SOUTHEAST CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES Annual Report 2017-2018





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ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Message From The Board Chairperson



Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of Southeast Child and Family Services. I am honoured to have the opportunity of being the Chairperson for the SECFS Board, and to share my message with the children, youth, families, staff, leadership, and community members of the Southeast First Nations.

There have been many challenges and obstacles that we have faced to unite our families. These challenges have been met with great courage, strength and wisdom from our children, parents, and staff at the communities.

With the resources we have within ourselves I believe there is no challenge we cannot overcome. In the scope of the big picture this may seem like a monumental task. That being said, I am encouraged by the fact that we have many success stories that show the perseverance and resilience of our people which demonstrates that there is nothing we cannot overcome if we work together.

We have always been a people that have faced immense challenges and today's society shows it was no different for our previous generations. I think here of poverty, intergenerational trauma, addictions, as well as domestic and lateral violence just to name a few. These challenges are similar to what has been experienced in the past, but they are currently expressed in many different forms than they were in as little as a few years ago. In light of this, it pleases me to see hope and strength in our youth as they teach us how to recognize, adapt, and overcome these challenges together. The wisdom, insight and fortitude that our young people have manifests itself in great optimism for their future.

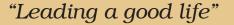
I want to acknowledge my fellow Board members who have continued to share their wisdom, ideas, and experience with a mind to helping make our Agency a better place for our children, staff, and communities. My colleagues on the Board are steadfast in their commitment to make our communities a better place for our children whether it be through policies, ideas, programs, creative initiatives, or even just by listening. My fellow Board members are an integral part of the Agency, and I want to thank them for their commitment.

As a final message to the children, youth, and families served by SECFS, I want to assure you that we are doing our best to have our children returned home, our families reunited, and to do our part to make our communities a better place to live and raise our children. We cannot do this alone, and that is why we will continue to work with the children, youth, parents and community leadership....TOGETHER!

Meegwetch.







Board of Directors



IAN BUSHIE *"White Eagle Coming"* is the Board Representative for Hollow Water First Nation and is the current Chairperson of the SECFS Board of Directors.

Ian was born and raised in Hollow Water First Nation and is the proud father of six children. Ian has chosen to live and raise his children in their home community. He has spent his adult life and career serving his First Nation and other communities through interagency

advocacy, building grassroots relationships, and through various forms of community development. Ian has served in public office as a Chief and a Councillor for the Hollow Water First Nation, and he is a 20+ year business owner of Grandpa Georges Convenience store. Having served many years in office and community development, Ian understands the full value – as well as the struggles – of our First Nation communities.

As a strong voice for First Nation people, lan embodies a wealth of experience. With his strong belief in our people, he understands, acknowledges and is committed to the perseverance that is required to create a holistically healthy future for our First Nation children, our families and our communities.



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 former Councillor.

Clifford is the father of 2 sons, has 6 siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews. He is an avid golfer.

Vacant

Little Grand Rapids Board Member



LISA YOUNG is the Board Representative for Bloodvein River First Nation and is the Vice-Chairperson of the SECFS Board of Directors. Her spirit name is *Watching Wolf* (*O'kanawaapungay Ma'iigan*) and she is a member of the Sturgeon Clan (Namay dotem).

Lisa was born and raised on the Bloodvein First Nation with her parents, Frank and Ellen, and two siblings, Cindy and Frank Jr. Lisa understands the importance of family as she

comes from a large extended family and is the proud mother of four children. She believes that family provides love, security, stability, safety, and a sense of belonging.

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

Lisa is currently completing her Master's Degree in Indigenous Governance, and is appreciative to be still be involved with SECFS in a governance capacity.



CARRIE SWAIN is the Board Representative for Berens River First Nation.

Carrie is the Board's Secretary-Treasurer. She holds her Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University of Manitoba, and is a former employee of SECFS where she held various positions throughout her 25+ years there.

Carrie was involved in the Local Child Care Committee and Regional Child Care

Committee at the beginning stages of the Agency in the 1980s.

Carrie has extensive child welfare experience, and despite the many hardships involved she continues to participate for the best interest of the children and families.

Carrie comes from a family of 12, has 5 children of her own (one of which has passed) as well as 7 grandchildren.



Board of Directors



HAZEL KENT is the Board Representative for the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation since March 2017.

Hazel resides on the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, where she grew up in a large extended family. Hazel has worked in the health and human services and child and family services fields in Manitoba and British Columbia for the past 32+ years, starting in 1982 as a frontline worker with the SECFS

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation unit. Hazel has sat on a number of Boards in Manitoba and British Columbia as part of her ongoing commitment to create and deliver excellence in services for Aboriginal peoples.

Hazel is committed to community development, cultural and traditional practices, and passing those best practices and good work ethics on to the younger generation.



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

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

Mabel was a NNADAP (National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program) worker with Black River and a Social Worker with SECFS for over 25 years. She started her career with SECFS as a support worker, then moved on to be a frontline worker, and retired as a supervisor.

Mabel graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Manitoba in May 2008. She sat on the local school committee, and currently sits on the local Elders' Committee and attends the local childcare committee meetings.

Vacant

Pauinqassi Board Member





A Message from the Executive Director



keeping with Mino Pimatiziwin (leading a good life), Southeast Child and Family Services continues to challenge itself to do better for the children and families we serve. I trust our Annual Report will capture the successes we have experienced, the positive changes we are making, and report on the challenges we continue to encounter with being able to return more children home and keeping families intact under the current child welfare system.

This is our fourth Annual Report where I have the opportunity

to recognize the hard work, support, and commitment of individuals and groups who are involved with the Agency. While I will be providing some of the highlights and challenges of the past year, the senior management team has provided their own reports of their respective areas of oversight. I trust these collective efforts will provide you with the information of how the Agency is serving our members and communities, and we continue to want to hear from you on what we can be doing better.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I thank the Chiefs and Councils for their ongoing support to the Agency. Child welfare is not a popular system, and we respect the Chiefs and Councils for supporting the Agency by working in partnership with the Agency. The partnerships have seen increased community resources and programming for families. The leadership has been trusting of the governing entity – the Board of Directors – to oversee the Agency and are confident the communities' best interests are promoted and protected through their respective Board Representative.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for their enduring support and commitment to be the best they can be. They are always willing and able to participate in training to better fulfill their role as the Board of Directors for the Agency. Currently there are two vacancies which we plan to see filled so that we have each of the eight First Nations represented.

I want to recognize the senior management team for their tireless energy and for accepting their increased responsibilities. Jaime Chartrand recently joined the senior management team on a permanent basis. She was initially seconded from her supervisor position, and now oversees the Bloodvein units, Age of Majority unit, and jointly oversees the Alternate Care Department with Jackie Larocque. This year also saw Vesna Maroti assume the role of Director of Finance. Vesna has been with the Agency for over 10 years and is very knowledgeable of the Agency's financial situation, its vision and goals, and the direction the Agency wishes to pursue. In January we will have a new Director of Human Resources joining our team.

Thank you to the staff of SECFS. There are many staff members who go the "extra mile" and do what they can to be a support and advocate for the children, youth, or families they work with. The Agency continues to make efforts to keep the staff healthy and provide a positive workplace so that they, in turn, will be able to be healthy role models for their clients.

We need to acknowledge the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre for their continued commitment to be a valuable resource to our Agency. Ma Mawi provided on-site activities for the Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations members while they were relocated to Winnipeg hotels during the fire evacuation in the summer. Ma Mawi continues to step in when we need support worker services for Agency activities, events including the youth gathering, during high family visit periods, and for programming for our children, youth, and parents. A special thanks to Jackie Anderson at Ma Mawi for helping to facilitate and meet our Agency needs when we ask for their help.

The Agency is grateful to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs First Nation Family Advocate Office staff who have been working with our staff to assess cases where children or youth can return home. The AMC graciously increased the number of their Family Advocate Office staff from two to four workers who are situated at our Mountain Avenue office so that they are accessible to our staff. Their efforts have seen children and youth returning home with a support system in place for the families' after-care needs. The AMC staff have been instrumental with preventing birth apprehensions. And, we appreciate their interest with travelling to our communities to know first-hand the locale, community resources, our community staff, and the people.

We thank the Southern Chiefs Organization Grand Chief Jerry Daniels and Child and Family Services Liaison Natalie Daniels who have been supportive to our Agency. We appreciate their commitment to advocate that the child welfare system changes need to be reflective of the needs of the children and families, rather than the fiscal constraints of the Province.

Shawenim Abinoojii Incorporated (SAI) continues to enhance the Agency's ability to meet the needs of the children, families, and communities. More four bed homes continue to be built in partnership with the eight First Nations, and this means more children are able to remain in their home community, be raised by extended family or community members, and community members are increasing their capacity to learn how to raise



A Message from the Executive Director

children in a more traditional way. Shawenim Abinoojii supports the communities to raise their own children in line with the saying "it takes a community to raise a child". Shawenim Abinoojii has also been providing support services for the Agency to utilize, while also giving priority to community members for employment opportunities, and creating services and programs that the Agency requires for our children, youth, and families. This is important as there continues to be a shortage of suitable placements for at-risk youth, and Shawenim Abinoojii has created placements on an as-needed basis.

The Southern First Nations Network of Care continues to be helpful with guiding the Agency to maneuver the changes happening with the governments. Chief Executive Officer Tara Petti's support for SECFS and all southern agencies is appreciated. The Southern First Nation Child and Family Services Agencies' Executive Directors have been a great support to me, and to one another. We try to keep one another apprised of changes, help each other with sharing of information i.e. policies, cases, share best practices, and provide moral support when we are in need.

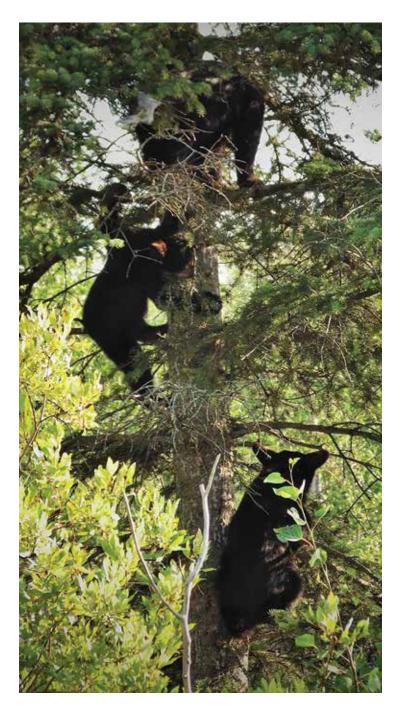
A special thanks to our Strong Spirit Wind Singers who have become a fixture at our Agency events. These young men continue to meet every week to continue their learning of drum etiquette and new songs.

Thanks to Peter Berens for his ongoing assistance in ensuring that this Annual Report is completed on time. All year Peter is bringing forth ideas for the Annual Report, and he was encouraged to be creative with this year's report. He did a great job again this year.

Finally, it is an honour to serve the children and youth who we care for, plus the families who access our services. We will continue to do our best to meet your needs and provide opportunities for your well-being and safety.

Meegwetch.

Rhonda Kelly Giizhaybowsekwe (kind walking bear) Piizhoo Dotem (lynx clan)





Agency Update

Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS) is the largest First Nation Child Welfare Agency in Canada, with 1,404 children in care plus 102 young adults (ages 18-20) receiving extension of care services, and 527 families receiving services at March 31, 2018. While the number of children in care remains disproportionately high in relation to the member population ratio, the numbers are indicative of the social issues that impact our communities and our members.

As you read this Annual Report, you will note that the statistics and financials speak to the fiscal year period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, while the reports on activities and other Agency matters refer to the calendar year January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. This is done intentionally for consistency with our previous Annual Reports and to provide a clear comparison of our statistics and audits.

The theme of this report and the approach of the Agency is all about collaboration, relationships, and partnerships. Successful service delivery to our children in care and families requires a connection or a wrap around of services for our children, youth, and families. As such, SECFS is doing the same – that is, connecting and partnering with resources and communities to work together as effectively and respectfully as we can to support our children, youth, and families to be safer, healthier, and happier.

Challenges

Poverty, lack of housing, addictions, and intergenerational trauma continues to challenge the Agency with reducing the number of children in care. The Agency's priority is to reunify children back home, and to prevent children being taken into care. While we celebrate the fact that children continue to be returned home, we also recognize that family breakdowns or addictions result in new children coming into care, which then impacts our numbers and perceived progress being made by the Agency. As a result, we continue to collaborate with our communities and community resources, both on and off-reserve, to implement more intensive preventative and interventive services to support our families in remaining intact.

While the numbers of children, youth and families receiving services is high, the Agency continues to expand the number of kinship placements and placements in the expanding numbers of Shawenim Abinoojii placement homes. This means less strangerbased foster homes, with the added benefit that many of these caregivers will become customary care caregivers. Family members will be supported to raise their extended family member children with the financial support they need. Currently, children need to be in care for this to happen. An analysis of the placements of the children who are in care show that more family and community members are stepping up to keep the children placed with extended family or community members. And, more would do so if the foster parent licensing requirements were less stringent as the housing and overcrowding creates barriers for children to be returned home.

We anticipate that when the Province of Manitoba implements its customary care and subsidized guardianship that the number of "children in care" count will be reduced by 50% for the sole reason that the existing family or community care providers who are providing care, will transition to be customary care homes or apply to be subsidized guardians. Poverty and lack of housing continues to be a barrier for family members to step in to care for an extended family member without the financial support of the child welfare system. While the proposed customary care is anticipated to reduce the number of children counted as being in care, the Province has not showed any intent to provide the Agencies or communities with the necessary funding to implement customary care in a meaningful way. The Agency remains concerned about the non-family or stranger-based foster parents who may apply to be subsidized guardians and whose requests will be granted, even where the Agency opposes the application.

