

A message from the former Chief Justice, Robert Bauman, KC

Reflecting from the perspective of my recent retirement, I feel great pride in the Transform the Family Justice System Collaborative, particularly:



- #1 The commitment of its many participants to addressing the public health issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- #2 The dialogue created among family service providers across sectors.
- #3 Its promotion of meaningful participation for children and youth in family justice decision-making.
- #4 Its experimental approach - doing it now and learning as we go, as opposed to fear or paralysis about trying something different.
- #5 Its commitment to applying an Indigenous lens to family justice system design.

I remain committed to contributing to the Collaborative's journey towards maturity as a thriving platform for collaborative, intersectoral action to improve family well-being in the context of the family justice system.

The chrysalis represents a transitional state & space during which renewal & rebirth can happen.

*The role of a leader is not to come up with all the great ideas.
The role of a leader is to create an environment in which great ideas can happen. - Simon Sinek*



Participant Perspectives: The Honourable Chief Justice Marchand



[Click here for the Hon. Chief Justice Marchand's biography](#)

I am delighted that my new role as Chief Justice of BC includes serving as Chair of Access to Justice BC and, in that capacity, supporting the Transform the Family Justice System Collaborative.

In 2021-22, I attended the Intersectoral Family Justice Dialogue, a foundational series of events that led to the Collaborative.

I was inspired by hearing from young people about their experiences in the family justice system and felt hopeful as I spoke with a variety of participants committed to change.

I am convinced that, if we put families at the centre, open ourselves to hearing from people with lived experience and engage in intersectoral dialogue and collaboration, together we will make a difference



The Collaborative enters a new phase in its development

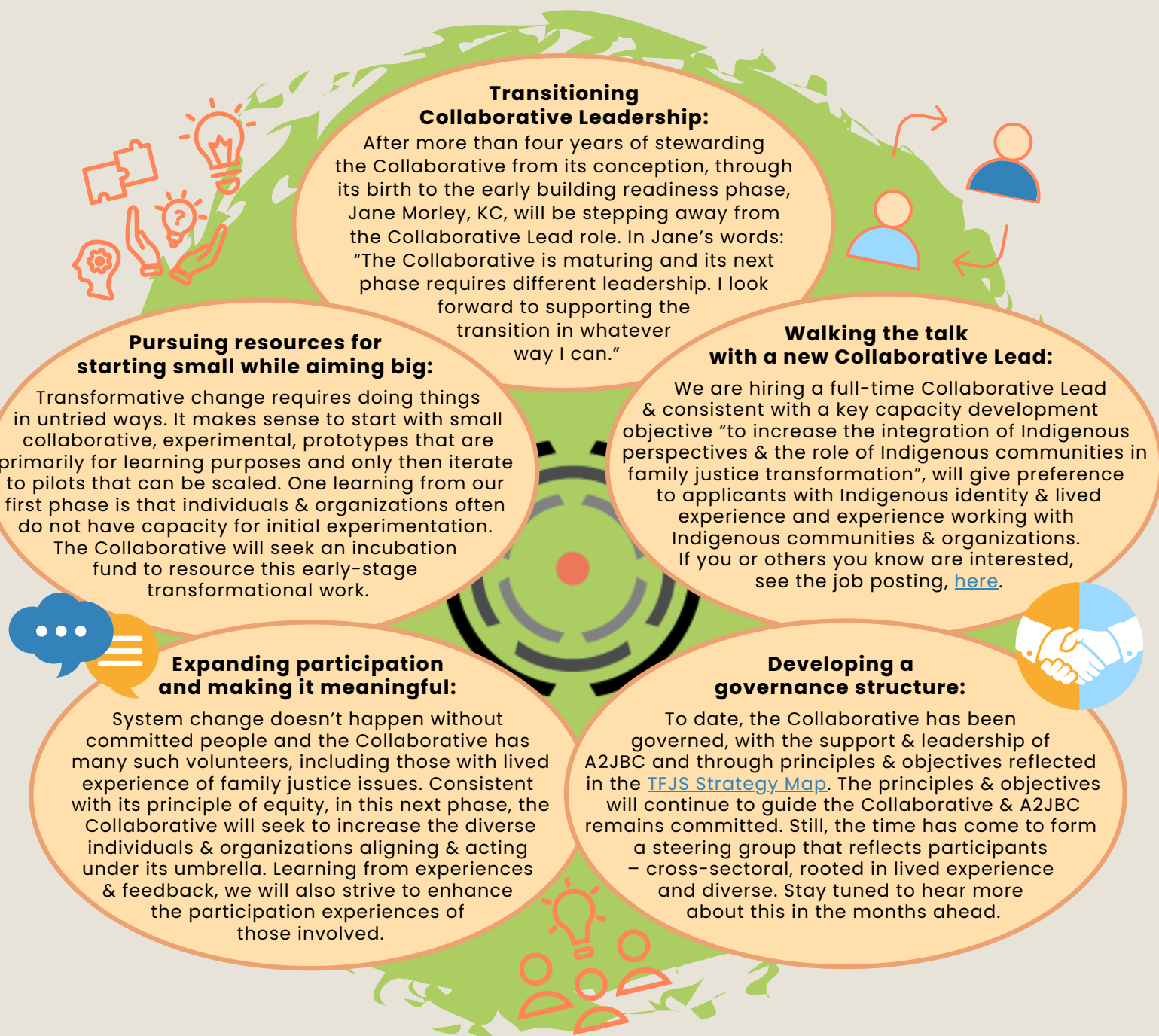
In the early stage of a collaborative, the focus has to be is on readiness:

“This includes building and maintaining energy and momentum around the issue and bringing people together to address it, helping shape people’s ideas and perspectives about the issue, community, collaboration, complexity and more.”

- [Collaborative governance: An introductory practice guide](#). CFI Report, June 2020, p.8.

Since its birth in June 2022, that has been the work of the Collaborative.

In 2024, the Collaborative will be transitioning to a new phase - one in which its focus will shift to building shared capabilities, understanding, processes and resources for collaborative action.





Updates & News

A big congratulations!

The Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement has selected Collaborative participants **Lauren Irvine, Renée le Nobel & Emily Drown** to be part of the [2024 Changemakers Experience](#).

We look forward to hearing about their learnings & discussing how to apply them!

[Intersections of Indigenous justice & poverty reduction](#) - Check out this video recording of the last meeting of the [BC Ending Poverty Community of Practice](#) featuring Policy Lawyer Kirsten Barnes & Dr. Jason Webb of the BC First Nations Justice Council.

[Little Eyes, Little Ears: Centering Children & Youth in Gender-Based Violence Work](#)

- Check out this podcast by the Learning Network at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children to learn more about intersectional, strengths-based, and trauma-informed supportive responses.



Your Voice Matters!

Family Law Act Modernization Project – Provide input on topics like care & time with children, views of children, parenting assessments & reports, and protection from family violence, through surveys on [GovTogetherBC](#) by March 31st. On parentage, the [BC Law Institute](#) will conduct a separate engagement.

Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 5 to 9** - [Access to Justice Week BC](#) - sign up for free in-person & virtual events
 - **Feb. 8**, 4-5pm - *Designing a person-centred family justice system* ([email](#) for the link)
 - **Feb. 9**, 12:30-1:30pm - [Youth legal needs & the current youth-service landscape in BC](#)
- **Feb. 16**, 11am-12pm - [Brain Story Discussion Group](#) – Meeting on Modules 1 & 2
 - Do you want to up your brain science knowledge and get a Certification for it?
 - Join this group to help you along the online journey by [emailing](#) us!
 - CPD credits for lawyers, mediators and parenting coordinators are pending.
- **Feb. 21**, 5-7pm - **Intersectoral Family Justice Community of Action** meeting
- **Mar. 5**, 5-7pm (tentative) - **Child & Youth MP Community of Action** meeting
- **Mar. 20**, 11am-1pm - **Support Finder Community of Action** meeting
- **Feb. & Mar., TBA** - **Youth Connectors Advisory Group** meetings
 - More participants in our prototyping efforts are welcome!

We acknowledge the ancestral & unceded territories of many Indigenous Peoples that our participants gather on. We are committed to engaging with Indigenous Peoples and applying Indigenous legal principles in our work.

www.tfjscollaborative.com

Express your support, [here](#).
Reach out at contact@accesstojusticebc.ca