

Aboriginal Justice Inquiry -
Child Welfare Initiative



A Profile of Child
and Family Services
Authorities and Agencies

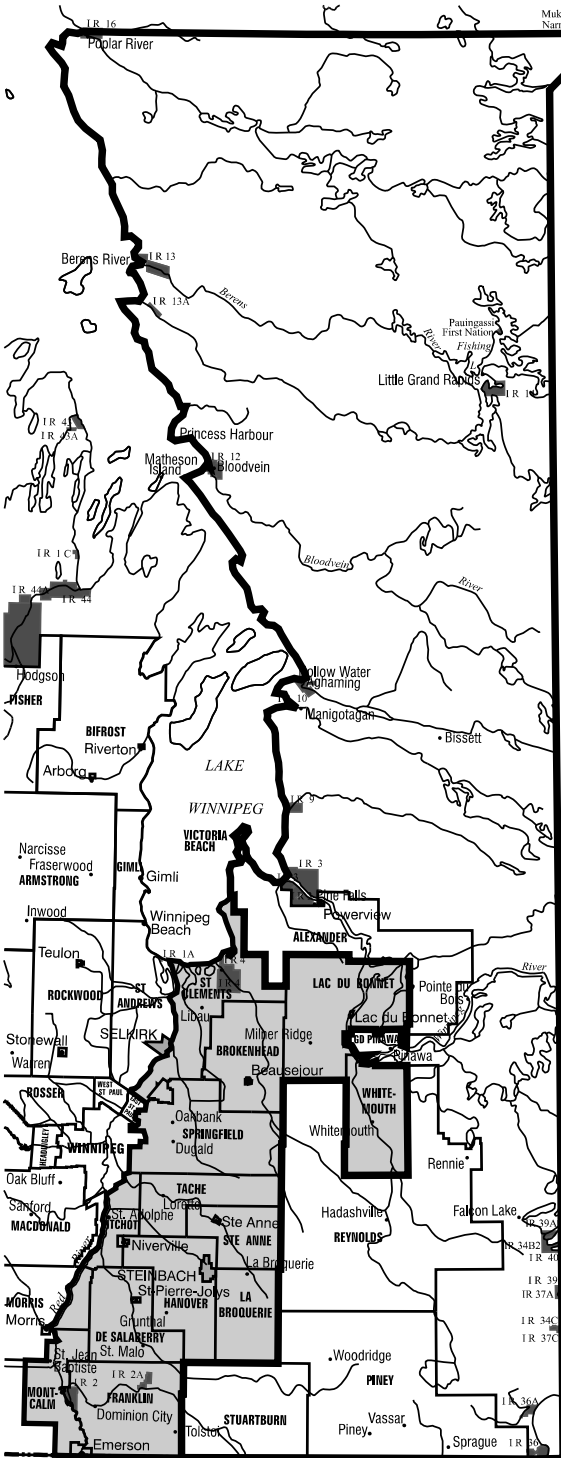
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Eastman Region

February 2004



Eastman Region Map



Eastman



Not included
in these
changes:
Winnipeg
Rural East
(includes
Powerview
and the
R.M. of
Victoria
Beach)





Table of Contents

.....

Introduction 4

The AJI-CWI: A New Approach
to Child and Family Services
in Manitoba 5

Child and Family Services
Authorities and Agencies
Serving Eastman 7

Metis Child and Family
Services Authority 8

First Nations of Southern
Manitoba Child and
Family Services Authority 12

First Nations of Northern
Manitoba Child and
Family Services Authority 19

General Child and Family
Services Authority 21

Additional Information 26



Introduction

The child and family services system in Manitoba is undergoing a major restructuring. This booklet provides a summary of how services will be provided in the Eastman region as a result of the restructuring.

Please note that the information in this booklet is current as of February 2004. Service arrangements may evolve as the restructuring process is implemented across the province.



THE AJI-CWI: A New Approach to Child and Family Services in Manitoba

The child and family services system works to protect children at risk of abuse or neglect. It supports and strengthens the well-being of families, especially those experiencing difficulties in caring for their children.

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

The AJI-CWI is a joint initiative of four parties:

- ◆ Manitoba Metis Federation,
- ◆ Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs,
- ◆ Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, and
- ◆ the Province of Manitoba.

The parties have worked together to develop a new system that:

- ◆ recognizes and respects the cultural diversity of Manitoba, and
- ◆ returns to First Nations and Metis peoples the right to develop and control the delivery of their own child and family services.

