



SHORT-CHANGED: ENSURING FEDERAL BENEFITS PAID TO THE PROVINCE REACH CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

WHAT WE EXAMINED

How the provincial government unjustly kept benefits meant for caregivers

THE TAYLOR FAMILY



Grandparents became permanent guardians of granddaughter Jesse in 2013, avoiding need for ministry care.

- guardianship under Section 54.01 of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*

ABOUT JESSE



Indigenous heritage, living with disabilities. Two years old when grandparents started caring for her.



Monthly assistance provided by MCFD under Post Transfer of Custody Assistance Agreement:

\$1,010.98 per month



Federal Child Disability Benefit (CDB) for Jesse that the Taylors **DIDN'T** receive:

currently **\$242.19** per month

This money went to provincial general revenues.

2019 Ministry tells Taylors it doesn't disagree that the Taylors inability to access the benefit is problematic. Tells Taylors this is a "high priority" item for the ministry but says "it will require appropriate consultation, reviews and approvals prior to being enacted."

Over two years **\$7,000** intended for Jesse's care was directed to general revenues.

OMBUDSPERSON RECOMMENDATIONS - ALL ACCEPTED BY MCFD

1 MCFD provide ongoing funding equivalent to CDB to all eligible caregivers.

2 MCFD make retroactive payments to caregivers in similar situation as the Taylors.

3 MCFD assist, including by way of financial assistance, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies that have been using the same funding practices for caregivers.

4 MCFD report to Ombudsperson on progress in addressing inequity resulting from federal and provincial benefit interaction.