The Province of Manitoba released the "Transforming Child Welfare Legislation in Manitoba" report in September 2018. The Agency continues to be wary of the proposed subsidized guardianship and child maintenance block funding that is expected to be imposed. The Agency will also prepare to adapt its services so that the benefits to our communities are attained, and the potential harms are minimized when and if these changes happen.

The Province has recently sent out correspondence notifying agencies that there is a freeze on foster parent rates and that the criteria for the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA), formerly Extensions of Care (EOC) are being restricted. These are indirect block funding measures relating to child maintenance. This is very concerning for our Agency as it appears the Province is imposing restrictions for our young adults. It remains our firm conviction that our young adults, upon turning 18 may still need support by way of the Agency's services. The Province's recent announcement





Agency Update

suggests that our young adults may be denied those services unless certain conditions are met. This goes against our Agency's intent to continue to care for our young people until they reach 21 years. In fact, we had hoped the Province was going to consider extending the age to 25 years for provision of care services. Instead, we now fear our young people will be left without a support system in place.

Opportunities

SECFS has been working with the federal government to determine retroactive amounts owing to the Agency so as to be in compliance with the 2016 Canadian Human Rights ruling. These retroactive amounts will help rectify for deficits that have occurred due to the years of under-funding the Agency. We have submitted our findings that would see the federal government fund at actual costs for: prevention or least disruptive measures; legal fees; intake and investigation; and, building repairs. SECFS has been working with the federal government to set the funding at a more level playing field especially in the area of prevention.

The federal government has also promised to overhaul the child welfare system through legislation as it impacts the First Nation, Inuit, and Metis children and families. The process has already started for the consultation process to see the First Nations have their inherent right for control over the children and families restored, thereby replacing the current provincial responsibility. SECFS is excited to be involved in this major transformation of a system that has not worked for our people.

SECFS continues to work together with the federal government through the program known as Jordan's Principle. These efforts have been instrumental in offering First Nations peoples the services that are needed to help keep children in their home communities, and to provide the supportive resources that, in the past, were not available. In some cases, children were placed in care by their families in order for the child to receive the medical or educational support services they needed, which only existed outside of their community. Jordan's Principle is helping to keep children with their families and remain in their communities, an important effort that we will continue to support and work with.

SECFS has continued the practice of community determination for use of the Agency's prevention funds. Each community unit consults with their respective community leadership and community resources to determine priority use for the prevention funds. Some communities have identified that additional staff are needed to work with the families in our communities, while others may determine that a cultural worker or youth recreational worker would benefit their community. By way of example, healthy living programs and services are common initiatives utilizing these funds. In the end, the intent is for each community to be empowered to assess and determine what their specific needs are and to allocate the best use of their prevention funds and we will continue to support each community with those efforts.

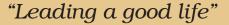
Accomplishments

This year we held our fourth high school graduation event for our youth in care. It was an exciting event where we profiled and honoured the graduates with a star blanket and a gift in addition to offering a fun night with entertainment. We had 28 proud graduates, and it is our goal to see an increased number in the years to come. Our staff are encouraged to support our children and youth with succeeding in their education plans, in part by assisting them in taking advantage of the University and College tuition waiver plans that are available for current and former children in care.

The Cultural Therapy and Land Based Education Department organized the Agency's first youth gathering. Ninety-five (95) youth attended, as did a few Elders, cultural carriers from the communities, and a number of motivational Indigenous speakers. We were appreciative of the commitment and excitement the participating youth exhibited. Presentations included topics such as healthy living and career choices, accompanied with interactive learning forums, and fun events for the youths' participation. The intent of the youth gathering was to increase the number of youth involved with the Agency's cultural programming, to increase their sense of belonging and knowledge of their identity, to expand their peer support systems, and just to promote them getting to know one another. The Agency is committed to increasing the children and youth in care to know their extended family members, community members, and other children and youth who are in care so that they have a social support system while they are in care. Our goal is that this support system continues when they leave care, along with the knowledge of having the available educational, health, employment, and social safety net resources.

In response to the increasing number of youth and adults dealing with alcohol and substance abuse addictions, the Agency developed





Agency Update

an addictions resource guide for our staff use. The guide includes a listing of profiles of private and public counselling and treatment centres found in and external to our Province. Our resource guide also contains application forms, gender and age criteria, and addiction-specific information. The Jordan's Principle Program has been helpful with funding our 17 to 21 year old youth and young adults to attend the Aurora Treatment Centre. This addiction treatment centre has been helpful with dealing with young adults in crisis to seek immediate attention, whereas in the past, one would have waited weeks to enter treatment. We have also sent a few parents to Aurora Treatment Centre to prevent their children from entering or remaining in care.

Upcoming

The SECFS Family Healing and Wellness Centre will be established at what is currently known as the Circling Thunderbird Centre site across from the Little Grand Rapids First Nation. Community engagement sessions are being planned for the eight First Nations served by SECFS for early 2019, so we can hear what the community members want to see in terms of a Centre that is intended for them. Policies, procedures, criteria, and the intake process are currently in draft form and revisions will occur as we learn more from the families and communities and what they desire. Preliminary plans include the Centre alternating between holding sessions for reunification of children who have been in care and can be returned to their family, and families who are in need of intervention and support to prevent family breakdown. Also, we plan to implement various training sessions for the Centre's staff so that they have the capacity to meet the needs of the clients, including the after care. We are eager to see this Healing and Wellness Centre come to fruition.

Our Cultural Therapy and Land Based Education (i.e. Prevention Services) continues to expand. It is exciting to watch our youth experience a sense of belonging and understanding their identity. The cultural programming and services are adding new and innovative initiatives on an ongoing basis, and we are receiving increased demand from the communities, leadership, families, and the youth for opportunities for them to be included. More information about this important initiative is provided under the Cultural Therapy and Land Based Education Department. The Agency has also increased the use of doulas as part of our proactive approach to preventing apprehensions of newborns and returning babies to their mothers. The doula program will continue to be developed as an adjunct to the cultural therapy and prevention services.

Updates

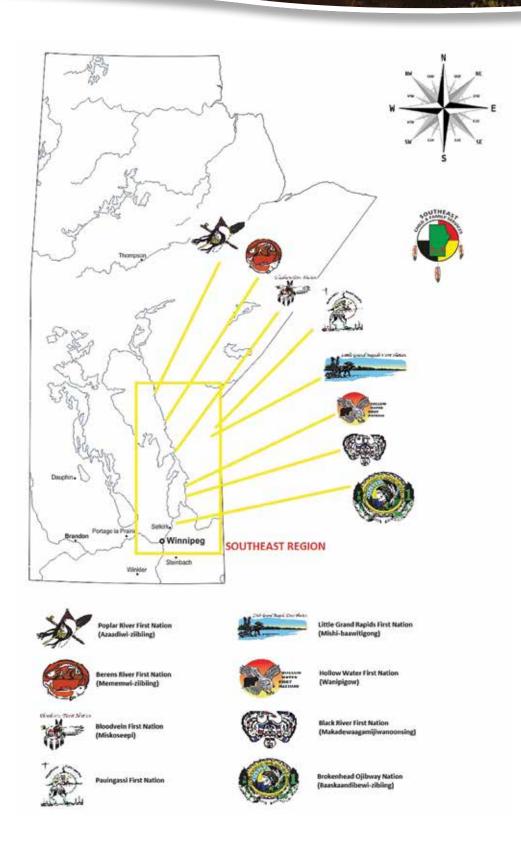
Internally, the Berens River First Nation provided the SECFS Board of Directors with notice of their intent to pursue a sub-agreement as a measure to attain their own mandate, in other words, their own Child Welfare Agency. A sub-agreement would advance the community to build capacity for administering its own Agency. In response, SECFS has restructured so that a Director of Services is dedicated solely to the Berens River units.

Finally, the SECFS is one of six CFS Agencies currently involved in a legal challenge. Our Agencies have applied for an Application for Declaration that says the Province has been illegally taking the Children's Special Allowance (CSA) intended for the provinciallyfunded children in care. This is not a suit for a financial settlement but rather a declaration from the Court that says the Province has no right to take the CSA intended for this group of children in care. Since 2006, the Province has been taking the CSA monies intended for the children in care of the child welfare agencies, while the federally-funded children in care receive the CSA. It is our collective opinion that this is discriminatory and we will continue to pursue legal recourse on this important matter.

I encourage you to read the full Annual Report as it provides more in-depth information on the specific units, programs, and services that SECFS provides.

Meegwetch.







Vision and History

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 by providing respectful, caring, and supportive, preventative and protection services to promote healthier individuals, families, and communities.

AGENCY OBJECTIVES

- To value each child as a gift from the Creator and treat our children with the care and respect they deserve
- 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
- 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
- To understand and respect the diversity of the members and communities the Agency serves
- To partner with our communities to enhance their capacity and strength to take responsibility for the well-being of their children and families
- 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
- To support and build a confident and healthy workforce to provide the best quality of services to the children and families
- 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
- To on a continual basis review the quality of services provided by the Agency to ensure the children and families served are receiving the best services possible
- 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

HISTORICAL POINTS

- **1982** Southeast Child and Family Services is mandated by the Province of Manitoba to provide statutory services for the on-reserve children and families affiliated with Brokenhead, Berens River, Black River, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River, and Buffalo Point First Nations.
- **2004** The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI) saw for SECFS to provide protection and prevention services to the on and off-reserve children in care and families.
- **2005** The transfer of children in care and family cases, mostly from Winnipeg Child and Family Services, to SECFS happens.
- **2008** Southeast Child and Family Services is placed under administration as per Section 4 of the Child and Family Services Act.

Buffalo Point First Nation enters into a subsidiary agreement with Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services to receive its child and family services.

- **2015** On December 18, 2015, the Order of Administration is lifted for SECFS and SECFS Board of Directors assumes the governing authority for the Agency.
- **2016** In the spring, the SECFS Board of Directors, First Nation leadership, and Agency senior management staff participate in a strategic planning session.
- **2017** First Annual General Meeting is held on January 25, 2017.
- **2018** Second Annual General Meeting is held on January 23, 2018. First youth healing and wellness gathering is held November 28 to December 1, 2018.
- **2019** Third Annual General Meeting is held on January 23, 2019.



Human Resources Department

Staff



Tamara Cardinal Associate Director of Human Resources

Derek Martin *Payroll and Benefits Administrator*

Southeast Child and Family Services is a very large and complex Agency that employs 180 staff who are located either on-reserve and off-reserve in order to serve the children and families from the eight Southeast First Nations. Adding to this complexity is that half of the staff are unionized with the Manitoba Government Employees Union (MGEU), and the other half are non-unionized. About 85% of the 180 staff are Indigenous.

The Agency continues to strive to be the best employer it can be. Training and healing initiatives are focused on ensuring the staff have the necessary skills to be able to perform their positions to the best of their ability, and healing forums are crucial to ensure the staff are healthy in order to provide services that are respectful and promote positive relationships, both amongst staff and with our clients. Elder Mary Wilson has been a fixture at the Broadway and Mountain Avenue offices, being available for staff to de-brief or destress, or just to have someone to talk to in the workplace.

The Agency aims to retain qualified and exemplary employees, and to attract new employees who are committed to serving our First Nation children and families in the way they deserve to be treated – with the utmost respect and care.

At an organizational level, we continue to review and update our job descriptions, salary schedules, policies and procedures, performance and evaluation standards, training, mentoring, professional development opportunities, and our comprehensive benefits and pension plan.

Our Agency's philosophy means investing in our own Anishinaabe people. The training offered to staff promotes opportunity for internal promotion, lateral transfers, and succession planning. The recruitment process focuses on offering members of the Southeast First Nations opportunities for employment with the Agency, both on community and off-reserve.

The Human Resources Dept. continues to assess the training needs of the staff and seek out certified and relevant training to be provided to the staff so as to increase their capacity to address the needs of the clients, and organization. Lateral violence awareness and training has been a recent focus for the staff. There has been noticeable turmoil amongst the staff, and the management has sought to address the conflict and mistrust by focusing on the awareness of the harm lateral violence causes and finding helpful approaches to restoring harmony within the workplace.

Derek Martin earned his Payroll Compliance Practitioner (PCP) certification through the Canadian Payroll Association. Tamara Cardinal is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) candidate, has a Bachelor of Arts Degree and has her Human Resources Practitioner certification. The new Director of Human Resources Ernest Janzen will start his role in the new year.



