



BC FIRST NATIONS
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Transforming Justice

Insights from the BC First Nations Justice Council & Youth Justice Circles

Presented by: Boyd Peters, Xoyet thet, Vice-Chair for BCFNJC

Chair of Diversion and Community-Based Justice Programming and Corrections.

Co-Chair of Policing, Oversight and Accountability; the Leadership Table; and the Tripartite Leadership Circle.



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Overview of Presentation



BCFNJC Background



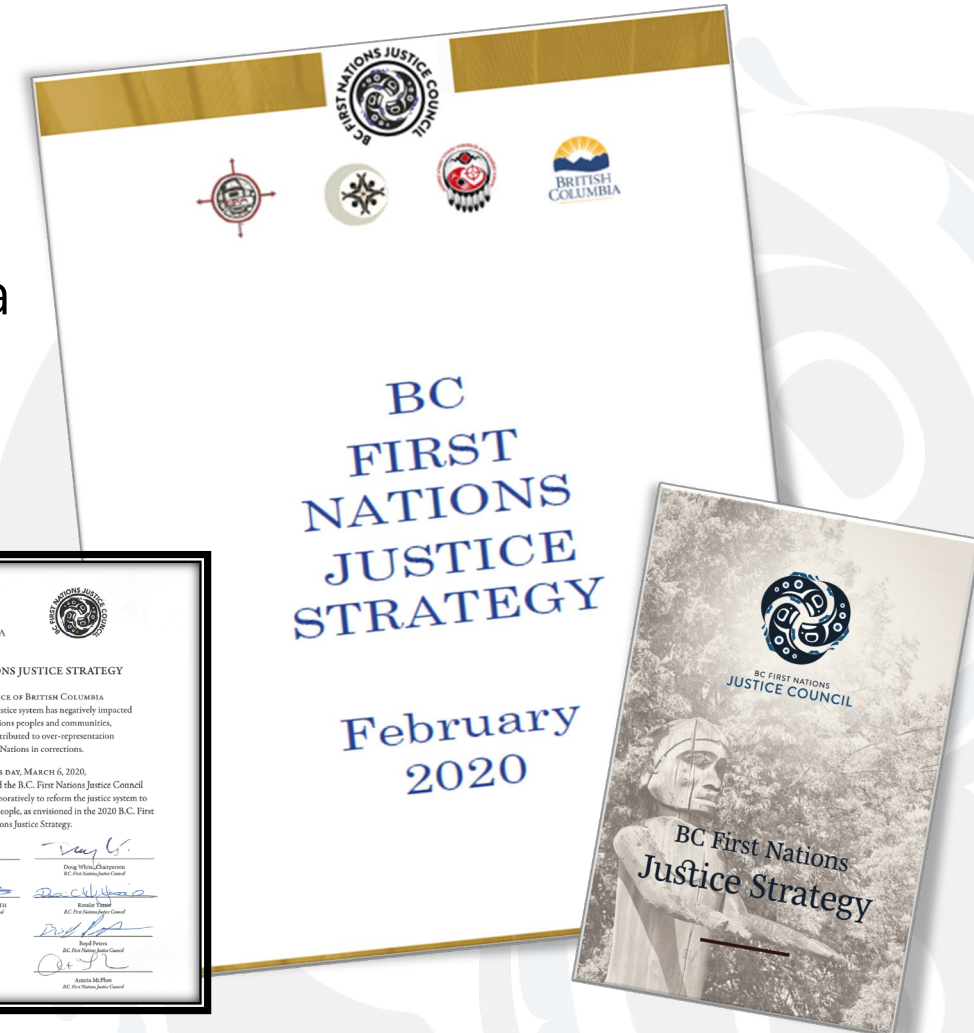
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In 2015, the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) was established by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)

BCFNJC has an important mandate to develop a comprehensive Justice Strategy. This work culminated in the completion of the **BC First Nations Justice Strategy in 2020**



First Nations Leadership Council





The BC First Nations Justice Council

Clifford White
Lydia Hwitsum, LL.B
Dr. Judith Sayers, LL.B
Andrea Hilland, K.C., LL.B, LL.M
Vice Chair Boyd Peters
Chair Kory Wilson, LL.B

