





2025-2026 Annual Report





ocya
OFFICE OF
THE CHILD AND
YOUTH ADVOCATE
ALBERTA

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The Honourable Ric McIver
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Office of the Speaker
325 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is my privilege to submit to you the 2025–2026 Annual Report of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 21(1) of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* and covers the activities of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate for the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Respectfully,

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Terri Pelton
Child and Youth Advocate (Alberta)

Land Acknowledgement

The mandate of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate extends throughout the province of Alberta. We respectfully acknowledge that Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many Indigenous peoples of Treaties 6, 7, and 8, including the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Îyâxe Nakoda (Stoney), and Tsuut'ina Nations, the Metis Settlements, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta.

We are honoured to work, live, learn, and play on the lands of those whose ancestors have walked this earth since time immemorial.





Message from the Advocate

The past year has brought some significant changes to my office and to the work we do to advance the rights, interests, and viewpoints of children and youth in Alberta.

We began implementing a new five-year strategic plan that prioritizes strengthening our engagement with young people, deepening our involvement with communities, and identifying and acting on systemic issues that affect many children and youth involved with government systems.

This year also brought legislative changes that have implications for how we understand the experiences of young people. The proclamation of the *Red Tape Reduction Act* in June 2025, amended the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* and reduced the age of young people whose deaths I can review from under 24 to under 20 years of age.

Given the impact of this change on the number of young people whose experiences I can review, I am concerned about what it means for our understanding of young people's lives after they leave government care. The transition to adulthood can be challenging for any young person, but those leaving care often face this transition without the family support and stability that many of their peers rely on. We must understand what happens to these young adults and learn from their experiences so that government systems can better support them.

There were also many moments throughout the year that gave me great hope. Our International Youth Day event in August 2025, which was co-created by youth, brought together those with lived experience in the child intervention and youth justice systems for a day of celebration, learning, and connection. Attendees were inspired by a keynote speech from a young person who had grown up in the child intervention system, had opportunities to learn more about their rights, and connected with youth-serving community resources.

Young people are, and always will be, the core focus of our work. I truly believe child-serving systems are stronger when the perspectives of those with lived experience are part of the decisions that affect them. Listening to children and youth informs better decisions, strengthens the services and supports available to them, and ultimately gives them a chance at living the life they truly deserve.

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Our all-staff meeting this year had a Hawaiian-theme. Staff dressed in tropical-themed clothing and costumes and came together for a day of conversation and connection.

About the OCYA

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) is an independent office of the Alberta Legislature. Our role, as outlined in the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, is to represent the rights, interests, and viewpoints of young people. We have offices in Edmonton and Calgary, and we work with children and youth across the province.

We work directly with young people to help them exercise their rights when decisions are being made about them, when they are:

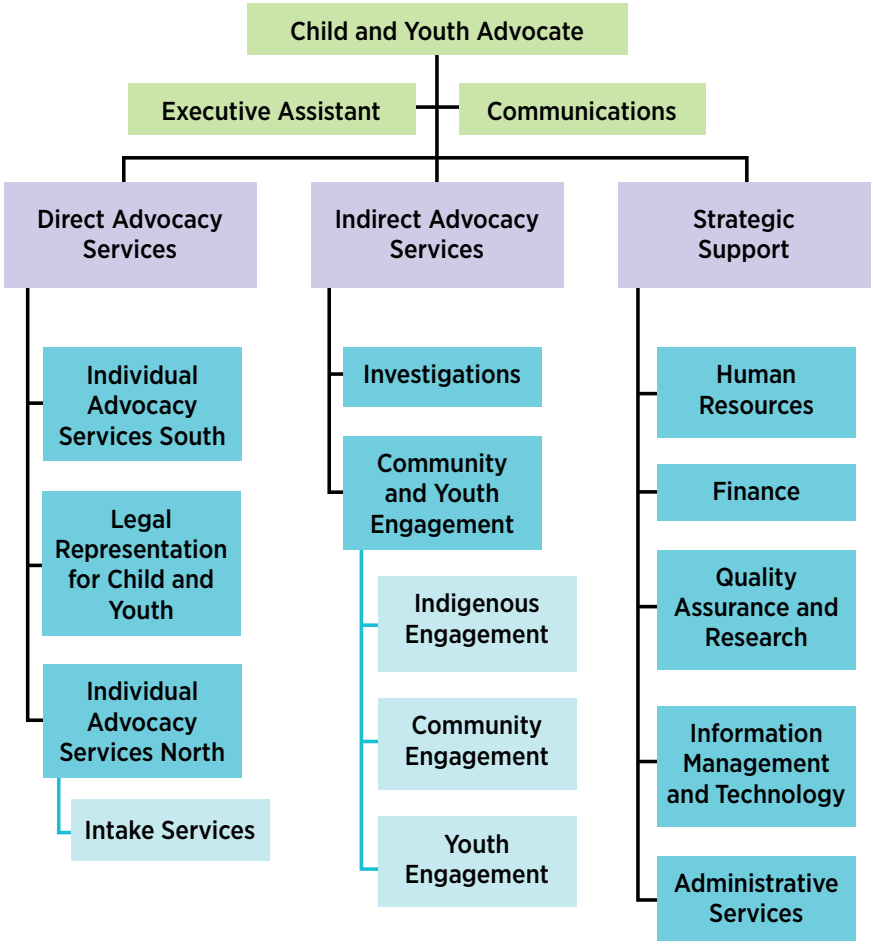
- receiving (or seeking to receive) services under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* (*CYFEA*);
- receiving services under the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* (*PSECA*); or,
- involved with the youth justice system.

We also:

- educate young people and adults about the rights of children, the role of our office, and advocacy strategies;
- engage with young people, community stakeholders, and decision-makers;
- investigate the serious injuries and deaths of children and youth who meet the criteria for an investigative review, as determined by our legislation; and,
- make recommendations to government about issues affecting young people.

To learn more about our programs and services, please visit our website: **ocya.alberta.ca**

Organizational structure



Standing up for young people

An unwavering commitment to young people is at the heart of our work and extends beyond any single role or team. Whether working directly with children and youth or supporting our efforts behind the scenes, every member of our team makes an important contribution to fulfilling our mandate.

Journey of Reconciliation

Building strong, meaningful relationships with Indigenous young people, families, and communities is prioritized in our work. We strive to ensure these relationships are reciprocal and sustainable, honouring the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples and valuing the opportunities to connect when invited.

Our team includes a Knowledge Keeper who helps us navigate our work responsibly, sustainably, and grounded in ceremony, and two Indigenous Engagement Consultants who help us build relationships across the province. We are guided by Elders who remind us that reconciliation is a generational process, and the full impact may not be realized in our lifetimes.

We are grateful to the Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Cultural Educators, and leaders who guide us on this journey. Their support is invaluable in helping us move forward in a good way.

Recognizing that our team is at various stages in their journeys, we provide a mix of structured, experiential, land-based, and ceremonial learning opportunities.

This year these included:

- Learning about the Otipemisiwak Métis Government including their culture and how they support young people.
- Participating in a Blanket Exercise, which is designed to help explore our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
- Learning to harvest medicine and build lodges for ceremony.
- Participating in Sweat Lodges and Pipe Ceremonies.



Did You Know...?

We are committed to building authentic and sustainable relationships with Elders. Our Knowledge Keeper and Indigenous engagement staff spend time with each Elder before introducing them to staff. Once connections are made, staff play an important role in maintaining these relationships through gifts of time, medicine, and acts of service.



The OCYA Appreciates...

Cree Elder Theodore Quinney for grounding our work for *A Place to Belong: A Special Report on Youth Homelessness in Alberta*. Elder Quinney guided the process through ceremony aligned with the four directions and seasons.

Elder Darryl Brass Jr. for leading a Pipe Ceremony and ensuring work for our *Calling for Change: Investigative Reviews Report 2025–2026* was grounded in ceremony.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government for spending time with our staff, sharing their culture, and supporting a deeper understanding of their work with Métis young people.

Indigenous communities we engaged with



Year at a Glance

APRIL 2025

- Provided information about children's rights and the role of the OCYA to youth in secure services, safe houses, and the young offender centres throughout the year.
- Participated in a blanket exercise to explore our shared history as Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples

SEPTEMBER 2025



- Recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Participated in the Calgary Pride Parade and attended the Mayor's Pride Brunch.
- Met with leadership from Paul First Nation to learn about their work and systemic issues affecting young people.

MAY 2025



- Recognized the National Day of Remembrance and Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People.
- Hosted an information booth at Queer Prom, a free dance and resource fair for 2SLGBTQ+ youth.

AUGUST 2025



- Hosted an International Youth Day event celebrating young people with performances, speakers, and interactive activities.

JUNE 2025



- Recognized National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Met with leaders and staff from Bearspaw First Nation to learn about their work and systemic issues affecting young people.
- Presented about the role of the OCYA and children's rights to Family Resource Networks.

JULY 2025

- Consulted with young people and service providers across the province for the special report on youth homelessness.
- Participated in a Pipe Ceremony at Fish Creek Provincial Park.
- Participated in medicine picking. The medicine will be used by staff and provided to the young people, Elders, and communities we work with.

OCTOBER 2025

- Brought greetings and hosted an information booth at the Alberta Foster and Kinship Association (AFKA) annual conference.
- Supported young people to share their lived experiences in government systems for a speaking panel at the Allies 4 Youth Conference.

NOVEMBER 2025

- Celebrated National Child Day.
- Released *Calling for Change Investigative Reviews Report 2024–2025*, which made three recommendations to government.

DECEMBER 2025



- Released a new video about the importance of young people being included in decisions that impact their lives.
- Participated in a Sweat Lodge Ceremony to open work on the 2025–2026 Calling for Change report.

JANUARY 2026

- Presented about the OCYA and children's rights at delegation training for new Child Intervention staff; one of several throughout the year.

FEBRUARY 2026

- Presented at the ALIGN Association of Community Services annual conference.
- Learned teachings from Cultural Educator Colleen Mustus over tea.

MARCH 2026

- Hosted a post-secondary student virtual office visit for students entering the helping professions.

