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# **First Nations Child and Family Services Program (FNCFS) The Way Forward**

**Presentation to Françoise Ducros, ADM, ESDPPS**  
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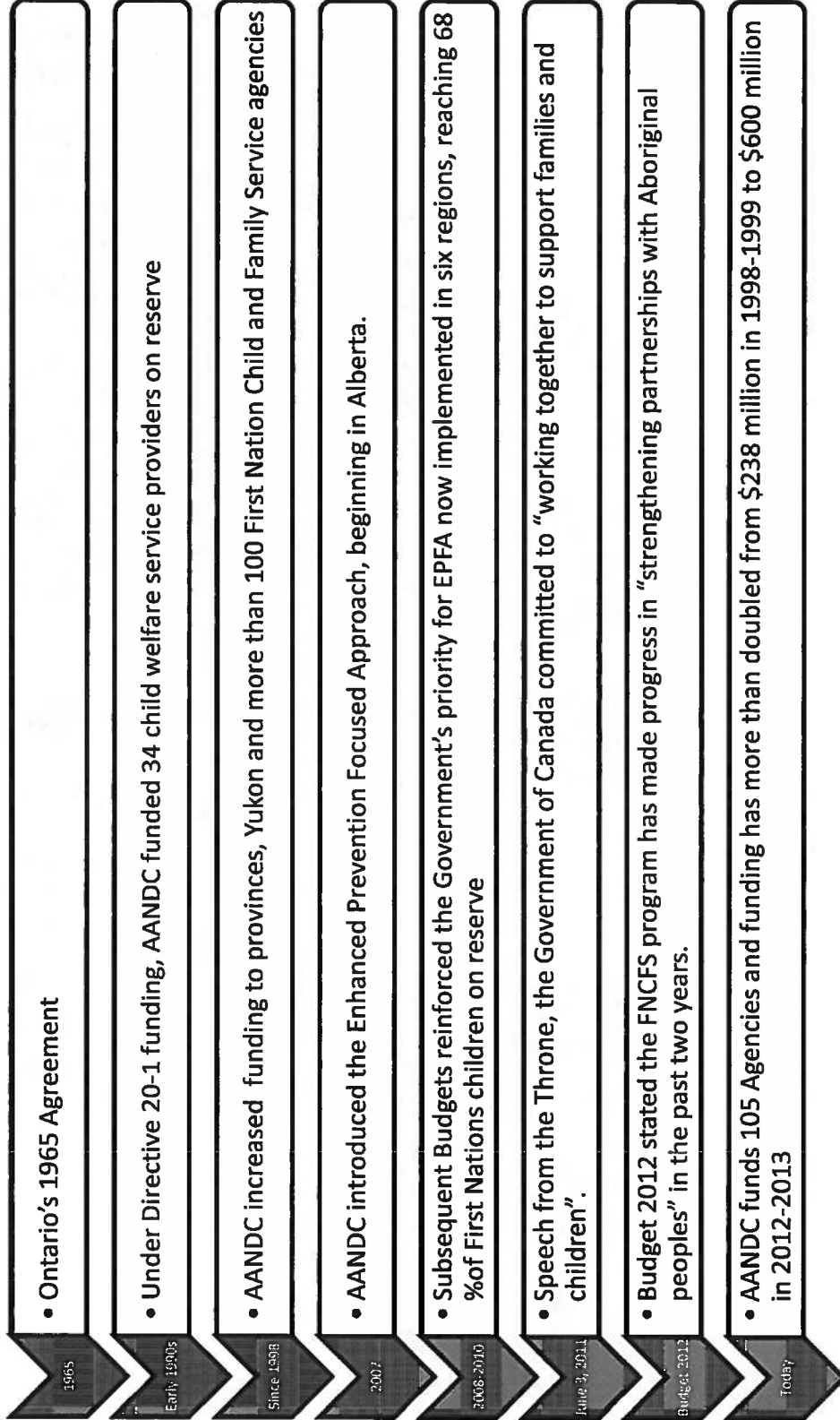
## **Purpose of This Presentation**

To provide options and seek approval for next steps in the reform of the FNCFS Program which:

- Sustain the momentum gained over the last five years of program reform;
- Incorporate lessons learned into future actions;
- Aligns with ever changing provincial/territorial regimes; and
- Ensure program funding optimizes First Nation capacity to achieve better long-term outcomes for First Nation children and families on reserve.