An Ambitious Roadmap

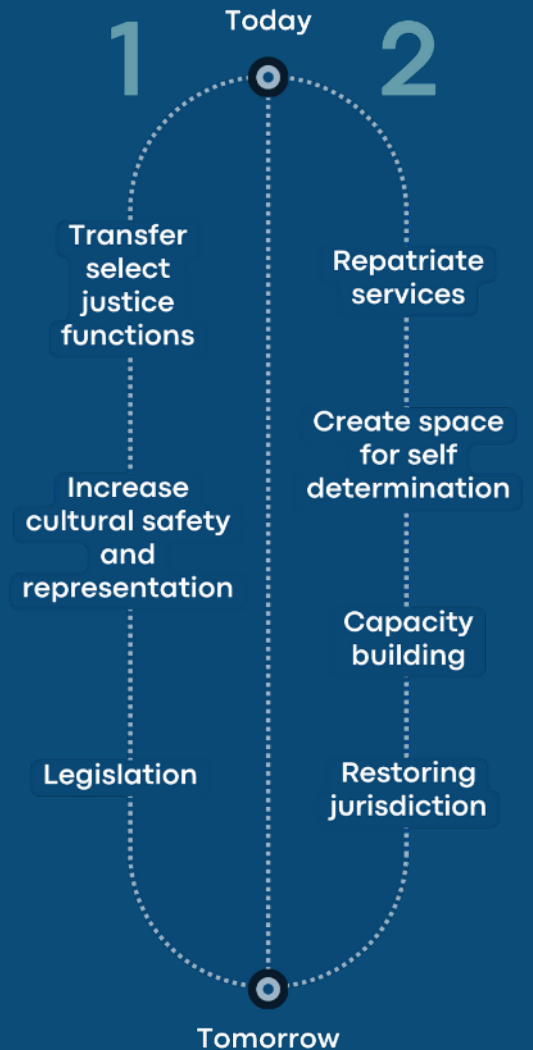
The BC First Nations Justice Strategy (the Strategy) advances 25 strategies and 43 actions along 2 paths:

Track 1: Reform the current criminal justice system

Track 2: Restore First Nation legal traditions and structures

The Strategy will reduce the number of First Nations people who become involved with the criminal justice system, improve the experience of those who do, increase the number of First Nations people working within the justice system, and support First Nations to restore their justice systems and structures.

A conversation
with the system



The Strategy: Track 1



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Track 1: Reform the current justice system



Reduce Youth Incarceration

Prevention, diversion, and access to justice



Safety for Women and Girls

Increase public safety and access to justice for women and girls



Systematic Gladue Implementation

Standardization of, and increased access to, Gladue reports across the system



Culturally Safe Justice Services

Increase cultural safety training, and Indigenous representation in positions of authority



Independent Oversight

Third-party oversight regarding Indigenous peoples and the justice system

The Strategy: Track 2



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Track 2: Restore First Nation legal traditions and structures



15 Indigenous Justice Centres

15 centres by 2024 for legal aid and access to justice services



Rebuilding our Institutions

Self-determined and culturally appropriate institutions



Reclaiming Legal Space

Revitalize First Nations legal orders



Restorative Approaches

Restorative and healing approaches at all levels



Growing Community Justice Programs

Community justice fund for stable and ongoing investment

Indigenous Justice Centres in British Columbia



"When our people are well, our communities are safe."

BCFNJC Vice Chair, Xoyet thet (Boyd Peters)

Strategy 10

Prevention and Youth



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BCFNJC's STRATEGY 10



Prevention and Youth, highlights the need for proactive, coordinated approaches to prevention.

In the creation of the Justice Strategy, a key priority identified by participants was the development of preventative programs and supports that keep First Nations Youth out of the justice system.

Being in Circle



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INDIGENOUS YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN Community Engagement Sessions

CALLING ALL INDIGENOUS YOUTH!
(Ages 12-29+)

Please join our Indigenous Youth Justice Team this fall during one of our **Community Engagement Sessions**.

Be part of designing a Justice Plan for Indigenous Youth by Indigenous Youth.