Frontline Advocacy Services



Young people have the right to be involved in decisions that impact them. They tell us that when they are included, the outcomes are better, even if things don't go exactly as they hoped. We help ensure their rights are respected, their voices are heard, and their interests are considered through our three frontline advocacy services:

Intake

Individual Advocacy







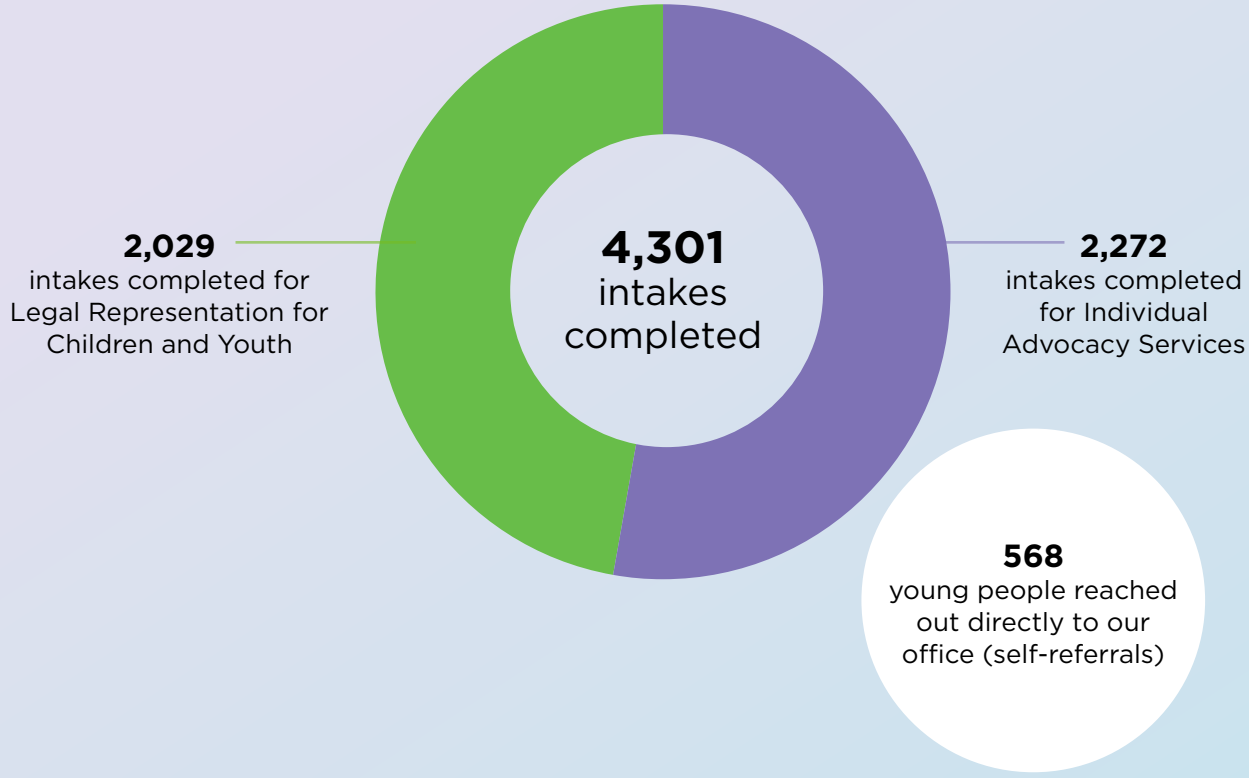
Legal Representation for Children and Youth (LRCY)



Intake

When someone reaches out to our office, we work with them to identify and clarify their concerns and determine whether an advocate or a lawyer may be able to help. Most calls come from young people or those who are concerned about them. If the services and supports the young person needs fall outside of our legislative mandate they are referred to community or government resources.

Highlights



Additionally, we received **1,125** general inquiries that fall outside of our scope. These were primarily related to custody, access, and guardianship; child intervention and enhancement services; and information about our office.



Individual Advocacy

We help young people involved with the child intervention and youth justice systems to understand their rights, to exercise those rights, and to have their viewpoints and interests meaningfully considered in decisions that affect them. This may include decisions about where they are going to live, the level of contact they have with family and other significant people in their lives, and how their individual rights, such as connection to their cultural identity, will be supported.

Advocates work directly and in partnership with children and youth. Young people identify the issues they want help with, and the advocate determines if they are within our scope. If they are, the advocate helps the young person address these matters.

When a young person is unable to express a viewpoint or share their interests, an advocate will act on their behalf, guided by the young person's particular rights and interests, to identify and address concerns. In these circumstances, an advocate will meet with the young person, gather information from those who know them, learn about the young person's community and interests, and consider relevant policies and legislation when advocating for them.

Top advocacy matters for young people

- Connections and contact arrangements
- Placement
- Case planning and implementation
- Health services and supports
- Assigned worker and office

Highlights

12-17 year-olds were the largest age group served

1,673 young people worked with an advocate

62% were Indigenous



Living arrangements of young people who worked with an advocate

Seeking child intervention services – location unknown	**85**
Living at home or independently	**157**
Parent/guardian care	115
Independent living (over 18)	42
Child Intervention placement	**1387**
Foster care	472
Kinship care/relatives/community member/pre-adoptive placement	393
Community group care	330
Campus-based care	67
Other facility based placements (includes Secure Services, *PSECA*, hospital)	48
Personalized community care	33
Independent living (under 18)	32
Absent from placement	6
No placement – shelter	6
Youth justice placement	**44**
TOTAL	**1673**





Mandatory notifications from the Ministry of Children and Family Services

In some circumstances, Children and Family Services is required to notify us about a young person's experiences while receiving child intervention services. This occurs when:

- A young person disagrees with a significant decision.
- A young person has unmet needs.
- Third parties have strong competing points of view related to a young person who is receiving child intervention services.
- There is an allegation of abuse or neglect of a young person while in care.

Of the 669 mandatory notifications received during the fiscal year, 98% involved allegations of abuse or neglect of young people in the care of Child Intervention. While the OCYA does not investigate allegations of abuse or neglect, we screen these reports to determine if the young person may have an issue that an advocate could assist with.

We have noticed some concerning trends that we will be paying close attention to in the coming year. These include allegations of:

- Some young people being harmed in more than one of their placements.
- Repeated concerns involving the same placement but involving different young people.
- Young people being harmed or injured in the community (not their placement) more than once.



The OCYA Appreciates...

Rowan House Emergency Shelter in High River for providing exceptional support to young people. Two sisters who spoke limited English and who were at risk of significant harm were placed at the shelter on an emergency basis. The staff at went above and beyond so that the sisters had a safe and supportive place to stay during a very vulnerable time.



The OCYA Appreciates...

The Youth and Community Action Team (YCAT) in Red Deer. This specialized policing unit works closely with community partners and schools to build trusting relationships with young people, connect them with resources, and support early intervention.

Experiences of young people who received advocacy services

The following stories highlight how we help young people with various advocacy issues. To protect their privacy and identities, all names are pseudonyms, and some details have been changed.

Jaylin wanted to file a complaint after reportedly sustaining an injury when he was arrested by police. His parents wanted to support him, but language barriers made it hard for them to help. An advocate supported Jaylin to file his complaint, which is now under investigation.

Corynn was struggling with her mental health after her previous caregiver passed away, and her current caregiver was diagnosed with a terminal illness. In addition to facing the loss of another significant person in her life, this meant she would also have to move again. An advocate spoke with Corynn about counselling and with her, put this forward to the case team. They found a therapist willing to travel to Corynn's remote community for sessions. Corynn has shared that therapy has been positive for her mental well-being.

Brannon was worried that an upcoming move to a rural group home would mean being separated from his family, friends, and girlfriend. He stated he would rather remain at a shelter than relocate outside the community. An advocate coordinated a meeting with the case team, who explained to Brannon that no local placements were available. To help him maintain connections to his natural supports, they were willing to facilitate weekend visits. Brannon agreed to this plan and transitioned to the new group home.

Payton and Jena were removed from their kinship placement. An advocate spoke with the children who said they wanted to return; however, because of significant safety concerns this was not an option. The caseworker committed to keeping the siblings connected with their former kinship caregiver through regular visits.

Noah, Koda, Charlotte, and Adela were apprehended and placed in separate foster homes. Contact was not arranged between the siblings, nor between the children and their mother. The young people also had no established connection with their paternal family. An advocate raised these concerns with the case team and action was taken to re-establish contact between the siblings and with their mother, and to build connections with their father and his extended family.

Sheri, Dulci, and Eben were placed in a foster home whose cultural and religious practices differed from those of their family. The young people were not provided traditional foods nor supported to attend religious services aligned with their faith. An advocate helped resolve these issues by working collaboratively with community resources and escalating the concerns within Children and Family Services.

Did You Know...?

Our advocates participate in a Community of Practice with other advocates from across Canada. These quarterly meetings support continuous learning through sharing experiences and discussing strategies to respond to various advocacy issues.

Legal Representation for Children and Youth

Our Legal Representation for Children and Youth (LRCY) program provides independent lawyers for young people in child intervention court matters. A lawyer from our roster meets with the young person to explain the court process, ensure their voice is heard in court, and help them understand the court decisions. Whenever possible, the lawyer takes instruction from them. If they are unable to provide direction, the lawyer presents a position to the court based on their legal entitlements, interests, and rights. The Justice makes the final decision about what is best for the young person.

3,401
young people worked with a lawyer

60%
of young people served were Indigenous

61%
of young people served were under 12 years old

Court Matter	
Temporary Guardianship Order	1,611
Permanent Guardianship Order	1,298
Secure Services	338
Private Guardianship Order	173
Supervision Order	144
Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act Confinements	91
Termination of Permanent Guardianship Order/Agreement	24
Appeals to Court	18
*Other	42
TOTAL	**3,739**

The number of court matters exceeds the number of young people who worked with a lawyer because lawyers may work with young people on multiple matters.

* Other: may include court matters such as health care orders; an appeal, review, or termination of a specified order; or an appointment where there is more than one type of application being heard at the same time, such as applications for Permanent Guardianship Order and Private Guardianship.



The OCYA Appreciates...

William Shymko, who has over 50 years at the Alberta Bar. He is one of several lawyers who have been with the LRCY program since its inception.

Did You Know...?

This year, we developed an after-hours referral process for urgent medical treatment applications involving children in care. Fifteen LRCY lawyers volunteered for the on-call rotation.

Promoting excellence in legal representation

We require all roster lawyers to complete at least eight hours of relevant training per year. Our lawyers typically exceed this and, on average, complete 15 hours of training.

This year we offered the following professional development opportunities:

- Advanced training on the Role of Counsel guidelines, which focused on best practices to meaningfully include children's voices in legal proceedings.
- Land-based learnings, which assisted our lawyers in expanding their knowledge of Indigenous worldviews.
- An information session on working with child counsellors, hosted by a psychologist, to help the lawyers understand what is expected when a counsellor is involved.
- Specific training for child counsel regarding *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families*.

Did You Know...?

On April 1, 2006, the Child and Youth Advocate received the mandate to appoint counsel for young people involved in Child Intervention matters, and the Legal Representation for Children and Youth program was created. Over the past 20 years, over 37,000 children across the province have had legal representation and there have been over 180 lawyers on our roster.



The OCYA Appreciates...

The invaluable contributions of court workers who facilitate the referral process to the LRCY program by providing accurate, thorough, and timely information. Their consistent availability to support counsel with required information helps facilitate efficient and effective court process.

