

## WHAT IS FAMILY DECISION MAKING?

The Family Decision Making (FDM) program assists in ensuring that Indigenous families are supported in their right to make decisions that are in the best interest of their children and their family. The program provides space for family safety and connection, with the goal of creating a plan that promotes safety and well-being for their children.

This represents our Indigenous way of caring for and supporting our families. Through this process we ensure connection to ancestral lands, culture and language for our children.

### WHO CAN ACCESS FDM?

The program receives referrals from Syilx Nation Bands, Friendship Centers, MCFD Social Workers, Band and/or School District schools, Metis Associations or direct self-referrals from families and individuals.

FDM serves:

- Families involved in or at risk to be involved with MCFD Child Protection Services.
- Syilx Nation families and individuals
- All Indigenous people, both urban and reserve based, including Metis



## mniṁtət niśáyp əckilmx<sup>w</sup>ípláʔstm iʔ sqlx<sup>w</sup>łcaŵtət

We are the decision-makers of our  
sqlx<sup>w</sup>, syilx, sʔuk<sup>w</sup>naqínx ways



The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) continues the work of our ancestors. From time immemorial, our children now, those yet to be born, are sacred. We revere our children. We all care for our children and our families.

It is our inherent right, that we are the only ones to say what governs us, for what are the best interests, the good health, and well-being of our children and people, and our sqlx<sup>w</sup>/syilx/sʔuk<sup>w</sup>naqínx ways.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Request FDM Team Lead or  
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kʔulusmntm iʔ nəqsiltət  
*We are gathering for the family*



**WELLNESS**

# FAMILY DECISION MAKING

## ROLES WITHIN THE FAMILY CIRCLES

### FDM COORDINATOR

The FDM Coordinator is independent of the Band, Friendship Centre and Ministry of Children and Family Development. The neutral role of FDM is to provide information and offer consultation and resources to family members.

### FAMILY

The role of the family is to actively participate in planning for the children's safety, wellness, permanency, culture/tradition and any other area decided by the family to be appropriate and important. It also may include supporting the parents in developing a wellness plan.

### SOCIAL WORKER

In situations where there is MCFD involvement, the MCFD Social Workers role is to collaborate with families and FDM Coordinator to provide support and resources where possible.



## THE CIRCLE PROCESS

FDM is a voluntary process that recognizes and focuses on family strengths. Through partnership and collaboration between families, communities, and service providers, FDM facilitates talking circles with a child/youth's family and supports to ensure a safe space for discussion.

This process is discussed with the family and may be altered to suit family protocol.

### OPENING

A circle begins with sharing food, prayer, smudge, or song, followed by introductions and guidelines set by the family.

### INFORMATION

The circle will then move forward to discuss family strengths, share concerns, and ask questions.

### FAMILY PLANNING

The circle will continue with family, supports and service providers to discuss any concerns and decide on a plan.

### THE PLAN

After completing the family planning process, the family can review the plan and address any questions with their supports and service providers.

### ALL INFORMATION SHARED IN A FAMILY DECISION MAKING CIRCLE IS CONFIDENTIAL

The Family Decision Making program honours Indigenous ways of being and knowing, recognizing the rights and abilities of Indigenous and Metis families and communities to care for and plan for their children.



## SUCCESS STORY

*"A huge joy for the FDM team is seeing the progress and strengths of families throughout their wellness journey and facilitating a space to celebrate them. We had the pleasure of working with a family whose child was at first in-care with a non-kin placement when the referral was received. After three circles with them, that focused on healing and reconnection, the Mother has her child back at home with her and gave birth to a second beautiful child."*

*- FDM Coordinator*