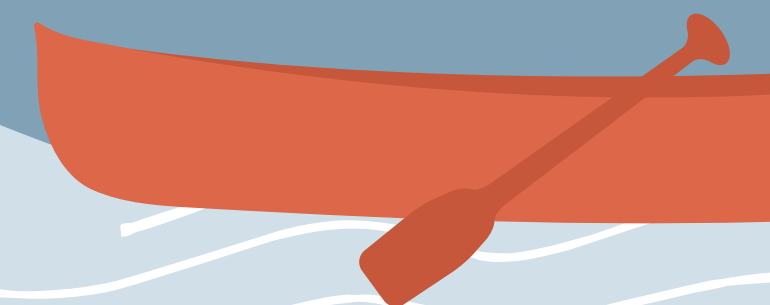
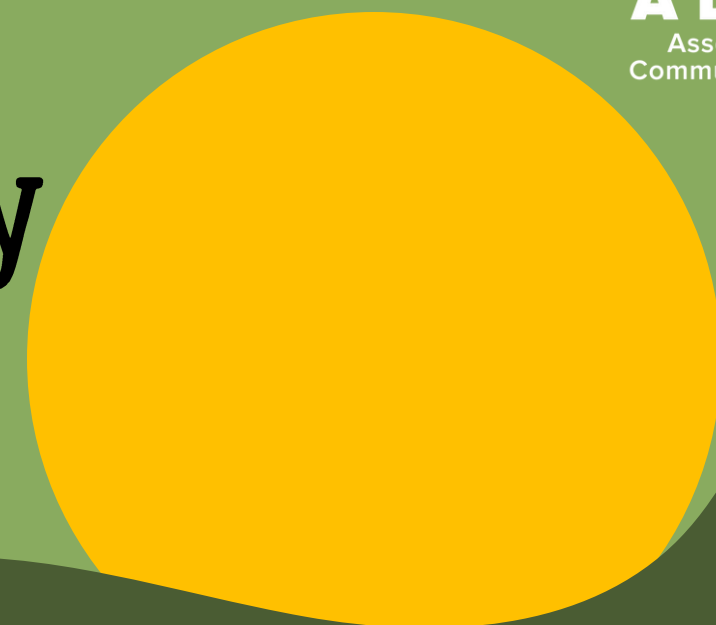
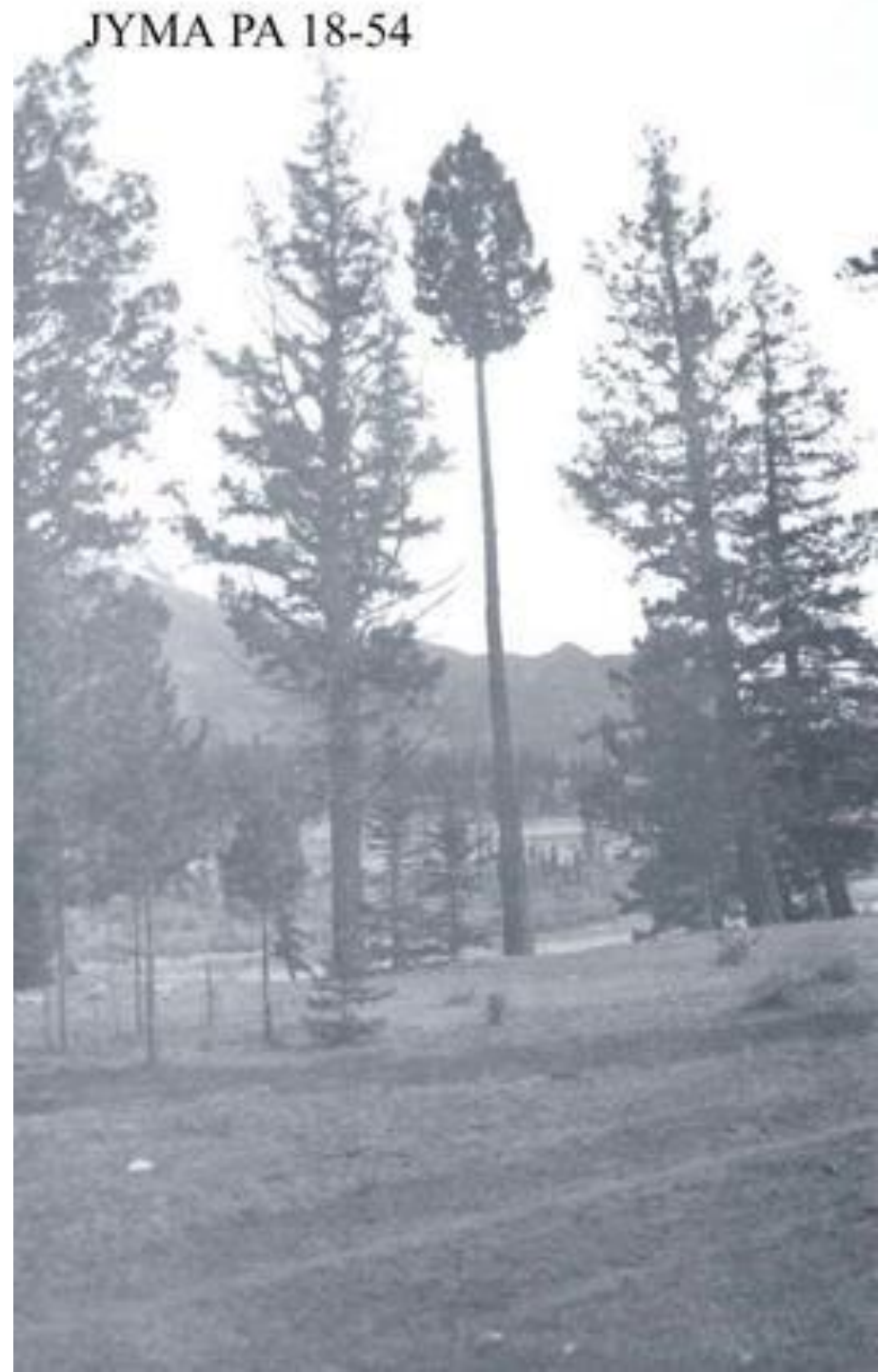




