



Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative



Options for Foster Care Providers

Westman Region

November 2004



Westman Region Map

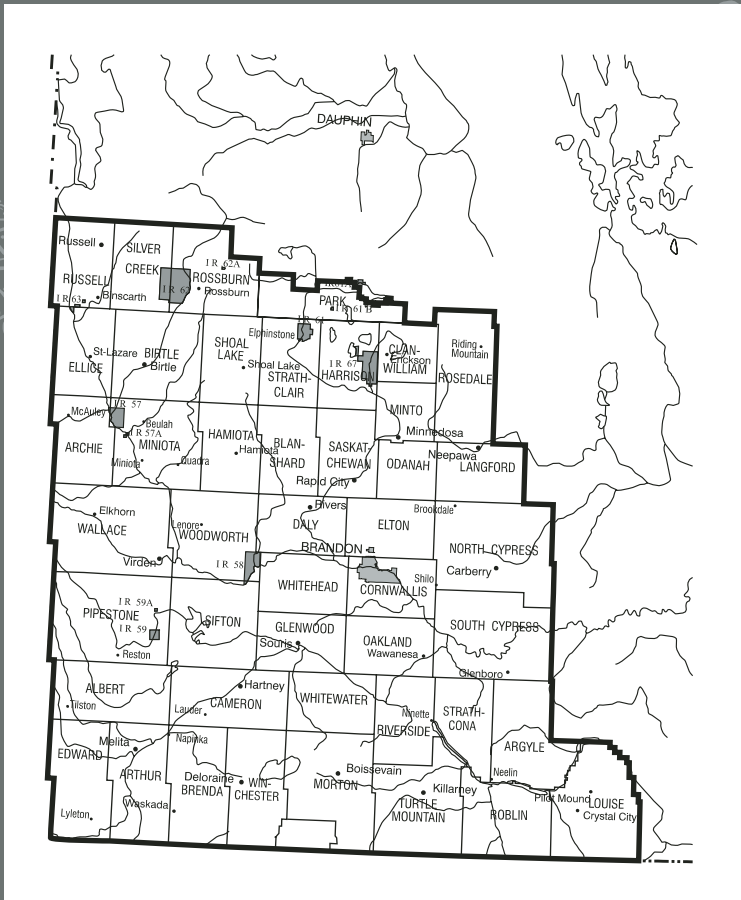
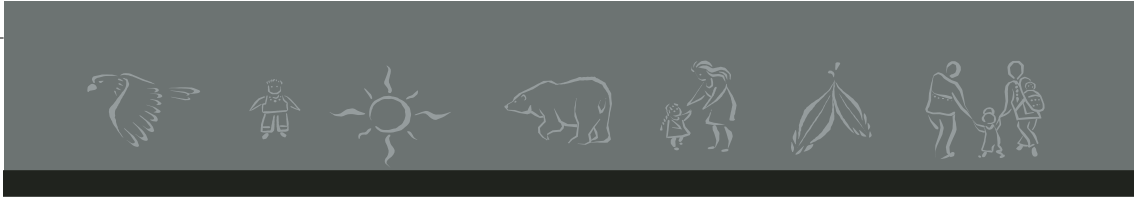




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THE AJI-CWI: A New Approach to Child and Family Services in Manitoba

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 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.

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.

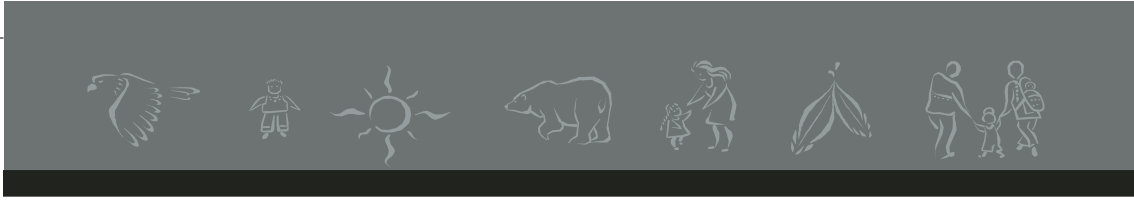
General Licensing Arrangements

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.

