

# Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative



## Options for Foster Care Providers

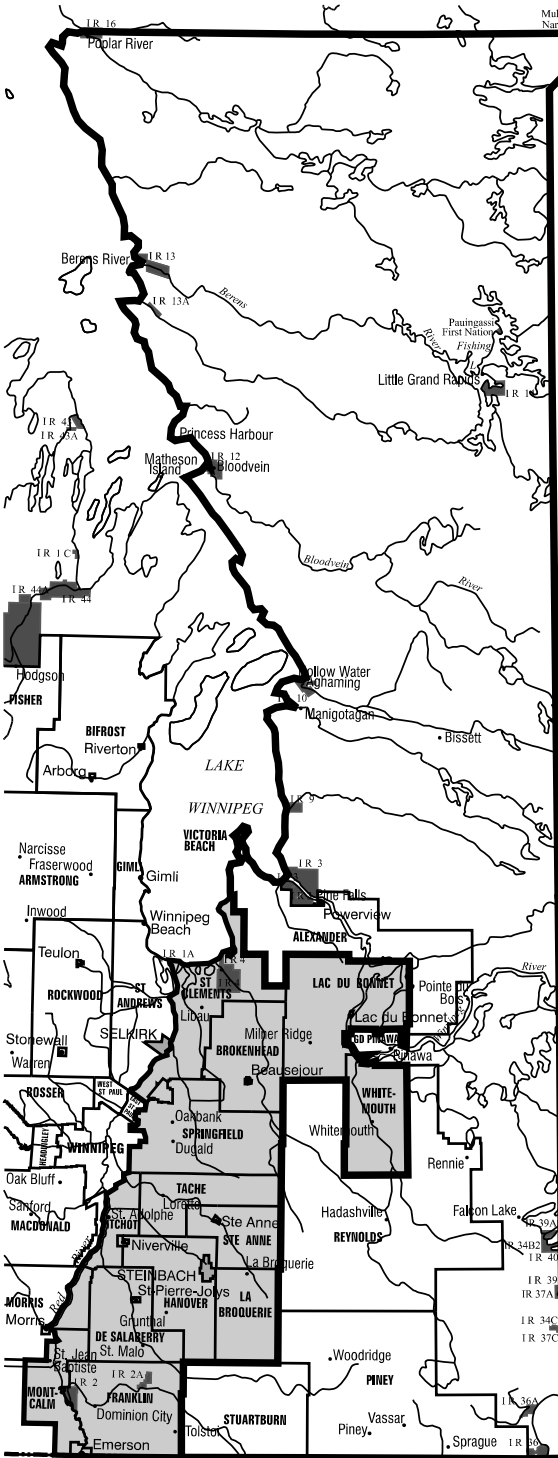
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## Eastman Region

February 2004



# Eastman Region Map





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

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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:

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

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

- t recognizes and respects the cultural diversity of Manitoba, and
- t 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:

- t Metis Child and Family Services Authority
- t First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority
- t First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority
- t 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.



# New Arrangements for Foster Care Providers

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Foster families are an essential resource in the restructured child and family services system. There are, however, new arrangements for foster care being introduced as part of the restructuring of the system.

## General Licensing Arrangements

Licensing of foster homes will continue to be the responsibility of agencies, subject to province-wide regulations and standards. A major change being introduced is that agencies will now be able to license foster homes anywhere they choose throughout the province. As licensing arrangements will no longer need to be based on geography, foster families will be able to choose the agency from which they would like to request a licence. However, each foster home can hold a licence from only one agency and a family can have only one foster home application active at any given time.

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 the agencies and foster home involved.

## Management and Support

The agency that licenses a foster home will be responsible for supporting and managing that home. The exceptions to this are foster homes that are currently managed by non-mandated child and family service agencies. Arrangements for these particular foster homes are not changing at this time but will be reviewed later in the AJI-CWI process.



## Sharing Arrangements

Sharing arrangements will be developed by each Authority to allow agencies access to foster care spaces in homes licensed by their agencies. 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 (in consultation with the foster home) will be responsible for approving all placement decisions.

## Implementation

The new foster care arrangements are being introduced in the province on a region-by-region basis. This began in the Interlake in late November 2003 and introduction in other regions is scheduled throughout 2004. Detailed information and supports are being made available to foster families in each region as implementation takes place.

The introduction of these changes will begin in the Eastman region in February 2004. A coordinated approach is being used to support existing foster families in making licensing decisions throughout implementation.

Starting the first day when cases are transferred in Eastman, foster families will have up to three months to decide which agency to apply to for licensing when their current licence expires. Once this three month period is over, a process will be in place to facilitate licensing by either the existing or an alternate agency.

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 to by the agencies and the foster family involved.