**ALIGN**  
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Community Services

# Empowering Indigenous Child and Family Services with the Well-Being Toolkit









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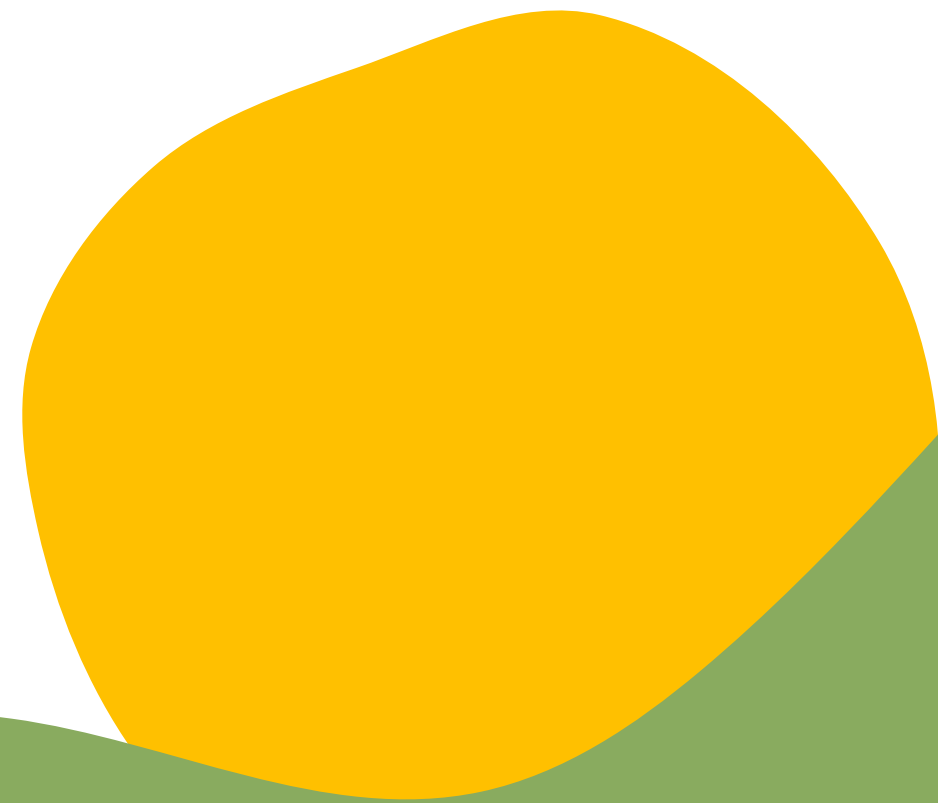


# What are our outcomes for today?

- Gain an understanding of the Well-Being Toolkit
- Learn about the the multiple compements of the toolkit
- Understand the application of evaluation and sharing stories of impact
- Connect the Toolkit with the National Standards and culturally grounded frameworks

# Well-Being Initiative:

- Who we are
- What's Our Vision



# ALIGN Well-Being Toolkit

- Culturally-rooted well-being assessment
- Crosses the continuum service delivery





# Well-Being Toolkit Components

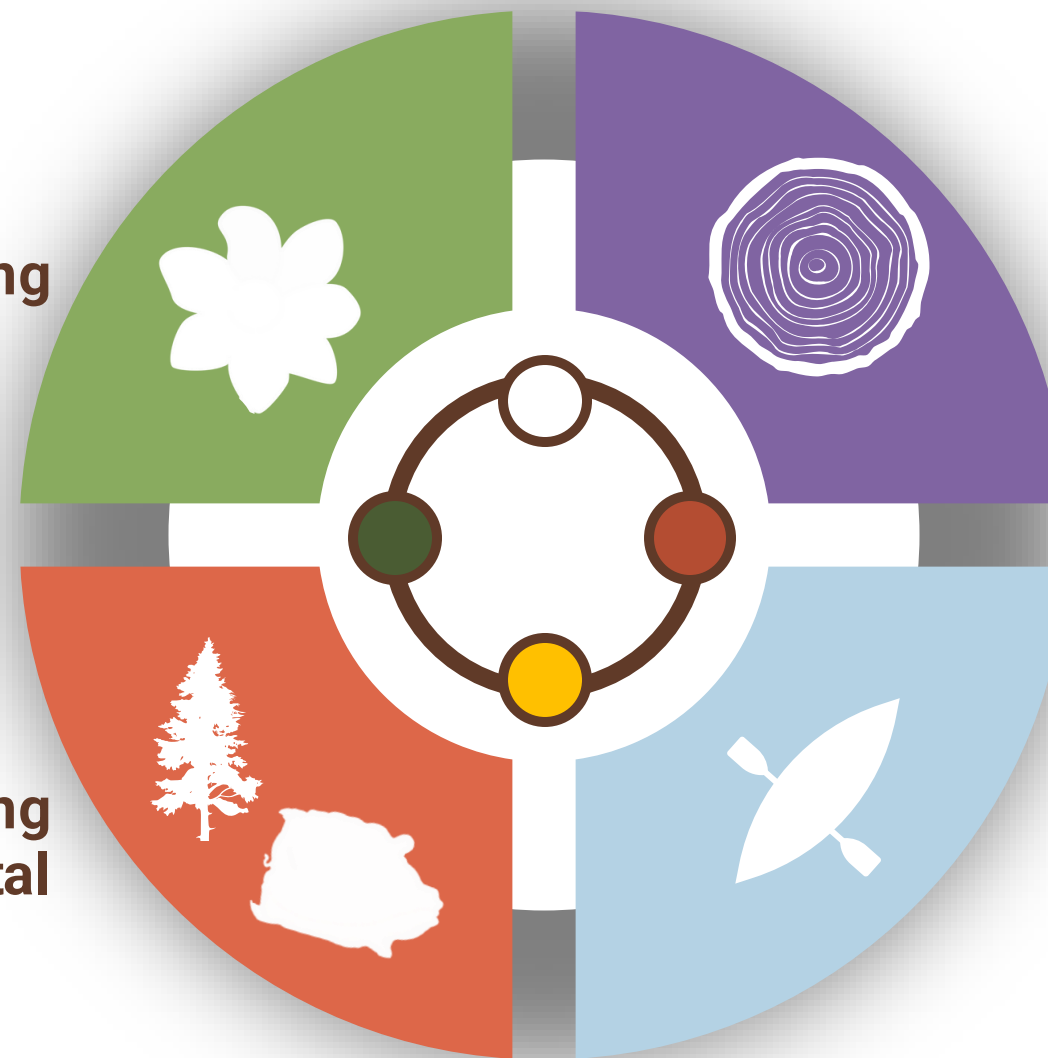
Co-developed with Albertan youth with lived experience, practitioners, and Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Seven Domains of Well-Being

Principles for Measuring Child & Youth Well-Being

Provincial Story of Well-Being Impact & Impact Portal

Menu of Indicators & Assessments



# Introducing the Toolkit



# Collaboration, lived experience, and research

**Listened to youth & caregivers** on their experiences to identify principles & indicators

**Scanned research and practice literature** for principles of measurement, indicators, & assessments

**Gathered current measurement practices, principles, & indicators** from agencies

**Guided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers** in de-centring Western assumptions & creating ethical space

**Created the toolkit in collaboration** with agencies





# Well-Being Initiative live and online

Toolkit  
Videos  
Research & Framework  
Impact Portal and Dashboard

<https://alignab.ca/well-being/>



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## GETTING STARTED

- [Introduction to the Well-being Toolkit](#)
- [Toolkit Explainer](#) – A brief summary of purpose, components, and application of the toolkit with [slides](#) and speaking points
- [Quick Start Guide](#)

## TOOLKIT

### Downloadable Tools

- [ALIGN Well-Being Toolkit PDF](#)
- [Domains of Well-Being](#)
- [Principles for Measuring Well-Being](#)
- [Menu of Indicators PDF](#)
- [Assessments & Tools PDF](#)
- [Gathering Stories](#)
- [Self-rating scale](#)

### Interactive Tools

- [Menu of Indicators](#)
- [Table of Assessments](#)

## VIDEOS

- [View Videos](#)

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Stories from the Toolkit pilot group

- [Bent Arrow Healing Society](#)
- [WJS](#)
- [Rainbow Literacy](#)
- [McMan South](#)
- [SIGN UP for Community of Practice](#)  
The CoP meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month and is an informal community of like-minded practitioners and evaluators in the child and family serving sector who are interested in growing their organization's impact on child and youth well-being. For more information or to register email [wellbeingimpactportal@alignab.ca](mailto:wellbeingimpactportal@alignab.ca)

## WELL-BEING IMPACT PORTAL

- [Login into Portal & Dashboard](#)

## PROVINCIAL STORY OF IMPACT

# ALIGN Well-Being Initiative

Culturally-rooted well-being assessment across the continuum of child and family service agencies

The way we define and understand child and youth well-being matters. In the Indigenous worldview, for example, well-being is a way of being and doing. It is an action intertwined with others, the land, animals, plants, and the cosmos – it is vast. As such, it is not a thing that can be easily summarized, defined, and measured. Well-being is about balance, happiness, joy, and moving forward in a good way learned through responsibility, reciprocity, language, and ceremony. To ensure programs and services are equitable and culturally responsive, it is vital we define and understand child and youth well-being based on the perspectives and values of culturally diverse communities.

