



"Coming Home" (2023) by Nicholas Fisher from Pauingassi First Nation.

In this artwork, there are no faces which serves as a powerful tribute to all those lost. The vibrant flowers encapsulate the beauty that could have adorned their lives. The four circles stand for all nations coming together. The tipi holds a special meaning; it's a symbol of home, connecting us to our roots and who we are.



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1

COMMUNITY MAP



2



PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION

3



LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION

4



BLOODVEIN FIRST NATION

5



HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION

6



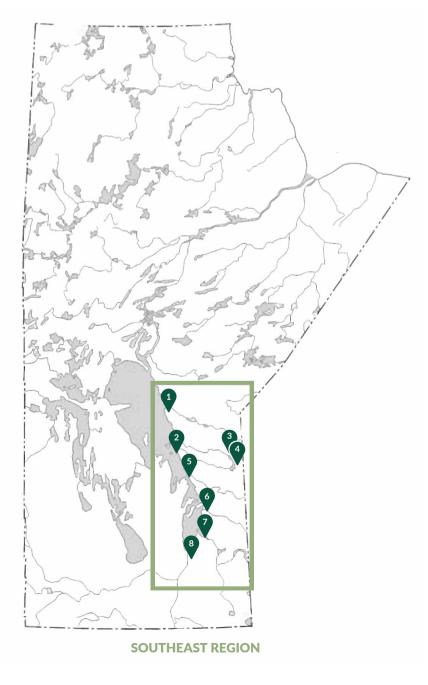
BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION

7



BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION

8













MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



"On behalf of the Board, I am honoured to present the 2022-2023 Southeast Child and Family Services Annual Report."

> Lisa Young CHAIRPERSON

As Chairperson, we, the Board, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated efforts of each First Nation within Southeast Child and Family Services as they navigate the transition into their law-making responsibilities under Bill C-92. This significant undertaking involves the development of laws tailored to the specific needs of each First Nation, an initiative that Southeast Child and Family Services is committed to honouring.

We, the Board, acknowledge the profound shift in this new era of child welfare ushered in by legislative changes and we remain dedicated to ensuring minimal disruption to the families we serve. The funding allocated to our First Nations and Southeast Child and Family Services has prompted adjustments in our approach to family support. Prevention funding is now decentralized, residing within each First Nation, with half the communities leaving a portion to be retained by Southeast Child and Family Services to assist with the needs of those families inhabiting urban areas.

Fortunately, Southeast Child and Family Services has been successful in securing additional funding. This funding will play a pivotal role in providing relief to families currently involved with open files with Southeast Child and Family Services thereby alleviating the financial strain on the First Nations and allowing prevention funding to concentrate on the individual community and their members. While Southeast Child and Family Services is growing, creating a demand for additional career paths and opportunities, the Board supports this growth. Our primary focus is the well-being of our communities and families. We embrace the changes and actively support their implementation. As reiterated in previous AGM greetings, our overarching goal remains unwavering: to collaborate closely with Southeast Child and Family Services staff, Chief and Council members, and the broader community to reduce the number of children in care. We emphasize the importance of keeping children with their families, making family preservation our top priority.

Recognizing the distinct challenges faced by each individual community, we remain steadfast in our belief that working together will assist us in overcoming these obstacles. We acknowledge and respect the unique knowledge and teachings embedded in each community, fostering a diverse array of strengths. The exchange of these diversities continues to guide our day-to-day decisions, ensuring the agency's trajectory aligns with our shared vision.

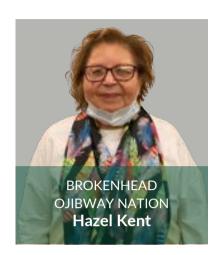
In closing, I extend my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, Chief and Council members, staff, and community partners for their unwavering support. Together, we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of Child and Family Services, striving for a future where every child can thrive within the embrace of their family and community.

Chi Miigwich

BOARD OF DIRECTORS





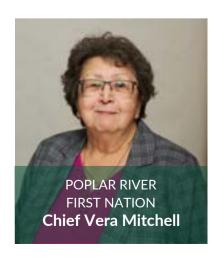














MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Aniin! Tansi! Mino Gichi Anama'egiizhigan!
Southeast Child and Family Services follows the path of Mino
Pimatiziwin (leading a good life) in all aspects of our service delivery.
Healing and empowering families and communities to provide for healthy and safe homes and environments is our priority focus.

Rhonda Kelly **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I am honoured to provide this year's Southeast Child and Family Services report. I wish to thank the Board of Directors for their positive approach and dedication to directing the service delivery, policy development, and support for our staff and the children, youth, young adults, and families we serve.

Mino Pimatiziwin is incorporated within all we do at Southeast Child and Family Services. We aim to focus on healing and empowering our Southeast families and communities to care for their children, youth, and families.

So much is happening globally, nationally, provincially, and locally that is impacting our peoples' mental health and well-being. SECFS welcomes the evolution of changes to our child welfare system to empower our communities to re-establish their own child welfare laws and governance. This upcoming year there will be a few Southeast First Nations who will have advanced with having their child welfare laws implemented and their own child welfare agency operational.

Ultimately, we all are focused on doing what needs to be done to keep children safe, families healthy and intact, and reunifying children who are in care back to their families and communities.

Our annual report provides financial and statistical information for the fiscal year period of April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, and on our activities and events for the calendar year of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

As has been done in the past, the release of this year's annual report will coincide with the Southeast Child and Family Services and Shawenim Abinoojii Incorporated's joint Annual General Meeting scheduled for January 31, 2024. Each senior management lead has prepared a report for their respective units, and we hope that you find their report informative.

I look forward to the upcoming year and to continuing our transformation to support the communities we serve.

Meegwetch.

Rhonda Kelly

Giizhaybowsekwe (Kind Walking Bear) Piizhew Dotem (Lynx Clan)

AGENCY OBJECTIVES

VISION

MINO PIMATIZIWIN

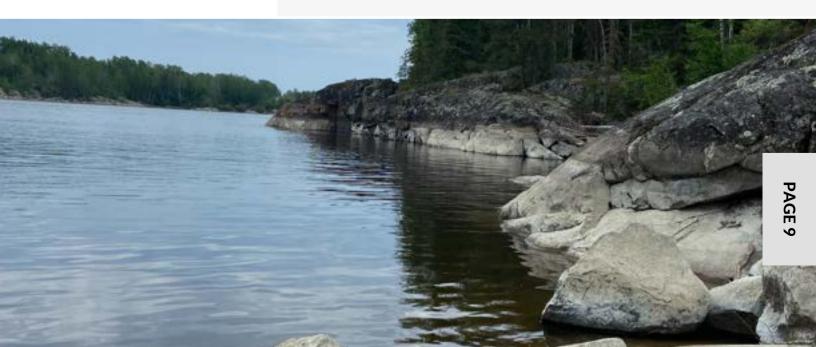
Living a good life for our children, families and communities now and for our future.

MISSION

Southeast Child and Family Services supports the children, families, and communities with providing respectful, caring, and supportive preventative and protection services to promote the well-being and safety of the children, 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 SECFS's actions build upon 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 that SECFS delivers
- To understand and respect the diversity of the members and communities SECFS 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 continuously review the quality of services provided by SECFS 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 funding sources to deliver the most culturally sensitive and respectful service possible



AGE 10

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

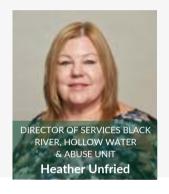






























EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In this comprehensive annual report, Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS) presents a detailed overview of its financial and statistical performance for the fiscal year spanning April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. The services, programs, and activities outlined herein correspond to the calendar year spanning January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

ABOUT SECFS

Mandated in 1985, Southeast Child and Family Services originally functioned as a child welfare agency serving on-reserve members from the Berens River, Black River, Brokenhead, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Bloodvein, Poplar River, Pauingassi, and Buffalo Point First Nations. In 2005, under the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry - Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI), the SECFS mandate expanded to serve the on and off-reserve members of the Southeast First Nations. Buffalo Point First Nation opted to be served by Animikii Osozon Child and Family Services in 2008 under a sub-agreement.

The eight First Nations served by Southeast Child and Family Services are unique in their culture, community norms, geography, population, economic development, and social issues. The Poplar River, Pauingassi, and Little Grand Rapid First Nations are remote communities that are primarily accessible via air travel or a winter road available for only a portion of the winter season. While the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Berens River, Bloodvein, Hollow Water, and Black River First Nations are accessible all year round by road. SECFS tailors its services to meet the diverse needs of each community.

LEGISLATION & FUNDING

SECFS remains dedicated to implementing the legal requirements and mandatory service provisions outlined in An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis children, youth, and families to the Southeast community members. Many of the First Nations are progressing with developing their respective child welfare laws to replace the provincial Child and Family Services Act and two First Nations are actively seeking to establish their own child welfare agency.

SECFS receives funding from Indigenous Services Canada and the Province of Manitoba. The Province's Single Envelope Funding (SEF) model is still funded under its 2019 rates and does not account for the unique challenges posed by SECFS, that being the disproportionately high number of children in care, significant high number of family cases, elevated costs associated with serving remote communities, persistent shortages in housing and child placement resources, as well as limited human resources in certain locales. Moreover, the SEF model does not incorporate considerations for inflation. Despite the ratio of 70% of our cases falling under provincial delegation, the SEF model's parameters contribute to an annual operational deficit on the provincial side.

The federal Indigenous Services Canada funds continue to adhere to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) orders which have enabled SECFS to provide enhanced services to federally funded children, youth, young adults, and families. This year we saw the Southeast First Nations receive the community prevention funds. Four First Nations allocated a portion of their community prevention funds to SECFS which provided the capacity to support their members with emergency food, diapers, supplies, or other necessary costs. About mid-year, SECFS was approved for family preservation funds, which now enables SECFS to provide intervention services to families from all the Southeast communities.