## **Implementation and Places of Safety**

At the time of case transfer, some children will be in the care of a Place of Safety home. If the family providing the Place of Safety decides to become a foster family, they will need to decide which agency they wish to apply to for licensing.

## **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 provision does not apply.





# Authorities and Agencies Serving Eastman

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

## **Metis Authority**

- t Metis Child, Family and Community Services

## **Southern First Nations Authority**

- t Sagkeeng Child and Family Services
- t Southeast Child and Family Services

## **Northern First Nations Authority**

- t Services provided through service agreements with other Authorities

## **General Authority**

- t Rural and Northern Services - Eastman

The following pages provide summaries of the foster care arrangements for each Authority and a brief profile on each of the four agencies listed above.

Please note that child and family services may be provided by other agencies in the province, but the four 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

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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.



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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.

Considerable effort has been dedicated to the development of an alternative care program that matches the philosophy of MCFCS. Ensuring that children are cared for by qualified, compassionate and nurturing care providers is critical in situations where children require a place of safety. Foster parents are a critical resource to the child and family services system and as such we place a great deal of confidence and trust in them. Our program will ensure adequate supports are in place for these critical resources.

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  
Telephone: (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.

Metis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) believes in a holistic approach in working with children and families. 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.

Our efforts are intended to serve the best interests of children, families and communities. MCFCS strives to support and strengthen Metis, Non-status and Inuit families. Our focus is to promote the health and well-being of our Metis children and families by building on the capacity of our Metis 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.

MCFCS plans to provide the following types of “Alternative Care” arrangements:

- t Extended Family Placements by way of a licensing process
- t Licensed Foster Homes (no relationship with a particular child) within a specific community to maintain the child’s connections with the birth family
- t Treatment or Specialized Foster Care arrangements for children with special needs

MCFCS has developed a number of programs and services designed specifically for care providers, including:

- t Cultural Orientation Training to encourage cultural sensitivity to our children
- t Training to address specific behavioural difficulties (ie. FAS, ADD, ADHD, ODD, caring for medical needs children etc.)
- t Connecting and bridging relationships with birth family members

MCFCS will provide ongoing support and supervision to all placement resources.

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

## Contact Information:

DIRECTOR: Dorothy McLoughlin

## Office:

Metis Child, Family and Community Services  
127-150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0J7  
Ph: (204) 949-0220      Fax: (204) 984-9487  
E-mail: info@metiscfs.mb.ca



# First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

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In 2000, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, on behalf of the southern First Nations, signed an historic agreement with the Province of Manitoba to begin the process of restoring responsibility to First Nations for child and family services to their children and families living off reserve. While this initiative does not restore jurisdiction over child welfare to First Nations, it is a significant step towards that goal.

First Nations of southern Manitoba 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 able to begin providing these same services to all of their citizens, wherever they live in Manitoba.

There are currently 7 mandated First Nations agencies providing a full range of child and family services to 36 southern First Nations. Each of these agencies provides a variety of programs and services designed to meet the needs of the families and children that they serve. These agencies have developed many innovative approaches, designed to support families and protect children, which are based on First Nations culture and customs.

Alternative care for children, including foster care, is one such program area. Over the last 20 years, the agencies have worked with communities and foster families to develop a base of licensed and trained foster parents and alternate care resources. As a result of this work, we are now able to keep First Nations children who



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are in need of alternate care within their extended families, home communities, and within the Aboriginal community.

Each agency has staff that recruit, license, and train foster parents, and also provide ongoing support to foster homes when children are placed. Foster parents who are interested in getting more information should call the agencies directly. The key contact for each agency with respect to foster care is:

- t Anishinaabe Child and Family Services – Martha Marsden
- t Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services – Bev Flett
- t Intertribal Child and Family Services – Liz Murdoch
- t Peguis Child and Family Services – Rhonda Traverse (Peguis) & Tara Petti (Wpg)
- t Sagkeeng Child and Family Services – Andrea Klyne Lavallee
- t Southeast Child and Family Services – Lloyd Goodmanson
- t West Region Child and Family Services – Angela Everett

You may also contact the Southern First Nations Authority for further information. Please call Louise McKay at (204) 783-9190.

The Southern First Nations Authority is looking forward to working in partnership with the southern First Nations agencies to continue to develop and deliver innovative and progressive alternative care programs, built on First Nations values, respecting First Nations customs and practices, and honouring First Nations children.



## Sagkeeng Child and Family Services

Sagkeeng Child and Family Services provides child and family services to members of the Sagkeeng First Nation and also has a sub-office in Winnipeg.



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

- t To ensure that children are safe and protected and given opportunities to reach their full potential
- t To provide child and family services that promotes family wellness
- t 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.

Sagkeeng Child and Family Services 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.

Our foster program is committed to providing the quality services the foster child and parent require but similarly are aware that the ultimate goal of the agency is to reunite the foster child with their biological parent(s).