The goal for the ALIGN Well-Being Initiative is to support child and family service agencies and organizations to assess well-being and the impact of their work with culturally diverse children, youth, and families. To do that, ALIGN, in collaboration with PolicyWise for Children & Families, developed a principle-based and culturally rooted **Framework** and a practice-oriented **Toolkit** that is reflective of diverse ways of being and knowing and grounded in Indigenous perspectives as parallel approaches to validating practice. We designed the Toolkit so agencies can incorporate and adapt components at their own pace, as their capacity allows, and as they become relevant and helpful to their practice.



Listen to Adrian Goulet, Kirby Redwood and Elder Beverly Keshshig-Soonias introduce the purpose of the Well-Being Toolkit.

## ALIGN Well-Being Toolkit

The **Toolkit** includes resources to support child and youth well-being practice and assessment and a Well-Being Impact Portal to collect and share agencies' individual and collective impact.

Disclaimer: To view the Toolkit on mobile devices, turn your phone horizontally and use the arrows on the lower left corner to change pages.

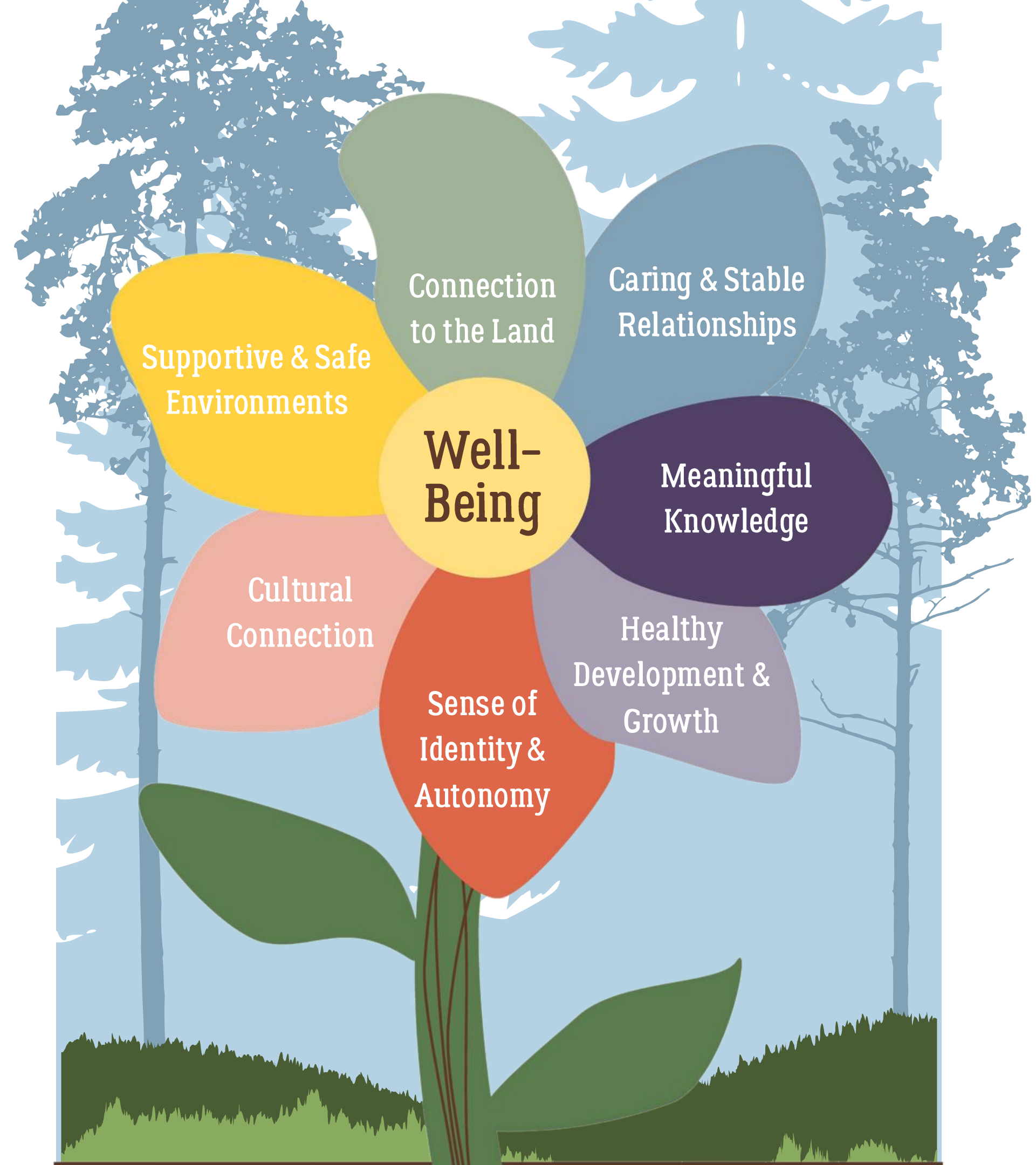
Click through the slides below to view the **Interactive Well-Being Toolkit**:



Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many First Nations of Treaty 6, Treaty 7, Treaty 8, and Treaty 10 and the five Territories of the Métis Nation of Alberta. This resource was developed on this land and reflects our understanding through listening, learning, sharing, and walking alongside in respect of Indigenous Nations' self-determination in creating and validating well-being. We are grateful for the wisdom shared with us and the guidance we received in this work.