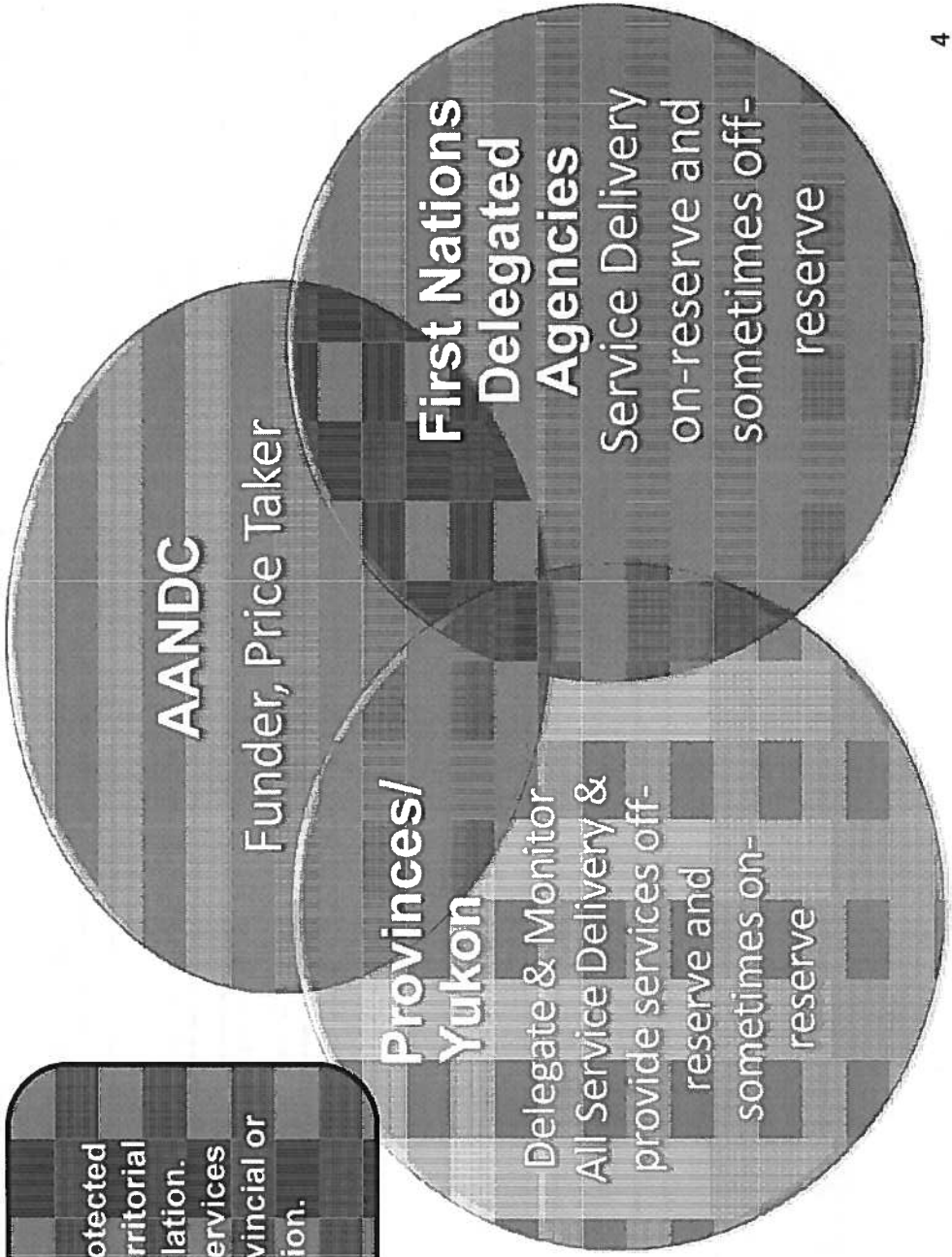
# History of FNCFS Program





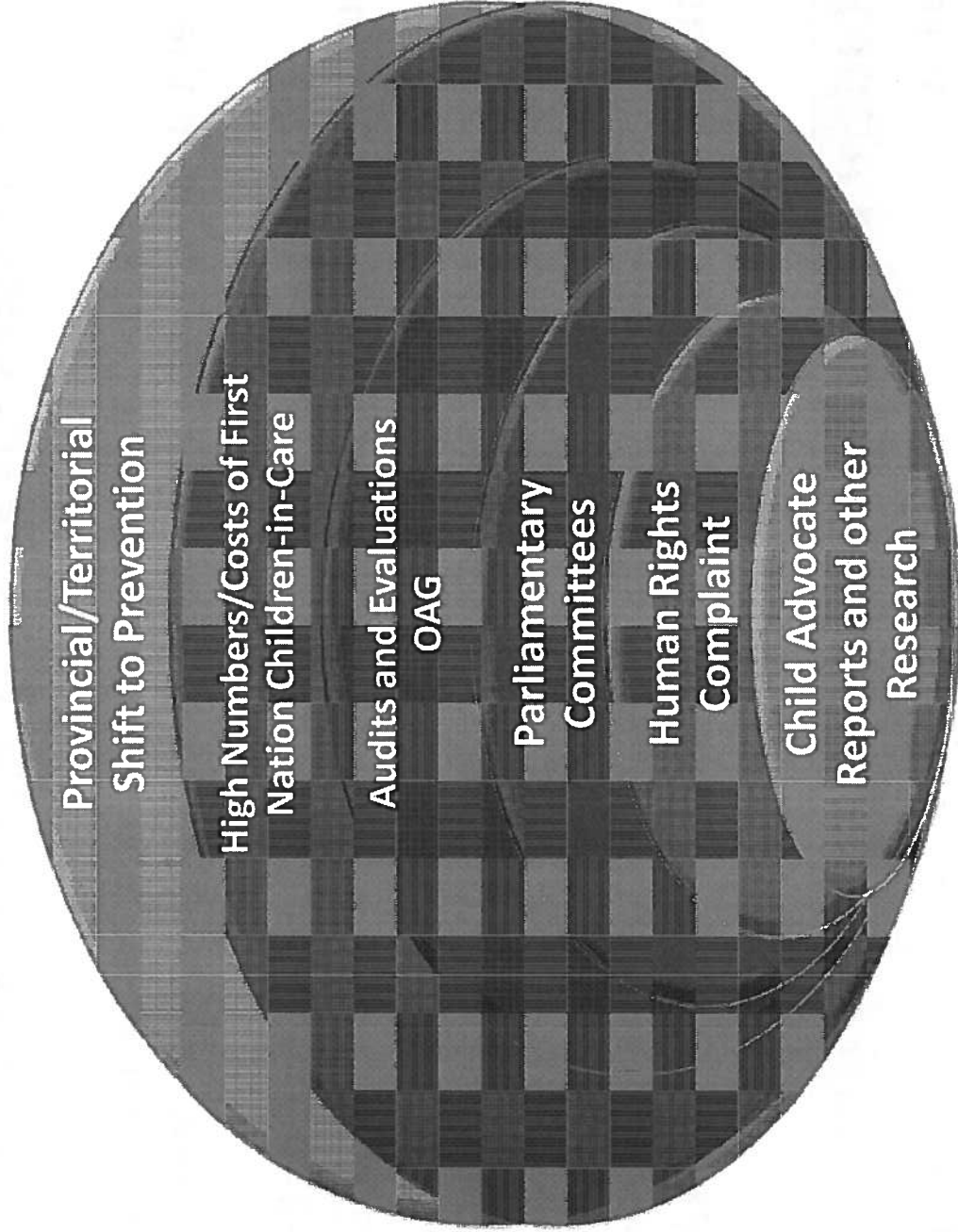
# Roles and Responsibilities

All children are protected by provincial or territorial child welfare legislation. Child and family services are matters of provincial or territorial jurisdiction.





# Drivers Behind Reform



Progress of the implementation of EPFA is often interrupted with outside pressures while remaining jurisdictions are anxious to implement EPFA