Engaging The Community



Our education and engagement work is a vital link to young people, service providers, and communities. Some of the ways we engage communities include:

- Facilitating culturally relevant workshops and self-advocacy trainings.
- Fostering relationships between our office and those who interact with young people, including members of Indigenous communities, representatives of government ministries, and staff in non-profit organizations.
- Raising awareness about children's rights, the issues facing young people, and how to ask for help.
- Having specialized roles for Indigenous engagement consultants because of the over-involvement of the child intervention and youth justice systems in the lives of Indigenous young people, families, and communities.

"When working with families, this information will help give context to different support options that are available for children and youth."

– Stakeholder

Did You Know...?

We regularly visit campus-based care programs, group care settings, shelters, youth justice programs, and secure treatment facilities to help young people understand their rights and access advocacy supports.

The OCYA Appreciates...

Kickstand Hubs across Alberta which, through an integrated youth services model, provide accessible mental health, wellness, peer support, employment, and social services in welcoming spaces designed for young people.

"As a frontline worker, I will be able to explain young people's rights to clients."

– Stakeholder

Highlights

- Engaged more than 4,250 individuals through 199 presentations and workshops across Alberta.
- Published our youth newsletter, sharing information about children's rights, self-advocacy, community resources, youth voice, and OCYA services.
- Strengthened relationships in rural areas by working closely with local youth and family-serving organizations.
- Partnered with organizations across Alberta to promote children's rights in recognition of National Child Day.
- Supported engagement activities for systemic advocacy initiatives, including our annual investigative reviews report and youth homelessness report.
- Strengthened relationships with newcomer-serving organizations and community partners.



Did You Know...?

National Child Day is celebrated each year on November 20 to promote children's rights and raise awareness of issues affecting children and youth. In 2025 the theme focused on every child's right to practice their own culture, religion, and language.



The OCYA Appreciates...

ActionDignity for their work promoting youth voice, rights awareness, and systems change. Its Youth Justice Project, informed by more than 1,700 youth voices, has helped strengthen young people's understanding of legal rights, advocacy, and system navigation.

Facilitating Youth Participation



Young people benefit when their voices are heard and their perspectives are considered. This is particularly critical for those involved in the child intervention and youth justice systems, where decisions made about them have a profound impact.

We uphold young people's right to participate throughout the work of our office:

- Our advocates and roster lawyers engage directly with children and youth to understand what is important to them and centre their voices in decisions about them.
- Young people co-develop resources and help organize, promote, and speak at events.
- They share their perspectives on our work through participation with our youth council, advisory groups, and hiring panels.
- We support youth to speak directly with elected officials about their experiences in government systems.



Scan to view framework

Engaging Young People Framework

This year we released our *Engaging Young People Framework*, providing a rights-based approach to participation across the organization. Informed by consultations with lived-experience experts (young people), OCYA staff, and national leaders in youth engagement, this framework establishes shared principles and practices to support meaningful, safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive engagement.

This framework has supported staff in strengthening participatory practices and embedding youth voice throughout organizational work. It also reinforced our commitment to Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and meaningful youth participation in decisions affecting young people. Please visit our website or Appendix A to view the full framework.

Did You Know...?

In addition to serving on the OCYA Youth Council, young people contribute their lived expertise to the work of the office in a variety of ways. This includes as newsletter contributors, public speakers, paid interns, and advisors for new resources and reports.











International Youth Day 2025

Every two years we host a free youth-centered event for young people with lived experience in the child intervention and youth justice systems. This year's theme was *Advocacy Through Storytelling* and celebrated youth voice, identity, advocacy, creativity, and leadership.

The event brought together young people, community partners, and advocates from across the youth-serving sector. All participating service providers were selected by a youth advisory committee, ensuring that the day reflected what young people say is important to them. The day featured keynote speaker Piyêsiw Crane, performances by Notorious Cree and guests, youth vendors, interactive learning opportunities, and rights-based engagement activities. OCYA Youth Council members took on leadership roles as emcees, ambassadors, and event contributors, helping create opportunities for connection, learning, self-expression, and community engagement for the young people we serve.

Did You Know...?

This year we released a new video about the importance of young people being included in decisions that impact their lives.

The OCYA Appreciates...

NorQuest College, our speakers, youth-serving agencies, vendors, and community partners for contributing to the success of International Youth Day 2025 and helping create a welcoming space that celebrated youth voice and leadership.

OCYA Youth Council











Our youth council is made up of diverse young people from across Alberta who have lived experience with the child intervention or youth justice systems. They provide insight and feedback on our work and share their perspectives on issues affecting young people. The council amplifies young people's voices, helps increase our understanding of their lived experiences within systems, and leads positive change. Their work strengthens our advocacy with and on behalf of young people.

This year, council members:

- Provided advice and feedback on OCYA initiatives, reports, resources, events, and organizational priorities.
- Participated in consultations with community organizations, government representatives, and other stakeholders.
- Shared their lived expertise during presentations, panels, conferences, hiring processes, and public awareness activities.
- Built relationships and leadership skills, strengthened their advocacy skills and knowledge of young people's rights, and participated in peer mentorship opportunities.

Did You Know...?

The OCYA Youth Council contributed an estimated 654 collective volunteer hours through participation in council meetings, public speaking engagements, medicine picking, mentorship and countless acts of service that made a positive impact in their communities.

Did You Know...?

The OCYA's Youth Council has representation from Treaty areas 6, 7 and 8, and members have opportunities to participate in ceremony throughout their term.

What did you like most about being involved with the OCYA?

"The close-knit community."

"Connecting and talking about issues that we all agree are problems."

"The connections and work we accomplished."



"Being able to advocate and expand my opportunities to grow."



"The cultural activities during summer."

WHAT OCYA YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS SAY



"Very persuasive in encouraging young people toward new goals and accomplishments, helping them develop new ideas and perspectives in life."

"I liked the kindness, open energy, and willingness to listen."

"They had creative approaches and abundance of warm personalities."

"I liked that they are very active and interactive with us."

"They were always positive."



What did you like about how staff engaged with young people?

"My advocate was very good at their job and got what I needed done ASAP."



"I just liked having someone listen to me and have my back."

"My advocate went above and beyond so that I would know what my rights were."

"I appreciate all the support from the OCYA and what y'all are doing to help the youth such as myself."

HONOURING YOUTH VOICE

"I liked that my lawyer really listened to me."



"My advocate made my voice feel heard."

"My lawyer told me that I could call them whenever. They were willing to help to get me the best outcome."

"My lawyer told me that I was a smart, young man. They understood what I wanted, and that I wanted to be back at home."

"My lawyer was really good at helping me understand what they were saying by bringing the vocabulary down."

Did You Know...?

We surveyed 630 young people about their experiences working with an advocate or lawyer, attending an OCYA presentation, or participating in a youth engagement initiative.

"Our lawyer talked with us, and if something was not a good topic, they would ask before they talked about it. They were a great listener. They answered our questions wisely."

Systemic Advocacy

Systemic advocacy is about working towards broad changes in policy, practice and legislation that will benefit many young people now and in the future. This may include:

- Engaging communities on issues affecting young people (e.g. youth homelessness, opioid use, etc.).
- Encouraging and supporting the child and youth advocacy work of other organizations.
- Organizing opportunities for young people to speak to decision-makers (e.g. through participation on our youth council).
- Educating the public on the rights of children and youth and the issues that matter to them.

We raise concerns to public bodies about issues affecting the rights, interests, and well-being of children and youth. We make recommendations and provide advice on how services and supports for young people could be improved. This is sometimes done through investigative and special reports. Following a report release, we track and report on the government's progress toward meeting the recommendations.

Calling attention to youth homelessness in Alberta

This year, work continued on our special report on youth homelessness. We engaged with 156 young people and 170 stakeholders from across the province, including service providers, family members, and adults who had been unhoused as youth. This report will be released in June 2026.

The OCYA Appreciates...

The young people, parents, and adults with lived experience who took the time to speak with us and share their insights and experiences with youth homelessness.





The OCYA Appreciates...

The community agencies that helped connect us with young people who have been unhoused. Their support was integral to meaningfully including youth voice in our report.

Systemic issues we worked on in 2025–2026

CLOSED

Child Intervention intake process

Barriers within the Child Intervention intake process have affected young people's ability to access support, including referral calls not being returned or intakes not being completed. Following recent changes to the Ministry of Children and Family Services' intake process, we closed this as a systemic issue. We look forward to seeing how these changes improve access to services for young people.

IN PROGRESS

The following issues are ongoing. We continue to monitor and advocate on these matters and are working collaboratively with the relevant ministries and stakeholders to have them addressed.

Group care conditions

Young people in group care are not always receiving the care, support and programming needed to meet their individual needs. Staffing challenges, limited training and experience, programming that does not meet young people's needs, and concerns about the physical condition of some group homes can contribute to inconsistent care and negatively affect young people's well-being.

Youth homelessness

Experiencing or being at risk of homelessness can create significant instability and barriers to safety, housing and the supports young people need. Young people with current or previous involvement in the child intervention and/or youth justice systems may face additional challenges navigating systems and accessing appropriate supports. Our special report on youth homelessness will be released in June 2026 and makes recommendations to government to improve outcomes for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Indigenous community connections

Young people may experience barriers to maintaining connections with their First Nations or Métis communities when these communities do not have access to information about the young people's circumstances and involvement with Child Intervention. This can make it more difficult for communities to plan for and support young people, including planning for the transition of care to their community.

Interprovincial requirements

Young people with Child Intervention involvement can experience prolonged uncertainty and disruption when differences in legal mandates, policies and orders across provinces and territories delay their return to their home province or placement with extended family. These delays can affect their connection to family, community and other important supports.

Placement availability and suitability

A lack of safe, stable and suitable placement options can result in young people being housed in settings that do not meet their needs or, in some circumstances, remaining in unsafe situations. Access to placements that are appropriate to young people's individual needs continues to be a long-standing and complex concern.

Family visits

Limited availability of visit supervisors can create barriers to young people establishing and maintaining meaningful connections with their families. Limited access to supervised visits can reduce the time young people spend with their families and may contribute to delays in court proceedings and, potentially, longer periods in care.