# Domains of Well-Being

- Ecological & relational
- Interconnected & multidimensional
- Equitable access & structures
- Strengths-based & trauma-informed





# Principles for Measuring Well-Being

*"I see the white in the north, red in the east, yellow is south and green in the west. Those are my teachings, that is the way we hang our cloth, our offerings, when we enter into the sweat lodge."*

**- Kirby Redwood, Knowledge Keeper and practitioner**





# Indicators

- Ecological perspective
- Strengths-based
- Culturally responsive
- Research and lived experience

**Goal statement**  
Goals that are major aspects of that well-being domain

**Indicators**  
Example markers or signs of progress towards the goal statement

## Connection to Land

Well-being domain

- Land-based Activities
- Sense of Place
- Connection to Land
- Respect & Stewardship of Land

**Well-being domain goals**  
Click on these buttons to jump to the page with this goal and associated indicators

Children & Youth	Caregivers	Agencies & Staff
<b>Children and youth cultivate their sense of place</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child or youth engages in resource-based activities as a continued connection to ancestors and land.</li> <li>• Child or youth spends time on Nation, settlement, or home community. Examples include powwows, family events, sundances, just being.</li> <li>• Child or youth know where they are from.</li> <li>• Child or youth feels comfortable in natural environment with basic outdoor or survival skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers feel connected to the land. For example, immigrant and refugee caregivers feel welcomed on the land they live on, not just the country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations have connections and receive information about events and activities that build a sense of place early enough for families and agencies to plan for it.</li> <li>• Programs and staff model comfort with natural environment and basic survival skills.</li> </ul>

# Assessments & Tools

## Assessments & Tools by Domain

- Connection to the Land
- Caring & Stable Relationships
- Meaningful Knowledge
- Healthy Development & Growth
- Sense of Identity & Autonomy
- Cultural Connection
- Supportive & Safe Environments



ASSESSMENT OR TOOL	DOMAINS	DESCRIPTION
Ages & Stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring &amp; Stable Relationships</li> <li>Healthy Development &amp; Growth</li> </ul>	Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ®-3) is a developmental screening tool designed for use by health care professionals. It relies on parents as experts, is easy-to-use, family-friendly, and creates the snapshot needed to track developmental milestones.
Building the Sacred: An Indigenous Evaluation Framework for Programs Serving Native Survivors of Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring &amp; Stable Relationships</li> <li>Cultural Connection</li> <li>Supportive &amp; Safe Environments</li> </ul>	This framework illustrates four places from which Indigenous evaluation is already taking place in violence prevention programs that have not yet been formally recognized in a culturally-rooted evaluation framework.
Casey Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meaningful Knowledge</li> </ul>	Casey Life Skills (CLS) is a set of free tools that assess the independent skills youth need to achieve their long-term goals toward developing healthy, productive lives.
Child & Youth Resilience Measure & Adult Resilience Measure (CYRM/ARM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring &amp; Stable Relationships</li> <li>Meaningful Knowledge</li> <li>Healthy Development &amp; Growth</li> <li>Sense of Identity &amp; Autonomy</li> <li>Supportive &amp; Safe Environments</li> </ul>	CYRM-R is a self-report measure of social-ecological resilience. Resilience is both the capacity of individuals and communities to draw on psychological, social, cultural, and physical resources that sustain their well-being and their capacity to meet challenges provided in culturally meaningful ways.
Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meaningful Knowledge</li> <li>Healthy Development &amp; Growth</li> <li>Sense of Identity &amp; Autonomy</li> <li>Cultural Connection</li> <li>Supportive &amp; Safe Environments</li> </ul>	The CANS Comprehensive is a multi-purpose tool that gathers information on the child/youth's (ages 6-20) needs and strengths to support decision making, including level of care and service planning, to facilitate quality improvement and the monitoring of outcomes of services.
Cultural Connectedness Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connection to the Land</li> <li>Caring &amp; Stable Relationships</li> <li>Meaningful Knowledge</li> </ul>	The Cultural Connectedness Scale measures how integrated children and youth are with their First Nation, Métis, or Inuit identity in three dimensions: identity, traditions, and spirituality.



# Provincial Story of Impact

## Sharing stories

Lobsticks help us find the way and assess where we are at. You will share your work and impact in each well-being domain by leaving a story of abundance at each lobstick and taking what other agencies left to fill your gaps.

## Wayfinding with Lobsticks

### Self-rating

As a parallel process of assessing impact in each domain that allows us to aggregate data and compare over time, agencies will self-rate outcomes for children, youth, caregivers, and efforts for staff and agencies using a short scale.

## Winter Count

This collective, in-person sharing circle will bring the two parallel paths together. Agencies will come together in ceremony, create connection, share stories of most important impact, nurture relational accountability, and learn from each other. ALIGN may record the creation of the winter count in a video that will serve as the provincial story of agencies' impact recorded year after year.





# Wayfinding with Lobsticks: Impact Reflection

## Connection to the Land

Connection to the land means cultivating relationships with the land, water, food sources, and the natural environment. For Indigenous communities, connection to the land and the opportunity to practice land-based activities are essential to identity. They also support living in a good way, which includes connecting with positive aspects of life and gratitude for the land. For children from immigrant, migrant, and refugee communities, connecting to the land builds a relationship and a sense of belonging to their new homeland. For all children and youth connection to land is vital for well-being and builds awareness about environmental health, which in turn is necessary for life and well-being.



### Stories

What do you have an abundance of? Share a story of change or impact in this domain.

What would you need more of? What would you need to better support this domain?

I confirm that the stories I have shared DO NOT include any personally identifiable information about children, youth, caregivers, or staff. • ?

Yes  No

I agree to the stories I shared being included in the Impact Dashboard for others to see. • ?

Yes  No

### Children & Youth

Where are the children and youth at in this domain?

Rating

### Caregivers

Where are the caregivers at in this domain?

Rating

### Agency & Staff

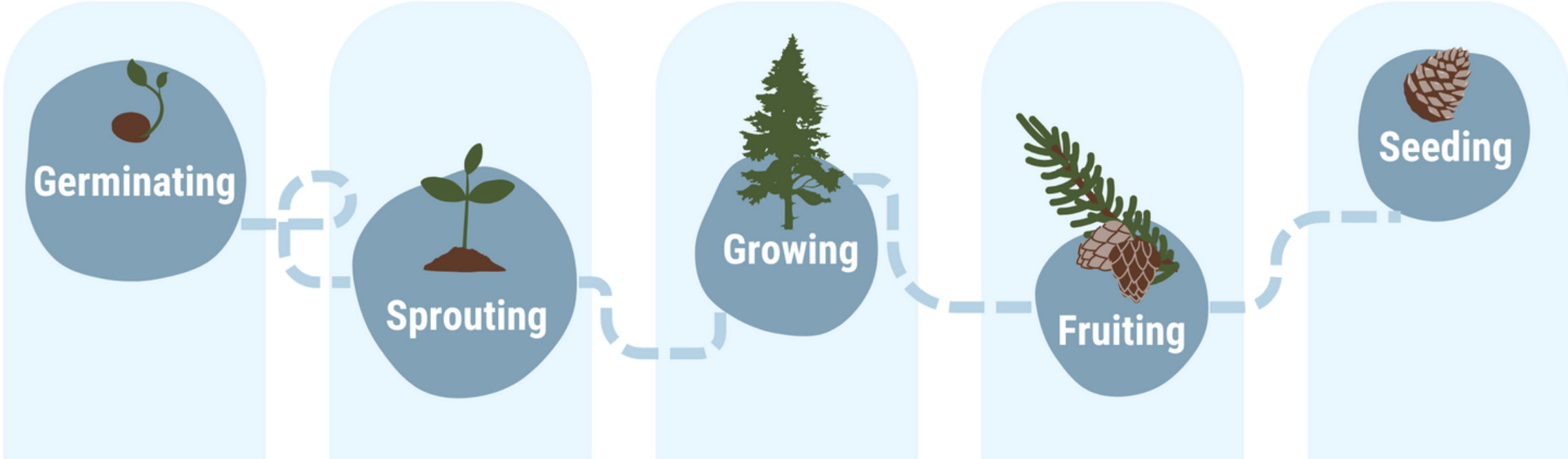


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# Wayfinding with Lobsticks: Self-rating