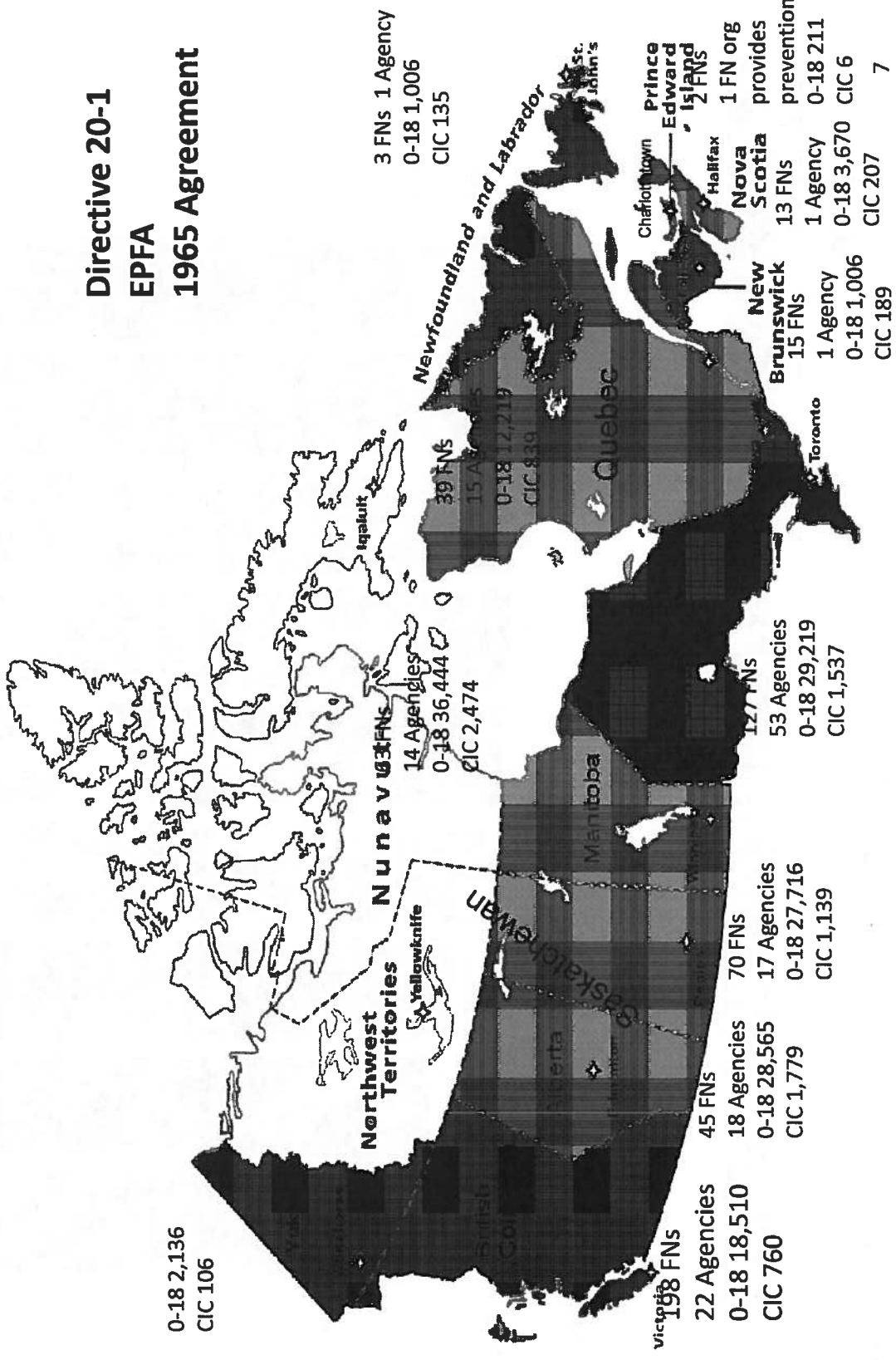


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## Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach

- EPFA is being implemented through tripartite partnerships with Provinces, Territories and First Nations.
- EPFA places more emphasis on prevention activities and culturally appropriate care such as kinship care.
- EPFA allows greater flexibility in funding by allowing Agencies to target funding where it is needed.
- EPFA does not result in overnight decreases in the number of children in care.
- The number of children in care and associated maintenance costs may initially continue to increase until the full implementation of the new model takes effect, which is expected to take several years.