Sibling contact

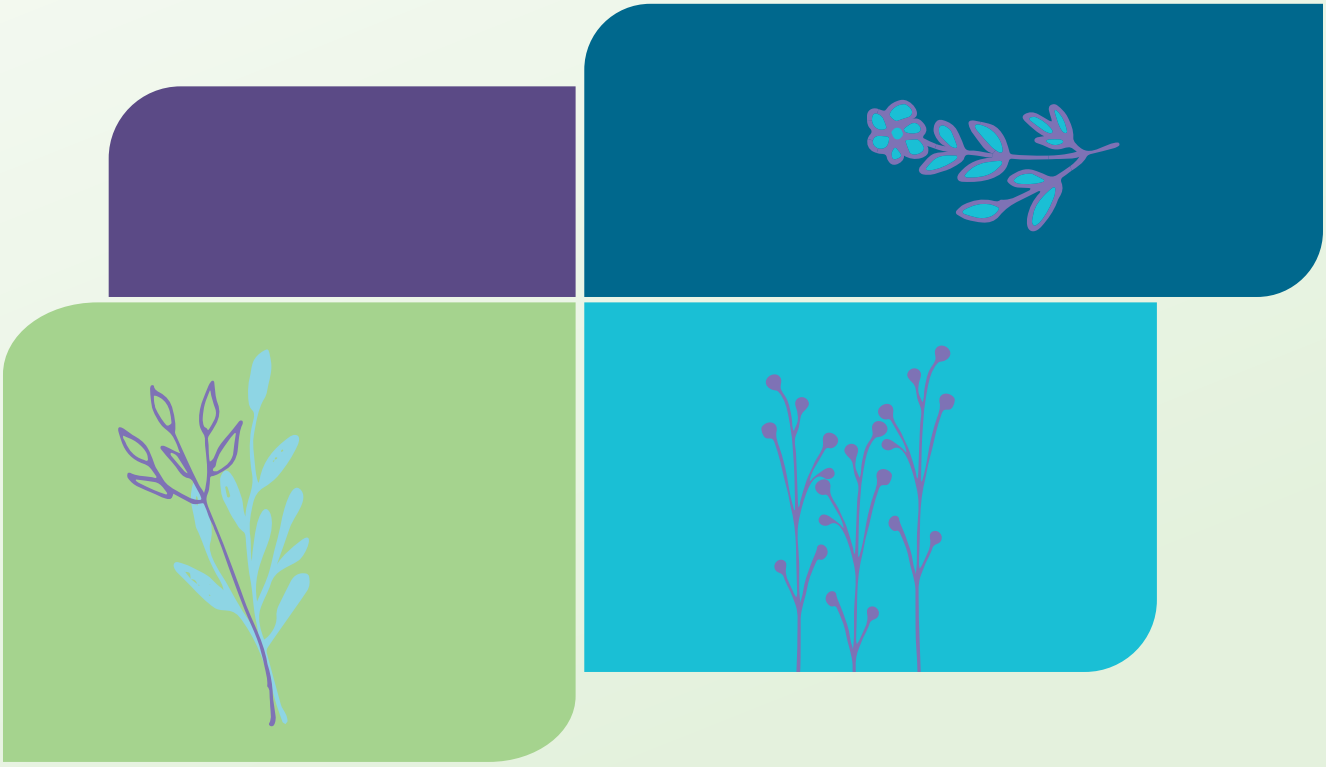
Coming into care can result in separation from siblings, with young people not always having regular opportunities to maintain these relationships. Contact can decrease or be lost as siblings follow different paths within the system, and young people may not have opportunities to establish connections with siblings who come into care after them. These circumstances can affect young people's ability to maintain important and meaningful sibling relationships.

Youth justice safeguarding

Young people detained in youth justice facilities may experience risks to their safety and well-being, including involvement in assaults and physical altercations. Concerns about the frequency of these incidents raise questions about whether sufficient safeguards are in place to protect young people while in custody.

Transition to Adulthood Program

Young people transitioning to adulthood may not have access to the supports and services they need to successfully navigate this transition. Gaps in post-18 supports, including disability supports, challenges accessing services in rural communities, and age limits on eligibility can disrupt continuity of support and make the transition to adulthood more difficult.



Investigative reviews

We review the circumstances of young people who were seriously injured or passed away and were involved with the child intervention or youth justice system. These reviews include information about the services and supports the young person received, as well as findings and themes. Investigative reviews aim to improve the lives of young people by identifying ways to enhance services and supports, leading to systems improvements and better outcomes for young people and their families. We strive to post completed reviews to our website within one year of being notified that a young person has been seriously injured or passed away.

Individual investigative reviews can be found at: ocya.alberta.ca/individual-investigative-reviews

Findings from individual investigative reviews inform our annual consolidated investigative reviews report, *Calling for Change*, which explores key themes and makes recommendations to public bodies. Released in November 2025, the *Calling for Change: Investigative Reviews Report 2024-2025* highlighted the circumstances of 69 young people and made three recommendations to government. The report explored the importance of timely responses to trauma, grief, and loss; adequate child intervention assessments; and supports for young people transitioning to adulthood. You can read the full report here: ocya.alberta.ca/reports



In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, we completed and publicly released 82 individual investigative reviews. Sixty-nine were for young people who were receiving child intervention services at the time, or within two years, of their death; 13 were for young people who were receiving child intervention services when they were seriously injured. These will inform our next *Calling for Change* report, which will be released in November 2026.

We also closed three matters that were received prior to October 2022, when changes were made to how we report on notifications of serious death and injury. Please see Appendix B for more information.

This year we...

- Chaired the National Child Death and Injury Review Community of Practice, which meets twice a year to share cross-jurisdictional practices and information that support systemic advocacy work across Canada.
- Met regularly with child-serving ministries to provide updates, streamline processes, and share learnings.
- Meaningfully incorporated youth engagement into the *Calling for Change Investigative Reviews Report 2024-2025* report.

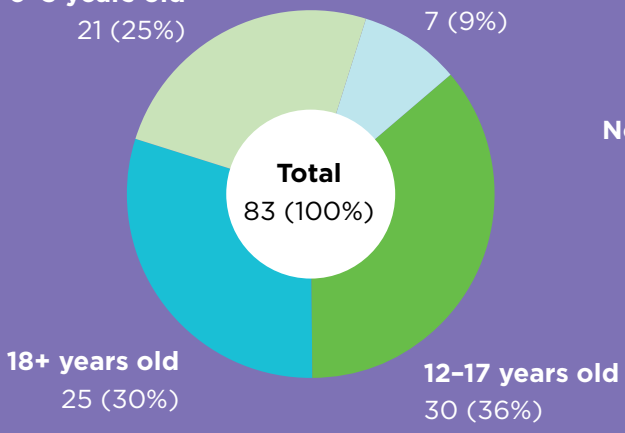
Did You Know...?

In June 2025, through the passing of the *Red Tape Reduction Act*, the mandate of the Child and Youth Advocate was amended: reducing the maximum age for reviews of death to 19 years old. Reviews related to notifications received prior to this legislative change will still be completed and publicly released.

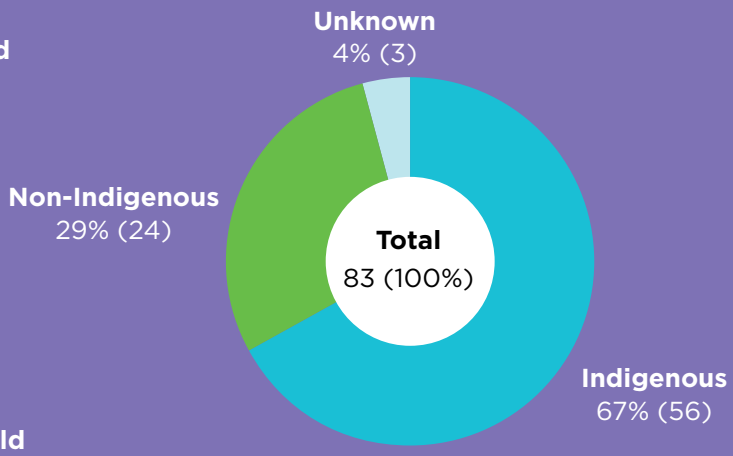
Notifications of death and serious injury received in 2025–2026

In 2025–2026, we received 83 notifications for young people who were seriously injured or who had passed away. Of these, 55 were for young people receiving child intervention services at the time of, or within two years of their death, and 28 were for young people who were seriously injured while receiving child intervention services.

Age range



Indigenous status



59 young people were receiving child intervention services at the time or their death or serious injury.

Living arrangements of young people who died while receiving child intervention services

Parent/guardian care	12
Independent living (over 18)	9
Kinship care, relatives, community members	3
Campus-based care	2
Group care	2
Foster care	1
Personalized community care	1
Unapproved placement	1
Total	**31**

Living arrangements of young people who were seriously injured while receiving child intervention services

Parent/Guardian Care	6
Independent living (over 18)	9
Group care	4
Foster care	3
Kinship care	3
Campus-based care	1
Independent living (under 18)	1
Personalized community care	1
Total	**28**

The remaining 24 young people who passed away had previously received child intervention services (within two years) and, therefore, are not included in the placement data.

Recommendations made in 2025–2026

This year, three new recommendations were made to government through *Calling for Change: Investigative Reviews Report 2024–2025*, released in November 2025.

Recommendation 1:

The Ministry of Children and Family Services should make the Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) policy manual publicly available.

*Recommendation 2:

The Ministries of Primary and Preventative Health Services, Hospital and Surgical Health Services, Education and Childcare, Assisted Living and Social Services, and Justice should have mandatory training in child-centered, trauma-informed practices for professionals who deliver services to young people and their families.

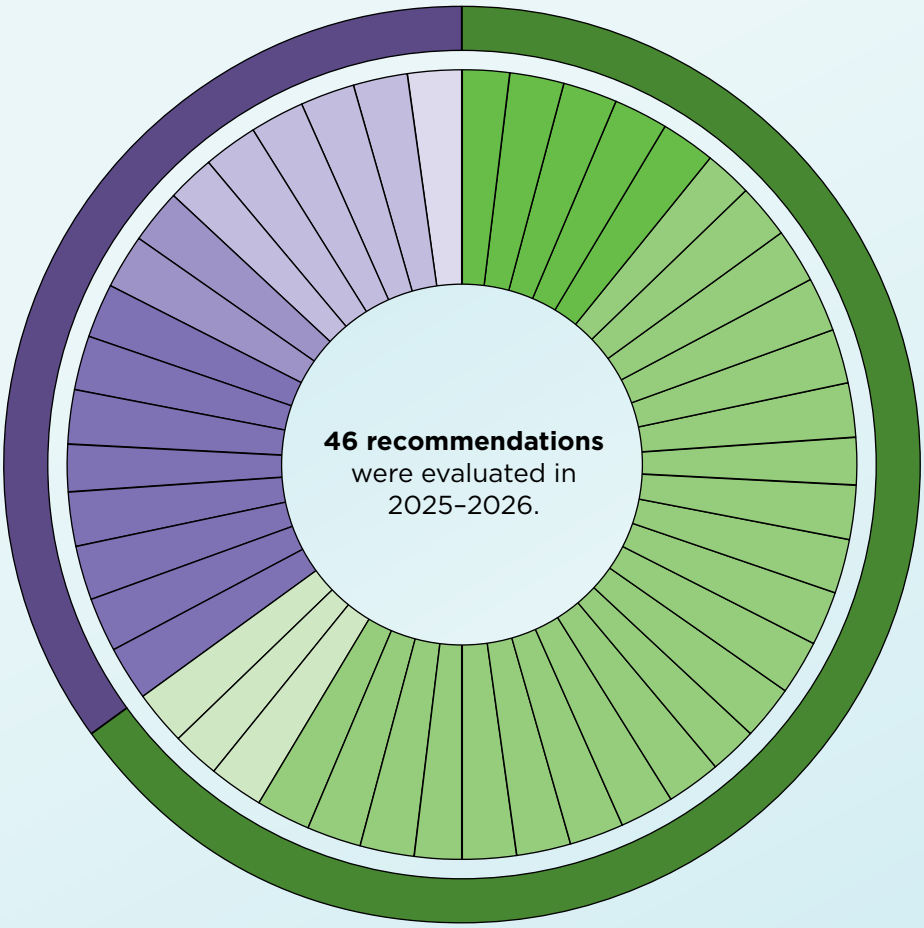
*Recommendation 3:

The Ministries of Primary and Preventative Health Services, Hospital and Surgical Health Services, Children and Family Services, Education and Childcare, and Assisted Living and Social Services should each implement an approach to identify young people's traumatic experiences that will guide the planning of services and supports that are responsive to their individual needs.