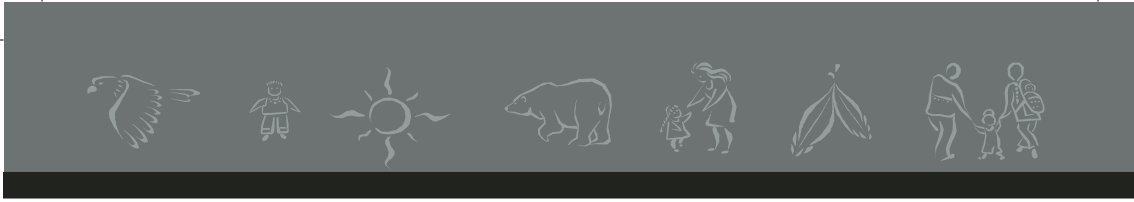
Implementation

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. Detailed information and supports are being made available to foster families in each region as implementation takes place.

The introduction of these changes begins in the Westman region in December 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 the Westman 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.



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.



Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies Serving the Westman Region

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

Metis Authority

- ◆ Metis Child, Family and Community Services

Southern First Nations Authority

- ◆ Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services
- ◆ West Region Child and Family Services

Northern First Nations Authority

- ◆ A service agreement will be signed with the Southern First Nations Authority to provide services to children and families from northern First Nations communities.

General Authority

- ◆ Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba

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

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



Metis Child and Family Services Authority



On behalf of the Metis Child and Family Services (MCFS) Authority I wish to extend greetings to individuals in Manitoba's Westman 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 and developing services by region. MCFS will directly deliver services throughout the 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.

*Nelson Mayer
CEO, 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 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.

First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services 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

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. Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services and West Region Child and Family Services are the southern First Nations agencies that provide services in the Westman region.

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.

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



Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services Inc

Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services provides child and family services to the members of eight First Nation communities in southern Manitoba:

- ◆ Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation
- ◆ Roseau River First Nation
- ◆ Canupawakpa Dakota Nation
- ◆ Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
- ◆ Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation
- ◆ Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
- ◆ Long Plain First Nation
- ◆ Swan Lake First Nation



Our agency motto is "Taking Care Of Our Own"

We operate under the following mission statement:

"Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services Inc. will ensure the safety and well-being of children by empowering families through community self-determination."

Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services makes every effort to ensure that the provision of child and family services is compatible to the needs of the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council communities. The agency promotes the seven teachings of our culture – Honesty, Wisdom, Respect, Trust, Sharing, Humour and Humility.

Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services has identified the following objectives:

- ◆ To ensure the safety and well being of children
- ◆ To strengthen and unify families who are members of Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council bands
- ◆ To place Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council children, who are coming into the care of Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services back within their own communities or with other Native families, as directed by the child's band



- ◆ To assist children, who were placed outside their bands and with non-native families prior to the establishment of Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services, to reconnect and/or return to their families and/or bands
- ◆ To develop services for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protective placement of Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council children
- ◆ To develop community responsibility, through the establishment of Local Child and Family Services committees, Child Protection Committees and a Council of Elders

Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services has a responsibility to ensure that all children placed in foster care are provided with a safe and loving environment, which meets the child's emotional, mental, physical, educational, social and cultural needs. Although the agency is committed to placing children with extended family and/or within the community or cultural group, we recognize that some children may require placement in other resources that can meet their particular needs. Foster families are treated as an integral part of the agency team and participate in planning for the children in their care. We provide training for agency foster families and support additional training requests where necessary to meet the needs of the child.

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Bobbi Pompana

Main Office: Long Plain First Nation #6B, Band #237
702 Douglas Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 7B2
Ph: (204) 729-3650 Fax: (204) 728-1806
Toll Free: 1-877-508-8289
Emergency After Hours: 1-800-263-6237



Other Offices:

Birdtail Sioux

General Delivery, Beulah, MB. R0M 0B0

Phone: (204) 568-4559

Fax: (204) 568-4556

Canupawakpa

Box 2169, Virden, MB. R0M 2C0

Phone: (204) 854-2920

Fax: (204) 854-2224

Dakota Plains

Box 109, Edwin, MB. R0H 0G0

Phone: (204) 252-3120

Fax: (204) 252-2504

Long Plain

Box 1629, Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 3P1

Phone: (204) 252-2880

Fax: (204) 252-2520

Toll Free: 1-866-549-3300

Roseau River

Box 205, Ginew, MB. R0A 2R0

Phone: (204) 427-2770

Fax: (204) 427-2830

Sandy Bay

Box 105, Marius, MB. R0H 0T0

Phone: (204) 843-2687

Fax: (204) 843-2696

Toll Free: 1-866-235-6968

Sioux Valley

Box 36, Griswold, MB. R0M 0S0

Phone: (204) 855-2415

Fax: (204) 855-2229

Swan Lake

Box 370, Swan Lake, MB. R0G 2S0

Phone: (204) 836-2503

Fax: (204) 836-2388

Winnipeg

Room 500-294 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0B9

Phone: (204) 988-9550

Fax: (204) 988-9552



West Region Child and Family Services, Inc.

West Region Child and Family Services Inc., (WRCFS), is a mandated First Nation child caring agency which provides child and family services to members of the following First Nations:



- ◆ Ebb & Flow
- ◆ Gamblers
- ◆ Keeseekoowenin
- ◆ O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi
- ◆ Pine Creek
- ◆ Rolling River
- ◆ Skownan
- ◆ Tootinaowazibeeng
- ◆ Waywayseecappo

Our agency operates under the Mission Statement:
"The Protection of Children".

Our Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the programs and services of WRCFS is to sustain, support and enhance family and community life, thereby maintaining children in their own home, or when necessary, seeking substitute parenting within the family and/or home community if at all possible.

WRCFS carries out *The Child and Family Services Act*, incorporating the traditional beliefs and customs of the native community. A full range of service is provided including statutory services, voluntary services and prevention programs. Each First Nation Community has a field office with a community-based team which includes statutory and prevention resource workers.

Alternate Care Unit: The alternate care unit is a program designed to provide alternative resources for children who are unable to remain in their own homes of origin and who require a safe and



nurturing environment. These resources can be for: emergency placements, short and/or long term placements, Place of Safety designations, semi-independent or independent living arrangements, therapeutic foster homes, group homes, specialized medical homes and adoption.

The primary responsibility of the unit, working closely with community based teams, is to identify and license foster homes within the communities, with extended family for the placement of children. Although recruitment and development of agency resources within the nine First Nation communities is the Alternate Care Unit's principle goal, placement resources off-reserve are also considered. Maintaining foster home support and providing regular training opportunities for our foster parents continues to be one of our main objectives within the unit.

Contact Information:

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR
Stella Bone, BSW, MSW Underway

Main Office: WRCFS Rolling River First Nation Head Office
P.O. Box 280
Erickson, Manitoba
R0J 0P0
Ph: (204) 636-6100 Fax: (204) 636-6158

Other Offices:

Winnipeg
255 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2B8
Ph: (204) 985-4050 Fax: (204) 985-4079

Dauphin
431 Buchanon Avenue, Dauphin, MB R0J 0P0
Ph: (204) 622-5200 Fax: (204) 622-5248



Other Offices:

Ebb & Flow First Nation
General Delivery, Ebb & Flow, MB R0L 0R0
Ph: (204) 448-2022 Fax: (204) 448-2790

Gamblers First Nation
General Delivery, Binscarth, MB R0G 0J0
Ph: (204) 532-2549 Fax: (204) 532-2503

Keeseekoowenin First Nation
P.O. Box 25, Elphinstone, MB R0J 0N0
Ph: (204) 625-2088 Fax: (204) 625-2754

O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation
General Delivery, Crane River, MB R0L 0M0
Ph: (204) 732-2635 Fax: (204) 732-2153

Pine Creek First Nation
P.O. Box 70, Camperville, MB R0L 0J0
Ph: (204) 524-2128 Fax: (204) 524-2162

Rolling River First Nation
P.O. Box 28, Erickson, MB R0J 0P0
Ph: (204) 636-6100 Fax: (204) 636-6158

Skownan First Nation
Health Centre, General Delivery
Skownan, MB R0L 1Y0
Ph: (204) 628-3425 Fax: (204) 628-3593

Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation
General Delivery, Shortdale, MB R0L 1W0
Ph: (204) 546-2429 Fax: (204) 546-2581

Waywayseecappo First Nation
General Delivery, Waywayseecappo, MB R0J 1S0
Ph: (204) 859-2860 Fax: (204) 859-3164



First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority

On behalf of the Northern Authority, I extend greetings to everyone. As you are aware, all the parties that have been involved in this restructuring process have been extremely busy as we have prepared for the transfer of work.