GOVERNANCE

SECFS is governed by eight Board of Directors, with each board member representing their respective First Nation. Notably, Chief Clinton Keeper for Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Councillor Glenn Boulanger for Berens River First Nation are among the new Board members.

Sub-committees, including Governance, Human Resources, and Finance, meet to address operational, policy and financial matters to provide informed recommendations to the Board for decision-making purposes.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Changes in senior management include the departure of a long-serving staff member, Jackie Larocque, who has served with SECFS for over 35 years. New Directors of Services include Melanie Boulette for Little Grand Rapids First Nation, Samantha Chabbert for Pauingassi First Nation, and Serena Marsden for Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

The Senior Management Team meets regularly to strategize initiatives aimed at optimizing service delivery, and operational efficiency and serve as a forum for collaborative decision-making, allowing the team to formulate recommendations for the Board of Directors. These recommendations include the implementation of new policies, the creation of staffing positions, and the introduction of programs designed to enhance staff relations and elevate the quality of services provided to the children, youth, young adults, and families served by SECFS.

SERVICE DELIVERY

Structured to reflect the unique characteristics of each First Nation, SECFS organizes units comprised of a Director of Services, City and Community Supervisors, Direct Services Workers, Alternative Care Worker, and Administrative Assistant staff. The intent is to promote a deeper understanding within our unit staff of communities, families, and children, facilitating family or community-based placements when children are in need of emergency, temporary, or long-term placements.

Directors of Services and Community Supervisors are entrusted with the responsibility to establish and maintain strong relationships with their respective First Nation's Chief and Council and key community resources. In instances where a First Nation has a local Child Care Committee or a Community Resource Committee, the Director of Services and Community Supervisor actively participate in joint initiatives aimed at addressing community issues.



POST MAJORITY SERVICES

The Post Majority Unit actively provides services to 200 young adults aged 18 to 25 years. The unit acquired three transitional homes to serve as flexible environments to serve as emergency, short-term, long-term, and sober living arrangements to meet the diverse needs of our young adults. More living spaces will be available early in the new year once the lease is finalized for a wing at the Southeast Wellness Centre in West St. Paul.

The array of services and programs available to our transitioning young adults are holistic in nature and include providing essential necessities, education/training, addiction and mental health support, pre and perinatal support, recreational activities, Sweat Lodge ceremonies, naming ceremonies, sundances, fasts, cedar baths, teachings, and access to land-based therapists, are all available at the Notre Dame location for youth, young adults, and parents ensuring a smooth transition to independence. The upcoming year will see the services expand to the communities.

CASE NUMBERS

Our central focus remains on reunifying children with their families and reducing apprehensions. As of March 31, 2023, SECFS saw a decrease of 121 children in care, an increase of 40 families receiving services, and the successful reunification of 218 children with their parents and extended families. That's an increase of 81 reunifications from the previous year's 137 child reunifications.

SECFS continues to receive transfer requests for Southeast member children and families who have been receiving services from other child welfare agencies in Manitoba which keeps our case numbers high. More details regarding the overall community and unit statistics are provided in the Statistics Report.

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, SECFS faced a shift in funding dynamics, as federal prevention funds were no longer available apart from four First Nations continuing to contribute a portion of their funds to SECFS to provide emergency purchases or services to their respective members.

Despite this challenge, the Agency pursued alternative funding opportunities to provide intervention services to at-risk families. Programs and services, coordinated with the Post Majority services, were reinstated to support families, including in-home supports, parenting classes, cultural programming, workshops to promote healthy lifestyles, and leadership training. The Notre Dame office also offers family visit rooms to enhance family connection and enable parents to attend programming with on-site child care.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The SECFS Health and Wellness Coordinator (formerly the Emergency Response Coordinator) keeps current on all federal, provincial, and community restrictions, health and environment matters. In addition to the responsibilities in emergency response situations, the Health and Wellness Coordinator oversees the Health and Safety Committee and manages the Mountain Avenue office.

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

The Agency's In-House Therapist remains dedicated to providing clinical therapy services to our children, youth, and parents involved with SECFS.

SECFS continues to search for a Clinical Director to oversee the therapeutic services our children, youth, young adults, and families are receiving. And, that the mainstream and traditional therapeutic services align with the needs of those served.

SHAWENIM ABINOOJII INC.

The collaborative efforts between SECFS and the Shawenim Abinoojii Working Group are characterized by a quarterly meeting schedule to strategically enhance services and communication across various initiatives. Key areas of focus include the Shawenim Homes, support worker program, training initiatives, and other joint ventures. Furthermore, to strengthen the partnership, the two management teams engage in an annual retreat dedicated to addressing organizational and other service-related concerns.

A significant facet of this collaborative approach involves the Running White Wolves Youth Council, comprised of 12 First Nation youth and young adults aged 15 to 25 who are committed to growing their leadership skills. The Youth Council actively contributes to organizational improvement by providing valuable input to both SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii. Notably, the annual SECFS-Shawenim Abinoojii golf tournament, a fundraising initiative, continues to support the endeavours of the Running White Wolves Youth Council, underscoring the commitment to youth leadership development.

Plans are underway for SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii to jointly host a Chiefs and Board of Directors strategy forum in the spring of 2024. This forum will provide a platform for high-level discussions, further strengthening collaboration and coordination efforts between the First Nations' leadership and the Boards of both organizations.

FAMILY WELLNESS LODGE

Situated across from Little Grand Rapids First Nation, the Family Wellness Lodge offers residential and day-programming healing services, incorporating cultural and land-based programs. Participants are empowered to learn coping mechanisms and strategies to address various traumas and build healthier familial relationships. By operating as a transformative space, the Family Wellness Lodge plays a vital role in contributing to the development of resilient and thriving families.

ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

SECFS continues to advocate for funding to support parents and young adults to access addiction and mental health treatment centres in Manitoba and out of the province. SECFS staff are learning how to better assess individuals' or families' readiness and the most suitable service provider for treatment referral. Attendance at the annual Recovery Conference aids in increasing awareness and improving staff capabilities in dealing with addictions.

STAFF RELATIONS AND SUPPORTS

SECFS continues to prioritize staff development by investing in comprehensive training programs. SECFS is dedicated to cultivating an environment where each staff member can grow, with ample opportunities for professional advancement. Training initiatives span across in-house programs, external resources, and collaborations with recognized post-secondary institutions, covering all angles of our operations.

Given the dispersed nature of the 200+ staff, spread across Winnipeg and eight First Nations communities, regular staff gatherings are crucial for building a cohesive team approach.

EVENTS

The "SECFS Journey of Change" conference, held from November 22-24, 2023, brought together over 300 participants, including SECFS staff, Board members, leadership, youth, Elders, and interested members. The conference featured respected presenters covering topics such as Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decisions, federal child welfare legislation changes, prevention best practices, research, law building, and showcased three Southeast First Nations developing their child welfare laws.

This year's high school graduation marked a significant milestone for 35 young adults. To celebrate this significant achievement, a memorable gala was organized at the Canadian Human Rights Museum. The event featured distinguished guest speakers and captivating entertainment, providing a platform to honour the accomplishments of the graduating students and inspire them as they embark on new chapters in their lives.

The SECFS Social Committee organized the SECFS Staff Christmas party which was held at Canad Inns-Club Regent, creating a joyful atmosphere for our dedicated team. Renowned actor Adam Beach served as the guest speaker, sharing his personal journey, including both challenges and successes, and imparting valuable insights to the gathering. The event also included a full day of information sharing among staff members and engaging games with prizes, promoting a sense of unity and camaraderie.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Meegwetch to our children and families for entrusting SECFS to provide support and services. A special thank you is extended to the Board of Directors, community leadership, and the entire staff for their unwavering dedication and commitment. This collaborative spirit reflects our shared vision to promote SECFS as a service provider that comprehensively understands and addresses the needs of our communities, creating an environment where all can strive to be healthy, safe, and strong.

Meegwetch





newsletters, videos, social media and messages through various mediums and venues. The Agency has seen substantial growth in its social media presence over the past year, which promotes ongoing information regarding events, programs, and information beneficial to Southeast members.

Communications Coordinator Stewart Racette manages the SECFS website and diverse social media pages, as well as the planning of both singular and recurring Agency events including the SECFS High School Graduation event which was held at the Canadian Human Rights Museum, the SECFS-Shawenim Abinoojii Annual General Meeting, Post Majority and Age of Majority Christmas Gala, SECFS Christmas Gala, SECFS Child Welfare Conference, and created the SECFS Annual Report and pamphlets/agendas for all events.

The Communications Coordinator has actively contributed with ideas to improve attendance and participation in programs offered by the new Post Majority Unit. A unique incentive program that distributes high-quality hoodies and crewneck sweatshirts with a design reflecting the Agency's mission, "Mino Pimitizawin" which translates to "Leading a Good Life", has been introduced and well received. These high-quality sweaters and crewneck sweatshirts are gifted to young adults actively participating and involved in the various Post Majority and Age of Majority programs.

Since 2022, the Communications Coordinator has been based out of the Broadway office but relocated to the Notre Dame office to support the expansion of activities and events for the Post Majority Unit.

Stewart hopes to implement a new phone application ("app") in partnership with an Indigenous-led tech company. This app is crafted and tailored to meet the unique communication needs of SECFS that will drastically enhance inter-office communication and allow for near-instant dissemination of information among all Agency staff.

