



Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative



Options for Foster Care Providers

.....

Thompson Region

April 2005



MANITOBA
MÉTIS
FEDERATION



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA
CHIEFS



MANITOBA
KEEWATINOOK
ININEW OKIMOWIN



Manitoba

Thompson Region Map

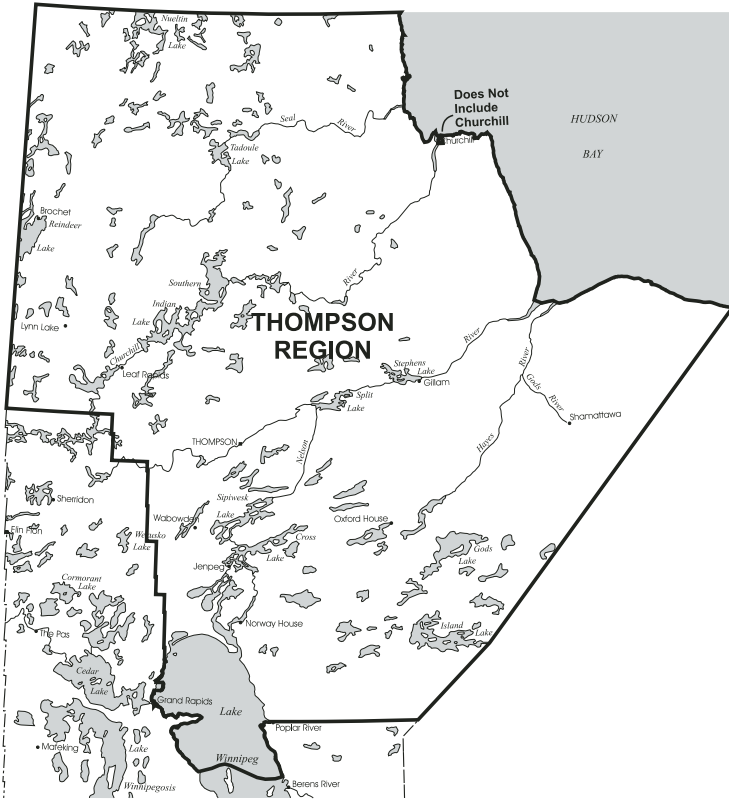




Table of Contents

The AJI-CWI: A New Approach to Child and Family Services in Manitoba	4
New Arrangements for Foster Care Providers	6
Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies Serving the Thompson Region	9
First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority.....	10
Metis Child and Family Services Authority	21
First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority.....	25
General Child and Family Services Authority	27
Additional Information	30



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 are 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 Keewatinowi Ininew Okimowin
- ◆ Manitoba Metis Federation
- ◆ Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- ◆ 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:

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



New Arrangements for Foster Care Providers

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 other 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 November 2003 with introduction in other regions scheduled throughout 2004 and 2005. Detailed information and supports are being made available to foster families in each region as implementation takes place.

Implementation and Places of Safety

At the time of case transfers, 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.



The introduction of these changes begins in the Thompson region on April 4, 2005. 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 the Thompson region, 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.



Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies Serving the Thompson Region

Six agencies from the three Authorities will be the primary service providers in the region:

Northern First Nations Authority

- ◆ Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba
- ◆ Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency
- ◆ Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency
- ◆ Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre

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.

General Authority

- ◆ Rural and Northern Services - Thompson

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

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



First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

On behalf of the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority (Northern CFS Authority) and its affiliated agencies, I extend greetings to everyone. All parties involved in the restructuring process of child and family services have been extremely busy preparing for the transfer process. The Northern CFS Authority will strive to create a positive accountable model that will nurture and support our alternative care resources in a manner that reflects the First Nations aspirations, philosophy, goals and values.

The opportunity has been created to effect change to child welfare practices and standards through the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI). The agencies of the North, through the Authority, now have the ability to provide a more culturally significant way of delivering services through a First Nations worldview.