# FNCFS National Map

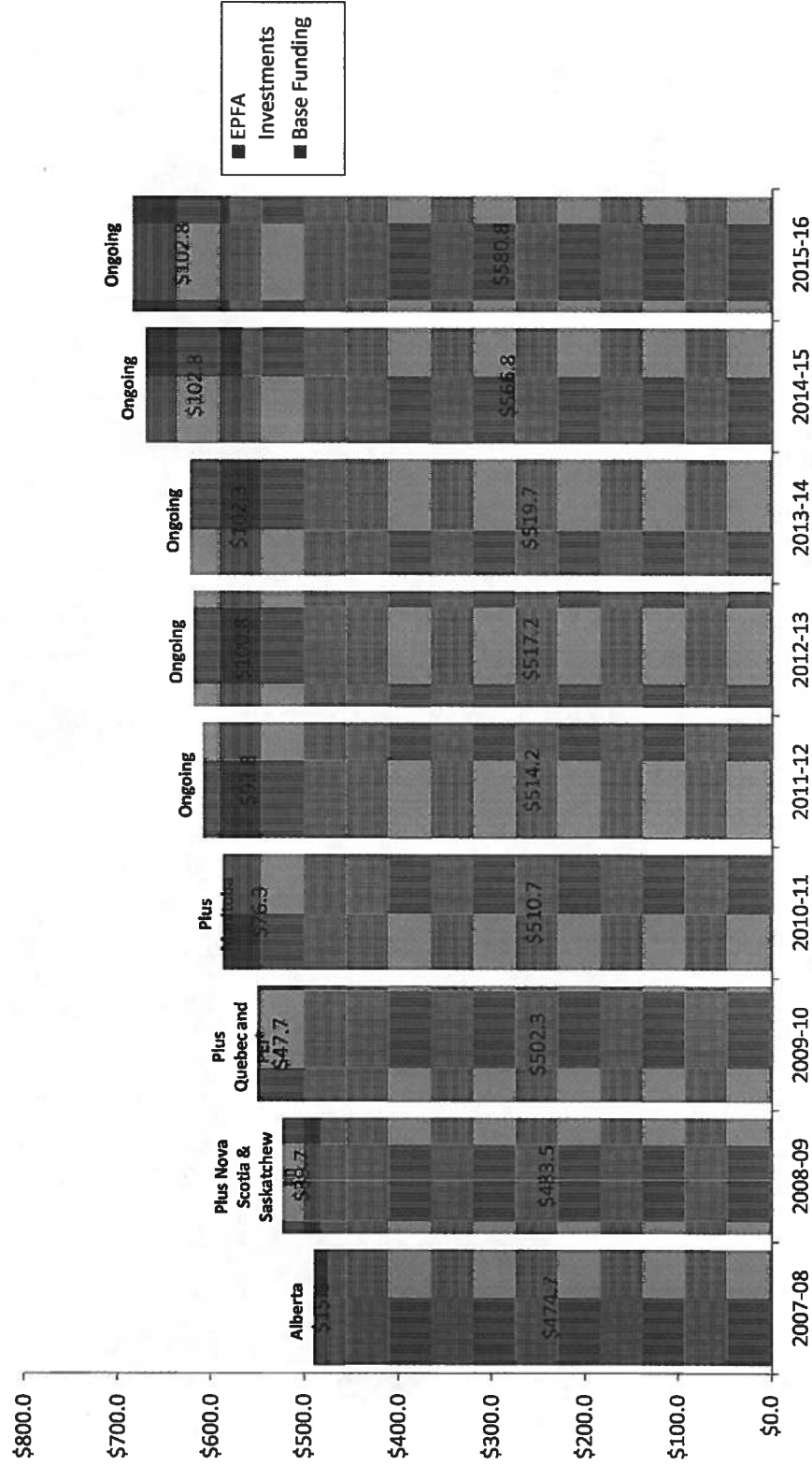


**Directive 20-1**  
**EPFA**  
**1965 Agreement**



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# Program Budget and Projected Expenditures (2007 - 2016)







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## Evaluating EPFA

- EPFA has shown some good early results such as:
  - Closer tripartite relationships
  - Increased kinship care
  - Better awareness of the child welfare system in communities leading to more self-referrals by families.
  - Development of capacity for prevention.
  - Promising prevention practices in some communities.
  - Agencies being more strategic in their approaches leading some to reduce numbers of children in care or revising their types of care.
  
- Audits and Evaluations between 2008 and 2012 demonstrate a need for EPFA, but also a need to annually review the EPFA formula as constant provincial changes make it difficult to stay current and enable Agencies to provide a full range of child welfare services.
  
- Provinces have been shifting their caseloads towards greater emphasis on intake and investigation which may not have been part of original EPFA discussions and are now creating pressures on Agencies.