Rhonda Kellv **Organization Chart Executive Directo** Kristin Cook Executive Assistant **Glory Lister** Jaime Chartrand Jackie Larocque Director Director Director **Poplar River Community** Foster /Alt. Care Foster /Alt. Care Mercedes Fisher Sherri Hudson Susan Leclair Wanda Joe John Valliquette Supervisor Unit Admin Supervisor Superviso Community FE Worker Chelsea Little Siera Ens Hazel Roulette **Bey Thomas** Lily Creely Maria Ross Nancy Poirier Brandi Blackbird March 2019 Community DSW Community DSW Case Aide/Admin Foster DSW Foster DSW Unit Admin Foster DSW DSW Madeline Claudia Sanchez Edith Sanderson Inna Ganda Lucinda Massan Angela Prince Poplar River City Unit Hardisty-Neveau Foster DSW Foster DSW Foster DSW Foster DSW Foster DSW Comm Foster DSW Trisha Fox Cheyenne Beaudry **Bloodvein Community** Pauingassi Community Superviso Unit Admin Andrea Johnson Cara Grapentine Reina Aviles **Garnet Sinclair Trevor Harper** Sharon Samatte Sandra Keeper DSW DSW DSW Unit Admin Superviso Unit Admir Superviso Debra McLeod Simone Richard Ivan Bonner Colin Smart **Cindy Desjarlais** Kyle Tanner Vacant Stephanie Keeper Community DSW Annette Community DSW Community DSW DSW Community DSW DSW DSW Community DSW Geraldine Cook Community Family Frank Young Vacant Enhancement Worke **Quality Assurance** Pauingassi City Unit Community DSW Community DSW Peter Berens ** Rick Paskaruk ** Roxanne Monevas Lindsay Nobess Bloodvein City Unit (A) Quality Assurance Quality Assurance Coordinator Unit Admin Supervisor Clerk/WFB File Room, Front Reception, Stephanie Michell Natascha Enzlberger Katie Heinrichs Bev Dunbar Melissa Lela Supervisor Unit Admin DSW DSW DSW Security, Management Assistant *Roxanne Monevas Amber Catellier Kristene Gudmundson Nicole Strocen LGR Community Mountain Office Mgr DSW DSW DSW Jenna Lawrence Jessica Bridges Vacant Julia Mann Ed Tanner Amber Gareau Monica Marx Jude Leveque Mgmt. Assistant Reception Janitor DSW DSW DSW Supervisor Unit Admin Alainna Houle Matthew Bouchey Shaffi Mohamed **Cindy Green Bedla Francois** Nathan Owen Bloodvein City Unit (B) File Clerk File Clerk Coordinator Security-Maintenance Community DSW Community DSW Comm. FE Worker Vacant **Cheryl Wavey** Karen Beck Vesna Maroti Anetta Russo Family Healing and Wellness Community DSW Unit Admin Supervisor Finance Director Program Manager Kel Sherman Patricia Petti Lorraine Baldwin LGR City Unit Finance DSW DSW DSW Crystal Boulette Letitia Kipling ** Julia Seymour Wendy Malcolm Janelle Lister **Corrine Player** Financial Analyst - Maintenance Broadway Reception DSW Unit Admin DSW Supervisor **Claudette Vandale Christophe Audette** Laura Marois Thomas Bergen Rabia Harb Sheryn Seunath (BON) Age of Majority Coordinator of Specia Finance Assistant DSW DSW DSW Needs & IRAP Billings Admin Kyle McClintock Lyle Massan Donna Manchulenko Pam Pater (BON) Sherry Anderson Jasmine Greene Hernan Biderman Brittany Jonnson AOM Unit Admin AOM DSW DSW Accounts Pavable Travel Clerk Finance Assistant DSW Supervisor Roxanne Swain Keri Beaurdry Shelly Longbottom Melanie Boulette Dennis Dare **Dorothy Anderson** Family Enhancement Accts Pay/Main. Finance Assistant AOM DSW AOM DSW AOM DSW Travel Clerk Chris Thompson Shirley Vandale **Taylor Bruce** Josephine Bruce Patricia Moneas Gail Parisien ** Julia Sevmour Melodie Baptiste Purchasing / File Room Clerk Finance Clerk AOM DSW AOM DSW AOM DSW Supervisor FE Worker (city) Finance Clerk



Organization Chart



"Leading a good life"





ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Quality Assurance (QA) Department

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 of the Southeast First Nations.

Staff

Glory Lister – Director of Quality Assurances

Roxanne Moneyas – QA Coordinator

Peter Berens – QA Assistant and Web Development

About Quality Assurance

The QA representatives from the Southern First Nations CFS agencies meet monthly at the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC). This forum provides the First Nation agencies to discuss and share information relating to the child welfare standards and regulations required in the process of delivering services. The group reviews specific areas of focus i.e. Expectant Parent Services with the intent to ensure consistent and quality services are provided to all families and children. The SFNNC and the agencies produce monthly reports that allow directors, supervisors, and front-line staff to assess how closely we are meeting our written obligations. Children and Family Services Information System (CFSIS) data is measurable and captures the mandated work requirements between staff and clients at the Agency level for reporting and compliance requirements purposes. The data does not capture the quality of the relationship between workers/supervisors and clients; therefore, we cannot substantively establish the overall aspect of the Agency's case management practices.

In addition to the compilation of the quantitative data (numbers and statistics) collected, the QA Dept. is also responsible for reviewing the qualitative (quality) work in specific areas of the Agency's practice. The Unit tracks all child deaths of children in care or for children whose families were open to the Agency within the previous year. When there is a child death, the Agency completes an Internal Agency Review (IAR) to learn how we can rectify or improve areas of deficiencies either Agency-wide or within a unit. The information is collected and Special Investigation Reviews (SIRs) are generated through the Office of the Children's Advocate, Ombudsman, and SFNNC. 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 QA team receives notifications of all minor expectant parents, and reviews whether a specific assessment of a minor parent's needs is complete. This ensures 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 focused on providing training of the Intake Module (IM), Safety Assessment, and Case Management and Assessment. The team is also able to provide training specific to the unit's needs.

Peter Berens is assigned to update and enter information on the Agency's website. The SECFS website was currently remodeled to provide more options and information for staff and the public. 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. Peter also assists the HR Department by ensuring that all new staff have registered access to the information database that is used.

Another major task of the unit is to cross reference the monthly CFSIS reports, unit case lists, and the financial data from the Agency's Family and Children's Tracking System (FACTS). This is necessary so that the Agency has the current and accurate data as this determines our baseline for funding and prevention monies each year. Additional data, statistics, charts, analysis, and comparison chart/tables are developed on an ongoing basis as requested.



Quality Assurance (QA) Department

Challenges

All the Southern First Nations CFS agencies are funded for two QA positions, including SECFS, despite the fact that SECFS is much larger than its counterparts. As a result, the Agency has expanded its team in order to meet the work requirements. The multiple responsibilities of QA staff limit the amount of training it is able to deliver. The team would benefit from a full time trainer available to all units and communities.

Goals for the Upcoming Year

Training will always be a crucial component of the unit. There are ever changing regulations, standards, and policies to train the current and new staff on. As such, the QA team will continue to make this a focus of our work. The ongoing collection of monthly statistics will continue to be a major component of the Department.

The ability for the Agency to conduct self-reflective and objective evaluations of 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 help the senior management team and the Board with planning for the Agency's future. These statistics will help the Agency to determine gaps, areas for improvement, and where priorities should be in order for the Chiefs, Board, senior management, staff, and clients in receipt of services to be confident the Agency knows how and what services and programs need to be changed, upgraded, added, or replaced.

Peter and Roxanne are supported to enhance their skills and are enrolled in evening and on-line courses to increase their skills and capacity to perform their roles. Peter is currently enrolled in the Business Administration Diploma Program through Continuing Education with Red River.





Statistics

Children in Care – Federal and Provincial Funded

The number of children in care cases continues to grow despite the Agency's best efforts to reduce the number of cases through returning children home, reunifying children with their families, preventing children from coming into care, and preventing baby apprehensions. The Agency can report that we have and continue to increase the number of placements for the children in care with extended family members, community members, or community placements in the Shawenim Abinoojii homes (where extended family and community members are caring for the children). The number of stranger-based foster homes used continues to decline as our focus prioritized to family and community members.

The number of children in care as of March 31, 2018, was 1,304 plus 102 extension of cares (18+ years old who voluntarily remain with the Agency until age 21). This totals 1,506 cases. The previous year total was 1,368, of which 1,285 were children in care and 83 were extension of cares. *See Tables 1 and 2 below.*

Addictions continues to be the main reason children come into care of the Agency. Often, parents in the communities will complete treatment for their addictions, but their housing situation and the lack of after care programs often remains a barrier for children to be able to return home. We plan to work with the communities to find creative ways to reduce this barrier, so that children can permanenty return to their parents, where they belong.

Another reason for the increased number of family cases and children in care cases is due to transfers from other Agencies. All Nations Coordinated Response Network (ANCR) transfers new cases to SECFS while other Manitoba Agencies transfer any children in care cases where there might be some affiliation with the Agency. This has become a trend for Agencies who are under block funding and need to control the number of the children in care they have.

Looking at the number of children growing up in care is alarming and for this reason the Family Healing and Wellness Centre (FHWC) is a priortity for the Agency. Parents and their children need an environment to facilitate their healing. It is our hope that the desire to change by parents will grow so that more and more families will want to be living healthier lifestyles, but recognize they cannot do so until they have addressed their own intergenerational trauma. The FHWC will facilitate that healing.

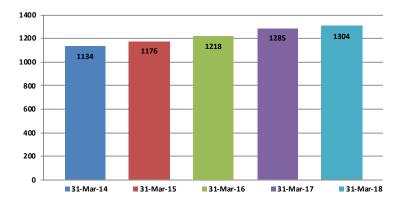
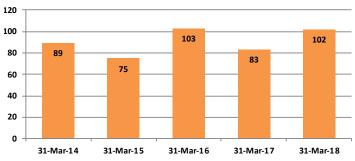


Table 1: CHILDREN IN CARE Federal and Provincial Funded March 31, 2014 – March 31, 2018

Table 2: AGE OF MAJORITY Federal and Provincial Funded March 31, 2014 – March 31, 2018





Statistics

Children in Care and Family Cases Per Funding Source

The federal and provincial governments fund the children in care and the family cases based on where the parent/s is "normally resident" at the time a child comes into care or where the family is normally resident when they are first involved with the child welfare system. If the parent is a status Indian and is residing on-reserve, the child in care is deemed to be a federally funded child, and if the same family is first involved with the child welfare system as a family, the family is deemed to be a federally funded family case. Should a status parent and child be residing in Winnipeg when the child is apprehended for the first time, then the child is a provincially funded child in care. If this same family becomes involved as a family case first while normally residing in Winnipeg, then this is a provincially funded family case. Where a parent has status and resides on the First Nation with his/her child and the child does not have status. and the child is apprehended while they are residing on-reserve, the child will be deemed a provincially funded child.

Table 3 (below) shows that the number of federally and provincially funded children in care and the family cases have increased from March 31, 2014, to March 31, 2018. The statistics below reflect the number of children in care, the extension of care cases, and the number of family service files. The total number of cases have risen in all three areas. Early intervention strategies that involve connecting with families with supports earlier can help to keep their children from coming into care. The extensions of care stats demonstrate the number of young adults who have aged out of care are voluntarily choosing to remain receiving services from the Agency.

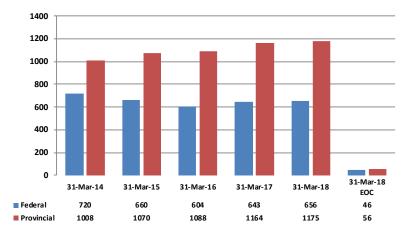


Table 3: CHILDREN IN CARE AND FAMILY CASES Breakdown Per Funding Source March 31, 2014 – March 31, 2018



Statistics

Children in Care Placements

The Agency reports that as of March 31, 2018, there were 318 children in care and extension of cares placed on-reserve, and 1,088 placements located off-reserve. The increased number of children in care being placed on-reserve is attributed to the increased number of four bed homes, operated by the Shawenim Abinoojii Inc., that have been built on the First Nations. The Shawenim Abinoojii homes have enabled the Agency to return children to their home communities and support them to be raised by their extended family or community members. The children are closer to their parents, extended family, and have increased opportunity for reunification as their relationship with their families will remain intact due to their close proximity for visits to happen on a regular basis.

In the city, the Agency has partnered with the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Family Group Conferencing Program. Their Program helps families build a support system around them so that families are stronger. and parents are better equipped to care for their children. The Program has helped with reunifying a number of children in care to their parents with the necessary resources wrapped around them.

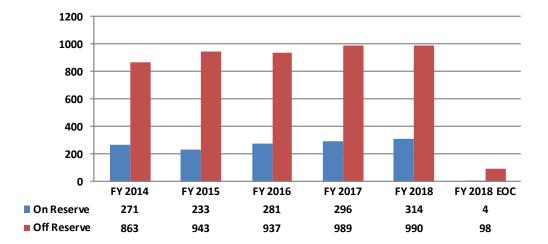


Table 4: CHILDREN IN CARE PLACEMENTS March 31, 2014 - March 31, 2018



MINO-PIMATIZIWIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Statistics

Family Services On and Off-Reserve

The total number of overall family cases remains fairly stable with only a change of 5 cases in the past fiscal year. As of March 31, 2017, there were 522 family cases and 527 family cases by March 31, 2018. The number of family cases on-reserve increased by 7, and the number of family cases situated off-reserve decreased by 2 cases.

The Agency continues to collaborate with both First Nations and urban resource collaterals to establish partnerships for services to support the well-being of our children and families. The Agency's goal is to build partnerships so they can provide supportive interventions to our families and children and help prevent any child from coming into the care of the Agency.

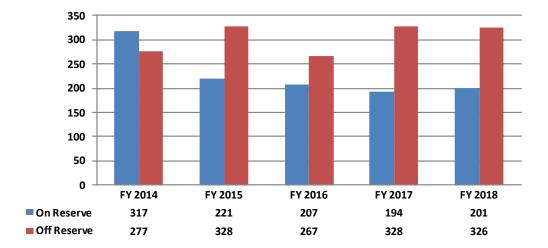


Table 5: FAMILY CASES ON AND OFF-RESERVE March 31, 2014 – March 31, 2018



Statistics

Children in Care and Family Cases Per Unit

The children in care and family cases displayed by their respective units shows that the numbers of cases continue to fluctuate. The Berens River, Black River, Little Grand Rapids, and Pauingassi Units all saw a decrease in the total number of cases, and the Bloodvein, Brokenhead, Hollow Water, and Poplar River Units saw an increase in the number of cases. Note that these totals do not reflect whether the cases are on or off-reserve.

