



Introducing the Centre for Transformation – University of Calgary

And an update on the RFJS – Helping Families Thrive

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Centre for Transformation

“A
Generational
Opportunity”

Generational opportunity to transform the family justice system

Complex systems change work, including justice, domestic violence, child welfare, and more.

Continued Support for the RFJS –
“Helping Families Thrive”

\$26.8 Million Gift from the Alberta Law Foundation



Research Chairs
Endowment Value
\$16,000,000

Centre for Transformation
5 Year Budget
\$11,344,438

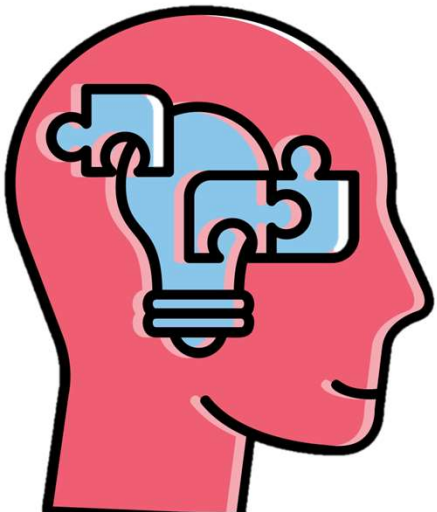
Research Chairs Operating
5 Year Budget
\$945,375

Centre for Transformation
5 Year Budget
\$10,399,063

*In-kind contribution is 11% (\$1.3 million) of the total program fund. UCalgary covers costs for IT hardware, office space and furniture etc.

2 Research Chairs

Law &
Social Work



Research

Policy Advocacy

Education & Public Awareness

Bridging research, practice & educating
future lawyers and social workers

Facilitate collaboration between with other
post secondaries

Build academic & community capacity

Centre for Transformation



Infrastructure to scale initiative

Platform for engagement, mobilization and collective action

Build community capacity

Develop, prototype & pilot innovative practices and policy

Attract future philanthropic investment



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Re-imagining the Family Justice System



RFJS Paradigm Shift:

Instead of focusing on family matters as legal disputes, families are encouraged and empowered to seek supports & skill-building for their social, relationship, parenting, financial and health challenges.

The role of courts and adversarial processes is reduced while needed supports and skills for family well-being are available in community, which reduces the toxic stress experienced by families dealing with separation, divorce, family violence and child welfare matters.



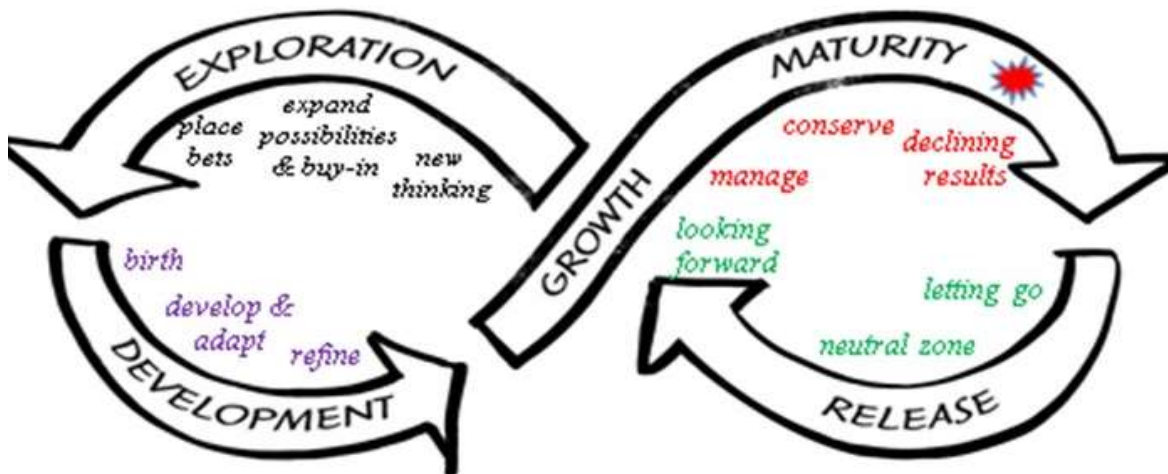
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Creative Leadership: * Messy * Uncertain *
 First hand insights * Outside ideas * Multiple
 Perspectives * Flat structure & process *
 Probes & Little Experiments * Options

Productivity Leadership: Efficiency * Certainty *
 Stability * Conservation * Hierarchical structure &
 process * Rules, Policies & Procedures *
 Standardization * Specialists * Fast Returns *
 Low Risk Tolerance



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Entrepreneurial Leadership: Generalists
 * Roles * Adaptive structure and process *
 Prototypes & Pilot Projects * Variation * Lag
 times Flexible funding * Flexible rules *
 Tolerance for Risk * Dead ends * Emerging
 Practice

Values-Based Leadership: Unraveling * Chaotic *
 Loss, Anger, Blame, Conflict * Little structure
 or process * Reflection * Relationships * Essence *
 Values * Principles * New Energy & Urgency



<https://www.albertafamilywellness.org/>



Moving from an
adversarial
approach to one
that supports
family resilience
and well-being.

