



SUPPORTING EQUITABLE TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD FOR YOUTH IN CARE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: A POST-PANDEMIC OVERVIEW POLICY BRIEF

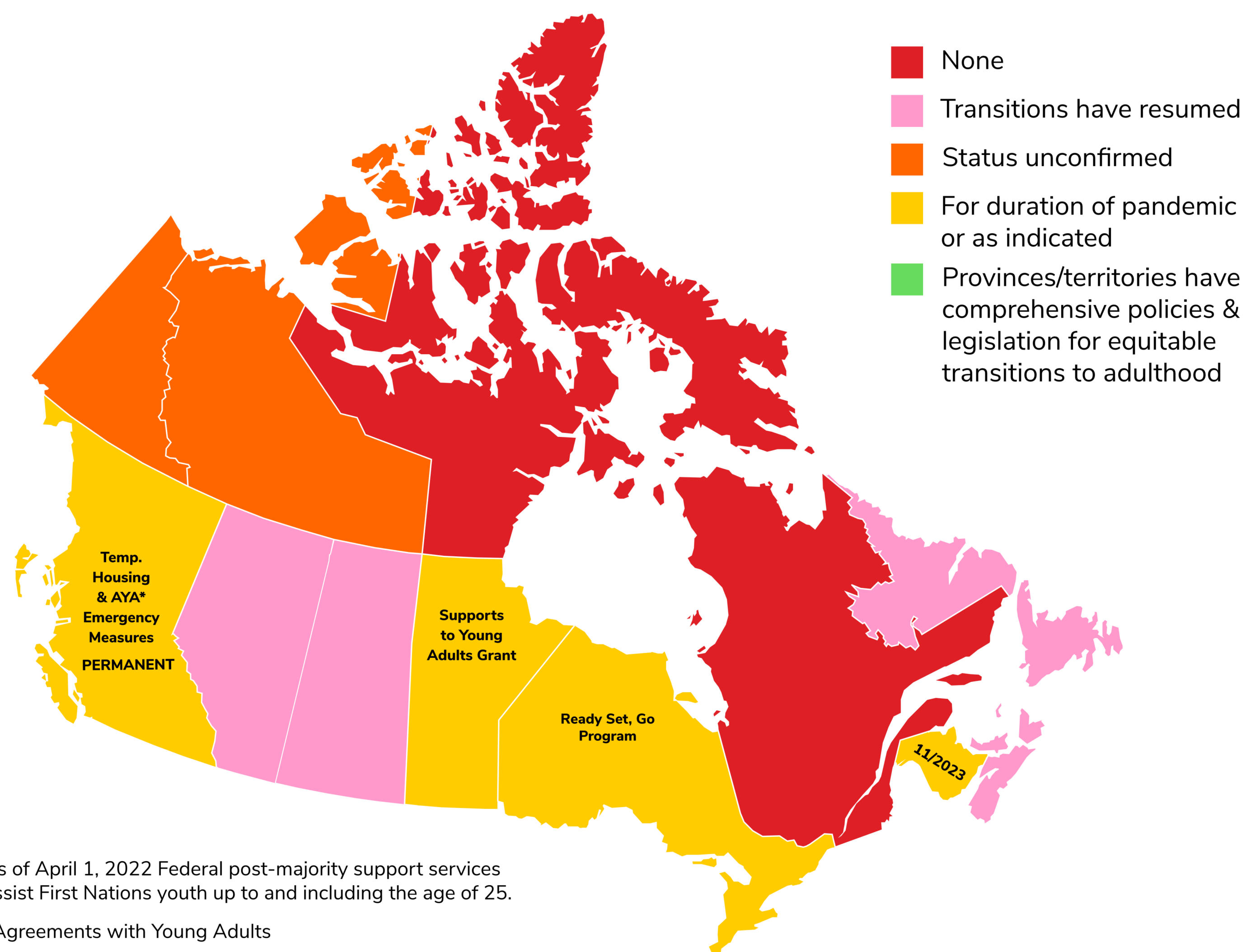
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PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL MORATORIUMS ON YOUTH TRANSITIONS OUT OF CHILD WELFARE

Updated on April 25, 2023



BACKGROUND

- During the pandemic, various emergency measures were implemented in BC and other jurisdictions to provide greater supports to youth in care transitioning to adulthood.
- This policy brief highlights permanent changes implemented in BC post-pandemic with comparisons to initiatives in other jurisdictions across Canada.

KEY REFERENCES:

- Doucet, M. (2022). Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care Evaluation Model. Child Welfare League of Canada. <https://www.cwlc.ca/post/equitable-standards-for-transitions-to-adulthood-for-youth-in-care-evaluation-model>
- Doucet, M. (2021). Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care (October 2021 Report; pp. 1–35). Child Welfare League of Canada. https://www.cwlc.ca/_files/ugd/f54667_45d7b4d41270453e8d720296d22edc6c.pdf

*Full Reference list in policy brief

HOW DOES BC FARE COMPARED TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS?

- Spring 2022 BC: Temporary Housing and Service Agreements (THA, TSA) made permanent. In addition, changes made to exemptions for youth on Agreements with Young Adults (AYA), related to income caps and the duration of the agreement. While other Transition Support Enhancements are underway, supports and programs remain age-based with conditions.
- Spring 2022 MB: Supports to Young Adults grant replaced the moratorium in effect since 2020. The province is currently doing internal work to improve supports to youth in care; however, no formal announcements have been made.
- Spring 2023 ON: Ready, Set, Go program replaced the moratorium in effect since 2020. However, this program is age-based with a cut-off at age 23.

KEY SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENT

- The Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care and the accompanying Evaluation Model, developed by Dr. Doucet and the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates in 2022–2023
- Provides a road map for government action across eight Transition to Adulthood pillars and concrete key supports that need to be in place for successful youth in-care outcomes.
- The Evaluation Model provides a readiness-based accountability framework that can be implemented incrementally over time.

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Calling on the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to endorse and adopt the Equitable Standards to Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care, through its participation in piloting the Evaluation Model in 2023.
- Calling on MCFD to shift their current Youth Transition Framework to be in line with the Equitable Standards and youth-centered, with the long-term goal of moving towards a readiness-based approach versus an aged-base approach.
- Calling on the Federal government to endorse and adopt the Equitable Standards for Transitions to Adulthood for Youth in Care, through the development of national legislation guaranteeing extended care and transition resources that meet the Equitable Standards across all jurisdictions.

THE 8 TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD PILLARS

- 1 Financial
- 2 Educational & Professional Development
- 3 Housing
- 4 Relationships
- 5 Culture & Spirituality
- 6 Health & Wellbeing
- 7 Advocacy & Rights
- 8 Emerging Adulthood Development