The Age of Majority Unit had an increased number of cases, which reflects the number of cases transferred in from the other units for this time period.

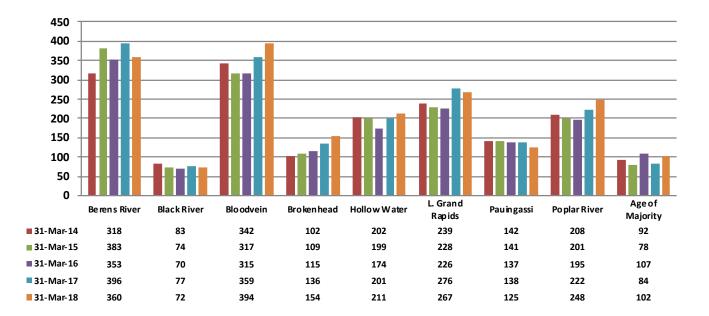


Table 6: CHILDREN IN CARE AND FAMILY CASES PER UNIT March 31, 2014 - March 31, 2018



Statistics

Child in Care Maintenance Expenditures Per Unit

Child in care maintenance costs include all costs associated with keeping a child in care. The two following tables (see Tables 7 and 8) show that the Hollow Water, Bloodvein, Poplar River and Little Grand Rapids Units child maintenance costs rose considerably, while the Pauingassi, Brokenhead, and Berens River Units costs rose slightly, and the Black River Unit costs decreased in this fiscal year 2017-2018. A review of the cost drivers will be undertaken to determine whether the increased number of children attributes to the increased costs, or whether it is the number of Shawenim Abinoojii homes that

account for the increase in some of the communities. The costs for placements in the Shawenim Abinoojii homes are more costly than a regular foster home in the community, but the lack of community based housing and overcrowding prevents more foster homes from being established. The Shawenim Abinoojii homes have made it possible for children to remain in the community and avoid being removed from their families and culture. Shawenim Abinoojii resources assist the Agency with being able to return children to their home community.

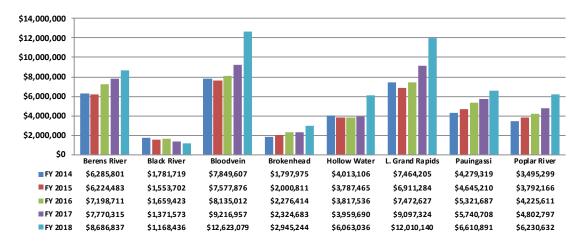
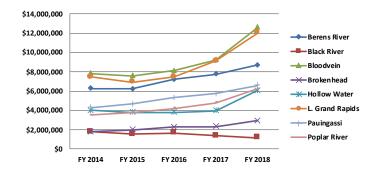


Table 7: CHILDREN IN CARE MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES PER UNIT March 31, 2014 - March 31, 2018







Finance Department

Major Duties and Responsibilities of the Finance Department

- 1. General Accounts Payable
- 2. Maintenance payments for children in care
- 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 and INAC
- 6. Preparation of financial statements
- 7. Development, implementation and monitoring of the Agency's annual budget
- 8. Payroll processing and administration

The Finance Department employs 16 staff members, all of whom work together as a team to process the transactions that impact or are a result of having over 1,400 children in care, and approximately 180 employees.

Finance Department Staff

Director of Finance – Vesna Maroti

Vesna started with SECFS in 2008 as the Financial Analyst, was promoted to Controller, and then appointed as the Director of Finance in August 2018. Vesna believes that children flourish most when they have the love and support of family and works hard to improve outcomes for the Agency's children and families. Vesna is appreciated by her colleagues for her dedication and positive energy.



Wendy Malcolm - Financial Analyst/Maintenance

Christophe Audette - Coordinator of Special Needs & IRAP

Donna Manchulenko – Accounts Payable

Roxanne Swain – Accounts Payable/Maintenance

Shirley Vandale – File Room Clerk

Claudette Vandale – Billings Administration



Laura Marois – Finance Assistant Sherry Anderson – Finance Assistant Shelly Longbottom – Finance Assistant Chris Thompson – Purchasing/Finance Clerk Pam Pater – Travel Clerk Keri Beaudry – Travel Clerk Taylor Bruce – Finance Clerk

Agency Support

The Finance Department supports the Agency and the staff in the delivery of its services 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
- Submission of invoices and bills to the Federal and Provincial governments for services on a monthly basis
- Continual updating our professional knowledge and skill-set through attending regular training and professional development workshops and seminars



Finance Department

- 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 2017-2018 Audit

The Agency's annual audit marked our third year working with MNP. For the period ending March 31, 2018, the Agency's funding increased to \$75,755,417 from \$61,124,653 for the same time in 2017. This represents an overall increase of 24% from last year. The increase was due mainly to increases in child maintenance funding from both the Province of Manitoba and INAC. Total expenses for the same time period increased from \$62,530,165 at March 31, 2017, to \$77,698,413 at March 31, 2018. This increased spending of 24% represents increases to the costs of maintaining and caring for the increased number of children in care.

The Agency received an additional \$2,471,514 in Children's Special Allowance (CSA) funds in 2018, up from \$2,197,246 received in 2017, an increase of 1.12%. 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.

The Agency's operational deficit for the period ending March 31, 2018, was \$1,942,996 in comparison to March 31, 2017, where the deficit was \$1,405,512. NOTE: As the Agency is required to include the CSA in its financial statements, this results in a possible reading that the Agency had a surplus of \$405,876 as of March 31, 2018. The operational deficit is in fact as noted above (\$1,942,996) as confirmed by MNP's annual audit which concluded that the Agency was presenting all financial statements fairly according to Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Goals for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year

- Continue to work with different Agency departments to ensure they are trained and educated in all areas of finance and accounting that impact them (i.e., the Direct Service Workers, Supervisors, and Directors)
- Continue the process 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 to ensure they are current, support best practices, 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 address the immediate needs of the child for areas such as the Registered Educational Savings Plans (RESPs) and the Canada Learning Bond (CLB)
- Provide ongoing and relevant training for all Finance staff



Brokenhead Staff



Cultural Program

Staff



Cecil Sveinson Director of Cultural Programming and Services

Justin Bear Assistant to the Director of Cultural Programming and Services

About the Staff

Cecil Sveinson is a member of the Poplar River First Nation. Cecil became interested in working with youth during a 25-year policing career that saw him work with the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. In that career, he also conducted needs assessments and implemented programming models and training locally, nationally and internationally. More recently, Cecil assisted Senator Murray Sinclair with his investigation into the Thunder Bay Police Service Board and systemic racism.

Cecil began working with the Agency in August 2016 to set up cultural retreats and activities for Agency's youth in care. In April 2017, he began implementing a wide range of programming for children in care, families, foster parents and staff. Due to the demand for the increased programming and services, the Agency created the Cultural Therapy and Land Based Education Unit.

Justin Bear, a graduate of the Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg, was hired in May 2018 to provide administrative and programming support to the Unit. Justin is one of the co-founders of Red Rising Magazine, an Indigenous magazine for Indigenous youth by Indigenous youth, whose passion is to revitalize communities through youth programming, marketing for not-for-profits, social enterprise, and supporting Indigenous movements.

Highlights and Events

- Partnership with the Knowles Centre A local sweatlodge was needed for the increased number of sweats that the Unit required for the children and youth who were participating. Youth who wanted to attend frequently informed us that their foster parents were unwilling to drive them out of the city limits. The Knowles Centre has a fully developed cultural grounds site in the city, but had no current traditional knowledge keeper. As a result, a trial partnership was forged, and regular sweatlodges are happening. Further programming will be implemented there in 2019.
- Indigenous Doula Support The Agency is partnered with Zaagi'idiwin, an organization run by an Anishinaabe Registered Midwife that provides full spectrum Indigenous Doula training and services. The doulas assist expectant mothers involved with our Agency with culturally-appropriate support to the mothers, babies and families. To date five births have been supported. We will be expanding new initiatives with Zaagi'idiwin to provide care to mothers from our remote communities who face mandatory birth evacuations.
- Weekly Programming There are weekly sweatlodges, beading classes, drumming lessons, land-based exercise classes, Elder visits, and sharing circles for youth and children in care to participate in. The dates and locations are posted on the Agency's website.
- Land Based Education Retreats The Zongiigabowen (Standing Strong Together) young men's group are in their third year of programming. The Sagima Waboo (Sacred Water) young women's group are in their second year. The young men and women have attended a Sundance ceremony, where four youth and two Agency staff participated and completed the ceremony.
- Two-Spirited Gathering The Agency supported a few LGBTQ2 youth to attend the "International Two-Spirit Gathering" where they received teachings from Two-Spirited Elders. Sagima Waboo has monthly retreats and Zongiigabowen has, at a minimum, seasonal retreats. This summer, the first Junior Boys Retreat



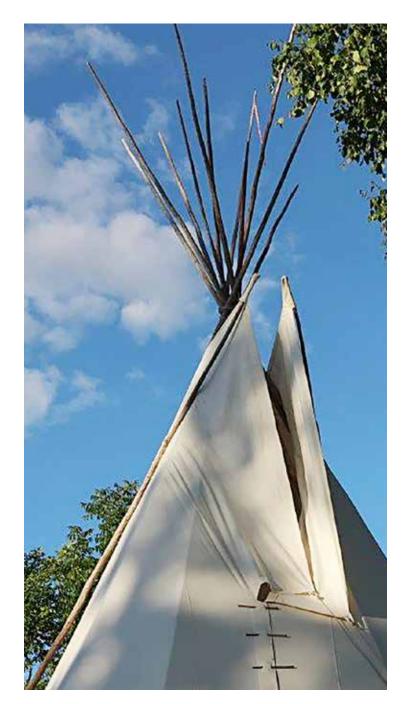
Cultural Program

was held at the BUSH Sports Camp site in Hollow Water First Nation. This younger age group was new for the Unit, as it not only had youth in care but also youth from protection families.

- Elder Counselling for Staff Cecil recognized the need for Agency staff to have on-site support for the usual life stresses, as well as the vicarious trauma suffered due to dealing with the sufferings of our children, youth, and family clients. The Indigenous staff also requested non-mainstream counselling for post-colonial stress disorders. Renowned Elder and healer Dr. Mary Wilson attends the Mountain and Broadway offices on a regular basis for staff to see her, which has been valuable to improve our staff's health and well-being.
- The Youth Healing and Wellness Gathering was held November 28 to December 2, 2018. The gathering had 95 participants who were either youth in care or youth whose families were involved with the Agency. The gathering offered the forum for youth to increase their peer support systems, learn about initiatives that focus on healthy living, hear from motivational Indigenous speakers and leaders including Wab Kinew, Michael Linklater, and Ashley Callingbull, and learn about educational and career opportunities from Indigenous presenters. The gathering was so successful that there have been requests for similar gatherings for all Southeast youth and young adults to be planned, not just those involved with the Agency.

The demand for cultural programming continues to grow both in the urban and community settings. The SECFS Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Unit has hired John Kent as their Cultural Coordinator. It is hoped that each of the Southeast First Nations will have their own Cultural Coordinator to deliver community specific initiatives and services that our Unit can collaborate with.

We acknowledge and thank the female and male cultural team staff, the Elders, Midwives, Doulas, and Traditional Knowledge Keepers who continue to support our children, youth and families. None of our great work could have happened without them. Almost daily, a youth shared with us how one of you has talked them out of ganglife or sexual exploitation, counselled them about their addictions, stresses and relationship issues, escorted them to Court or a Doctor's appointment, or prevented their suicide. Chi Miigwech for all that you do.





Alternative Care Department

The Alternative Care Department is responsible to assist workers to find family placements and recruit culturally-appropriate placements for the Agency's children in care. The Alt Care staff are also responsible to assess potential caregivers, issue foster home licenses, review foster homes annually, ensure foster care standards and regulations are adhered to, and provide support to the Agency's caregivers. The Alt Care Department is responsible to license the foster parent, kinship, and Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. homes located on the eight Southeast First Nation and off-reserve. As of March 31, 2018, there were 517 licensed foster homes and 42 homes that were places of safety.

Staff Director of Alt.

