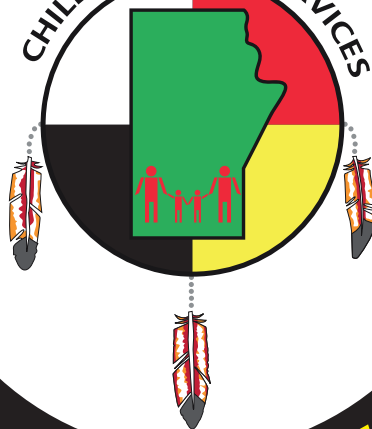




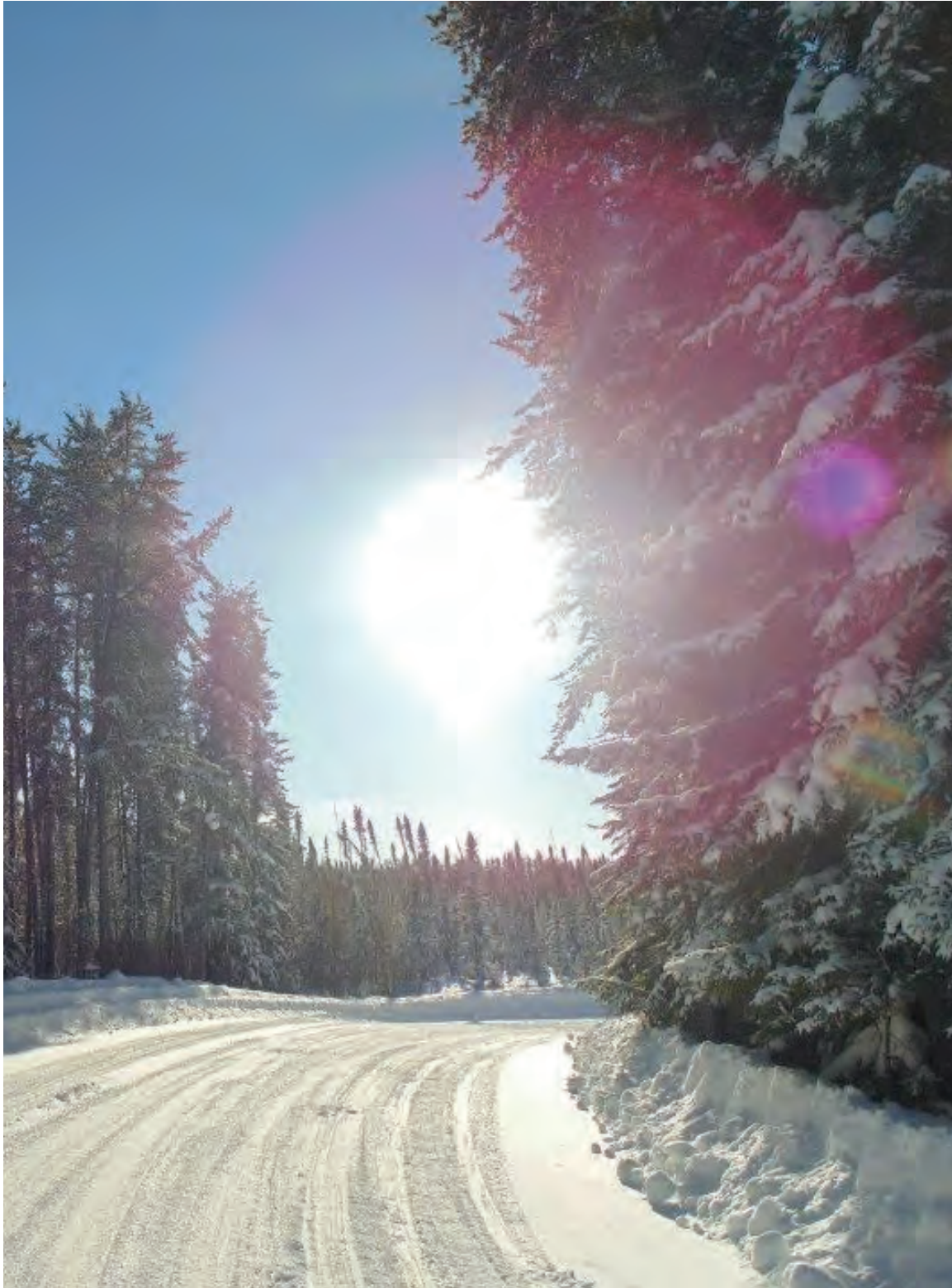
ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHEAST
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



2016-2017

SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



The winter road between Poplar River and Berens River



MINO PIMATIZIWIN

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Greetings! On behalf of the Southeast Child and Family Services Board of Directors, I wish to welcome you to our annual report. As the Chairperson for the Board I would like to acknowledge my fellow Board members for their contributions to the Board, to the SECFS organization, and to our member communities.

We, as the SECFS Board, remain committed to our goals of reducing the amount of children in care, reunifying children with their families, and having children remain at home in our home communities.

While we celebrate our achievements and share our stories we acknowledge that there is still a lot of work to be done. Together, we welcome and appreciate the challenge. We truly believe there is strength in numbers and together believe there is nothing we cannot overcome, and no challenge is too great for us to take on.

We will use the collective life experiences of our elders, our children, and ourselves to help guide us on our path to success in all of the challenges that come before us, and it is with that belief that we will endure, overcome, and prevail in our goal to once again become.....Family!

Meegwetch.

Ian Bushie
Chairperson



IAN BUSHIE is the Board Representative for Hollow Water First Nation and current Chairperson of the SECFS Board of Directors.

Born and raised in Hollow Water First Nation, Ian is a proud father of six children. Ian has spent all his adult life serving his home community in a variety of different aspects. Ian is the former Chief of Hollow Water and brings a vast amount of experience and leadership to his position on the board. Ian currently owns Grandpa Georges Convenience in Hollow Water and has for the past 20 years.

Ian's traditional name is White Eagle Coming. Ian's strong belief in our people and our culture help him to strengthen his role in his community and his position on the SECFS board.

With children ranging in ages from 9 years old to 30 years old, Ian has been instrumental in not only the lives of his children but also the children of Hollow Water for a long time and he welcomes all the challenges that being a parent and a community leader bring.



LISA YOUNG is the Board Representative for Bloodvein First Nation.

Lisa was born and raised in Bloodvein with her parents, and has two siblings. She is married and is the mother to four children. Lisa understands the importance of family as she comes from a large extended family and believes that family provides love, security, stability, safety, and a sense of belonging. Her traditional name is O'kanawaapungay Ma'iigan (Watching Wolf) and is from the Sturgeon Clan.

Lisa started working with SECFS in Bloodvein in 1998, first as a support worker and then later as a band worker. She obtained her Bachelor of Social Work in 2006 from the University of Manitoba, then transferred from her frontline position to working with foster families as an Alternative Care Worker.

In 2010, Lisa left the Agency to further her education, and obtained her Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Indigenous Governance from the University of Winnipeg, where she is currently working towards her Masters. While attending school, Lisa has continued to provide services in her community as a part time social worker during the summer and over the winter holidays.



DOROTHY MONKMAN is the Board Representative for Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and has been the Vice-Chair for the past year. Dorothy has resigned from the Board as of December 18, 2017, and has the following message.

I would like to extend my appreciation of the last four years, two years training and two years as a Board member representing my community. This experience has increased my awareness of the impact of Indian Residential Schools up until present day with the high numbers of our children in care. I am encouraged by the new proposals going forth concerning reunification and progress regarding customary care. I encourage all of our communities to explore ways to reduce the number of our children in care, whether it be collectively, individually, or on a more personal level. I look forward to our next AGM with the positive results of our challenging work ahead of us. My prayers are for the "at risk families" who would benefit from prevention, and family units that will be restored, and healing for the helpers in this process for clarity in decision-making and wisdom for divine direction. Meegwetch.



KELLY BUSHIE is the Board Representative for Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

Kelly was born in Pine Falls and has 9 siblings, 6 children, and 3 grandchildren. Kelly has worked as a heavy equipment operator at the Little Grand Rapids Airport and for the Little Grand Rapids Band. Kelly is also a safety operator for the winter roads.

Kelly is currently employed with Amik Aviation, providing maintenance and transportation services for passengers. His hobbies include hunting and fishing.





OLIVIA PASCAL is the Board Representative for Pauingassi First Nation.

Olivia was born and raised in Pauingassi First Nation and still resides in the community. Olivia is a mother to one son, and has three biological brothers, three half-brothers, and one sister.

Olivia has worked for Shawenim Abinoojii as a support worker and respite worker, and prior to being a Board member she provided relief work for the Shawenim Abinoojii Coordinator. Olivia found it to be a privilege to fulfil these positions, and took training from the Aboriginal Focus Program and other training opportunities that was provided.

Olivia is currently working as a respite worker for the Jordan's Principal Program in Pauingassi First Nation.



MABEL STARR is the Board Representative for Black River First Nation.

Mabel was born in Black River First Nation but was raised by her extended family in Selkirk. She attended residential school in Brandon and Dauphin. Mabel has 6 biological siblings, 5 adopted siblings, 6 children, and is a grandmother and a great-grandmother.

Mabel was a NNADAP (National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program) worker with Black River and worked with SECFS for over 25 years, first as a support worker, later as a frontline worker, and retired as the community's supervisor.

Mabel graduated with her Bachelor of Social from the University of Manitoba. She has sat on her community's Local Child Care Committee, School Committee, and presently on the Elders Committee.



CARRIE SWAIN is the Board Representative for Berens River First Nation and is the current Secretary-Treasurer for the SECFS Board of Directors.

Carrie holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Manitoba, and had worked for SECFS in various positions including front-line worker and community supervisor. She retired in 2011 after working for over 25 years with the Agency.

Carrie has 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

Prior to being employed by the Agency, Carrie was involved in the Local Child Care Committee and Regional Child Care Committee. She was also a field instructor for the Berens River Social Work Co-Hort students.



CLIFFORD BRUCE is the Board Representative for Poplar River First Nation.

Clifford was born and raised in the community of Poplar River First Nation, and is a former Chief and a former Councillor for the community.

Clifford is the father to two sons, has six siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Clifford formerly operated a hardware store and a karaoke café on the community. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, traveling, and he is an incredible golfer.



Meegwetch for this honour to report on Southeast Child and Family Services for the 2016-2017 year.

Southeast Child and Family Services continues to ask and listen to what the children and families need from the Agency and its staff to support them to be connected, safe, and well. It is important to change practices and attitudes where they are needed, and we will continue to implement such changes, whether it be staffing changes, training to better understand addictions, altering the way we provide our services, creating innovative programs, or finding better ways to communicate with the leadership, communities, families, and children - so that we are accountable to the people and provide better outcomes for the children we are tasked with caring for. I sincerely thank the Chiefs and Councillors for their ongoing support to work with the Agency to make these changes happen.



Mino-Pimatisiwin "leading a good life" guides us to fulfill our responsibilities to the children we have in our care and the families we support. Our Agency needs to be able to adapt to the ever-changing needs of our community members so we can continue to provide the support, intervention, care, and guidance that they may require.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and commitment that has been instrumental in the Agency's growth. Each of the eight member First Nations appoint their Board representative to the SECFS Board of Directors. The Board governs the Agency by reviewing existing policies and revise or implement new policies, as needed, to hold the Agency accountable for its finances, decision-making processes, programming, service delivery, and practices, all while respecting the values and traditions of the communities the Agency serves. The Board members' contributions have been valuable and consistent over the past year, where we saw only one change in membership.

I thank the senior management for their commitment and their willingness to adapt to the changes that the Agency requires. They continue to provide their perspective as to how their respective units or programs can better deliver services, and given that we have on- and off-reserve service units, the task remains challenging for the Directors of Services to keep on top of what is happening both locally and at the community level. For those who are not aware, our peer Glory Lister has been on a medical leave since the summer, and we continue to miss her vast knowledge of the families and children, her extensive child welfare experience, and, of course, her laugh.

We thank Peter Berens, Administrative Assistant for the Quality Assurance Department, for his keen eye and creativity with putting together this annual report and updating the Agency's website. He is always on the lookout for pictures and ideas with how to make our report and website more exciting and attractive, and is prepared to pester the staff for pictures and their write ups.

On a very promising note, we have been able to expand our youth cultural programming with the tireless energy of our Cultural Coordinator Cecil Sveinson and Age of Majority Supervisor Kyle McClintock. More of our youth are hearing about our program and want to be involved in learning about their culture and identity. You can read more about the exciting cultural activities, including the establishment of the male and female groups under the Cultural Coordinator's report.

This summer we sent a large number of our children and youth to community-based or cultural and therapeutic camps including the BUSH Camp held at the Hollow Water First Nation; Poplar River First Nation held a land-based camp for their youth; and another camp was offered at Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata's Windy Hill Cultural Therapy Retreat Camp. Our Agency remains committed to offering our children and youth exposure to not only their culture, and family and community members, but also for opportunities to heal and have fun while doing so.

This year's high school graduation was an amazing event. Seeing the beaming faces of our graduates at this event let us know that the Agency is moving in the right direction. We saw the pride in our graduates' faces as they watched their fellow member youth drumming and carrying the Eagle Staff that lead the graduates to their honouring ceremony.

Our Alternative Care Department has undergone some staffing changes that will result in a more responsive and collaborative service for our Agency to create more culturally-appropriate and kinship homes for the children in our care. We also continue to coordinate with the Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. on-reserve four bed homes and the off-reserve therapeutic homes that provide placement options exclusively for our children and youth in care. The community-based homes offer care by local members, many of whom are extended family members to the children and youth placed in the homes, and enable us to keep the children and youth in their home communities.

I want to thank the Executive Directors from the other child welfare agencies in the southern and northern Manitoba, and Ontario, who are eager to learn what we are doing successfully, and who are so willing to share their own innovative practices and programs with us. The Chief Executive Officer of Southern First Nations Network of Care continues to be a wonderful support and advocate for our Agency. We continue to have a positive relationship with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs First Nations Family Advocate who has been supportive with resolving complaints that have been brought to their attention, and look forward to working with the Southern Chiefs Organization's Child and Family Services Liaison.

A growing partnership with the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre has offered resources for our children and families, whether it be culturally-based day programs or cultural camps for our youth, and we will be utilizing their family group conferencing services to support our families and children to remain intact or reunify. Ma Mawi staff were also instrumental with providing organized activities for the children, youth, and parents of the Poplar River First Nation when the community was evacuated to Winnipeg during the forest fire crisis. The Poplar River First Nation members were happy to be occupied with fun activities, and families stayed together during this stressful period.

Our communities continue to establish their respective local community resource or child care committees. Bloodvein First Nation has ratified its community resource committee's terms of



reference, and we are pleased to be an active partner in this forum. Having community committees enables the Agency to work in partnership with the community leadership and resources, where we can plan and implement joint initiatives that support the community to take responsibility for the health and safety of their children and families.

Southeast Child and Family Services has recently submitted a proposal to operate a family healing and wellness centre for the Southeast First Nations members, and we hope this will soon become a reality. The current Circling Thunderbird Centre located across from the Little Grand Rapids First Nation is an ideal site for the healing and wellness centre to be situated. We envision this centre providing intensive support programming to enable healing of families to promote their well-being, and to facilitate the reunification of children and youth in care to return permanently to their parents.

Our Agency acknowledges the wonderful and supportive caregivers who help care for our children. Our focus will always be for our children to be with family first, and this requires our Agency to support the parents to address their immediate and long-term needs. Where this is not possible, we continue to seek safe and culturally-appropriate homes for the children and youth to thrive.

We recognize that healing processes need to be incorporated into everything we do – from ensuring our staff are supported to be healthy in order to be able to provide the empathetic and respectful support and services our children in care and families require, to implementing healing programs for our children and families. In order to make this happen, our partnerships with community resources, leadership, and funders is needed, and we will continue to seek innovative initiatives and opportunities to address the high number of children and youth we have in our care, family cases, in order to provide better outcomes for everyone.

As the Executive Director, I want to assure the children, youth, and families that we are listening to them and to show this, we are developing a training video created by a few of our current and former youth in care in partnership with the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre's Just TV Program. Our staff will hear directly from these youths their personal experiences while they were involved with the child welfare system, specifically with SECFS, to help us better understand their experiences, and teach us what we can be doing better to assist their growth and effect more positive outcomes for them.

As an Agency with complex needs that is drastically underfunded at a federal and provincial level, we hope that the federal government's current child welfare funding reforms will help address our operational requirements. We conducted a thorough analysis of our Agency's funding needs and acknowledge that we are an example of what happens when funding needs do not meet the real needs of a child and family services agency, because despite all our best endeavours and intents, we continue to see our numbers rise. We are hopeful the Jordan's Principle initiative will support children and youth to receive the support services they need in their home communities, as we believe having community-based supports will assist our Agency to prevent children from having to come into care if their educational, health, and mental health needs can be met while they are at home.

Message from the Executive Director



On the provincial end, we are anticipating legislative changes that will impact the child welfare system. Some are positive, but there are other proposed intents that are worrisome, and we will keep our leadership apprised so that they can lend their political support or opposition to protect the rights and needs of our children and families. A sign that positive change is forthcoming is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and federal government that will see discussions on Manitoba First Nations' inherent jurisdiction for the care of their families and children.

This upcoming year will be interesting and I will continue to advocate to for our Agency to continue in its evolution to be the Agency that the communities are proud to have serving their members.

