

Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative



A Profile of Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies

Interlake Region

October 2003





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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 Interlake region as a result of the restructuring.

Please note that the information in this booklet is current as of October 2003. 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 will be a shared responsibility between the Province of Manitoba and Aboriginal peoples. The most fundamental change will be 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:

- ◆ 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.

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 from Aboriginal agencies, no matter where they live in Manitoba.

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

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 the Interlake

Five 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

- ◆ Anishinaabe Child and Family Services
- ◆ Intertribal Child and Family Services
- ◆ Peguis Child and Family Services

Northern First Nations Authority

- ◆ Service provided through service agreements with other Authorities

General Authority

- ◆ Interlake Child and Family Services

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



Metis Child and Family Services Authority



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

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. While this event marked a major milestone for the Metis Authority and agency, it is recognized that our work is far from over. We look forward to working with individuals, families and organizations from across the province as we work to roll-out services throughout the province and implement our mandate.

MCFCS will have a single-agency structure with a head office located in Winnipeg. Although the bulk of administrative tasks will occur centrally through this head office, services will be developed and provided on a regional basis. Currently, we are planning to develop services in five stages. In each stage, services will be developed in an area or region of Manitoba. Our initial energy will be focused primarily upon the set-up of services in Winnipeg.



Although there is still some work to be done with respect to the specifics of the restructuring in Interlake, MCFCS currently plans on having the equivalent of two to four staff present in the Interlake. As well, MCFCS currently has four interns working closely with staff at Interlake Region Child and Family Services. The plan is for these interns to eventually become part of the broader MCFCS structure.

Specifically for Interlake (the second stage), MCFCS plans to begin delivering services directly for those individuals and families in the southern portion of the region (generally defined as south of highway 513 including any communities located on the northern side of this divide adjacent to these highways) by the early portion of the new year. For all other areas, services are likely to be provided through service agreements, at least in the interim. You should be aware, however, that MCFCS will not be providing services prior to the proclamation of *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act*.

Nelson Mayer
CEO, Metis Child and Family Services Authority
Telephone: (204) 949-0220



Metis Child, Family and Community Services

The Metis Child, Family, and Community Services Agency (MCFCS) has been created to support and strengthen Metis families throughout the province. Our service mandate extends to Non-status and Inuit families as well.



We operate under the following mission statement:

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

Our 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: Metis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS).



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

We take 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 is absolutely essential to healthy child development. Children must be provided with all these skills, resources and relationships to make a healthy transition into adulthood.

Contact Information:

DIRECTOR

Dorothy McLoughlin

Office:

Metis Child, Family, and Community Services Agency

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

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 will be 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* will assign 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 will provide services to seven First Nation child and family services agencies, which provide a wide variety of culturally appropriate services to 36 southern communities.



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 Interlake area is served by three 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, which will be fully operational by late October or early November.

For information contact:

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

Telephone: (204) 783-9190

Toll-free: 1-800-665-5762 (*effective November 1, 2003*)



Anishinaabe Child and Family Services

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

- ◆ Lake Manitoba First Nation
- ◆ Little Saskatchewan First Nation
- ◆ Lake St. Martin First Nation
- ◆ Dauphin River First Nation
- ◆ Pinaymootang First Nation



Our agency operates under the following mission statement:

The Agency will deliver mandated child and family services and programs in a manner which will maintain and strengthen the individual, the family unit and the First Nations community within the context of Aboriginal values and customs.

Our philosophy is based on the belief that the child is a precious gift from the Creator, who has entrusted the family of the child with the sacred duty to love, protect and nurture him/her in the ways of the First Nations people.

Services provided by this agency:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| ◆ Child protection | ◆ Children in care |
| ◆ Family support | ◆ Resource development |
| ◆ Special Needs Committee | ◆ Repatriation |
| ◆ Adoption | ◆ Paralegal |
| ◆ Parenting programs | ◆ After-hours supports |
| ◆ Abuse Committee | ◆ Workshops |
| ◆ Foster parent training and innovation | |
| ◆ Recreation/Family innovation programs | |



Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dave Rundle

Main Office: Pinaymootang First Nation
Fairford, Manitoba
R0C 0X0
Ph: (204) 659-4546 Fax: (204) 659-5877

Other Offices:

Winnipeg Outreach
501-286 Smith Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4
Ph: (204) 942-0788 Fax: (204) 957-1734

Lake Manitoba First Nation
Vogar, Manitoba R0C 3C0
Ph: (204) 768-2317 Fax: (204) 768-9007

Little Saskatchewan First Nation
St. Martin, Manitoba R0C 2T0
Ph: (204) 659-4403 Fax: (204) 659-5391

Lake St. Martin First Nation
Gypsumville, Manitoba R0C 1J0
Ph: (204) 659-5855 Fax: (204) 659-5724

Dauphin River First Nation
Gypsumville, Manitoba R0C 1J0
Ph: (204) 659-5810 Fax: (204) 659-5816

Pinaymootang First Nation
Fairford, Manitoba R0C 0X0
Ph: (204) 659-5707 Fax: (204) 659-4225



Intertribal Child and Family Services

Intertribal Child and Family Services provides child and family services to members of three First Nations communities:

- ◆ Fisher River Cree Nation
- ◆ Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation
- ◆ Dakota Tipi First Nation



Intertribal Child and Family Services currently has twenty staff within four offices: Fisher River, Kinonjeoshtegon, Dakota Tipi, and Winnipeg Outreach.