*Progress on recommendations 2 and 3 will be evaluated for each ministry separately.



Status of recommendations



16 recommendations were closed

- 8 closed as met
- 2 closed with significant progress
- 5 closed with some progress
- 1 closed with no progress

30 recommendations are ongoing

- 5 had significant progress
- 22 had some progress
- 3 had no progress

Please see Appendix C for a full breakdown of recommendations evaluated in 2025–2026.

2025 –2026 Key Performance Indicators

To foster continuous improvement, we establish, measure, and evaluate several performance indicators. Our three strategic priorities, detailed in our 2025–2028 business plan, form the basis for the outcomes measured through these indicators.

PRIORITY 1: Youth participation

We promote meaningful involvement of young people by consistently improving and expanding opportunities for their participation across all aspects of our work, and actively incorporating their voices, perspectives, and needs into everything we do. Youth have opportunities to participate in the work of the OCYA in a variety of ways including our youth council, special projects, committees, and hiring panels.

a) Percentage of young people participating in the work of the OCYA who are satisfied with participation opportunities.

Target 2025–26	**Actual 2025–26**
85%	**100%**

b) Percentage of young people participating in the work of our office who feel heard and valued.

Target 2025–26	**Actual 2025–26**
85%	**100%**

PRIORITY 2: Connection with community

Community connection fosters trust and raises awareness of our services. Establishing meaningful connections enables us to gather feedback, identify emerging needs and issues for young people and when possible, collaboratively act on these.

a) Number of engagement activities undertaken.

This year we completed 429 engagement activities with individuals, groups, and communities, including many First Nations. These activities reached 38 geographic communities, including 21 we had not engaged with in the previous year.

b) Percentage of community leaders and members that were satisfied with the quality of engagement they had with our office.

We strive for our engagement to be respectful, meaningful, and responsive to the people and communities we engage with, and to identify opportunities to improve our approach. We are developing a process to gather feedback from engagement participants about their experience with our office.

PRIORITY 3: Advocating for systemic change

Effective systemic advocacy requires a focused and coordinated approach. This priority is aimed at strengthening our systemic advocacy practices and processes; improving internal communication and information sharing; and supporting a consistent approach across our office.

In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, our systemic advocacy work focused on ten issues. More information about these issues can be found on page 28 of this report.

We also continued to develop and apply our systemic advocacy process throughout the year, refining our approach based on our experience using it in practice. This work established a foundation for continued implementation and refinement in 2026–27.

The Year Ahead









Celebrating 20 years of Legal Representation for Children and Youth

We will host our 7th biennial *Best Practices in Child Legal Representation* conference in June 2026, as we also celebrate the LRCY program's 20th anniversary. The conference fosters reflection, collaboration, and professional growth among those dedicated to child advocacy.

Drawing attention to youth homelessness in Alberta

A Place to Belong: A Special Report on Youth Homelessness in Alberta will be released in June 2026 and will make three new recommendations to government.

Calling for change

In the Fall of 2026, we will release our third *Calling for Change: Investigative Reviews Report*, which will make recommendations to government about issues impacting young people in the child intervention and youth justice systems.

Journey of reconciliation

We will continue to strengthen our relationships with Indigenous communities and offer opportunities for staff to participate in cultural education opportunities including land-based learning and ceremonies.

Collaboration with Mount Royal University

We will collaborate with Mount Royal University on a research initiative focused on the experiences of former and current OCYA Youth Council members. The study will examine how participation on the council supports youth rights, including the right to participate in decision-making, and its impact on young people's personal growth and well-being. Insights from this work will inform future youth engagement strategies and support our commitment to amplifying young people's voices.

Youth justice system advocacy

Work is underway on a video about how we can help young people involved with the youth justice system, which we anticipate will be released in late 2026.

Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The financial statements of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (the "OCYA"), including the performance measures, are the responsibility of the Child and Youth Advocate.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements and performance results for the OCYA rests with the Child and Youth Advocate. I oversee the preparation of the OCYA's annual report, including financial statements and performance results. The financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

The performance measures are prepared in accordance with the following criteria:

- Reliability – information used in applying performance measure methodologies agrees with the underlying source of data for the current and prior years' results.
- Understandability – the performance measure methodologies and results are presented clearly.
- Comparability - the methodologies for performance measure preparation are applied consistently for the current and prior years' results.
- Completeness – outcomes, performance measures and related targets match those included in the OCYA's 2025-2028 Business Plan.

As the Child and Youth Advocate, in addition to program responsibilities, I am responsible for the OCYA's financial administration and reporting functions. The OCYA maintains systems of financial management and internal control, which consider costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the province under the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate's administration; and
- facilitate preparation of the OCYA's business plan and annual report.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the OCYA, I have relied, as necessary, on the management of the OCYA.

[Original signed by Terri Pelton]

Child and Youth Advocate
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
July 16, 2026

Financial Highlights

Budget estimates for the OCYA for the 2025-2026 fiscal year were allocated as follows:

	Voted Estimate	Adjustments[1]	Adjusted Voted Estimate
Voted Operating	$16,847,900	$183,000	$17,030,900
Voted Capital Investment	$25,000	-	$25,000
Non-voted non-cash Disbursements	$186,000	-	$186,000

(1) Supplementary estimates presented on December 5, 2025.

The non-voted non-cash disbursements are for the amortization of capital assets and valuation adjustments related to changes in employee vacation liability, year-over-year.

The approved adjusted voted operating and capital budget totals $17,055,900. Actual spending (voted actuals) was approximately $17,036,900, which was $19,000 below the approved amounts, and $997,000 or 6% above the prior fiscal year's spending.

For purposes of financial accountability, the OCYA distributes its voted budget across six program areas, and the office reported approximately $18,000 in operational savings for the fiscal year 2025-26. Operational spending in the Child and Youth Advocate's Office, LRCY, and Strategic Support were under budget by approximately $32,000 (3%), $25,000 (0.6%), and $152,000 (4.7%), respectively. Spending was higher than budgeted in Direct Advocacy Services, Indirect Advocacy Services, and Youth and Community Engagement by $91,000 (2.2%), $85,000 (3.2%), and $15,000 (1%), respectively. Variances between budget and actuals were primarily related to savings in the supplies and services category, offset by an increase in salaries and benefits.

The LRCY program was allocated a budget of $4.46 million (26%) of the voted operating budget and incurred $4.43 million (26%) of the total voted operating expenditures. Legal fees and disbursements paid to lawyers representing young people on matters under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* or the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* account for 94% of the total LRCY program spending.

Total non-cash disbursements (amortization and valuation adjustments) were $159,000 higher than the budget, due to higher amortization as result of an upgrade to the office security access card system and vacation liability adjustment from salary increases.

The $18,000 operational savings was from lower than budgeted costs of $125,000 in travel, $293,000 in contract and purchased services, $235,000 in supplies and other services, and savings of $9,000 in legal fees and disbursements under the LRCY program, combined with increased costs of $644,000 from salaries and benefits.

The voted capital investment budget for 2025-2026 was $25,000, and the actual capital costs for 2025-26 was $24,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE

Financial Statements
Year Ended March 31, 2026

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2026

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Schedule 3 - Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Schedule 4 - Related Party Transactions

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (the OCYA), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of operations, change in net debt, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the OCYA as at March 31, 2026, and the results of its operations, its changes in net debt, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the OCYA in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the *Annual Report*, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The *Annual Report* is expected to be made available to me after the date of this auditor's report.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I will perform on this other information, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the OCYA's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the OCYA's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the OCYA's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the OCYA's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the OCYA to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

[Original signed by Phillip D. Peters FCPA, FCA, KC]
Auditor General of Alberta

July 16, 2026
Edmonton, Alberta

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

	2026		2025
	Budget	**Actual**	**Actual**
Revenues (Note 2)			
Other Revenue	$ -	$ 55,160	$ 116,940
Total Revenues	**-**	**55,160**	**116,940**
Expenses - Directly Incurred (Note 2 and Schedules 1 and 5)			
Voted			
Child and Youth Advocate's Office	1,073,077	1,040,716	926,671
Direct Advocacy Services	4,117,255	4,303,716	3,981,736
Legal Representation for Children and Youth	4,459,314	4,434,397	4,286,261
Indirect Advocacy Services	2,570,733	2,740,226	2,534,949
Youth and Community Engagement	1,396,527	1,415,329	1,328,594
Strategic Support	3,230,994	3,079,007	2,920,321
	16,847,900	**17,013,391**	**15,978,532**
Not Voted			
Amortization of Tangible Assets	121,000	127,582	99,445
Provision For Vacation Pay	65,000	217,191	69,599
	186,000	**344,773**	**169,044**
	17,033,900	**17,358,164**	**16,147,576**
Net Cost of Operations	**$ (17,033,900)**	**$ (17,303,004)**	**$ (16,030,636)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Financial Assets		
Accounts Receivable	$ 132	$ 15,286
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Other Accrued Liabilities	1,354,832	1,625,503
Accrued Vacation Pay	1,366,815	1,149,373
	2,721,647	2,774,876
Net Debt	**(2,721,515)**	**(2,759,590)**
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	349,368	453,497
Prepaid Expenses	49,132	3,700
	398,500	457,197
Net Liabilities	**$ (2,323,015)**	**$ (2,302,393)**
Net Liabilities at Beginning of Year	$ (2,302,393)	$ (2,340,106)
Net Cost of Operations	(17,303,004)	(16,030,636)
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	17,282,382	16,068,349
Net Liabilities at End of Year	**$ (2,323,015)**	**$ (2,302,393)**

Contractual Obligations (Note 5)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

	2026		2025
	Budget	**Actual**	**Actual**
Net Cost of Operations	**$(17,033,900)**	**$(17,303,004)**	**$(16,030,636)**
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	(25,000)	(23,453)	(61,365)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	121,000	127,582	99,445
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepaid Expenses		(45,432)	34,041
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues		17,282,382	16,068,349
Decrease in Net Debt		**38,075**	**109,834**
Net Debt at Beginning of Year		**(2,759,590)**	**(2,869,424)**
Net Debt at End of Year		**$ (2,721,515)**	**$ (2,759,590)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Operating Transactions		
Net Cost of Operations	$ (17,303,004)	$ (16,030,636)
Non-Cash Items Included in Net Operating Results:		
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	127,582	99,445
Valuation Adjustments - Vacation Pay	217,442	69,349
	(16,957,980)	(15,861,842)
Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	15,154	(15,286)
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	(45,432)	34,041
(Decrease) in Accounts Payable and Other Accrued Liabilities	(270,671)	(163,897)
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(17,258,929)	(16,006,984)
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	(23,453)	(61,365)
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(23,453)	(61,365)
Financing Transactions		
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	17,282,382	16,068,349
Increase in Cash	-	-
Cash at Beginning of Year	-	-
Cash at End of Year	$ -	$ -

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2026

Note 1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Child and Youth Advocate is an officer of the Legislature operating under the authority of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, Chapter C-11.5, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2011. General Revenues of the Province of Alberta fund both the cost of operations of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (the Office) and the purchase of tangible capital assets. The all-party Standing Committee on Legislative Offices reviews and approves the Office's annual operating and capital budgets.