Engagement Sessions include:

- **Dinner**
- **A sharing circle to share your experiences**
- **Collaboration to create plans for the future**

To **RSVP** or to learn more about these sessions and other **BCFNJC community engagements**, visit our **Community Engagement Calendar** on our website: bcfnjc.com/engagement-calendar/ or scan the **QR Code** or email:

youth@bcfnjc.com

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info@bcfnjc.com

bcfnjc.com | @bcfnjc

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INDIGENOUS YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN Community Engagement Sessions

Tuesday October 24th - 5pm - 7:00pm

CALLING ALL INDIGENOUS YOUTH!
(Ages 12-29+)

Please join our Indigenous Youth Justice Team this fall during one of our **Community Engagement Sessions**.

Be part of designing a Justice Plan for Indigenous Youth by Indigenous Youth.

Engagement Sessions include:

- **Dinner**
- **A sharing circle to share your experiences**
- **Collaboration to create plans for the future**

Door Prizes!

CONTACT
youth@bcfnjc.com

DATE & TIME
Tuesday, October 24th 2023
5pm - 7:00pm

LOCATION
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
(West)
4155 Balshaw St
Merritt BC

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INDIGENOUS YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN CALL FOR STORIES OPEN: SEPT 10 - DEC 15, 2023

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!

Share your story and receive a \$50 virtual giftcard!

Calling on Indigenous youth (ages 12-29+) who have been impacted by, or have lived experience with, the criminal justice system.!!

By sharing your experience and wisdom (with primary caregiver permission), your stories can be a powerful tool to help develop the new **Indigenous Youth Justice Plan**, and help your friends, cousins, and family interact with a safer and more respectful justice system.!!

To share your story, scan our **Call for Stories submissions QR Code** or visit the link: bcfnjc.com/YourStory/

For questions or support to submit your story please contact: youth@bcfnjc.com

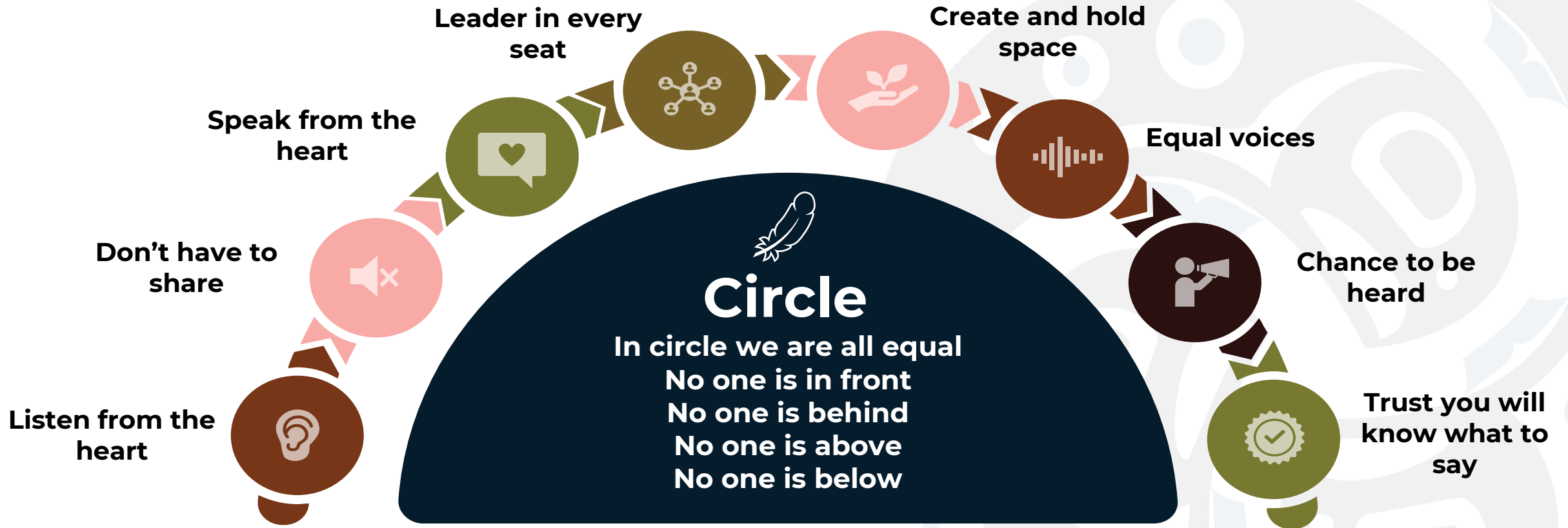
For your privacy and protection we will remove all personal details from your story if you have indicated them, to further protect your anonymity we may remove other details.
Your submission will be kept anonymous.