Care – Jackie Larocque Director of Alt. Care – Jaime Chartrand Supervisor – Susan LeClair Supervisor – Wanda Joe



The supervisors are responsible to ensure that the workers are properly licensing foster homes, actively recruiting culturally appropriate foster homes and helping staff to find family members to provide kinship homes, and addressing any conflicts or concerns involving our foster homes and/or foster parents. The Alt Care workers also conduct home studies, home reviews, follow up concerns relating to a SECFS foster home or foster parent, and participate in Alternative Dispute Resolutions. The following workers are assigned to the respective areas:

Beverly Thomas – Bloodvein, Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, and Berens River First Nations

Madeline Hardisty-Neveau – Brokenhead, Black River, and Hollow Water First Nations

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

Administrative Assistant/Worker – Hazel Roulette

Administrative Assistant – Maria Ross

Highlights and Activities

- Monthly staff meetings to address any concerns or issues regarding foster parents or foster homes
- Recruitment and information booths were set up at the Berens River First Nation Treaty Days, Bloodvein First Nation Treaty Days, Ebb and Flow First Nation Treaty Days, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Treaty Days, Sandy Bay First Nation Treaty Days, and Peguis First Nation Treaty Days
- Radio station NCI radio played foster parent advertisements in July and December
- Christmas parties were held in December one in Selkirk and a second in Winnipeg – where we get the opportunity to visit with our children and youth in care and their care providers

The following training was held this year:

New Foster Parents Orientation	# of Participants
March 13 & 14	20
June 12 & 13	13
September 18 & 19	9
November 21 & 23	13
Cultural Training for Foster Parents	# of Participants
March 13 & 14	24
June 12 & 13	11
September 18 & 19	9
November 21 & 23	13

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Develop new and creative forums to attract caring caregivers
- Develop and provide orientation and cultural trainings to new caregivers
- Training for staff to find family members for children in care
- Develop partnerships with community resources to support reunification of children with their parents or extended family members
- Develop new culturally appropriate emergency placement resources
- Supporting the Agency to return children home to their families



Child Abuse Unit

The Agency's Child Abuse Unit is responsible to investigate abuse allegations involving children or youth residing on the eight Southeast First Nations. Jurisdiction for investigating abuse allegations for children and youth residing off-reserve falls is the responsibility of the Child and Family All Nations Coordinated Response Network (ANCR) in the City of Winnipeg, and the Child Welfare Agency in the rural areas. The involvement of the SECFS Child Abuse Unit will vary where SECFS children in care are placed in a SECFS Agency licensed foster home that is located in a rural area.

Staff

A/Abuse Coordinator – Sandra Lagimodiere Child Abuse Investigators – Genevieve Bruce, Lauren Turney, Vanessa Johnson Administrative Assistant – Robin Smith



Responsibilities of the Staff

The Coordinator oversees the Child Abuse Unit to ensure its function to investigate abuse allegations involving children and youth of the member Southeast First Nations is carried out as per the *Child & Family Services Act* and in compliance with the Provincial Child Abuse Committee Regulations.

The Child Abuse Investigators specialize in investigating abuse allegations that may be physical, sexual, or emotional in nature. They are responsible to establish working relationships with the Direct Service Worker and Supervisor while an allegation is being investigated. Once the Direct Service Worker makes the initial assessment to ensure the safety of the child, the Investigator will interview the child and the alleged offender. The Investigator makes appropriate and/or necessary recommendations that may identify protection concerns for the victim child, or any other child, and may recommend the immediate removal of a child from the caregiver 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 Administrative Assistant creates and maintains the child abuse files, including completing the Intake Module; ensuring files on the CFSIS 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 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 actions 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 under 2 years and over the age of 12 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 act the person engaging in the sexual act the person engaging in 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.



Direct Services Department – Brokenhead Unit



Staff



Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere Supervisor – Lisa Holland Storozuk Direct Services Workers – Shelly Guimond, Spring Abaunza-Vega, Shirley Olson, Sabrina Morrisseau, John Kent Community Support Workers – Brenda Staska, Billie-Gene Morrisseau Case Worker – Carly Cleaver (temporary) Administrative Assistant – Ashton McCorrister

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation

Location: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation is located 85 kilometres north of Winnipeg on Highway 59. The community boundary extends north to the shores of Lake Winnipeg and includes part of the Netley Creek Marsh area. The Brokenhead River runs through the core area of the community.

Population: The on-reserve population is 766 and the off-reserve population is 1,166 for a total of 1,932 members.

Community Services/Community Businesses: Band Office; Entertainment Centre; South Beach Casino Hotel; Wavers Gas Station; Chicken Delight; Brokenhead Grocery Store; Pharmacy and Health Centre; Daycare and Headstart; 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 Principal Program.

Jordon's Principle (JP) Program: The JP Program provides health care and social services primarily for children with complex medical needs. Coordinator – Melodie Bowtell; Child Development Workers -Tanis Benoit and Jasmine Benoit; Respite Worker - Ethan Kent; Cultural Advisor - Sweetpea Starr; Administrative Assistant - Ginger Kent.

Cultural Therapy Program: Adam Yaroshinski provides cultural therapy and cultural activities for Brokenhead Ojibway Nation member children in care.

School: The Sergeant Tommy Prince School operates Nursery to Grade 9 and is under the jurisdiction of Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC)

Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Chief is Debbie Smith and the CFS Portfolio Councillor is Shawn Kent.

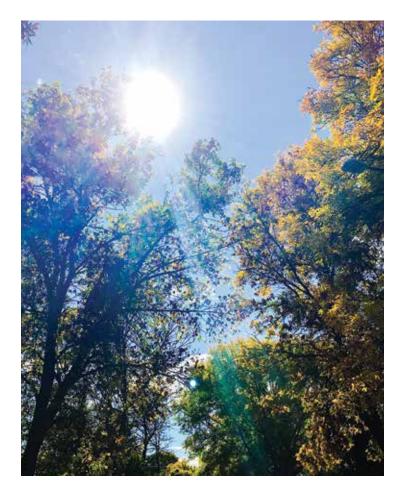


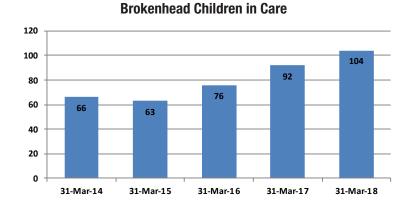
Direct Services Department – Brokenhead Unit

The Brokenhead Unit is unique in that both the on- and off-reserve children in care and families are served by a single unit located at the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. The proximity of BON to Winnipeg makes it practical for a single unit, whereas the other communities have an on and off-reserve staff.

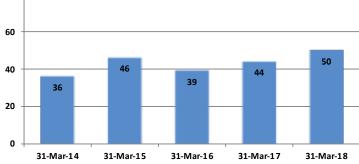
Highlights and Activities

- Contributions made to:
 - Treaty Day Powwow
 - Treaty Days children activities
 - Halloween Dance
 - Halloween treats at the school for the younger children
 - Treats at SECFS office for the older children
 - Community Carnival
- A SECFS Christmas Open House was held in December
- An emergency fund was set up for family needs (i.e. food, diapers, etc.)
- SECFS BON Unit and Jordon's Principle Program partnered to hire two youth recreation workers. Recreation activities are available six days a week (Monday to Friday from 4:30 to 8:00 pm and Saturday 2:00 to 8:00pm).
- A Cultural Worker position was established. John Kent has assumed this role and is developing a cultural program for the BON member children and families.





Brokenhead Family Services



"Leading a good life"

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Hollow Water & Black River City Unit







Director of Services - Sandra Lagimodiere

Supervisor – Serena Marsden

Direct Services Workers - Michelle Daly, Simone Richard, Selena Whiteway, Kathy Guimond, Germaine Bear and Particia Moneas

Administrative Assistant - Robin Cornell

The Black River and Hollow Water city staff, who work out of the 1410 Mountain Avenue office, provide services to band members and persons affiliated with the Black River or Hollow Water First Nation who reside off-reserve.

Highlights and Events

- Case reviews occur with the off and on-reserve teams from Hollow Water and Black River on a quarterly basis for the purpose of consulting, planning, and sharing information about the children and families served.
- The Winnipeg workers carry high case loads and most of their focus is in meeting client's needs and meeting reporting compliance requirements.
- Some staff had attended the Hollow Water community unit's open house.
- The city staff distributed the casino and treaty money to the offreserve Black River and Hollow Water children in care.





Direct Services Department – Hollow Water Unit



Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere Supervisor – Lena Bushie Direct Services Workers – Donna Smith, Gladys Williams and Lorna Bjork Administrative Assistant – Darlene Bushie

Hollow Water First Nation

Location: Hollow Water First Nation is located 190 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg and is situated within the Precambrian shield region. Hollow Water is road accessible year-round. The nearest airport is located in Bissett, Manitoba.

Population: The on-reserve population is 1,005 and the off-reserve population is 904, for a total of 1,909 members.

Community Services/Community Businesses: Band Offices; 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; Guardian Angel Day Care; Aboriginal Headstart Program; Sanitation Service; VLT Centre; Water Treatment Plant; and, Ceremony Grounds. The Health Centre operates a food bank once every two weeks.

School: Wanipigow School offers Nursery to Grade 12 and belongs to the Frontier School Division. The community also has an Alternative Education Program for adults.

Jordan's Principle (Niigann Abinioojii): Provides health care and social services particularly for children with complex medical needs. The Director is Robyn Hall, the Child Development workers are Isabel Phillips, Melanie Hardisty and Phoebi Moneyas, and the Administrative Assistant is Saxony Hardisty.

Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: The Chief is Larry Barker and the Child and Family Services Portfolio is Geoff Bushie.



Direct Services Department – Hollow Water Unit

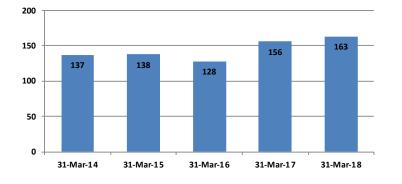
Highlights and Events

The local staff contributed to, partnered with leadership or community resources, or participated in the following:

- A children and youth bingo with prizes; community members were honoured with gifts; and, prizes for the various sports, games and events that were held during the Black Island Days.
- Funded one full time Family Enhancement Worker to work with families to prevent their children from coming into care.
- Contributed to Treaty Days.
- Prince/Princess Ball, Fishing Derbies, Feasts, and donations to families who lost family members.
- Hockey registration costs for the youth who participated in Sagkeeng Minor Hockey.
- Contributions to Remembrance Day Events, Foster Parent Appreciation, Elders' Appreciation, Welcome Baby Wagon, Christmas Open House, Christmas Events, and a New Year's Party for youth and adults.
- Young ladies' baseball team hotel costs for Provincials Baseball Tournament
- "Adopted a Graduate" where the graduate receives all expenses paid for their graduation celebration.
- · Emergency foods for families.

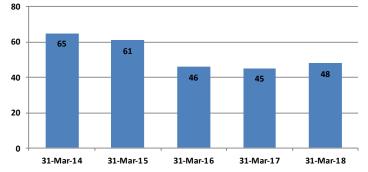
Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Continue to provide foster homes in the community and, when possible, return more children back to the community either through reunification or in community placements.
- More extensive searches for extended family and kinship homes where a child comes into care.
- Decrease the number of children coming into care and reduce the number of change of placements.
- Increase collaboration with First Nation Family Advocate Office staff and Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Family Group Conferencing to reunify children with their families.
- To establish and participate in a Community Resource Committee to increase community collaboration to improve the quality and number services available for families.
- To develop an emergency placement home so children can remain in the community.
- To provide emergency services to meet the needs of the community.
- To identify specific training needs for the staff to increase their skills and capacity to work with the families and children served.
- To participate in community events actively and increase case reviews between the city and community.
- To continue to build the trust and faith of the community with the SECFS staff.



Hollow Water Children in Care

Hollow Water Family Services





Direct Services Department – Black River Unit



Staff



Director of Services – Sandra Lagimodiere Community Supervisor – Sharon Klyne Direct Service Workers – Nadine Abraham and Stacy Starr Administrative Assistant – Julie Pelletier Intervention/Intake Worker – Valerie McDonald

The role of the Intervention/Intake Worker is to intervene in crisis situations to prevent children from coming into care. Where a child does come into care, this worker must first seek out family members for placement.

Black River First Nation

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

Population: The on-reserve population is 990 and the off-reserve population is 410. The total population as of March 31, 2018 is 1,400 members.

Community Services/Community Businesses: SECFS Office; Daycare/Head Start; Band Office; Black River Health Centre; Moppa's Store; Water Treatment Plant; and, a food bank that operates once every two weeks. AA meetings occur every Thursday.

Black River First Nation Resource Committee: The Committee members are: Mabel Starr, Olga Wood, Laverne Henderson, Joyce Ramsey, Joseph Bird, and Alice Bird. The purpose of the Committee is to provide guidance, direction, support and recommendations to programs that serve families, both on- and off-reserve. The Committee was established to ensure that program and services for children and families are meeting the needs of the community.

Gaa-wiijii-int Abinoonjii (Jordon's Principle – JP) in Black River First Nation:

Office Phone (204) 367-2602 or Cell (204) 340-0837; Health Director – Posted; Case Manager - Rhonda Abraham; Admin Support - Delinva Abraham; Community Development Worker - Tamara Courchene; Respite Workers - Cheyenne (Bird) Courchene, Nathan Neepinak, and Shandy Clarke. The JP Program provides health care and social services particularly for those children with complex medical needs. The JP and SECFS staff meet as needed to ensure children and families are receiving the needed supports to prevent children from coming into care, or when returning children home.

Elders' Program: Located at the school, and consists of 4 Elders: Mabel Starr, Olga Wood, Vera Bird and Myrtle Abraham. The Elders provide cultural activities including cooking, monitoring of children in the classroom or in the playground, language development, counselling and participating in all school activities.

School: Anishinabe Black River School offers Nursery to grade 10 and is a part of the Frontier School Division. Grade 11 to 12 students



"Leading a good life"

Direct Services Department – Black River Unit

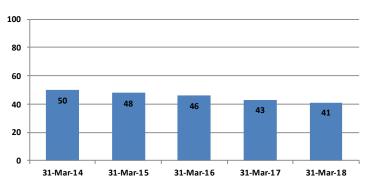
have the option to attend school in Hollow Water First Nation or Pine Falls. The community also has an alternative education program for adults.

Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Chief is Sheldon Kent and the CFS Portfolio Councillor is Oral Johnson.

Highlights and Activities

- The Parent Aide Program has been operating for the last three years and is available for all Black River community members.
- During Treaty Days, the SECFS staff purchase prizes and host an adult and childrens' "Human Bingo" games and a childrens' fishing derby.
- SECFS contributes financially to the Light House Program, Elders Program, and the Land/Water Based Cultural Program which was implemented by Black River School.