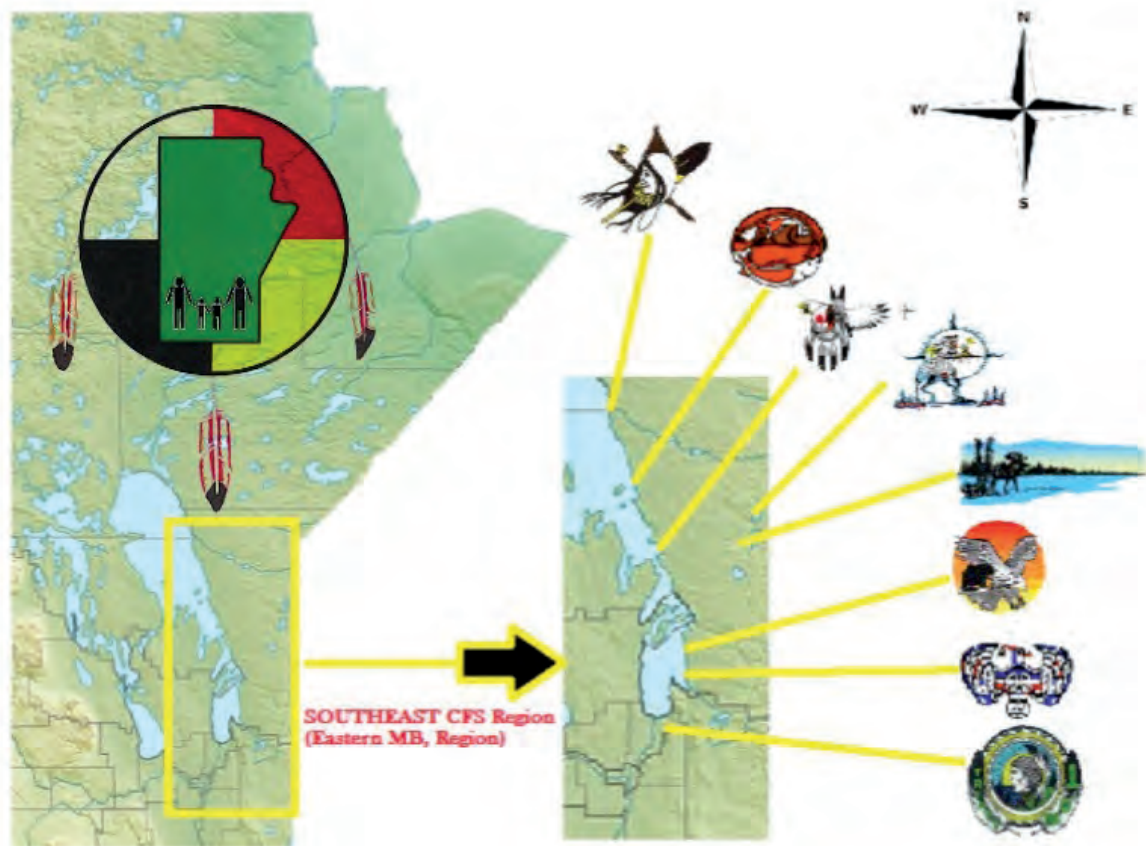
Meegwetch.

Rhonda Kelly, B.S.W., LL.B.

Giizhabowsekwe (Kind Walking Bear)

Piizhew Dotem (Lynx Clan)





OUR VISION

MINO-PIMATIZIWIN

Living a good life for our children, families and communities now and for our future.

Mission Statement

Southeast Child and Family Services supports the children, families, and communities with providing respectful, caring, and supportive, preventative and protection services to promote healthier children, families, and communities.

Agency Objectives

1. To value each child as a gift from the Creator and treat our children with the care and respect they deserve.
2. To respect and realize the child and family's relationship with their community of origin, and ensure the Agency's actions build and support that connection.
3. To maintain the focus of services on the healing of the child, parent, family, and community in all aspects of the services the Agency delivers.
4. To understand and respect the diversity of the members and communities the Agency serves.
5. To partner with our communities to enhance their capacity and strength to take responsibility for the well-being of their children and families.
6. To practice respect, honesty, kindness, caring, love, humility, and wisdom in our decision-making processes to provide the most compassionate services to the children and families we serve.
7. To support and build a confident and healthy workforce to provide the best quality of services to the children and families.
8. To promote inclusion with the communities to prevent children from coming into the care of the child welfare system, and to focus on the strengths of the families to keep them intact.
9. To continuously review the quality of services provided by the Agency to ensure the children and families served are receiving the best services possible.
10. To work in partnership with the communities and their resources, and the government funding sources to deliver the most culturally sensitive and respectful service possible.



MINO PIMATIZIWIN

About Southeast Child and Family Services

- 1982** Southeast Child and Family Services was mandated by the Province of Manitoba to provide statutory services for on-reserve children and families affiliated with Brokenhead, Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River, and Buffalo Point First Nations.
- 2004** Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI) saw for SECFS to provide services to its on- and off-reserve children in care and families.
- 2005** SECFS increased its staffing to meet the demands of the high number of children in care and family cases transferred in, mostly from Winnipeg Child and Family Services.
- March 2008** The Southern Authority appointed an Administrator under Section 4 of the *Child and Family Services Act* to be in place of the Executive Director and Board of Directors.
- April 2008** Buffalo Point First Nation entered into a subsidiary agreement with Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services to receive its child and family services, although the mandate remains with SECFS.
- December 2015** The Order of Administration was lifted for the Agency and the Southeast First Nations regained control for the governance of the Agency.
- April 2016** The SECFS Board of Directors, First Nation leadership representatives, and the SECFS senior management participated in its first strategic planning session at Buffalo Point First Nation.
- January 25, 2017** First Annual General Meeting.
- January 23, 2018** Second Annual General Meeting.

Opportunities and Challenges

The January 26, 2016, decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal held that funding for First Nations child welfare was discriminatory. There is hope and expectation that First Nation child welfare agencies, including SECFS, will see its funding be more reflective of its need. The Agency participated in an agency specific needs assessment with the help of Dr. John Loxley, who is also facilitating the report for the Manitoba First Nation agencies.

The insufficient funding levels coupled with the imposed provincial legislation that governs the child welfare system, continues to challenge the Agency to provide comprehensive services that are needed to make a real difference. As a result, the Agency continues to see a disproportionately high number of children and families involved with SECFS. One positive movement is the leadership and the Agency's mutual intent to establish a family healing and wellness centre for the eight communities, offer more child placement options in the communities, the creation of family mentoring programs (intensive family support services), and the training to staff to be more reflective of the issues the members are dealing with, and for more community members to be trained to be qualified to fill the employment positions at SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii Inc.

Southeast Child and Family Services serves eight First Nations that have unique and complex geographical and social issues, and has over 1,300 children and youth in care and almost 500 family cases. The operational and administrative needs are extensive, with an office in each of its First Nations and two offices in Winnipeg. Yet, the current funding for SECFS is severely insufficient for its size and complexities. The number of funded front-line workers cannot meet the needs of the children and youth and families the Agency services, but despite this, the Agency continuously seeks creative ways to develop and implement services and programming to build the skills of parents and members to care for their children, increase local child care providers, seek new placement options that are culturally appropriate and local, all with our intent to keep families intact and keep children and youth connected with their families and communities.

A presentation on the child welfare system and the Agency has been provided in each of the eight communities in the past two years. We had mixed turnouts in the communities but have appreciated those who attended and wanted to learn more about the child welfare system, and were willing to share their own experiences with the Agency, the child welfare system, and with



providing recommendations for us to improve our quality of services. The sessions also opened the door for members to privately ask questions about their own particular cases when the presentations were over. The Agency commits to continuing these sessions on an ongoing basis.

The Agency continues to provide our own “Anishinaabe Ombigigiiowsowin – Raising Our Children the Anishinaabe Way”, a traditional caregiver training forum that incorporates a healing theme in its delivery. This training is provided at the community, and is offered in both Anishinaabemowin or the English language.

Southeast Child and Family Services continues to maintain and enhance its partnership with the Southeast Resource Development Council and Shawenim Abinoojii Incorporated. There has been an increased number of new Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. homes built in the Bloodvein, Little Grand Rapids, and Berens River First Nations which has enabled us to facilitate the return of children placed in the city to their home communities.

As SECFS evolves, with its healing approach in its service delivery and attitude changes with how child welfare services are to be delivered, there has been a call for the Agency's name to be more reflective of this. The Agency held its first strategic planning session in April 2016, with leadership, board of directors, and senior management present, where the vision Mino Pimatiziwin was chosen, and the Agency wants to be assured the name process is done right and the proper protocols are followed.

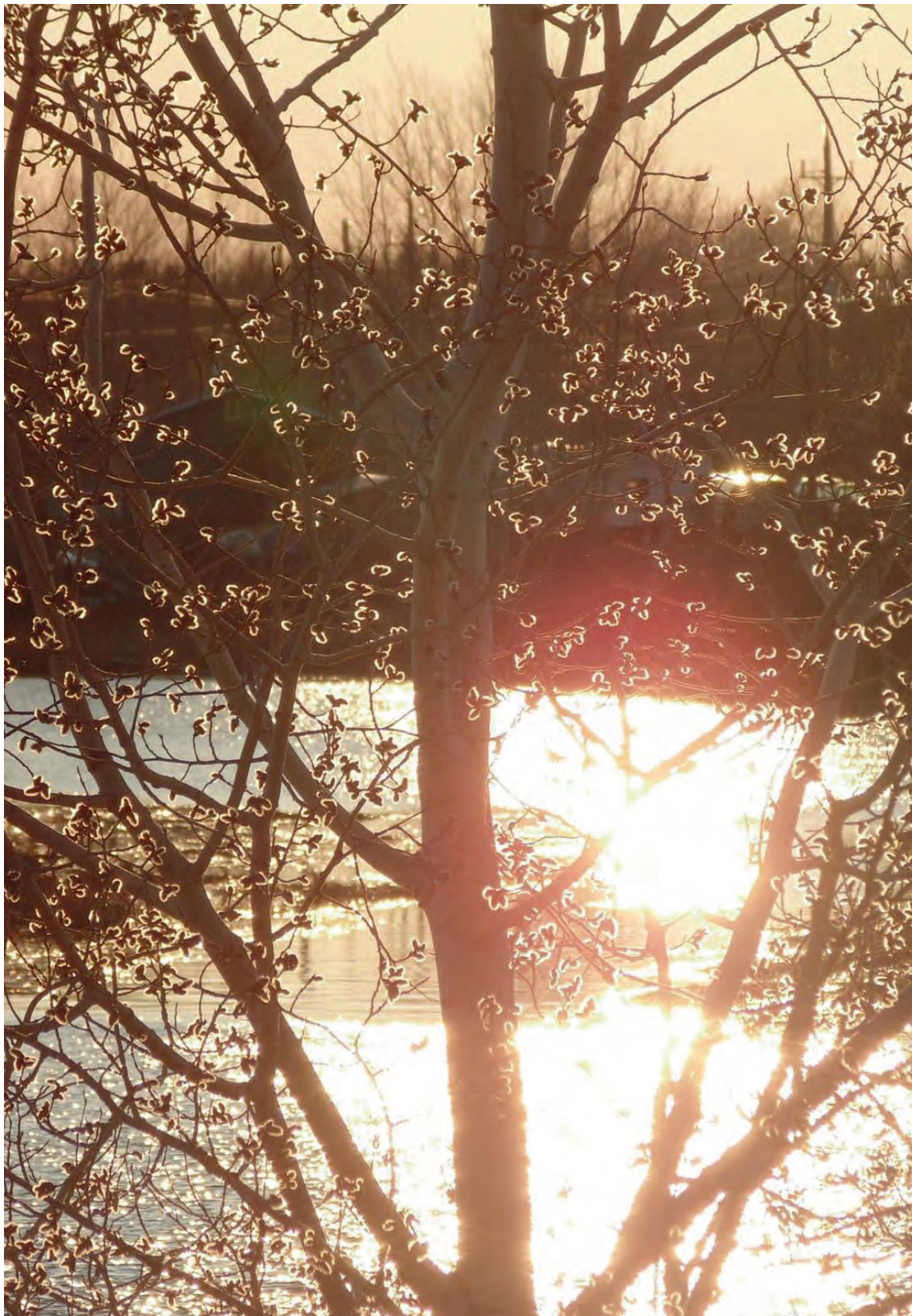
As our Agency changes internally, we are also mindful of the external changes are occurring. The federal government is looking at providing a less discriminatory funding mechanism, and the provincial government is exploring legislative changes that will have dramatic changes on the child welfare system. With the federal government and Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs recently signing a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to improve child welfare services reform outcomes, this year will be both challenging and exciting to see how the different systems impact how SECFS needs to provide services to the members of the Southeast communities.

<i>Board of Directors</i>								
<i>Rhonda Kelly - Executive Director</i>								
Finance		Human Resources	Foster /Alt. Care		Pauingassi Community	Berens River Community		
Glenn Fleetwood <i>Director</i>		Rhonda Kelly <i>Acting HR Director</i>	Jackie Larocque <i>Director</i>		Jackie Larocque <i>Director</i>	Jaime Chartrand <i>Director</i>		
Vesna Maroti <i>Controller</i>	Janelle Lister <i>Broadway Reception</i>	Tamara Cardinal <i>Associate Director</i>	Susan Leclair <i>Supervisor</i>	Wanda Joe <i>Supervisor</i>	Sharon Samatte <i>Supervisor</i>	Laverne Everette <i>Supervisor</i>		
Christophe Audette <i>Coordinator of Special Needs & IRAP</i>	Shirley Vandale <i>File Room Clerk</i>	Derek Martin <i>Payroll & Benefits Administrator</i>	Hazel Roulette <i>Case Aide/Admin</i>	Maria Ross <i>Unit Admin</i>	Sandra Keeper <i>Community Unit Admin</i>	Ernestine Swain <i>Community Unit Admin</i>		
Shelly Longbottom <i>Finance Assistant</i>	Claudette Vandale <i>Billings Admin</i>	Cultural Coordinator	Lucinda Massan <i>Foster DSW</i>	Nancy Poirier <i>Foster DSW</i>	Ivan Bonner <i>Community DSW</i>	Mabel Green <i>Community DSW</i>	Muriel Green <i>Community DSW</i>	
Roxanne Swain <i>Acts Pay/Main.</i>	Laura Marois <i>Finance Assistant</i>	Cecil Sveinson <i>(reports to R. Kelly)</i>	Claudia Sanchez <i>Foster DSW</i>	Angela Prince <i>Foster DSW</i>	Adeline Nipinak <i>Community DSW</i>	Julianne Sinclair <i>Community DSW</i>	Dora Berens <i>Community DSW</i>	
Shavonne Bushie <i>F/Purchase Asst.</i>	Donna Manchulenko <i>Accounts Payable</i>	Reception & File Room	Edith Sanderson <i>Foster DSW</i>	Inna Ganda <i>Foster DSW</i>	Pauingassi City Unit	Berens River City Unit (B)	Berens River City Unit (A)	
Pam Pater <i>Travel Clerk</i>	Wendy Malcolm <i>F.Analyst/Main.</i>	Jackie Larocque <i>Director</i>	Lily Creely <i>Foster DSW</i>	Brandi Blackbird <i>Foster DSW</i>	Rick Paskaruk *** <i>Supervisor</i>	Rick Paskaruk *** <i>Supervisor</i>	SUPERVISOR (Vacant)	
Kerri Beaudry <i>Travel Clerk</i>	Sherry Anderson <i>Finance Assistant</i>	Niaomi Swain <i>Mountain Reception</i>	Bev Thomas <i>Foster DSW</i>	Madeline Hardisty-Neveau <i>Community Foster DSW</i>	Lindsay Nobess *** <i>Unit Admin</i>	Lindsay Nobess *** <i>Unit Admin</i>	Fiona Keeper <i>Unit Admin</i>	
Chris Thompson <i>Asst. Billing Clerk</i>		Matthew Bouchey <i>File Clerk</i>			Bev Dunbar <i>DSW</i>	Errol Boulanger <i>DSW</i>	Tania Guimond <i>DSW</i>	
		Heddy Paquet <i>File Clerk</i>			Stephanie Michell <i>DSW</i>	Cynthia Eyeshemitan <i>DSW</i>	Vanessa Monkman <i>DSW</i>	
SPECIALIZED UNITS					Ed Tanner <i>DSW</i>	Kristene Gudmundson <i>DSW</i>	Jim Urquhart <i>DSW</i>	
Age of Majority		Abuse Unit	Quality Assurance	Family Enhancement	Management Support		Mel Baptiste <i>DSW</i>	
Jaime Chartrand <i>Director</i>	Kyle McClintock <i>Supervisor</i>	Sandra Lagimodiere <i>Director</i>	Roxanne Moneyas <i>Q&A Coordinator</i>	Stanford Boulanger <i>Director</i>	Lindsay Courchene <i>Executive Assistant</i>	Executive Assistant (Vacant)	Kareen Thompson <i>DSW</i>	
Jasmine Green <i>AOM Unit Admin</i>	Josephine Bruce <i>AOM DSW</i>	Jon Guimond <i>Unit Admin</i>	Danielle Sullivan <i>Q&A Coordinator & Regional Intake</i>	Rick Paskaruk *** <i>Supervisor</i>			Trica Garton <i>DSW</i>	
Hernan Biderman <i>AOM DSW</i>	Dennis Dare <i>AOM DSW</i>	Genevieve Bruce <i>Abuse Worker</i>	Peter Berens <i>Clerk/WEB</i>	Lindsay Nobess *** <i>Unit Admin</i>				
Dorothy Anderson <i>AOM DSW</i>	Melanie Boulette <i>AOM DSW</i>	Lauren Turney <i>Abuse Worker</i>		Gail Roach-Leforte <i>FE Worker</i>				
Gail Parisien <i>AOM DSW</i>	Patricia Moneas <i>AOM DSW</i>							