As of January 15th, 2024, Stewart Racette has transitioned to the role of Associate Manager of Community Operations within the Agency. He expresses gratitude for his time as Communications Coordinator and extends best wishes to his successor. Stewart is committed to ensuring a smooth transition, offering thorough briefings on existing projects, and providing support as needed for the incoming Communications Coordinator.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Administrative Support Services staff within our Agency plays a vital role in ensuring operations run seamlessly within our organization. These dedicated individuals provide crucial administrative support across various departments, including management, finance, city and community direct services, abuse, and prevention units.

Serving as the first point of contact for anyone interacting with our offices, our administrative support services staff are adept at managing critical tasks such as opening and closing our facilities. They warmly welcome visitors and direct them to the appropriate staff members, both in person and over the phone. Within their respective units, our Unit Administrative Assistants, diligently maintain our database systems with up-to-date information. Additionally, they meticulously adhere to paperwork processes, ensuring the secure filing of all documents and upholding our commitment to confidentiality.

These individuals are integral to the efficient functioning of our offices and services, embodying a commitment to excellence. We extend our sincere appreciation to our administrative support staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work, recognizing the vital role they play in the success of our organization.

OUR STAFF





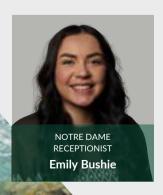


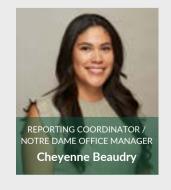














HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

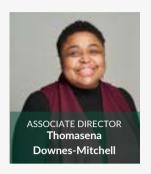
The Human Resources Department oversees a workforce of nearly 300 staff members including full-time, part-time and contract personnel of which 62% of our staff identify as Indigenous. The staff are located across twelve office locations encompassing both unionized and non-unionized environments.

Our first Yellowquill cohort is set to conclude in March 2024, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to professional development. Looking ahead, we are prioritizing the enhancement of supervisor training programs to bolster leadership and teamwork skills. We are pleased to welcome a new Training Coordinator, whose expertise will contribute to elevating our staff's training initiatives and promoting internal career advancement.

This year, our recruitment efforts extended to the majority of the eight communities we serve. A standout achievement this year was the resounding success of our joint career fair, Zoongide'ewin Bawaajigan: Brave Dreams. In collaboration with the Southeast Resource Development Council and Shawenim Abinoojii, this event was monumental, leveraging effective social media campaigns and a strategic radio advertisement on NCI FM. With over 100 attendees, the event reflected the strong interest in career opportunities within our organization. A testament to its success, several individuals recruited from this event have now become valued members of our Agency, reinforcing our commitment to identify and harness Aboriginal talent.

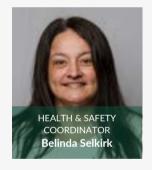
Under the diligent leadership of Belinda Selkirk, our Health and Safety Officer, we have prioritized the well-being of our staff, families, children, and the communities we serve. In addition to overseeing health and safety measures, Belinda serves as the Chairperson for the Health and Safety Committee. Her responsibilities also extend to administrative and managerial tasks specific to the Mountain Office.













TRAINING COHORTS

FIRST NATION CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES WORKER COHORT

YELLOWQUILL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Southeast Child and Family Services in partnership with Yellowquill University College offers the First Nations Child and Family Services Worker Diploma program as to a cohort program to the SECFS staff.

The SECFS staff attend classes one week per month in this two-year program which started in March 2022 and ends in March 2024. This program has allowed the cohort students to balance their professional responsibilities to SECFS while fulfilling their academic goals.

By March 2024, when the cohort students graduate, they will be well-equipped to contribute to SECFS to provide stronger services that will facilitate the well-being of children and families in the Southeast communities.

The members of the cohort include: Cindy Young, Frank Young, Sandra Sveinson, Betty Sainnawap, Sherri Hudson, Shenae Hudson, Keegan Eaglestick, Jude Leveque, Corinna Kotak, Ginger Whiteway, Ernestine Swain, Tammy Ducharme, Cecilia Cook and Chasity Thomas.



BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK COHORT

SECFS continues to support a number of Southeast First Nation employees to obtain their Bachelor of Social Work while employed with SECFS. This is part of the long-term strategy to build the capacity of the Southeast communities to have educated social workers leading their law-making processes and working within their own child welfare agencies.





Rhonda Kelly | Executive Director

Kristin Cook | Executive Assistant

				Kilst	III COOK LACCUU	VC Assistant
Frank Abraham Community Operational Manager	Jackie Anderson Manager	Teekca Spence Director	Glory Lister Director	Stanford Boulanger Director	Samantha Chabbert Director	Melanie Boulette & Elana Baseraba Director
Brokenhead Community	Wellness	Human Resources	Poplar River Community	Berens River Community	Pauingassi Community	Little Grand Rapids Community
PROJECT LIAISON	PROGRAM COORDINATOR Christine Dumaine	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Thomasena Downes-	SUPERVISOR Sherri Hudson	A/SUPERVISOR -	A/SUPERVISOR Sam Chabbert	SUPERVISOR Maureen Line
MAINTENANCE Ginew Kent	WELLNESS	Mitchell	ADMIN -	CO-SUPERVISOR Claudia Sanchez	ADMIN Sandra Keeper	ADMIN Samuel Bushie
JANITOR Nathan Spence	FACILITATORS Brittany Murdock Agnes Danielson	COORDINATOR Corrin Toews	INTAKE WORKER -	ADMIN Reanna Andrews	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS
COMMUNITY OPERATIONS ASSISTANT	Darren Parenteaux Nancy Breton Joseph Gilchrist Kim Campbell	HR GENERALIST Cari-Lynn Lecocq SERVICE	EARLY INTERVENTION WORKER	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Mabel Green Muriel Green	Jessica Mason Melodie Valiquette EARLY	Christabel Ofori Jude Leveque Verna Cowley Chelsea Bamendine
Karen McLeod	CHILDMINDERS Kaitlyn Thordarson Hannah Ladouceur	ASSISTANT FLOAT Jillian Mitchell Health and Safety	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS	Ginger Whiteway Nakita Woodhouse	INTERVENTION WORKER Makiera Hobin- Duddridge	Keegan Eaglestick Rebecca Flett Jasmine Cranford Claudette Lavallee
	MAINTENANCE/ LODGE KEEPER	HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER	Chelsea Little Renee Larocque Kaylyn Dovyak	INTAKE Ernestine Swain	Pauingassi City	Janine Richard SERVICE
	Harrison Anderson	Belinda Selkirk MAINTENANCE	Poplar River City	FILE CLERK/CLEANER Angel Hudson	SUPERVISOR Rick Paskaruk	ASSISTANT Kaela Lavallee
	Kookum's Nest KOOKUM'S NEST	Jared Richard	SUPERVISOR -	SERVICE ASSISTANT	ADMIN Savannah Moneyas	Little Grand Rapids City
	WORKERS Makayla Drury Julie Berens Cheyenne Thordarson Laureen Mowat	Mountain Office FILE COORDINATOR	ADMIN Tessa Inglis DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Brooke Evans	Ashley Boulanger Berens River City (A) SUPERVISOR Josephine Frey	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Melissa Kolesar Kristine Arbis Alyza Umali	SUPERVISOR Rebecca McIvor
		MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT				ADMIN Christa Lee
		Chasity Thomas RECEPTION	Krystal Obirek Colin Smart	ADMIN Kianna Greene		DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Desiree Bradford-
		Tanisha Thordarson	Lara Coppola Sheryn Seunath Peter Thomson	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS		Knight Rabia Harb Thomas Bergen
		Randy Kolba	SERVICE ASSISTANT	Russell Nielsen Andrea Gadsby Dwayne Till		Stacy Belyk Justin Garcia Jeff Tyler
			Craig Selkirk Poplar River City	Kelsuma Yussuf Sarah Mowat Angel Woodhouse		Shantel Seneshen SERVICE
			TRAINING COORDINATOR	Rose Koppanyi George Thomas		ASSISTANT Jimmy Olynyk
			STATISTICAL ANALYST	SERVICE ASSISTANT Natasha Breen		
			Sandra Pereira QA CLERK	Berens River City (B)		
			Marcus Alvarez Intake and Assessment	SUPERVISOR Rick Paskaruk		
			Unit SUPERVISOR	ADMIN Savannah Moneyas		
			Elizabeth Mahmoud ADMIN -	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Kim Baydak Zasha Remington		

CIR/SIR Tiffany Pickell

SERVICE ASSISTANT Corinna Kotak

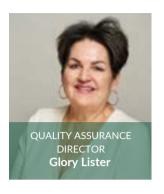
SERVICE ASSISTANT Emily Bruce

Cynthia Eyeshemitan Madison St. Godard Joshua Gatta

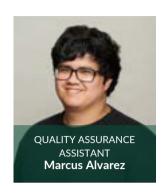
Reina Aviles
Debra McLeod
Ryan Heinrichs
Sheriane Ritchie

