

January 17, 2018  
D/BU #86/2017-2018



## Child and Family Services Act Changes Effective January 1, 2018

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Harvey Bischof, President

### For Information

On January 1, 2018, part of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* was proclaimed:

- Raising the age of protection from 16 to 18 to increase protection services for more vulnerable youth in unsafe living conditions, to support their education and to reduce homelessness and human trafficking.

The duty that all members have to report suspicions that a child is in need of protection applies only in respect of children younger than 16. However, a person may now make a report in respect of a child who is 16 or 17.

The remainder of the Act is expected to be proclaimed in the spring of 2018. These changes include:

- Making services more inclusive and culturally appropriate for all children and youth, including Indigenous and Black children and youth, to ensure every child receives the best possible support.
- Putting a greater focus on early intervention to help prevent children and families from reaching crisis situations at home.
- Improving accountability and oversight of service providers, including children's aid societies and licensed residential service providers, so that children and youth receive safe, consistent, and high-quality services across the province.
- Increasing the penalty from \$1,000 to up to \$5,000 for anyone found not to have fulfilled the Duty to Report.

Member resources, including *Your Duty to Report* and *Guidelines for Members - Children's Aid Societies & OSSTF/FEESO Members* are being updated to reflect the changes and will be released once the remainder of the Act is proclaimed.

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