

The AJI-CWI:

Restructuring Child and Family Services in Manitoba

The child and family services system in Manitoba is currently undergoing a major restructuring through an initiative called The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI).

The new system returns to First Nations and Metis peoples the right to develop and control the delivery of their own child and family services.

This is being accomplished through the creation of four new Child and Family Services Authorities. The new Authorities are:

- ◆ Metis Child and Family Services Authority
- ◆ First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority
- ◆ First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority
- ◆ General Child and Family Services Authority

All four Authorities and their agencies will provide service throughout the province. No matter where they live in Manitoba, Aboriginal children and families will have access to child and family services from agencies providing service on behalf of an Aboriginal Authority.

Each Authority will be responsible for designing and managing the delivery of child and family services.

Implementation Schedule

The new foster care arrangements are scheduled to be implemented in the province, region-by-region.

It is expected that the process will begin in late November 2003 in the Interlake. Implementation is expected to be completed by year's end 2004.

DO YOU

Want more information?

If you want more information about the new foster care arrangements or the restructuring, please talk with your worker. You may also call any of Child and Family Services Authorities during regular office hours:

- ◆ **Metis CFS Authority**
In Winnipeg: 949-0220
- ◆ **First Nations of Southern Manitoba CFS Authority**
In Winnipeg: 783-9190
Toll-Free: 1-800-665-5762
- ◆ **First Nations of Northern Manitoba CFS Authority**
In Winnipeg: 927-7516
- ◆ **General CFS Authority**
In Winnipeg: 984-9360
Toll-Free: 1-866-803-2814

OR:

Visit the web site www.aji-cwi.mb.ca

Call the Central Information Line:

In Winnipeg: 945-1183

Toll-Free: 1-866-300-7503



Aboriginal Justice Inquiry -
Child Welfare Initiative



New

Arrangements

for

Foster Care
Providers

October 2003



New Arrangements for Foster Care Providers

Foster Care Providers

Foster families will continue to be considered an essential resource in the restructured system, as well as a valuable source of information regarding the children in their care. In conjunction with the restructuring, there are new arrangements for providing foster care.

General Licensing Arrangements

Licensing of foster homes will be the responsibility of agencies, subject to province-wide regulations and standards, as well as Authority-specific standards.

Each foster family will hold a licence from only one agency in the restructured system. A foster family can only have one application active at any given time.

Management and Support



A registry will be developed to track applications and licences. All foster family licence renewals are to be done by the current licensing agency, unless otherwise agreed to by agencies. An agency will be responsible for managing and supporting the foster families it licenses.

Sharing Arrangements

Sharing arrangements will be developed by each Authority to allow access to foster care spaces in homes licensed by agencies of other Authorities. As such, foster families licensed by one agency will not be prevented from providing care for another agency. Subject to these protocols, however, the licensing agency will be responsible for approving all placement decisions.

Implementation

The new foster care arrangements are scheduled to be implemented in the province, region-by-region, beginning in the Interlake likely in late November 2003. Implementation will continue throughout 2004. Detailed information and supports will be made available to foster families in each region as implementation takes place.

A coordinated approach will be used to support existing foster families in making licensing decisions throughout implementation.

Starting the first day when cases are transferred in a region, foster families in the region will have up to three months to decide which agency to apply to for licensing when their current licence expires.

The existing licensing agency will be responsible for renewals for foster families whose current licence expires before the end of this three month period. A change in licensing agencies would be processed the next time their licence expires, unless otherwise agreed by the agencies.

Implementation and

Places of Safety

At the time of the case transfer of a child in care of a Place of Safety, the home providing service as the Place of Safety will need to decide which agency they will apply to for licensing as a foster family. That agency will then begin processing the application.

Foster Care Rates

Special rates currently being paid to foster families will be maintained for six months from the date of the case transfer of any particular child. During this time, there will be no decrease to the special rates paid to the existing foster home. Any increase will be based on sound case planning. If a placement change is made during this time, this will no longer apply.