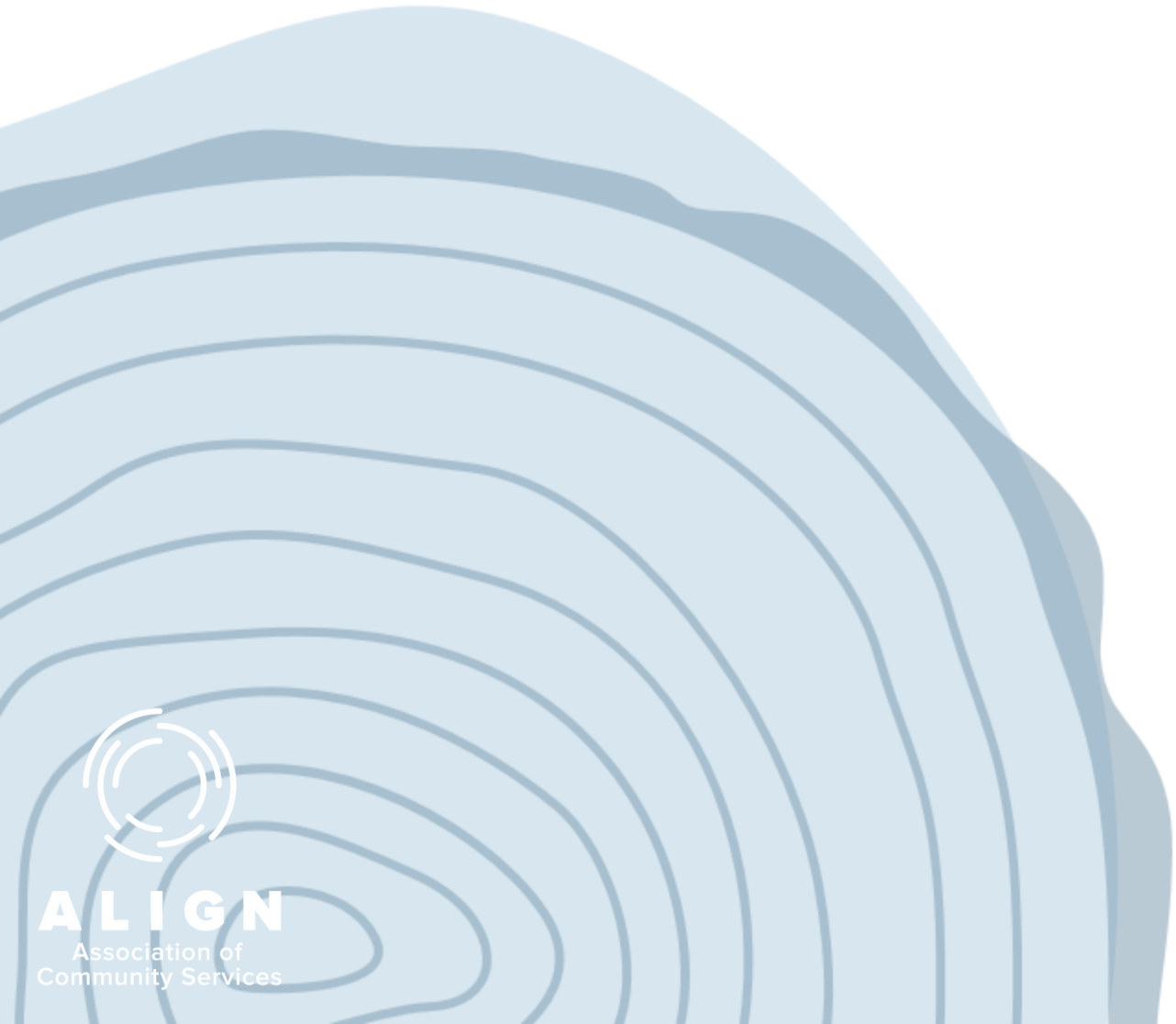
Self-rating: children and youth, and caregiver outcomes



Self-rating: staff and agency efforts



Numeric Scale Equivalent in the Impact Dashboard



# Example of Impact Reflections

**Background:** We are a non-profit organization. We serve the lifespan, including children, youth, adults, and families. We provide programs for addiction and recovery, housing and shelter, family and caregiver support, and caregiving and transition support to children and youth.

## Healthy Development & Growth

Children & Youth

Where are the children and youth at in this domain?

Sprouting

✓ Save

**Children and youth are at a sprouting stage.** For example, the majority of children are participating in some activities or conversations but still working towards feeling comfortable connecting with their culture.

Caregivers

Where are the caregivers at in this domain?

Germinating

✓ Save

**Overall caregivers are at the germinating stage.** For example, in some regions caregivers have a more natural connection to community to support healthy development in culturally-rooted ways, but a majority of caregivers need more support to make those connections.

Staff & Agency

Where is your agency and staff with supporting this domain for children, youth and caregivers?

Nurturing

✓ Save

**The staff and agency effort are at the nurturing stage.** For example, all staff, apart from relief staff, completed a new innovative foundational training and each program is exploring their own way of piloting ideas from this training. All staff experience a differing degree of comfortability in attending cultural activities and the agency would benefit in exploring ways to address this to increase involvement.







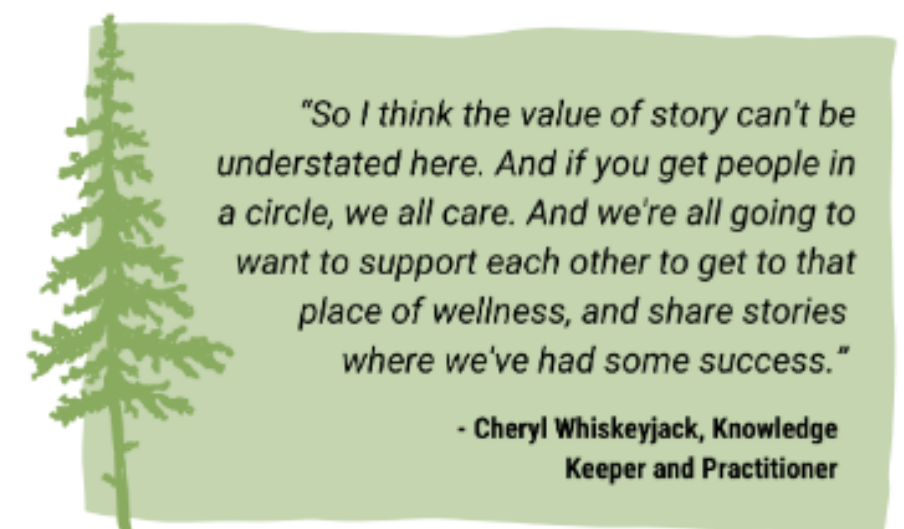
## Sector Stories

The unique impact of agencies' work in children, youth, caregivers, and staff lives is best reflected in stories. This section displays the stories of abundance and the stories of need shared by all agencies participating in the Well-being Impact Portal.

Use the filter bar on the side to filter for:

- Specific years of data
- Specific domains
- Specific agency characteristics

Use the search bar to search for keywords in the stories. Please note that the search function is case-sensitive.