Jaime Chartrand Director	Heather Unfried Director	Jackie Larocque Director	Serena Marsden Director	Vesna Maroti Director	Lee Bornhorst Director	Vlastimir Drakul Network Administrator
Bloodvein Community	Black River Community	Alternative Care	Brokenhead Community	Finance	Post Majority	Information Technology (IT)
A/SUPERVISOR Frank Young	SUPERVISOR Shelly Guimond	SUPERVISOR Wanda Joe	SUPERVISOR Jessica Boyle	ANALYST/ MAINTENANCE Wendy Malcolm	SUPERVISOR Tyler West	IT SPECIALIST Dominic Chartrand
ADMIN -	ADMIN Michelle Wiebe	ADMIN Trevor Harper	ADMIN Cheryl McTavish	ASSESSMENT & FUNDING	SUPPORT ASSISTANT Shavonne Bushie	
DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Cindy Young	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Valerie McDonald	ALT CARE WORKERS Amber Gareau	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Marcy Raven	SPECIALIST Christophe Audette	ADMIN Reanne Hamilton	Notre Dame Office
Olivia Langan Chantal Lamb Adeola Ogunleye	Farley Bird Katrina Starr	Bev Thomas Laverne Everett Brynn Rosjer-Doyle	Ruth Graham Alyssa Fournier Stephanie Strong	RECEPTION Cecily Hamilton TRAVEL CLERKS	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Amanda Schubert	A/REPORTING COORDINATOR Cheyenne Beaudry
SERVICE ASSISTANT	SERVICE ASSISTANT Ellie Marsch	PRIOR CONTACT	Tracy Houle Tammy Moose Anne-Marie Sinclair	Pam Thompson Keri Beaudry	Devan Lambert Jessa Mae Cruz Karen Garcia	RECEPTIONIST Emily Bushie
- INTAKE	INTAKE -	SPECIALIST Stephen Bear INTAKE	SERVICE ASSISTANT	BILLINGS Claudette Vandale	Sandra Sveinson Ahmad Salem	REPORTING WORKER Shania Thordarson
Bloodvein City (A)	EARLY INTERVENTION WORKER	Cara Grapentine Alternative Care	Angel Prince	Shirley Vandale	SERVICE ASSISTANT Faith Everett	BUILDING & PROGRAM
SUPERVISOR Natascha Enzlberger	- Hollow Water	SUPERVISOR Vanessa Johnson		PAYROLL & BENEFITS Derek Martin	Perinatal / SYA Unit SUPERVISOR	SUPPORT Nolan Hamilton
ADMIN Barb Tomasi	Community SUPERVISOR	ADMIN My Spence		ASSISTANTS Sherry Anderson Shelly Longbottom	Meagan Parisian ADMIN	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR Stewart Racette
DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS	Lorna Bjork ADMIN Deirdra Berens	ALT CARE WORKERS Lindsey Nobess		Taylor Bruce	Amber Daniels PERINATAL WORKERS	IN-HOUSE THERAPIST Melissa Lela
Julia Mann Jill Lauze Tania Guimond	DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS	Rafael Leal Sharon Samatte Kaylee Funk		PAYABLE Donna Manchulenko	Rachel Brown Willow Meijering Sage McIvor	Wellssa Leta
Janine Stepanenko Christina Farina Delphine McKay	Gladys Williams Jasmine Courchene Tammy Ducharme	Raytee Fank		AP/ MAINTENANCE Roxanne Swain ACCOUNTS	PERINATAL ASSISTANT	
SERVICE ASSISTANT Jamaal Gadsby	Donna Smith SERVICE			PAYABLE CLERK Sharon Monkman	Robin LaFreniere SYA WORKERS Deanna Parisian	
Bloodvein City (B)	ASSISTANT Valene Williams			FINANCE CLERK Devin Bruce	Elisa Anderson Transitional Unit	
SUPERVISOR Anetta Russo	MAINTENANCE - Black River & Hollow				TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	
ADMIN Jade Parisian	Water City SUPERVISOR				COORDINATOR Tammy Hamelin TRANSITIONAL	
DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Krista Whitehead	Simone Richard ADMIN				WORKERS Noah Santiaguel Mateo Cornejo	
Kel Sherman Lindsey Lemieux Letitia Kipling	Shenae Hudson DIRECT SERVICE				Heather Traverse Joshua Morissette Janelle Gossfeld	
Stephanie Rechik Patrick Mateo	WORKERS Michelle Daly Patricia Kakegabon				Jules Sutherland Dianna Therriault Haven Porter	
SERVICE ASSISTANT Bronson Richard	Hannah Tyler Gayle Parisien Jessica Jureidini				Dakota Eischen Brenda Bell	
Age of Majority	Brittany Johnson SERVICE ASSISTANT				Programming PROGRAM FACILITATORS	
A/SUPERVISOR Dennis Dare	Ilona Francis Abuse				Tempest Bruce Darren McIvor Beverly Heigl	
ADMIN Trinity Moneyas	SUPERVISOR Lauren Turney				PROGRAM SUPPORT	
DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS Tricia Garton Matthew Zebrasky	ADMIN Ashton McCorrister				Jacob Boulette	
Justin Lambert Reina Aviles	INVESTIGATORS					

QUALITY ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT









The Quality Assurance Unit is responsible for supporting SECFS to be in compliance with mandated child protection legislation, policies, and standards regulating child welfare services. Collaborating with all staff across both city and community units, our team is steadfast in ensuring services align precisely with the specified mandate and regulations governing Indigenous child welfare.

At the core of our Quality Assurance initiatives lies data collection. The Unit generates monthly reports, meticulously recording the number of Children in Care, Protection, Voluntary Services, Expectant Parents, and all Supervision files within each Unit of the Agency. Utilizing CFSIS, the data management system developed by the Manitoba Government, and internally created Case Lists, our databases are cross-referenced carefully to uphold data accuracy. Presently, the Quality Assurance team is immersed in compiling and analyzing specific data related to Critical Incidents, Admissions and Discharges from Care, and Community Analysis, tailored to the legislative frameworks of individual communities. This information is integral, aiding senior management in making informed decisions regarding staffing and training needs.

Monthly compliance reports are compiled for every unit, ensuring that all staff adhere to the mandated standards set for all child welfare agencies. These compliance reports offer valuable insights to Supervisors and Directors, aiding them in overseeing the well-being of children in care and the families in their caseloads. Maintaining up-to-date files is imperative, not only for the well-being of the individuals involved but also in meeting the overall funding criteria set by Provincial and Federal governments. Our reports serve as a crucial tool for making staffing decisions, addressing workload concerns, managing cases, and guiding training initiatives.

Central to our responsibilities is the compilation, maintenance, and analysis of data pertaining to Serious Injuries or Critical Incidents, including fatalities, involving any child in care or a child whose family's file is under the Agency's responsibility. Following each Critical Incident Report (CIR), the Agency reports these incidents to the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) and the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC) then an Internal Agency Review (IAR) is conducted to assess the Agency's work comprehensively. These reviews provide insight and recommendations for changes, policy development, programming, or training to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. The information gathered from Internal Agency Reviews aids in identifying historical trends, contributing to informed interventions aimed at preventing further critical incidents.

Within the Quality Assurance Department, an In-House Trainer is dedicated to delivering comprehensive training sessions to all SECFS staff. This year's training curriculum covered essential topics such as Intro to CFS, Safety Assessments, Structured Decision Making, Global Interviewing, Case Documentation, and New and Expectant Parent Assessments. While regrettably, our former trainer has transitioned to a new role within the Agency, we have hired a new Training Coordinator, and we are poised to resume our in-house training schedule. Plans are underway to expand training opportunities, particularly for administrators and supervisors.

Furthermore, our Unit actively responds to emerging needs from any unit, be it city or community, in collaboration with our Finance and Human Resources departments to develop insightful reports for the requesting unit. These reports, encompassing staffing needs, financials, and case counts, are shared with our First Nations communities, offering a comprehensive understanding of the requirements for delivering child welfare services.

Currently, we are focused on collecting data related to admissions, readmissions, and discharges of children in care, aiming to uncover the underlying reasons for their entry into Agency care and evaluating the success of reunification efforts. This data-driven approach supports the development of impactful resources, enhancing our ability to facilitate successful reunifications.



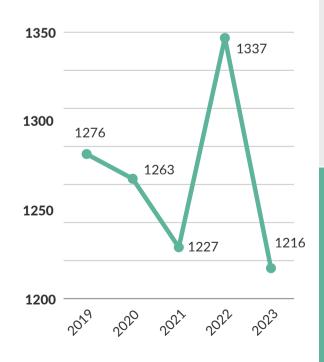
STATISTICS 2022-2023

As of March 31, 2023, there were 1,216 children in care (CIC), 134 young adults (ages 18-21) under Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs); and 584 families receiving services from SECFS. In comparison to March 31, 2022, there were 121 fewer children in care, an increase of 7 young adults voluntarily receiving services with the Agency, and 40 additional families receiving services.

Type of Case	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023
Children in Care (CIC)	1,227	1,337	1,216
Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)	109	127	134
Family Files	505	544	584
Total	1,841	2,008	1,934

FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL

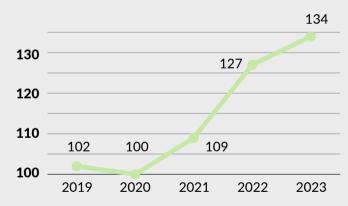
CHILDREN IN CARE



AGREEMENTS

WITH YOUNG ADULTS (AYAS)

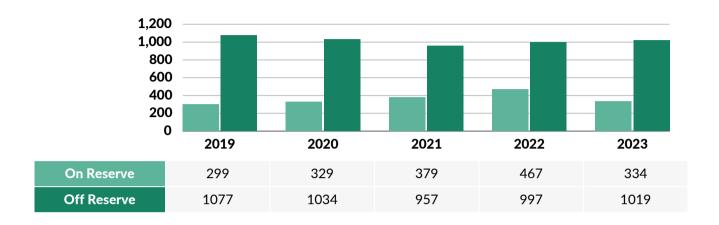
On March 31, 2023, SECFS had 134 Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs). This is an increase of 7 from the previous year. The total number of AYAs is comprised of each Unit including the Age of Majority Unit.



As of March 31, 2023, the total number of children in care (CIC) for SECFS was 1,216 which is a decrease of 121 from the previous year. The number of SECFS children in care has been decreasing because of SECFS's continued effort to support families to keep them healthy, reduce the number of apprehensions, and promote children and family reunifications.

