

Child and Youth Guardianship Services

2019–2020 Report



Values

Seven major values underpin the work of the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) and are reflected in all aspects of PGT performance:



Client Centred Service

We constantly strive to provide quality customer service to our clients.



Teamwork

We work with one another and with service partners in striving for seamless service delivery.



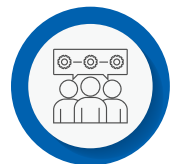
Innovation

We challenge ourselves to seek new and improved ways to deliver service and assist clients.



Staff support

We acknowledge staff as our greatest resource and recognize and appreciate their expertise, professionalism and commitment.



Openness

We demonstrate responsibility and transparency to clients, government and the public through annual statutory public reporting on all aspects of our performance.



Integrity

We act in accordance with the highest ethical, legal and personal standards.



Respect

We treat clients, their family and friends in a courteous, respectful manner.



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Message from the Public Guardian and Trustee

I am pleased to issue this annual Child and Youth Guardianship Services Report about the work carried out by the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) on behalf of British Columbia's children and youth in care.

Under provincial law, the PGT serves as property guardian for children and youth who are in continuing care, undergoing adoption or who have no legal guardian. In this role the PGT protects a child's legal interests, secures financial benefits to which a child may be entitled and serves as trustee of a child's property. The PGT's purpose as property guardian is to fill the gap created when children and youth, who are unable for a variety of reasons to be supported by their parents or guardians, are left without a person with required legal authority to represent their interests in legal and financial matters. As property guardian, the PGT strives to build the potential for these children and youth to have positive future lives. Over time, the PGT's work as property guardian is resulting in a growing number of youth leaving care with financial resources of their own to support their aspirations as young adults.

For each child and youth in continuing care, the PGT shares guardianship responsibilities with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Services Agencies (DAAs) who are guardians of the person of these children. As part of their duties, MCFD and the DAAs provide the PGT with initial reportable circumstance reports concerning children in care who have suffered injury or been involved in a serious incident. Reviewing and responding as appropriate to these reports is a key duty of the PGT. In 2019–2020 the PGT received and reviewed 1,485 reports involving 689 children and youth and took legal action where deemed appropriate to seek legal redress for injury or losses suffered by these children.

In 2019–2020, the PGT's Child and Youth Services legal team opened approximately 300 legal files on behalf of our property guardian clients covering a wide range of matters from wills and estates to personal injury including sexual assault. In the 10 year period between 2010–2011 and 2019–2020, the PGT has recovered approximately \$80 million through legal action taken on behalf of property guardian clients including almost \$27 million in 2019–2020.

Through efforts to secure financial benefits and entitlements for property guardian clients, the PGT collected over \$616,000 in 2019–2020 consisting of various federal, provincial, Indigenous and private pension plan benefits and insurance proceeds. The PGT also makes it a priority to establish a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for each eligible property guardian client. A RDSP can provide long term financial security to persons living with a disability. In 2019–2020, the PGT administered 692 RDSPs valued at approximately \$8.3 million in trust for our property guardianship clients.

The PGT recognizes that the work we do as property guardian brings with it the responsibility to provide reasonable transition support to youth leaving care, so that as our young clients reach the age of majority, they will have received financial wellness skills training to enable them to begin to manage their own financial affairs. Our transition planning begins years before a youth leaves care and involves an assessment of ongoing legal and financial management needs and identification of potential resources available to support those needs. Our staff provide financial wellness training to equip youth with basic money management skills and through a new program, the PGT is able to offer youth who have assets in trust the option of having the PGT continue to serve as trustee until the youth reaches the age of 27 years.

The PGT is committed to providing culturally sensitive and appropriate services to our property guardian clients, the majority of whom are First Nations, Inuit or Metis. In the past year we introduced a PGT specific truth and reconciliation strategy with concrete and measurable actions designed to support learning about Indigenous peoples' histories, languages and cultural practices and to develop competencies relevant to serving Indigenous clients which will inform our practice. We look forward to reporting on our progress with this work in future reports.

The coming year will bring many opportunities to serve the children and youth in care who are our property guardian clients and we look forward to continuing to build our capacity to do this important work.

Catherine M. Romanko
Public Guardian and Trustee

Child Protection and Guardianship

The delivery of child protection and guardianship services in BC involves the following public agencies, government bodies and courts. While all share the common goal of supporting children at risk, each has a unique role.

Public Guardian and Trustee

As property guardian, the PGT protects the legal and financial interests of children and youth in continuing care and is co-guardian with the MCFD and DAAs of these children.

Ministry of Children and Family Development

As personal guardian, MCFD takes children at risk into care and ensures their day to day needs are met and is co-guardian with the PGT for children and youth in continuing care.

Delegated Aboriginal Child and Family Service Agencies

With statutory delegated authority for child protective services for Indigenous children and youth at risk as well as non statutory voluntary services, some DAAs have personal guardian responsibilities and are co-guardian with the PGT for children and youth in continuing care.

Supreme Court of British Columbia

With respect to matters of property guardianship, the Supreme Court may hear matters of custody, property interests and claims for damages for personal injury.

Provincial Court of British Columbia

With respect to matters of property guardianship, the Provincial Court grants child protection orders including continuing custody orders, may order transfer of guardianship, and adjudicates small claims involving personal injury.

Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth

This committee is established by the BC Legislature to provide legislative oversight on provincial services to children.

Representative for Children and Youth (RCY)

The Representative is responsible for supporting children, youth, young adults and their families in dealing with the child and youth serving system, for advocating for improvements to the system and for providing oversight of public bodies that deliver services and programs to children and youth.

Children's Forum

The Children's Forum is an information sharing forum for BC senior officials with an interest in child protection and related services and includes the PGT, MCFD, RCY, Chief Coroner, Provincial Health Officer and Ombudsperson.



PGT Overview

The PGT is a corporation sole established under the *Public Guardian and Trustee Act* with a unique statutory role to protect the interests of British Columbians who lack legal capacity to protect their own interests.

The mandate of the PGT is to:



Protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years



Protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who require assistance in decision making



Administer the estates of deceased and missing persons

The PGT provided services with **269** full-time equivalent employee positions and served **26,542** clients throughout 2019–2020. It administered over **\$1.1 billion** of client trust assets during this period. The PGT funds a large percentage of its actual expenditures through fees charged on client income and assets under PGT administration. Supplementary government funding supports public services such as regulatory and oversight activities.

PGT Child and Youth Services

Through its **Child and Youth Services Division**, the PGT protects the legal and financial interests of children and youth under a number of provincial laws. Responsibilities can be grouped into the three broad service categories of property guardian, trustee and protective legal reviews.

Property Guardian

As property guardian, the PGT protects the legal and financial interests of children and youth in the continuing care of the province, those undergoing adoption, those without a legal guardian, and in some cases, children in temporary care.

Trustee

As trustee, the PGT invests and manages funds for children and youth from a number of different sources, including personal injury settlements or court awards, life insurance payments, inheritances where no other trustee is appointed and part



of the wages paid to child and youth actors. Funds are typically held in trust until the youth reach 19 years of age (age of majority in BC), but may be used earlier if it is in their best interest. PGT property guardian clients may voluntarily enter into an agreement with the PGT to hold and manage their funds after reaching the age of majority up until the age of 27.

Protective Legal Reviews

The PGT reviews all proposed settlements of claims for damages of children and youth for personal injury, a variation of a will or trust and claims made under the *Family Compensation Act* to ensure outcomes are in the best interests of the child or youth.

The most common claims reviewed by the PGT relate to motor vehicle accidents. The PGT also investigates concerns about trusts and estates in which children or youth may have an interest.

PGT guardianship duties and trustee duties respecting children and youth may overlap in some cases where, for example, a child or youth in continuing care is also the beneficiary of an estate. In such cases, the PGT is property guardian for the child or youth and also acts as trustee of the child or youth's interest in the estate.



Public Guardianship Services in BC

When children lose a parent or legal guardian and have no one to act as their guardian, the province assumes the duties of guardian. These children and youth are among the most vulnerable members of society.

BC law divides the duties of public guardianship into two parts:

Personal Guardianship

The duty to find safe homes for children and youth and to make decisions about their personal and health care needs. This role is performed by MCFD or DAAs.

Property Guardianship

The duty to look after the financial and legal interests of children and youth. This role is performed by the PGT.

Guardianship duties are divided because of the inherent conflict of interest between the duties of the personal and property guardians. In some cases, protecting the legal and financial interests of a child or youth may require taking legal action against the co-guardian in situations where co-guardian negligence may have caused injury or loss to a child or youth.





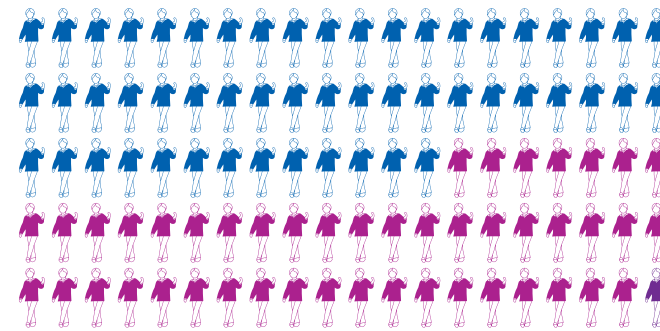
reviewed and referred to legal counsel if the information in the report indicates further investigation and possible legal action is required. The PGT refers to these reports as critical incident reports (CIRs).