- Black River SECFS staff host an annual foster parent appreciation day/open house. Foster parents and children in care share a meal with the staff and receive a gift. Twelve families in the community who are providing private arrangement care for children were also invited. These families are recognized for preventing these children from entering care.
- The Black River SECFS staff participated in the Winter Carnival and sponsored a hot meal for all the participants.
- Every year the Black River SECFS workers organize a luncheon with Santa for the children in care, and every child in care receives a gift from Santa. In January, hampers are provided to the families involved with SECFS.
- Black River SECFS keeps emergency funds needed throughout the year. These funds are very limited as the other programs and activities are costly.



Black River Children in Care

100 80 60 40 33 34 31 20 26 24 n 31-Mar-14 31-Mar-15 31-Mar-16 31-Mar-17 31-Mar-18

Black River Family Services



Direct Services Department – Bloodvein Unit

Bloodvein First Nation



Staff



Community Based Team



City Team

Bloodvein First Nation

Location: Bloodvein River First Nation is located 210 kilometers north of Winnipeg and has been accessible by an all-weather gravel road along the eastside of Lake Winnipeg since November 2014. The community is situated along three kilometers of the shoreline at the mouth of the Bloodvein River.

Bloodvein is situated at the center of the Southeast communities. Many community members and surrounding communities including Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River, and Berens River travelers stop in Bloodvein while traveling through the winter roads, and now Berens River First Nation members regularly travel through their own recently completed all-weather road. Bloodvein First Nation is renowned for the area's petroglyphs (rock paintings) on the surrounding rocks. Community members are friendly and welcoming to the many travelers and canoeists that tour the Bloodvein River.

Community members also enjoy the fishing and outdoor activities that the Bloodvein River offers.

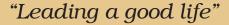
Population: The population on-reserve is 1,164, and off-reserve members is 686, with a total population of 1,850 (as of February 28, 2018).

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

School: Miskooseepi School (Nursery to Grade 9) is operated by the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) School System. When children complete grade 9 they have will be required to attend High Schools located outside the community, mostly in Winnipeg, Brandon, Selkirk and other municipalities. These students often have difficulty with adjusting to the new environment and experience culture shock. Southeast Student Services (SESS) provides direct financial assistance (sponsorship), transition (relocation), social support, counseling for students entering regular high school and vocational programs, University/College Entrance Programs (UCEP) and University/Professional Training Programs (UPT), as well as, a variety of clerical and technical programs.

Chief and CFS Portfolio Councillor: Bloodvein First Nation Chief is Roland J. Hamilton, and the CFS Portfolio Councillor is Ellen Young.





Direct Services Department – Bloodvein Unit

City and Community Staff: Given the large number of staff and clients, the Bloodvein unit is comprised of three units (two city units and one community-based unit), who work in collaboration with one another to provide the best quality services and maintain the strong family and community connections.

Staff in the city and community support families to prevent children from coming into care, and case plan for the children in care to maintain relationships with their immediate and extended families, and to know their community of belonging. Workers advocate for community resources, provide emergency assistance i.e. purchase orders for food, develop and implement programs and trainings to promote healthy living, and focus on keeping children and families healthy and safe.

Director of Services - Jamie Chartrand

City Supervisors - Natascha Enzlberger and Danielle Sullivan

Direct Service Workers - Amber Catellier, Amber Gareau, Crystal Boulette, Ed Tanner, Julian Mann, Kelvin Sherman, Kristene Arbis, Kristene Gudmundson, Letitia Kipling, Lorraine Baldwin and Patricia Petti.

Administrative Assistants - Barb Tomasi and Cheryl Wavey

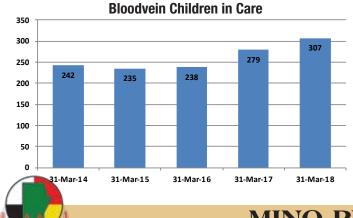
Community Supervisor - Garnet Sinclair

Direct Service Workers – Cindy Desjarlais, Frank Young, Kyle Tanner and Geraldine Cook (Family Enhancement Worker)

Administrative Assistant – Brenda Hamilton

Highlights and Activities

The Bloodvein unit staff attended the community resource meetings in effort to assist the community with addressing the issues impacting the families. The Bloodvein leadership has declared that the substance abuse in the community has increased, and that they require outside intervention to address the crystal meth crisis that has impacted their community. The community staff report they are overwhelmed with trying to keep children out of care, as their neglect becomes more prominent.

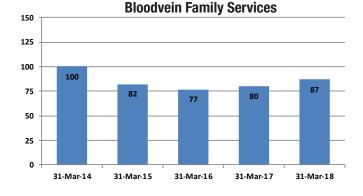


The city and community units participated in team building activities and unit case reviews. The units are working to improve their internal communication in order to collaborate and improve their working relationship, so that they are able to case plan more effectively for the Bloodvein children and families and support one another to operate as a team.

The Bloodvein community resources, SECFS, Onashiwewin, MFNERC, SERDC, and Chief and Council have been meeting throughout the year to form a collective networking support system/group for the community members. The intent is for the community resources to provide a circle of care approach for services and intervention for families struggling and need of support services.

The Bloodvein units partnered with the Chief and Council and community resources in a number community program and events this year, and all staff participated and assisted in the planning of these events, including:

- Treaty Days
- Fishing harvests
- · Support groups, community workshops and presentations
- Youth camps
- Winter carnival
- Mother's Day and Father's Day events
- Halloween
- Canada Day celebrations
- Community BBQ Feast
- National Addiction Awareness Week
- Community Resource Meetings
- Stepping out Saturdays (S.O.S) program
- Community Christmas Feast
- Community Food Bank
- Healthy Baby Program





Direct Services Department – Little Grand Rapids Unit



Community Based Team



City Team

Little Grand Rapids First Nation

Location: Little Grand Rapids (LGR) First Nation is a remote community located approximately 268 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg on the shores of Family Lake near the Manitoba/Ontario border. The community is spread out over an 8 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, air is the only mode of travel, and in the winter community members take advantage of the winter road which is open for 1 to 3 months, depending on the weather, to transport big items such as food and fuel to stock up for the year.

Little Grand Rapids highly respects and follows their traditional way of life and most members speak their Anishinaabe language fluently. The members and visitors enjoy the outdoors and sightseeing of the waterfront. The community is surrounded by many small lakes, rivers, and rapids (water falls) that provide opportunities for outdoor activities including boating and canoeing on the river and lakes, and many members engage in hunting, fishing and camping. In the summer months, the community organizes shore lunches where all community members can participate.

Population: The on-reserve population is 1,336 and off-reserve is 366, for a total population of 1,702.

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

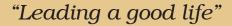
School: Abbalak Thunderswift Memorial School is a Band-operated school that offers nursery to grade 9. The children must relocate to Winnipeg and/or other municipalities in order to attend school beyond grade 9. The children meet with a SERDC educational counsellor to assist with placement and sponsorship.

Little Grand Rapids First Nation Chief and CFS Portfolio Councilor: Chief Ray Keeper. The 3 CFS Portfolio Councilors are Wendy Leveque, Hilda Crow and Diane Keeper.

Staff

The City and Community units communicate on a daily basis to provide services to the members and to support families in need. The workers





Direct Services Department – Little Grand Rapids Unit

are committed in working with the families and their children with assisting to find support resources, advocacy, emergency assistance, and complete referrals for additional community resources.

The unit sets aside emergency funds from the Family Enhancement Program to provide purchase orders to prevent children from coming into care. Should children come into care the worker/s will meet with the parent or caregiver, and conduct joint case planning strategies to work towards returning children back to the care of the parent(s) or in some cases to extended family members. The goal is to provide supports in the surrounding family environment and focus on the best interests of the child(ren).

Director of Services – Jackie Larocque (as of October 2018)

City Supervisor – Julia Seymour

Direct Service Workers – Rabia Harb, Sheryn Seunath, Julie Mann, Brittany Jonsson, Thomas Bergan

Administrative Assistant – Corrine Player

Acting Community Supervisor - Nicole Strocen

Direct Service Workers – Cindy Green, Bedla Francois, Karen Beck

Administrative Assistant - Jude Leveque

Family Enhancement Worker – Nathan Owen

Highlights and Activities

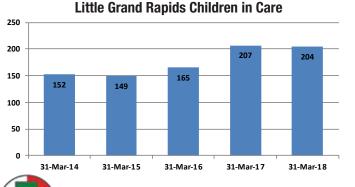
- Children continue to be reunified and are returning to the community under the joint efforts of the city and community staff.
- Team building activities and case reviews are held regularly to promote and maintain positive communication and working relations between the city and community staff.
- Partner with Chief and Council for the:
 - Fishing Harvest







- Moose Harvest



- Community staff actively participated with the Community Christmas Feast where approximately 1,100 members attended. The families who attended were given leftovers to take home. Gifts/hampers were provided for all children in care and protection case families prior to Christmas.
- The Family Enhancement Worker in the community has and is developing the following programs:
 - Weekly art and craft night
 - Breakfast program at school
 - Sawmill project
 - Recreation Centre for youth
 - Music program
- The Unit is in the process of developing an internal system to identify and accept new and existing family enhancement cases.
- A genogram (i.e., a Family Tree) was completed for the community unit to list family members should children come into care and require placement.

NOTE: there were fewer community events due to the members being relocated to Winnipeg during the fire evacuation in the summer.

Shawenim Abinoojii Homes

Three (3) Four Bed Units were built in 2014, and five (5) were built in 2016, on the Little Grand Rapids community. The Circling Thunderbird Centre (CTC), located across the lake peninsula, has two (2) trailers that are used as Four Bed Units, plus one (1) Four Bed Unit attached to the CTC building. The Shawenim Abinoonjii Home program provides 11 Four Bed Units for the community's use for children in need of placements. These homes are used for temporary, short, and long-term placement to keep children placed the community, and sometimes used for emergency placements. These homes are always filled to capacity.

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Little Grand Rapids Family Services

Direct Services Department – Pauingassi Unit



Community Based Team



City Team

Pauingassi First Nation

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 approximately a month each year, depending on the 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 snowmobile or vehicles when the ice road between Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi communities is open.

Population: On-reserve population is 565 and the off-reserve is 47, for a total of 612 members.

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 (there is no assigned CFS Portfolio Councillor).

Staff

Director of Services – Jackie Larocque

City Supervisor – Rick Paskaruk

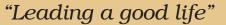
Direct Service Workers – Stephanie Michell, Bev Dunbar, Amelia Robertson, Melissa Lela (maternity leave)

Community Supervisor – Sharon Samatte

Direct Service Workers – Ivan Bonner, Stephanie Keeper

Administrative Assistant – Sandra Keeper





Direct Services Department – Pauingassi Unit

Services Provided

Pauingassi is a small community that still practices the traditions; is fluent in their language; and, cultivates 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 welcome the federal Jordan's Principle Program as this has provided for community-based services and supports to be available to the children, youth, and families to promote their growth, health, and well-being.

The staff provides protection and prevention services as mandated. The family enhancement funds are utilized in partnership with the community for 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 supports members when they request advocacy for social assistance, housing, health, and educational needs.

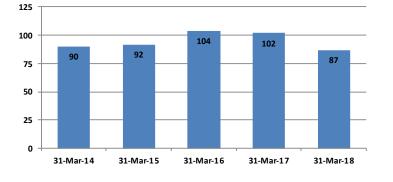
With the six Four Bed Homes in the community, the staff work closely with the Shawenim Abinoojii staff to ensure the homes are providing the staffing, and necessary supports and services to the children placed in these homes. The homes are always filled to capacity as many children in care continue to be returned to the community, or the community children are placed in the homes for emergency, temporary, short-term, or long-term care.

Highlights and Activities

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

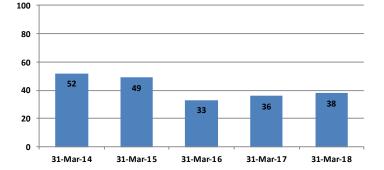
- Treaty Days
- Memorial Dinner (for all the loved ones of Pauingassi)
- Halloween treats for the community and the Halloween Costume Contest
- Community Christmas Dinner
- City staff have participated with Agency events including the Christmas Dinners, and an all staff BBQ
- Attended training opportunities to improve their skills to work with the children and families of Pauingassi
- The City Unit has been working with AMC First Nation Reunification program in returning children to their parents, and assisting with housing and support for some visits.
- The City Unit returned nine children to their parents; is working with two protection families to keep their children out of care with the added Family Enhancement Workers; and, is assisting parents to get into programming, shelters and/or adequate housing.

Note that a lot of the usual summer events did not occur due to the community being evacuated during the forest fire. The community staff assisted the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to set up activities for children in the various hotels to keep the children busy and entertained. The evacuation was very stressful for the families, and most families were very lonely for their community.



Pauingassi Children in Care

Pauingassi Family Services





Direct Services Department – Berens River Unit



Community Based Team



City Team



City Team

Berens River First Nation

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 Berens River (Miimiiwiziipiing). As of December 2017, an all-weather road connected Berens River to nearby First Nations and Winnipeg. The community's treaty land and reserve boundary is approximately 2,547 hectares, and is situated in the heart of Manitoba's boreal forest. Lake Winnipeg affords many opportunities for land and water-based activities that the natural setting can offer. Every summer, activities are held in an area known as Sandy Bar, a beach that stretches 5 miles at the mouth of Berens River and Lake Winnipeg. Log cabins with a beautiful view of the river, at Log Inn, are available for visitors' accommodations.