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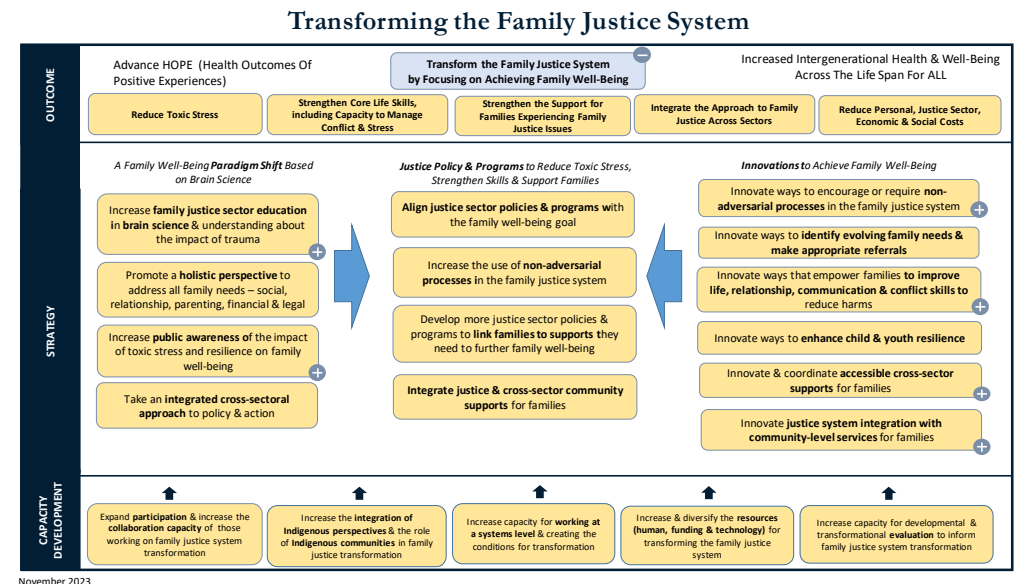
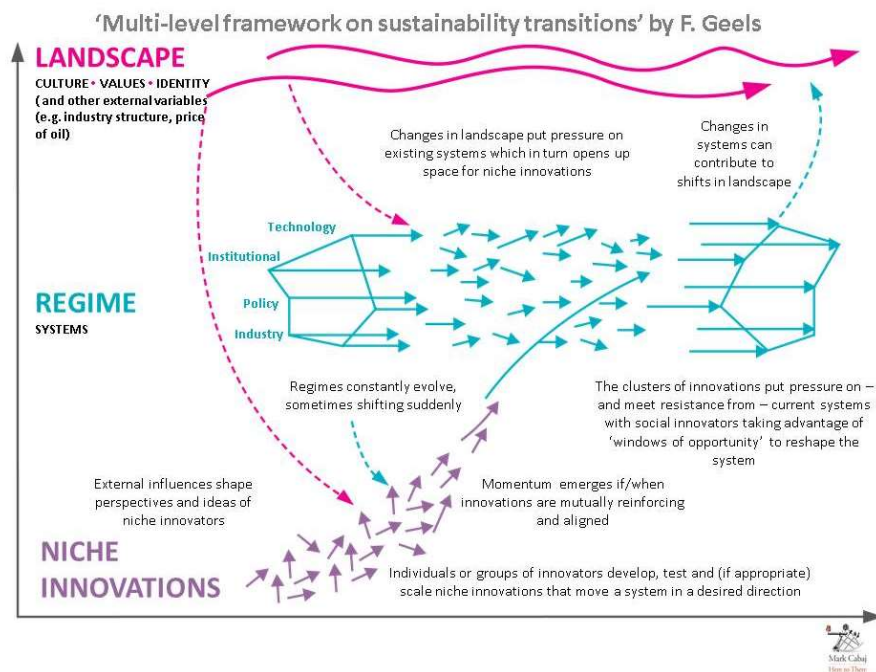
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- Reduce trauma, toxic stress and Adverse Childhood experiences
- Address structural issues that disproportionately impact:
 - Indigenous peoples,
 - low-income and racialized people,
 - Newcomers
- Reduce the role of legal, adversarial processes in family matters
- Empower families to obtain the supports and build the skills they need for their social, relationship, parenting, financial and health needs

The RFJS is all about helping families thrive.