PGT property guardianship services end by law when the child reaches 19 years of age, when the child is adopted, when guardianship of the child is transferred, when the child is returned to the parent(s) or when the child dies. In any of

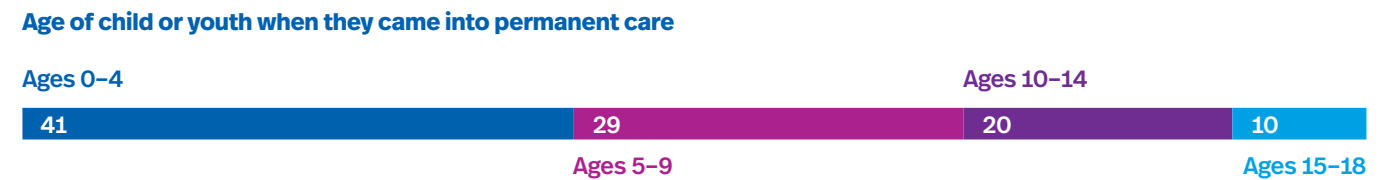
these circumstances, the PGT does a complete file review to ensure that all pertinent information is communicated and if needed, appropriate supports are in place for the child or youth with respect to the ongoing management of their finances and/or legal issues.

The following sections of this report describe the key activities and outcomes for the year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

If PGT property guardian clients were imagined as a village of 100 children¹, then there would be: **53 males, 46 females and 1 gender diverse**



PGT supports gender diversity. Our case management system now provides the ability to represent and track our clients who identify themselves as gender diverse or who identify themselves differently from the sex recorded on their birth certificate.



¹ All data in this report is derived from PGT sources except for information regarding children served by MCFD or DAAs, which is provided by MCFD. Data in this graphic is at March 31, 2020. All numbers in this report are rounded.

² This represents the number of former property guardian clients that the PGT is working with to transition legal and financial matters.

PGT Property Guardianship Services

The PGT is property guardian for all children and youth who are in the continuing care of the province under the child protection provisions of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, undergoing adoption, without a legal guardian or for whom the Court has ordered the PGT to be property guardian under a temporary custody order.

There are **43** PGT staff positions that provide all services to children and youth, including property guardianship services. Collaboratively, staff ensure that financial benefits to which individual child and youth clients are entitled are collected and viable legal claims are pursued. In order to carry out many of its property guardianship duties, the PGT must rely heavily on information it receives from MCFD and DAAs, particularly from social workers who have day to day interactions both with the children and youth for whom they are personal guardian as well as their caregivers.

There are numerous ways in which the PGT receives information from MCFD and DAAs about legal and financial

issues for children and youth. The information received may pertain to the current circumstances of the child or youth, but can also be information regarding past events.

Several communications processes are in place to facilitate information sharing between the PGT, MCFD and DAAs as co-guardians. MCFD forwards a monthly demographic report advising the PGT which children and youth are in continuing care. Once notified the PGT requests MCFD and DAAs to complete an initial information form about the legal or financial issues affecting the child or youth.

The PGT requests this information to be updated annually and also creates its own report describing the property guardianship services it has provided to the child or youth over the past year. These annual reviews support ongoing activities such as pursuing financial benefits, investigating potential legal claims and collaborating on transition services.

The PGT also receives copies of Initial Reportable Circumstance reports from MCFD and DAAs which are

Financial Services

The PGT pursues financial benefits and entitlements for property guardian clients. These efforts have resulted in growing financial assets for the children and youth served by the PGT as property guardian. At March 31, 2020, the PGT held approximately **\$49.2 million** in assets on behalf of these children and youth from a variety of sources.

Major categories of assets at March 31, 2020

Number of clients	Asset type	Total value of asset type
17	Holdings in investment accounts	\$31,158,443
945	Trust accounts with cash balances	\$9,749,304
692	Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP)	\$8,309,301
17		\$31,158,443
945		\$9,749,304
692		\$8,309,301

Note: These represent the three major categories of assets held by PGT for children and youth for whom the PGT acts as property guardian.

Types of funds held by the PGT at March 31, 2020

Source of funds	Total value of funds
Personal injury proceeds	\$33,620,030
Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP)	\$8,309,301
Canada Pension Plan (CPP) children's benefits	\$2,664,996
Family Compensation Act proceeds	\$1,606,183
Estate proceeds	\$1,392,776
Insurance proceeds	\$628,441
Others	\$995,321
Total	\$49,217,048

Note: This represents the types of funds and values of all funds held in trust by the PGT for children and youth for whom the PGT acts as property guardian.



If PGT property guardian clients were imagined as a village of 100 children, then **29** children would have financial assets



Registered Disability Savings Plans

A key area of focus for the PGT is to establish RDSPs for children and youth who have received a Disability Tax Credit (DTC) designation from the federal government. A RDSP is a tax deferred savings plan intended to provide significant long term financial benefits to adults and children or youth with disabilities. The PGT is committed to advancing the interests of its property guardian clients by collecting the federal funds associated with the RDSP program which take the form of matching grants, with a lifetime limit of \$70,000, and annual bonds, with a lifetime limit of \$20,000.

The PGT has made extensive efforts to open RDSPs for its eligible property guardian clients, resulting in **692** RDSPs worth approximately **\$8.3 million** at March 31, 2020. The value of the established RDSPs continues to grow as the PGT secures the annual \$1,000 bond for each eligible child or youth.

With support from the Vancouver Foundation, the Plan Institute administers the Endowment 150 (E150) Program to

assist individuals and families with low incomes save for their future by providing one time gifts of \$150 to help their RDSPs grow. The PGT applies for the E150 and deposits the \$150 gift to each child's RDSP. This attracts an additional \$450 in matching grants from the federal government, resulting in a further growth to RDSPs for children in continuing care.

Initiating and maintaining RDSP accounts and payment of bonds for children in care is a multistep process requiring the participation of social workers, doctors, the federal government and PGT RDSP service provider, the Bank of Montreal. The PGT works daily with social workers across the province to share information and facilitate RDSP set up, maintenance and transfers.

Beyond this ongoing work, a collaborative project with MCFD and DAAs was undertaken to develop a comprehensive DTC and RDSP training and information resource for front line social workers. As a result, in early 2020, the iConnect MCFD and DAA shared information system received a significant update to place essential DTC and RDSP information at the fingertips of social workers across the province.

A particular challenge for maintaining RDSPs is that even if a child is eligible for the DTC, they may need to be reassessed by a doctor at age 18 in order to maintain their DTC eligibility into adulthood. Having only twelve months remaining with the support of a social worker in an already uncertain point in their life, there is significant risk that a youth may lose this disability status and may be deterred by the process to have it reinstated. While the fee for the preparation of the DTC medical assessment by a physician is covered while a youth remains in care, it is no longer covered once they reach the age of majority.

In the past, losing the DTC carried the consequence of the closure of a child's RDSP and the return of all bonds to the federal government. The PGT is pleased that the Government of Canada proposed in its 2019 budget to drop the time limitation for an RDSP to remain open after its beneficiary becomes ineligible for the DTC, beginning in the 2021 tax year. This will allow more time for a young person to complete a medical reassessment. The Government of Canada has also implemented a transitional rule to allow banks to

maintain a disabled person's RDSP after March 18, 2019 and before 2021 even if the RDSP beneficiary becomes ineligible for the DTC. This means that existing bonds are no longer lost and RDSPs are no longer collapsed when tax returns are not completed. As a result, the PGT can now consider stopping the practice of filing tax returns for clients over the age of 19 while work is done to transition RDSP accounts to the young person or their representative. This will simplify RDSP transition work. Fortunately this also means that youth with an RDSP will no longer be prevented from filing their own taxes or directly receiving tax credits due to efforts to preserve their RDSPs.

Since Endowment 150 program establishment, the PGT has collected **\$136,500** in E150 grants for **910** children and youth in care.

Kyla's Story

All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.

Kyla is in continuing care and has a developmental disability which impacts her daily living and she uses a wheelchair.

The PGT is notified that Kyla qualified for DTC and is eligible for a **RDSP**.

The PGT tells Kyla's social worker that they will file Kyla's income taxes each year after she turns 16.

Kyla's RDSP receives a one-time grant along with annual bonds from the federal government each year, and this helps her RDSP grow.

Kyla's RDSP continues to earn interest.

Kyla turns 17.

The PGT begins to work with Kyla, her social worker, and other people supporting her, to develop her **RDSP transition plan**.

Kyla knows she will need some help managing her RDSP. The PGT gives Kyla information on her options. With help from her social worker and other trusted adults in her life, Kyla decides that a **representation agreement** is the best option.

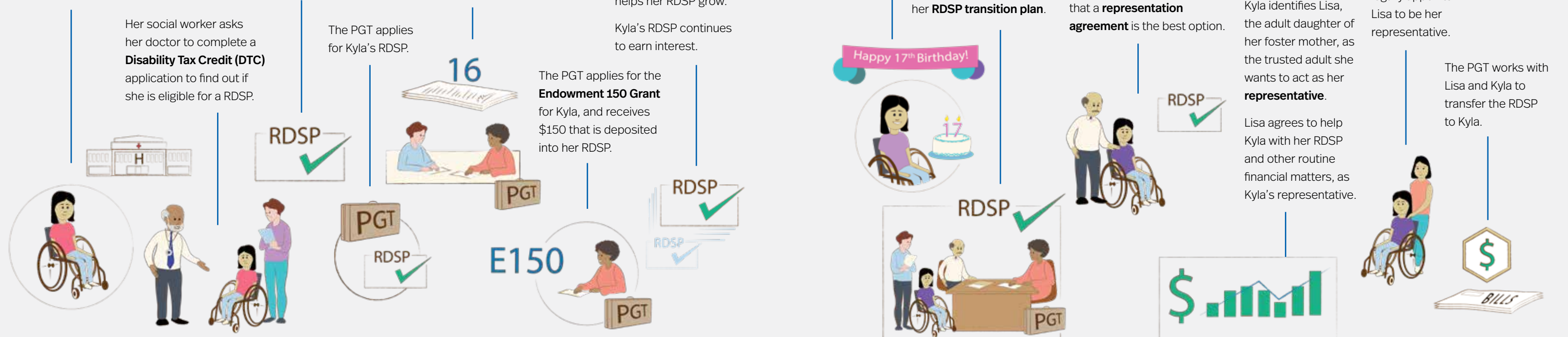
A representation agreement is a legal planning tool in BC for an adult to appoint another adult to assist with or to act on their behalf with health and personal care matters and/or routine financial affairs (including RDSPs).

