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**Hon. Michael Coteau talks to The Voice about how the proposed new Child, Youth and Family Services Act will be a game changer for child welfare**

## http://www.oacas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Minister-Coteau-Graphic.pngWhen you announced [the new Child, Youth and Family Services Act](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001G8kFLGae0u0pWow0qZAS7DpgSXy6qz7-xXut7xOTx49Rx7aLSq_sTq9vgA3HE6Ahssbt5pnnCWTSiwFmax4ETC7pJOIHAcyl-vZt69ngmmgygkNtgxWBgIMtcQfhmdzEroLCEQ8MgjMT6ZwzSA9crItedrUGMIpjQPP4cAGV9VWHMemBDjNEgOdnnpqRSx8j6revn0mnexazleDwNjl96LgQWPmXVW_olCzYpmGvJD3pPgo0sOxYSFr_tWJgZDSA&c=7vLdVP6QJyRIAshGu93KpUyOdZIrd719wne5c6p_vHnLKWRgcqW3Nw==&ch=eYZjZzKEffylWKVBtB95lNGRueCcT2GnTpzSl08BLyTggGsiEahZ-w==) you said it was the biggest game changer in child protection in decades. Are there particular parts of the Act that you are most excited about?

There are three pieces that really stand out for me.

Raising the age of protection to 18 is a massive one. I cannot believe that a 16 or 17-year old would not be protected as we speak. Our perception of who should be protected and who shouldn't be protected, I think that's changed a lot over time. But I think for my generation, there is no question that a 16 or 17-year old should be protected. They need our help and the fact that 1,600 kids would fall into that catchment in the first year, it shocks me. Raising the age of protection will prevent homelessness and prevent sex trafficking, so it's just the right thing to do**.**

**Find out the other parts of the legislation that stand out to the Minister, and more,** [**here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001G8kFLGae0u0pWow0qZAS7DpgSXy6qz7-xXut7xOTx49Rx7aLSq_sTq9vgA3HE6AhEqdDlBj9W-gwR-CGUrHcZZg5LPomIQAGCTrWHKhkWz-xNahjzirflRm7x2x58JevCpv4UI33bOlUEfh_Dlfyi19gV5WE-ocMmYE_kHOu2pxhOJGLLjTv59O_Y8icV82U4jc7aWvasp-bEYru1EDVpRFWgl5reop_iSd4nXJEserFVVg2uVidj0Nc6vE4i3cs-_qjKiZaZINZOqmrMbqssFztrVx8lAohaCdPQl46EyWSZXsR7JmYqZZjj7P4gU0k-kgYj9ku3aa4Sqj2bL0LA3j_EY3ULk63VWyL3bUl4pECnzjqSeKjbg==&c=7vLdVP6QJyRIAshGu93KpUyOdZIrd719wne5c6p_vHnLKWRgcqW3Nw==&ch=eYZjZzKEffylWKVBtB95lNGRueCcT2GnTpzSl08BLyTggGsiEahZ-w==)**.**