Board of Directors						
Rhonda Kelly - Executive Director						
Poplar River Community	Bloodvein Community		LGR Community	Brokenhead	Hollow Water	Black River
Jaime Chartrand <i>Director</i>	Stanford Boulanger <i>Director</i>		Stanford Boulanger <i>Director</i>	Sandra Lagimodiere <i>Director</i>		
Sherri Hudson <i>Supervisor</i>	Garnet Sinclair <i>Supervisor</i>		Roxanne Brass <i>Supervisor</i>	Lisa Holland-Storozuk <i>Supervisor</i>	Lena Bushie <i>Supervisor</i>	Sharon Klyne <i>Supervisor</i>
Mercedes Fisher Community Unit Admin	Clifford Boulanger Community Unit Admin		Keesha Keeper Community Unit Admin	Ashton McCorrister Community Unit Admin	Darlene Bushie Community Unit Admin	Julie Pelletier Community Unit Admin
Michelle Scott Community DSW	Cindy Desjarlais Community DSW	Marie (Bird) Green Community DSW	Chelsea Little Community DSW	Spring Abaunza-Vega Community DSW	Donna Smith Community DSW	Stacey Starr Community DSW
John Valliquette Community DSW	Geraldine Cook FE Worker	Kyle Tanner Community DSW	Cindy Green Community DSW	Shirley Prieston Community DSW	Gladys Williams Community DSW	Nadine Abraham Community DSW
Community FE Wkr. (Vacant)	Errol Green Recreation Coordinator	Bloodvein City Unit (B)	Community DSW (Vacant)	Sabrina Morriseau Community DSW	Lorna Bjork Community DSW	Valene Vandal (0.5) FE Comm. Wkr.
Poplar River City Unit	Bloodvein City Unit (A)	Anetta Russo Supervisor	Nathan Owen FE Worker	Teresa Ryder Community DSW	Hollow Water & Black River City Unit	
Liz Brass Supervisor	Natascha Enzberger Supervisor	Cheryl Wavey Unit Admin	LGR City Unit	BON HQ OFFICE	Serena Marsden, Supervisor	
Cheyenne Beaudry Unit Admin	Barb Tomasi Unit Admin	Andrea Johnson DSW	Julia Seymour Supervisor	Frank Abraham Comm. Op. Mgr	Robin Cornell Unit Admin	
Reina Aviles DSW	Amber Catellier DSW	Crystal Boulette DSW	Corrine Player Unit Admin	Jessica Haugerud Admin Asst.	Sheryl Letandre DSW	Michelle Daly DSW
Debra McLeod DSW	Amber Gareau DSW	Kel Sherman DSW	Brittany Jonnson DSW	Eldon Chief Custodian/Main.	Simone Richard DSW	Rebecca McIvor DSW
Cara Grapentine DSW	Kyle Tanner DSW	Letitia Kipling DSW	Thomas Bergen DSW		Allison MacKay DSW	Kathy Guimond DSW
Colin Smart DSW	Nicole Stroten DSW	Lorraine Baldwin DSW	Lyle Massan DSW			
DSW (Vacant)	Stacey Kangas DSW	Sheryn Seunath DSW	Trisha Fox DSW			
Matthew Zebrasky DSW	Selena Whiteway DSW					





Pauingassi First Nation

*MINO PIMATIZIWIN*

Glenn Fleetwood is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) who has spent the majority of his career supporting and working for non-profit entities. Glenn is enjoying his experience with SECFS, and appreciates his team in the Finance Department who have been fantastic in educating and supporting him over the last several months.

Glenn is a long-distance runner who has competed in 10 half marathons and over a dozen other distance races successfully. Glenn's goal is to compete in and complete at least 50 events by the time he is 50 years old, including one full marathon (42.2 km). Glenn has come to understand that commitment, dedication and hard work pays off and he tries to embody that spirit in everything he does.



Director of Finance:

Glenn Fleetwood, BA, CPA, CGA

Major Duties and Responsibilities of the Finance Department

1. General Accounts Payable
2. Maintenance payments for children in care
3. Reimbursing Foster Parents for expenses incurred in caring for our children
4. Processing staff travel claims
5. Submitting provincial and federal billings to the Province of Manitoba or INAC
6. Preparation of financial statements for use by the Agency's stakeholders
7. Development, implementation and monitoring of the Agency's annual budget
8. Payroll processing and administration



The Finance Department employs 17 staff members, all of whom work together as a team to process the transactions that impact or are a result of having over 1,300 children in care, and approximately 170 employees.

About the Finance Department

To support and help the Agency in the delivery of its services to our children in care, the Finance Department contributes by:

- Creation, implementation and monitoring of the annual operating budget for the Agency
- Preparation of quarterly financial statements for review by the Agency's stakeholders
- Preparation and participation in the annual audit file, including the coordination of the audit with our business partners, MNP
- Submits invoices and bills to the Federal and Provincial governments for services on a monthly basis
- Continually updates our professional knowledge and skill-set through attending regular training and professional development workshops and seminars
- Ensures the Finance Policy is current and follows best practices
- Works with the other Agency departments to help with policy creation, development and modifications
- Attends inter-agency relations meetings to ensure our Agency remains current with trends and emerging issues in child welfare and understanding its impacts on the financial operations of our Agency

Summary of 2016-2017 Audited Financial Results

The audit for our March 31, 2017, financial statements marked our second year with MNP where the Agency received an unqualified opinion on our audited financial statements, complimenting the hard work and dedication the finance staff have for the Agency.

For the period ending March 31, 2017, the Agency's funding increased to \$61,124,653 from \$55,482,807 at the same time in 2016. This represents an overall increase of 10.17% from last year. The increase was mainly due to increases in child maintenance funding from both the Province of Manitoba and INAC.

Total expenses for the same time period increased from \$56,799,608 at March 31, 2016, to \$62,530,165 at March 31, 2017. This increased spending of 10.08% represents increases to the costs of maintaining and caring for the increased number of children in care.

The Agency received an additional \$2,197,246 in Children's Special Allowance (CSA) funds in 2017, up from \$1,931,471 received in 2016, an increase of 13.76%. The CSA funds are for the federal children in care, as the Province of Manitoba continues to claw back the CSA for the provincially-funded children in care.



This year, the Agency wrote off \$500,000 in debt owed to the Agency by Shawenim Abinoojii Incorporated for a second year. The total receivable balance of \$1,484,000 was agreed to be written off over a three-year period beginning in March 31, 2016, and ending in March 31, 2018. The balance owing as of March 31, 2017, of \$484,000, will be written off on March 31, 2018.

Given the Agency includes the CSA in its financial statements, it shows the Agency had a surplus of \$680,971 at March 31, 2017. At March 31, 2016, the Agency showed a surplus of \$553,849, or at 22.95%, of which the majority relates to unexpended CSA funds. The Agency's operational deficit for the period ending March 31, 2017, was \$1,405,512. In comparison to March 31, 2016, where the deficit was \$1,316,801.

Goals for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year

- Work with different Agency departments to ensure they are trained and educated in all areas of finance and accounting that impact them, including Direct Service Workers, Supervisors, and Directors
- Continue the process started last fiscal year of streamlining and increasing efficiencies in accessing financial resources for the Agency, while maintaining the controls necessary to ensure those financial resources are available to the Agency
- Continually review the Finance Policy in conjunction with the Agency's senior management; review all Agency policies to ensure they are current, support best practices and remain robust and dynamic, while adhering to guidelines established by our Collective Bargaining Agreement with MGEU
- Amend the Agency's CSA policy to ensure it is consistent with legislation, review different investment strategies for CSA funds to allow for interest earning benefits, and to address the immediate needs of the child i.e. Registered Educational Savings Plans (RESPs) and the Canada Learning Bond (CLB)
- Establish charitable status for the Agency
- Explore different avenues of funding available to the Agency aside from Provincial and Federal government funding
- Provide ongoing and reliable training for all Finance staff

Staff

A/Director of Human Resources

– Rhonda Kelly

Associate Director of Human Resources

- Tamara Cardinal

Payroll and Benefits Administrator

- Derek Martin



Tamara Cardinal



Derek Martin

Southeast Child and Family Services is committed to fostering a safe, healthy, productive, and equitable work environment to attract and retain qualified and exemplary employees. Our aspiration is to contribute to organizational effectiveness and encourage the advancement of all employees to their fullest potential through relevant position descriptions, salary schedules, policies and procedures, performance and evaluation standards, training, mentoring, professional development opportunities, and a comprehensive benefits and pension plan.

Our recruitment philosophy, first and foremost, is to invest in our own Anishinaabe people. Our recruitment process first considers opportunities for internal promotion, lateral transfer, and succession planning, and will then, if necessary open the competition opportunities to the public, giving preference to qualified members of the Southeast First Nations and other Indigenous members.

The Agency continues to maintain a staffing complement of approximately 170 employees, 81% of whom are Indigenous. The Agency has maintained a 50/50 split of unionized and non-unionized employees. Joint Labour Management meetings are held quarterly and under the collaboration of the Executive Director and the Associate Director of Human Resources, the Agency has established and continues to maintain a positive and respectful working relationship with the Manitoba Government Employees Union (MGEU), Local 395.

The Human Resources staff continue to advance their own training and skills to provide a high level of professional services to the Agency, including the labour law and accommodation law to remain apprised of new developments in labour law and employment standards.

Derek Martin will be soon receiving his Payroll Compliance Practitioner (PCP) certification through the Canadian Payroll Association, and Tamara Cardinal has recently attained her Chartered Human Resources Practitioner (CPHR) certification, to complement her Bachelor of Arts Degree and extensive human resources training and work experience.

The Associate Director of Human Resources continues to provide mandatory respectful workplace training for Agency staff. This training is now more interactive and continues to be well





received by staff. Other CFS agencies have requested Tamara to provide this training to their staff.

In the constant changing environment, the HR staff strive to keep abreast of developments which affect the Agency's staff, so as to be a support to them. Understanding the area of child welfare and its many stressors helps the HR staff to be more effective as HR practitioners and in creating a good work environment for staff. Most recently, the HR Department in collaboration with the Cultural Program has coordinated for an Elder to be available on-site at the Mountain office for staff to be able to de-brief or receive counselling on an as-needed basis, as the Agency recognizes that a healthy staff will provide better services to the children and families.



Cultural Coordinator:
Cecil Sveinson

Cecil, a member of the Poplar River First Nation, was hired as the Cultural Coordinator in April 2017, after retiring from a 25-year career in policing. Cecil has been an instructor, trainer, and facilitator for 20 years, and is a past recipient of the Aboriginal Circle of Educator's Cultural Educator of the Year Award, plus Dimension Magazine's Indigenous Advocate of the Year. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Manito Ahbee Festival.

Some Programs Established and Accomplishments to Date:

1. Sweat Lodge Ceremony and Facility – SECFS has a spring/summer/fall outdoor lodge and a winter indoor lodge, and both sweat lodges are located within a 45-minute drive from Winnipeg. A number of youth in care participated in the construction of these lodges, and since April 2017, 28 sweat lodge ceremonies have been held for the children and youth in care.
2. Eagle Staff – An eagle staff belonging to the Agency's children in care. The eagle staff is used by the Anishinaabe to represent families, communities and nations. After several Agency youths participated in fasting ceremonies and shared their dreams with elders, it was determined that the children and youth in care required spiritual acknowledgement of who they are. This eagle staff was first unveiled at the Agency's high school graduation ceremony in June and is now brought to all cultural activities. Eagle staff carriers are selected for each event as a means of acknowledging the commitment of a youth in care to Mino-Pimaadiziwin "living a good life".
3. Honouring Gifts Ceremony – This year's high school graduation event was conducted in a culturally-appropriate manner. A male and female elder from Brokenhead was present, and each graduate was honoured for their accomplishments in a traditional blanketing ceremony. One youth was presented with an eagle feather (the highest honour amongst the Anishinaabe) for her leadership in advocating for programming and services for two-spirited children in care.
4. Zongigabowen (Standing Strong Together) Young Men's Group – These young men in the high school age range have participated in cultural retreats where there are land-based and cultural activities involved. In August, the group travelled to Squamish First Nation in British Columbia where they gathered lava rocks for the Agency's sweat lodges. One youth acknowledged he started the group as a gang member and has since quit the gang life to continue his involvement with his Zongigabowen 'brothers', where the young men support and encourage one another to lead a healthy life.



5. Strong Spirit Wind Singers – An Elder presented a group of 12-15 dedicated male youth with a big drum. This group meets every Wednesday for 3 hours to receive teachings about drum etiquette and learn songs. The group's first public appearance was singing at the Agency's high school graduation event.
6. Nipi Manitou (Water Spirit) Young Women's Group – This group of young women are in the high school age range and a few are about to age out of care, and have attended monthly weekend cultural retreats where they participate in land-based and cultural activities (beading, painting, singing). A focus for this group is to promote self-esteem and self-care, and they have been learning about social justice and advocacy. These young women attended the Red Rising Magazine's recent Two-Spirited Issue Launch held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
7. Indigenous Doula Cultural Support – SECFS partners with Indigenous Doulas so that pregnant youth-in-care and family case mothers can access culturally-appropriate holistic pre-natal, labour, and post-natal support. So far, three expectant mothers have accessed a doula to support them through their births. With this care, the young moms receive cultural support not only for themselves but also for their child before birth.
8. Cultural Support Team – The Cultural Coordinator has established a team consisting of 20 different elders and culturally-appropriate therapeutic service providers who teach, lead, and support the children and youth in care through the cultural programming and activities. This team has extensive and diverse experience in working with addictions, unresolved trauma, gang involvement, sexual exploitation and self-harm, and work well together. They are committed and support the children and youth any time of the day, including providing intervention on at least 17 occasions where the child or youth were in crisis.
9. Lunch and Learn Cultural Sessions – The Cultural Coordinator has been delivering elective lunch time training sessions for Agency staff to further their understanding of the Anishinaabe worldview and contemporary Indigenous issues. The events are held twice monthly and are always full. Topics include: Identity and Cultural Attachment; Anishinaabe Spirituality and Ceremonies; Anishinaabe Medicines; Anishinaabe Rites of Passage; and, Traditional Parenting.



The Quality Assurance (QA) Department is funded as part of the core funding structure of each Agency. The QA staff work with both on and off-reserve Agency staff, and are an essential component to ensure services provided are in accordance with the mandate and regulations governing child welfare services. The QA reports allow our Chiefs and Councils, Board of Directors, senior management, and compliance bodies to review the services we provide to children and families in the Southeast region.

Staff

Glory Lister – Director of Quality Assurances (on medical leave)

Roxanne Moneyas – QA Co-Coordinator

Danielle Sullivan – QA Co-Coordinator

Peter Berens – QA Assistant and Web Developer

Danielle Sullivan was contracted as the Regional Intake Trainer to provide support and training to both on and off reserve staff. Together, she and Roxanne Moneyas are co-managing the QA Program while Glory Lister is away. Together, they make a great team at fulfilling the Agency's statistical reporting, case management, and training and education for the on and off-reserve staff.



About Quality Assurance

The QA representatives from the southern First Nations CFS agencies meet as a group with their counterparts at the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC) on a regular basis in order to jointly understand and define the scope of work of the QA units. The Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS) reports provide directors, supervisors, and workers with an overview of how the Agency is doing with respect to compliance. CFSIS data is measurable and captures the mandated work requirements between staff and clients at the Agency level for reporting and compliance requirements.

In addition to the quantitative data (numbers and statistics) collected by the QA Unit, the QA staff are also responsible for reviewing the qualitative (quality) work completed by the direct service workers and supervisors. The Unit tracks all Special Investigation Reviews (SIRs) that are generated through the Office of the Children's Advocate, Ombudsman, and Southern First Nations Network of Care. The SIR reports are rolled up annually to assess how the Agency is fulfilling and implementing the recommendations put forth by the compliance bodies.



The SFNNC continues to request monthly compliance reports of the direct services staff including tracking special areas of interest as determined by the Province or the SFNNC. Information is collected and reported to ensure that children and families are seen regularly. This information also ensures that protection and prevention services are being provided to families, and that the information system is accurate and up-to-date.

The Agency is required to report all critical incidents regarding children involved with the Agency to the SFNNC. The QA team takes a lead role in assisting and ensuring these reports are thoroughly completed. At the request of SFNNC, the Agency also completes an Internal Agency Review (IAR) of files associated with children involved in critical incidents. These IARs are reviewed by the SFNNC and Office of the Children's Advocate.

The QA team receives notifications of all minor expectant parents, and oversees the assessment of needs that might exist for the expectant parent. This ensures that all minor expectant parents can be connected with the supports and services that they may require in order to be successful parents.

Ongoing training is provided by the QA staff to the administrative assistants, direct service workers, and supervisors. This helps to increase efficiency and reduce costs for the Agency. This year, the QA team has focused on providing training in the areas of the Intake Module (IM), Safety Assessment, and Case Management and Assessment.