Kyla identifies Lisa, the adult daughter of her foster mother, as the trusted adult she wants to act as her **representative**.

Lisa agrees to help Kyla with her RDSP and other routine financial matters, as Kyla's representative.

Kyla turns 19, and legally appoints Lisa to be her representative.

The PGT works with Lisa and Kyla to transfer the RDSP to Kyla.



Collecting financial benefits

The PGT pursued and collected over **\$616,000** in various financial entitlements and benefits on behalf of children and youth in 2019–2020. These can include death benefits, Indigenous benefits and various federal and provincial government benefits. Additional amounts were collected on behalf of children and youth in 2019–2020 as a result of the work of the PGT’s legal services group, bringing legal actions on behalf of children and youth, such as personal injury claims.

All funds collected by the PGT are held in trust accounts in the child’s name until the child or youth reaches age 19. While the PGT has statutory discretion to consider the release of funds for special opportunities which directly benefit the

As personal identification is a key element to securing financial benefits, the PGT applies for birth certificates for all children and youth in care and for their social insurance numbers, as required. In 2019–2020, PGT staff applied for **424** birth certificates from the BC Vital Statistics Agency.

child or youth, the primary responsibility for the child’s day to day needs and financial support remains with their personal guardians, MCFD and DAAs. As such, the majority of funds collected on behalf of children and youth in care is preserved until age 19.

Financial benefits collected 2019–2020

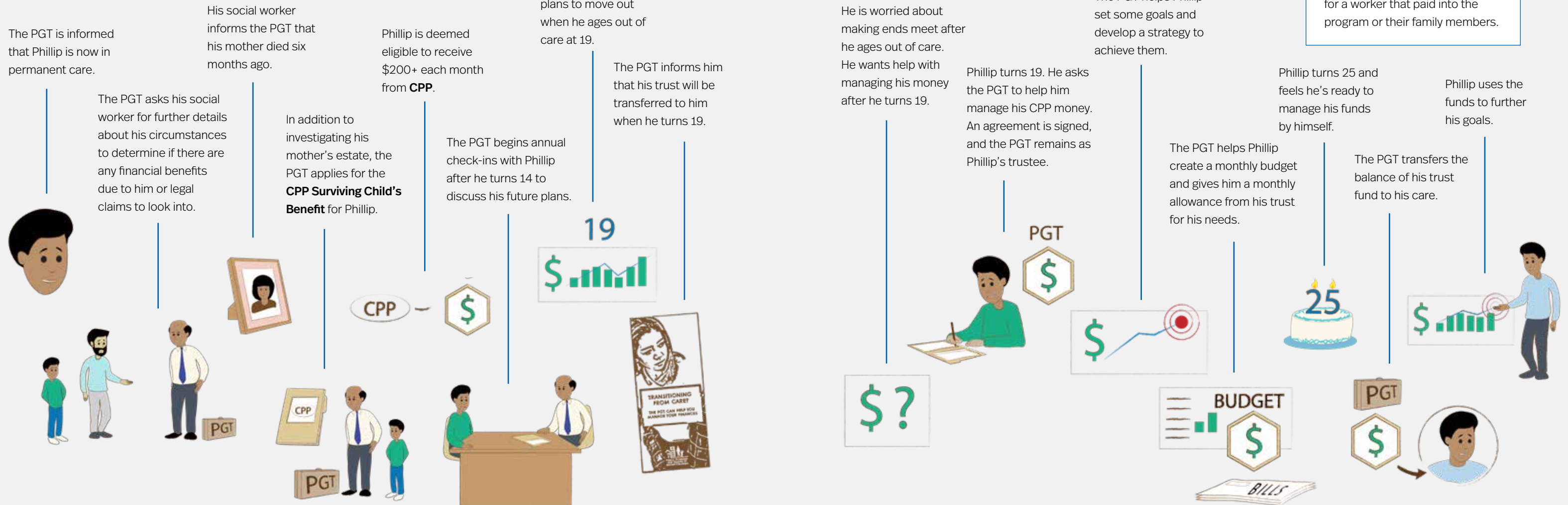
Benefit	Number of children	Amount
Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits	172	\$528,422
Indigenous band benefits	106	\$43,329
Endowment 150 gifts	158	\$23,700
Crime Victims Assistance Program benefits	7	\$21,000
Total	431³	\$616,451



³ The number of children in receipt of each benefit type is less than the total number of children receiving each benefit, as some children may receive more than one benefit type.

Phillip’s Story

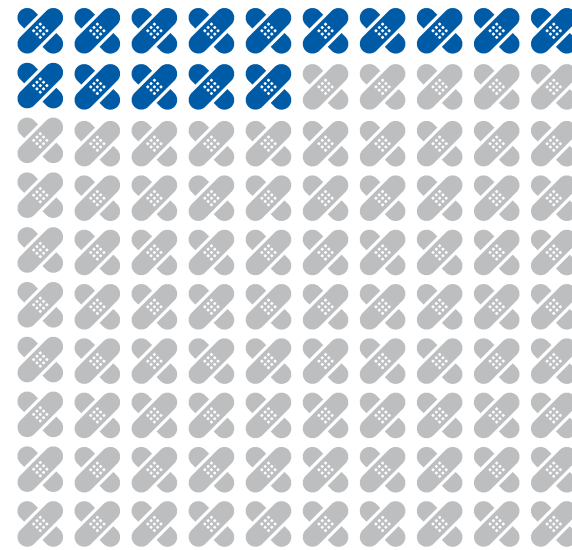
All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.



Critical Incident Reports

The PGT receives notification from MCFD and DAAs of critical injuries and serious incidents involving children and youth in continuing care either through critical incident reports (CIRs) or the annual update reports. The nature of the incidents described within the reports is varied, ranging from a child or youth leaving a foster home without permission, to a child being involved in a motor vehicle accident, or abused or harmed. These reports are investigated and may lead to a legal claim being pursued on behalf of a child who has suffered a loss. In 2019–2020, **1,485** CIRs were received by the PGT involving **689** children and youth. Some of the children and youth were the focus of more than one CIR during the year. PGT staff act quickly to review CIRs as immediate action may be required to preserve the right to advance a legal claim.

The PGT classifies the reported injury or harm according to categories adapted from the World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases. Where an injury was caused by a person who directly harmed a child or youth, the person is identified as an “alleged harmer,” and is classified according to categories adapted from the International Classification of External Causes of Injuries (see PGT Classification of Critical Incident Reports at the end of this report).



If PGT property guardian clients were imagined as a village of 100 children, then 15 children would have a critical incident report

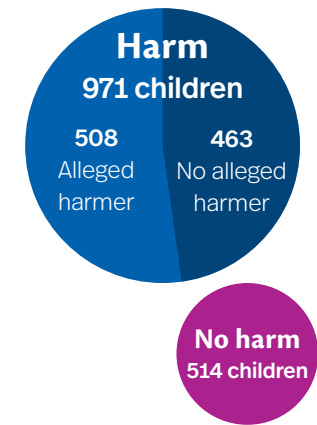
Number of CIRs 2019–2020

Number of CIRs received	Number of children
1	388
2	137
3	64
4	39
5+	61
Total	689

Age of child or youth on date of incident 2019–2020

Age on date of incident	Number of children
Ages 0–4	47
Ages 5–9	161
Ages 10–14	368
Ages 15–18	800
Age unknown	109
Total	1,485

Number of CIRs that reported harm or no harm to a child or youth 2019–2020



Note: “Unknown” is used when the exact date of the incident is unknown or when an incident occurred over a period of time.

Note: “No alleged harmer” indicates an accident or a self-inflicted injury. “No harm” refers to instances where there may be no specific or lasting harm to the child/youth related to a particular CIR.

Note: The “No harm” category includes a sub-category to track occurrences where a child or youth was absent or missing from their residence. In 2019–2020, there were 101 instances.

Luciana’s Story

All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.

Luciana’s Guardianship and Trust Officer (GTO) receives a critical incident report that Luciana was bitten by a dog while visiting their neighbour’s home.

The GTO asks Luciana’s social worker for additional information about the incident.

The GTO learns that Luciana was bitten on their face and needed stitches.

The GTO reviews the incident with PGT legal counsel.

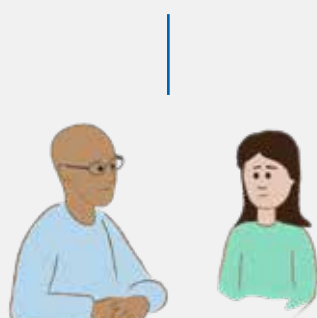
The lawyer opens a legal file to explore Luciana’s potential civil claim.

The lawyer collects Luciana’s medical and counselling reports which indicate that they may have some permanent facial scarring from the bite, and that they are now afraid of dogs.

The PGT retains outside counsel to advance Luciana’s personal injury claim.

The outside counsel is successful in obtaining funds for Luciana to compensate them for their lasting injury.