Population: Berens River has an on-reserve population of 2,172 members and 1,260 off-reserve members, for a total population of 3,432.

Community Services/Businesses: Band Office; RCMP; Hydro Station; Meemee-siipii Inc; Airport; Berens River Log Inn; Daycare; Nursing Station/Chief Jacob Berens Mino-Berens River Health Centre (Community Wellness Programs) – NADAP, BFI/BHC, Nutrition North, ADI, CPNP and Jordan's Principle Program; Training and Employment Program; Berens River Tug Boat/Barge; Pump House; SECFS Office; Head Start; Northern Store; Oshetoon Building Supplies/Store; Alix Enterprises Store; and, Berens River Store.

School: Berens River School operates Nursery to grade 9 and is operated by the Frontier School Division. The children must relocate to Winnipeg and/or other municipalities in order to attend school beyond grade 9. The students are met with a Berens River Student Counsellor for assistance on living arrangements (Private Home Placement – PHP program) and sponsorship. The Community offers an Alternative Adult Education Program which is also overseen by the Frontier School Division.

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

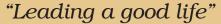
Staff

Director of Services – Stanford Boulanger

City Supervisors – Rick Paskaruk and Anetta Russo

Direct Service Workers – Tania Guimond, Vanessa Monkman, Jim Urquhart, Kareen Thompson, Tricia Garton, Errol Boulanger,





Direct Services Department – Berens River Unit

Cynthia Eyeshemitan, Selena Whiteway, and Monika Flett

Administrative Assistants – Fiona Keeper, Lindsay Nobess

Community Supervisor – Laverne Everette

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

Intake/Family Enhancement Worker – Candace Stoneman

Administrative Assistant – Ernestine Swain

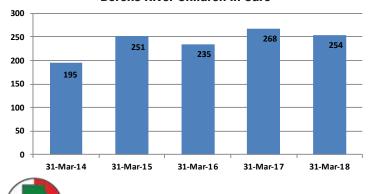
Services to Berens River

Berens River staff are committed to work with families and their children by providing support services including identifying and advocating for resources, providing emergency assistance and making appropriate referrals to community programs and services. Families that require support from the Agency may be provided with emergency assistance (i.e., purchase orders for food or supplies) through the Family Enhancement (FE) Program. Should children come into care the workers will meet with the parent or caregiver and case plan strategies in order to return children home. The goal is to connect the family with community-based resources to support the family to remain intact.

Highlights and Activities

The Agency is committed to partnering with the community to hold community-based activities and events. Partnerships include the Chief and Council, external and internal businesses including the local stores owners who make contributions or donate to the activities and events.

 Community Health Empowerment Support Services (CHESS) Program is a SECFS funded program that consists with a Program Coordinator and two Youth Workers that work out of the Sports Complex Arena.

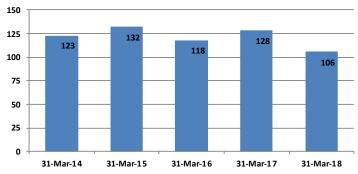


Berens River Children in Care

- Baby and Me Program is coordinated by the FE worker and STAR Mentor Program worker.
- Alcohol & Drug Workshop and the Parenting with Addictions Workshop is a collaboration between SERDC, Healing and Wellness, NADAP, STAR Mentor, and the SECFS FE worker.
- FASD/Vision and Voices workshop provided by SERD-STAR Mentor, local staff, and SECFS FE worker.
- Annual Christmas Dinner for foster parents and the children in care coordinated by the school is always a huge success
- A Women's Group is held every Wednesday evening
- The Berens River city and community teams made great effort to maintain regular family and sibling visits for children in care.
- City workers visited the Berens River First Nation to meet the families of their children in care, and participated in the Treaty Days events.

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- To participate in community resource meetings actively and establish a local child care committee
- Train the Family Enhancement Worker to provide more intensive family support services to families, and see the transfer of more family cases to the Family Enhancement Program.
- Increase the number of joint city and community case reviews and team building activities.
- Increase staff participation in community events and activities.
- Offer specific training to the staff to increase their capacity to serve their children and family cases as effectively as possible



Berens River Family Services

Direct Services Department – Poplar River Unit





City Admin - Alainna Houle



City Team

Poplar River First Nation

Location: Poplar River is the most northern First Nation of the Southeast communities and is located on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The Poplar community is situated on the mouth of the Poplar River and 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 has a rich historical background as seen through the petroglyphs on the rock walls at nearby Weaver Lake. The area has a number of burial sites that are of historical significance to the community. Community members enjoy an outdoor lifestyle year round with land based activities and camping facilities at Weaver Lake.

Population: Poplar River has an on-reserve population of 1,345 members and 561 off-reserve band members for a total population of 1,906.

Community Services/Businesses: 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 Centre; 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 Councillors: The Chief of Poplar River is Vera Mitchell. The CFS Portfolio Councillor is Tanya Bittern.

Staff

Director of Services – Glory Lister City Supervisor – Trisha Fox



"Leading a good life"

Direct Services Department – Poplar River Unit

Direct Service Workers – Debra McLeod, Matthew Zebrasky, Cara Grapentine, Andrea Johnson, Tyler West, Reina Aviles, Colin Smart

Administrative Assistant – Alaina Houle is covering for Chevanne Beaudry (Maternity Leave)

Community Supervisor – Sherri Hudson

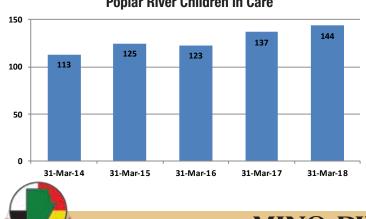
Direct Services Worker – Chelsea Little

Family Enhancement Worker – John Valiquette

Administrative Assistant - Shenae Hudson

Highlights and Activities

- SECFS funded two Recreation Workers for the arena. The workers provide prevention services with organizing and facilitating activities for children and youth.
- Contribution to the Health Centre to support a community parenting class.
- Sporting activities and events for children, youth and families
- Contribution towards the Wellness Fair
- Contribution to the Youth Gathering and Youth Symposium
- Community Partnered Events: Partnered with community programs to develop and contribute to the following activities: Sewing and Beading Group; Cooking Class; Mother's Day and Father's Day Feast; Fishing Derby; Easter and Halloween activities; and, contributed to the National Native Alcohol Addiction Program.
- Treaty Days

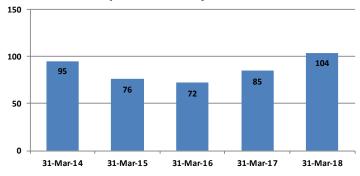


Poplar River Children in Care

- Christmas Dinner and Activities
- Sponsored a couple of the Poplar River dance groups to take the • youth out to perform in other communities and events.
- Provided for emergency flights and/or transportation for children and families
- Emergency funds for groceries or diapers and milk.
- On- and off-reserve staff participated in various training to build up their skill sets to serve children and families as effectively as possible
- City staff visited the community to assist with events and meet community members.

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Filling staffing vacancies in the community and city units
- Plan for a community approach to determine best use of prevention funds
- Active participation in the community resource committee
- Regular on- and off-reserve case reviews to increase communication and knowledge of families and their issues
- Increase use of Shawenim Abinoojii Reunification homes to reunify more families
- Continued support and participation in community events and activities
- Coordinate training programs for staff and community members to enhance personal and professional skills to meet both system compliance requirements and children/family needs



Poplar River Family Services

Direct Services Department – Age Of Majority Unit (AOM)

Staff



Director of Services – Jaime Chartrand Supervisor – Kyle McClintock

Administrative Assistant – Jasmine Greene

Direct Service Workers – Dennis Dare, Dorothy Anderson, Gayle Parisien, Hernan Biderman, Josephine Bruce, Melanie Boulette, and Patricia Moneas The Age of Majority Unit is situated on the 4th Floor at 360 Broadway. The unit consists of 7 Direct Service Workers and 1 Supervisor. The AOM Unit currently has 127 cases, and has a waiting list of youth hoping to be transferred over.

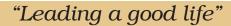
The AOM Unit is a specialized unit whose main focus is to provide transitional services to its youth and young adults (16 and 20 years old). The workers receive referrals from the Agency's direct service units, and the youth may be residing on or off-reserve. The workers carry caseloads no higher than 25 so that they are able to offer a more individualized service to the youth. This is a critical time for the youth, as they will be aging out of care and need the services and resources to be attached to them when they are on their own.

Transitioning youth out of care requires the workers to be mindful of the cognitive functioning of the individuals and to know their strengths and weaknesses. Assessments and referrals need to be completed in a timely manner, and often there are strict deadlines for referrals and requirements for assessments for specialized services including Independent Living or Community Assisted Living for Adults.

Highlights and Activities

- Thirty (30) youth were successfully transitioned out of care
- The AOM staff has attended workshops to increase their knowledge to support and help the youth be successful in their transition out of care. 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; and, Supporting Healthy Choices for Youth with FASD
- A community resource booklet for youth was developed specifically for the youth so they had a list of resources readily available to them. This resource book is given to every youth that age out of the unit.
- Established a partnership with Knowles Centre Inc. to improve the success of youth transitioning out of care and preventing homelessness
 - Supported Adolescent Independent Living (SAIL) which reserves 17 apartments for SECFS youth, which provides a service for youth to learn how to successfully live independently
 - Cultural Programming in conjunction with SECFS Cultural Services Team





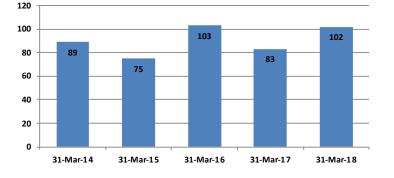
Direct Services Department – Age Of Majority Unit (AOM)

MINO-PIMATIZIWIN

- Developed a bi-weekly sharing circle for current and former SECFS youth in care as a support system for participants
- Organized the sale of youth's art at an Arts and Crafts Sale Day where the youth sold their artwork (one youth earned \$600).
- The Wolfpack Hockey Team comprised of youth (16-21 yrs) played in the Adult Safe Hockey League in May 2018. The players established strong bonds with one another, increased their sense of belonging as individuals and a team, and increased their skills as hockey players. A positive outcome reported is that players who had criminal justice involvement had no reported involvement since being on the team.
- A partnership with the True North Youth Foundation saw an organized donation drive for hockey equipment that is being donated to the Southeast communities.
- A training video was developed highlighting the need for transitional planning by workers for the children and youth in care. The video showcased former youth in care who shared their stories and advice for workers to improve their services to the children and youth in care.
- An in-house independent living program was developed where youth have access to housing and supports (6 beds for males and 4 beds for females).
- A Christmas Dinner for youth in independent living was organized for this special group of youth to enjoy a Christmas dinner with their supports and peers.

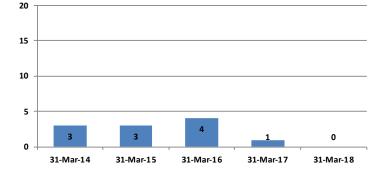
Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Increase the reunification and repatriation of youth with their families and communities.
- Develop the training needed for youth to improve their employability and overall life skills.
- Host a career symposium for the youth to hand out resumes, network, and gain more information about the employment opportunities and services available in their communities.
- Organize another art show for the youth to sell their wares, to profit from their creations, and enhance their skills to increase their confidence and self-esteem.
- Continued networking with resources that will benefit the youth and young adults involved with SECFS.



Age of Majority Children in Care

Age of Majority Family Services





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Direct Services Department – Family Enhancement Unit

Staff



Director of Services – Jackie Larocque Supervisor – Julia Seymour Family Enhancement Worker – Melodie Baptiste Administrative Assistant – Corrine Player

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).

Services

The main goal of the SECFS Family Enhancement Program is to provide intensive family support services as a means to keep children and families safe, together, and healthy. At this time, the Agency has only one dedicated FE Worker for the off-reserve families. The onreserve 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.



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Community Development



Frank Abraham is the Community Liaison Development who holds a dual role. First, that of communicating with the Agency staff both on and off-reserve as to the community office and staffing needs. Planning for ordering of materials, equipment, vehicles, and other needs is important, as there are three communities that are remote and there is reliance on a limited winter road period. This department is also responsible for maintaining inventory of the materials, equipment, office supplies, vehicle maintenance, etc. and overseeing the work that is completed including securing the contractors, where necessary.

Frank oversees the Security Officer at the Mountain Avenue office who was hired this year. The Security Officer has a dual role as an assistant to the Community Liaison, and helps with transporting equipment, supplies, etc. to the community and city offices.

Frank is also the communication officer for the Agency, as he is fluent in the Ojibway language (Anishinaabemowin) and is a former Chief. He will attend the Board meetings, community meetings, and meetings with leadership to assist with language interpretation, as needed. Some of the work that was completed in the past year:

- Major repairs at the Pauingassi SECFS community office including the changing of the siding and windows and installing a new furnace and air-conditioning system.
- Roofing repairs were completed at the Black River SECFS community office, with leadership ensuring that it was completed in a timely and cost-effective manner as per the lease agreement.
- A deck was built at the Hollow Water SECFS community office.
- Three offices were built at the Agency's 1410 Mountain office.
- Two new vehicles were purchased, one for Berens River and the other for Bloodvein. Two more vehicles will be purchased when the winter road opens, both for Little Grand Rapids.
- Two more lots have been secured for a septic field to be built for the Circling Thunderbird Centre site. This is the site where the Family Healing and Wellness Centre will be operating out of, and the water treatment issue needed to be addressed. The selection of the contract to build the septic field will happen in mid-January 2019.
- Winter road shipments are currently in the planning stages.