The Office represents the rights, interests and viewpoints of children and youth who receive designated services under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* and the *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act*, and youth involved with the youth justice system.

Note 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, which use accrual accounting.The Office has adopted PS3450 Financial Instruments. As the Office does not have any transactions involving financial instruments that are classified in the fair value category, there is no statement of remeasurement gains and losses.

Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Other revenue includes prior year expenditure refunds. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided by year end is recognized as unearned revenue.

Expenses

Expenses are reported on an accrual basis.The cost of all goods consumed and services received during the year are expensed.

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Office has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the Offices of the Legislative Assembly budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include**:**

- amortization of tangible capital assets;
- pension costs which comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year;
- valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from accrued liabilities, including vacation pay; and
- transfer of tangible capital assets to other government departments/entities.

Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other related entities in support of the Office's operation are not recognized but disclosed in Schedule 5.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not for consumption in the normal course of operations.

Financial assets are the Office's financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Note 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES (Continued)

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are recognized at the lower of cost or net recoverable value. A valuation allowance is recognized when recovery is uncertain.

Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the Office to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events occurring before the year end, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed, or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

(a) are normally employed to deliver government services;

(b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and

(c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets are limited to tangible capital assets and prepaid expenses.

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets of the Office are recognized at cost less accumulated amortization and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is $250,000 and the threshold for major systems enhancements is $100,000. The threshold for all other tangible capital assets is $5,000.

Amortization is only charged if the tangible capital asset is put into service.

The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets is amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Furniture and office equipment	3 - 10 Years
Computer hardware and software	5 - 10 Years
Leasehold improvements	1 - 5 Years

Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses are recognized at cost and amortized based on the terms of the agreement.

Net Debt

Net debt indicates additional cash required from General Revenues to finance the Office's cost of operations to March 31, 2026.

Note 3 FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

On April 1, 2026, the Office will adopt the following new conceptual framework and accounting standard approved by the Public Sector Accounting Board.

- **The Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting in the Public Sector**

  The Conceptual Framework is the foundation for Public Sector financial reporting standard setting. It replaces the conceptual aspects of Section PS 1000 Financial Statement Concepts and Section PS 1100 Financial Statement Objectives. The conceptual framework highlights considerations fundamental for the consistent application of accounting issues in the absence of specific standards.

- **PS 1202 Financial Statement Presentation**

  Section PS 1202 sets out general and specific requirements for the presentation of information in general purpose financial statements. The financial statement presentation principles are based on the concepts within the Conceptual Framework.

On April 1, 2029, the Office will adopt PS 3251 - Employee Benefits.

- **PS 3251 - Employee Benefits**

  This standard will replace and consolidate two old standards, PS 3250 - Retirement benefits and PS 3225 - Post-employment benefits, Compensated Absences and Termination Benefits. The application of the standard will improve the understandability of the financial reporting of employee benefits and provide better information for accountability purposes.

On April 1, 2030, the Office will adopt the amendments to PS 3150 - Tangible Capital Assets.

- **PS 3150 - Tangible Capital Assets**

  The amendments standardize capital asset accounting by incorporating Government Not for Profit standards, clarifying recognition and disclosure requirements related to collections, works of art and historical treasures.

Management is currently assessing the impact of the conceptual framework and these standards on the financial statements.

Note 4 TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Furniture and Office Equipment	Computer Hardware and Software	Leasehold Improvements	2026 Total	2025 Total
Estimated Useful Life	3 - 10 years	5 - 10 years	1 - 5 years		
Historical Cost [1]					
Beginning of Year	$ 242,547	$ 1,475,208	$ 258,021	$ 1,975,776	$1,914,411
Additions	-	-	23,453	23,453	61,365
Disposals	-	(105,360)	-	(105,360)	-
	242,547	1,369,848	281,474	1,893,869	1,975,776
Accumulated Amortization					
Beginning of Year	$ 228,534	$ 1,261,837	$ 31,908	$ 1,522,279	$1,422,834
Amortization Expense	10,736	57,201	59,645	127,582	99,445
Disposals	-	(105,360)	-	(105,360)	-
	239,270	1,213,678	91,553	1,544,501	1,522,279
Net Book Value at March 31, 2026	**$ 3,277**	**$ 156,170**	**$ 189,921**	**$ 349,368**	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2025	**$ 14,013**	**$ 213,371**	**$ 226,113**		**$ 453,497**

(1) Historical cost includes work-in-progress at March 31, 2026 amount is $0 (2025 - $61,365 comprised of leasehold improvements and IT equipment).

Note 5 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Contractual obligations are obligations of the Office to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of the contracts or agreements are met.

	2026	2025
Obligation under Operating Leases	$ 11,338	$ 12,955
Obligations under Contracts	1,867,830	1,559,110
	$ 1,879,168	**$ 1,572,065**

Estimated payment requirements for each of the next five years are as follows:

	Operating Leases	Contracts	Total
2026-27	$ 11,338	$ 746,830	$ 758,168
2027-28	-	280,000	280,000
2028-29	-	280,000	280,000
2029-30	-	280,000	280,000
2030-31	-	281,000	281,000
	$ 11,338	**$ 1,867,830**	**$ 1,879,168**

Note 6 BENEFIT PLANS

The Office participates in the multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan (MEPP), Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP) and Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers (SRP). The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $1,034,464 for the year ended March 31, 2026 (2025 - $891,758). The Office is not responsible for future funding of the plan deficit other than through contribution increases.

At December 31, 2025, the MEPP reported a surplus of $2,101,798,000 (2024: surplus $1,865,997,000), the PSPP reported a surplus of $7,706,238,000 (2024: surplus $6,473,956,000), and the SRP reported a deficiency of $61,574,000 (2024: deficiency $25,325,000).

The Office also participates in a multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plan. At March 31, 2026, the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan reported a surplus of $90,000 (2025: Deficit $775,000). The expense for this plan is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

Note 7 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 2025 figures have been reclassified where necessary to conform to the 2026 presentation.

Note 8 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Child and Youth Advocate and the Senior Financial Officer approved these financial statements.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE **Schedule 1**
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
EXPENSES - DIRECTLY INCURRED DETAILED BY OBJECT
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

	2026		2025
	Budget	**Actual**	**Actual**
Voted			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	$10,306,862	$11,134,393	$ 10,011,450
Supplies and Services	6,541,038	5,878,998	5,967,082
Total Voted Expenses	16,847,900	17,013,391	15,978,532
Not Voted			
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	121,000	127,582	99,445
Provision for Vacation Pay	65,000	217,191	69,599
Total Not Voted Expenses	186,000	344,773	169,044
Total Expenses	**$17,033,900**	**$17,358,164**	**$ 16,147,576**

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE **Schedule 2**
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
LAPSE/ENCUMBRANCE
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

	2026				
	Voted Estimate (1)	Supplementary (2)	Adjusted Voted Estimate	Voted Actuals (3)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
Program - Operating Expense					
Child and Youth Advocate's Office	$ 1,073,077	$ -	$ 1,073,077	$ 1,040,716	$ 32,361
Direct Advocacy Services	4,117,255	95,000	4,212,255	4,303,716	(91,461)
Legal Representation for Children and Youth	4,459,314	-	4,459,314	4,434,397	24,917
Indirect Advocacy Services	2,570,733	84,000	2,654,733	2,740,226	(85,493)
Youth and Community Engagement	1,396,527	4,000	1,400,527	1,415,329	(14,802)
Strategic Support	3,230,994	-	3,230,994	3,079,007	151,987
Program - Capital					
Strategic Support	25,000	-	25,000	23,452	1,548
Total	**$ 16,872,900**	**$ 183,000**	**$ 17,055,900**	**$ 17,036,843**	**$ 19,057**
Lapse					**$ 19,057**

(1) As per Voted Spending by Program page of 2025-26 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates, presented December 6, 2024.
(2) Supplementary estimates presented December 5, 2025.
(3) Actuals exclude non-voted amounts such as amortization and valuation adjustments.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE **Schedule 3**
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

	2026				2025
	Base Salary[1]	Other Cash Benefits[2]	Other Non-Cash Benefits[3]	Total	Total
Senior Official					
Child and Youth Advocate [4]	$273,512	$ 20,958	$ 80,412	$ 374,882	$ 353,002
Deputy Advocates:					
Direct Advocacy Services	208,620	-	48,130	256,750	225,351
Indirect Advocacy Services	187,993	-	41,820	229,813	199,312
Executive Director					
Strategic Support	179,137	-	40,774	219,911	191,150
	$849,262	$ 20,958	$211,136	$1,081,356	$ 968,815

(1) Base salary is comprised of regular salary.

(2) Other cash benefits include vacation payouts, employee service milestone cash awards and lump sum payments. There is no bonus paid in FY2026.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include the Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, health spending account, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, fair market value of parking benefits, and professional memberships.

(4) Other non-cash benefits for the Child and Youth Advocate paid by the Office also include $13,002 (2025: $13,196) for the lease, fuel, insurance and maintenance expenses for an automobile provided. The Child and Youth Advocate receives an automobile taxable benefit based on personal usage.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE **Schedule 4**
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Government of Alberta Consolidated Financial Statements. Related parties also include key management personnel in the Office and their close family members.

The Office and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for premiums, licences and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this schedule.

The Office had the following transactions with related parties reported on the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	Other Entities	
	2026	2025
Expenses - Directly Incurred		
Other Services	$ 79,112	$ 75,416
Total	**$ 79,112**	**$ 75,416**

Other Services includes insurance, leased vehicles, information technology consumption and licenses, printing, postage and training.