SCAN TO SHARE YOUR STORY

Building Relational Connections



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What We Heard Youth Voices on Justice, Safety & Wellbeing



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“Safety is within families, within culture, having the ability to do more cultural activities, mutual trust, being able to trust yourself, being able/willing to listen to your children and trust your children to tell you stuff, talking to kids and grandkids about drugs and stuff, being rich in culture, rich in family, preserving culture and language, growing that traditional life, lack of fear, support, attention, friends, an ability to speak up and set boundaries, being loved and nurtured – security, being worryless, secure in where you live, secure in yourself and your money, a lack of danger, having somewhere to be, somewhere to go, community trust.”

- Youth Circle Work Participant

Core Priorities for Change



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Accountability

Youth involvement and oversight in decision-making.



Crisis Response

Indigenous-led response teams that de-escalate and support healing.



Legislation

As we continue reforming laws, legislation, and policy, Indigenous definitions of Youth, family, and readiness must be reflected and embrace culturally grounded timelines.



Child Wellbeing

A move away from apprehension toward kinship, culture, and healing transitions.



Data Safety & Data Sovereignty

To ensure accountability and targeted support.



Prevention

Invest in housing, food, mental health, and community programs that support thriving Indigenomics and self-governance.



Restoring First Nations Justice Systems

Restoration of First Nations justice systems that support the full return of First Nations jurisdiction and legal systems



Corrections

Programs must support reintegration and healing through cultural safety and trauma-informed care.



Education, Training & Mentorship

Embed life skills, land-based learning, Indigenous law, and mentorship in education.



Policing

Transform relationships through cultural safety training, relationship building, and learning from Indigenous-led policing.



2SLGBTQIA+

Legal services that address the layered harms experienced by 2S+ Youth.



Courts & First Nations Courts

Expanded access and incorporation of Indigenous practices, ceremony, and community accountability.



Gladue

Improve awareness and implementation of Gladue rights and rights in general. Invest in reports, training, and Youth education.



Programs & Services

Integration of feedback from community engagement, steering committee & PTOs – final draft.

What We Accomplished Together



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Held space for open, honest dialogue and witnessed the stories of Indigenous Youth across BC.

Translated Youth stories into recommendations for change.