The foster care program actively works to support foster parents in order to meet the needs of children placed in their homes. We also offer training for foster families and have recently offered workshops in the areas of:

- t Effects of Abuse and Neglect
- t Non-Violent Crisis Intervention
- t First Aid and CPR
- t Suicide Intervention
- t Indicators of Child Abuse and Reporting Protocols.

The foster program maintains a pool of support workers and transportation/escort drivers who are available for the children in care.

We are actively recruiting new foster homes. The foster care program created a recruiting package, which provides information on what is involved in becoming a foster parent. The packages have been distributed to some of the local businesses, organizations, and schools.

## **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 Offices:**

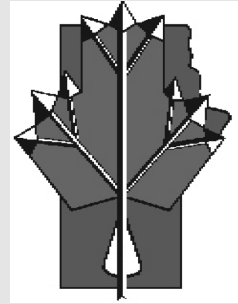
1948 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R2V 2B4  
(204) 949-1649 Fax: (204) 949-1669



## Southeast Child and Family Services

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

- t Berens River
- t Bloodvein
- t Brokenhead
- t Buffalo Point
- t Hollow Water
- t Little Black River
- t Little Grand Rapids
- t Pauingassi
- t 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.

### Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Burma Bushie

Main Office: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation  
Scanterbury, MB R0E 1W0  
Ph: (204) 766-2386 Fax: (204) 766-2716



## 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

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The opportunity has been created for First Nations of northern Manitoba child and family service agencies to move closer to attaining full jurisdiction over child and family matters. While the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative is not a self-government initiative, it is a process that has extended our mandate to help our families living off-reserve.

One area of service is in foster care. In our northern communities, the existing First Nation child and family service agencies have developed models, such as custom care, community care and alternative programs. These models have been designed to meet the goals and objectives of northern First Nations and the needs of northern First Nation children, with an emphasis on program elements which recognize and support First Nations identity, traditional customs and culture.

With the development of the Northern First Nations Authority and the establishment of service delivery sites off-reserve, the Northern First Nations Authority will support the above principles, but will also be mindful of its relationship to the provincial system and its program and service delivery standards.



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While there will be differences between the Northern First Nations Authority and its service delivery system, in terms of roles and responsibilities, there will be commonalities in the areas of philosophy, recruitment, support systems, financial systems, placement protocols, reviews, data and record keeping, registration requirements, and appeal processes. Examples of common elements reflected in the philosophy of most service delivery systems include: “our children are our most precious resource”; “children are our future”; “children are entitled to a safe and healthy environment that is nurturing and protective”; and “keeping families together”.

The Northern First Nations Authority is committed to creating a better system for helping our people.

For more information, please call: (204) 942-1842



# General Child and Family Services Authority

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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:

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



- t 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;
- t To advocate for the delivery of high quality services throughout the General Authority agencies;
- t To fund the agencies under its jurisdiction for regional and community based programs and services; and
- t 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 of 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**

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.



**Manitoba**

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 believe that foster parents are the hub of the care team, an essential and invaluable resource to children whose lives have been disrupted as a result of abuse and/or neglect. We are committed to the orientation, on-going support and training of foster parents so that they may better care for our children.

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.





## Contact Information:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Glenda Edwards

Ph: (204) 268-6159

PROGRAM MANAGER

Lorne Hagel

Ph: (204) 268-6162

Main Office:        20 – First Street  
                             P.O. Box 50  
                             Beausejour, Mb. R0E 0C0  
                             Fax: (204) 268-6222

## Other Offices:

Pine Falls District Office  
26 Pine Street  
P.O. Box 297  
Pine Falls, Mb. R0E 1M0  
Ph: (204) 367-6120    Fax: (204) 367-6125

Steinbach District Office  
Town Square – 284 Reimer Ave.  
P.O. Box 4633  
Steinbach, Mb. R0A 2A0  
Ph: (204) 346-6393    Fax: (204) 346-6394



## DO YOU . . .

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**Want more information?**

**Have any concerns?**

If you want more information before you make a decision regarding the new foster care arrangements, please speak to your worker. If you prefer, you can also call any of the Child and Family Services Authorities during regular office hours:

Metis Child and Family Services Authority  
(204) 949-0220

First Nations of Southern Manitoba  
Child and Family Services Authority  
(204) 783-9190  
Toll Free: 1-800-665-5762

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

General Child and Family Services Authority  
(204) 984-9360  
Toll Free 1-866-803-2814

OR:

Visit the web site:  
[www.aji-cwi.mb.ca](http://www.aji-cwi.mb.ca)

Call the Central Information Line:  
In Winnipeg: (204) 945-1183  
Toll Free: 1-866-300-7503

E-mail us at:  
[ajicwi@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ajicwi@gov.mb.ca)