

## **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. 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)**

All four Authorities and 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.

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



## **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

### **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>

## **Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative**



## **The Authority Determination Process (ADP)**

### **A Guide for Foster 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 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 between a worker and the family of origin of the child or youth. Youth in care will have a voice in the ADP.

The worker will ask some questions to determine the most culturally appropriate Child and Family Services Authority. The family will be encouraged to choose this Authority but will be able to choose another Authority for services if they wish. The worker will provide the information to help the family understand the process.

If the child or youth is a permanent ward, the ADP will not involve an interview. 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.

## **What will be determined through the ADP?**

Three main things will be determined through the ADP:

### **1. Culturally Appropriate Authority**

A child's or youth's culturally appropriate Authority will be determined through the ADP. For example, if a child in care is Aboriginal, the culturally appropriate Authority will be one of the Aboriginal Authorities. The family will be encouraged to choose the culturally appropriate Authority to be responsible for services.

Although not part of the ADP, the culturally appropriate Authority will have the right to apply for legal guardianship should the child or youth become the subject of a permanent guardianship application at a later time.

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

### **2. Authority of Service**

The Authority of Service will be responsible for monitoring services to the child or youth and their family. In most cases it is expected that the Authority of Service will be the culturally appropriate Authority. However, the family of origin of the child or youth (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 children and families. The service provider will be determined by the Authority of Service.

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

## **How can I find out about the results of the ADP for the child or youth in my care?**

Your worker will contact you regarding the results of the ADP for children or youth in your care.

### **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.