In the new system, the delivery of child and family services is a shared responsibility between the Province of Manitoba and Aboriginal peoples. The most fundamental change is the delegation of responsibility for the delivery of child and family services from the Province to four new child and family services Authorities, three of which are Aboriginal Authorities.



The four 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

This change is legislated through *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act* of the Province of Manitoba, proclaimed November 24, 2003.

Upon completion of the restructuring (being implemented on a region-by-region basis) all four Authorities and their agencies will provide services throughout the province. Aboriginal children and families will have access to culturally appropriate child and family services through Aboriginal agencies, no matter where they live in Manitoba.

Vision Statement

A child and family services system that recognizes and supports the rights of children to develop within safe and healthy families and communities, and recognizes that First Nations and Metis peoples have unique authority, rights and responsibilities to honour and care for their children.

Mission Statement

To have a jointly coordinated child and family services system that recognizes the distinct rights and authorities of First Nations and Metis peoples and the general population to control and deliver their own child and family services province-wide; that is community-based; and reflects and incorporates the cultures of First Nations, Metis and the general population respectively.



Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies Serving Eastman

Four agencies from the four Authorities will be the primary service providers in the region:

Metis Authority

- ◆ Metis Child, Family and Community Services

Southern First Nations Authority

- ◆ Sagkeeng Child and Family Services
- ◆ Southeast Child and Family Services

Northern First Nations Authority

- ◆ Service provided through service agreements with other Authorities

General Authority

- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Eastman

Please note that child and family services may be provided by other agencies in the province, but the four agencies profiled in this booklet have primary responsibility in the Eastman region.

A map depicting the geographic region of Eastman is provided on the inside front cover of this booklet.



Metis Child and Family Services Authority



On behalf of the Metis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFS) and the Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency (MCFCS) I wish to extend greetings to individuals in Manitoba's Eastman region. As many are aware, the past year has been extremely busy for the Board and staff of MCFS and MCFCS as we plan for the opening of the first Metis-specific agency in Manitoba.

The establishment of MCFCS has been a longstanding dream within the Metis community and it was with great excitement and enthusiasm that we received the formal mandate from the Province of Manitoba to deliver child and family services province-wide on September 13, 2003 and subsequently, proclamation of the *Child and Family Services Authorities Act* on November 24, 2003. While these events were major milestones for the Metis Authority and agency, we continue to focus our attention and efforts on preparing for the opening of the agency through detailed planning and development to ensure we are adequately prepared to begin delivering mandated services to families.

We are currently planning to develop services in five stages. In each stage, services will be developed in an area or region of Manitoba. Our initial focus will be the set-up of services in Winnipeg. MCFCS will have a single-agency structure with a head office located in Winnipeg. Although the majority of administrative tasks will be managed centrally through the head office, services will be developed and provided on a regional basis.



MCFCS plans to deliver services in Eastman directly for those individuals and families in:

- a) The southern portion of the region (generally defined as south of highway 11 and highway 313 including any communities located on the northern side of this divide adjacent to these highways); and
- b) The Manigotagan area.

For all other areas in the Eastman region, services are likely to be provided through service agreements.

Although work regarding the specifics of the restructuring in Eastman is still ongoing, MCFCS is currently planning for a small contingent of staff in the Eastman region. We currently have one Intern working closely with staff in the Eastman area and the plan is for this Intern to eventually become part of the broader MCFCS structure.

We are excited about the months ahead and we look forward to working with individuals, families, and organizations as we implement our mandate and work to roll out services throughout the province.

Nelson Mayer
Chief Executive Officer
Ph: (204) 949-0220



Metis Child, Family and Community Services

At the time this booklet was printed, the Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency (MCFCS) was not yet providing direct service to families. We are currently preparing for the opening of the agency through detailed planning and development to ensure we are adequately prepared to begin delivering mandated services. The following provides an overview of our philosophy, as well as our approach to service delivery.



We operate under the following mission statement:

Metis families and communities have the right and responsibility to care for Metis children. Metis Child, Family and Community Services will work to strengthen the capacity of families to care for children through culturally relevant, community-based programs and services.

Service delivery is guided by the following principles:

- ◆ Metis families and communities are the cornerstone of the Metis Nation and the service delivery system must reflect this vision
- ◆ Responsibility for decision-making regarding Metis children and families lies with the family, extended family and community whenever possible
- ◆ The organizational structure promotes and supports community governance at all levels
- ◆ The service delivery system will encompass both formal and informal elements
- ◆ The service delivery system must be operated in an efficient and effective manner
- ◆ The service delivery system will be outcome-based and will reflect the core guiding principles of MCFCS

All services under the Metis Authority are being organized under a single agency structure to support and strengthen Metis, Non-status and Inuit families throughout the province.