The Office also had transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not reported in the financial statements but are disclosed in Schedule 5.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE ALBERTA
SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ALLOCATED COSTS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

Schedule 5

	2026				2025
		Expenses - Incurred by Others			
Program	**Expenses [1]**	**Accommodation Costs [2]**	**Business Services [3]**	**Total Expenses**	**Total Expenses**
Child and Youth Advocate's Office	$ 1,091,167	$ 36,091	$ -	$ 1,127,258	$ 988,978
Direct Advocacy Services	4,363,597	261,660	-	4,625,257	4,220,240
Legal Representation for Children and Youth	4,436,989	18,046	-	4,455,035	4,301,895
Indirect Advocacy Services	2,842,412	144,364	-	2,986,776	2,717,586
Youth and Community Engagement	1,428,893	72,182	-	1,501,075	1,397,596
Strategic Support	3,195,106	153,387	113,085	3,461,578	3,295,911
Operations	**$ 17,358,164**	**$ 685,730**	**$ 113,085**	**$ 18,156,977**	**$ 16,922,206**

(1) Expenses - Directly incurred as per Statement of Operations.
(2) Costs shown for Accommodation (include grants in lieu of taxes), allocated by square metre.
(3) Business Services costs, including charges for information technology, finance services and training, allocated by costs in certain programs.

Appendix A: Engaging Young People Framework



Engaging young people

ocya
OFFICE OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE ALBERTA

Guiding Principles

Intergenerational partnerships

Collaborative efforts between different age groups to address issues affecting young people, leveraging the wisdom, experience, and resources of older generations to support and empower youth in achieving their goals and fostering positive societal change.

Engagement vs Participation

Engagement involves a deeper level of involvement, commitment, and active contribution from individuals or groups towards a shared goal or activity. Participation, on the other hand, refers to the mere act of being involved or taking part in an event, initiative, or process, which may vary in terms of the level of interaction and impact.

Humility

We actively seek feedback from young people and the circles that surround them, engage in meaningful reflection, and make adjustments as we constantly strive to be better.

Equity

To provide equitable access, we reduce barriers to participation, provide opportunities to be involved in decision-making, and create avenues for adults to listen and learn alongside young people.

Inclusive

We engage an inclusive community of young people of varying ages, abilities, identities, and perspectives and we work with young people to accommodate their needs and create safe (physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) spaces.

Rights-focused

We respect, uphold, and raise awareness about the individual and collective rights of young people and how they can assert their rights.

Purposeful

We co-create, provide, and match young people to a variety of engagement opportunities based on their unique knowledge, skills, abilities, interests, and level of preferred commitment.

young people

Our inclusive term referring to children, youth and young adults ages 0-24 years.

Partnership

Through intergenerational partnerships with young people and those who surround them, we promote young people's skills, capacity and potential as advocates, leaders, and decision-makers.

Reciprocity

We show accountability by elevating young people's voices, sharing the impact of their contributions, providing opportunity for skill development and self-advocacy tools, and ensuring they benefit financially or otherwise.

Principles

Engaging young people has been integral to our office since the OCYA's creation. We continue learning and growing in this area of practice, and these principles are the next step in this journey. Developed in collaboration with the OCYA Youth Council, OCYA staff, community stakeholders and consultations with organizations across Canada, these principles are grounded in current best practices. They are an extension of the OCYA's Advocacy Framework, reflect our values and are intended to guide and strengthen meaningful, ethical engagement with young people.

Understanding our process

The seven guiding principles form the foundation of our strategy. Building upon this foundation, members of the OCYA Youth Council collaborated closely with us to create a **logic model** showing how the outcomes we hope to achieve interconnect and contribute to the larger societal impact the OCYA strives towards. This logic model was then instrumental in designing a new principle-based evaluation framework aimed at facilitating continuous learning as we gather data on how the principles are being implemented, whether our desired results are being achieved, and where our efforts may need to be refocused. We commit to refining and updating these documents based on the experience of our teams and feedback from those who interact with our initiatives.

Planting Seeds

Meaningfully engaging young people in our work also serves to plant seeds of inspiration and leadership, nurturing their potential to positively impact their lives and communities. Our hope is that by fostering these connections, they are empowered to carry forward ideas and values through which they can continue to drive meaningful change beyond their interactions with the OCYA.

"To us meaningful means we can see what we said influenced the outcome. That you heard us and it made a difference in what you thought mattered and what should be done about it."

Youth Council

Appendix B: Notifications Closed in 2025–2026

A review is completed for each notification of serious injury or death. This includes reviewing file information from Children and Family Services, Alberta Health, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and other information sources. Contact with someone close to the young person (whenever possible, a family member) also occurs.

In October 2022, we started publicly releasing investigative reviews for each young person whose serious injury or death we are notified of. While we have always completed individual reviews for each young person, only those meeting certain circumstances were previously made public. The shift in reporting provides additional transparency and public accountability regarding our investigative reviews and ensures that each young person's circumstance is reflected in a consistent manner.

During 2025–2026, 3 notifications were concluded that were received prior to the October 2022 change in public reporting and that did not meet the criteria for a mandatory review.

Of these notifications:

- 2 were carried forward from 2022–2023 (received prior to October 2022).
- 1 was carried forward from 2021–2022.

Notifications of death received in 2022–2023 and closed on or before March 31, 2026.

1. A 21-year-old young adult passed away from injuries sustained in a house fire. She was receiving services through a Support and Financial Assistance Agreement at the time of her death.

Notification of serious injury received in 2022–2023 and closed on or before March 31, 2026.

1. A 6-month-old baby was seriously injured due to choking. She was receiving services through a Safety Assessment at the time of her serious injury.

Notification of serious injury received in 2021–2022 and closed on or before March 31, 2026.

1. A 2-year-old child sustained a serious head injury. She was receiving services through a Family Enhancement Agreement at the time of her serious injury.

Appendix C: Status of Recommendations Evaluated in 2025–2026

Report Name: ***Calling for Change 2023-2024: Investigative Reviews Consolidated Report***
Released: November 2024
Recommendation 1
The Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Children and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction, Public Safety and Emergency Services, and Seniors, Community and Social Services should each conduct an annual assessment to identify the supports they fund that are provided at a community level.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
1	Assisted Living and Social Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to conduct an assessment of community-level supports and share information with partner ministries. Additional information is needed about the approach, including what was reviewed, consideration of service usage and gaps, and how the findings are informing coordination and navigation.
2	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate acknowledges the progress made through the assessment of community-level supports funded through Family Resource Networks. Additional information is needed regarding how other community-level supports were considered or whether the findings were shared with other ministries to strengthen coordination and navigation. The Advocate is disappointed that the ministry has indicated no further updates will be provided on this recommendation.
3	Education and Childcare	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to identify community-level supports and initiatives it funds. Additional information is needed regarding the annual assessment process, including how service locations, usage, and gaps are considered, and whether the findings are shared with other ministries to strengthen coordination and navigation.
4	Justice	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to assess community-level supports funded through grants and contracts. Additional information is needed regarding the ministry's approach, including what was reviewed, consideration of service usage and gaps, and whether the findings are shared with other ministries to support coordination and navigation.
5	Mental Health and Addiction	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministry's implementation of systems to identify and assess community-level supports, including grant-level tracking, reporting processes, and the use of 211 Alberta data to understand service usage and gaps. The information gathered is used to inform funding decisions, planning, and collaboration across ministries.

6	Primary and Preventative Health Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to identify community-level supports funded through grant programs. Additional information is needed regarding the annual assessment process, including the scope of the review, consideration of other ministry-funded community-level supports, the identification of service usage and gaps, and the sharing of findings with other ministries to support coordination and navigation.
7	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to identify and track community-level supports through its centralized framework and grant reporting processes. Additional information is needed regarding a consistent annual assessment of usage and gaps, including geographic reach and service diversity, and how findings are shared with other ministries to support coordination and navigation.

Report Name: ***Calling for Change 2023-2024: Investigative Reviews Consolidated Report***
Released: November 2024
Recommendation 2
The Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Children and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction, Public Safety and Emergency Services, and Seniors, Community and Social Services should each strengthen coordination between funded services that are provided at a community level both within their respective ministry and between ministries.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
8	Assisted Living and Social Services	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministry's efforts to strengthen coordination between community-level services through cross-ministry partnerships and integrated service delivery for young people with disabilities.
9	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen coordination through Family Resource Networks, cross-ministry protocols, and collaboration. Additional information is needed regarding how funded services work together to reduce duplication and improve service delivery for young people and families.
10	Education and Childcare	Ongoing (Significant Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen coordination through cross-ministry initiatives and partnerships that support children, youth, and families. Additional information is needed regarding how this work is reducing duplication, identifying service gaps, and improving connections between funded services.
11	Justice	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen coordination through cross-ministry discussions, working groups, and participation in interministerial processes. Additional information is needed regarding how this work is reducing duplication, identifying service gaps and improving connections between funded services.

12	Mental Health and Addiction	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministry's efforts to strengthen coordination through 211 Alberta, which serves as a centralized access and service information platform, as well as through formal referral pathways, integrated service delivery models, and cross-ministry initiatives. These efforts support greater alignment between funded services and coordination across systems serving children, youth, and families.
13	Primary and Preventative Health Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen coordination through internal engagement, cross-ministry collaboration, and the development of governance structures. Additional information is needed regarding the outcomes of this work and how they will improve connections between funded services for children, youth, and families.
14	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to support coordination through partnerships with community agencies, Communities of Practice, cross-government discussions, and involvement in cross-ministry initiatives. Additional information is needed regarding how these efforts have improved connections between funded services, reduced duplication, and identified service gaps.

Report Name: ***Calling for Change 2023-2024: Investigative Reviews Consolidated Report***
Released: November 2024
Recommendation 3
The Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Children and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction, Public Safety and Emergency Services, and Seniors, Community and Social Services should each strengthen navigation between funded services that are provided at a community level both within their respective ministry and between ministries.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
15	Assisted Living and Social Services	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministry's efforts to strengthen navigation between community-level services through cross-ministry partnerships for young people with disabilities.
16	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen navigation through Family Resource Networks. Additional information is needed regarding the upcoming renewal of this program and how it will improve navigation across ministries to ensure young people and families receive timely and appropriate services.
17	Education and Childcare	Ongoing (Significant Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen navigation through cross-ministry initiatives that support children, youth and families in accessing services. Additional information is needed regarding how this work is improving access to timely and appropriate services.
18	Justice	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to support navigation through partnerships with community-based organizations and ongoing cross-ministry discussions. Additional information is needed regarding how this work is helping young people and families access timely and appropriate services.
19	Mental Health and Addiction	Closed(Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministry's efforts to strengthen navigation through a coordinated access model, integrated referral pathways, and initiatives that support seamless transitions between services. These actions help young people and families access the supports they need without navigating multiple systems independently.
20	Primary and Preventative Health Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to strengthen navigation through initiatives that support access to services and transitions of care. Additional information is needed regarding how this work is making it easier for young people and families to access services across systems.
21	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to support navigation through probation officers, custody caseworkers, and specialized transition supports that help connect young people to community services. Additional information is needed regarding how this work is helping young people and families access timely and appropriate services.