The Agency's website is currently undergoing a remodel, which is being completed by the QA Assistant and Web Developer. Key items that are being added to the website include a staff directory and a staff log in that allows remote workers to have access to Agency materials and documents. The QA Assistant and Web Developer also assists the HR Department by ensuring that all new staff have registered access to the information database that is used.

A provincial audit on the Agency's Alternative Care Department was conducted this year by the Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba. The QA team took a lead role in compiling the requested data for this audit.

Monthly CFSIS reports and spreadsheets are generated by the QA team. These reports are cross referenced with case lists and the Agency's financial Family and Children's Tracking System (FACTS) to ensure accuracy. The results are then forwarded to each unit for review and follow up to ensure compliance with Agency and Authority requirements. Additional data, statistics, charts, analysis, and comparison chart/tables are developed on an ongoing basis as requested. This occurs, for example, for Board meetings, planning sessions and year end.

Challenges

All the Southern First Nations CFS agencies are funded for two QA positions, including SECFS despite the fact that SECFS being a much larger Agency than its counterparts. As a result, the Agency has expanded its team in order to meet the work requirements.

Goals for the Upcoming Year

In the previous 2016-2017 Annual Report, the QA Department's main goal was to increase support to staff by providing regular onsite training. The hiring of Danielle Sullivan (Regional Intake Trainer) and the expansion of Roxanne Moneyas' duties to provide regular training have assisted our Agency with meeting this goal.

Ongoing training is a crucial component to ensure staff are able to meet the needs of the Agency's children and families especially with the ever-changing regulations, and to meet the training needs of new staff. As such, the QA team will continue to focus on providing regular onsite training to all units in the upcoming year. To support this, the SFNNC will be reimbursing the Agency for providing its internal training.

Two members of the QA staff have recently been trained to provide Expectant Parent Services (EPS) training for minor parents. It is hoped that the QA team can roll out this training to all units within the next year. Most other child welfare service delivery training will continue to be relied upon by the SFNNC to provide or to coordinate.

The ability for the Agency to conduct self-reflective and objective evaluations on the services provided is crucial to ensure "best practices" are utilized for the children, families and communities. The statistics that are maintained and analyzed on all programs helps the senior management team and the Board with planning for the Agency's future. These statistics will provide the Chiefs, Board, senior management, staff, and clients in receipt of services with the confidence that the Agency will continue to provide quality services.



MINO PIMATIZIWIN

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATISTICS

Children in Care - Federal and Provincial Funded

The Agency has seen a growth in the total number of children in care cases, as has been the situation over the past five years. The number of children in care as of March 31, 2017, was 1,285 plus 82 Extensions of Cares (18+ years old who can voluntarily remain with the Agency until age 21) totalling 1,367 cases, an increase of 67 cases this year. The previous year saw 1,218 cases which comprised both the children in care and Extension of Care (EOC) cases. See Table 1.

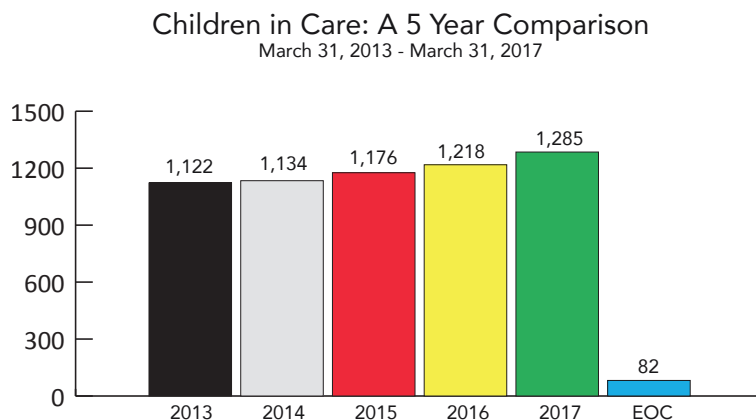
The increase in numbers of children in care and Extension of Care cases can be attributed to a number of factors. First, with regards to the total number of cases, the EOC cases are not legally considered children in care because the individuals are 18 to 20 years old. They voluntarily remain with the Agency as an EOC so that the youth can retain the support of the Agency, both personal and financial support from the Agency. This allows them more time to become established as independent adults.

The number of EOCs continue to increase due to the large number youth aging out of care. The Agency continues to encourage those youth turning 18 years old to remain with the Agency if they do not have the necessary supports and resources to be fully independent. There are a number of youth who want to graduate from high school and require the extra time to do so. Other youth wish to pursue a post-secondary education and require the stability and support of the Agency to do so. The Agency is committed to preventing homelessness and supporting the youth in care to have better outcomes as adults.

The Agency also continues to see cases being transferred in from either ANCR or external agencies to which the Agency accepts under the Authorities Determination Protocol because one or both parents or the child is affiliated with one of the Southeast First Nations. Unfortunately, funding does not follow new cases which is creating higher caseloads per worker ratios at the Agency. This limits the time workers have to work productively with their children, youth, and family cases.

While the Agency continues to return children home, the number of new children coming into care continues to be concerning. The Agency is seeing more parents experiencing addictions issues, and a broader scale approach needs to be established to support the parents and their families to heal.

Table 1: Children in Care Federal and Provincial Funded

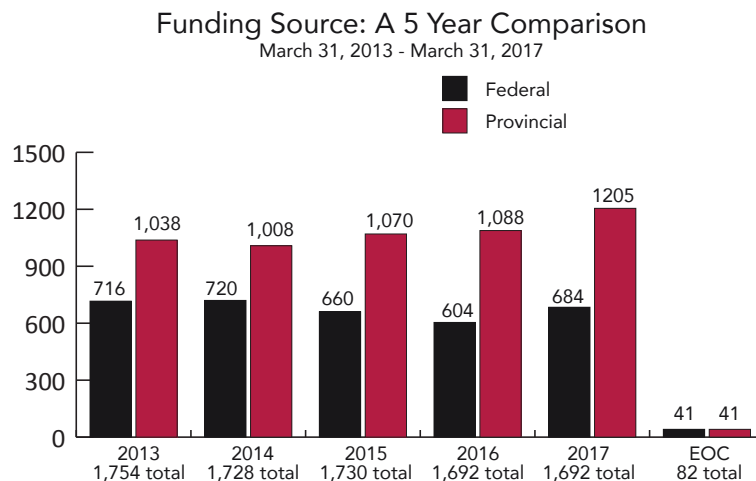


Children in Care and Family Services Per Funding Source

The funding source for a status child in care is determined by where the parent/s is “normally a resident at the time the child comes into care” for the first time. For example, if a Pauingassi First Nation status parent and child are residing in Pauingassi and the child comes into care in Pauingassi, the child is deemed a federally funded child in care. If a Bloodvein status parent and child are residing in Winnipeg when the child is apprehended for the first time, then the child is a provincially funded child in care. Similarly, if the parent is status but the child is not eligible for status and they are residing on the First Nation when the child comes into care with the Agency, then the child will be a provincial funded child. The same criteria of residency applies whether a family protection case is considered provincial or federal designation.

The table below (Table 2) shows that the number of federally and provincially funded children in care and family cases have both increased from March 31, 2016, to March 31, 2017. The numbers below reflect the number of children in care, the Extension of Care cases, and the number of open family files. While the increased number of EOC cases increases the total number of cases, the Agency continues to see a rise in the number of children and families cases. Many of these cases involve families requiring long term support, renewals, or new family cases opening due to being impacted by the social issues impacting First Nation families.

Table 2: Children in Care and Family Services Per Funding Source



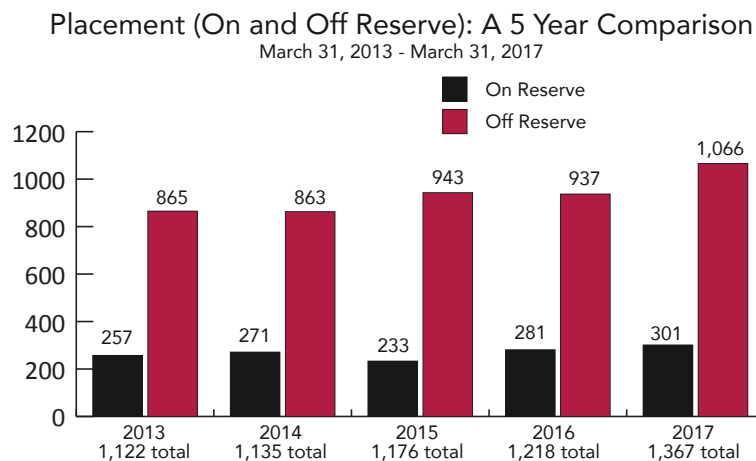
Children in Care Placements

In 2017, the Agency saw an increase of 20 on-reserve child in care placements, and 129 off-reserve placements from the previous year. While the Agency sees an increase of children in care, there is some consolation that our children are remaining in their home communities and/or there are children who were placed out of their community and have now returned to community placements to be near their immediate or extended families, and community members. The increased community based placement options can be attributed to the growing number of Four Bed Homes being built in the Southeast communities and are operated by the Shawenim Abinoojii Inc.

With the increasing number of off-reserve children coming into care, the number of children in care placed off-reserve will rise accordingly. In order to address the high number of children in care with the Agency, new partnerships are in place with on and off-reserve community resources so that a more collaborative approach is taken to provide supports to families and keep them intact or have their children returned. In Winnipeg, the Agency has been utilizing the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata's expanded Family Group Conferencing Program. This program helps families and their support systems create a plan so families can keep their children at home.

Note, that these on and off-reserve placement statistics do not reflect the increased number of family or kinship placements, as the Agency continues to implement its family first placement policy.

Table 3: Children in Care Placements

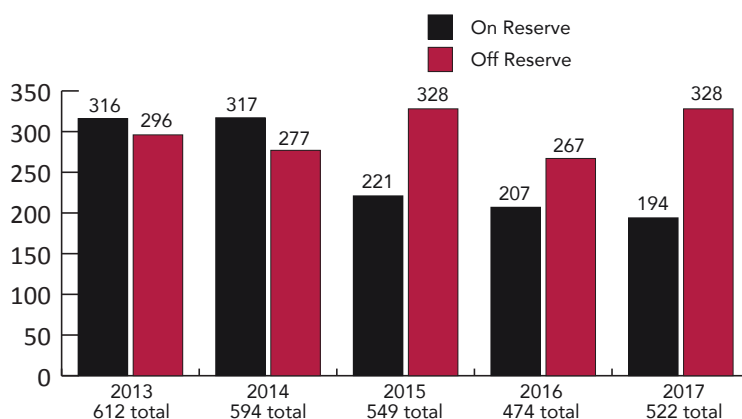


Family Services On and Off-Reserve

The number of family cases on reserve declined from 207 cases in 2016 to 194 cases in 2017, whereas the number of off-reserve cases rose from 267 cases in 2016 to 328 cases in 2017. The Agency receives the majority of our cases from ANCR and there has been a steady increase in the number of cases being transferred over by other agencies. The increase in these off-reserve family cases has demanded that the Agency increase its support and intervention with these families. The Agency also continues to establish new partnerships with collateral resources to assist these families with the services and resources that meet their needs.

Table 4: Family Services On and Off-Reserve

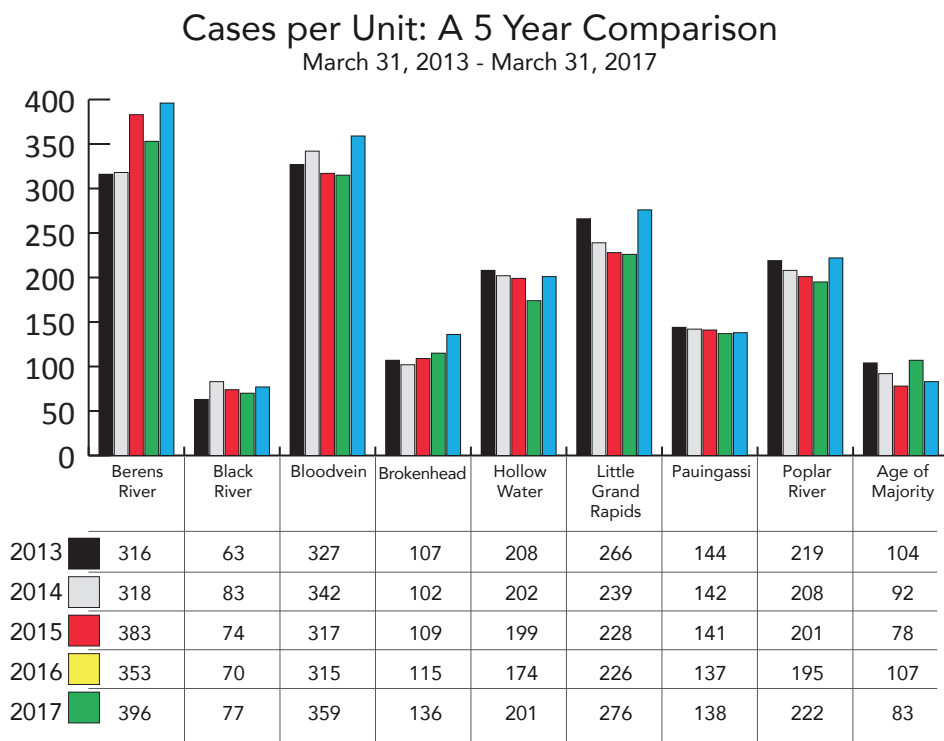
Family Services (On and Off Reserve): A 5 Year Comparison
March 31, 2013 - March 31, 2017



Children in Care and Family Cases Per Unit

The children in care and family cases displayed by unit shows the fluctuation that has occurred from 2013 to 2017. The number of total cases per community has risen in each community since 2016, with the exception of Pauingassi that has been fairly stable. Note that the number of cases for the Age of Majority Unit comprises of youth in care or Extensions of Care who are from our eight First Nations. The AOM numbers do not reflect the First Nations these youth are associated with, and the number of cases within the unit are dependent upon the number of workers assigned to the unit. See Table 5.

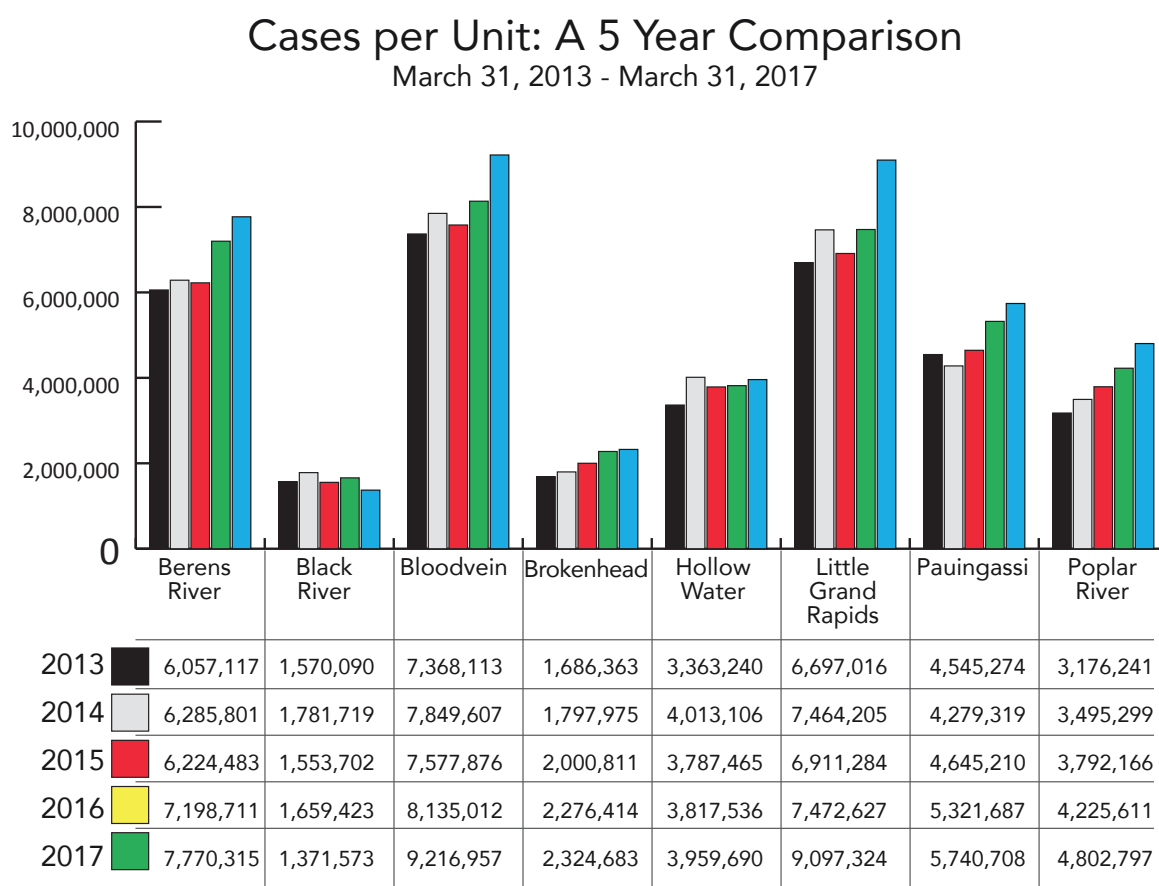
Table 5: Children in Care and Family Services Cases



Child in Care Maintenance Expenditures Per Unit

The costs for the child care maintenance include all costs associated with keeping a child in care. Costs to keep a child in care continues to rise each year in six of the eight units. Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and Black River First Nation costs remained the same or rose very slightly. One of the biggest cost drivers for child maintenance in the remote communities is the establishment of Shawenim Abinoojii. These homes are more expensive but they allow the children to remain in their First Nations with their families and culture. Other increases in maintenance will be associated with the growing costs of family visits for children placed outside of the community. See Table 6.