Our efforts are focused on serving the best interests of children, families and communities. Our focus is to promote the health and well-being of our children and families by building on the capacity of our communities through the provision of culturally sensitive and appropriate programs and services.

We will accomplish this by ensuring our programs are responsive and accountable to the communities we serve. We will offer an alternative method of intervention and prevention that is holistic and family centred. We believe that involvement of family and community is essential when working with children who are at risk of entering the child welfare system.

Our approach in working with children and families is holistic. We recognize that children require a permanent, stable, safe and nurturing environment where they receive adequate nutrition, shelter and clothing. As well, a child's unique strengths and needs must be assessed and attended to in order to maximize the child's emotional, social, academic, spiritual and cultural growth.

Overriding all these needs is the firm belief that maintaining family and community connections and decision-making power within the community is essential to healthy child development. Children must be provided with the skills necessary to access resources and maintain and build relationships to make a healthy transition into adulthood.

We look forward to the future where we will all work together to build stronger families and communities.

Contact Information:

DIRECTOR - Dorothy McLoughlin

Office:

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Ph: (204) 949-0220 Fax: (204) 984-9487
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First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

In 2000, The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs signed an historic agreement with the Province of Manitoba that would begin the process of restoring responsibility to First Nations for child and family services to their own people living off-reserve.

In Manitoba, First Nations have been providing child and family services to their own people living on-reserve for over twenty years. With the proclamation of *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act*, First Nations are now able to begin providing these same services to their off-reserve residents, wherever they live in Manitoba.

The First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority is an incorporated body preparing to assume the duties and responsibilities that *The Act* assigns to it. Preparations include developing the management, financial, operational, information technology, human resources, and program capabilities, while at the same time participating in the transitioning of the child and family services system in Manitoba.

The Southern First Nations Authority provides services to seven First Nation child and family services agencies, which provide a wide variety of culturally appropriate services to 36 southern communities.



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These agencies are:

- ◆ Anishnaabe Child & Family Services
- ◆ Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services
- ◆ Intertribal Child & Family Services
- ◆ Peguis Child & Family Services
- ◆ Sagkeeng Child & Family Services
- ◆ Southeast Child & Family Services
- ◆ West Region Child & Family Services

Each of these agencies provides services to individual communities. The Eastman area is served by two agencies, and more information on these is provided in the pages that follow.

The Southern First Nations Authority has a Board of Directors and they have hired their Chief Executive Officer, along with four other supporting staff. In anticipation of extending their mandates, each agency has been working on a strategic action plan, which will guide their growth as they begin to extend their off-reserve service capacities. Southern First Nations Authority Board has been engaged in the development of a values, vision and mission statement. A new office location has recently been secured, and is now fully operational.

For information contact:

**First Nations of Southern Manitoba
Child and Family Services Authority**

Telephone: (204) 783-9190

Toll-free: 1-800-665-5762



Sagkeeng Child and Family Services

Sagkeeng Child and Family Services provides child and family services to the members of the Sagkeeng First Nations community both on and off reserve.

Sagkeeng Child and Family Services operates on the following mission statement:



- ◆ *To ensure children are safe and protected and given opportunities to reach their full potential.*
- ◆ *To provide child and family services that will promote family wellness.*
- ◆ *To encourage community participation and responsibility by providing an integrative teamwork approach through collaborative delivery of services.*

Our philosophy is based on the belief that children are gifts from the Creator, and we are guided by the seven teachings.

Our agency has a staff of twenty, most of whom are community members, trained and educated to meet the needs of our children and families. We have a Board of Directors, which is comprised of five appointed Band Members, a majority of whom reside in the Sagkeeng First Nation.