We operate under the following mission statement:

To develop support systems that protect children, empower families and strengthen our communities.

Common values of our agency include:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ◆ Acceptance | ◆ Balanced lifestyle |
| ◆ Bonds/Belonging | ◆ Communication |
| ◆ Community roots | ◆ Family differences |
| ◆ Friendship | ◆ Have fun / laughter |
| ◆ Love/Respect/Trust | ◆ Support/Teaching |
| ◆ Value our elders | ◆ Value our history |
| ◆ Working together | |

We provide support to families by protecting children, strengthening families, developing preventative programs, and addressing our community needs.

Our goal is to maintain and strengthen the family unit and recognize the importance of the child's heritage, identity and sense of belonging to the community.

Our objective is to develop more control over our mandate including developing our own standards and guidelines for the care of our children.



Services provided by this agency:

- ◆ Child abuse program
- ◆ Family support services
- ◆ Parenting program
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Foster homes
- ◆ Youth groups
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Referral supports

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Shirley Cochrane

Main Office: Box 358
 Koostatak, MB ROC 150
 Ph: (204) 645-2744 Fax: (204) 645-3065
 Toll Free: 1-866-573-4461

Other Offices:

Winnipeg Outreach
Unit 19-399 Berry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3J 1N6
Ph: (204) 927-2800 Fax: (204) 949-1180
Toll Free: 1-866-573-4460

Kinonjeoshtegon Child and Family
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation
Box 10
Dallas, MB ROC 0S0
Ph: (204) 394-2281 Fax: (204) 394-2285

Dakota Tipi Child & Family
2020 Dakota Drive
Dakota Tipi, MB R1N 3X6
Ph: (204) 857-4381 Fax: (204) 857-9855



Peguis Child and Family Services

Peguis Child and Family Services provides child and family services to members of Peguis First Nation.

We operate under the following mission statement:



The purpose of Peguis Child and Family Services is to keep families together by developing culturally appropriate services and preventative alternative programs through our own support system by:

- ◆ Providing support
- ◆ Looking after families
- ◆ Keeping families together
- ◆ Protecting the children
- ◆ Keeping children in our communities
- ◆ Strengthening the family unit and thereby the community
- ◆ Making our community a better place to live
- ◆ Developing programs to address our needs

Services provided by this agency:

- ◆ Child protection
- ◆ Abuse program
- ◆ Family violence program
- ◆ Support services, e.g. referrals, advocacy
- ◆ Foster care
- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Repatriation



Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sylvia Wilson

Main Office: Box 610
 Peguis, MB
 R0C 3J0
 Ph: (204) 645-2049 Fax: (204) 645-2558

Other Offices:

Winnipeg Outreach
Unit 6 - 350 Keewatin Street
Winnipeg, MB R2X 2R9
Ph: (204) 632-5404 Fax: (204) 632-7226



First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

Tansi! It is my honor 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 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 will 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
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ 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 will be governed by a five (5) member board of directors.

For further information contact:

**First Nations of Northern Manitoba
Child and Family Services Authority**
Telephone: (204) 927-7516



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 Branch
- ◆ Interlake Child and Family Services
- ◆ Eastman Child and Family Services
- ◆ Parkland Child and Family Services
- ◆ Northern Child and Family Services

All of these agencies have been in existence for many years and continue to deliver child welfare services in their particular geographical regions. They will 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 will be 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 will be governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Family Services and Housing for the Province of Manitoba. The Board will be a governance Board which will take 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 will take 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 the 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



Interlake Child and Family Services

Interlake Child and Family Services serves the entire Interlake Region. Our vision is safety, self-sufficiency and dignity for all citizens of the Interlake Region.



Manitoba

Our Mission Statement to guide our service delivery is as follows:

Interlake Child and Family Services is dedicated to providing protection and support services to children and their families through the promotion and development of partnerships in the community.

Services Provided by this Agency:

- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Family Preservation
- ◆ Voluntary Family Services
- ◆ Linkages to Community Resources
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Emergency/After Hours Service



Contact Information:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Gerry Liske

Main Office: 3rd Floor, Administration Building
Box 9600
825 Manitoba Avenue
Selkirk MB R1A 2B5
Ph: (204) 785-5100 Fax: (204) 785-4882

Other Offices:

Gimli District Office
Box 1290
120-6th Avenue
Gimli Mb R0C 1B0
Ph: (204) 642-6051 Fax: (204) 642-4924

Selkirk District Office
101-446 Main Street
Selkirk MB R1A 1V7
Ph: (204) 785-5106 Fax: (204) 785-5321

Stonewall District Office
589-3rd Avenue
Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0
Ph: (204) 467-4421 Fax: (204) 467-4431

Ashern District Office
Box 310
43 Railway Avenue
Ashern Mb R0C 0E0
Ph: (204) 768-2585 Fax: (204) 768-2961



Additional Information

Visit the web site:

www.aji-cwi.mb.ca

Call the Central Information Line:

In Winnipeg: **(204) 945-1183**

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