Table 6: Child in Care Maintenance Expenditures Per Unit





Poplar River First Nation

For Our Children, Our Families, And Our Future

The Alternative Care Department is responsible to recruit new placement options for the Agency's children in care, assess potential foster parents, issue foster home licenses, review foster homes on an annual basis, ensure foster care standards and regulations are adhered to, and provide support to the foster parents.

The Alternate Care Department serves the eight Southeast First Nations on and off-reserve foster and kinship homes, and work out of the Mountain Avenue office. As of March 31, 2017, there were 485 licensed foster homes and 99 places of safety homes.

Staff

Director of Alternative Care – Jackie Larocque

Supervisor – Susan LeClair

A/Supervisor – Wanda Joe

The supervisor duties include ensuring workers are licensing foster homes correctly, recruitment of culturally appropriate foster homes and kinship homes, and dealing with any conflicts or concerns brought forth regarding a foster home and/or foster parents.



Administrative Assistant/Worker - Hazel Roulette

Administrative Assistant - Maria Ross

The Alternative Care Workers conduct home studies, home reviews, and follow up on any concerns regarding a home or foster parent. The worker may also attend Alternative Dispute Resolutions. The following workers are assigned to the respective areas:

Beverly Thomas - Bloodvein, Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Berens River communities

Madeline Hardisty-Neveau - Brokenhead, Black River, and Hollow Water communities

Angela Prince, Brandi Blackbird, Claudia McKay, Inna Ganda, Lily Creely, Lucinda Massan, Nancy Poirier, and Edith Sanderson - City of Winnipeg and rural areas

Highlights and Activities

- Monthly staff meetings to address any concerns or issues regarding foster parents or foster homes
- Recruitment and information booths set up at events including Southeast Hockey Tournament, Manito Ahbee Festival, and at the Forks on the National Aboriginal Day celebrations
- Two Christmas parties were held in December, one in Selkirk and the other in Winnipeg, for the Agency's foster parents and the children in their care
- Cultural Coordinator, Cecil Sveinson, provided cultural training to foster parents



Orientation	Participants	Cultural Training	Participants
New Foster Parents	#s		#s
Feb 21 & 22, 2017	18	Feb 1 & 2, 2017	8
April 25 & 27, 2017	11	April 19 & 20, 2017	12
June 6 & 7, 2017	11	June 14 & 15, 2017	17
Sept 26 & 28, 2017	20	Oct 18 & 19, 2017	10

Cultural Training

Anishinaabe Ombigigiowsowin - Co-developed by Sherry Copenace (Niizhoosake Saagimaakwe. Atik Dodem Elk Clan). Sherry also co-facilitates this training for the Agency.

This SECFS specific training that was designed as a response and action to the current child welfare system, a dominant "protection" paradigm that focuses on apprehension, which has resulted in large numbers of Indigenous children to be in care. The training has been provided in both Ojibway and English in the SECFS communities including Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids, Berens River, Poplar River, and for the Hollow Water, Black River, and Brokenhead communities, and in the city of Winnipeg.

The Anishinaabe Ombigigiowsowin (AI) training is foundational in Anishinaabe ways of knowing with additions from western ways. The AI offers introductory experiential cultural learning with six sessions to help the alternative caregivers (foster parents) better understand and work with our Anishinaabe children, families, communities, and nations. This is also to ensure they have the skills and sufficient knowledge to support the cultural identity and overall well-being of the child in their care.

Anishinaabe Ombigigiowsowin Sessions

Dates	Location	# of Participants
May 23-25, 2017	Winnipeg	23
March 15, 16 & June 13, 2017	Hollow Water First Nation	18

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- To provide orientation and cultural trainings to new foster parents with orientation and cultural training
- To provide 10 Anishinaabe Ombigigiowsowin training sessions
- Develop new emergency placement resources
- More active recruitment of kinship homes

The SECFS Child Abuse Unit assesses all referrals and conducts investigations of allegations of physical, sexual (including sexual exploitation), and emotional abuse of children and youth who are under the jurisdiction of SECFS.

This includes on-reserve matters for the Brokenhead, Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids, Poplar River, Berens River, Bloodvein, Hollow Water, and Black River First Nations. The Unit may also investigate allegations, or be involved in investigations, that occur in foster homes licensed by the Agency where SECFS children in care are placed, that are situated off-reserve but outside the City of Winnipeg.

Staff

Sandra Lagimodiere – Director and A/Child Abuse Coordinator

Jonathan Guimond - Administrative Assistant

Genevieve Bruce - Child Abuse Investigator

Lauren Turney – Child Abuse Investigator

The Coordinator oversees the Child Abuse Unit to ensure children receive protective services related to abuse as outlined in the Child & Family Services Act, and ensures there is compliance with the Provincial Child Abuse Committee Regulations.



The Administrative Assistant creates and maintains the child abuse files, including completing the Intake Module; ensuring files on the CFSIS system are up to date; maintaining yearly statistic reports; preparing the Child Abuse Committee (CAC) agenda, taking meeting minutes, and distributing the minutes to the CAC members. The Administrative Assistant also assists workers with obtaining or providing information to the police, the Crown, court, or other agencies, as necessary, and maintains a tracking system for all internal and external referrals.

The Child Abuse Investigators specialize in investigating abuse allegations that may be physical, sexual, or emotion in nature. They are responsible to establish working relationships with the Direct Service Worker and Supervisor while the allegation is under investigation, they are not responsible for regular case management activities. Once the Direct Service Worker makes the initial assessment to ensure the safety of the child, the Child Abuse Investigator will interview the child and the alleged offender. The Abuse Investigator makes appropriate and/or necessary recommendations that identify protection concerns for the victim child, or any other child, and may recommend the immediate removal of a child to ensure his or her safety. The Abuse Investigator and Child Abuse Coordinator are available to consult with workers and supervisors when there are questions about potential or real abuse, referral processes, investigations, and outcome reports.



The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA)

The PHIA allows health care practitioners to share personal health information without the consent of the person (patient) in order to report a child in need of protection, or to co-operate with a child protection investigation. Health care practitioners governed under The Mental Health Act (MHA) are also required to report suspected child abuse. A child does not have to be under CFS agency apprehension for these situations to apply.

Abuse Referral Criteria

Physical Abuse - Physical punishment that causes an injury to a child, or an injury caused by an omission of care. The Abuse Unit will also investigate any physical punishment to a child over the age of twelve that meets the definition of Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Sexual Abuse - The Criminal Code of Canada indicates the legal age to consent to sexual activity is 16 years. Sexual activity of a child 12 or 13 years of age is permitted if the sexual activity is consensual and the person engaging in the sexual activity is within 2 years of the child's age. Sexual activity of a child 14 or 15 years of age is permitted if the sexual activity is consensual and the person engaging in the sexual activity is within 5 years of the child's age.

Sexual Exploitation - Allegations concerning the coercing, luring, or engaging a child under the age of 18 into a sexual act. The Abuse Unit will investigate cases of child pornography, interfamilial sexual abuse, historical abuse cases, all nonconsensual sexual activity, and sexual activity that is outside the legal age, even if a child indicates sexual activity was consensual.

Emotional Abuse - Defined under Section 1(1) of the Child and Family Services Act as an act or omission by any person where the act or omission results in "emotional disability of a permanent nature in the child or is likely to result in such a disability". Allegations that meet this definition will be investigated by the Abuse Unit.

Cyber Tip Referrals - Cyber Tip is the national tip line for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children through the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. Cyber Tip forwards reports to law enforcement and to the CFS agency whose jurisdiction is responsible for designated intake.



Sandra Lagimodiere - Director of Services for the Brokenhead, Black River, Hollow Water Units, and is the A/Coordinator for the Child Abuse Unit.

Sandra is an Anishinaabekwe who grew up in the rural areas but went to school in Winnipegosis. She later moved to Winnipeg to attend University of Manitoba, and graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work in 1982. Sandra has worked for several years in the social services and child welfare fields including with Aboriginal Health and Wellness, Ma Mawi Wi Itata, and has been with SECFS since 1994.

Sandra looks forward to brighter and stronger futures for the Agency's children and families.



Stanford Boulanger - Director of Services for Bloodvein and Little Grand Rapids Units.

Stanford was born and raised in Berens River First Nation, and is fluent in his language (Anishinaabe), not learning English until he started school at 6 years old. Stanford is married and has three wonderful children at home. Stanford's vast work and personal experiences enables him to add a unique insight and perspective to working with the communities. His former positions include being an Addictions Counsellor (NNADAP), being a member and Chairperson of his community's Local Child Care Committee, sitting on the SECFS Regional Advisory Board including being the Chairperson for four years, and being a Councillor. Stanford worked as a frontline worker in Berens River, obtained his Bachelor of Social Work, and went on to become the Community Supervisor. Later, Stanford was appointed to be a Program Manager, and is now a Director of Services.



Jackie Larocque - Director of Services for Pauingassi Unit and Alternative Care Department.

Jackie is from Berens River First Nation, and is married with two children. Jackie attained her Bachelor of Social Work, and later a Masters of Social Work in 2011. She has worked for SECFS for 29 years, first starting as a band worker in Berens River, worker for Pauingassi, later being promoted to a supervisor role for Pauingassi and then becoming the Alternative Care Department Supervisor. Jackie was promoted to Program Manager, and most recently as the Director of Services for Pauingassi Unit and Director for the Alternative Care Department.

Jackie continues to volunteer to be a field instructor for the University of Manitoba Social Work Program students who complete their placements at Southeast Child and Family Services.

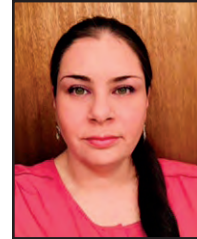


Jackie loves working with children and families involved with the Agency, and commits to transferring her knowledge to the workers she oversees. She says the days are never the same - there is always something new and unique in child welfare and there is something new to learn each day. There are good days and, of course some bad days, but at the end of the day it is about our children and their future.

Jaime Chartrand - Director of Services for Berens River and Age of Majority Units, and is covering the Poplar River Unit.

Jaime is a member of Pine Creek First Nation and a single mother of one son. Jaime graduated from the Bachelor of Social Work in 2006, and worked for Canadian Mental Health in Thompson. After moving to Winnipeg in 2007, Jaime began working as a social worker with SECFS in the Bloodvein City Unit. In 2010, Jaime was hired as the Supervisor for the Bloodvein City Unit, until she transferred to be the Brokenhead Supervisor. In 2014, Jaime transferred back to the Winnipeg office and began supervising the Black River and Hollow Water City Unit. In December 2016, Jaime was hired as the Director of Services for the Berens River and Age of Majority Units.

Jaime is committed to working with the families and communities of SECFS.



Glory Lister - Director of Services for the Poplar River Unit and the Quality Assurance Department.

Glory is married to a wonderful husband, and has two children. Her family has always been supportive of her being able to leave home to work in the Southeast communities. She has also been an emergency foster parent for SECFS kids in need. Glory obtained her Bachelor of Arts in 1980, and later attained her Bachelor of Social Work. Glory completed her social work program field placements at SECFS, and has been an employee for over 25 years. She has also worked part-time at the After Hours at ANCR for 16 years, and became familiar with many of the SECFS families and children in care. The connections Glory has with the children and families of the Southeast communities is extensive, and she appreciates the relationships she has built over the years.

Glory is currently on a medical leave.



Location: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation is 86 kilometres north of Winnipeg, and extends north to the shores of Lake Winnipeg, and includes part of the Netley Creek Mars area, with the Brokenhead River running through the core of the community. The community is accessible by Highway 59.

Population: The on-reserve population is 766, and the off-reserve population is 1,166.

Community Services/Businesses: Brokenhead Band Office; Entertainment Centre; South Beach Casino Hotel; Wavers Gas Station; Chicken Delight; Brokenhead Grocery Store; Pharmacy; Health Centre; Daycare; Head Start; Round House Meeting Centre; Private Matthews Sinclair's Elders Lodge; Water Treatment Plant; Recreational Centre; Brokenhead EAST Resource Training and Employment Program; Community Store and Gas Station; Whistle Pig Diner; Brokenhead Wet Lands Trail; and, Jordan's Principle Program.

School: Sergeant Tommy Prince School offers Nursery to Grade 9, and falls under the jurisdiction of Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief Jim Bear. CFS Portfolio Councillor Shawn Kent.

Staff

The Brokenhead Unit is unique to SECFS in that both the on and off-reserve children in care and families are served by a single unit that is located on the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere

Supervisor - Lisa Holland-Storozuk

Administrative Assistant - Ashton McCorrister

Direct Services Workers - Teresa Ryder, Spring Abaunza-Vega, Shirley Prieston, Sabrina Morrisseau, John Kent (term)

Community Support Worker - Brenda Staska



Highlights and Events

The Brokenhead SECFS staff supported:

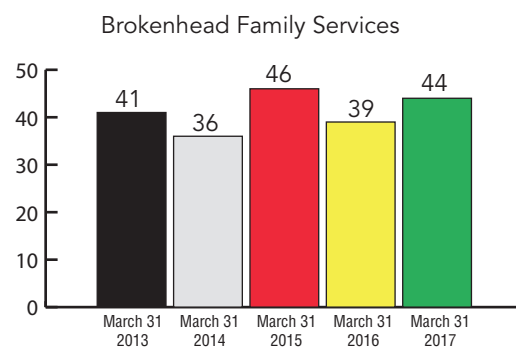
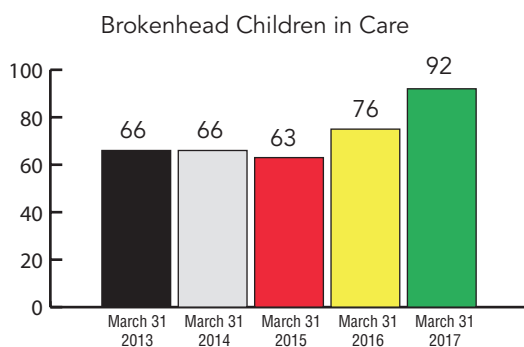
- The Annual Sobriety Powwow to honor those who remain sober and to promote sobriety
- The community Halloween dance and contributed treats at the school for the younger children, and treats were offered at the SECFS office for the older children
- Various children's events during the Brokenhead Treaty Days
- A family violence workshop
- The Maternal Child Health Camp Manito Program



- A few member children to attend hockey tournaments
- The community carnival
- The after-school boxing program
- Case Aide salary
- Christmas Open House held in December
- Emergency support services as needed i.e. emergency food

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Continue to provide culturally appropriate foster homes in the community and, where possible, return children to be in community placements
- Extensively explore extended family/kinship homes when a child is in need of placement
- Actively recruit more community members to become foster parents
- Decrease the number of children coming into care
- Decrease the number of change of placements for children in care
- Work more closely with collaterals to develop more wrap around services to families to keep them intact and support the reunification of children with their families
- Further develop the Resource Committee to ensure that community resources, staff, and community members have the opportunity to identify and share issues, and develop plans to address
- Develop an emergency home in the community so that children who come into care do not have to leave the community
- Maintain funds for emergency support services
- Provide ongoing training to staff to increase their skill set to provide quality services to the children, families, and community members
- Hire a full-time support staff i.e. resource worker or intake worker
- Continue to support staff to participate in community events
- Continue to sponsor annual community events including Christmas Open House, Elders Program, Parent Aide, summer activities, fishing derby, Treaty Days celebrations, powwows, Maternal Child Health events, and emergency supports



This Unit is located in Winnipeg at the 1410 Mountain Avenue office, and provide services to the children and families affiliated with Hollow Water and Black River First Nations who reside off-reserve.

Staff

Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere

Supervisor - Serena Marsden

Administrative Assistant - Robin Cornell

Direct Services Workers – Kirra Noble-Brass, Rebecca McIvor, Kathy Guimond, Allison McKay, Sheryl Letandre, Jocelyn Mitchel (on maternity leave)

Highlights and Events

- Case reviews are held with the off and on-reserve teams from Hollow Water and Black River every four months for the purpose of consulting, planning, and sharing information about the children and families served
- Workers carry high case loads and most of the focus is on meeting client's needs and meeting funding requirements.
- Some staff had the opportunity to attend Black Island Days and the SECFS Open House on Hollow Water First Nation
- Distributed payments and treaty money to the off-reserve Black River and Hollow Water children in care





Little Grand Rapids First Nation

For Our Children, Our Families, And Our Future

Location: Hollow Water First Nation is located 190 kms northeast of Winnipeg, and is within the Precambrian Shield region of Manitoba. Hollow Water is accessible by an all-weather road. No air service is available, and the nearest airport is located in Bissett, Manitoba.



Population: The on-reserve population is 1,005 and the off-reserve population is 904.