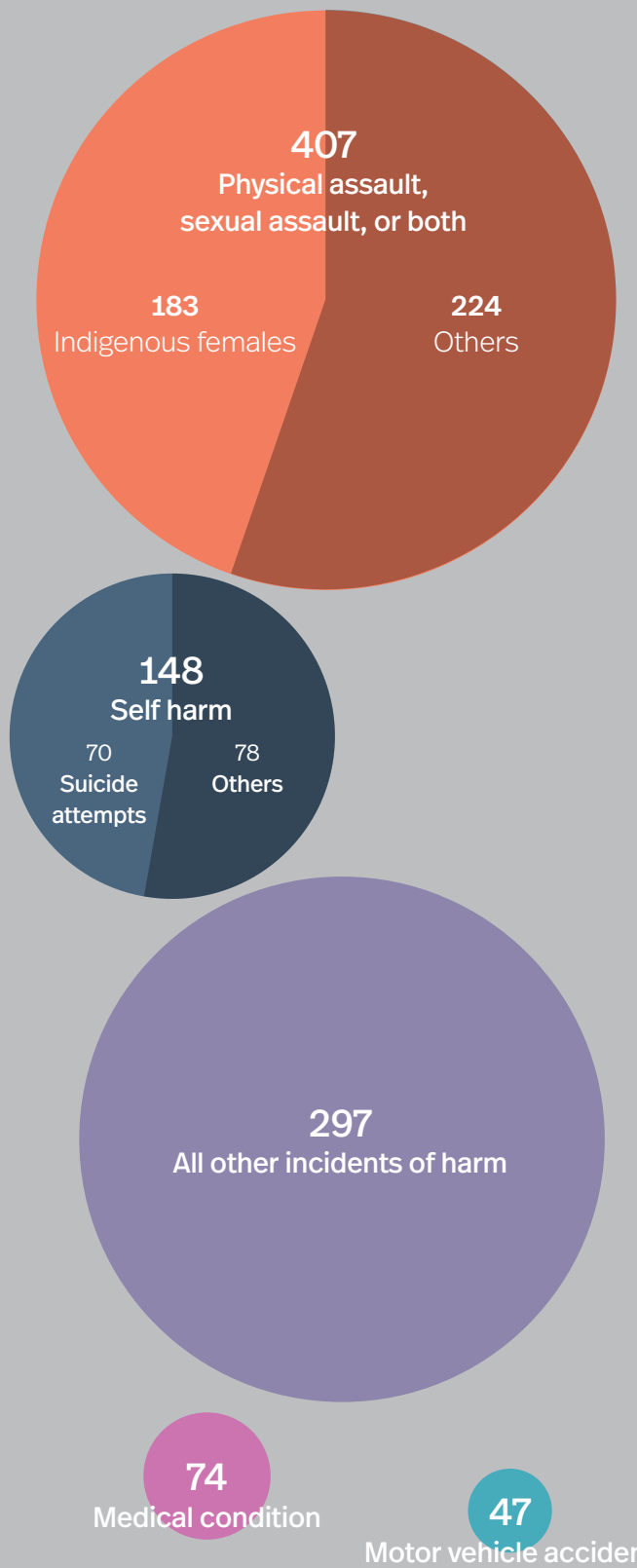
The PGT receives the funds and puts them into a trust account for Luciana until they turn 19.



1,485 Critical Incident Reports Received for 689 Children



971 Reported incidents of harm



Five major categories of harm experienced by children and youth

2019-2020		10 year annual average	
Physical assault	253	Physical assault	162
Other type of injury or harm to child	228	Other type of injury or harm to child	95
Sexual assault	151	Sexual assault	126
Self harm	148	Self harm	84
Medical condition	74	Medical condition	31

Note: Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) has historically been in the top 5 until 2019–2020. If it were represented in the 10 year annual average graph instead of the 31 incidents of medical conditions, it would show 58 incidents of MVA.

Note: The category "Other type of injury or harm to child" includes 96 incidents where a child or youth was hospitalized or treated due to drug or alcohol intoxication.

Note: The "Self harm" category describes incidents where the child or youth intentionally has caused self inflicted injury, including suicide attempts and death by suicide.

Age on date of suicide attempt 2019–2020

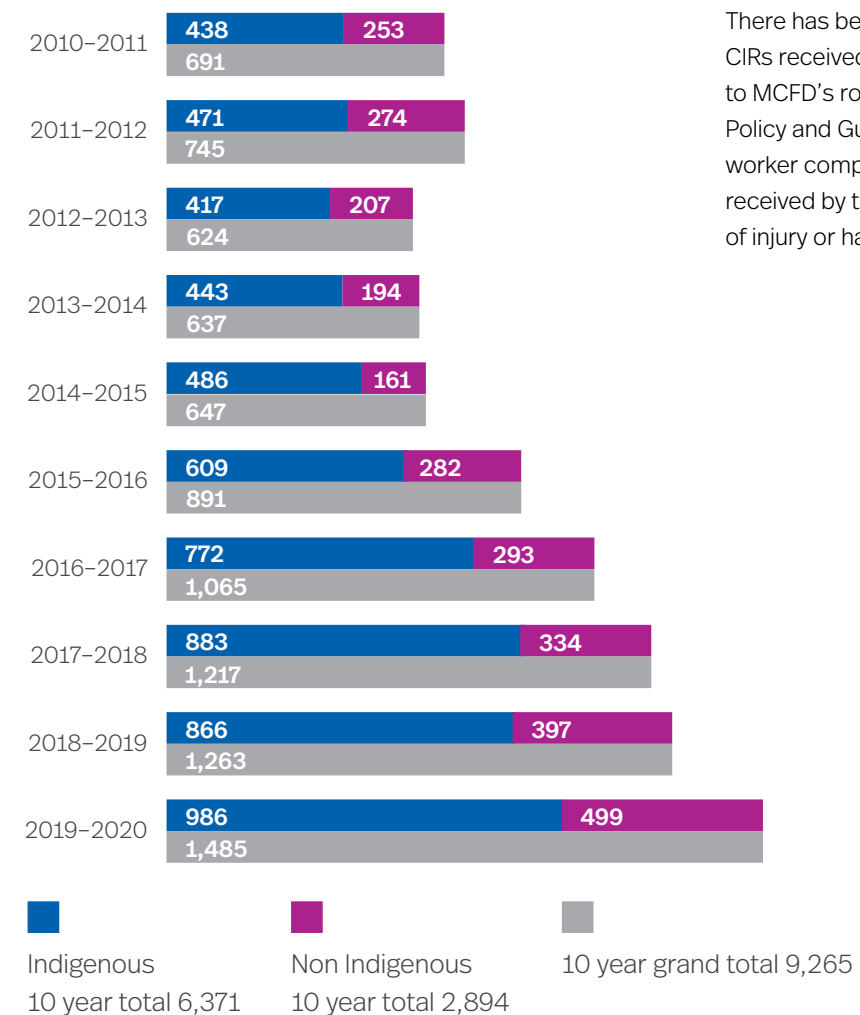
Number of children

Age on date of suicide attempt	Number of CIRs	Number of children
10	1	1
12	3	2
13	4	3
14	10	9
15	19	13
16	14	9
17	12	9
18	7	6
Total	70	48



Note: The total number of children shown represents individual children. Because of this, the total is less than the sum of the number of children as a child could have attempted suicide more than once at different ages.

Number of CIRs (2010–2020)



There has been a significant increase in the number of CIRs received by the PGT over the past 10 years, likely due to MCFD's roll out of updated Reportable Circumstance Policy and Guidelines on June 1, 2015 and improved social worker compliance with the reporting policy. Of **9,265** CIRs received by the PGT in the last 10 years, **65%** were reports of injury or harm to the child or youth.

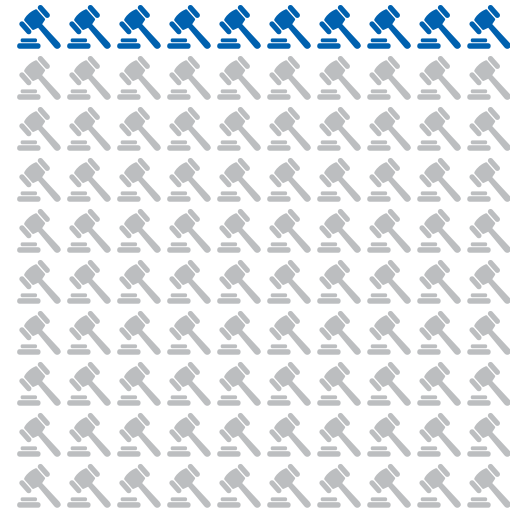


Legal Services

The PGT provides a wide range of legal services for children in care. These services include:

- Responding to applications to cancel a continuing custody order;
- Reviewing applications for grants of probate or administration where a child or youth in care may be entitled to a share of the estate and ensuring that share is protected;
- Investigating whether a child or youth has a viable claim under the *Family Compensation Act* in relation to the wrongful death of a parent; and
- Investigating incidents of injury or harm to a child or youth for which a third party may be liable and pursuing legal claims where appropriate.

Legal referrals related to personal injury arising from sexual assault are consistently the largest category of potential civil claims, comprising **33%** of legal referrals over the year. Of the legal files concluded over this period of time, the average amount of time to conclude the matter was **2.1 years**.



If PGT property guardian clients were imagined as a village of 100 children, then 10 were receiving PGT legal services

There are several outcomes to legal referrals. If a legal action has been commenced and is still ongoing when the youth reaches the age of majority, the action is transferred to the young adult to continue. If no legal action has been commenced, the young adult may be provided with a letter advising of their legal rights. Legal actions may be resolved by judgment or settlement of the claim prior to the child or youth reaching age 19. In other instances, matters are resolved

by legal counsel and funds are obtained for the child or youth and civil litigation is not required. Between 2010–2011 and 2019–2020, the PGT collected approximately **\$79.8 million⁴** from legal services carried out on behalf of children and youth in continuing care, including approximately **\$26.8 million** in 2019–2020.

⁴ Dollar amounts are gross values, before deductions for legal fees and PGT fees.

Types of legal work opened

2019–2020

Personal injury–sexual assault	101
Personal injury–non MVA	91
Personal injury–MVA	36
Guardianship minors	32
Wills and estates–other	18
Other legal file category	18
Family Compensation Act	5
Total	301



2010–2020

Personal injury–sexual assault	870
Personal injury–non MVA	612
Personal injury–MVA	404
Guardianship minors	225
Wills and estates–other	122
Other legal file category	277
Family Compensation Act	129
Total	2,639



Charles' Story

All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.