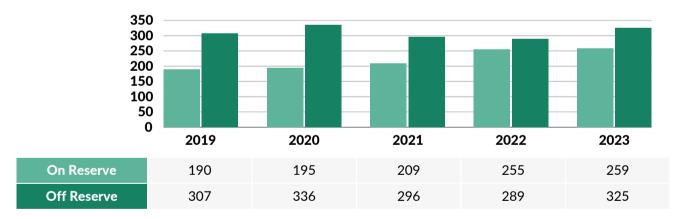
ON AND OFF RESERVE PLACEMENTS

As of March 31, 2023, there were 334 CICs and AYAs placed on-reserve and 1,016 placed off-reserve.



FAMILY CASES

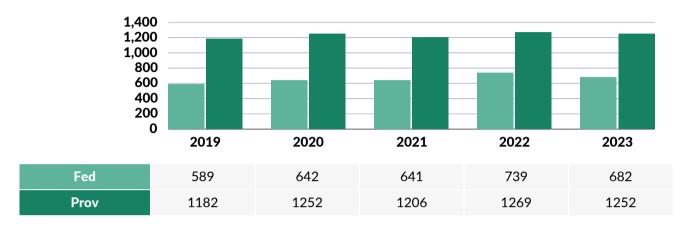
As of March 31, 2023, SECFS had 259 on-reserve family cases and 325 off-reserve cases for a total of 584 family cases. This is an increase of 40 family cases from the previous year.





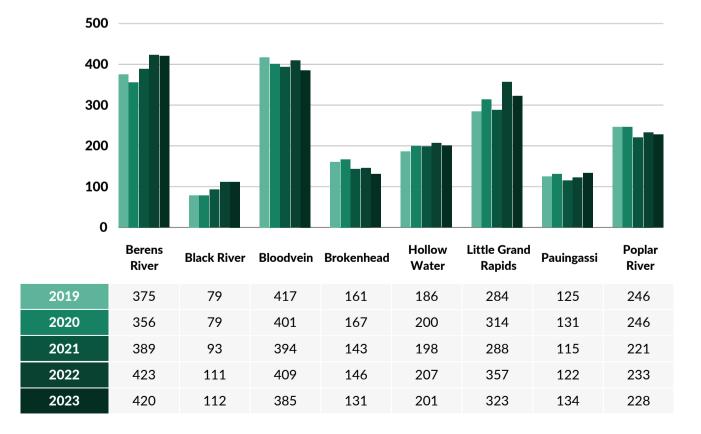
FUNDING

SECFS is funded 40% federal and 60% provincial. On March 31, 2023, SECFS had 682 federally funded cases and 1,252 provincially funded cases.



TOTAL CASES (PER COMMUNITY)

The total number of files that includes CICs, AYAs, and Family Cases per community from 2019 to 2023.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT Network Administrator Vlastimir Drakul and IT Specialist Dominic Chartrand provide SECFS with the comprehensive support needed for the 300 full-time, part-time, and casual staff members spanning across a dozen office locations. IT is required to ensure daily support activities, weekly updates, and monthly maintenance is performed. This includes ensuring the servers are performing properly and all IT equipment is stable and secure.

During the past year, the focus was to improve communication and connectivity to all offices, with extra attention paid to the remote onreserve office locations. Specifically, we successfully implemented Business Starlink, enhancing accessibility and connectivity. Additionally, we upgraded the telephone system at the city offices, further upgrading our communication infrastructure.

Our IT objectives for the upcoming year are aligned with our commitment to continuous improvement and security enhancement. One of our primary goals is the implementation of a two-factor authentication system. This proactive measure will not only enhance the overall security of our systems but also ensure compliance with Microsoft 365, and meet our insurance requirements. The introduction of this additional layer of protection will substantially mitigate the risk of unauthorized access to sensitive information, safeguarding our organization's data and assets.







FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The SECFS Finance Department operates from the 4th Floor of 360 Broadway and the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation headquarters office.

The Finance team consists of over a dozen staff the specializing in multifaceted and comprehensive financial responsibilities associated with the First Nation child welfare system. This includes overseeing payments to foster homes, community care providers, and youth and young adults in Independent Living. Major duties include management of accounts payable, data entry, funding and rate assessments, purchase order creation, and maintenance analysis. Additionally, all payroll and benefits requirements for both permanent and contracted staff are done in-house, emphasizing our commitment to internal excellence over external outsourcing.

Adapting to evolving funding trends that align with the needs of communities and off-reserve children and families, the Finance team collaborates with funders, including Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Province of Manitoba, to ensure compliance and effectiveness.

In conjunction with the Executive Director and Board of Directors, the Finance team is responsible for creating, implementing, and monitoring the annual operating budget. Quarterly financial statements are diligently prepared for review with the Board of Directors, and an annual audit conducted by the Exchange Group adds an additional layer of accountability.



2022-2023 AUDIT:

In the fiscal year, 2022/23, SECFS funding increased to \$93,009,487, compared to \$83,672,696 in 2021/22. Total expenses also rose from \$95,241,586 on March 31, 2022, to \$105,522,449 on March 31, 2023. Notably, an additional \$2,466,002 in Children's Special Allowance (CSA) funds for federal children in care and \$5,058,095 in CSA for provincial children in care were secured in fiscal year 2023.

Despite operational deficits, it is essential to highlight that the Agency is required to include the CSA and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) funds in its financial statements. As of March 31, 2023, the reported deficit of \$6,534,871 is confirmed by Exchange Group's annual audit, affirming compliance with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations.

GOALS FOR 2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR

As we embark on the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Finance Department strives to source additional financial resources, enhance efficiencies, and support the staff, children, families, and communities we serve. All these efforts will be conducted within the bounds of acceptable accounting principles, ensuring transparency and accountability in our operations.

STAFF





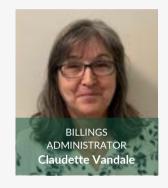








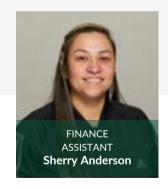






















BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION UNIT

Located on Treaty 1 territory, approximately 85 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (Baaskaandibewi-ziibiing) encompasses over 13,375 acres of land extending northward to the shores of Lake Winnipeg, including the Netley Creek Marsh area and the core of the community. The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation is about a 30-minute drive north of Winnipeg on Highway 59.

As of December 31, 2023, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation's registered membership stands at 2,277, with 679 members residing on-reserve and a further 1,598 members off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Gordon Bluesky and the CFS Portfolio is Councillor Christopher Kent.

The BON leadership has been diligently engaged in the development of its own child welfare laws, aligning with An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit, and Metis children, youth, and families. Furthermore, efforts are underway to secure a mandate for their own child and family services agency. With the leadership assuming control over federal prevention funding allocation, the Unit has strengthened its collaboration with community and urban resources to ensure the continued provision of preventative services for BON children and families.

The Brokenhead Unit is characterized by its unique approach, as it serves both on- and off-reserve children in care and families from its main office location within the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. The proximity to Winnipeg enables the unit to efficiently provide services for all members, regardless of their location. In November 2023, SECFS established a touchdown office in Winnipeg to reduce travel times and accessibility for services to families residing off-reserve.

The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation hosts the South Beach Casino and Resort, a pharmacy, a grocery store, the Sergeant Tommy Prince School, a pow wow arbour, and inaugurated a community splash pad for the enjoyment of children and families in the sweltering summer months.

The BON Prevention/Cultural Worker organized evening classes teaching beading, sewing, and art, open to community children and families and has also arranged for Anishinabemowin classes to be held during the summer for all children and families. Collaborative efforts with Jordan's Principle and Shawenim Abinoojii led to the hosting of a traditional/land-based camp in July, offering participants opportunities for hands-on learning, cultural sharing, and outdoor activities.

At the camp, the children, youth, and families cooked over outdoor fires, harvested food from the land, built shelters, set up tipis, and shared teachings. Waterways offered a canoeing and water safety programming in July that saw over 20 participants each day. In August, BON had their annual Treaty Days/Pow Wow at their local Arbor which serves as the hub for the majority of community gatherings.

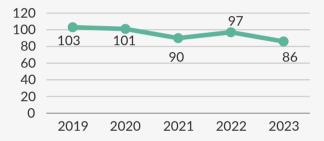
UNIT STATISTICS

Compared to the previous year, the Brokenhead Unit saw an 11.34% decrease in the number of children in care on reserve due to the closure of 11 files. And, there was a 13.33% decrease in the number of Family Services cases due to the closure of 6 files.

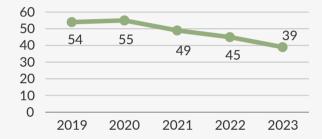
Challenges for families continue to persist due to the rising costs of living (food, rent, clothing, etc.), substance use issues and an increase in external case transfers to the BON Unit.

Despite these challenges, the BON Unit staff remains dedicated to supporting the children and families and collaborating closely with community resources to provide the services needed. The Unit continues to prioritize family reunification, working collaboratively with parents and families to facilitate private arrangements and legal guardianships, and increase options for children to be placed with community or family members.

CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES



STAFF



























Located in Treaty 5 territory, approximately 158 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg, Black River First Nation (Makadewaagamijiwanoonsing), is nestled between the banks of the O'Hanley and Black River near the edge of the Boreal Shield and Boreal Plain. Accessible year-round by paved highway about an hour and 45 minutes from Winnipeg. The predominant language spoken is Anishinaabemowin, reflecting a rich cultural heritage, and underscoring the importance of cultural preservation within the community.

As of December 31, 2023, Black River First Nation's membership stands at 1,630 members, with 679 members residing on-reserve and a further 951 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Sheldon Kent and CFS Portfolio is Councillor Nelson Bird.