Community Services/Businesses: Hollow Water Band Office; SECFS Office; Jordan's Principle Program; Adam Hardisty Health Centre; Wanipigow Producer Co-op; Fishing Station; Grandpa George's Gas/Diesel Bar; Wy-Ky-Kan Housing Authority; Yvonne's Chipstand; Legends Campground-Wayne Moneyas; Garden Angel Day Care; Aboriginal Headstart Program; Sanitation Service; VLT Centre; Water Treatment Plant; and, Ceremony Grounds. The Health Centre offers a food bank bi-weekly.

School: Wanipigow School offers Nursery to Grade 12, and is part of the Frontier School Division. The community also offers an Alternative Education Program for adults.

Hollow Water First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief Larry Barker. CFS Portfolio Councillor Geoff Bushie.

Staff

Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere

Supervisor - Lena Bushie

Administrative Support - Darlene Bushie

Direct Services Workers - Donna Smith, Gladys Williams, Patricia Moneas

Family Enhancement Worker - Lorna Bjork

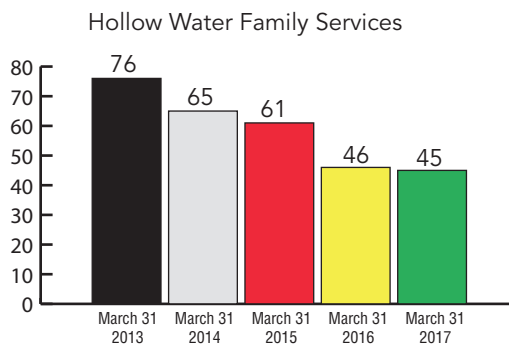
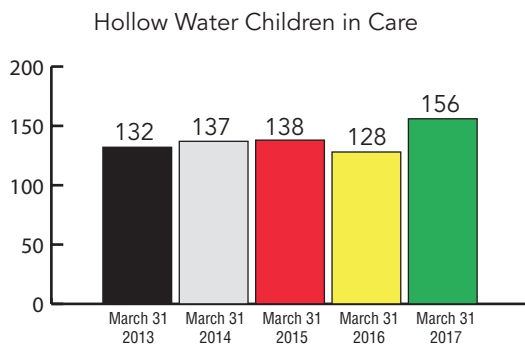


MINO PIMATIZIWIN

Highlights and Events

The following programs and activities were supported with Family Enhancement funds. The local SECFS staff organized, implemented, and/or contributed to the following programs and activities:

- Hosted a children and youth bingo, provided gifts in recognition of community members, and provided prizes for the various sports games and other events during Black Island Days
- Supported one full time Family Enhancement Worker to work with families to prevent their children from coming into care
- Contributions to the Treaty Days events
- Prince/Princess Ball - Event where young children dress up in fancy dresses and/or suits and win prizes for the best dressed. This year was a huge success.
- Fishing Derbies - Held seasonally, and always has a high number of community participants. Agency contributes the youths' registration fees.
- Donations for food for the families with members who have passed.
- Registration costs for youth hockey players in the Sagkeeng Minor Hockey.
- Contributions for community Remembrance Day events, Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner, Elders Appreciation, Welcome Baby Wagon, Christmas Open House, Christmas events, and a New Year's Party for youth and adults.
- Supported accommodations for young ladies at the Provincial Baseball Tournament held in Winnipeg.
- Participated in "Adopting a Graduate" where the graduate receives all expenses paid for their graduation celebration.
- Emergency funds i.e. emergency food



Location: Black River First Nation is located at the banks of the O'Hanley and Black River along the shore of Lake Winnipeg. The community is 32 km north of Pine Falls and 194 km north of Winnipeg. Black River is accessible by all-weather roads.

Population: The on-reserve population is 887 and the off-reserve population is 416.

Community Services/Businesses: SECFS office, Daycare/Head Start, Band office, Black River Health Centre, Truss Plant, Moppa's Store, Water Treatment Plant, and a Food Bank that operates once every two weeks.

School: Anishinaabe Black River School runs kindergarten to grade 9, and is a part of the Frontier School Division. Students in grade 10 to grade 12 have the option of attending school in Hollow Water First Nation or Pine Falls. The community also has an alternative education program for adults.

Black River First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief Sheldon Kent. CFS Portfolio Councillor Oral Johnston.



Staff

Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere

Community Supervisor - Sharon Klyne

Administrative Assistant – Julie Pelletier

Direct Service Workers - Stacy Starr, Nadine Abraham

P/T Family Enhancement Worker - Valerie Vandal

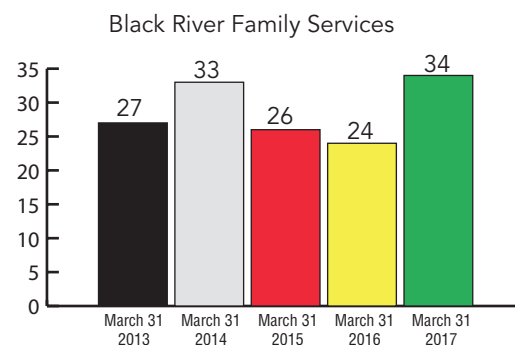
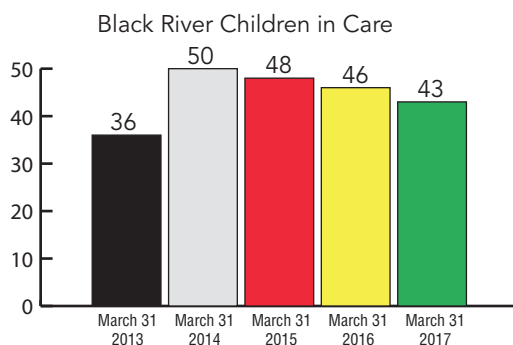


MINO PIMATIZIWIN

Highlights and Events

The following programs and activities were funded with Family Enhancement funds. The local SECFS staff organized, implemented, and/or contributed to the following programs and activities:

- An Elders and Parent Aide Program has been in place for the past 3 years and is available for all Black River community members.
- A youth mentor was hired to provide mentoring and support services to young people in Black River.
- Staff hosted the adult and children's games during the Treaty Days.
- Provided food items for the community BBQ and prizes for the children's fishing derby.
- Sponsored 5 member children to attend the Bush Camp in Hollow Water.
- Some staff and 8 youth participated in the Black Island celebrations.
- Provided transportation costs for 16 youth and families to attend the Eagles Nest Camp Initiative operated by the Canadian Armed Forces held in the summer in Manigotogan.
- A Summer Recreation Program was run for children ages 6-12. A Coordinator, 2 support workers and two youth were hired to implement the program which offered activities, crafts, daily lunch, and an overnight camping experience.
- The Grief and Loss Program has been available to the community members for its second year.
- Contributions made to the Annual United Lights Memorial & BBQ run by the Lighthouse Program, Elders Program, and Land/Water Based Cultural Program run by the Black River School.
- Hosted a Foster Parent Appreciation Day and SECFS Open House. Foster Parents and children in care shared a meal with staff and received a gift.
- Decorated the office and provided Halloween treats for children.
- Participated in the Winter Carnival and sponsored a hot meal for all participants.
- Organized a Luncheon with Santa for the children in care. Every child received a gift from Santa and hampers were provided to the protection families.
- Emergency funds i.e. emergency food.



Location: Bloodvein First Nation is located 210 km north of Winnipeg and is accessible by an all-weather road that runs along the eastside of Lake Winnipeg. The community is situated along three kilometers of the shoreline at the mouth of the Bloodvein River.



Bloodvein First Nation is located at the center of the Southeast communities, and many neighbouring community members from Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River and Berens River First Nations stop in Bloodvein while traveling on the winter road, and now year-round from Berens River on their new all-weather road. Community members are friendly and welcoming to the many travelers and canoeists that tour the area. Community members enjoy fishing and outdoor activities that the Bloodvein River offers, and the area is a major tourist attraction for canoeists and campers, and is renowned for its historical petroglyphs (rock paintings).

Population: The population on-reserve is 1,073 and off-reserve is 720, with a total population of 1,793.

Community Services/Businesses: SECFS Office; Daycare and Head Start Program; Band Office; Bloodvein Health Centre/Nursing Station; Water Treatment Plant and Sanitation; Mikisi Towing Gas Bar and Convenient Store; Keller & Son's Grocery Store; Franks and Son's Grocery Store; Anishinaabe Coffee Shop; Bloodvein River Lodge; Bloodvein Arena; and, the RCMP Detachment.

School: Miskooseepi School (Nursery to Grade 9) is operated by Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) School Division. When community children complete grade 9, transition begins for them to attend high school located outside the community, usually in Winnipeg, Brandon, Selkirk, or other smaller municipalities.

Bloodvein River First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief Roland Hamilton. CFS Portfolio Councillor Ellen Young.

Challenges

The Bloodvein community staff work with children and families who suffer much hardship. Workers assist by identifying the child or family's needs for resources, advocating for these resources, and develop a case plan to help keep the family intact, or plan for a child to be in care while maintaining contact with their family of origin. The Family Enhancement funds are often used to provide emergency food assistance to families in need so as to prevent children from coming into care. Where a child comes into care, the worker will meet with the parents and community supports to develop a case plan that is in the best interests of the child. The goal is to wrap supports around the family so the parents have the supports they need to be able to meet the needs of the child.

The Bloodvein Unit is comprised of one unit on reserve and two city units due to the high number of cases and staff required to manage the cases.



Staff

Director of Services - Stanford Boulanger

Community Supervisor – Garnet Sinclair

Administrative Assistant – Clifford Boulanger

Direct Services Workers – Marie Green, Kyle Tanner, Cindy Desjarlais

Family Enhancement Worker – Geraldine Cook

Recreation Coordinator – Errol Green

City Supervisor 1 – Natascha Enzlberger

Administrative Assistant – Barb Tomasi

Term City Supervisor 2 – Anetta Russo

Term Administrative Assistant – Cheryl Wavey

Direct Service Workers – Stacy Kangas, Amber Gareau, Crystal Boulette, Lorraine Baldwin, Nicole Strocen, Kelvin Sherman, Andrea Johnson, Selena Whiteway, Ed Tanner, Latitia Kipling, Amber Catellier



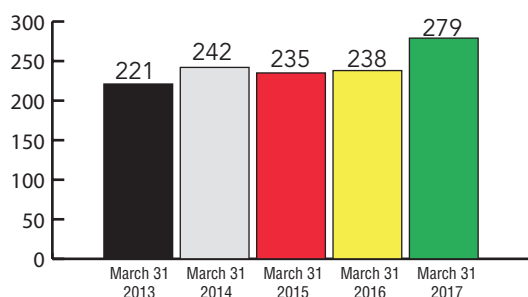
Highlights and Events

- Actively participating at the Community Resource Committee meetings (SECFS, Chief and Council, SERDC, School, Health, MFNERC, Onashowewin, etc.) to work collectively to address the social issues impacting the children and families i.e. addictions, child neglect, youth crime
- The three units participated in team building activities and regular unit case reviews to increase communication and understanding of the member children and families
- In partnership with Chief and Council, participated in community events such as;
 - o Treaty Days
 - o Fishing Harvests
 - o Support Groups
 - o Youth Camps
 - o Winter Carnival
 - o Mother's and Father's Day Events
 - o Halloween
 - o Canada Day Celebrations
 - o Community Workshops and Presentations
 - o Community BBQ Feast
 - o National Addiction Awareness Week (NAAW)
 - o Resource Meetings
 - o Stepping Out Saturdays (S.O.S.) Program
 - o Community Christmas Feast

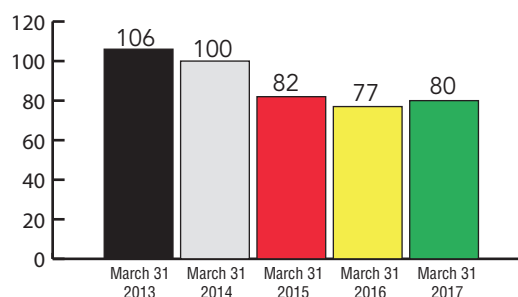
Goals for Upcoming Year

- The Family Enhancement (FE) Worker will implement support groups in the community i.e. women's group, men's groups, AA, and family support groups in partnership with the community resources
- Continued participation on the Community Resource Committee
- Training for staff to provide effective intervention to the community's unique social issues i.e. addictions, parenting skills

Bloodvein Children in Care



Bloodvein Family Services





Poplar River First Nation

For Our Children, Our Families, And Our Future

Location: Little Grand Rapids (LGR) First Nation is a remote community located 268 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg on the shores of Family Lake near the Manitoba/Ontario border. The community is spread out over an eight kilometer stretch along the lake shores.



The LGR airport is located on the north side of the lake on the peninsula near the community. Travel is limited during freeze up and thaw, and a helicopter is utilized to provide transportation across the lake during this period. In the summer, travel is only by air and in the winter community members take advantage of the winter road which is open for 1 to 3 months, dependent upon weather, to transport big items and stock for the year.

Little Grand Rapids is steeped in traditional life and most members speak their Anishinaabe language fluently. The members and visitors enjoy the outdoors, site seeing of the waterfront, boating and canoeing the river and lakes, and engage in hunting, fishing and camping. The community is surrounded by many small lakes, rivers, and rapids that provide ample opportunities for these activities. The community organizes many shore lunches members can participate in during the summer months.

Population: The on-reserve population is 1,300 and off-reserve is 354 for a total population of 1,654.

Community Services/Businesses: SECFS Office; Daycare and Head Start Program; Band Office; LGR Health Centre (nursing station); General Merchants; Owen's Cash and Carry Store; Northern Store; Water Treatment Plant and Sanitation; Circling Thunderbird Centre; RCMP Station; and, a Fire Hall.

School: Abbalak Thunderswift Memorial School is a band operated school that offers nursery to grade 9. The children must relocate to Winnipeg and/or other municipalities in order to attend school beyond grade 9.

Little Grand Rapids First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councilor: Chief Ray Keeper. The three CFS Portfolio Councilors are Wendy Leveque, Hilda Crow and Diane Keeper.

Staff

Director of Services - Stanford Boulanger

Community Supervisor – Roxanne Brass

Direct Service Workers - Chelsea Little, Miriam Campbell, Cindy Green

Administrative Assistant – Keesha Keeper

City Supervisor - Julia Seymour

Direct Service Workers - Trisha Fox, Sheryn Seunath, Lyle Massan, Brittany Jonsson, Thomas Bergan

Administrative Assistant - Corrine Player

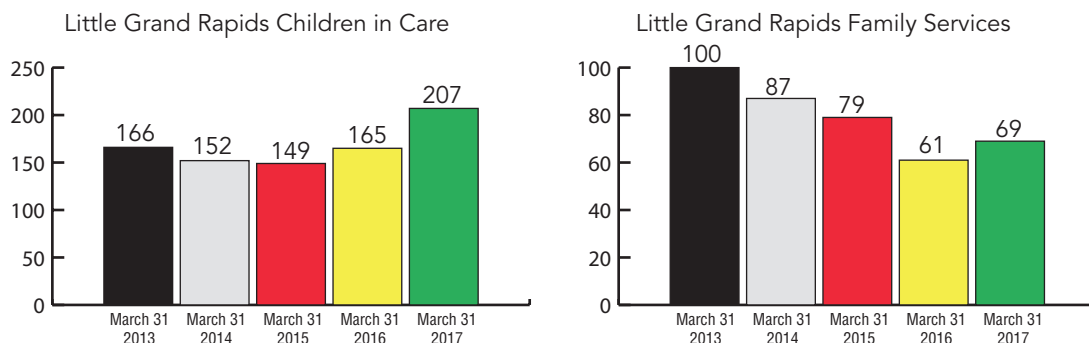


Highlights and Events

- City and community staff participated in the community resource committee meetings as part of the Unit's commitment to partner with the community resources to address the social issues impacting the community i.e. alcohol and substance abuse. Chief and Council, RCMP, SECFS, Nursing staff, SERDC, Health Program, and the School participate on the committee. Alcohol and substance abuse continues to be the main reason member children come into care.
- Children continue to be reunified with their families, and children are returning to the community which requires the joint effort of the city and community staff.
- Quarterly team building activities and case reviews are held as a means to improve and maintain positive communication and working relations between the on and off reserve staff.
- About 30 children and youth in care returned to the community to attend the Treaty Days week long events.
- Partner with Chief and Council with events including Treaty Days; Fishing Harvest; Spring and Fall Community Feasts; Moose Harvest; Winter Carnival; Canada Day Celebrations; National Addictions Awareness Week events; and community workshops and presentations
- Community staff actively participated with the Community Christmas Feast where 300 members attended. The children received coloring books, crayons, pencils and markers, and the community members were welcome to take home the extra food.
- The Family Enhancement Worker is setting up women's groups, men's groups and other support groups to meet community needs.
- The Unit is in the process of developing an internal system to identify and accept new and existing family enhancement cases.

Shawenim Abinoojii Homes

The community constructed 3 Four Bedroom Units in 2014, and 5 Four Bedroom Units in 2016. The Circling Thunderbird Centre (CTC), located across the peninsula has two trailers that are used as Four Bedroom Units, plus 1 Four Bedroom Unit attached to the CTC. These homes provide for 11 Four Bedroom Units available for children in need of placements, and are operated by Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. These Four Bedroom Homes are used as emergency, temporary, short, or long-term placement options that prevent children from having to be placed outside the community, and has provided opportunity for children in care to be returned to the community. These child care placements are always filled to capacity.