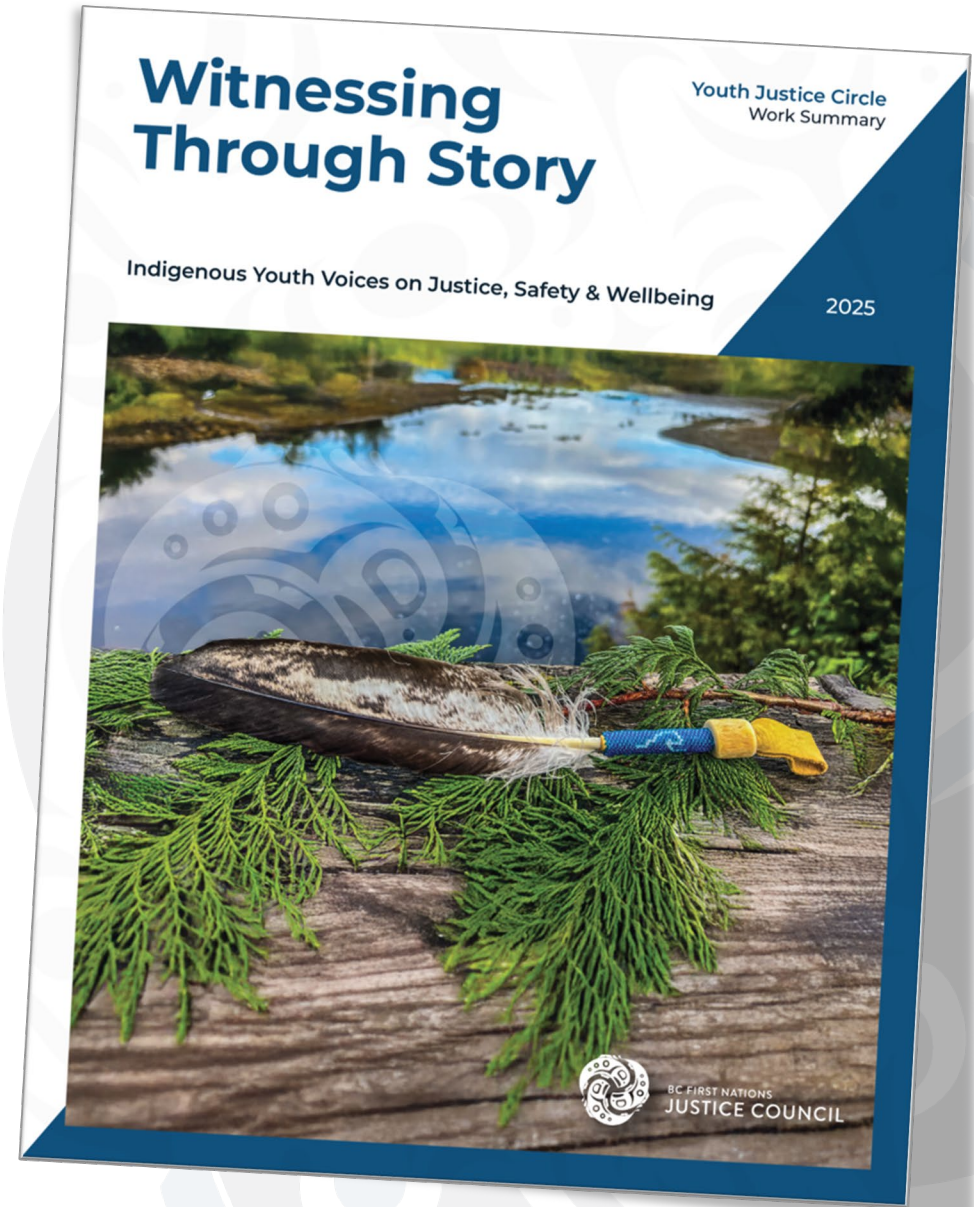
Uplifted the insights of our young relatives in the **'Witnessing Through Story'** report to inform, influence, and inspire systemic change.



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This work is dedicated to the Indigenous Youth who courageously shared their voices, stories, and hopes for the future with us, as well as to those unable to share due to ongoing system involvement and harm.

Above all, this work aims to honour the Indigenous Youth who have journeyed to the Spirit Realm while waiting for the systems that impact them most to change – some of whom now have their voices reflected in these pages. May their stories and experiences guide this work forward and be the catalyst for long-overdue transformation.



Moving Forward



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Partner Identification

Identification of Pathways, Funding, and Initiatives for Change



Hosting of Collaborative Spaces to Identify Pathways for Change



Bringing Our Young Relatives Visions & Hopes For the Future Into Reality



Moving Forward



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This work is deeply **rooted in collaboration** and strengthened by **robust partnerships**.

Most critically, we are committed to centring the voices and recommendations of youth, recognizing their unique insights as invaluable.

Our ultimate goal is to **bring their visions to life**, thereby creating tangible and **improved outcomes** for everyone involved.



Tracking Justice



TRACK 1/TRACK 2

STRATEGY 16: Tracking the Progress and Impact of the Strategy

Ensuring that reporting, evaluation, and knowledge sharing requirements under the Strategy can be fulfilled.

trackingjustice.bcfnjc.com



Thank You



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To learn more about the BC First Nations Justice Council, information on the specific details of the strategy, or to see our current opportunities you may contact:

info@bcfnjc.com or 1-877-602-4858, scan the QR Code and visit us online: bcfnjc.com



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