Black River First Nation declared its Indigenous Governing Body status and has commenced the process of developing its own child welfare legislation. Lisa Holland-Storozuk was seconded from SECFS to serve as the First Nations Child Welfare Representative.

The Black River SECFS community team collaborates closely with Jordan's Principle, the Health Centre, the School, and their recently established prevention team. They also facilitate in conjunction with an addictions counsellor who attends the community two days per work, access for parents to seek treatment. The community remains committed to identifying aftercare services as a priority to bolster their members' journeys of healing and well-being. Black River First Nation, in collaboration with SECFS, has submitted numerous applications under the CHRT Federal Capital Funds program. These projects include the acquisition and installation of cedar barrels for Camp Makwa, the development of a state-of-the-art prevention building, and the creation of a transitional housing complex. Addressing the pressing need for housing in the community, transitional housing will enable families experiencing homelessness to remain within their community. The aspiration is for all construction projects to be completed by 2025.

Looking forward, plans for the upcoming year involve the recruitment of an Early Intervention Worker (EIW). The EIW will focus on intensive work with families in their homes, addressing their immediate needs, and connecting parents and children to resources both within and outside the community. In cases where services are not available locally, the EIW will facilitate connections and potentially develop support groups to encourage shared problem-solving among families. The ultimate goal is to provide families with the necessary help and support before serious protection concerns arise.

UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Black River decreased by 3 cases (-4.62%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Black River increased by 3 cases (+6.98%) from last year.







CITY SUPERVISOR Simone Richard



ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Michelle Wiebe





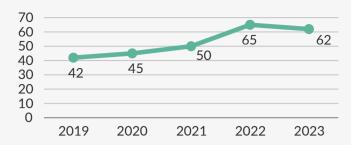
ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

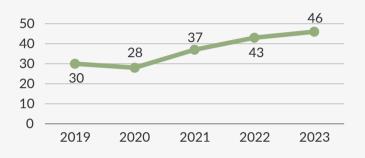
Shenae Hudson



CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES



















Located in Treaty 5 territory, Hollow Water First Nation (Waanibiigaaw) lies 199 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg, accessible by an all-weather road. Nestled in the Precambrian Shield, the community, encompassed by lush spruce and aspen trees and surrounded by fresh waters, is an idyllic location for hunting, trapping, and fishing. Despite the geological challenges construction faces because of the vast bedrock, Hollow Water exudes natural beauty and hosts annual events like Black Island Days and the Elder's camp on Black Island, just a short boat ride away.

As of December 31, 2023, Hollow Water's registered membership stood at 2,189 members with 1,086 members residing on-reserve and 1,103 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Larry Barker and the CFS Portfolio is Councilor Geoff Bushie.

Hollow Water First Nation established its own Prevention Team who plan and execute its community programming and events. To cater to community members living outside Hollow Water, the Chief and Council have allocated prevention funds to the SECFS city team to serve families residing off-reserve. Funds provide for emergency needs, services, support, and programming. The prevention funds have proven beneficial to several families. The Hollow Water SECFS unit is actively recruiting an Early Intervention Worker to offer intensified services and resources to parents caring for their children at home who require additional support. The Early Intervention Worker will also facilitate support and parenting groups as needed.

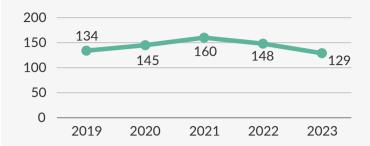
Hollow Water Chief and Council submitted multiple applications through the CHRT Federal Capital Funds Program for a Prevention Building to accommodate extensive programming and community events. Another proposal targets a six-suite, three-bedroom transitional home facility for families in the community facing homelessness. A proposal for staff and visitor housing has also been submitted. The community anticipates final approvals and the commencement of work on all projects in the Spring of 2024.

The community saw the opening of the Pearl Smith Memorial Women's Emergency Shelter which provides essential services and support for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence, enabling them to continue residing in their community. Additionally, the community finalized the construction of an outdoor skating rink, equipped with a dome cover and rink boards, offering a recreational space for community members for years to come.

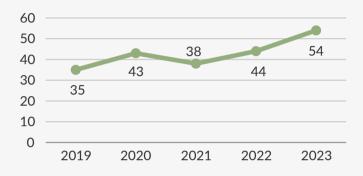
UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Hollow Water decreased by 19 cases (-12.84%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Hollow Water increased by 10 cases (+22.73%) from last year.

CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES

































Little Grand Rapids First Nation (Mishi-baawitigong) is located approximately 370 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. Spanning an eight-kilometer area along the lakeshore, the community is exclusively accessible by air, with a brief winter road season requiring helicopter access during both freeze and thaw periods. Surrounded by the boreal forest, lakes, rivers, and rapids, the community thrives in a rich ecosystem that highlights traditional food sources such as moose and fish. Elders and knowledge-keepers have meticulously mapped areas used for generations by families to harvest plants for traditional medicines. Actively engaging with the land, Little Grand Rapids community members pass down the values of boating, trapping, and camping activities to the next generation with Anishinaabemowin being the predominant language spoken.

As of December 31, 2023, Little Grand Rapid's registered membership stood at 1,878 members, with 1,447 members residing onreserve and 431 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio:

Citale Grand Rapids First Nation

DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NATION UNIT

Chief Clinton Keeper and the CFS Portfolio is Wendy Leveque.

LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST

The Little Grand Rapids community office was able to increase staffing, with workers being able to offer enhanced support services, reunify children, increase family visits, and maintain the continuity of care. This and the Kookums Nest, a 5-bed unit house, are able to offer round-the-clock care and support to children in need of temporary care. This safe space is an invaluable community resource to keep children safe when in need of emergency care. Workers are supported and empowered to forge deeper connections with community members, creating family-oriented safety plans and cultivating the family's strengths, thereby mitigating the necessity for children to be placed in care. Collaboration between SECFS, Shawenim Abinoojii, the Family Healing and Wellness Lodge, and the community led to a second Kookum's Nest being opened.

A partnership with Manitoba Detox Centre provided for a community-based Aftercare Program. On a bimonthly basis, the Aftercare Program helped community members sustain sobriety post-treatment and offered consultation to individuals who were contemplating treatment.

In collaboration with the Little Grand Rapids Band Office, Little Grand Rapids Health Program, Jordan's Principle, Shawenim Abinoojii, and SECFS, a community Christmas Dinner was organized with almost 800 people in attendance. The SECFS staff joined the community events including their Youth Day Camp contributed donations.

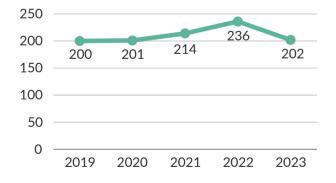
Little Grand Rapids leadership secured capital funding for the construction of a multifaceted Prevention Centre, Transitional Building, Jordan's Principle office, and SECFS staff accommodation units. Set to commence construction in the spring of 2024, the majority of building materials will be transported to Little Grand Rapids First Nation via winter road. The Prevention Centre, a pivotal component of this expansion initiative, will serve as a hub for the SECFS, Jordan's Principle, and the Little Grand Rapids Prevention teams. Beyond its role as a hub for administrative functions, the Centre will offer a comfortable and secure space for children and families, hosting regular programming, cultural teachings, gatherings, and recreational activities accessible to all community members. Simultaneously, the Transitional Building will house a larger-scale version of the existing Kookums Nest, delivering 24-hour care to children in need within the community.

Currently, the LGR Unit provides services to 323 families and children in care. A noteworthy achievement is the decrease in the number of children in care (212) compared to the previous year (236), and the Unit hopes to continue this trend.

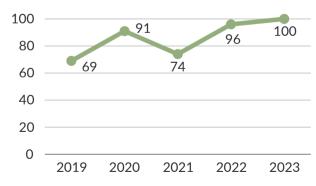
UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Little Grand Rapids decreased by 34 cases (-14.41%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Little Grand Rapids increased by 4 cases (+4.17%) from last year.

CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES



































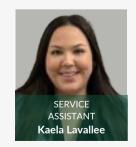














Pauingassi First Nation (Bawingassi), occupies a distinctive location approximately 280 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. Characterized by its remote nature, Pauingassi First Nation is exclusively accessible by boat or float plane during the summer and by snowmobile during the winter, with the nearest airport located 13 km south in Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

As of December 31, 2023, Pauingassi's membership was 733 members, with 640 members residing on-reserve and 93 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: The Chief and CFS Portfolio is Roddy Owens.

Pauingassi First Nation established its Prevention Unit operated by a Prevention Coordinator and three staff members. The SECFS community staff coordinates with the Prevention staff and distributes essential items such as diapers, formula, and food for families with children, which is required due to the remoteness and high costs for basic needs. Ongoing efforts are underway to develop land-based programming, aiming to preserve and pass on vital fishing and hunting practices integral to Pauingassi's cultural heritage. Pauingassi is proud to be strong with the use of Anishinaabemowin amongst its members. Recognizing the need for expanded infrastructure, Pauingassi First Nation has secured capital funding for several projects, which include the construction of an on-reserve Jordan's Principle and SECFS office, and a Jordan's Principle and SECFS staff accommodation units, and a prevention building.

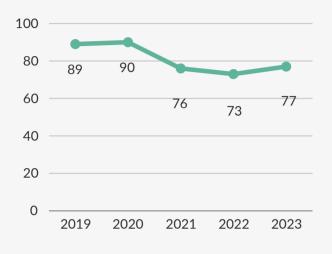
Currently, Pauingassi has three operational Shawenim Abinoojii homes and a visiting home within the community. Two additional community Shawenim Abinoojii homes have been relocated to Winnipeg following an evacuation due to flooding. A part-time Kookums Nest has been established in the community to provide respite services for children in a safe environment without necessitating apprehension. This endeavour facilitates the provision of additional intervention and preventative services, reinforcing SECFS's commitment to keeping families intact.