Within our First Nations, there are various methods of alternative, kinship and customary care that are being utilized by our agencies. With the premise that children are “a gift from the Creator and are our future” the family, extended families and community are the first who can offer assistance when families need temporary help. The assistance of caregivers who open their hearts and home to our children is valued and appreciated.

With the Northern CFS Authority working closely with the agencies, we will now be able to effect culturally appropriate changes to the existing provincial system that will strengthen and support our caregivers.



The Northern CFS Authority works with five First Nations child and family service agencies in Northern Manitoba. The member agencies are:

- ◆ Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba
- ◆ Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency
- ◆ Island Lake First Nation Family Services
- ◆ Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency
- ◆ Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre will be the host agency for the amalgamated office in Thompson, which will be situated in the provincial building on an interim basis until a permanent location is found.

Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency, Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre will share the office space to deliver services to its First Nations members in the Thompson region.

For more information, contact:

Diane Kematch
Chief Executive Officer

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

502 – 338 Broadway Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T2

Ph: (204) 942-1842

Fax: (204) 942-1858



Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba

Vision Statement

Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba is committed to working towards the vision of healthy communities that promote and nurture the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual growth, development and well-being of First Nations children and families.



Mission Statement

Awasis Agency will take a holistic and integrated approach to Promotion, Prevention and Protection services that reflect the needs of the First Nations children and families and incorporate appropriate values, language, culture and traditions.

Awasis Agency's philosophy on child and family service is as follows:

- ◆ Children are the most precious resource, our future and will determine First Nations future.
- ◆ All children are entitled to a safe healthy environment that nurtures and protects each child's mental, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.
- ◆ It is the joint responsibility of the First Nation's community leaders, elders, families and professionals alike to address the breakdown of the traditional family unit.
- ◆ To commit resources towards creative and innovative efforts to prevent future erosion of First Nation traditional family way of life and well-being.
- ◆ First Nations have the full power, status and capacity with respect to governing, protection and development of First Nations people, lands and economies and government.
- ◆ Manitoba First Nations have jurisdiction over child and family services to anyone on First Nations' territory and to all First Nations citizens/members regardless of their residence in Manitoba.



Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
David Monias

Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba
101-701 Thompson Drive, Thompson, MB R8N 2A2
Ph: (204) 677-1500 Fax: (204) 778-8428
Toll Free: 1-800-667-4734

Other Offices:

Pimicikamak (Cross Lake)
Ph: (204) 676-3902 Fax: (204) 676-3251

Barren Lands (Brochet)
Ph: (204) 323-2300 Fax: (204) 323-2275

Northlands (Lac Brochet)
Ph: (204) 337-2001 Fax: (204) 337-2110

War Lake (Ilford)
Ph: (204) 288-4386 Fax: (204) 288-4371

York Factory
Ph: (204) 341-2180 Fax: (204) 341-2322

Fox Lake
Ph: (204) 486-2463 Fax: (204) 486-2503

Sayisi Dene (Tadoules Lake)
Ph: (204) 684-2014 Fax: (204) 684-2069

Tataskweyak (Split Lake)
Ph: (204) 342-2459 Fax: (204) 342-2449

God's Lake Narrows
Ph: (204) 335-2098 Fax: (204) 335-2245

Manto Sipi (God's River)
Ph: (204) 366-2163 Fax: (204) 366-2282

Bunibonibee (Oxford House)
Ph: (204) 538-2622 Fax: (204) 538-2627

Shamattawa
Ph: (204) 565-2569 Fax: (204) 565-2574



Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency

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



- ◆ Grand Rapids First Nation
- ◆ Sapotawayak 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.



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.

