



Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative



A Profile of Child and Family Services Authorities and Agencies

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Westman Region

November 2004





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Introduction

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 Westman region as a result of the restructuring.

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

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

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 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.

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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 MCFCFS

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:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Dorothy McLoughlin

Main Office:

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



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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 preventative 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

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



Other Offices:

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

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Swan Lake

Box 370, Swan Lake, MB. R0G 2S0

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Fax: (204) 836-2388

Winnipeg

Room 500-294 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0B9

Phone: (204) 988-9550

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

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.

All teams are supervised directly by supervisors based out of the field offices but delivering service in the community. In addition, they receive support and direction from their Local Child and Family Services Committees and/or Chiefs and Councils. The agency operates under the direction and control of a Board of Directors, comprised of the nine Chiefs of the nine member First Nations of WRCFS.



WRCFS Programs and Services Include: Family Support Services, Counselling Services, Intake and Referral Services, Single Parent Services, Statutory Services, Voluntary Services, Community Development and Community Education Programs. Adoption services including support to custom adoptions, Post Adoption Services, Court Ordered Home Studies, Outreach Services to Off-Reserve Band Members, Child Abuse Team, Training for Staff, CFS Committees and Foster Parents, Therapeutic Foster Home Program, Family Violence and Addictions.

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

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



Other Offices:

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 280
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 will be 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. Kinosao Sipi 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.

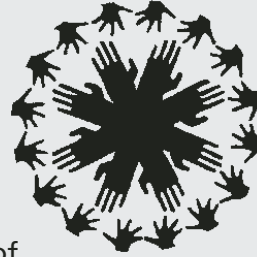
The General Authority welcomes this opportunity. With the leadership of the General Authority and the continued work of the agencies, the future of services to children and families will be reformed and enhanced. The well being of all children living in the province continues to be the prime directive 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
Ph: (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

Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba delivers services under *The Child & Family Services Act* and *The Adoptions Act* of Manitoba.



Our services and programs include:

- ◆ Family Services, including in home and other support services
- ◆ Intake and After Hours Emergency Services
- ◆ Child Protection and Abuse Services
- ◆ Expectant Single Parent Services
- ◆ Services to Children in Care
- ◆ Foster Care
- ◆ Adoption and Post Adoption Services
- ◆ Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre
- ◆ Parent Child Home Program
- ◆ Volunteer Services
- ◆ Preschool Enrichment Program
- ◆ Victoria Day Care Centre
- ◆ Residential Care Units

Contact Information:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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Additional Information

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