

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
CHILD WELFARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT
& DIGITAL TOOLS**

INDsight Consulting

Ontario Special Study: Background

- In 2018, the COO commissioned a Special Study that looked at the redesign of the child welfare system for First Nations children, families, and communities.
- This study resulted from the landmark 2016 Canadian Human Right Tribunal (CHRT) ruling that found that the Government of Canada was discriminatory in its practice of underfunding on-reserve child welfare services.
- As an interested party to the proceedings, the COO argued that the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement, a bi-lateral cost-recovery agreement between the Canada and Ontario, “results in denials of services and adverse effects for First Nations children and families.”
- The COO requested that the Study “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.”

OSS Goals

- The Study, carried out by INDsight Consulting, between December 2018 and October 2019, was governed and informed by the COO Technical Table

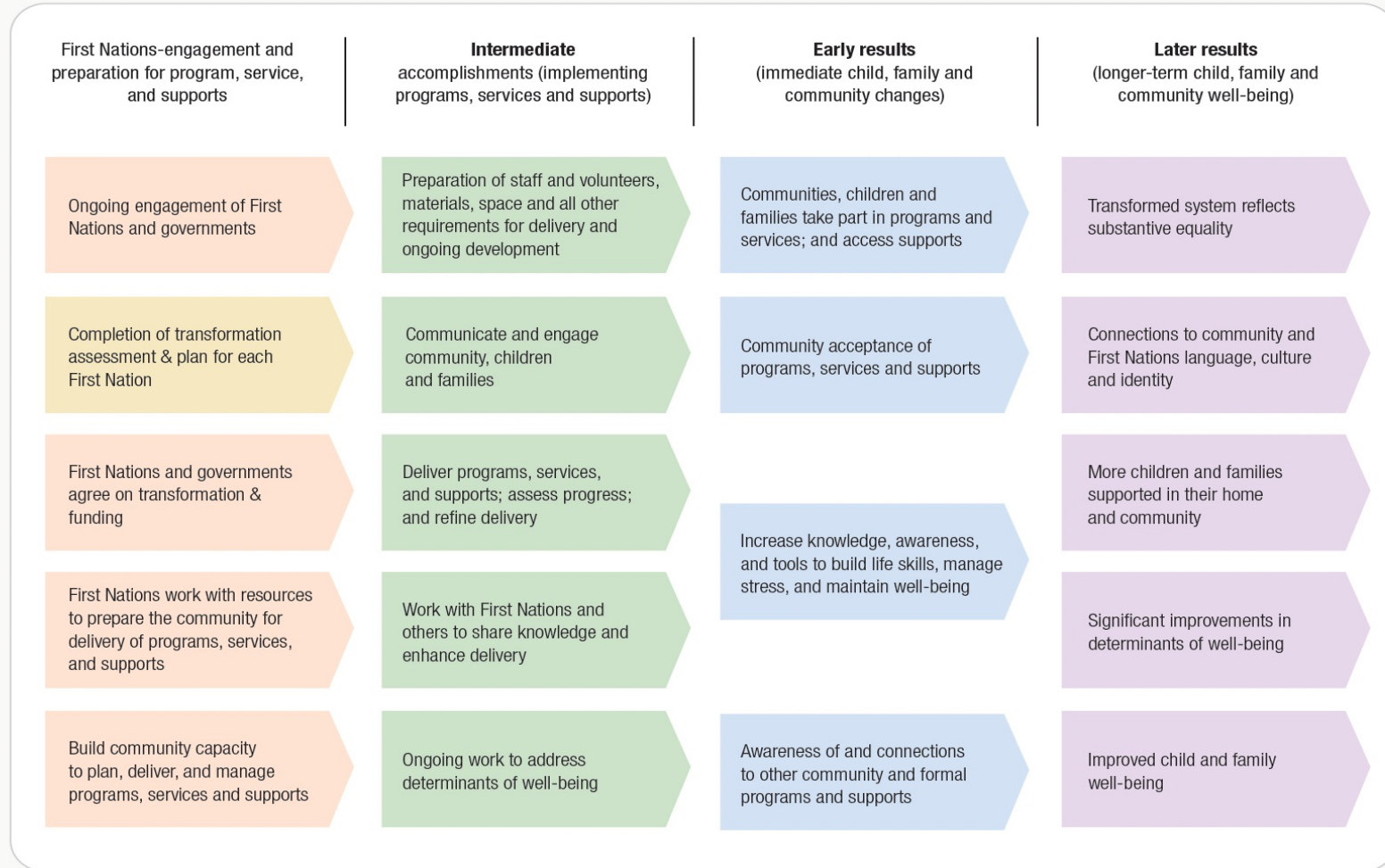
The goal of the study was to:

- To examine the funding relationships and comparability of child welfare services for on-reserve children in Ontario
- To provide 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.

OSS Findings

- Report found that First Nations child welfare in Ontario is significantly underfunded
- So are the structural and social determinants of health, including governance, language and culture, income and employment, health, education, housing, and infrastructure.
- Proposed a complete redesign of First Nations child welfare, grounded in prevention and family restoration.
- Highlighted a 10-year, four-stage process to transformation, including a 'bottom-up' needs-based approach to funding

OSS Key Recommendation: Transformation



Needs Assessment Manual

OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE:

TRANSFORMING CHILD WELFARE FOR THE
WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



NEEDS ASSESSMENT MANUAL



Purpose

- Provides a guide that may be used by First Nations for developing and carrying out their First Nation needs assessment.
- Can be used to assess and determine a First Nation community's current capacity and future needs and requirements for exercising its self-determination and jurisdiction over child welfare and for child, youth and family well-being.
- Includes a review of programs, services, and infrastructure required to improve child, youth and family well-being and reduce the number of children coming into the child welfare system.
- The resulting information from the assessment can assist First Nations in advocating with Indigenous Services Canada.

5-Step Process

STEP 1

Prepare for the assessment

- leadership commitment
- identify key interest groups
- set up activities
- decide on data collection methods and tools

STEP 2

Collect data

- set timelines
- identify lead people
- identify key data sources

STEP 3

Analyse data

- summarize comments
- identify key themes
- calculate costs

STEP 4

Prioritize projects and actions

- provide summary of data collected
- consult key interest groups
- determine priorities

STEP 5

Prepare needs assessment report

- describe the assessment process
- summarize information collected
- identify and describe the priorities for programs, training needs, funding

Available Tools

The manual offers tools and worksheets to help organize your needs assessment and to collect and track your data. The worksheets include:

1. Community Assessment Chart
2. Community Demographics
3. Well-being services
4. Residential services
5. Operations infrastructure, administration and technology
6. Travel
7. Community infrastructure

Outcomes

Short Term:

- Resulting information can assist First Nations in advocating with the federal and provincial governments and other funders.

Medium/Long Term:

- A community-based child welfare program that is focussed on prevention, reunification, adequate funding and HR, proper infrastructure.

Questions?

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