

The AJI-CWI: Restructuring Child and Family Services in Manitoba

The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI) is an initiative to restructure the child and family services system in Manitoba.

The new system returns to First Nations and Metis peoples the right to develop and control the delivery of their own child and family services.

This is being accomplished through the creation of four new Child and Family Services Authorities. All four Authorities through their agencies will provide service throughout the province. No matter where they live in Manitoba, Aboriginal children and families will have access to child and family services from agencies providing service on behalf of an Aboriginal Authority. The 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 (for all other families)**

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



Questions about the ADP?

Contact your worker for more information.
You can also get information from
the AJI-CWI website at
<http://www.aji-cwi.mb.ca>

CFS Authorities and Agencies

Metis CFS Authority

- Metis Child, Family and Community Services
(Agency opening anticipated in Summer 2003)

First Nations South CFS Authority

- 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

First Nations North CFS Authority

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

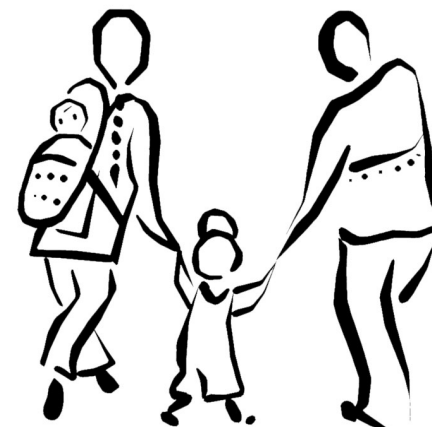
General CFS Authority

- Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba
 - Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba
 - Churchill Regional Health Authority
 - Jewish Child and Family Service
 - Manitoba Family Services and Housing
- Regional Operations Offices
- Eastman
 - Interlake
 - Northern
 - Parkland
 - Winnipeg

Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative

The Authority Determination Process (ADP)

A Guide for Children and Families



April 2003



What is the Authority Determination Process (ADP)?

The ADP is a standardized process for determining which of the Child and Family Services Authorities will be responsible for services for clients in the new system.

The ADP is based on these values:

- Children, families and communities belong together
- Decisions will be in the best interests of children
- Service arrangements should be culturally appropriate, stable and timely

For children and families already receiving services through the child and family services system, results from the ADP will be used to reassign and transfer responsibility for service. It is anticipated that the actual transfer of responsibility will take place between June 2003 and June 2004.

For children and families requiring services from the system for the first time, the ADP will determine which Authority will be responsible for the services.



How does the ADP work?

The ADP will involve an interview with your child and family services worker. Your worker will ask some questions to determine the most culturally appropriate Child and Family Services Authority. Your worker will also provide information to help your family understand the process.

Your family will be encouraged to choose the most culturally appropriate Child and Family Services Authority, but will be able to choose another Authority for services if your family wishes. Based on their age and maturity, children and youth have the opportunity to participate with their parents who will make the final decision.

There are two exceptions to this:

- The ADP will not involve an interview if the child or youth is a permanent ward. Instead, the ADP will be done by the agency currently providing child and family services using information already available on the agency's file. Based on the results of the ADP, the culturally appropriate Child and Family Services Authority will be assigned responsibility for services.
- Youth in care, even if they are permanent wards, who are in Independent Living programs, or who are parents themselves, will be able to make their own decision on which Authority will be responsible for services. While other adult family members may provide advice, the choice is up to the youth.

Confidential Information

As in the current child and family services system, information provided during the ADP interview is protected and confidential under *The Child and Family Services Act* of Manitoba.

What will be determined through the ADP?

Three main things will be determined through the ADP:

1. Culturally Appropriate Authority

Your family's culturally appropriate Authority(ies) will be determined through the ADP. For example, if you and your family are Aboriginal, the culturally appropriate Authority will be one of the Aboriginal Authorities. Your family will be encouraged to choose the culturally appropriate Authority to be responsible for services.

There are guidelines for determining the culturally appropriate Authority. Your worker can provide you with information regarding these guidelines.

2. Authority of Service

The Authority of Service will be responsible for monitoring services to your family. In most cases it is expected that the Authority of Service will be the culturally appropriate Authority. However, the family (or in some cases the youth themselves) may choose another Authority to be responsible for services. An exception is children who are currently permanent wards, whose culturally appropriate Authority will automatically become their Authority of Service.

3. Service Provider

The Service Provider is the agency or office affiliated with one of the Authorities that will provide direct services to your family. The service provider will be determined by the Authority of Service.

Your worker can provide information about Authorities and their agencies or offices.