



MORATORIUM ON YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE IN CANADA

(UPDATED JAN. 2020)

The Bottom Line

there are consistent risks for youth aging out of care. An extended moratorium on youth aging out of care has increased protective factors needed to support youth during this time.

The Ministries of Social Services in all Prairie provinces in Canada have made the decision not to transition youth out of government care during COVID-19.

This action was possible due to a letter request calling on all provincial and territorial governments to implement actions to support youth in care who recently have or are about to transition out of care.

This letter was created by the Child Welfare League of Canada and supported by Youth in Care Networks and other youth in care advocacy organizations from across Canada. It was sent out to all corresponding governments on March 23, 2020.

Calls for Action: March 23, 2020

- immediate and indefinite suspension of legislated age cut-offs for youth reaching the age of majority;
- immediate provision of free mental health supports and the opportunity to maintain familial and cultural connections;
- communication with youth who have recently aged out of care and ensure the provision of supports, with no eligibility criteria; and,
- acceptance of all youth in and from care into housing.

June 2020: Need for Continued Moratorium

Though the pandemic was not over, provincial governments were still planning to lift moratoriums on youth aging out of care in the coming weeks.

The Child Welfare League of Canada, in consultation with many Youth in Care Networks across Canada, drafted another document for release on June 23, 2020 explaining the disastrous effects of lifting the moratorium on youth transitioning out of care during a pandemic.

Studies from Quebec, where no moratorium ever existed, show aged-out youth are struggling with access to housing, mental health problems, limited ability to continue studies, decreased access to employment, and the possibility of increased contact with the justice system. There has also been an increase in violence against women since the start of the pandemic, which may have an additional impact on youth aging out of care.

Calls for Action: June 23, 2020

- Work with youth-in-care networks and national partners to develop policy and practice guidelines for every province and territory for fully supported transitions out of or within care;
- Provide free accessible mental health services immediately, and maintain family and cultural connections for youth in and from care; and,
- Reach out to those who have recently transitioned out of care and offer additional support required for their survival with no eligibility criteria or conditions attached.



Prairie Moratorium: Important dates

ALBERTA

Agreed to a moratorium on youth aging out of care ending on June 30, 2020.

This moratorium was extended, but ended in September 2020. No further plans have been announced as of October 19, 2020.

SASKATCHEWAN

Agreed to the moratorium for youth who were scheduled to age out of care on March 31, 2020.

The moratorium was set to last until June 30, 2020. This was extended until January 5, 2021.

In January 2021, the moratorium was extended until June 2021.

MANITOBA

Agreed to the moratorium within the first week of April 2020.

The moratorium is inclusive of youth who were scheduled to transition out of care starting March 20 and ending September 30, 2020.

Agreed to an extended moratorium, currently planned to end in March 2021.

Federal moratorium on First Nations youth transitioning out of care exists until March 2021.



For original sources and documents, please visit: www.childtraumaresearch.ca