Staffing

Community Development Liaison – Frank Abraham

Part-Time Community Development Liaison Assistant – Jessica Haugerud Security/Community Development Liaison Assistant – Shaffi Mohamed Maintenance/Janitorial at Headquarters Office – Vacant



Thank You from the Senior Management Team







Administrative Support Services

The Agency acknowledges the hard working and committed administrative staff who we rely on to keep our Agency functioning.



Executive Assistant Kristen Cook



Management Assistant Jessica Bridges



File Clerk 1410 Mountain Matthew Bouchey



Receptionist 360 Broadway Office Janelle Lister



File Clerk 1410 Mountain Ariel Bruce



Receptionist 1410 Mountain Naomi Swain



File Clerk 360 Broadway Shirley Vandale



Security/Maintenance Officer Shaffi Mohamed



Headquarters Office Administrative Assistant – Jessica Haugerud Maintenance – Vacant Travel Clerk – Pamela Pater Billings Administrator – Claudette Vandale



"Leading a good life"

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Assembly Of Manitoba Chiefs – First Nations Family Advocate Office





The First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) at the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs supports and advocates for Indigenous families involved with the Child and Family Services (CFS) system by challenging existing jurisdictions, policies, laws, and organization using Indigenous knowledge, customary laws, traditions, and belief systems to create positive change for our children, families and communities.

In December 2017, the FNFAO began a unique relationship with Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS), enabling us to move forward with a resolution made in 2014 by Chiefs in Manitoba to audit files of CFS agencies in Manitoba. The FNFAO has partnered with SECFS to examine case files where there is no real concern for protection and the children can be sent home to their families or home communities or where immediate supports will help to reunify families.

Our team of reunification workers connects with the social workers at SECFS to discuss case plans for children/families and to ensure that all parties are working towards reunifying families. FNFAO staff provide continuous support even if reunification is not in the immediate future for a family. If children cannot be reunified with parents or family our office makes sure the family has meaningful contact. If necessary, reunification workers mediate between social workers and the families.

Family engagement workers work closely with reunification workers and biological families to accomplish goals outlined in the initial case plan created by the Agency and the families. Engagement workers assist the family in completing their case plan and overcoming any hurdles they may have such as housing, accessing EIA, obtaining resources that are necessary or by doing things such as attending Court with them, writing support letters for the families, helping them access food banks, etc. We have also been able to connect families with the Jordan's Principle Initiative in Manitoba. This helps families access services for their children that they wouldn't have been able to access otherwise.

We assisted SECFS during the fire evacuation with the Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids members. Our staff attended to hotels and supported families with children. We provided vouchers to enable families to shop for clothing and, also for fun outings such as movies. At the FNFAO office, we offer traditional parenting classes, a youth group, the Red Road to Healing Program, a Good Journey with our Relatives Program and we encourage families to sign up for programs.

Thanks to our partnership with SECFS, our staff were able to visit four First Nations: Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, and Brokenhead. Thank you to the First Nations for welcoming our team members and providing us with more insights about life in your communities.

It has been a pleasure working with the accommodating SECFS staff. We have seen many successful family reunifications in a very short time, and we will continue our work with SECFS.

Statistics for December 2017 to December 2018

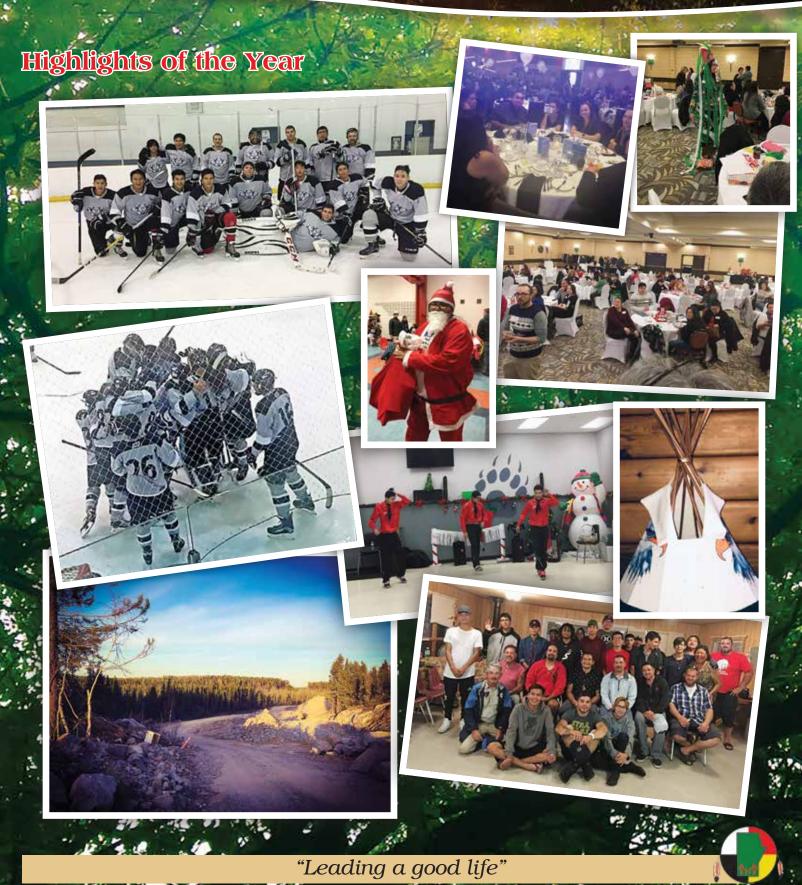
- Total of 179 files were either self-referred by the family, or referred by SECFS social workers
- 63 children were returned home to either their parents or extended family
- 4 birth apprehensions were prevented amongst the 26 birth alerts issued
- 26 birth alerts where we supported women going through the birth and apprehension process
- When children are unable to be returned to parents or family, the FNFAO advocates for the children to have meaningful contact with their family.

FNFAO Reunification Team

- Ethel Campbell Reunification Worker
- Heather Courchene Family Engagement Worker
- Stephanie Edwards Family Engagement Worker
- Kendra Inglis Team Lead
- Kelly Gossfeld Reunification Worker
- Michelle Klippenstein Reunification Worker
- Tina McKay Reunification Worker
- Tara Remillard Family Engagement Worker
- Anna Smith Reunification Worker
- Noella Viner Reunification Worker

For more information about the FNFAO, please visit our website at http:// firstnationsfamilyadvocate.com/.





ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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, 2018, 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, 2018 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

July 27, 2018

MNPLLP

Chartered Professional Accountants



Southeast Child and Family Services Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Assets		
Current		
Cash (Note 3)	10,093,563	4,726,435
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	7,722,441	9,590,829
Prepaid expenses and deposits	216,178	136,379
	18,032,182	14,453,643
Capital assets (Note 5)	3,220,770	3,488,106
Advances to related party (Note 6)	103,511	665,864
	21,356,463	18,607,613
Liabilities		
Current Accounts payable and accruals <i>(Note 7)</i>	6,004,273	3,028,264
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	91,403	91,403
Current portion of provincial child tax benefit payable (Note 9)	541,633	541,633
Working capital advance (<i>Note 10</i>)	2,263,400	2,263,400
	8,900,709	5,924,700
Long-term debt (Note 8)	99,018	190,421
Provincial child tax benefit payable (Note 9)	4,392,100	4,933,732
	13,391,827	11,048,853
Contingencies (Note 11)		
Net Assets		
Federal Core	1,667,755	1,397,403
Federal Family Enhancement	10,395,048	7,876,259
Federal Child Protection Services	(17,050,756)	(13,753,796)
Federal Child Maintenance	529,683	874,110
Provincial Core	(6,057,878)	(4,779,595)
Provincial Family Enhancement	806,424	1,164,532
Provincial Child Protection Services	3,965,647	3,878,738
Provincial Child Maintenance	1,910,252	1,591,230
Children's special allowance and other	11,798,461	9,309,879
	7,964,636	7,558,760
	21,356,463	18,607,613

Approved on behalf of the Board

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2018

	2018 Budget	2018	2017
Revenue	_		
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)			
Operations - Federal Core (Schedule 1)	2,173,857	2,173,857	664,012
Federal Family Enhancement (Schedule 2)	2,371,876	3,684,027	2,653,051
Operations - Federal Child Protection Services (Schedule 3)	4,420,786	4,420,786	5,645,080
Federal Child Maintenance (Schedule 4)	16,400,000	27,536,937	19,986,156
	25,366,519	37,815,607	28,948,299
Southern First Nations Network of Care			
Operations - Provincial Core (Schedule 5)	721,372	722,160	726,973
Provincial Family Enhancement (Schedule 6)	799,792	799,793	799,793
Operations - Provincial Child Protection Services (Schedule 7)	5,833,729	5,833,729	5,631,349
	7,354,893	7,355,682	7,158,115
Province of Manitoba - Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8)	26,033,469	30,444,418	24,792,807
Other revenue (Schedule 9)	150,000	139,710	225,432
	26,183,469	30,584,128	25,018,239
	58,904,881	75,755,417	61,124,653
Expenses			
Schedule of Federal Core (Schedule 1)	1,555,884	1,561,579	1,817,244
Schedule of Federal Family Enhancement (Schedule 2)	1,454,429	1,165,238	1,215,576
Schedule of Federal Child Protection Services (Schedule 3)	7,822,397	7,717,746	7,475,524
Schedule of Federal Child Maintenance (Schedule 4)	17,499,999	27,881,364	19,810,286
Schedule of Provincial Core (Schedule 5)	2,333,825	2,342,369	1,975,864
Schedule of Provincial Family Enhancement (Schedule 6)	799,791	1,157,901	1,022,580
Schedule of Provincial Child Protection Services (Schedule 7)	4,929,194	5,746,820	4,741,531
Schedule of Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8)	24,716,275	30,125,396	24,471,560
	61,111,794	77,698,413	62,530,165
Deficiency of revenues over expenses before other items	(2,206,913)	(1,942,996)	(1,405,512
Other items			
Children's Special Allowance revenue - Federal (Schedule 9)	2,199,500	2,471,514	2,197,246
Schedule of Children Special Allowance & Other expenses (Schedule 9)	-	(122,642)	(110,763
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(7,413)	405,876	680,971

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



				Fo	For the year ended March 31, 2018	March 31, 2018
		Federal Core	Federal Family Enhancement	Federal Child Protection Services	Federal Child Maintenance	Provincial Core
Net assets, beginning of year		1,397,403	7,876,259	(13,753,796)	874,110	(4,779,595)
Transfers			I	ı	ı	ı
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses		270,352	2,518,789	(3,296,960)	(344,427)	(1,278,283)
Net assets, end of year		1,667,755	10,395,048	(17,050,756)	529,683	(6,057,878)
	Provincial Family Enhancement	Provincial Child Protection Services	Provincial Child Maintenance	Children's Special Allowance and Other	2018	2017
Net assets, beginning of year	1,164,532	3,878,738	1,591,230	9,309,879	7,558,760	6,877,789
Transfers	1		I	·		ı
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(358,108)	86,909	319,022	2,488,582	405,876	680,971
Net assets, end of year	806,424	3,965,647	1,910,252	11,798,461	7,964,636	7,558,760

Southeast Child and Family Services Statement of Net Assets **MNP**

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Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating		
Cash receipts from grants	79,553,687	61,763,509
Cash paid for program service expenses	(61,968,841)	(49,336,449)
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(12,042,865)	(11,524,533)
	5,541,981	902,527
Financing		
Advances to related party	(7,524)	(181,202)
Repayment of long-term debt	(91,403)	(83,786)
	(98,927)	(264,988)
Investing		
Purchase of capital assets	(75,926)	(58,957)
Increase in cash resources	5,367,128	578,582
Cash resources, beginning of year	4,726,435	4,147,853
Cash resources, end of year	10,093,563	4,726,435

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



Southeast Child and Family Services Offices

SECFS Urban Office



Winnipeg Office 4th Floor – 360 Broadway Winnipeg, MB R3C 0TC Phone: (204) 947-0011 Fax: (204) 947-0009



Winnipeg Sub-Office 2nd Floor – 1410 Mountain Mountain Avenue Winnipeg, MB R2X 3C4 Phone: (204) 594-0494 Fax: (204) 594-0499/0496

WEBSITE: http://www.southeastcfs.org

SECFS Community Offices





Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Office 10 Thunderbird Road Box 240, Scanterbury, MB, R0E 1W0 Phone: (204) 766-2655 Fax: (204) 766-2709

Hollow Water First Nation Box 2567 Wanipigow ROE 2E0 Phone: (204) 363-7344 Fax: (204) 363-7343



Black River First Nation General Delivery O' Hanley, MB R0E 1K0 Phone: (204) 367-4052 Fax: (204) 367-4350

Bloodvein First Nation General Delivery Bloodvein, MB ROC 0J0 Phone: (204) 395-2476 Fax: (204) 395-2139



Little Grand Rapids First Nation Box 219 Little Grand Rapids, MB R0B 0V0 Phone: (204) 397-2407 Fax: (204) 397-2272



Pauingassi First Nation Box 75 Pauingassi, MB R0B 2G0

Phone: (204) 397-2134

Fax: (204) 397-2273



Berens River First Nation Box 75 Berens River, MB R0B 0A0 Phone: (204) 382-2525 Fax: (204) 382-2326



Poplar River First Nation Box 260 Poplar River, MB R0B 0Z0 Phone: (204) 244-2875 Fax: (204) 244-2173



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ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