Report Name: ***Calling for Change 2023-2024: Investigative Reviews Consolidated Report***
Released: November 2024
Recommendation 4
The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction should publicly post mental health and addiction service options available to children and youth along with their wait time.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
22	Mental Health and Addiction	Ongoing (Significant Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to improve public access to information about mental health and addiction services for children and youth. Through the Addiction Bed Exploration Dashboard and enhancements to 211 Alberta, families, service providers, and system navigators can see available services and treatment capacity. Wait-time information is also needed to provide a more complete picture of service availability and support informed decision-making.

Report Name: ***Calling for Change 2023-2024: Investigative Reviews Consolidated Report***
Released: November 2024
Recommendation 5
The Ministry of Children and Family Services should review and revise the supports provided under the Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP).

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
23	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to gather feedback from Transition to Adulthood Program recipients. Additional information is needed regarding how this is informing revisions, including consideration of age eligibility, barriers to accessing or re-entering supports, and continuity of relationships with practitioners. It is also unclear how the ministry is obtaining input from young people who are no longer connected to the services, including those whose files have closed or who have attempted to re-enter the program.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 1
The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services should publicly release their plan to address the challenges that were identified by families in the 2021 report on the Family Support for Children with Disabilities program review engagement.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
24	Assisted Living and Social Services	Ongoing (Significant Progress)	The Advocate acknowledges the actions undertaken to address challenges identified by families through the 2021 Family Supports for Children with Disabilities Review. While these represent significant progress, a public action plan would provide greater transparency about how those issues are being addressed.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 2
The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services should provide families involved with the Family Support for Children with Disabilities program direct services when they require urgent supports, including access to a continuum of services from in-home support to emergency out-of-home living arrangements.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
25	Assisted Living and Social Services	Ongoing (No Progress)	The Advocate is concerned that no action has been taken to provide families with access to urgent supports when needed. Timely access to these supports is critical to helping families safely care for their children during times of crisis and reducing the need for more disruptive interventions.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 3
The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services should increase the availability of out-of-home living arrangements provided by the Family Support for Children with Disabilities program.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
26	Assisted Living and Social Services	Ongoing (No Progress)	The Advocate is concerned that families are not getting the support they need to care for their children with disabilities. Young people with disabilities and their families require access to out-of-home living arrangements that provide appropriate care and support while maintaining parental decision-making and guardianship.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 4
The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services should accept and action the Persons with Developmental Disabilities steering committee's 2021 recommendation about increasing eligibility.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
27	Assisted Living and Social Services	Closed (No Progress)	The Advocate is disappointed that no action has been taken to adjust the IQ threshold used to determine eligibility for Persons with Developmental Disabilities services, despite concerns that the current criteria may limit access to supports for some young people with developmental disabilities.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 5
The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services should accept and action the Persons with Developmental Disabilities steering committee's 2021 recommendation about alternative home living supports.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
28	Assisted Living and Social Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate acknowledges that some actions have been taken however it is not clear how these align with or advance the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Steering Committee's 2021 recommendations regarding alternative living arrangements.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 6
The Ministry of Children and Family Services should partner with external disability experts and young people to review and identify actions to meet the needs of young people with disabilities in placements.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
29	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate acknowledges that some actions were undertaken related to young people with disabilities in out of home placements; however, it is not clear what actions were identified to meet their needs or how young people and disability experts were involved in this work.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 7
The Ministry of Children and Family Services should partner with external disability experts and young people to complete a review and identify actions to meet the needs of young people with disabilities involved with the Supports for Permanency program.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
30	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (No Progress)	The Advocate is concerned that the ministry has not yet partnered with external disability experts and young people to complete a review of the Supports for Permanency program and identify actions to better meet the needs of children and youth with disabilities. While the ministry has undertaken some internal preliminary planning, there is no indication that these perspectives have been incorporated into this work.

Report Name: ***Beyond Barriers: Young People with Disabilities in the Child Intervention and Youth Justice Systems***
Released: January 2024
Recommendation 8
The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services should partner with external disability experts and young people to complete a review and identify actions to improve supports for young people with disabilities involved in the youth justice system

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
31	Justice	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate is concerned that the ministry's position has changed and that it no longer identifies a role for itself in implementing this recommendation. Young people with disabilities continue to be involved in court proceedings and other aspects of the justice system and may require accommodations and supports to participate fully. The Advocate remains of the view that the ministry has an important role in meeting their needs and should build on the work previously undertaken.
32	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the continued progress on this recommendation, with further steps being taken to prepare for the review, and looks forward to the meaningful involvement of young people and disability experts in this work.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: April 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022***
Released: March 2023
Recommendation 1
The Ministry of Children's Services should examine the connections for each Indigenous child in the care of the Director, and identify tailored actions that build and strengthen connections with their family, community, and culture.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
33	Children and Family Services	Closed (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates that the ministry completed a review and identified actions to strengthen Indigenous children's connections to family, community, and culture. However, the Advocate is deeply concerned that this work was undertaken without the involvement of Indigenous young people and the Indigenous communities connected to them. These perspectives are essential to understanding, evaluating, and strengthening a young person's connections to family, community and culture.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: April 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022***
Released: March 2023
Recommendation 2
The Ministry of Children's Services should publicly report on summary findings from their examination of all Indigenous children and their unique connections to their families, communities, and cultures within 12 months and provide ongoing annual updates.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
34	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates work undertaken toward publicly sharing results and findings related to the connection of Indigenous young people to their family, community and culture and is looking forward to when that reporting is implemented.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: April 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021***
Released: March 2022
Recommendation 1
The Ministries of Health, Education, and Community and Social Services should develop a process to coordinate seamless service delivery for young people with intellectual and behavioural challenges and their families.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
35	Assisted Living and Social Services, Education and Childcare, and Mental Health and Addiction Services	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the continued expansion of services and strengthened collaboration between ministries to improve coordination for young people with intellectual and behavioral challenges and their families. The development of cross-ministry processes and integrated initiatives has strengthened access across systems.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: October 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021***
Released: September 2021
Cindi and Brooklyn: Recommendation 1
The Ministries of Children's Services and of Justice and Solicitor General should develop a protocol that requires Child Intervention Services be informed prior to the release of an individual who has been incarcerated for family violence where the family was involved with Child Intervention Services.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
36	Children and Family Services and Public Safety and Emergency Services	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministries have implemented a notification process to support the safety of young people and their families when an individual incarcerated for family violence is being released.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: October 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021***
Released: September 2021
Cindi and Brooklyn: Recommendation 2
The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General should reassess the risk offenders pose and offer to safety plan with victims of family violence when offenders are released from incarceration.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
37	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate acknowledges the work that has been done to address victim safety through offender risk review processes. However, it is unclear whether victims of family violence are consistently offered safety planning when offenders are released from custody.

Report Name: ***Strengthening Foundations: Assessment, Information-Sharing, and Collaboration***
Released: September 2021
Recommendation 1
The Ministries of Children's Services, Health, Education, Justice and Solicitor General, and Community and Social Services should review and adjust their quality assurance processes to include both qualitative and quantitative measures that regularly evaluate service delivery within their systems.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
38	Children and Family Services	Closed (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the commitment to incorporating qualitative and quantitative measures into the ministry's quality assurance processes. However, the Advocate remains concerned that no new information has been provided about how feedback from young people is incorporated or how evaluation findings inform service improvements and are reported publicly.
39	Public Safety and Emergency Services	Ongoing (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to evaluate and improve services through the use of qualitative and quantitative measures. However, more information is needed regarding how young people's feedback is used to improve services and how findings are publicly reported.

Report Name: ***Strengthening Foundations: Assessment, Information-Sharing, and Collaboration***
Released: September 2021
Recommendation 2
The Ministries of Children's Services, Health, Education, Justice and Solicitor General, and Community and Social Services should collaborate and coordinate with Service Alberta to regularly communicate where to access reference and training materials to those responsible for providing services under the *Children First Act*. Furthermore, these ministries should offer service providers opportunities for ongoing, interactive, cross-systems training on the act.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
40	Assisted Living and Social Services	Closed (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to provide training related to the *Children First Act* to Assisted Living and Social Services staff and communicate its availability to service providers. However, the Advocate remains concerned that it has not demonstrated how this is ongoing, interactive, and cross-system, as envisioned by the recommendation.
41	Children and Family Services	Closed (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates the ministry's efforts to communicate information about the *Children First Act* within the ministry and to contracted service providers. However, the Advocate remains concerned that it has not demonstrated how training is ongoing, interactive, and cross-systems.
42	Education and Childcare	Closed (Significant Progress)	The Advocate appreciates that access to training and reference materials on the *Children First Act* has been provided, there is still not an expectation that all staff complete the training on an ongoing basis.

Report Name: ***Renewed Focus: A follow-up report on youth opioid use in Alberta***
Released: June 2021
Recommendation 1
The Government of Alberta, with leadership from the Ministry of Health, should establish a dedicated body such as a panel, committee, or commission to develop and support implementation of a youth opioid and substance use strategy.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
43	Mental Health and Addiction Services	Closed (Significant Progress)	The Advocate acknowledges the significant actions taken to address opioid and substance use concerns. While these initiatives represent meaningful progress, a youth-specific strategy would have recognized that young people are at a distinct stage of development and require a coordinated approach that reflects their unique needs. It would also have helped identify potential gaps, establish priorities, and guide age-appropriate responses.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: October 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020***
Released: September 2020
Cora & Elliot: Recommendation 1
The Ministry of Community and Social Services should strengthen its capacity to promote collaborative practice between community-based agencies to address the needs of vulnerable young people in the context of their families and communities.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
44	Assisted Living and Social Services	Closed (Some Progress)	The Advocate appreciates that some progress has been made to promote collaboration at a broader systems level, however more work is needed to support collaboration at the service delivery level for children and families.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: April 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019***
Released: March 2020
Penny: Recommendation 1
The Ministry of Community and Social Services should ensure that the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program pays for services upfront and provides key workers, who help with accessing resources and supports, to families facing financial and social barriers.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
45	Assisted Living and Social Services	Closed (Met)	The Advocate is pleased to see the ministry's efforts to reduce financial barriers for families accessing Family Support for Children with Disabilities services by formalizing the availability of alternative payment arrangements and training staff on these policy changes. The Advocate looks forward to seeing how this supports timely access to services for families.

Report Name: ***Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths: April 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018***
Released: June 2019
Andy: Recommendation 1
Child Intervention Services should include young people, who are living in a foster home, in the annual foster home assessment process.

	Ministry	Evaluation	Comments
46	Children and Family Services	Ongoing (Significant Progress)	The Advocate is concerned that the updated caregiver assessment has not yet been implemented, despite this recommendation being made in 2019. As a result, the voices of all young people living in foster homes are not yet consistently reflected in the annual review. The Advocate is hopeful these changes will be implemented soon.









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