



MVAEC CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES ROUNDTABLE

Our children, youth, and families are the heart of MVAEC, and all of our roundtables. We cannot talk about housing without talking about family structure. Is the housing unit for one individual, a youth aging out of care, are they Two-Spirit and do they have family or chosen family support? Is the unit for a single father or mother or grandparents? Is the housing unit for someone leaving the justice system? Do we have culturally appropriate housing, day care, and services that provide our elders with an affordable and safe place to retire? Everything is about our families.



“We must always keep in mind that transformation is not an event. It is a process that we are living through, creating as we go. We will continue to learn and grow from doing, and to celebrate the doing, no matter how flawed, small-scale, or less than ideal.” Sherry Small, Indigenous Early Learning Child Care Planner, Developer.

Shared Data Agreements, those are our children, our people in the data. Where are our children?

- Services that reflect Indigenous worldviews
- Strengthen the gifts of children, youth, families, and community
- Increase access to language and culture

Culturally Appropriate Services



- Where are our children, youth, and families are represented in data, that this data be readily available to us. **As Indigenous people, we are the data.**

Data Sharing Agreements



- Every step we take in reconciliation, we increase the capacity of Indigenous people to lead. Where this doesn't happen, we perpetuate colonization.

Indigenous Led



Measurements for Restoration and Reconciliation

Children

Action #1: Increase the number of Indigenous early learning centers by one in each neighborhood

Action #2: That we further decolonize funding structures by providing more than a “living wage” to Indigenous staff, that we provide them a thriving wage so that families can transcend conditions of scarcity.

Action #3: There be increased accountability for and integration of housing services, child welfare, and daycare services.

Action #4: Indigenize early learning programs like the HIPPPY program or Montessori

Youth

Action #1: Collaborate with MVAEC justice organizations to reduce the number of youth being admitted into the justice system from 50% to 30% by 2026, then 30% by 2030.

Action #2: Leverage education connections developed through early learning initiatives, to integrate a long-term prevention strategy to reduce the number of youths entering the foster care.

Action #3: Expand opportunities for youth to become educators, doctors, lawyers, city planners, economic leaders etc. to bolster the leadership capacity of the Urban Indigenous community.

Families

Action #1: Advocate for parity in access to education dollars between on-reserve and Urban Indigenous populations, especially for extracurricular activities that enhance future opportunities for families.