The Northern Authority is committed to creating 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 Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative has created an opportunity to effect change. Through our affiliated agencies, the ability to provide a more culturally significant way of delivering services with a First Nations worldview is the driving force.

Within the northern First Nations, there are various methods of alternative, kinship and customary care that are being utilized by our agencies. The one commonality or value is that our children are “a gift from the Creator and are our future”. With this premise, 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 homes to our children is valued and appreciated.

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



The affiliated agencies of the Northern Authority are:

1. Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba

Executive Director, David Monias
100-701 Thompson Drive
Thompson, Manitoba R8N 2A2
Ph: (204) 677-1500 Fax: (204) 778-8428

2. Cree Nation Child and Family Caring Agency

Executive Director, Diane Deschambeault
Box 10130
Opaskwayak Cree Nation
The Pas, Manitoba R0B 2J0
Ph: (204) 623-7456 Fax: (204) 623-3847

3. Island Lake First Nations Family Services

Executive Director, Alfred Wood
Garden Hill First Nation
Garden Hill, Manitoba R0B 0T0
Ph: (204) 456-2015 Fax: (204) 456-2641

4. Kinosaosipi Minisowin Agency

Executive Director, Clarence Paupanekis
Box 640
Norway House Cree Nation
Norway House, Manitoba R0B 1B0
Ph: (204) 359-4551 Fax: (204) 359-6013

**5. Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Family and
Community Wellness Centre**

Executive Director, Felix Walker
Box 451 – 14 Bay Road
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Nelson House, Manitoba R0B 1A0
Ph: (204) 484-2341 Fax: (204) 484-2351



The Northern Authority, which currently has a staff of seven and a Board of Directors of six members, works with these five agencies to provide the following services:

- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Resource Services
- ◆ Adoption and Post-Adoption
- ◆ Legal Support Services
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Rediscovery of Families
- ◆ Day Care
- ◆ Pre & Postnatal
- ◆ Fitness Programming
- ◆ Environmental health
- ◆ Public health
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Family Resources
- ◆ Counselling
- ◆ Intake
- ◆ Reunification
- ◆ Homemaker/Parent Aide
- ◆ Elder Care
- ◆ Permanency Planning
- ◆ Midwifery
- ◆ Arts and Culture
- ◆ Mental health

For more information, contact:

**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



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 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 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



Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba

Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba is an autonomous, non-profit organization; incorporated in 1899. The agency is governed by an elected Board of Directors and financed by both public and private monies.



The Mission Statement of the agency is...

"Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba exists so that children are safe and nurtured in strong, loving families within a community of caring people".

To fulfill this Mission, the agency's primary goals are:

- ◆ To strengthen families
- ◆ To protect children from neglect, abuse and exploitation
- ◆ To ensure children in its care are parented appropriately
- ◆ To promote community support of families via creative partnerships and advocacy

Foster families open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis when no appropriate setting within the family network is identified. They play a vital role, helping children and families by providing short and long term care for children with various needs. Foster parents work as part of a team with social workers, other professionals and a child's natural family to ensure children receive the best support possible.

Foster families who wish to be licensed by our agency are required to undergo an in-depth home study and orientation. Our agency is committed to supporting foster families through their foster family support worker and with ongoing training and education.



Foster families licensed by our agency also receive support via the Westman Foster Family Association which has been active in support, advocacy and education since the early 1970's.

Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba looks forward to continuing our positive relationships with all of the agencies operating in the region as the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative becomes fully operational.

Contact Information

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Margaret MacDonald

Main Office: 800 McTavish Avenue
Brandon, MB R7A 7L4
Ph: (204) 726-6030
Fax: (204) 726-6775

Other Offices

Killarney	Ph: (204) 523-3200
Minnedosa	Ph: (204) 867-2219
Neepawa	Ph: (204) 476-2341
Rosburn	Ph: (204) 859-2635
Souris	Ph: (204) 483-2161
Virden	Ph: (204) 748-3063





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:

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

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

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