

NORTHWEST INTER-NATION  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES SOCIETY

# Family Group Conference



**Family Group Conferences** are meetings between your family, friends, community, the Ministry of Children and Family Development & NIFCS



## How do I get a referral to a Family Group Conference?

If you (the parent) and the Social Worker agree to take part in a Family Group Conference, the Social Worker will fill out a referral and forward it to the NIFCS FGC Coordinator.

### More Questions?

Contact the **FGC Coordinator** at the Northwest Inter-Nation Family and Community Services Society

371 - 309 2nd Avenue West  
**Prince Rupert**, BC V8J 3T1  
(250) 622-2514

4562 Queensway Drive,  
**Terrace**, BC V8G 3X6  
(250) 638-0451

## What happens after we make a plan to keep your child(ren) safe?

- The coordinator will write up the plan immediately after the conference.
- Utilize the plan to work together, amending it as circumstances change.

## Family Group Conferences can happen when...

- A child protection report has been made, your child is in care or is at risk of coming into care
- You or your family wish to develop a plan to keep your child(ren) safe
- A child or youth needs to be reconnected to their family
- Permanency planning for a child in care

## Mission Statement

*To provide community based and community driven child and family care services that protect and preserve the unique cultural identity of every child and family in the bands we serve.*

## Vision Statement

*Healthy children & families*

## What's the purpose of the Family Group Conference (FGC)?

The meeting is a way for your family to make plans with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and NIFCS to make a plan for your child(ren) that will:

- Protect your child(ren) from harm
- Serve the best interests of your child
- Respect the wishes, needs and roles of your family
- Respect your child's/family's culture and community

## Who is included in Family?

"Family" includes all those who are important to your child:

- Parents,
- Child(ren)
- Extended family
- Close family friends

## Who will arrange the meeting?

**The Coordinator's role** is to organize and facilitate the Family Group Conference. He/She will not be acting in the role of the child protection worker.

The Coordinator will want to speak with you, your children, extended family and any involved supports or professionals to orient and prepare them for the Family Group Conference, and explain their roles.

**Before the meeting** they will:

- Identify all family members
- Make a family tree
- Invite support people to attend the meeting to help express your views and wishes
- Make contact to prepare everyone who is invited to the conference
- Assist family members to either attend or have their views heard another way

The coordinator will set a date, time and location to accommodate all

**During the FGC** the coordinator will work with family members to:

- Ensure that everyone is respected
- Ensure that everyone feels safe
- Ensure that everyone's voice is heard

## What happens at a Family Group Conference?

### 1. Introductions

- Confidentiality and FGC guidelines

### 2. Information Sharing

The coordinator will ensure the following information is provided

- The MCFD presents their concerns
- The MCFD presents a plan to support the family and child
- Discuss what has been working well

### 3. Private Family Time

Family may choose to invite MCFD or NIFCS staff to remain during family time. Family members will take time to discuss a plan that will keep their child(ren) safe.

### 4. Presentation of the Plan

Family members will present the plan and provide clarification for the social worker(s), as needed.