Location: Pauingassi First Nation is a remote fly-in community located 280 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. Access to the community is challenging and expensive. There is a winter road that is open for about a month each year, dependent upon weather. The float planes can land on the lake in the spring, summer, and fall but there is a freeze/thaw period where helicopter service is required to transport persons from the Little Grand Rapids Airport which is 24 kilometers away. In the winter, transportation is provided by skidoo or vehicles when the ice road between Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi is open.



Population: On reserve population is 565, and the off reserve is 47.

School: The community's Omiishosh Memorial School offers kindergarten to grade nine. The students have to attend school off-reserve to pursue their education beyond grade nine.

Community Services/Businesses: Band Office; Nursing Station; Health Centre; DOJO's Store; Northern Store; New Dream Lodge Building; SECFS Office; and, the RCMP serves the community from its detachment in Little Grand Rapids.

Pauingassi First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief Michael Owens.

Staff

Director of Services – Jackie Larocque

Community Supervisor (term) - Sharon Samatte

Direct Service Workers - Ivan Bonner, Adeline Nepinak

Administrative Assistant - Sandra Keeper



City Supervisor - Rick Paskaruk

Direct Service Workers - Stephanie Michell, Bev Dunbar, Patricia Moneas, Melissa Lela (maternity leave)



Services Provided

Pauingassi is a small community that still cultivates their teachings of the language and living off the land by trapping and hunting. The community members love to fish in the lakes surrounding their homes, and will often have fishing derbies where almost everyone participates. The community saw a new water treatment facility built this year. The community and SECFS look forward to the federal Jordan's Principle Program being implemented so more community based services and supports are available to the children and youth to promote their growth, health, and well-being.

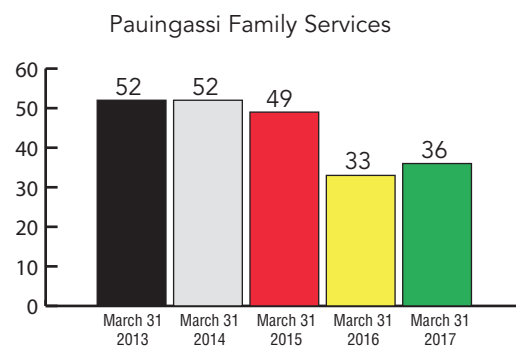
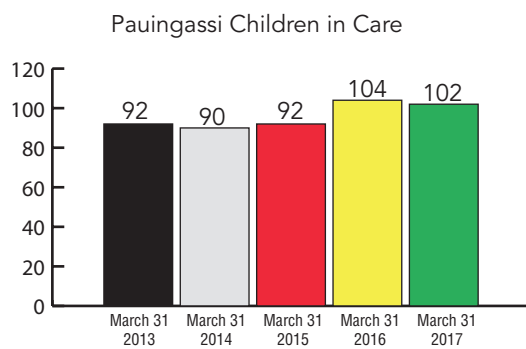
The staff provide protection and prevention services as mandated. The family enhancement funds are utilized to partner with the community initiatives that promote families to be healthy, prevent children from coming into care, and build capacity for children to be able to be reunified with their families. Staff also support members when they request advocacy for social assistance, housing, health, and educational needs.

With the six Four Bed Homes in the community, the staff work closely with the Shawenim Abinoojii staff to ensure the homes are providing the staffing and necessary supports and services to the children placed in these homes. The homes are always filled to capacity as Pauingassi's children in care have been returned to the community, or are placed in the community homes when in need of emergency, temporary, short-term, or long-term care.

Highlights and Events

The staff was involved in and/or contributed to the following:

- Community Clean-up
- Family Camp
- Treaty Days
- Memorial Dinner (for all the loved ones of Pauingassi)
- Halloween treats for the community and contribution to the community's Halloween costume contest
- Community Christmas Dinner
- City staff have participated with Agency events including the Christmas Dinners, all staff picnic, and attended training opportunities to improve their skills to work with the children and families of Pauingassi.



Location: Berens River First Nation, the largest community in the Southeast region, is located on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Berens River. The community was a remote First Nation until December 2017 when an all-weather road connecting Berens River to Bloodvein First Nation was completed. The community is approximately 2,546 hectares large and is situated in the heart of Manitoba's boreal forest which provides for many opportunities for land and water based activities that the natural setting offers. The community has beautiful Log Inn cabins, available for visitors, that overlook the astonishing Berens River.



Population: Berens River has an on-reserve population of 2,125 members and 1,185 off-reserve members for a total population of 3,310.

Community Services/Businesses: Band Office; Meemeesipii Inc. Berens River Log Inn; Daycare; Nursing Station; Chief Jacob Berens Mino-Berens Centre; Berens River Training and Employment Program; Berens River Tug Boat/Barge; Pump House; SECFS Office; Head Start; and, a number of privately owned stores and businesses.

School: Berens River School operates kindergarten to grade 9 and belongs with the Frontier School Division. Grade 10 to 12 students must leave the community to further their education. The community also operates an alternative adult education program for adults.

Berens River First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councilor: Chief is Hartley Everett. CFS Portfolio Councillor Steve Berens.

Staff

Director of Services - Jaime Chartrand

Community Supervisor – Laverne Everette

Administrative Assistant – Ernestine Swain

Direct Services Workers - Dora Berens, Mabel Green, Muriel Green

Intake/Family Enhancement Worker – Julianne Sinclair

Supervisors City– Rick Paskaruk, Jamie Chartrand (Acting while position is vacant)

Administrative Assistants – Fiona Keeper, Lindsay Nobess

Direct Services Workers – Tania Guimond, Vanessa Monkman, Jim Urquhart, Mel Baptiste, Karen Thompson, Tricia Garton, Errol Boulanger, Cynthia Eyeshemitan, Kristene Gudmundson



MINO PIMATIZIWIN

Highlights and Events

Berens River has the most number of foster homes of the Southeast First Nations.

The majority of the below events and activities were partnered with various community resources including Chief and Council:

- Community Health Empowerment Support Services (CHESS) Program - SECFS funds this unique year-round community prevention program that sees a Program Coordinator and two Youth Workers who operate out of the Sports Complex Arena, and organize age appropriate activities for the children and youth to keep them busy with fun events and be in a safe environment.
- Various community events and cultural activities throughout the year
- Anishinaabe Ombigjiowsowin (traditional caregiving training) provided
- Two groups participated in the FAST Program that involves six sessions with families who get together and have group discussions and prepare a meal. A graduation ceremony is held for those who complete the program.
- Christmas Dinner for the foster parents and children in care and Winter Carnival for families and children
- Sponsored a hockey team to Southeast Tribal Days; School's Bullying Workshop; Treaty Days including arranging for children in care placed outside the community to attend these events; and, funded 16 children to attend a Bomber game in Winnipeg

City Units

With the high number of city cases and number of workers required to manage the cases, three of the workers are overseen by another Unit Supervisor (Rick Paskaruk) to make cases more manageable. This structure may change in the future.

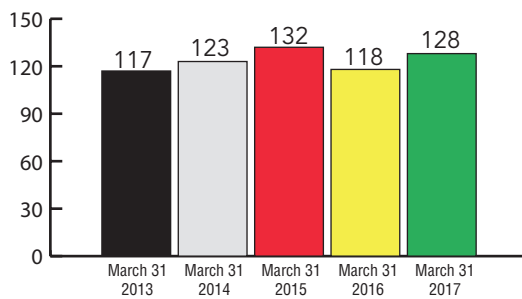
Highlights and Events

- The two units made great effort to maintain regular sibling visits
- City workers visited Berens River First Nation to meet the families of their children in care cases
- Regular team days and unit meetings to increase the communication and support amongst the workers, and share knowledge for improved case planning and to return children to Berens River i.e. new Four Bed Homes opened new child care placement options in Berens River
- The Annual Berens River Family Picnic was held in August with games, crafts, and food. Gently used household and clothing were collected by the staff to donate to the families.

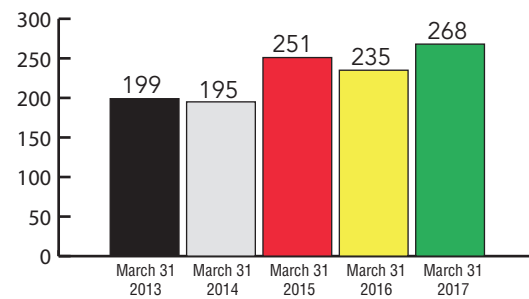
Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Establish and actively participate on a community resource or local child care committee in Berens River
- Train the Family Enhancement Worker to provide more intensive family support services to families in Berens River and transfer more family cases to the Family Enhancement Program
- Increase the number of joint city-community case reviews and team building activities
- Increase participation in community events and activities
- Provide more unit specific training to the staff to enhance their capacity to more effectively serve their children and family cases

Berens River Children in Care



Berens River Family Services



Location: Poplar River is the northern most First Nation of the Southeast communities, being located on the east side of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Poplar River in the heart of Manitoba's Boreal Forest. The community is remote and there is no permanent road access. The main method of transportation is by plane; however, boats may be used in the summer. The winter road is open for a short period of time which allows supplies to be brought in and the members take this opportunity to obtain larger items that can be transported in by vehicle.



Poplar River is strong with its cultural traditions and the language is fluent, and has a rich historical background evidenced by the archeological significance at nearby Weaver Lake. The area has a number of burial sites and ancient drawings or pictographs on the rocks. Community members enjoy the outdoor lifestyle year round with land based activities and camping facilities at Weaver Lake.

Population: Poplar River has an on-reserve population of 1,320 members and 525 off-reserve band members for a total population of 1,845.

Community Services/Businesses: SECFS Office; Band Office; Sagaday Lodge; Airport; Apinonchisiwigamik Group Home; Water Treatment Plant; Nursing Station; Head Start Program; Daycare; Sanitation Service; Northern Store; Elders Lodge; Health Resource Center; Fitness Room; and, a Fishing Station. There are also a number of community owned stores and restaurants.

School: Poplar River First Nation has local control of the school which serves students from kindergarten to grade 9. Students in grades 10 to 12 must go to school outside the community, but Poplar River is scheduled to have its own high school in the near future.

Poplar River First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief is Vera Mitchell. CFS Portfolio Councillor Norway Rabliauskus.

Staff:

A/Director of Services – Jamie Chartrand

A/Community Supervisor - Sherri Hudson

Direct Services Workers – Michelle Scott

Intake/Family Enhancement Worker – contract staff

Administrative Assistant – Mercedes Fisher

City Supervisor - Liz Brass

Direct Services Workers - Debra McLeod, Cara Grapentine, Reina Aviles, Colin Smart, Matthew Zebrasky

Administrative Assistant - Cheyenne Beaudry



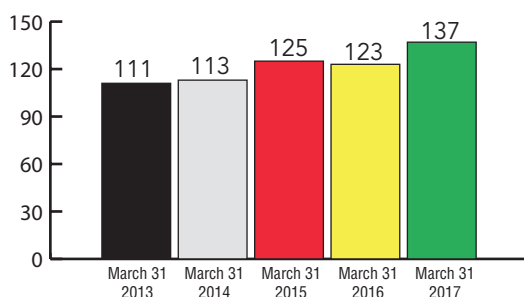
Highlights and Events

- Partnered with Ma Mawi W Chi Itata and the Red Cross during the evacuation. The Agency also provided emergency flights and/or transportation.
- Two full-time Recreation Workers provided prevention services in the community throughout the year, i.e. sporting activities and community family fun events.
- Supported the Youth Gathering and Youth Symposium held at the end of every summer.
- Community Partnered Events including: Sewing and Beading Group; Cooking Class; Mother's Day and Father's Day Feast; Fishing Derby; Easter and Halloween activities; National Native Alcohol Addiction Program events; and, Treaty Days where a number of children in care were flown in to attend.
- Community Christmas Dinner and Activities
- Staff work in collaboration with the group home re child placements.
- On and off-reserve staff participated in training to increase their skills i.e. Street Gang and Drug Awareness training offered by the Winnipeg Police Services, cultural teachings offered by the Agency's Cultural Coordinator.
- City staff attended the community to meet with the families of their children in care cases.
- Staff participated in regular team days and unit meetings to improve communication and learn more about the family and community connections.

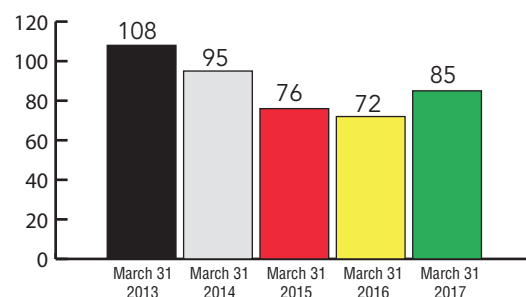
Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Establish a community resource committee in Poplar River
- Develop a family enhancement program that is robust and provides comprehensive services to the families
- More active seeking of family members to be kinship placements to off-reserve children in care
- Hold regular on and off reserve case reviews to increase communication and knowledge of families and issues
- Use Shawenim Abinoojii Co-Parenting Home as a resource to support the family bonds between children in care and their parents, and with their older siblings who are not in care
- Coordinate training programs to staff and community members to increase personal and professional skills and attributes to be better parents and resources to clients

Poplar River Children in Care



Poplar River Family Services



The Age of Majority (AOM) Unit is located at 4th Floor - 360 Broadway.

Staff

Director of Services - Jaime Chartrand

Supervisor - Kyle McClintock

Direct Services Workers - Dorothy Anderson, Dennis Dare, Gayle Parisien, Melanie Boulette, Josephine Bruce, Hernan Biderman

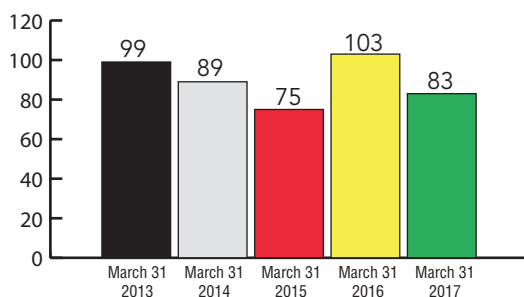
Administrative Assistant - Jasmine Greene

This specialized unit provides transitional services to youth and young adults who are between the ages of 16 and 20 years old. The AOM receive referrals from the Agency's direct services on and off-reserve units. The AOM workers handle between 20 and 25 cases to allow the workers more individual time with the youth, enabling the worker to wrap around as many resources and supports as possible to transition the youth out of care and have long-term positive outcomes. Presently, the AOM Unit has a wait list of 85 cases.

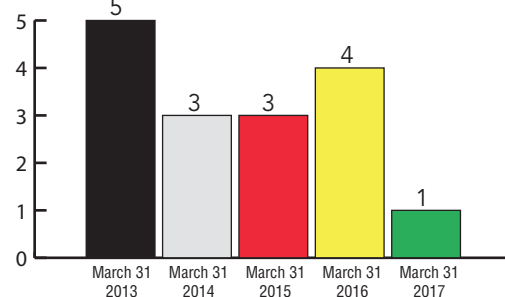
When transitioning the youth out of care, it is important to bear in mind the cognitive functioning of the youth and their individual strengths and weaknesses. This involves comprehensive assessments in order to find the best possible resources for the young person. Out of care services may include independent living or community assisted living for adults, all of which requires the planning and completion of assessments, applications, and collaborating with the community resources to meet the stringent criteria and deadlines for these processes.



Age of Majority Children in Care



Age of Majority Family Services



Highlights and Events

- Twenty-nine youth successfully transitioned out of Agency care
- All AOM staff attended training and workshops to enhance their knowledge and capacity to better support the youth at times of crisis, transition out of care, and wrap around services to support their well-being. Workshops included: Preparing Youth for Successful Adulthood; Working with At Risk Youth; Street Gangs and Drugs; Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training; Substance Abuse and Mental Health; Supporting Healthy Choices for Youth with FASD.
- Organized a Resource Symposium in June which saw the bringing of the resources to the youth, and creating an opportunity for foster parents and social workers to network with the community resources.
- Developed a community resource booklet for youth so they know what is available to them in the community. This resource book is given to every youth who ages out of the unit.
- An art show was organized in December, where several youths were able to display their art and profit from the sales of their work.
- Cultural retreats for young males between the ages of 16-20 were organized from November 2016 to February 2017. This group named Zongiigabowen "Standing Together" continues to meet on a regular basis under the Agency's Cultural Program.
- The young men participated in sharing circles, sweats, pipe, water and naming ceremonies, plus they have received cold-water immersion training, where they learned how to survive a fall through the ice and/or how to help someone who has fallen through the ice. Additionally, the young men received teachings from elders and women which stressed respect for others, especially women, children, and elders.
- Established a partnership with Knowles Centre's Supported Adolescent Independent Living (SAIL) Program which resulted with 17 apartments to be reserved for the use of youth from SECFS. This program provides the opportunity for the youth aging out of care to learn how to successfully live independently to prevent future homelessness.

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Assist and support the reunification and repatriation of our youth to their families and home communities wherever possible.
- Develop further training for youth to improve their employability and overall life skills.
- Host another resource symposium for the youth to gain more information about the community services available to them.
- Organize regular art shows for the youth for ongoing opportunities to display and profit from their creations, and develop their skills and self-esteem.
- Promote youth led sharing circles where youth can meet to share and learn from each other, and create their own peer support groups.



The Family Enhancement Program staff are situated at the 1410 Mountain Avenue office in Winnipeg.

