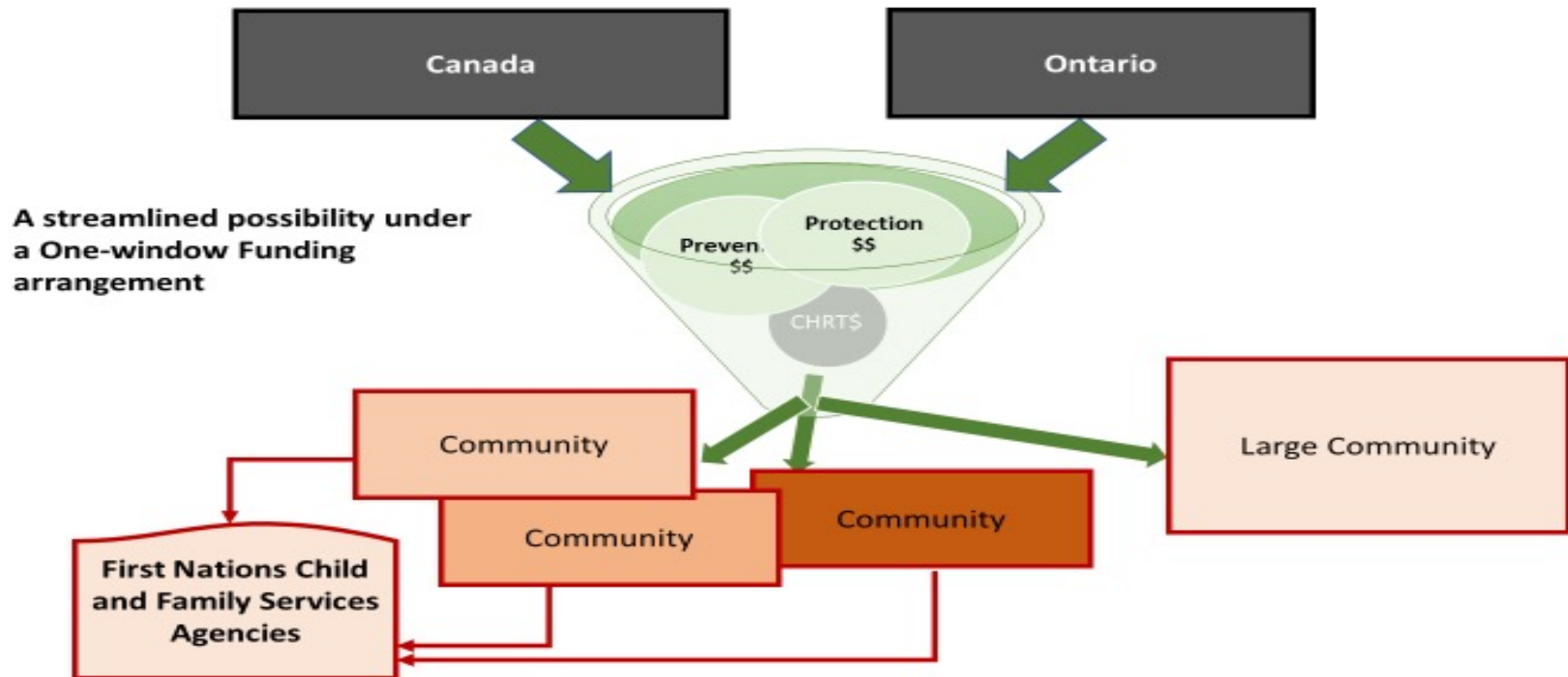


Existing services and funding



Transformed services and funding approach

The First Nation designed services consolidate funding into a distinct First Nations funding envelope



Funds received by Agency/Community by Principal Category of Expenditure*	PROVINCIAL Contributions (before IWA reimbursements)	FEDERAL Contributions (before IWA reimbursements)	TOTAL FUNDING	PROVINCIAL Contributions (before IWA reimbursements)	FEDERAL Contributions (before IWA reimbursements)	TOTAL FUNDING	LOW estimate of funding needs	HIGH estimate of funding needs
PROGRAM FUNDING	2015-2016			2017-2018			PREPARATION FOR TRANSFORMATION	
To Agencies								
Capital Renewal, Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,247,593		\$2,247,593	\$2,044,003	\$0	\$2,044,003	\$2,044,003	\$2,044,003
Information & Communications Technologies - Operations & Mtce**							\$9,750,000	\$17,100,000
Protection*** (funds in italics are \$\$ reimbursed by Canada to Ontario under the Indian Welfare Agreement (IWA))	\$152,399,691	<i>IWA reimbursement = \$123,468,903</i>	\$152,399,691	\$188,375,460	<i>IWA reimbursement = \$124,898,457</i>	\$188,375,460	\$195,000,000	\$285,000,000
SUB-TOTAL - FUNDS TO AGENCIES	\$154,647,284		\$154,647,284	\$190,419,463		\$190,419,463	\$206,794,003	\$304,144,003
To Communities or Agencies								
Prevention - outside scope of current IWA	\$46,533,283	\$19,976,969	\$66,510,252	\$84,403,583	\$85,706,348	\$170,109,931	\$170,109,931	\$170,109,931
Extraordinary Circumstances & Contingencies - CHRT Order 411					\$18,386,800	\$18,386,800	\$18,386,800	\$18,386,800
Extraordinary Circumstances & Contingencies - CHRT Orders 426 & 427					\$57,727,066	\$57,727,066	\$57,727,066	\$57,727,066
SUB-TOTAL - FUNDS TO COMMUNITIES	\$46,533,283	\$19,976,969	\$66,510,252	\$84,403,583	\$161,820,214	\$246,223,797	\$246,223,797	\$246,223,797
SUB-TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING			\$221,157,536			\$436,643,260	\$453,017,800	\$550,367,800
JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE & INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING								
Jordan's Principle - All Ontario					\$27,544,304	\$27,544,304	\$27,544,304	\$27,544,304
Jordan's Principle - NAN (\$73M Apr2017-Jan2019; monthly avg*12mos)					\$43,800,000	\$43,800,000	\$43,800,000	\$43,800,000
Large Capital Assets - Agencies							\$17,000,000	\$25,000,000
Large Capital Assets - Communities (Multi-use Building; Safe housing)							as needed	
Information & Communications Technologies - Broadband							as planned	
TOTAL FUNDING including Jordan's Principle (before IWA reimbursements)	\$201,180,567	\$19,976,969	\$221,157,536	\$274,823,046	\$233,164,518	\$507,987,564	\$541,362,104	\$646,712,104