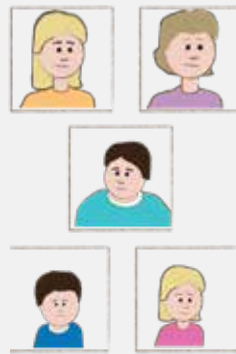
Charles comes into care when his mother can no longer care for him.



His father had died 2 years before, and left a share of the family home to each of his children.



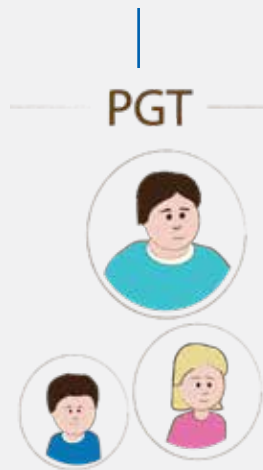
Charles has two younger siblings and two adult siblings.



The house is in poor condition, and its value is at risk.



The PGT becomes Charles' property guardian and takes steps to protect his share, and also acts on behalf of his younger siblings to protect theirs.



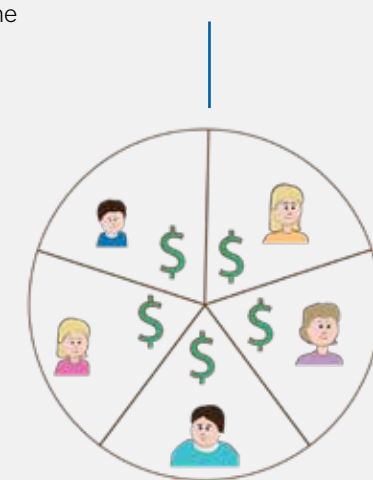
The PGT determines the value of the property and how much is owed to the children.



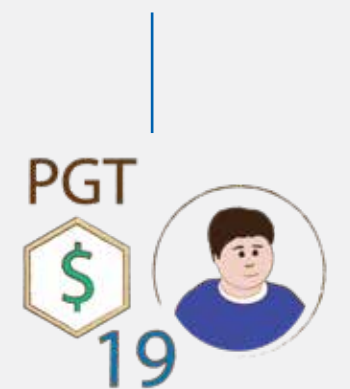
The PGT files court documents to have the home sold.



Charles and his little brother and sister are paid their fair share of the sale.



The PGT keeps Charles' inheritance safe until he turns 19.





Making wills for youth in care

The *Wills Estates and Succession Act* (WESA) came into effect on March 31, 2014 and modernized estate administration and the law of succession in British Columbia. WESA allows a person aged 16 and over to make a will if the person has testamentary capacity. Prior to WESA, a person had to have reached the age of majority to make a will.

This change allowing eligible young people to make wills can be of particular importance to children in continuing care, who may have assets in trust with the PGT or elsewhere and who may have specific wishes about who they want to receive their estate if they die. When a person dies in British Columbia without a will, WESA directs that the residue of the estate be distributed first to any spouse and children of the deceased, followed by parents if there are no surviving spouse or children and then to siblings if there are no surviving parents. If children have been removed from their parents' care and are in the care of the province, they may not wish for their estate to be distributed in this way for a variety of reasons.

As property guardian, the PGT remains committed to assisting clients who want to make a will. For any young person 16 years or older in the continuing care of the province who wishes to make a will, the PGT can support the youth by finding an estate lawyer in the young person's geographical area. The PGT considers making a will to be a key element of transition planning for youth who have assets in trust. The topic of making a will has been received with great interest by social workers and young people when raised during outreach sessions.

Amounts recovered from legal work

Fiscal year	Amount	Number of children
2010–2011	\$1,414,408	26
2011–2012	\$1,179,973	23
2012–2013	\$2,039,193	14
2013–2014	\$656,375	19
2014–2015	\$1,249,762	19
2015–2016	\$24,182,444	14
2016–2017	\$6,136,999	10
2017–2018	\$15,818,220	14
2018–2019	\$382,522	11
2019–2020	\$26,790,101	4
Total	\$79,849,997	154

Note: These amounts are typically held in trust.

Outcomes of legal work

2019–2020

Outcome	Number
Client assumed conduct of legal action or legal information letter provided post majority	58
Other	38
Information transferred to other property guardian	16
Legal action not pursued or child deceased prior to action being concluded	10
Settlement reached	4
Court award made	0
Transferred to other PGT Authority	0
Total	126



10 year annual average (2010–2020)

Outcome	Number
Client assumed conduct of legal action or legal information letter provided post majority	101
Other	32
Information transferred to other property guardian	14
Legal action not pursued or child deceased prior to action being concluded	46
Settlement reached	13
Court award made	2
Transferred to other PGT Authority	3
Total	211



ICBC changes

A key role of the PGT is to review all proposed settlements on behalf of all children injured in the province to ensure that the proposed settlement is reasonable in all circumstances. Many of these settlements are made on behalf of children in care. On April 1, 2019, changes to BC's vehicle insurance laws came into force for motor vehicle accidents that occurred on or after that date. The main areas of change include increases to no-fault accident benefits; a \$5,500 cap on compensation for pain and suffering for injuries defined as "minor injuries"; and the transfer of exclusive jurisdiction to BC's Civil Resolution Tribunal for all accident claims under \$50,000.

In response to these changes, the PGT conducted a detailed analysis to ensure our settlement review process was consistent with the new rules. The PGT also created three process maps to assist the public in understanding the new procedures and the role of the PGT.

MCFD class action

In 2018, the PGT learned that an MCFD employee hired as a social worker had through inappropriate means, diverted funds intended for the benefit of some children in care to his own use. Further investigation of the situation revealed a long-

term ongoing pattern involving many children for whom this individual had been assigned responsibility. Other wrongful or negligent actions by this individual had devastating and harmful impacts on the children he was expected to protect. Working closely with MCFD and the office of the RCY, the PGT also learned that the individual had neglected to carry out adequate permanency planning, or transition planning for youth in his care. Additionally, appropriate support services had not been put in place in many cases, all of which resulted in additional harm to the youth involved.

Regular ongoing stakeholder meetings with the PGT, RCY and MCFD were held to ensure that the service deficiencies were addressed for each affected child and youth still in the care of MCFD. The PGT hired counsel to review MCFD records relevant to these events to determine whether any of the impacted children and youth still in care had potential civil claims for damages. The young people remaining in care are now receiving appropriate services.

The PGT, as property guardian for many of the children and youth impacted by the actions of this individual, commenced litigation seeking class action certification to recover compensation for the impacted children and youth still in care for the damage and loss they experienced. As of March 31, 2020 settlement negotiations were ongoing.

Transition Services

If PGT property guardian clients were imagined as a village of 100 children, then:

Average duration of service for PGT property guardian clients

Indigenous: 6.1 years
Non Indigenous: 3.6 years
All: 5.2 years

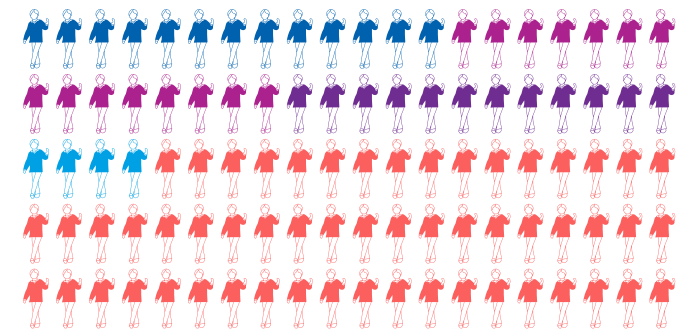
Note: This is the average duration from when PGT first provided service to March 31, 2020, or file closure. This excludes any clients over the age of 19 at March 31, 2020.

Reason for exiting care

Age of majority	54
Adoption order granted	36
Other reason	8
Transfer of guardianship	2

Note: "Other reason" includes where another guardian is appointed, or the client dies.

Age of child or youth when they leave care



0-4 years	13
5-9 years	15
10-14 years	12
15-18 years	4
19 and over	56

Note: "19 and over" represents the number of former property guardian clients that the PGT is working with to transition legal and financial matters.

Vikram's Story

All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.

Vikram's social worker notifies the PGT that his aunt and uncle wish to permanently assume his guardianship by applying for a transfer of custody order.

The PGT reviews his file to see if there are any legal or financial issues his aunt and uncle should be aware of.

The PGT sends Vikram's aunt and uncle a letter explaining the duties of property guardians and asks them to confirm that they accept these duties.

The PGT reviews Vikram's care plan for any current and future needs that might require funding, such as orthodontics, sports or tutoring.

Vikram enjoys hockey and struggles with math in school.

The PGT schedules a teleconference with Vikram's social worker and prospective guardians.

The family confirm that there is a financial plan in place for Vikram to continue to play hockey and receive tutoring for math, as well as extended health coverage for his future medical and dental needs.

The PGT discusses legal issues like inheritance law with Vikram's aunt and uncle, and their responsibility to ensure that Vikram's legal rights continue to be preserved.

The PGT confirms that Vikram's aunt and uncle understand property guardianship duties.