The Family Enhancement approach is aimed to increase services to First Nation children and families both on and off-reserve. Family Enhancement is to be utilized to detect problems before they impair the health and development of families and children. This promotes the health and well-being of individuals and the family unit while strengthening partnerships with other community service providers. This enables child welfare to establish first-line services that serve as a preventive tool, encouraging the use of the least disruptive measures to help children stay in their home or community (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, June 2014).

Staff

Director of Services - Stanford Boulanger

Supervisor - Rick Paskaruk

Family Enhancement Worker - Gail Roach-Leforte

Administrative Assistant – Lindsay Nobess

Services

The SECFS Family Enhancement Program was established to keep children and their families safe, together, and healthy by connecting the families with community support resources while working closely with the families. At this time, the Agency has only one dedicated Family Enhancement Worker for the off-reserve families. The on-reserve FE Workers report to their respective Community Supervisor and work specifically with their community's families.

The Agency continues to establish partnerships within the communities it serves, including in the City of Winnipeg and other off-reserve towns or rural areas, with the intent to create strong networks and supports around our family cases so as to provide a wrap-around service that will promote a circle of care approach with the parents and their children. The Agency remains committed to reunify children with parents whenever and wherever possible and, ultimately, to keep families healthy and intact.



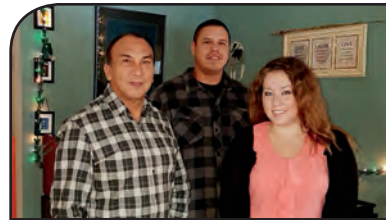
For Our Children, Our Families, And Our Future

Staff

Community Development Liaison - Frank Abraham

Assistant – Jessica Haugerud

Assistant – Eldon Chief



The Community Liaison Department is responsible for the planning, ordering, and transport of materials, supplies, and equipment to the Agency's offices and related facilities in the eight First Nations and in the City of Winnipeg. The staff are also to ensure all Agency vehicles, boats, ATVs, skidoos, etc. are serviced and in good mechanical order for the Agency use. Timing is everything, and planning throughout the year occurs to be able to meet the tight deadlines of transporting the goods over the short winter road season to the remote communities.

This year the staff undertook to document inventory for each community; however, keeping current inventory remains a challenge due to the high staff turnover in some communities, availability of community staff to assist in this process, and the historical mixing of SECFS and Shawenin Abinoojii assets and inventory. Although, one community SECFS office staff took the initiative to separate Agency and Shawenim supplies, and continues to maintain a record of the movement of supplies.

Last year saw a short season for the winter road, and the staff worked around the clock during this period to ensure the remote communities' shipments made it to its destinations. One unforeseen challenge that occurred was the need for the Agency to transport its own fuel to the Circling Thunderbird Centre, as the regular supplier did not have the time to do so this year. The staff was unaware of the provincial regulations pertaining to hauling dangerous goods, but learned that if the proper containers were used then the amount of fuel hauled was fine. The staff are now certified to handle and transport dangerous goods after taking the training on hauling dangerous goods.

The Department purchased two new vehicles to replace existing ones, and a boat for Pauingassi which will be delivered once the winter road is opened. An assessment of the community vehicles will be undertaken to ensure that if a new vehicle is needed, or services to existing vehicles are required, that all of this happens during the winter road season, at least for the remote communities.

The Department is also responsible to communicate with Agency staff to prioritize building repairs to maintain safe working and living environments. This year saw major repairs to the Pauingassi staff unit during the summer months.

This Department had to adjust to the loss of a staff position, and had to re-allocate the work amongst the existing staff in order to maintain the same level of service as had been provided in the past. Another challenge remains with dealing with the coordination of ordering and transporting Shawenin Abinoojii supplies and materials, and maintaining separate inventory lists and responsibilities for vehicles and buildings.

The Community Development staff are pleased that the Berens River is now road accessible year-round because there is no longer the reliance on the limited winter road season to bring in supplies, and enjoys the opportunities with providing the cultural items i.e. Agency's teepees, to Agency and Agency partners' events.



The Agency would like to acknowledge the hard working and committed staff in our File Rooms at our 1410 Mountain and 360 Broadway offices. Their organizational skills and dedication to maintaining the child and family files is appreciated and the Agency would not run the same without them.

Staff

1410 Mountain Ave Clerks - Matthew Bouchey, Heddy Paquet

360 Broadway Clerk – Shirley Vandale

A big thanks to our receptionists for the patience, politeness, and courteous service to staff and guests.

1410 Mountain Ave Receptionist - Naomi Swain

360 Broadway Receptionist - Janelle Lister

Casual Receptionist – Tina Whitford

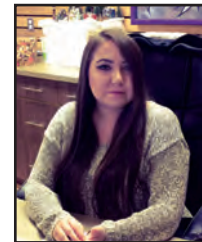
The Senior Management is also indebted to the Management Assistants for their dedication and hard work.


Management Assistants - Lindsay Courchene, Cindy Desjarlais, Kristen Cook (maternity leave)

The SECFS Headquarters Office located in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation also wants to acknowledge the support staff (who have dual roles with the Community Development Department) who help the headquarters office run smoothly.


Administrative Assistant – Jessica Haugerud

Maintenance – Eldon (Fred) Chief






Annual Staff Gathering at Christmas



Foster Parent and Children Christmas Event at Indian Friendship Centre in Winnipeg




Foster Parent and Children Christmas Event at Indian Friendship Centre in Selkirk



Community Christmas Event at Berens River First Nation



Community Christmas Event at Poplar River First Nation



High School Graduation Ceremony

Male Youth Group Trip to British Columbia

Male Youth Drum Group

Female Youth Group at Camp

Berens River City Family Picnic



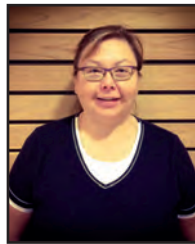

The following pictures highlights a number of fun and important events the Southeast Child and Family Services staff, children and youth in care, families, and community members participated in.



Southeast Child and Family Services wishes to recognize our valuable and committed long-term staff who have been with the Agency 20+ years.



Matthew Bouchey
Records Coordinator
Files Room Department
20 Years



Jackie Larcoque
Director of Alternative Care
Alternative Care Department
30 Years



Genevieve Bruce
Senior Child Abuse Investigator
Child Abuse Unit
33 Years



Mabel Green
Direct Services Worker
Berens River Community Unit
21 Years



Keri Beaudry
Travel Clerk
Finance Department
20 Years



Glory Lister
Director of Services
Direct Services Department
24 Years



Sandra Lagimodiere
Director of Services
Direct Services Department
26 Years



Claudette Vandale
Billings Administrator
Finance Department
25 Years



Congratulations to Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS), Board of Directors and organization staff as they host another annual general meeting. Reporting to the community at large is important to maintain accountability, engage partners and to report accomplishments made each year. The mandate to protect and support families is an essential and challenging role as communities strive for healing, the well-being of the family unit and a prosperous community. We are all working together in common areas towards the overall success and improvement of lives of families and children as our collective missions. The partnership between SECFS, First Nation leadership and Shawenim Abinoojii (SAI) is an effective and innovative approach that is investing and keeping children in their home communities. In addition, the SAI model creates local employment, cultural retention and community infrastructure. As a partner and stakeholder in the overall well-being of children and their families SAI is pleased to share information, progress, challenges and strategies.



Shawenim Abinoojii (SAI) is a growing non-profit indigenous organization that is considered a third party resource working in the area of children, family and community resources. SAI provides essential services including; specialised foster home placements, family enhancement supports, support worker programs and resources for youth in CFS care. SAI is an independently operated organization currently governed by a board of directors who are members of the SERDC communities, current priorities for SAI include strategies in the areas of:

- Governance;
- Operations and Finance;
- Programming;
- Communications and Partnerships; and
- Organizational Development.

SAI currently employs 17 full time staff and over 150 support staff working within Winnipeg and 6 First Nations communities in the Southeast Region (Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River). 3 SAI Programs include:

- Community Specialized Home Program;
- Therapeutic Foster Care Program; and
- City Support Worker Program.



The Community Specialized Homes Program provides placements for children ages 0 to 12 within their home communities. SAI operates 32 homes in 6 First Nations communities throughout the Southeast Region:

- Berens River – 6 homes;
- Black River – 1 home;
- Bloodvein – 5 homes;
- Little Grand Rapids – 10 homes;
- Pauingassi - 8 homes; and
- Poplar River – 3 homes.



SAI aims to recruit members of the Southeast First Nations communities to fill the roles of Specialized and Therapeutic Foster Parents. Each home provides service and employment opportunities for house/foster parents, support/respite workers, maintenance and community coordinators. Each position works in cooperation to support the well-being of the children, community connections and the effective operation of the home. SAI offers training and program structure according to program guidelines, human resource policies and community priorities. The Specialized Home Program supports approximately 120 children in their First Nation community.

The Therapeutic Foster Care Program (TFC) provided placements for youth from 12 to 17 years of age. Youth referred to this program have experienced trauma with adverse implications, resulting in considerably higher needs and chronic placement breakdown. Currently SAI has 15 TFC homes with 5 rural and 10 in Winnipeg (7 male youth homes, 6 female youth homes, one reunification home and a 90-day Placement home). The TFC program currently supports 54 youth.

The City Support Worker Program's goal is to provide coordinated and comprehensive on and off-reserve support services to First Nation children, youth and families on behalf of Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS). Comprehensive services offer advocacy, respite, mentoring, family enhancement, emotional, and practical support to the child and families. The program is designed to promote a continuity of care for children and families which vary in service delivery. The support worker may fulfil creative roles needed to support a child in care or a family in need of intervention of support. The Support Worker Program strives to hire qualified First Nations individuals to deliver support services.

In 2015/2016, SAI proposed enhanced rates for currently operated on-reserve specialized homes and urban therapeutic homes. SAI needed added resources for inadequately funded areas including; transportation, rent, training, cultural programming, family enhancements, coordination and administration. In February 2017, SAI received approval from the Province of Manitoba and INAC for standardized rates for the operation of remote on-reserve homes, rural on-reserve homes and urban homes. The recognition SAI received was the result in part from the advocacy by the Southern First Nation Network of Care and the Southeast Child and Family Services. The



greatest factor however was the overwhelming need for resources to help children and families impacted by child welfare in the Southeast Region. The "SAI model" is precedent setting and now may help other First Nations communities with capacity building and keeping children home.

With added resources, SAI is investing in areas that will provide immediate impact and long-term stability and improved services for children in care. In 2017, SAI purchased one rural home that will address the need of stability and safety for four male youth in care, this new property will provide a place for security, land based cultural activities and education. In addition, SAI purchased two homes within City of Winnipeg; both will be used to provide long-term placement for larger sibling groups who were at risk of being separated. These homes support family contact and provide a consistently stable environment. Currently SAI is in the process of purchasing a multi-family home for family visits as an alternative to hotel. This space will support family bonding and provide a valuable resource that respects the needs of families.

The SAI is continuously presented with the need to expand resources to address the growing and complex needs of children in care and their families, a particular area of growing need is for youth nearing age of majority and youth ages 18 and older. Most often, youth are unprepared and without adequate supports for independence, returning to family and community is rarely an option. To address this need, SAI has developed the "Memengoo" Program, this program will offer three supports to youth in care:

1. Life Skills programming and mentorship for youth ages 13-17;
2. Supported living environment with continuous care for youth ages 18-21; and
3. Supported independent living environment with coordinated care for youth ages 18-25.

The Memengoo Program has been presented for support and funding consideration to the Southern First Nation Network of Care, Province of Manitoba and INAC. SAI is optimistic this needed resource will receive support!

For more information, updates and employment information please visit our new web-site at <http://shawenim-abinoojii.ca>

Shawenim Abinoojii shares the sacred duty to love, protect and nurture the children in its care by meeting the needs of First Nation children and their families.

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Southeast Child and Family Services:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Southeast Child and Family Services, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations, net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Southeast Child and Family Services as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations, net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

September 6, 2017

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants



Southeast Child and Family Services
Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current		
Cash (Note 3)	4,726,435	4,147,853
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	9,590,829	8,597,578
Prepaid expenses and deposits	136,379	173,742
	14,453,643	12,919,173
Capital assets (Note 5)	3,488,106	3,798,825
Advances to related party (Note 6)	665,864	984,862
	18,607,613	17,702,660
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 7)	3,028,264	2,178,863
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	91,403	83,963
Current portion of provincial child tax benefit payable (Note 9)	541,633	541,633
Working capital advance (Note 10)	2,263,400	2,263,400
	5,924,700	5,067,859
Long-term debt (Note 8)	190,421	281,647
Provincial child tax benefit payable (Note 9)	4,933,732	5,475,365
	11,048,853	10,824,871
Contingencies (Note 15)		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted pre April 1, 2012	-	15,597
Federal Core	1,397,403	2,544,396
Federal Family Enhancement	7,876,259	6,438,784
Federal Child Protection Services	(13,753,796)	(11,923,352)
Federal Child Maintenance	874,110	698,240
Provincial Core	(4,779,595)	(3,540,062)
Provincial Family Enhancement	1,164,532	1,387,319
Provincial Child Protection Services	3,878,738	2,988,920
Provincial Child Maintenance	1,591,230	1,269,983
Children's special allowance and other	9,309,879	6,997,964
	7,558,760	6,877,789
	18,607,613	17,702,660

Approved on behalf of the Board




The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Southeast Child and Family Services

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017 Budget	2017	2016
Revenue			
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)			
Operations - Federal Core (Schedule 1)	3,392,534	664,012	2,331,534
Federal Family Enhancement (Schedule 2)	2,371,876	2,653,051	2,371,876
Operations - Federal Child Protection Services (Schedule 3)	2,841,558	5,645,080	3,788,744
Federal Child Maintenance (Schedule 4)	16,200,000	19,986,156	17,641,097
	24,805,968	28,948,299	26,133,251
Southern First Nations Network of Care			
Operations - Provincial Core (Schedule 5)	731,816	726,973	731,316
Provincial Family Enhancement (Schedule 6)	830,846	799,793	830,846
Operations - Provincial Child Protection Services (Schedule 7)	5,222,896	5,631,349	5,222,896
	6,785,558	7,158,115	6,785,058
Province of Manitoba - Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8)	23,000,000	24,792,807	22,386,674
Gain on disposal of capital assets (Schedule 9)	-	-	10,248
Other revenue (Schedule 9)	75,000	225,432	167,576
	23,075,000	25,018,239	22,564,498
	54,666,526	61,124,653	55,482,807
Expenses			
Schedule of Federal Core (Schedule 1)	1,291,217	1,817,244	1,735,664
Schedule of Federal Family Enhancement (Schedule 2)	1,178,966	1,215,576	1,155,353
Schedule of Federal Child Protection Services (Schedule 3)	7,724,590	7,475,524	7,327,748
Schedule of Federal Child Maintenance (Schedule 4)	16,200,000	19,810,286	17,449,930
Schedule of Provincial Core (Schedule 5)	1,936,825	1,975,864	1,853,498
Schedule of Provincial Family Enhancement (Schedule 6)	427,377	1,022,580	564,919
Schedule of Provincial Child Protection Services (Schedule 7)	5,244,086	4,741,531	4,627,384
Schedule of Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8)	22,250,000	24,471,560	22,085,112
	56,253,061	62,530,165	56,799,608
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before other items	(1,586,535)	(1,405,512)	(1,316,801)
Other items			
Children's Special Allowance revenue - Federal (Schedule 9)	2,000,000	2,197,246	1,931,471
Schedule of Children Special Allowance & Other expenses (Schedule 9)	-	(110,763)	(60,821)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	413,465	680,971	553,849

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



Southeast Child and Family Services
Statement of Net Assets
For the year ended March 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Federal Core	Federal Family Enhancement	Federal Child Protection Services	Federal Child Maintenance	Provincial Core
Net assets, beginning of year	15,597	2,544,396	6,438,784	(11,923,352)	698,240	(3,540,062)
Transfers	(15,597)	6,239	-	-	-	9,358
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	(1,153,232)	1,437,475	(1,830,444)	175,870	(1,248,891)
Net assets, end of year	-	1,397,403	7,876,259	(13,753,796)	874,110	(4,779,595)
	Provincial Family Enhancement	Provincial Child Protection Services	Provincial Child Maintenance	Children's Special Allowance and Other	2017	2016
Net assets, beginning of year	1,387,319	2,988,920	1,269,983	6,997,964	6,877,789	6,323,940
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(222,787)	889,818	321,247	2,311,915	680,971	553,849
Net assets, end of year	1,164,532	3,878,738	1,591,230	9,309,879	7,558,760	6,877,789

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

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Southeast Child and Family Services
Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating		
Cash receipts from grants	61,763,509	58,582,481
Cash paid for program service expenses	(49,336,449)	(45,713,058)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(11,524,533)	(11,047,944)
	902,527	1,821,479
Financing		
Advances to related party	(181,202)	(46,603)
Advances of long-term debt	-	88,541
Repayment of long-term debt	(83,786)	(63,191)
	(264,988)	(21,253)
Investing		
Purchase of capital assets	(58,957)	(193,433)
Proceeds on disposal of capital assets	-	10,248
	(58,957)	(183,185)
Increase in cash resources	578,582	1,617,041
Cash resources, beginning of year	4,147,853	2,530,812
Cash resources, end of year	4,726,435	4,147,853

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

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Southeast Child and Family Offices

For Our Children, Our Families, And Our Future