Sagkeeng Child and Family Services provides support services in the following areas:

- ◆ Child Protection/Child Abuse Committee
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Day Care
- ◆ Repatriation Services
- ◆ Support Worker Program
- ◆ Transportation/Escort Driver Program
- ◆ Voluntary Family Services
- ◆ Emergency and After-Hours Services
- ◆ Gii GiDo Giige Ikwe Project – (Residential School Survivor Support Program)

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lloyd Bunn

Main Office:
P.O. Box 700
Pine Falls, MB ROE IMO
(204) 367-2215 Fax: (204) 367-8510

Other Office:

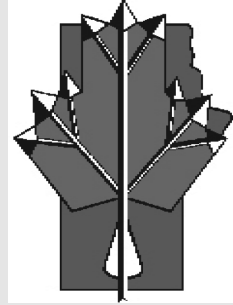
1948 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R2V 2B4
(204) 949-1649 Fax: (204) 949-1669



Southeast Child and Family Services

Southeast Child and Family Services provides child and family services to members of the following First Nations:

- ◆ Berens River
- ◆ Bloodvein
- ◆ Brokenhead
- ◆ Buffalo Point
- ◆ Hollow Water
- ◆ Little Black River
- ◆ Little Grand Rapids
- ◆ Pauingassi
- ◆ Poplar River



The aim of Southeast Child and Family Services is to facilitate the empowerment of individuals and families. Our agency looks to enhance the functioning of its community based resources that would promote the preservation of the family unit and its cultural identity.

Southeast Child and Family Services does this work with our communities guided by the following mission statement:

The mission of Southeast Child and Family Services is to strengthen First Nations family life and to secure and promote the well-being and happiness of children in Southeast communities.

Services provided by our agency include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ protection services | ◆ counselling services |
| ◆ family support services | ◆ foster and group home placements |



- ◆ adoption services
- ◆ post adoption services
- ◆ community workshops
- ◆ liaison services with outside resources/agencies
- ◆ repatriation services
- ◆ resource development
- ◆ reunification program

Contact Information:

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Burma Bushie

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Ph: (204) 766-2386 Fax: (204) 766-2360

Other Offices:

Winnipeg Sub-Office
400 – 360 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T6
Ph: (204) 947-0011 Fax: (204) 947-0009

Berens River First Nation Child and Family Services
Berens River, MB R0B 0A0
Ph: (204) 382-2525 Fax: (204) 382-2139

Bloodvein First Nation Child and Family Services
Bloodvein, MB R0C 0J0
Ph: (204) 395-2476 Fax: (204) 395-2190



Buffalo Point First Nation Child and Family Services

Middlebro, MB R0A 1B0

Ph: (204) 437-2133 Fax: (204) 437-2368

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Child and Family Services

Scanterbury, MB R0E 1W0

Ph: (204) 766-2812 Fax: (204) 766-2806

Hollow Water First Nation Child and Family Services

Wanipigow, MB R0E 2E0

Ph: (204) 363-7213 Fax: (204) 363-7573

Little Black River First Nation Child and Family Services

O'Hanley P.O., MB R0E 1K0

Ph: (204) 367-4052 Fax: (204) 367-4350

Little Grand Rapids First Nation Child and Family Services

Little Grand Rapids, MB R0B 0V0

Ph: (204) 397-2407 Fax: (204) 397-2272

Pauingassi First Nation Child and Family Services

Pauingassi, MB R0B 2G0

Ph: (204) 397-2134 Fax: (204) 397-2273

Poplar River Child and Family Services

Negginan, MB R0B 0Z0

Ph: (204) 244-2875 Fax: (204) 244-2173



First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

Tansi! It is my honour to provide a brief overview of the Northern Authority with respect to its philosophy, affiliated agencies, services and governance model.

- Greetings from Diane Kematch, CEO, Northern Authority

Northern Authority Philosophy:

The First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority, with the guidance and direction of the Board of Directors, will continue to build on the aspirations of our First Nations leaders, and in partnership with the provincial and federal governments, design a system that is more responsive to the needs of our children and families consistent with our heritage, culture and languages.

The Northern Authority and its affiliated agencies will work together to ensure that the "best interest of the child" is in accordance to and within the context of our Northern First Nations families, communities and culture through the delivery of best practices in promotion, prevention and protection programs.

Services provided :

Under the management of the Northern Authority, Northern First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies provide the following services:

- ◆ Child protection
- ◆ Resource services
- ◆ Adoption and post-adoption
- ◆ Legal support services
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Rediscovery of families
- ◆ Day care
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Pre & Postnatal
- ◆ Foster care
- ◆ Family resources
- ◆ Counselling
- ◆ Intake
- ◆ Reunification
- ◆ Homemaker / Parent aide
- ◆ Elder care
- ◆ Permanency planning
- ◆ Midwifery



- ◆ Fitness program
- ◆ Environmental health
- ◆ Public health
- ◆ Arts and culture
- ◆ Mental health

Member Agencies:

- ◆ **Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba**
100-701 Thompson Drive
Thompson, Manitoba R8N 2A2
Ph: (204) 677-1500 Fax: (204) 778-8428
- ◆ **Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency**
Box 10130
Opaskwayak Cree Nation
The Pas, Manitoba R0B 2J0
Ph: (204) 623-7456 Fax: (204) 623-3847
- ◆ **Island Lake First Nations Family Services**
Garden Hill First Nation
Garden Hill, Manitoba R0B 0T0
Ph: (204) 456-2015 Fax: (204) 456-2641
- ◆ **Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency**
Box 640
Norway House Cree Nation
Norway House, Manitoba R0B 1B0
Ph: (204) 359-4551 Fax: (204) 359-6013
- ◆ **Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre**
Box 451 - 14 Bay Road
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Nelson House, Manitoba R0B 1A0
Ph: (204) 484-2341 Fax: (204) 484-2351

Governance:

The Northern Authority is governed by a six (6) member board of directors.

For further information contact:

**First Nations of Northern Manitoba
Child and Family Services Authority**
Telephone: (204) 942-1842



General Child and Family Services Authority

The General Child and Family Services Authority (General Authority) has been created as a part of the whole child welfare reform strategy contemplated by the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI). In transitioning responsibility for Aboriginal children and families requiring child welfare services to the First Nations and Metis Authorities, it was recognized that the non-Aboriginal population needed to be served. The design of the new system will see responsibility for all non-Aboriginal permanent wards and those who choose the General Authority as their service provider rest with General Authority agencies.

The General Authority agencies are as follows:

- ◆ Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba
- ◆ Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba
- ◆ Jewish Child and Family Service
- ◆ Churchill Child and Family Services (a program of the Churchill Regional Health Authority)
- ◆ Winnipeg Child and Family Services
- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Interlake
- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Eastman
- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Parkland
- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Northern

All of these agencies have been in existence for many years and continue to deliver child welfare services in their particular geographical regions. They continue to be responsible for receiving referrals from their communities, investigating child abuse allegations, and providing all services under *The Child and Family Services Act* and *The Adoption Act*, including licensing foster homes.

The role of the General Authority is as articulated in *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act* but generally is as follows:



- ◆ To ensure that child and family services are delivered through a network of agencies to all children and families falling under the jurisdiction of the General Authority who require these services;
- ◆ To advocate for the delivery of high quality services throughout the General Authority agencies;
- ◆ To fund the agencies under its jurisdiction for regional and community based programs and services; and
- ◆ To ensure compliance with legislation, regulations and standards.

The General Authority is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Family Services and Housing for the Province of Manitoba. The Board is a governance Board which takes the lead role with the General Authority in promoting and supporting innovative programs within the agencies.

The AJI-CWI has created a unique opportunity for all Authorities and service providers to examine critically all of the assumptions behind the traditional delivery of child welfare in this province. The General Authority too takes this opportunity. With the leadership of the General Authority and the continued work of the agencies, the future of services to children and families will be reformed and enhanced. The well being of all children living in the province continues to be the prime directive for all child welfare practitioners. Innovative and creative alternatives to the more traditional delivery of services is what is driving the whole system under this initiative....we need to preserve what is good for children and change what doesn't work anymore.

For more information contact:
Dennis H. Schellenberg
Chief Executive Officer
(204) 984-9360 or
Toll Free: 1-866-803-2814



Rural and Northern Services - Eastman



Manitoba

The Child and Family Services program functions out of the Rural and Northern Services - Eastman Unit of the Manitoba Department of Family Services and Housing. Our vision is to provide the citizens of Eastman with services that support and promote an improved quality of life.

We believe that we have an obligation to offer service choices that are tailored to the unique needs of individuals, families, and communities, and that those who use our services need to participate in the planning of the services that affect them.

Our Mission Statement is as follows:

Together we will work to strengthen individual and family capacity and enhance the ability of communities to support their members.

We are committed to positive working relationships with our First Nations and Metis partners, as well as other service providers and the community-at-large.

Services provided:

- ◆ Family Preservation/Support
- ◆ Voluntary Family Services
- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Adoption/Post-Adoption



Contact Information:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Glenda Edwards
Ph. (204) 268-6159

PROGRAM MANAGER
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Ph. (204) 268-6162

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Steinbach, Mb. R0A 2A0
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Additional Information

Visit the web site:

www.aji-cwi.mb.ca

Call the Central Information Line:

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Toll Free: **1-866-300-7503**

E-mail us at:

ajicwi@gov.mb.ca