Throughout the year, various community-based events, including Treaty Days, moose hunts, a community feast, sporting events, and community-wide bingos have occurred. In collaboration with SECFS, a week-long family camp was organized that all Pauingassi members enjoyed, such as swimming, nature walks, games, and sporting activities. The Shawenim Abinoojii Wellness Team supported the camp with a sweat and cultural teachings for families. Additionally, the Agency actively supported the community's Christmas Dinner, contributing to cooking efforts and providing gifts for all the children of Pauingassi.

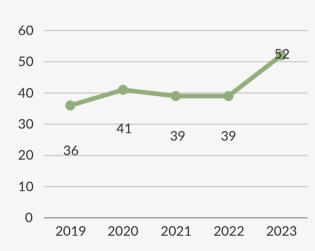
UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Pauingassi increased by 4 cases (+5.48%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Pauingassi increased by 13 cases (+33.33%) from last year.

CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES



























Located in Treaty 5 territory, approximately 285 kilometers north of Winnipeg, Bloodvein First Nation is located on one of the few Canadian Heritage Rivers that contains the largest collection of pictographs in Canada. Encompassing 3,885 acres, the community is sheltered in Manitoba's boreal forest region. Spanning three kilometers of shoreline at the river's mouth, the community offers accessibility by road and air travel. A well-maintained 3,000-foot gravel airstrip facilitates all incoming and outgoing flights.

As of December 31, 2023, Bloodvein First Nation's registered membership was 2,114, with 1,241 members residing on-reserve and a further 873 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Roland "Rollie" Hamilton and CFS Portfolio is Councillor Ellen Young.

Bloodvein is in Phase 1 of developing its own child welfare law which involves submitting a funding application, and aligning the community's agenda, strategy, and timelines. A biweekly meeting schedule ensures the continuous progress of this initiative. Upon funding approval, the team will expand to include, but not limited to, the Chief and Council, Community Resources, Facilitator, Legal Team, Data/Researcher, and community members.

Bloodvein's KeWahWayWeTung (Circle of Voices Program) is currently operational within the community with plans underway to expand services in Winnipeg in early 2024. The program encompasses various initiatives including Full Moon ceremonies, Cedar Baths, Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, Sewing Club, Drum Group, Drum Making, Women's Teachings - Wellness and Leadership, Men's Wellness Circles, Traditional Parenting Workshops, recreation, respite, and assisting in treatment program options. Collaborating with Jordan's Principle staff, the Circle of Voices Program is developing a recreation program utilizing existing school and gymnasium facilities, hosting events such as volleyball, baseball, and floor hockey. The community has actively participated in regional sporting events hosted by neighbouring communities. Notably, this past summer, Bloodvein First Nation took part in a baseball tournament organized by Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and a volleyball tournament in Berens River First Nation.

It is important to note that in December 2023, Bloodvein Jordan's Principle inaugurated a sub-office located at Suite 306-136 Market Avenue in Winnipeg.

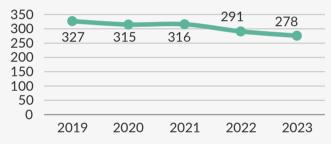
Bloodvein First Nation is actively engaged in several Federal Capital Fund Program projects, including the construction of a Prevention Building, Transitional Housing Unit, SECFS staff housing, and a Jordan's Principle office.

Securing membership status for children remains a collaborative effort between SECFS and Bloodvein's Liaison/IRA Membership Clerk. Additionally, SECFS has organized on-site hairdressing services (August 2023), collaborated with Circle of Voices for Treaty Days events (August 2023), and continued to provide essential support services such as transportation, accommodations, food, and respite for children and families in need.

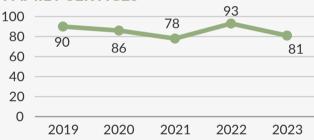
UNIT STATISTICS

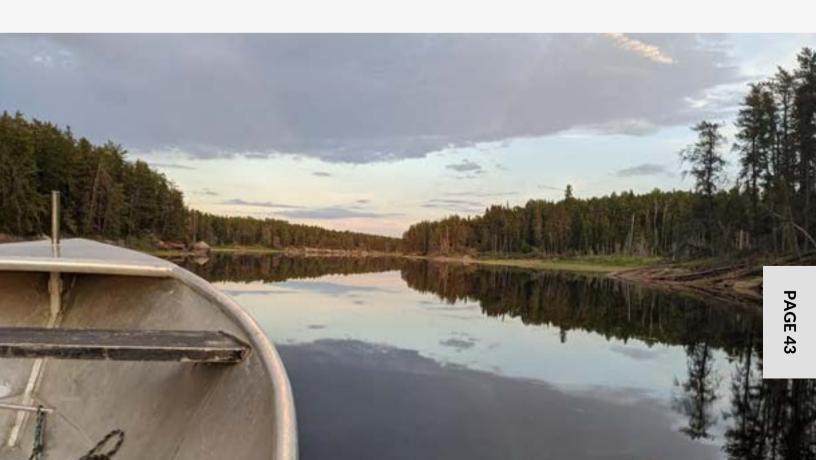
The number of children in care for Bloodvein decreased by 13 cases (-4.47%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Bloodvein decreased by 12 cases (-12.90%) from last year.





FAMILY SERVICES























































Located in Treaty 5 territory, approximately 362 kilometers north of Winnipeg, the Berens River First Nation (Mememwi-ziibiing) stands as the largest community in the Southeast region. The community positioned on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg at the mouth of the Berens River, is accessible year-round via an all-weather road. Encompassing approximately 2546 hectares, the community is sheltered in the heart of Manitoba's expansive boreal forest. Amidst the serene landscape, Berens River First Nation offers a wealth of outdoor activities. From the tranquillity of casting a line in the pristine waters to the exhilaration of water skiing and boating, Berens River embraces a diverse array of recreational pursuits. Swimming, canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts can navigate the ebb and flow of Berens River, while those interested in winter activities can partake in the thrill of snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. These activities not only celebrate the richness of the environment but also foster a deep sense of connection among the residents, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of life in Berens River First Nation.

As of December 31, 2023, Berens River membership stands at 3,780, with 2,221 members residing within the community and a further 1,559 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Hartley Everett and CFS Portfolio is Councillor Glen Boulanger.

Dennis Boulanger serves as the Coordinator for the Berens River First Nation child welfare law-making process that has been underway for the past year.

Shawenim Abinoojii has eight housing units dedicated to temporary or longer-term placements in the community, homes which may serve as visiting or emergency placements, or as the need is determined.

In the past year, the collaborative efforts of the Berens River units led to numerous successful family reunifications, reducing the number of children in care. We extend our best wishes to these families and aspire to facilitate more children reunified with their families. Family Services has seen a 14% increase in files since 2019. Despite the challenging numbers, families have demonstrated openness to agency support, and we remain committed to working with them to keep their children at home. Our focus persists on supporting parents and young adults with treatment services for addictions, mental health, trauma, and healing—key contributors to the need for apprehensions or challenges in returning children to their families.

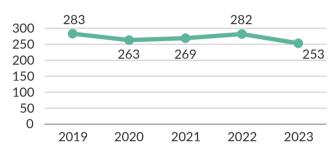
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Berens River First Nation assumed responsibility for their federal community prevention funds and saw a number of events taking place in 2023. Events included the 148th Treaty Days celebration in July which features a plethora of games and entertainment; the 12th Annual Berens River Santa Claus Parade, and the New Year's Eve Gala events held in the Berens River First Nation and in Winnipeg.

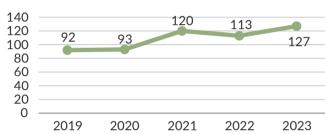
UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Berens River decreased by 29 cases (-10.28%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Berens River increased by 14 cases (+12.39%) from last year.

CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES























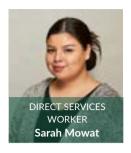




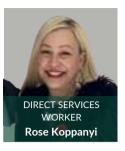




































Poplar River First Nation (Azaadiwi-ziibing) stands as a remote community at the junction of the Poplar River and Franklin River, situated 334 kilometers by air or 428 kilometers by road northeast of Winnipeg. As the northernmost Southeast First Nation, the community faces the challenge of lacking permanent road access, relying predominantly on air transport and boats and the barge in summer, with a brief window of winter road accessibility.

As of December 31, 2023, Poplar River's registered membership was reported to be 2,098 members, with 1,210 members residing on-reserve and 888 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Vera Mitchell and the CFS Portfolio is Councillor Tanya Bittern.

Poplar River leadership and community have been actively engaged in the development of their own child welfare laws. Monthly meetings have been instrumental in addressing various legal aspects keeping the community actively engaged, and keeping all on and off-reserve members informed of their progress.

Collaborating with engineers and architects, SECFS community staff, alongside band representatives, have been diligently working on proposals and site evaluations for crucial Federal Capital Funds projects. Proposed facilities include a transitional home, SECFS staff residences, and a prevention centre.

Jordan's Principle and local band programs deliver a broad array of prevention programs. The community has established a comprehensive land-based program designed to promote healing and impart traditional cultural knowledge to children and families. SECFS focuses on assessment, investigation, and intervention planning with families in the community, aiming to refer individuals to the appropriate prevention program.

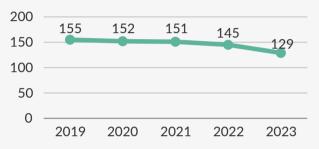
The SECFS community staff currently manages two large reunification homes in the community, supporting approximately 10 children and their parents. Family mentors reside with these families to ensure a safe environment and support and encouragement for the parents. In addition, our support extends to two Shawenim Abinoojii homes and the community's Group Home, all effectively operated by the Poplar River First Nation.

