

BN0421

Information Note**Department of Health and Community Services
Voluntary Care Agreements – Child Youth and Family Services**

A Voluntary Care Agreement (VCA) is a mutual agreement between the Director of Child Youth and Family Services and the parent for a time limited period of three months and up to six months in exceptional circumstances to allow the parent to make a permanent plan for the child or to resolve current difficulties and be able to resume care of the child.

Section 10. (1) of the Child Youth and Family Services Act regarding Family Services states that a director or social worker may enter into written agreement with respect to the services to be provided and the responsibilities of each party to the agreement.

It allows the director to provide care but does not give the director custody of the child. Also the policy states that a VCA be made only once on behalf of a child unless the director provides approval. In short, the VCA allows the director to provide out of home care and support for a short period of time to assist the family in making a permanent plan for a child or resuming the care of the child. The child is placed with an approved caregiver.

Currently, there are a total of 41 children in voluntary care: Central has 5, Eastern has 22, Western has 8 and Labrador has 7 with 1 from the Innu zone.

Department of Health and Community Services
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