

# Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative



## A Profile of Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies

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### Norman Region

October 2004







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# Introduction

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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 Norman region as a result of the restructuring.

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

Please note that the information in this booklet is current as of October 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

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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:

- ◆ Manitoba Metis Federation
- ◆ Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- ◆ Manitoba Keewatinowi Ininew Okimowin
- ◆ Province of Manitoba

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

- ◆ recognizes and respects the cultural diversity of Manitoba
- ◆ 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.

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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.*



# **Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies Serving the Norman Region**

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Three 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**

- ◆ A service agreement will be signed to provide services to children and families from southern First Nations communities.

## **Northern First Nations Authority**

- ◆ Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency

## **General Authority**

- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Northern

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

A map depicting the geographic Norman region 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 (MCFS) Authority I wish to extend greetings to individuals in Manitoba's Norman Region. As many are aware, the past year has been extremely busy for the Board and staff of the MCFS Authority as we prepared for the opening of the first Metis-specific child and family services agency in the history of Manitoba, which took place on June 3, 2004.

The establishment of Metis Child, Family and Community Services (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, combined with our Agency Launch in June of this year, were major milestones for the Metis Authority and agency, we continue to focus our attention and efforts on detailed planning and development to ensure we are adequately prepared to begin delivering mandated services to families.

MCFCS has 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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We are currently planning to develop services in five stages. In each stage, services will be developed in an area or region of Manitoba. MCFCS will deliver services directly to children and families throughout the Norman region of Manitoba.

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.

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## Metis Child, Family and Community Services



Metis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) is the first child and family services agency established in the history of Manitoba to support and strengthen Metis, Non-Status and Inuit children, families and communities throughout the province.

Our efforts are focused on serving the best interests of our 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.

We operate under the following mission statement:

*Metis families and communities have the right and responsibility to care for children. Our mission is to ensure children and families are served with dignity, respect, and understanding throughout the delivery of Metis community-based family services and support programs, so that we may serve to strengthen the Metis child, family and community.*

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

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.

*We can make the sun rise tomorrow for children and families of the Metis Nation.*

## **Contact Information:**

DIRECTOR: Dorothy McLoughlin

## **Main Office:**

Metis Child, Family and Community Services

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

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In the year 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 First Nations citizens, wherever they live in Manitoba.

The First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority is an incorporated body that has been assuming the duties and responsibilities that *The Act* assigns to it. This has included developing the management, financial, operational, information technology, human resources, and program capabilities, while at the same time continuing to participate in the transitioning of the child and family services system in Manitoba.

The Southern First Nations Authority works with seven First Nation child and family services agencies in southern Manitoba, which in turn provide a full range of culturally appropriate child and family services to 36 First Nations communities.



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These agencies are:

- ◆ Anishinaabe Child and Family Services
- ◆ Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services
- ◆ Intertribal Child and Family Services
- ◆ Peguis Child and Family Services
- ◆ Sagkeeng Child and Family Services
- ◆ Southeast Child and Family Services
- ◆ West Region Child and Family Services

The Southern Authority's area of responsibility is to those First Nations communities encompassed within southern Manitoba and therefore does not have many requests for service in the Norman region. For these reasons, services to our residents living in the northern part of Manitoba will occur through a service agreement.

The Southern First Nations Child and Family Services Authority presently has a staff of thirteen and a Board of Directors that govern their work. As of July 1, 2004, all southern First Nations child and family services agencies had their mandates extended to include being able to provide services to their off-reserve residents.

For information contact:

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

100-696 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0M6

Telephone: (204) 783-9190

Toll-free: 1-800-665-5762



# First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

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*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
- ◆ Fitness program
- ◆ Environmental health
- ◆ Public health
- ◆ Foster care
- ◆ Family resources
- ◆ Counselling
- ◆ Intake
- ◆ Reunification
- ◆ Homemaker/Parent-aide
- ◆ Elder care
- ◆ Permanency planning
- ◆ Midwifery
- ◆ 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





## Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency

Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency (CNCFCA) provides direct services to First Nations members from the following communities:



- ◆ Grand Rapids First Nation
- ◆ Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
- ◆ Mosakahiken Cree Nation
- ◆ Chemawawin Cree Nation
- ◆ Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation
- ◆ Opaskwayak Cree Nation
- ◆ Mathias Colomb Cree Nation
- ◆ Marcel Colomb First Nation

We operate under the following mission statement:

*Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency provides community based child and family services and programs to members of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council First Nations. By incorporating both protection services and prevention programs, the agency will place paramount importance on family unity in our communities.*

Our agency's Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from each of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC) communities through delegated authority from the Chiefs of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council. Board representation includes Local Child and Family Services Committee Members, Community Members, Councillors and a CFS Portfolio Chief.