The next question really is “how are we doing this?”



What Changes are actually happening?

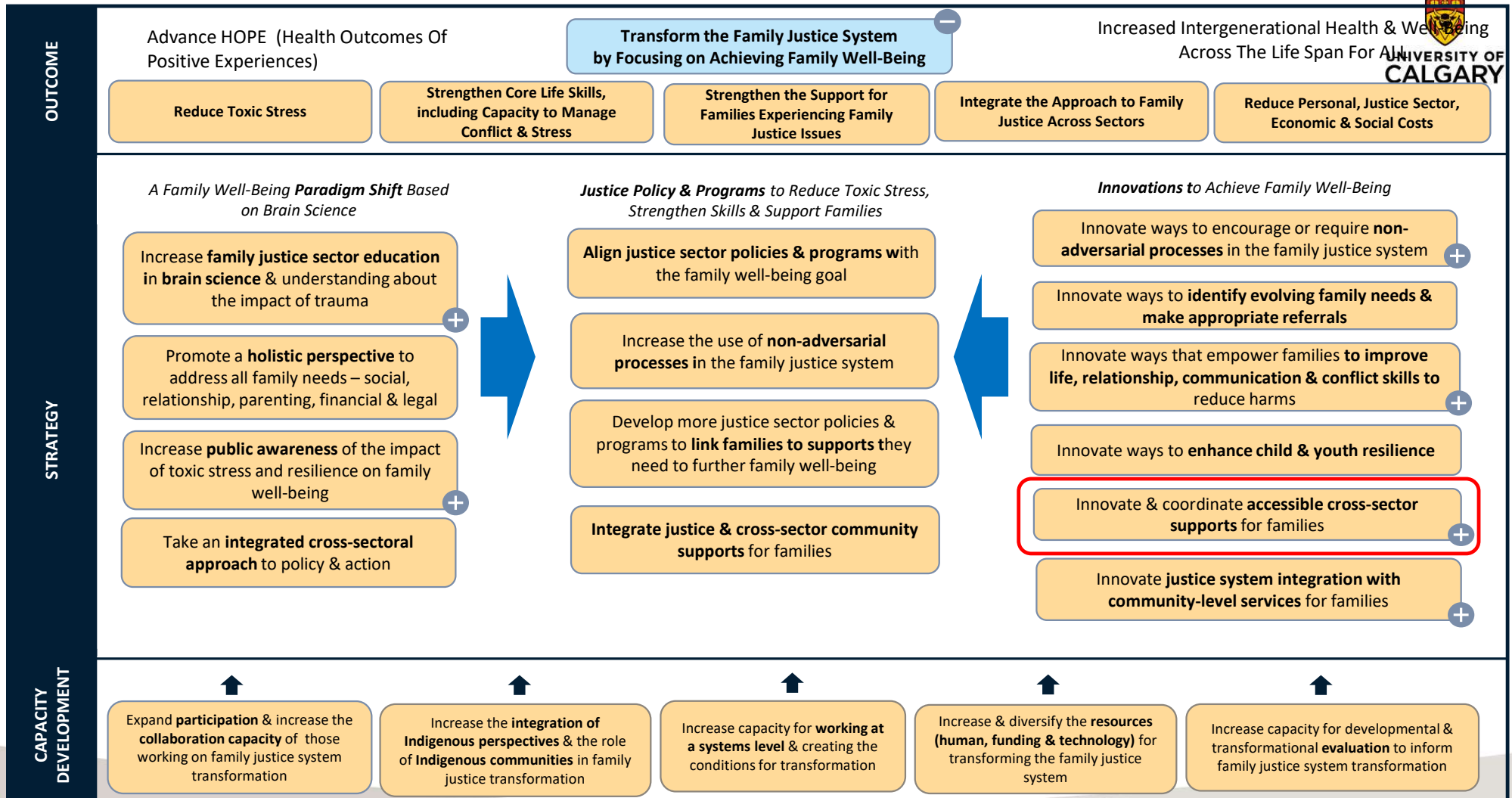


Since 2020, the RFJS has been working in the community of Grande Prairie – exploring new pathways in family matters through a community-wide initiative in the city and surrounding communities