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## Over-Representation of Aboriginal Children in Child Welfare

- 30-40,000 Aboriginal children are in care, nationally.
- Approximately 9,000 are First Nations ordinarily resident on reserve served by service delivery agencies funded through FNCFS.
- Not just an FNCFS program issue.
- Provinces/Yukon Territory also struggling with this.

<b>AB</b>	8,582 CIC in the Province
	5,664 CIC are Aboriginal (66%)
	1,927 CIC are FNs on-reserve (22% of total CIC)
	25,421 on-reserve population (CIC 7.58% of Pop)
<b>BC</b>	8,000 CIC in the Province
	4,000 CIC are Aboriginal (50%)
	700 CIC are FNs on-reserve (8.8% of total CIC)
	18,646 on-reserve population (CIC 3.75% of Pop)



## Challenges to Program Reform

### On-Reserve

- Socio-economic situation
- Housing
- Health
- Justice
- Substance Abuse
- Lack of Capacity and Integrated Services

### Off-Reserve

- Need for services for Aboriginal population is also growing
- Prevention is provided through more than child welfare system

### Federal Reality

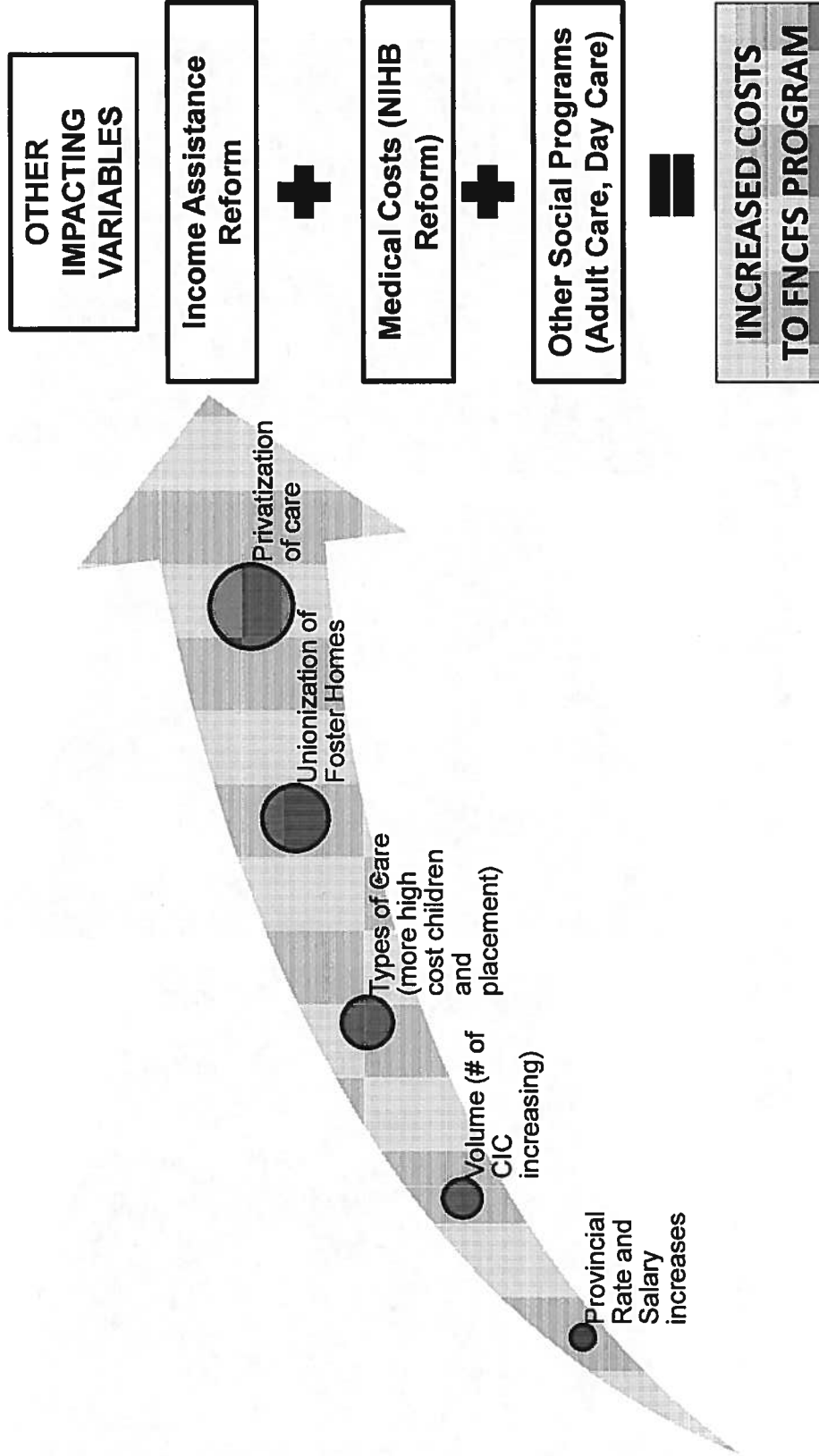
- Lack of legislative base
- Price taker
- Reform needs to consider new staffing needs and full range of services.