Main Office: Box 10130

Opaskwayak, MB R0B 2J0

Ph: (204) 623-7456 Fax: (204) 623-3847

Toll Free: 1-877-252-7535



Other Offices:

Winnipeg Sub-Office

3rd Floor – 338 Broadway

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9

Ph: (204) 927-1230 Fax: (204) 927-1234

Grand Rapids Local Office

Box 334, Grand Rapids, MB R0V 0V0

Ph: (204) 639-2518 Fax: (204) 639-2443

Sapotaweyak Local Office

General Delivery, Shoal River, MB R0L 1L0

Ph: (204) 587-2216 Fax: (204) 587-2030

Toll Free: 1-888-515-2553

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

Wuskwi Sipihk 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

Ph: (204) 627-7240 Fax: (204) 627-7259

Toll Free: 1-877-627-7240

Mathias Colomb Local Office

General Delivery, Pukatawagan, MB R0B 1G0

Ph: (204) 553-2139 Fax: (204) 553-2135



Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency (KSMA) provides direct services to First Nation members from Norway House Cree Nation on and off-reserve.



Our Vision

“Norway House Cree Nation to be a safe, nurturing and caring community where healthy and responsible families live; where children will be raised with honor, respect, love and guidance so as to acquire the skills to become good and productive citizens and for families to gain, promote and preserve culturally appropriate values and beliefs.”

Our Mission

“Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency will assist in the development and delivery of programs and services directed to promoting the best interest of Norway House Cree Nation members and preserving family unity.”

Our agency's Board of Directors were selected by the staff of KSMA and approved by the Norway House Cree Nation Chief and Council. Board representation includes a Local Child Care Committee member, community members, educators and a CFS Portfolio Councillor.

The KSMA is working in partnership with the Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba to provide services for families who have children with life-long complex medical needs (CwLLCMN Project) and with families to resolve conflicts to help prevent and reduce children coming into care (Meenoostahtahn Minisowin Pilot Project) to promote the best interest of children within the context of families, communities and culture.

Our agency's newly developed Kinosao Sipi Children's Special Services Project is designed to meet the service needs of physically or developmentally disabled children who are living in the community and to provide the supports to the family and community in order to ensure the needs of the child are met.



KSMA provides the following services:

- ◆ Child and Family Services
- ◆ Crisis Intervention
- ◆ Family Preservation/Reunification
- ◆ Child Protection Investigations
- ◆ Foster Care Services
- ◆ Adoption/Permanency Planning
- ◆ Minor/Expectant Parent Services
- ◆ Counseling and Therapist Services
- ◆ In-Home Support
- ◆ After Hours Emergency On-call
- ◆ Education Services
- ◆ First Aid/CPR Training
- ◆ Community Initiatives
- ◆ Children with Lifelong Complex Medical Needs Project
- ◆ Meenoostahtan Minisowin Project
- ◆ Traditional Activities Program
- ◆ Children's Special Services Project
- ◆ Traditional Parenting Practices
- ◆ Service Delivery Agreements with Northern Region
Child and Family Services
- ◆ Local Child Care Committee

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clarence Paupanekis, B.G.S.

Main Office: Box 640

Norway House, MB R0B 1B0

Ph: (204) 359-4551 Fax: (204) 359-6013

Email: ksma@mts.net

Other Offices:

Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Program Centre

Box 640, Norway House, MB R0B 1B0

Ph: (204) 359-8083



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and Community Wellness Centre



In March of 2000, the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) Family and Community Wellness Centre was established following an intensive community consultation process. The consultation process resulted in the development of a fully integrated health related and child and family service system, acknowledging the strength of First Nations families and recognizing how much can be accomplished by working together.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) Child and Family Services is one element of our integrated service delivery model and remains committed to using strength based approaches to support and build respectful relationships with our children and families.

The NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre has adopted a mandate which reflects this commitment and is as follows:

- ◆ To promote the development of new ideas and innovative measures to bring about meaningful change for the children and families of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation within a holistic approach to human services, policy development and service delivery which incorporates the tradition, culture, language, customs and teachings of the community's elders;
- ◆ To deliver mandated child and family services within a community capacity building and health promotion orientation;
- ◆ To oversee the implementation of health related services; and
- ◆ To promote community wellness and individual well-being.

The NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre delivers programming designed to promote and support holistic wellness in the following areas:



- ◆ Child and Family Services
- ◆ Counselling Services
- ◆ Head Start
- ◆ Public Health-Clinical
- ◆ CPNP
- ◆ Elders
- ◆ Prenatal Support Services
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Daycare
- ◆ Public Health-Pre/Postnatal
- ◆ Home and Community Care
- ◆ Enrichment

In addition, the Centre provides specialized programming to children and families designed to support positive relationships within a traditional context such as traditional camps, the Rediscovery of Families project.

All programs and services are developed and implemented in accordance with the Centres core values which are:

- ◆ **Social Justice:** We will treat all residents of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation equally.
- ◆ **Self Reliance:** We will promote personal and family responsibility first.
- ◆ **Intrinsic Worth of People:** We will think of everyone as having abilities, talents and skills that are essential to the overall health of the community.
- ◆ **Sustainability:** We will provide services in a way that does not threaten our ability to meet basic human needs in the long term.
- ◆ **Cooperation:** We will work together to achieve community wellness.
- ◆ **Community Wellness Focus:** We will commit to a holistic health promotion orientation to program design and implementation.

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Felix Walker, B.A.

Main Office: Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family
and Community Wellness Centre
Box 451, Nelson House, MB ROB 1A0
Ph: (204) 484-2341 Fax: (204) 484-2351
Email: felix@ncnwellness.ca



Metis Child and Family Services Authority



The Metis Child and Family Services (MCFS) Authority wish to extend greetings to individuals in Manitoba's Thompson region. As many are aware, the last 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. 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 the subsequent proclamation of *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act* on November 24, 2003.

While these events, combined with our agency launch in June of last 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 that 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.



We are currently planning and developing services on a region-by-region basis. MCFCS will directly deliver services throughout the Thompson region.

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.

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



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.

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.

We believe 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 wellbeing 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:

- ◆ Extended Family Placements by way of a licensing process
- ◆ Licensed Foster Homes (no relationship with a particular child) within a specific community to maintain the child’s connections with the birth family
- ◆ 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:

- ◆ Cultural Orientation Training to encourage cultural sensitivity with our children
- ◆ Training to address specific behavioral difficulties (ie. FAS, ADD, ADHD, Oppositional Defiance, Caring for medical needs children, etc.)
- ◆ 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.

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

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dorothy McLoughlin

Main Office:

Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency

1261 Main Street

Winnipeg, MB R2W 5G9

Ph: (204) 697-1118

Fax: (204) 697-0606

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 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.

First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority presently has a staff of thirteen and a Board of Directors that govern their work. We currently work with seven First Nations child and family services agencies, which in turn provide a full range of culturally appropriate child and family services to 36 First Nations.



.....

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

As of July 1, 2004, all southern First Nations child and family services agencies had their mandates extended to enable them to provide services to their off-reserve residents. However, the Southern Authority's area of responsibility is mainly to those First Nations communities encompassed within southern Manitoba; therefore, we do not receive many requests for service in the Thompson region. For these reasons, services to our residents living in the northern part of Manitoba will occur through a service agreement.

For information contact:

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

100-696 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3G 0M6

Ph: (204) 783-9190 Fax: (204) 783-7996

Toll-free: 1-800-665-5762



General Child and Family Services Authority

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, as articulated in *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act*, 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 welcomes 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 - Thompson



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

Our Vision

"Quality Services---Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities."

Our Mission

" Rural and Northern Services - Thompson provides integrated and coordinated 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 needs for self-reliance."

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.

Services Include:

- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Services to Children in Care
- ◆ Adoption and Post Legal Services
- ◆ Family Conciliation and Mediation
- ◆ Services to Challenged Adults and Children
- ◆ Voluntary Family Services
- ◆ Foster Family Program
- ◆ Day Care

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

Contact Information:

Thompson: Nickie Jensen, Area Manager
 Box 5, 59 Elizabeth Drive
 Thompson MB R8N 1X4
 Ph: (204) 677-7251



DO YOU

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:

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

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

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

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

E-mail us at:
ajicwi@gov.mb.ca