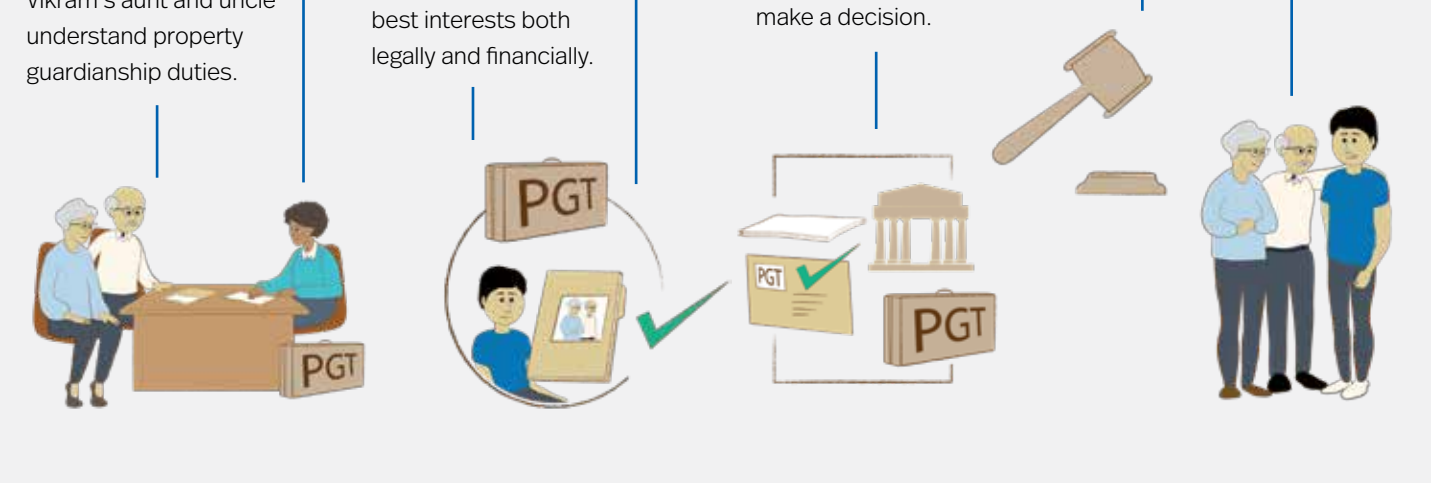
The PGT consents to the transfer of Vikram's guardianship to his aunt and uncle.

The PGT is satisfied that the guardianship transfer is in Vikram's best interests both legally and financially.

The PGT is served notice of the application for the transfer of custody order. The PGT's consent letter is included in the materials that will go to court for a judge to consider and make a decision.

The court orders Vikram's aunt and uncle as his new guardians.

Vikram now has a permanent family.



The PGT role as property guardian typically ends when a youth reaches 19 years of age, the age of majority in BC. Other events may end PGT authority prior to age 19 including adoption, a transfer of guardianship, the cancelling of a continuing custody order or the death of the child. On average, **44** children and youth transition out of care each month.

Transfer of guardianship

Transfer of guardianship, or “transfer of custody” to a new guardian under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, is a permanency option for children in the permanent or temporary care of MCFD or DAAs. Where the PGT is the child’s property guardian, the PGT is involved in the transfer of guardianship permanency planning process and must provide consent in order for the application to proceed to the Supreme Court of BC. Once a Court Order transferring

custody of a child has been made, a new guardian is in place and is responsible for protecting the personal, health care, legal and financial rights of the child. Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 the PGT reviewed and consented to **28** applications to transfer guardianship from MCFD or a DAA and the PGT to a prospective guardian. **18** of the children who achieved permanency through transfer of custody are Indigenous.

Transition planning and post majority trustee services

When the PGT acts as trustee for guardianship clients, significant planning is undertaken before youth reach age 19 to transition their funds at the age of majority in a safe and appropriate way. Abilities, vulnerability to financial abuse, personal preparedness, medical assessments and the wishes of the client all inform the Guardianship and Trust Officer (GTO) in this process. The GTO works with the youth,

their social worker and their supports to determine the safest way to transition a client’s trust to the client based on the information available. Where the client requires some level of protection, they may benefit from a representation agreement in which they choose a trusted, unpaid person in their life to take a supportive role in their financial matters. When a youth may not be capable of managing their future financial and legal affairs due to a severe disability, and they lack an adequate support network, a referral to the Services to Adults Assessment and Investigation Services department of the PGT may be required for a formal capability assessment. Potential assistance for adults who may have difficulties managing their financial, legal or personal affairs can range along a spectrum from informal resolutions such as arranging direct deposits, to committeeship, where the PGT as Committee assumes full responsibility for the adult’s legal and financial affairs.

When a child in care has trust funds, GTOs begin annual transition planning discussions with their social worker and the youth directly where appropriate, beginning at age 14. Where a child in care has an RDSP to be transferred, GTOs begin annual transition planning discussions at age 17. Where there are legal matters, transition planning may begin at age 18.

In 2019–2020, improved internal reporting methods allow GTOs to better track their annual transition planning efforts for each of their clients who have ongoing financial and/or legal matters. It also allows GTOs to respond to and investigate potential claims and benefits as soon as a social worker responds to PGT annual requests for client information. The PGT works with MCFD and DAA social workers to add new details to transition plans each year to create the best individualized plan for each client.

Dakota's Story

All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.

MCFD informs the PGT that Dakota has been brought into permanent care.

Dakota's circumstances are reviewed annually with their DAA social worker (SW) to see if there are any legal or financial issues requiring PGT attention.

Dakota's GTO applies for CPP Surviving Child's Benefit on Dakota's behalf, and they're deemed eligible.

Dakota's monthly CPP payments and estate proceeds are placed into a trust account opened and held for them by the PGT.

When Dakota turns 14, their GTO invites Dakota and their SW to begin transition planning discussions about their funds held by the PGT.

At age 18, Dakota's SW learns that Dakota will receive \$30,000 from their First Nation when they turn 19.

Dakota plans to attend university, which will be paid for through provincial programs (tuition waiver) and benefits from their First Nation, so they have no immediate need for their trust funds.

Dakota asks the GTO if the PGT can continue to hold their trust funds safely while they concentrate on their studies.

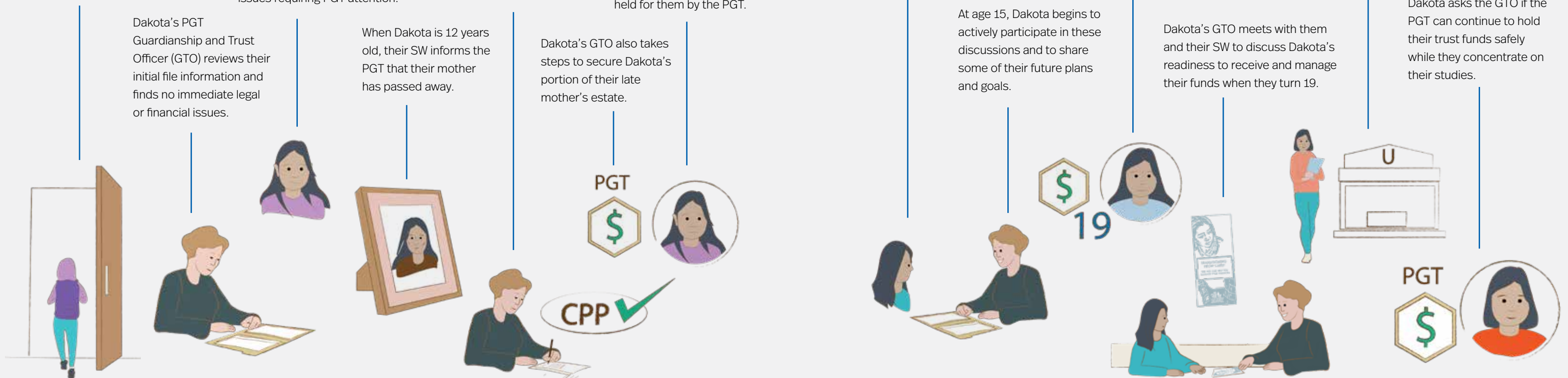
Dakota's PGT Guardianship and Trust Officer (GTO) reviews their initial file information and finds no immediate legal or financial issues.

When Dakota is 12 years old, their SW informs the PGT that their mother has passed away.

Dakota's GTO also takes steps to secure Dakota's portion of their late mother's estate.

At age 15, Dakota begins to actively participate in these discussions and to share some of their future plans and goals.

Dakota's GTO meets with them and their SW to discuss Dakota's readiness to receive and manage their funds when they turn 19.



PGT Educational Assistance Fund

The Public Guardian and Trustee Educational Assistance Fund was first established in 1989 from the generous donations of three private benefactors who wished to help former youth in care to reach their educational and vocational goals. The fund provides bursaries to eligible individuals over age 19, who were formerly in the continuing care of the Province of British Columbia. Under the terms of the trust, applicants are assessed on grades, financial needs, career goals, personal commitment and other sources of funding available to cover education costs. The bursaries are awarded annually to help recipients with the costs for fees, books, living expenses or any other financial need standing in the way of a former youth in care being able to achieve their educational goals.

In 2019–2020, **12** individuals ranging in age from 19 to 43 will receive bursaries ranging from **\$900** to **\$2,800**. The total amount awarded was **\$19,300**.

The recipients are involved in a wide variety of fields of study, including social work, international relations, nursing, makeup artistry, hairstyling, digital photography, child and youth care,

and nautical sciences. Awards were also granted for Masters level programs in social work, leadership, and live art and performance studies.