*NOTE: The child welfare system alone cannot address the many problems manifested in communities. Increased numbers of children in care and children in care with complex needs does not indicate failure of the child welfare system. Placing children in care, although a last resort option, ensures their safety and may indicate increased awareness by service providers.*



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# Cost Drivers and Impacts to FNCFS

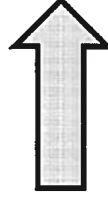
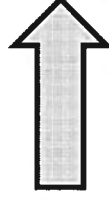
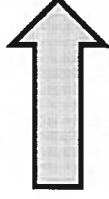
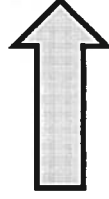




## The Way Forward on FNCFS

### ***Where we are***

- Taking children into care and some work with families in the home.
- Fund agencies and provinces for basic protection services and some prevention with families in the home.
- Initial investments in EPFA in 6 jurisdictions but not necessarily addressing all aspects of child welfare.
- Developing some capacity in prevention in communities.

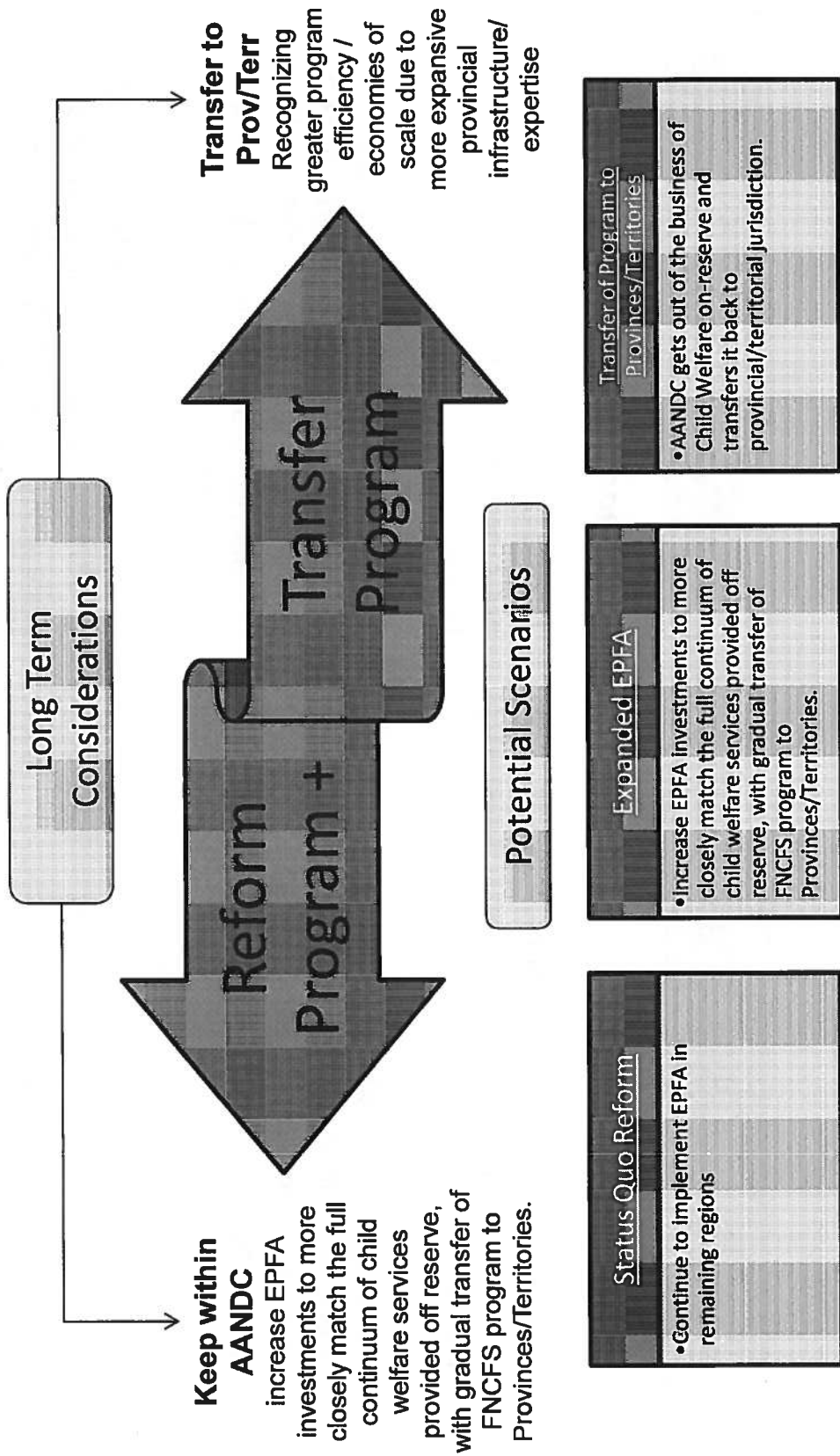


### ***Where we need to go***

- Taking children in care for critical cases but more work with the families in the home.
- Either fund full range of services provided by provinces (differs among jurisdictions) OR transfer child welfare on reserve to the Provincial/Territorial governments.
- EPFA in all jurisdictions **fully costed at \$108.13M**, supporting all aspects of child welfare including intake, early intervention and allowing for developmental phase.
- All communities have capacity in prevention.



# Long Term Considerations and Potential Scenarios





# OPTION 1 – Implement EPFA in remaining jurisdictions (\$32M annually)

Remaining Jurisdictions	
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>\$21 M</b>
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>\$ 2 M</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>\$ 5 M</b>
<b>New Brunswick</b>	<b>\$ 2 M</b>
<b>Newfoundland/Labrador</b>	<b>\$ 2 M</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 4 M</b>
<b>Strength and Accountability</b>	<b>\$ 2 M</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38 M</b>