**Filter**

**Start of Reference Period**

Beginning date for reference period minus one day. For example, to only search for stories from 2024, enter December 31, 2023 as the start date (January 1, 2024 minus one day).

**End of Reference Period**

End date for reference period plus one day. For example, to only search for stories from 2024, enter January 1, 2025 as the end date (December 31, 2024 plus one day).

**Domain**

**Is your agency an Indigenous Governing Body?**

Yes  No

**Does your agency provide services with prevention, early intervention, intervention, and/or disability?**

Stories of Abundance **Stories of Need**

### Stories of Abundance

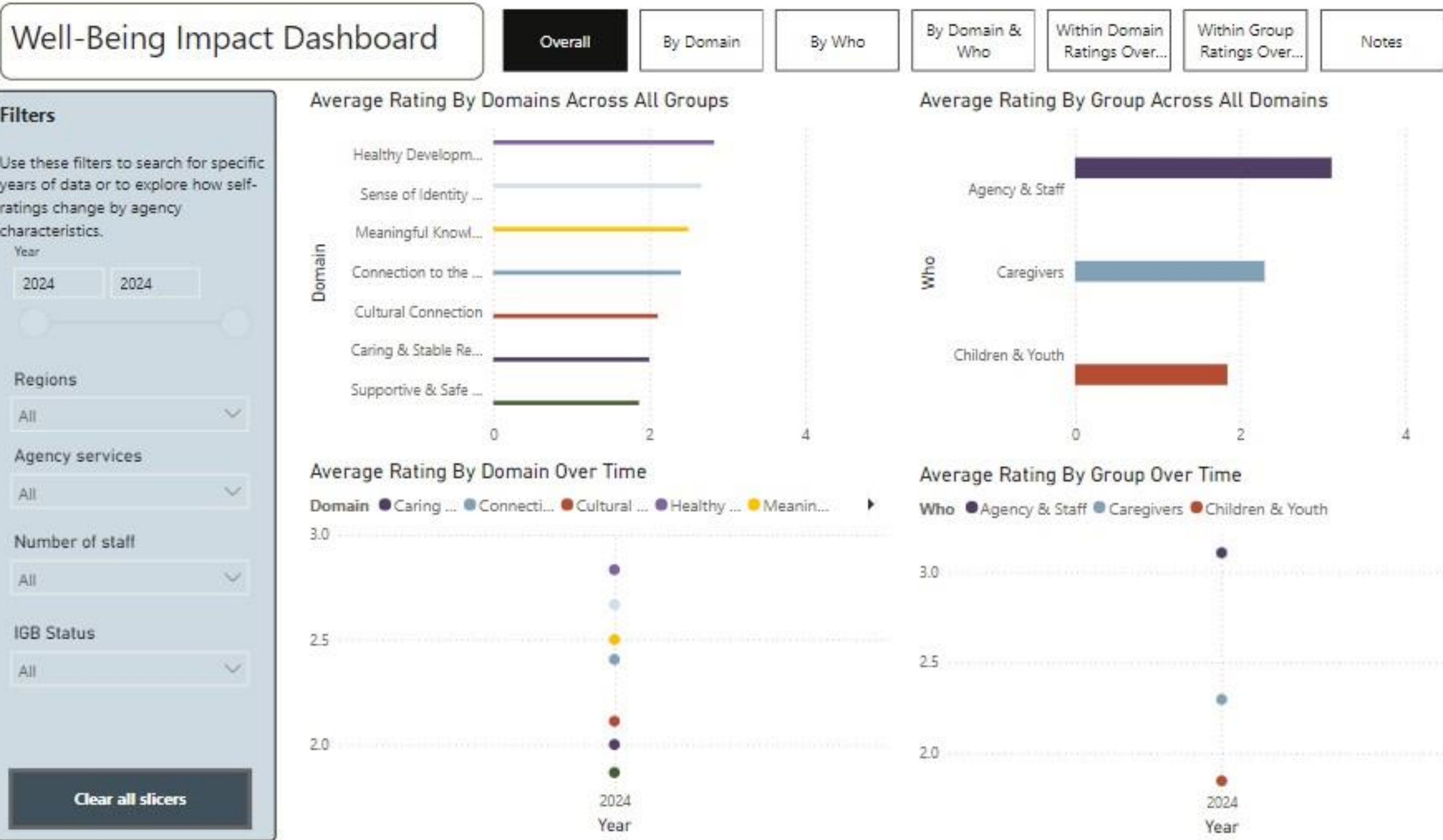
2 Records

Test

Domain	Year	Shared by
Supportive & Safe Environments	2024	PolicyWise for Children & Families

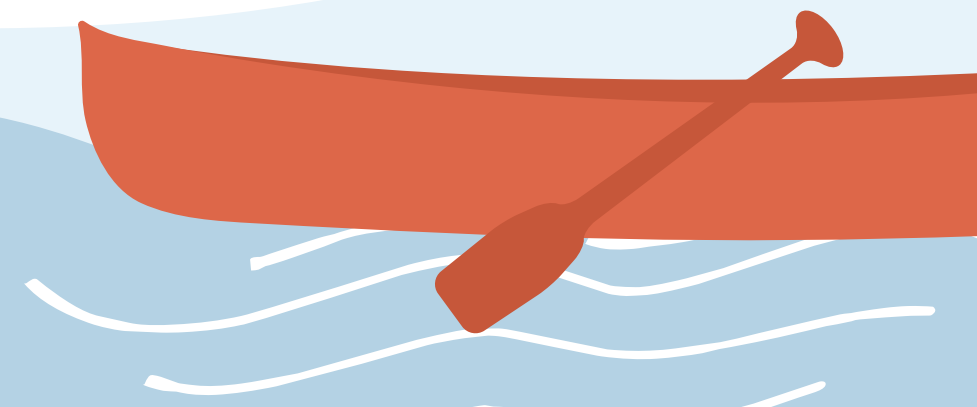
As a leader I have started to do a self care check in with staff using the medicine wheel. We have a medicine wheel drawn out and I check in on how they are taking care of themselves mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually at work and outside work. This gives staff the opportunity to reflect on the holistic perspective of self care and be able to think of tangible things they do at work to take care of themselves. Staff have been opening up and sharing more since this has been implemented. The examples staff share fall within the domains of wellbeing and if leaders see that an area is blank, the domains and

# Sector Dashboard



# Table talk Questions

- How can Indigenous communities use tools like the ALIGN Well-being Toolkit to develop culturally grounded child welfare frameworks that integrate traditional knowledge with modern welfare standards?
- What are the most effective ways to use the ALIGN Well-being Toolkit to assess and measure the success of Indigenous-led child welfare systems in terms of child well-being and cultural preservation?