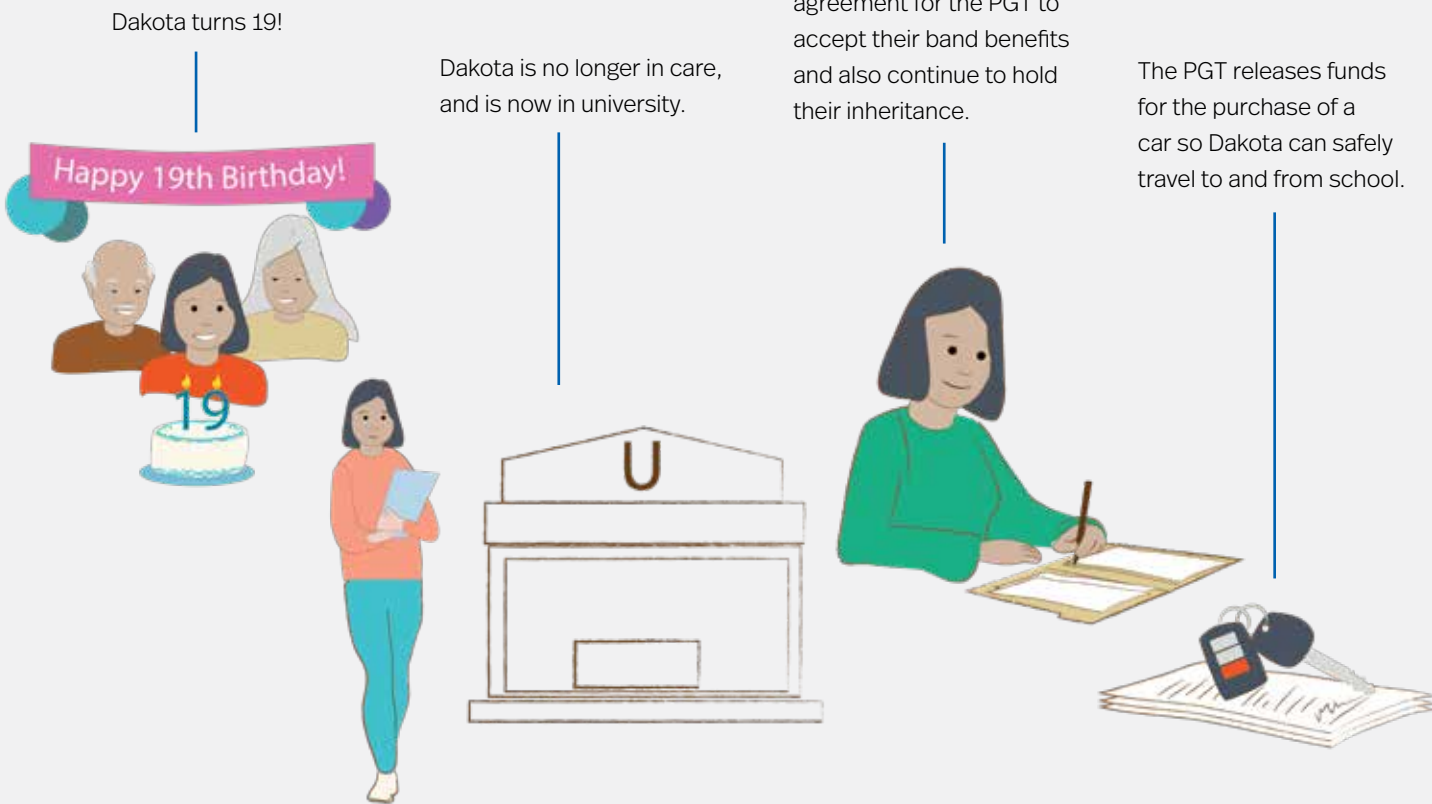
The PGT congratulates the recipients of these bursaries as they pursue their education and career goals. Direct communication with the client can provide the GTO with a sense of the client’s preparedness, goals and understanding of their trust money. Direct communication can also create opportunities to offer post-majority services and financial wellness materials to supplement and support a client’s plans. Transition planning and communication requires a high level of sensitivity, particularly when funds originate from significant loss, such as the death of a parent or is awarded for a personal injury that may be emotionally painful. GTOs consciously incorporate trauma informed principles into their practice.

GTOs provide information sessions to MCFD social workers about the PGT services offered and the PGT’s role in successful transition planning and permanency planning for children and youth.

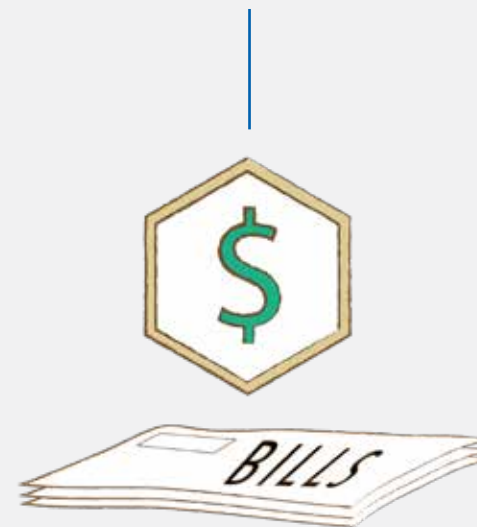


Adult Dakota’s Story

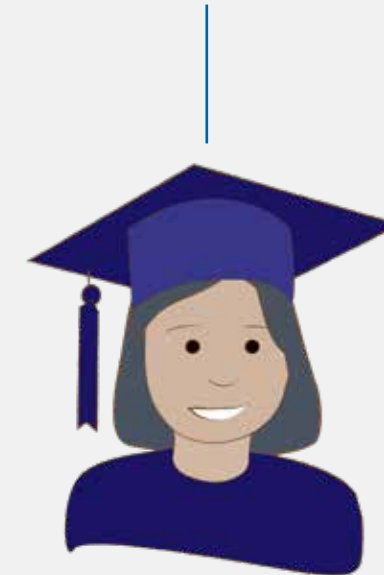
All names have been changed to protect the privacy of PGT clients.



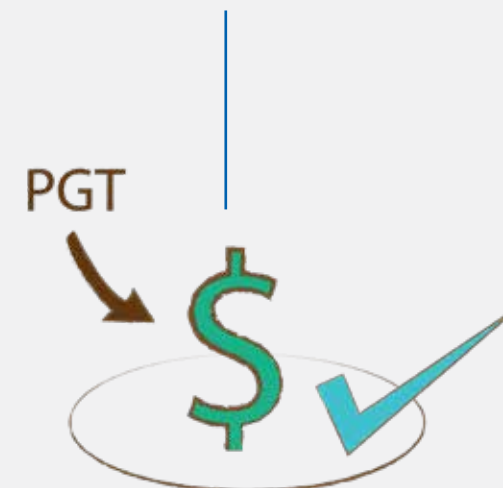
The PGT also sets up monthly payments to Dakota to assist with rent and day to day needs so they can concentrate on their studies.



Dakota is 23, has graduated from university and they are now ready to receive their trust and embark on their future.



The PGT releases Dakota’s remaining funds to them and closes their file.



Community Engagement and Outreach

Outreach to clients and community partners continues to be an essential part of the work done in Child and Youth Services (CYS), and each year sees advances in the number of clients and new partners reached. In 2019–2020, CYS staff participated in **63** presentations and collaborations with community partners.

Enhanced public education materials

This past fiscal year, PGT has focused on updating our publication materials to make them more understandable and meaningful to the youth we serve. PGT developed more than 10 new youth friendly publications, including several illustrated 'one-pagers' that visually tell the stories of some of the property guardianship work the PGT performs. Story topics include the PGT role in permanency planning, making Wills for young people in care, establishing a Registered Disability Savings Plan and the steps the PGT takes after learning a young person in care has been harmed. By designing and incorporating youth friendly content in our materials and resources, PGT hopes to help simplify and explain the protective legal and financial work undertaken on behalf for children and youth in continuing care as this is not often apparent to or understood by children and youth in continuing care.

PGT also collaborated with the BC Federation of Youth in Care Networks (FBCYICN), a provincial nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of young people in and from care in BC. The new PGT youth friendly information card appeared in several editions of the Power Pages, FBCYICN's youth driven publication connecting youth in and from care, their services providers and caregivers across BC.

Improved tools

Outreach to clients has recently been enhanced with better tools made available to staff for improved communication and connections with children in care. To support flexible communication options for youth, GTOs received cellular phones. GTOs and lawyers working with youth, can now use software and apps such as texting, FaceTime and Skype.

Community partnerships

The PGT continues to be an active member of the Children's Forum, BC RDSP Action Group, Youth Futures Educational Advisory Committee and the TRUUST Collective Impact initiative seeking to improve outcomes for youth transitioning from care. The PGT is also an ongoing partner with BC Child and Youth in Care Week, a working group coming together

to celebrate the achievements and resiliency of children in provincial care. June 3–9, 2019 marked the ninth year. There were celebrations province wide, including the PGT Child and Youth Services (CYS) staff annual bake sale raising money for a youth serving charity. Proceeds from the 2019 CYS bake sale were donated to IndigenEYEZ, a youth empowerment initiative providing training for practitioners and programs for First Nations youth in BC.

In 2019–2020, the PGT directly reached **364** children and youth through the delivery of **35** financial wellness workshops

Financial wellness

Financial wellness continues to be an essential focus for PGT outreach work with property guardian clients. For many reasons, children and youth in care may not have the benefit of continuous guidance and mentorship around financial matters. Many may leave care with limited knowledge about managing their personal finances, which can be particularly important for children and youth who have funds that will be paid out to them upon reaching the age of majority. The PGT strives to reach as many youth in care as possible through our financial wellness workshops and to provide clients with some tools and empowerment around financial management.

Workshops are offered at a variety of venues such as alternative schools, community centres, youth shelters, day camps, safe houses and youth custody centres, as well as through life skills and employment programs. Working from the philosophy that it is never too early to start gaining money management skills, the PGT has successfully tailored the workshops to a wide range of clients from as young as 10 years old through to early adulthood.

PGT continues to deliver financial wellness workshops for partner host programs such as the Strive life skills program for youth transitioning from care and the Broadway Youth Resource Centre (BYRC) in Vancouver. This year marked some new host programs and new venues. PGT delivered financial

wellness workshops for a youth pregnancy and parenting program, a life skills program for youth struggling with substance use, a First Nations youth employment training program and for various programs offered through Vancouver Coastal Health.

Information sessions for social workers and community partners

Throughout the year, PGT staff provide workshops and presentations to social workers, transition workers and other community partners on the role of the PGT and the property guardian services provided to children and youth in continuing care. Over the 2019–2020 fiscal year, CYS staff conducted **28** presentations and workshops, in person and via webinar or teleconference. Topics included the role of a property guardian, RDSPs, transition planning considerations for youth with funds, making wills for youth and post majority trustee services for young people transitioning from care. Over the last year, **503** guests throughout the province participated in these presentations.

