



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

May 6, 2008

BC's Auditor General concludes Aboriginal child protection needs remain unmet

VICTORIA - In a report released today titled *Management of Aboriginal Child Protection Services*, Auditor General John Doyle concluded that many of the child protection needs of Aboriginal children and their families remain unmet. He noted the progress government has made in improving collaboration amongst Aboriginal organizations, the federal government and between BC ministries. "But more collaboration and a more strategic approach is needed if Aboriginal child protection goals in BC are to be met," Doyle noted.

In 2006/07 alone, over 4,600 children of the roughly one million children in British Columbia were found to be in need of protection. While Aboriginal children account for only 8% of children in the province, they make up 51% of children in the legal care of the province, a proportion that is higher than the national average of 30-40%.

Doyle reported that the actual cost of implementing government's Aboriginal child protection service approach is still unknown. "The ministry has not identified the needs and resources required for Aboriginal child protection services," he said, "and it does not publicly report on how well these services are being delivered."

The report contains ten recommendations for the Ministry of Children and Family Development to improve child protection service delivery for Aboriginal children in British Columbia.

Also today, the Auditor General of Canada issued a report on the management of child welfare services for First Nations children and families (available at www.oag-bvg.gc.ca). The two audits were performed concurrently in order to present a broader picture.

- 30 -

2008/09 Report #3 – Management of Aboriginal Child Protection Services

For further information, please contact:

Office of the Auditor General, 8 Bastion Square, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Tel: 250 387-6803 or Toll free *Enquiry BC* at 1 800 663-7867 (in Vancouver 604 660-2421)
A copy of the full report is available on our website at: <http://bcauditor.com>