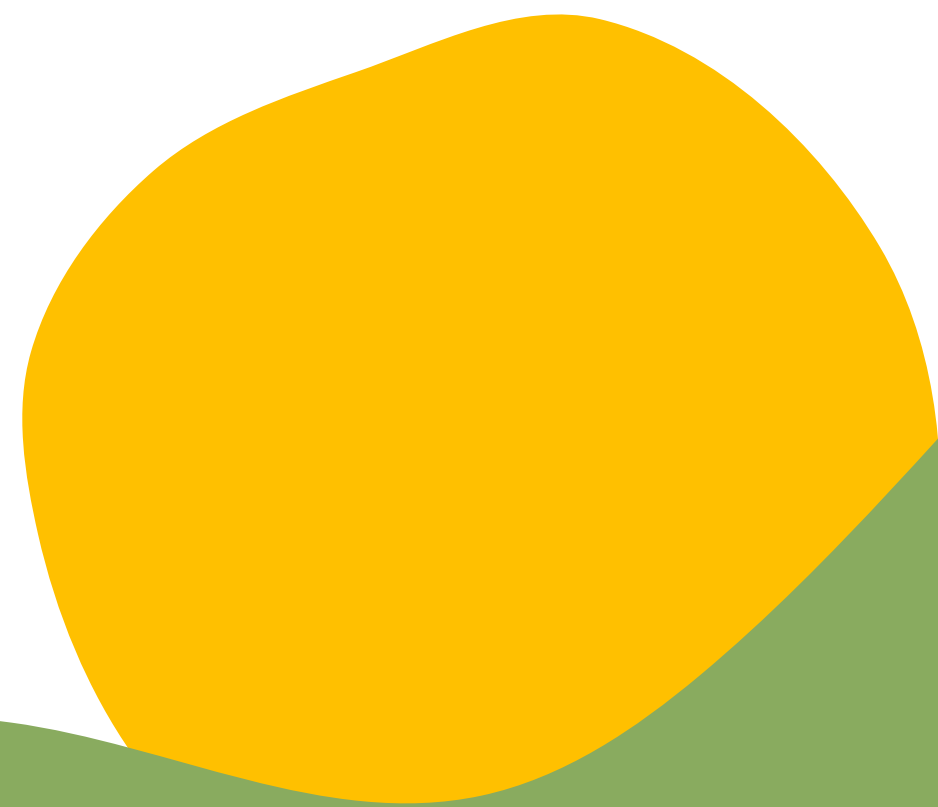




# National Standards and the Well-Being Toolkit

- Overview of Bill C-92
- Significance of National Standards
- Establishing Culturally Grounded Frameworks
- Shaping Child Welfare Standards in First Nations Communities
- Métis & Inuit Approaches to Child Welfare Standards
- Culturally Rooted Frameworks
- Case Studies of Community-led Initiatives
- Connecting ALIGN's Toolkit with National Standards
- Supporting Indigenous Jurisdiction Through the Toolkit
- Practical Tools for Culturally Responsive Assessments

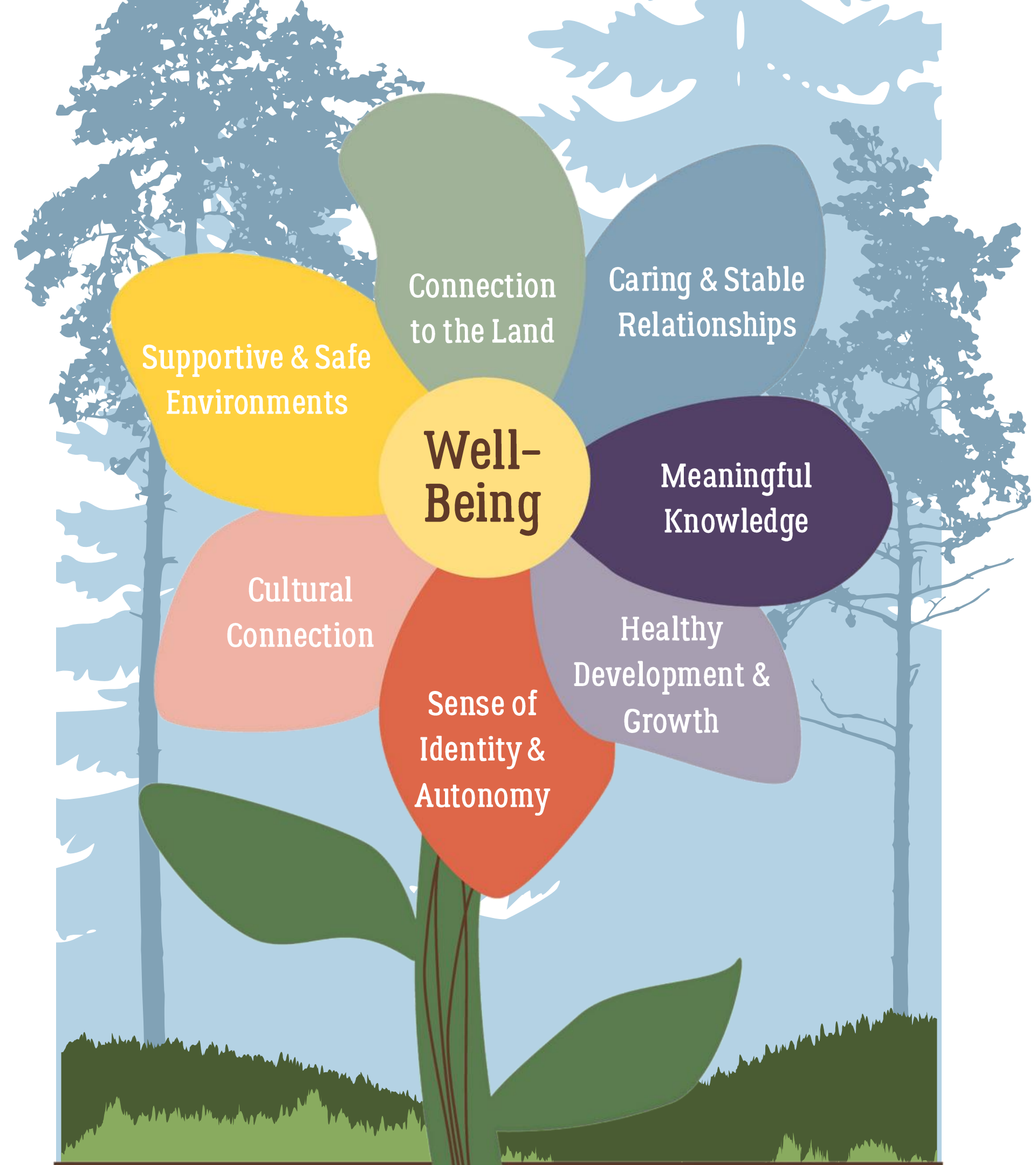
# Empowering Child ~~Welfare~~ Well-Being



Ensuring Well-Being Standards Reflect Indigenous Values

# Domains of Well-Being

- Ecological & relational
- Interconnected & multidimensional
- Equitable access & structures
- Strengths-based & trauma-informed





# Overview of Bill C-92

**Historical Context:** Examines colonial policies that marginalized Indigenous families, leading to disproportionate child welfare placements in state care.

**Self-Determination Empowerment:** Prioritizes Indigenous authority in creating tailored child welfare systems reflecting community values.

**Cultural Preservation:** Promotes the integration of Indigenous cultural practices into child welfare wellbeing, fostering identity and belonging among youth.

# Significance of National Standards

**Framework for Accountability:** National standards promote accountability, providing transparent benchmarks that Indigenous communities can utilize for governance.

**Respect for Governance:** These standards acknowledge and uphold Indigenous self-governance, contrasting with previously imposed government frameworks limiting autonomy.

**Children's Rights Protection:** Employing national standards ensures children's rights are safeguarded within culturally relevant frameworks fostering well-being and identity.