COVID-19

At the end of the last quarter of the 2019–2020 fiscal year, presentation and outreach plans came to a sudden halt when on March 18, 2020, the Province of British Columbia declared a provincial state of emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected children in and from care when schools were closed, support places shut down and restrictions were placed on in person visits with social workers. Large community gatherings were banned for public safety, and the annual Gathering Our Voices Indigenous youth conference that was scheduled for March 16–19 in Kamloops and normally attended by GTOs was cancelled.

The PGT responded quickly to the abrupt changes brought on by the pandemic with a comprehensive strategy that began with most staff working from home. As a result of the pandemic, many young clients' lives have been impacted. Staff in turn needed to quickly adapt and find creative new ways to maintain service and to continue to reach our clients, such as Facetime and Skype video meetings.



Reconciliation

“We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.”

–Article 57 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The PGT Child and Youth Services division is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the X^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), S^kwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) People. We acknowledge that the children we serve reside on traditional, unceded territories of First Nations all across BC.

We recognize that many of the children we serve are First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

The majority of children and youth in care in British Columbia are Indigenous. Representing over **60%** of PGT child guardianship clients, but only approximately **6%** of the total provincial population, Indigenous children are highly overrepresented in the child welfare system. The PGT is acutely aware that the traumatic impacts of colonization, the residential school system and subsequent cultural and societal harms have profoundly impacted generations of Indigenous families and their communities and has contributed to this overrepresentation.

The PGT is committed to reconciliation and enhancing our Indigenous cultural awareness so that we can better serve our clients in a culturally appropriate and safe way. The PGT welcomes and seeks out opportunities to connect and partner with Indigenous organizations throughout British Columbia in support of children and youth in care.

Nation entitlements

When the PGT learns that a young person in care is Indigenous, inquiries are made with their Nation with respect to any entitlements or benefits available to them through the Nation. This may include educational and land entitlements, as well as potential dividends or other payments. In some instances, the entitlements may be held in trust by the Nation or by the PGT. In other instances, eligibility begins at age 19 and the PGT transitions the information to the young person or their social worker.

Indigenous Perspectives Society—training for new social workers

The PGT is honoured to be a regular guest speaker at Indigenous Perspectives Society, a not for profit social enterprise organization that strengthens the voice of Indigenous communities through education and professional development. PGT staff are invited to provide training on property guardianship services to social work students in the Aboriginal Social Work training program. The program combines best practices in Indigenous child welfare with BC provincial legislation and standards.

Seeking truth, pursuing reconciliation

The PGT has committed to working towards to meaningful truth and reconciliation and to building respectful relationships with Indigenous communities. In February 2020, the PGT introduced its “Seeking Truth, Pursuing Reconciliation” strategy for 2020–2023. The reconciliation strategy draws guidance from three key documents and their calls to action:

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action; and
- The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The reconciliation strategy is a living document that has measurable actions throughout the organization. It offers a framework for individual learning and meaningful



steps to help inform our current practice. The PGT is using this strategy as an ongoing call to motivate action, create change, reveal truth and meaningfully pursue reconciliation. It is incumbent on our office to learn as much as we can about our clients’ lived experiences in order to provide the highest level of culturally safe and respectful services to the Indigenous clients we serve.

PGT staff are encouraged to develop their own personal action plan and to use learning opportunities and ongoing conversations to enhance personal knowledge and understanding of the lives of our young Indigenous clients. Staff are encouraged to participate in events such as the annual Women’s Memorial March for missing and murdered Indigenous women; Moose Hide Campaign Day, a grassroots movement of Indigenous and Non Indigenous men standing up against violence towards women and girls; Indigenous Peoples Day; Orange Shirt Day, a day to encourage meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind; and Reconciliation Canada, an organization providing reconciliation dialogue workshops and events across Canada. PGT staff usually have the opportunity to participate annually in the National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations at Trout Lake in Vancouver and are honoured to annually represent the PGT at the Gathering Our Voices conference for Indigenous youth leaders.

PGT staff educational opportunities

One of the PGT’s overall strategic goals is “to contribute to a fair and just society”. To that end, the PGT is committed to providing ongoing Indigenous cultural awareness and safety training for staff throughout the organization, so that our clients can be better served in a culturally appropriate and safe way.

In January 2020, GTOs participated in a powerful all day experiential session to learn about the lived experience of Indigenous peoples in Canada, including the traumatic long lasting impacts of the residential school system. The group identified actions and goals to become allies in reconciliation and to move Child and Youth Services practice further along in our journey from cultural awareness to cultural safety.

On a monthly basis, Child and Youth Services hosts a viewing of documentaries on pertinent Indigenous issues available through the National Film Board of Canada. These films provide concrete learning and discussion opportunities for PGT staff and range from cultural or historical documentaries to individual stories of Indigenous people in British Columbia and Canada. Following the launch of the PGT’s Truth and Reconciliation Strategy, participation in the monthly Indigenous Film Club is now open to all interested PGT staff.

PGT Classification of Critical Incident Reports

A. Incident Types

The PGT reviews critical incident reports from MCFD and DAAs upon receipt and categorizes the reported incident types according to classifications adapted from the extensive World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases. For more information see the complete classification system at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/2018-05/ICECI%20in%20English.pdf>.

The PGT sorts CIRs according to all of the following categories. However, for clarity in reporting, these categories are grouped as below to reflect the five major groupings of types of incidents that are most frequently reported with all other incident types grouped as “other.”

1. Physical assault—Injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill, by any means. Includes corporal punishment, assault that does not result in an injury, and injuries inflicted by the police or other law enforcement agents on duty.

2. Sexual assault—Sexual assault or abuse, including rape, sexual interference, sexual touching and invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation or similar actions.

3. Motor vehicle accidents (includes the following incident types):

- **Motor vehicle accident—child cyclist**—Child was riding on a pedal cycle and was involved in a collision or non collision injury associated with a motor vehicle.
- **Motor vehicle accident—child driver**—Motor vehicle accident where the child was the operator of the motor vehicle excluding motorized bicycle.
- **Motor vehicle accident—child passenger**—Motor vehicle accident where the child was a passenger in the motor vehicle.
- **Motor vehicle accident—child pedestrian**—Child was a pedestrian injured in any collision or non collision traffic incident involving a motor vehicle.

4. Other type of injury or harm to child (includes the following incident types):

- **Other type of injury or harm to child**—The following are examples of incidents in this category: environmental; poisonings (accidental); foreign body; machinery in operation; overexertion;

firearms; other and unspecified environmental exposures and unspecified accidental causes.

5. Self harm (includes the following incident types):

- **Self inflicted injury**—All intentionally self inflicted injuries except those resulting from suicide attempts or suicide.
- **Suicide attempts**—Suicide attempts where child survived.
- **Death-Suicide**—The reported incident indicates the child’s death resulted from suicide.

6. All other incident types (includes the following incident types):

- **Cutting / piercing**—Injury caused by cutting or piercing instrument or object. Excludes assault with a sharp object and self inflicted injury with a sharp object.
- **Death**—The reported incident indicates the child’s death was accidental, homicide, natural death, or suicide.
- **Dog bite**—Injuries resulting from a dog bite.
- **Drowning / submersion**—Accidental drowning or submersion involving watercraft, fall or activity in water resulting in resuscitation / medical attention excluding intent to self harm.
- **Fall**—Falls due to accidental pushing or collision with other person, or diving or jumping into water.
- **Fire / flames / hot substances**—Injuries caused by fire and flames; hot appliances, objects or liquids; steam; acid burns.
- **Medical condition**—Illnesses or complications arising from surgery, medical care or medical treatment including hospitalizations due to medical illness.
- **Non motor vehicle cycle accident**—Child was injured in a non motor vehicle incident involving a pedal cycle including falls from bicycle.
- **Physical and sexual assault**—An incident where both physical and sexual assault are believed to have occurred.
- **Struck by object**—Child was struck by falling object, striking against or struck by persons or objects, or caught unintentionally between objects excluding motor vehicle.
- **Suffocation**—Inhalation and ingestion of food or objects causing obstruction of respiratory passage, or suffocation, unintentional mechanical suffocation, and smothering or choking.

B. Alleged harmers

This category identifies the relationship to the child of the person alleged to have harmed the child (intentionally or by accident). This category does not include agencies that may have a legal responsibility to care for the child (e.g. MCFD or DAA). It was adapted from the extensive International Classification of External Causes of Injuries. For more information, see the complete classification at <https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/2018-05/ICECI%20in%20English.pdf>.

The PGT sorts alleged harmers according to all of the following categories. However, for clarity in reporting, these categories are grouped as below to reflect the five major groupings of types of alleged harmers that are most frequently reported with remaining categories of alleged harmers grouped as “all other alleged harmers.”

The alleged harmer category of relationships includes:

1. Other relationship includes incidents in which there could be more than one harmer or where the alleged harmers did not fall into any other defined group

2. Other friend(s) / acquaintance(s) (does not include intimate partners).

3. Foster parent(s)

4. Relationship not known

5. Parent(s)

6. All other alleged harmers (includes the following categories):

- **Another child(ren) in care**
- **Boyfriend / girlfriend / spouse**—includes intimate partner(s)
- **Other relative(s)**
- **Person(s) in official or legal authority**—includes: teachers, church ministers, sports coaches, police, guards, etc.
- **Stranger(s)**
 - **Unrelated caregiver(s)**—includes child care provider(s)



General Inquiries

Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia
700-808 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, BC V6C 3L3

Phone 604.660.4444
Fax 604.660.0374
Email mail@trustee.bc.ca
Website www.trustee.bc.ca

Toll free calling is available through Service BC.
After dialing the appropriate number for your
area (see below) request to be transferred to
the Public Guardian and Trustee.

Vancouver 604.660.2421
Victoria 250.387.6121
Other areas in BC 1.800.663.7867

PGT hours of operation
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