*See Appendix D - ON1.1 for Ontario figures; See Appendix D - GC 3.0 for Federal figures; blank cells not applicable or unknown

**ICTs low/high estimate = Industry benchmark at 5% (of low) and 6% (of high) operating costs

***Protection low/high estimate = 13% and 19% share of Total Provincial Agency Budget of \$1.5B

Funding Model Options

Options	Principal Characteristics
Model 1	Bottom-up Approach based on self-assessed community needs
Model 2	Complex Formula Funding with mix of Case-based (Child Protection) and Population-based (Prevention/Well-being) calculations, adjusted for Remoteness/Community Cost Differentials
Model 3	Simplified Formula Funding to cover (1) Baseline Community Needs (2) Community Cost Differences

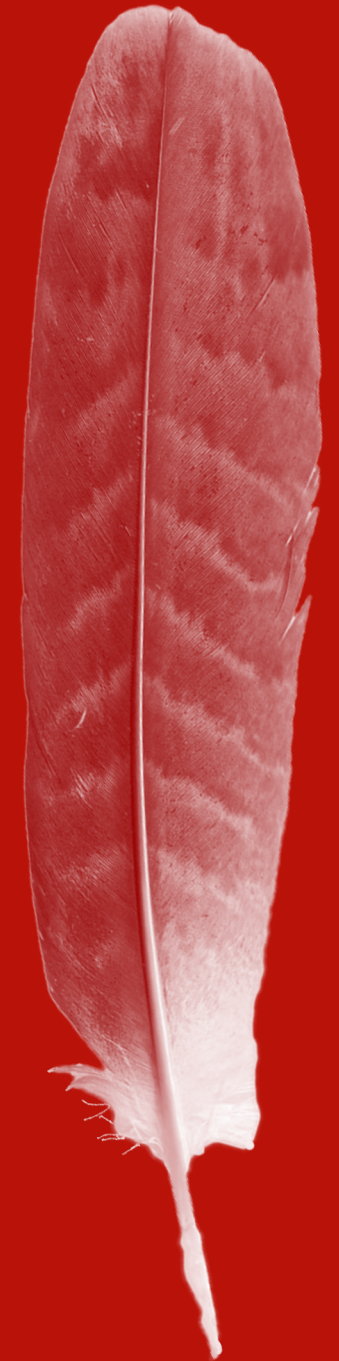


Attributes of new funding model

The Funding Model is:

- ✓ sustainable
- ✓ community-based and directed
- ✓ prevention focused
- ✓ holistic (non-siloed)
- ✓ support First Nations jurisdiction
- ✓ support substantive equality and be non-discriminatory
- ✓ respect diversity of First Nations communities
- ✓ reflect the unique needs of individual First Nations (e.g. remoteness, large child populations, etc.)

COO supporting transformation



Child & Family Well-being—The Transformation Process

First Nations- engagement and preparation for program, service, and supports

Intermediate accomplishments (implementing programs, services and supports)

Early results (immediate child, family and community changes)

Later results (longer-term child, family and community well-being)

Ongoing engagement of First Nations and governments

Preparation of staff and volunteers, materials, space and all other requirements for delivery and ongoing development

Communities, children and families take part in programs and services; and access supports

Transformed system reflects substantive equality

Completion of transformation assessment & plan for each First Nation

Communicate and engage community, children and families

Community acceptance of programs, services and supports

Connections to community and First Nations language, culture and identity

First Nations and governments agree on transformation & funding

Deliver programs, services, and supports; assess progress; and refine delivery

Increase knowledge, awareness, and tools to build life skills, manage stress, and maintain well-being

More children and families supported in their home and community

First Nations work with resources to prepare the community for delivery of programs, services, and supports

Work with First Nations and others to share knowledge and enhance delivery

Significant improvements in determinants of well-being

Build community capacity to plan, deliver, and manage programs, services and supports

Ongoing work to address determinants of well-being

Awareness of and connections to other community and formal programs and supports

Improved child and family well-being



Needs assessment manual

COO to **support transformation** commissioned a needs assessment manual based on the Special Study that offers:

- A step-by-step **guide** for developing and carrying out needs-assessment
- Provides **tools** to assess and determine current programs, infrastructure, and costs and actual needs and requirements
- The information gathered
 - remains with your First Nation
 - can assist First Nations in advocating with funders about actual needs
- A summary of the needs assessment, if you choose to share them, could inform a sector-wide analysis of programs, costs and best practices

QUESTIONS?

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