In the Norman region, Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency has already identified two workers that are under the direct supervision of the Northern Regional Office, Family Services and Housing. These Social Workers have worked in partnership with CNCFCA in joint planning for children and families in this region.



## **Programs and Services:**

Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency provides the following services:

- ◆ Child and Family Services (case management, family court proceedings, apprehensions, placements of children, prevention programming/awareness)
- ◆ Child Protection Investigations (all child abuse allegations/disclosures, collateral partnership with RCMP detachments)
- ◆ Foster Care Services (Resource Placement and Development) (recruitment of foster homes, licensing, orientation and training to foster parents, and a partnership with MYS – Northern Alternative Parent Home Program and their clinical case managers)
- ◆ Adoption/Repatriation Services (De facto, Parent's Own, Select Adoptions, limited repatriation services)
- ◆ Winnipeg Sub-Office Child and Family Services (Agency workers maintain a caseload of SCTC children placed in long-term Winnipeg resources, in collaboration with local level workers)
- ◆ Counselling & Referral Services
- ◆ Minor/Expectant Parent Services (assessments/support and referral services)
- ◆ Service Delivery Agreements with Northern Region Child and Family Services
- ◆ Local Child and Family Services Committees

## **Contact Information:**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diane Deschambeault, C.I.S.W., B.I.S.W.

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Opaskwayak, MB R0B 2J0  
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## **Other Offices:**

Winnipeg Sub-Office

3rd Floor – 338 Broadway

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R3C 0B9

Ph: (204) 927-1230

Fax: (204) 927-1234

Grand Rapids Local Office

Box 334

Grand Rapids, MB

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Ph: (204) 639-2518

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Sapotaweyak Local Office

General Delivery

Shoal River, MB

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Ph: (204) 587-2216

Toll Free: 1-888-515-2553

Fax: (204) 587-2030

Mosakahiken Local Office

General Delivery

Moose Lake, MB

R0B 0Y0

Ph: (204) 678-2211

Fax: (204) 678-2337

Chemawawin Local Office

General Delivery

Easterville, MB

R0C 0V0

Ph: (204) 329-2532

Fax: (204) 329-2709



## **Other Offices:**

Wuskwi Sipiik Local Office

General Delivery

Birch River, MB

R0L 0E0

Ph: (204) 236-4831

Fax: (204) 236-4429

Opaskwayak Cree Nation Local Office

Box 10130

Opaskwayak, MB

R0B 2J0

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Fax: (204) 627-7259

Mathias Colomb Local Office

General Delivery

Pukatawagan, MB

R0B 1G0

Ph: (204) 553-2139

Fax: (204) 553-2135



# 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 restructuring of the child welfare system to oversee the delivery of child and family services to non-Aboriginal people throughout Manitoba.

The responsibility for the delivery of services for non-Aboriginal persons and all others who choose the General Authority will rest with one of the following General Authority agencies:

- ◆ 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 operation for many years and will 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
- ◆ 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 critically examine 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 - Northern Region



**Manitoba**

Northern Region, Child and Family Services is part of an integrated social services delivery system operated by Rural and Northern Services Branch of the Department of Family Services and Housing.

### Our Vision

*“Quality Services--- Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities”*

### Our Mission

*“Family Services and Housing, Northern Region, provides integrated and co-ordinated social services to individuals and families. Services respond to the diverse needs of northern residents and assist communities in providing safe and supportive environments. Our services are accessible, culturally sensitive and respectful of the need for self-reliance.”*

### Our Services

We deliver a comprehensive range of social services to residents of the Northern region of Manitoba, guided by Manitoba legislation and public policy.

We share with residents in our region, the responsibility for the protection of vulnerable children and adults. We provide financial security and supports to individuals, families and communities in creating safe and supportive environments.

In particular, we provide services in the following areas:

- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Voluntary Family Services
- ◆ Services to Children in Care
- ◆ Foster Care Support



- ◆ Adoption and Post Legal Services
- ◆ Day Care
- ◆ Family Conciliation and Mediation
- ◆ Services to Handicapped Adults and Children

Foster Care Providers are the backbone of the child and family service system and integral members of the service team. Through the loving support provided to all the children in their care and with the support of the agency around planning for general and special needs, children receive the support and protection required for them to achieve a healthy and independent adulthood.

### **Contact Information:**

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## Additional Information

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Visit the web site:

**[www.aji-cwi.mb.ca](http://www.aji-cwi.mb.ca)**

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

E-mail us at:

**[ajicwi@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ajicwi@gov.mb.ca)**