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement EPFA in remaining regions as per 2007 federal authorities.</li> <li>• Recognizes that the FNCFS program cannot address all root causes of the over-representation of children in care (poverty, substance abuse, housing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-year EPFA funding envelope may not be addressing provincial cost drivers or funding pressures related to the operational efficiencies of Agencies.</li> </ul>



# OPTION 2 - Fully Expanded EPFA

- Adjust the EPFA costing model with increased investments to address cost drivers.
- Implement this model in remaining jurisdictions and top-up existing EPFA regions.

<b>Fully Expanded EPFA *</b>	
<b>Remaining Jurisdictions</b>	<b>\$65.03 M</b>
<b>Top-up to Existing EPFA Jurisdictions</b>	<b>\$43.10 M</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108.13 M</b>

\* These are preliminary estimates . In addition to the amounts above ,a 3% escalator will be required year over year.  
Increases will be requested incrementally over a five year period and ongoing.

<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure agencies are able to meet changing provincial standards and salary rates while maintaining a high level of prevention programming (2012 EPFA Evaluation of NS/SK recommendation)</li> <li>• Ensures funding remains reasonably comparable with provinces and territories and makes the full transfer to P/Ts more attractive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 2 is more costly than Status Quo EPFA implementation</li> </ul>





# OPTION 3–Transfer to Provinces/ Territory

- **Transfer Child Welfare to Provinces/Territories as is.**
- OR**
- **Adjust the EPFA costing model with increased investments to address cost drivers, before transferring child welfare to Provinces/Territories.**

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully funded - comparability issue would be resolved</li> <li>• Provinces and Territories have legislative jurisdiction over child welfare both on and off reserve</li> <li>• Provinces and Territories have expertise in child welfare</li> <li>• Better oversight/compliance of child and family services on reserve if P/Ts are given the full range of responsibilities, including the responsibility for funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of all First Nations and P/Ts uncertain</li> <li>• Potential for dramatic increases in costs</li> <li>• Involves complimentary programs therefore a big task</li> <li>• Implications beyond AANDC in terms of costing</li> </ul>



## Annex A: Chart of Children-In-Care