Grande Prairie - Reforming the Family Justice System



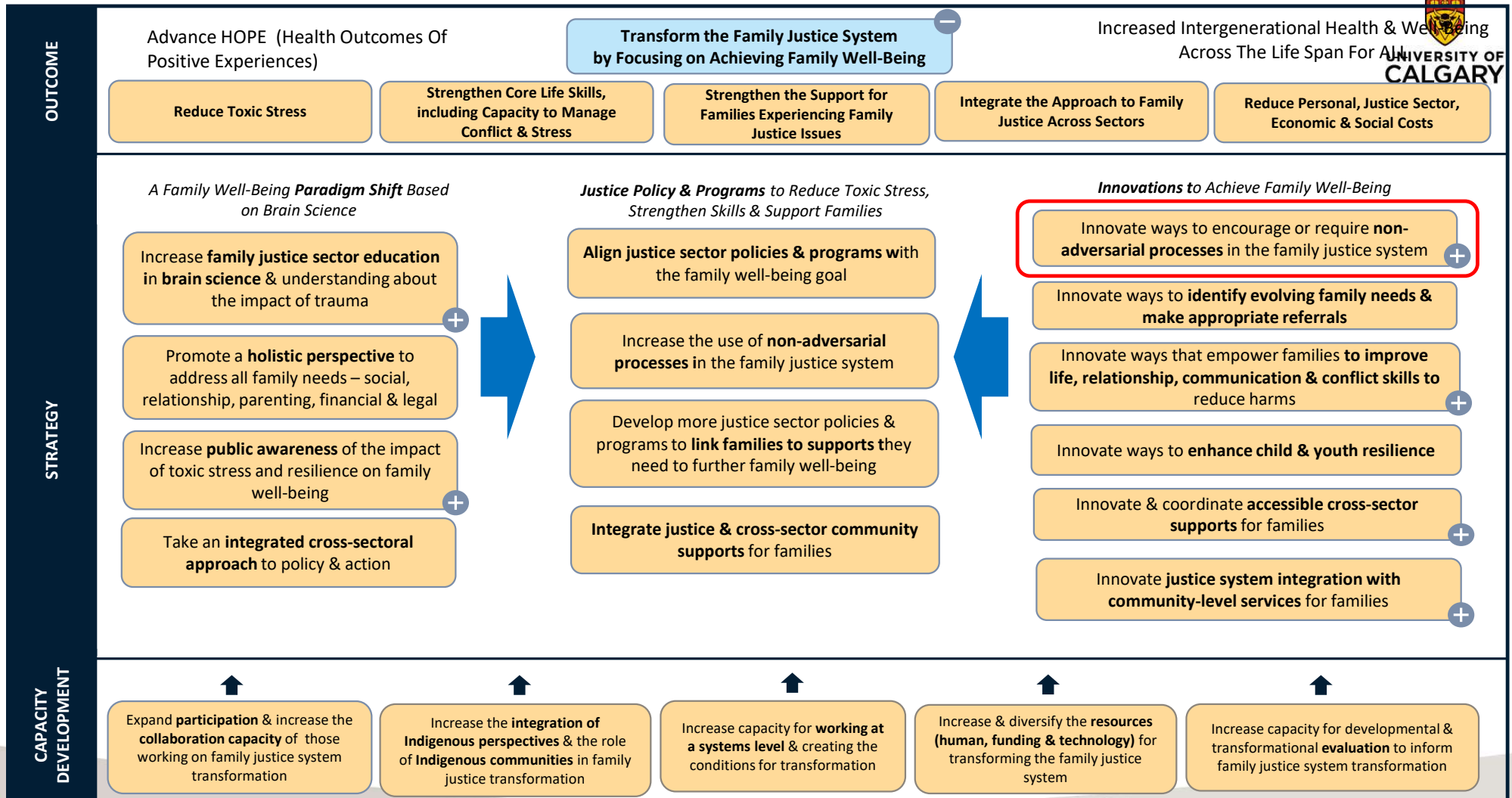
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Grande Prairie - Reforming the Family Justice System



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The Court of King's Bench of Alberta has launched a new Pilot in Grande Prairie



- The Notice to the Profession & Public is available at:
https://albertacourts.ca/docs/default-source/qb/npp-2024-10-04-grande-prairie-pilot-project.pdf?sfvrsn=3c10982_7
- The Commentary is available at:
https://www.familyeducationociety.org/files/ugd/03e805_8b2acd176e444bae8a0bb6f999e87415.pdf

Thoughts?

I welcome your comments, questions and opportunities!

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Thank you!

