

## Family Law Act Modernization Dialogue Sessions – Invitation to Indigenous Peoples

B.C.'s Ministry of Attorney General (the Ministry) is pleased to invite Indigenous Peoples with lived experience in topics related to families to participate in an upcoming regional dialogue session on the modernization of the Family Law Act. The topics of the discussion will be:

- Parents' and guardians' responsibilities for making decisions about a child and spending time with a child
- Protection from family violence
- Parenting assessments and reports on the needs and views of a child

### More About the Dialogue Sessions and the Family Law Act Modernization

These sessions are an early step in efforts to make the Family Law Act work better for Indigenous Peoples. By hearing individual and collective stories and perspectives, the Ministry hopes that these sessions will help to identify issues and improve understanding about the ways in which families and communities are addressing family matters within, but also outside of, the current system.

We recognize the personal nature of the subject matter. Sessions will be facilitated, with steps taken to create a safe and respectful environment and will be led by Indigenous Facilitators. Sessions will be limited to small groups of individuals with lived experience.

### Session Dates and Locations

The Ministry is working with Mahihkan Management to facilitate 2-day, in person dialogue sessions on the following dates and locations.

Locations	Date	Times
Nanaimo	<b>May 24 &amp; 25, 2023</b>	8:30am-4:00pm daily
Vancouver	<b>June 12 &amp; 13, 2023</b>	8:30am-4:00pm daily
Prince George	<b>June 15 &amp; 16, 2023</b>	8:30am-4:00pm daily
Kamloops	<b>June 27 &amp; 28, 2023</b>	8:30am-4:00pm daily

## How to Register

**REGISTER NOW**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-law-act-modernization-dialogue-sessions-tickets-619279139577>

Those with lived experience can register via the link included above.

## Who Should Attend?

Indigenous community members with lived experience relating to parents' and guardians' responsibilities making decisions about and spending time with a child, protection from family violence, and parenting assessments and reports on the needs and views of a child are welcome to attend.

These sessions will provide an opportunity to share experiences and discuss questions about parenting and caring for a child when the child's parents are not together, including how to involve the child's views in decision making. The sessions will also include discussion about family violence and protection orders.

We are aware of the ongoing engagement with Indigenous Peoples on the Child Family and Community Services Act about child protection. That is not the subject of these dialogue sessions, however we understand there may well be many linkages with that subject and community members' lived experiences and perspectives on the family law topics that will be discussed in these sessions.

## Participant Funding and Travel Reimbursement

Individuals are encouraged to attend a session in their region.

The Ministry is providing meals, participant funding of up to \$200 for a two-day session, and reimbursement for travel expenses.

A preferred accommodation rate has been arranged in each host location. A booking link, and details around travel reimbursement rates will be provided to participants upon registering.

**We kindly ask that only those with lived experience in the topics outlined above attend these sessions.**

## Questions

If you have any questions or would like to connect about the upcoming dialogue sessions please contact Niki Etherington at [events4@mahihkan.ca](mailto:events4@mahihkan.ca).

Thank you,  
Mahihkan Management  
on behalf of B.C.'s Ministry of Attorney General