# Establishing Culturally Grounded Frameworks

**Culturally Appropriate Frameworks:**  
National standards ensure child welfare wellbeing systems are aligned with Indigenous cultural practices and traditional governance.

**Community-Based Child-Rearing:**  
Traditional practices like communal caregiving invoke cooperation, shared responsibility, and engagement of Elders in guidance.

**Balancing Heritage and Modernity:**  
Integrating historical knowledge with contemporary practices enhances efficacy of child welfare well-being while preserving identity.



# Shaping Child Welfare Well-Being Standards

**Development of Standards:** Indigenous communities are establishing child welfare standards focused on traditional practices and family bonds.

**Jurisdictional Challenges:** Communities face complex jurisdictional overlaps, hindering their ability to assert sovereignty in welfare systems.

**Resource Gaps:** Operational hurdles arise from limited funding and support, complicating the implementation of culturally relevant frameworks.





# Métis & Inuit Approaches to Child Welfare Standards

**Métis Child Welfare Practices:** Métis communities emphasize cultural continuity through language revitalization, community bonds, and localized child-rearing traditions.

**Inuit Approaches to Child Welfare:** Inuit systems incorporate environmental knowledge and family interdependence, reflecting their unique Arctic heritage in practices.





# Culturally Rooted Frameworks

**Respecting Indigenous Values:** Child welfare frameworks must inherently respect and integrate Indigenous values, customs, and governance structures for effectiveness.

**Collaboration with Knowledge Keepers:** Successful child welfare systems necessitate close collaboration between traditional knowledge keepers and formal authorities, fostering mutual understanding.

**Partnerships with Non-Indigenous Agencies:** Strategic partnerships with non-Indigenous agencies are crucial to enhance resources and support for Indigenous child welfare efforts.





# Connecting ALIGN's Toolkit with National Standards

ALIGN's Well-Being Toolkit aids communities in aligning child welfare frameworks with National Standards effectively.

**Tools for Assessments:** Toolkit provides practical tools for well-being assessments, enhancing community understanding and evaluation of needs.

**Governance Capacity Building:** Facilitates governance capacity building, empowering Indigenous communities to implement effective, self-determined child welfare wellbeing strategies.



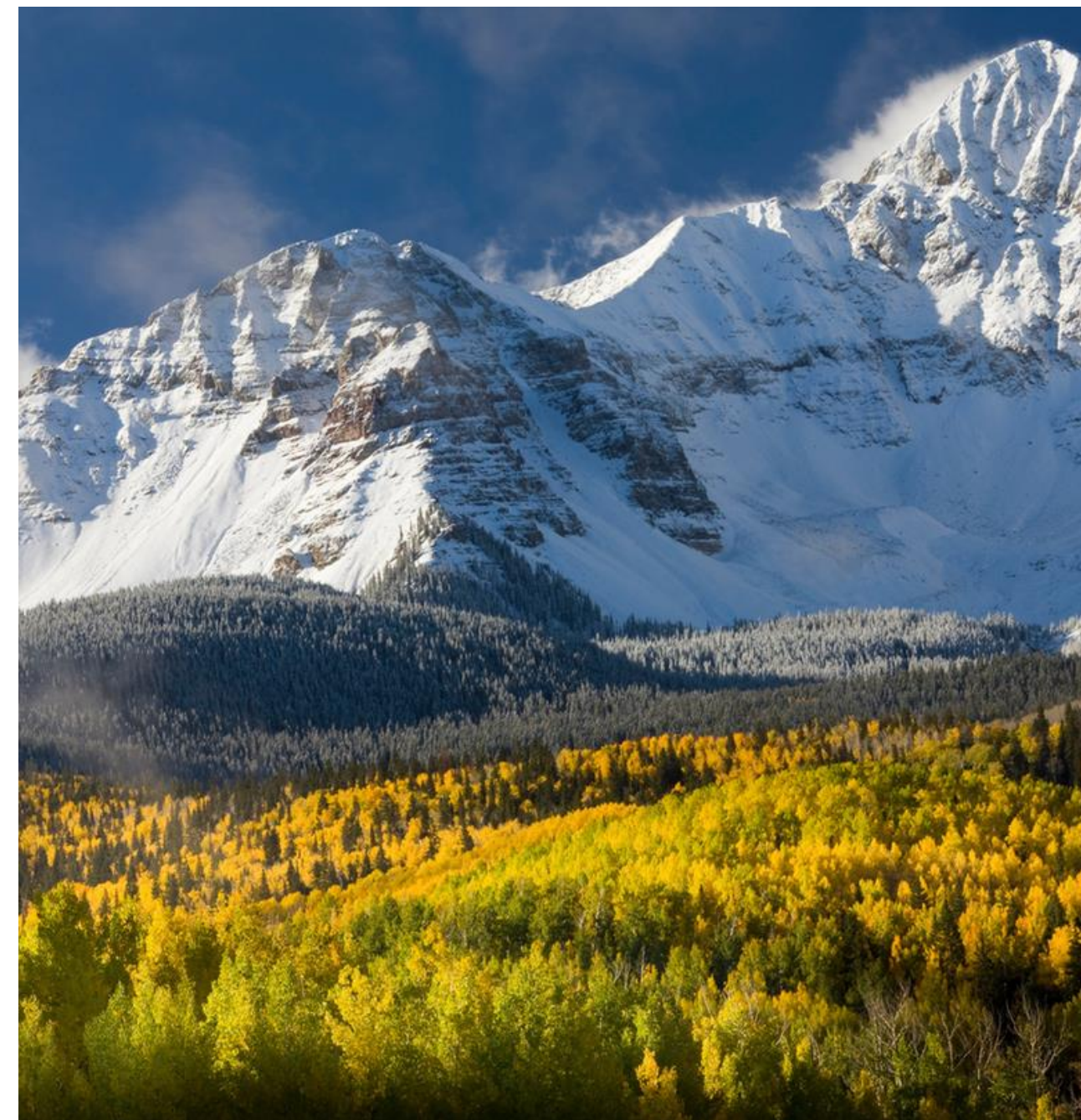


# Supporting Indigenous Jurisdiction Through the Well-Being Toolkit

**Empowerment through ALIGN:** The toolkit supports Indigenous communities to create culturally responsive child welfare wellbeing services, enhancing local governance.

**Legal Framework Alignment:** The toolkit aligns with Bill C-92's legal framework, ensuring sovereignty in developing child welfare wellbeing practices.

**Culturally Responsive Systems:** By leveraging the toolkit, communities can implement systems reflecting cultural values, improving child welfare wellbeing outcomes.



# Practical Tools for Culturally Responsive Assessments

**Culturally Tailored Assessment Tools:** Assessment methods in the toolkit prioritize Indigenous values, enhancing alignment with traditional community practices.

**Family Well-Being Indicators:** Indicators designed to reflect Indigenous cultural definitions of family well-being support holistic assessments of children's needs.

**Community Validation Process:** Engaging communities in the validation of assessment tools ensures respect for local knowledge and perspectives



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**Empowering Futures:  
A Gathering for Indigenous Child  
Welfare Sovereignty**

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# What's Next

Subscribe to the the newsletter  
for more pilot group stories



Check out the  
Toolkit at  
[alignab.ca](http://alignab.ca)



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Practice



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