JOINT NEWS RELEASE

TAHLTAN BAND AND ISKUT BAND SIGN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

October 27, 2026 — Tahltan Band and Iskut Band have signed the Tāłtān ja' adahiht'ē, Dakhuni ja' adahiht'ē Agreement, a Section 92.1 Community Agreement under the Child, Family And Community Service Act, with the Province of British Columbia to strengthen the Bands' involvement when child safety issues affect their children and families. The agreement supports children and families living in Tahltan Territory, as well as Tahltan children and families living across British Columbia.

The agreement formalizes how the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) consults and cooperates with the Bands in planning and decision-making. Its purpose is to ensure that the Bands are actively involved in any services provided to their children, youth and families, as well as connecting away-from-home families to their communities, culture and identity.

For families, this means a defined process for Band involvement in matters covered by the agreement. The Bands can bring knowledge of a child or youth's family, community and culture into discussions with MCFD. Families should contact their Band to confirm how it applies to their circumstances and what assistance may be available.

"Our families and frontline staff have been waiting for this agreement. Putting it into practice means making sure families know who to call, what help they can ask for and how their Band can work with them and MCFD. That is especially important for families living away from home." Chief Marie Quock, Iskut Band

"Our children belong to their families and to their Nation, wherever they live. This agreement strengthens our involvement in decisions that affect them and helps ensure their family relationships, culture and identity are understood and respected." Chief Richard (Rocky) Jackson, Tahltan Band

The agreement takes effect on December 22, 2026.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGREEMENT FAQ

What is the agreement

The Section 92.1 Child and Family Services Agreement sets out how MCFD, Tahltan Band and Iskut Band work together on covered child welfare matters. It supports children's well-being and connections to family, community, culture and identity.

Does it apply if we live outside the territory

The announcement describes support for children and youth across B.C., including those living outside Tahltan territory. Ask your Band how the agreement applies to your child. If you live outside B.C., ask about available support or referrals; coverage outside B.C. has not been confirmed.

What help can the Bands provide

The Bands will consult and cooperate with MCFD as set out in the agreement. Ask about Band participation in planning discussions and support for family and cultural connections. Staff will confirm what assistance is available in your situation.

Will the Bands take over my MCFD case

The announcement does not establish a transfer of MCFD's responsibilities to the Bands or guarantee an outcome for an individual case. Ask your Band and social worker to explain their respective roles.

What should I do if I need assistance now

Contact your Band and ask what support is currently available. Provide your name, a safe way to reach you, where you live and your social worker's details, if known. Identify any urgent meeting or court date. Continue to meet existing appointments and deadlines while Band involvement is arranged.

How do I request Band involvement

Tell your MCFD social worker you would like your Band involved and ask them to connect with the designated Band contact. Ask who will follow up and when, how information will be shared and what consent, if any, is needed. Request a secure way to provide sensitive documents.

Who should families and frontline staff contact

Tahltan Band: [Primary Community Designate/Heather Hawkins, 250-631-3376, h.hawkins@tahltan.ca] [Alternate Community Designate/Kim Rowe, 250-641 5577, kim.rowe@tahltan.ca].

Iskut Band: [Primary Community Designate/Annabel Nole, 250-615 7152, annabelnole@iskut.org] [Alternate Community Designate/Ramona Quock, 250-922-4708, ramonaquock@iskut.org].

MCFD: Your assigned social worker or [Provincial Centralized Screening at 1-800-663-9122].