This year, notable achievements include successfully sending families to residential treatment programs, land-based camps, the NADDAP Red Path program, therapy sessions, and working closely with our Early Intervention Worker. The SECFS community staff are dedicated, and their commitment extends beyond regular hours, with designated personnel available for emergencies around the clock. Highlights of the past year include being involved with the annual children's activities and community BBQ on Treaty Days, as well as organizing a dinner for children, families, and collaborators during the Christmas season.

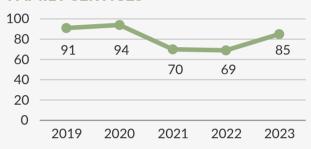
UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Poplar River decreased by 16 cases (-11.03%) from last year. The number of family services cases for Poplar River increased by 16 cases (+23.19%) from last year.

CHILDREN IN CARE



FAMILY SERVICES





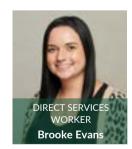






























The AOM Unit collaborates closely with on and off-reserve Direct Service units for referrals. The comprehensive approach involves assessing cognitive functioning, strengths, and needs to determine the most suitable resources for each young person. Service options may include Independent Living or Community Assisted Living for Adults, or a transfer to the Post Majority Unit to extend services up to age 26.

The AOM and Post Majority Units held a resource fair in March which attracted 41 community service programs and engaged 102 youth and young adults. This event profiled services for mental health, addictions, housing, advocacy, Indigenous community programming, employment, education, food security, legal, and money management. The resource fair also showcased the talents of the youth by providing a forum for the youth to sell their art and baked goods.

A Christmas Gala held at the RBC Convention Centre was organized by the Post Majority and Age of Majority Units. The youth and young adults were dressed in gowns and suits and enjoyed a fun evening with dinner, entertainment, and raffles for prizes.





















DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

POST MAJORITY UNIT

The SECFS Post Majority Unit started its service delivery in December 2022. Over the past year, workers have connected with over 190 eligible young adults to provide services that are based on their individual and specific needs.

Post Majority young adults are former youth in care who were federally funded, have status and affiliation with the Southeast First Nations, and are voluntarily receiving services from the Post Majority Unit. Young adults can receive support with housing, employment, training, education, clothing, outerwear, food, legal advocacy, mental health and substance use treatment, therapy and healing services, parenting and perinatal supports, recreation and leisure activities, and connection to their culture, families and communities.

Under the provincially funded Supports for Young Adults program, two SYA Workers provide support to young adults who aged out of care and were provincially funded, including non-status individuals. Young adults supported through SYA can receive needs-based assistance and funding to help reach their goals and work towards healing and independence.

Current Services and Highlighted Events:

- Case Management -All eligible young adults are assigned a Direct Service Worker to connect them with funding and service supports that align with their self-identified needs and goals.
- Transitional and Sober Living Properties Three housing properties were purchased to provide structured living environments with staff-supported communal living and self-contained suites. The Unit is in the midst of obtaining additional transitional housing for both on- and off-reserve young adults including leasing a wing at the SERDC Wellness Lodge.
- Perinatal Unit This specialized unit supports young mothers who have a child under 3 years and for expectant families. Young parents have access to weekly groups, doula services, parenting support and educational resources, in addition to their Post Majority services.
- City-Based Programming Sweat Lodge ceremonies, Pan-Am Boxing Club, Men's Wellness Support Group, Mikiwahp Life Skills, Indigenous Craft Night, Maawandoobiwag Perinatal Group, Drum Group, Culinary Financial Wellness Workshops, and Healthy Relationships Workshops are some programs offered.
- Community-Based Programming The Post Majority Unit collaborates with the communities to host programs, workshops, and events that benefit the Post Majority young adults residing in the communities.
 Some events include ribbon skirt sewing, beading, financial wellness, income tax filing, identification workshops, and therapeutic, land-based, or counselling services.
- Wolfpack Hockey Team Post Majority staff support young adults in acquiring hockey equipment, receiving training, and participating in games with the Wolfpack hockey team, which is registered in the Adult Safe Hockey League.

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- Christmas Party The Post Majority and Age of Majority Units hosted a Christmas Gala at the RBC Convention Centre with a buffet dinner and entertainment provided by the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers. Formal attire was purchased for the young adults and a professional photographer was on-site for the young adults to have pictures of their night. The event featured a photo booth, bingo, raffles, prizes, and Santa arrived with gifts for the young adults and their children.
- Guest speaker actor Adam Beach attended a lunch with the young adults, where the actor offered a motivational speech and took pictures with the young adults.

The Post Majority Unit offers support and services to young adults between the ages of 18-25, who reached the age of majority while in agency care, were federally funded or provincially funded with a strong community connection and are status. Services are voluntary and aim to support the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and young adults in an approach that is culturally appropriate, in their self-identified best interest, and provided on the basis of substantive equality. Post Majority Services are provided to both on and off-reserve eligible young adults.





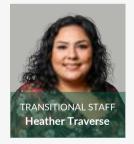




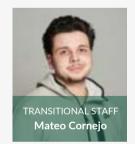








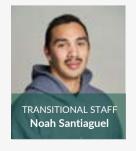






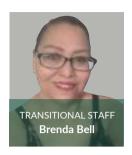
















































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ALTERNATIVE CARE UNIT

The SECFS Alternative Care Unit provides services for both onand off-reserve Southeast communities. This specialized unit provides comprehensive services encompassing the recruitment, licensing, and ongoing support for caregivers entrusted with the care of our children. SECFS also functions as the licensing body for Shawenim Abinoojii Therapeutic Care homes, overseeing six Spirit Rising specialized homes, along with two Level 5 homes operated by Services Beyond Support. Our commitment to safe and loving homes is demonstrated through concerted efforts to identify kinship placements for children entering care, ensuring they can remain within their respective communities and connected to their culture. SECFS prioritizes family-based placements and culturally appropriate homes. Of the 540 placement homes, 258 are family or kinship-based.

In compliance with An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families, the Unit will license kinship homes and request for variances to keep siblings placed together. A new Specialized Alt. Care Worker position is dedicated to overseeing and managing specialized homes i.e. Spirit Rising and Services Beyond Support.

In terms of proactive activities, the Unit engages in active recruitment initiatives to expand the pool of kinship and community care providers. Recruitment efforts are conducted at various forums, and announcements are broadcast on NCI Radio. The team has developed an orientation binder for care providers, which is reviewed during annual assessments.

In October, the Unit participated in a Career Fair jointly organized by SECFS, Shawenim Abinoojii, and the Southeast Resource Development Council. Additionally, a large Christmas party for children in care and their caregivers was held on December 2nd at the Victoria Inn.

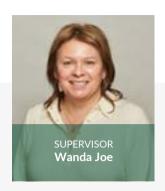
Looking forward, the Unit has outlined strategic goals, including the reinstatement of orientation for care providers, the resumption of cultural training programs, and continued recruitment efforts for both kinship and culturally-appropriate care providers. These objectives reflect our ongoing commitment to the well-being of the children and families we serve.

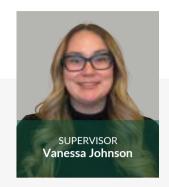
STATISTICS

Placement Types	#			
Foster Homes	331			
Specialized Homes	30			
Places of Safety	148			
Total	509			

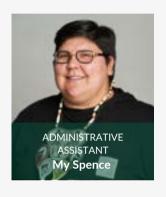
Caregiver Types	#
Kinship/Cultural Appropriate Homes	226
Shawenim Homes	79
Pending/Expiring	99
Other	105
Total	509







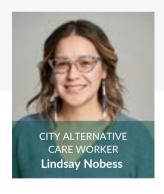












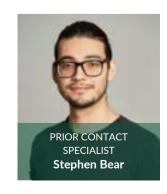














ABUSE UNIT

The Abuse Unit staff are located at 4th Floor-360 Broadway. The Abuse Unit receives referrals and conducts comprehensive child abuse investigations for the eight Southeast First Nation communities.

Collaborating seamlessly with community SECFS teams, the R.C.M.P., Nursing Station/Health Centre, Child Protection, and Toba Centre, our Abuse Unit follows a structured approach to complete the essential steps in child and youth (age 0-17) physical and sexual abuse investigations, irrespective of their involvement in the child welfare system. Our paramount objective is to ensure the safety and well-being of all children within the community and homes where alleged abuse has occurred.

Working in conjunction with criminal investigations, our team remains distinct but aligned. In instances where a child or family is not prepared to officially report to law enforcement, our investigators continue their assessments to determine safety and assess risks to children. All investigations are rigorously presented to the SECFS Child Abuse Committee (CAC) on a monthly basis. This process serves to provide updates and meet the strict timelines for CAC decisions. The CAC is comprised of members from the child abuse unit, medical professionals, law enforcement, school officials, and other key SECFS staff. The CAC plays a pivotal role by offering valuable feedback and expertise.

Looking ahead, the Abuse Unit aims to engage meaningfully with community schools and stakeholders through informative presentations to provide an overview of our program and emphasize the duty to report child abuse and neglect to their local SECFS. Abuse Coordinator, Lauren Turney, provides staff training on global interviewing techniques and ensures the team remains at the forefront of best practices. Our Child Abuse unit stands ready to share its wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise with fellow staff members dealing with abuse-related issues. We strive to foster a collaborative environment that enhances the effectiveness of our efforts in safeguarding the well-being of children in our communities.













STATS FOR MARCH 31, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023

Community	Opened	Closed
Brokenhead	5	3
Hollow Water	14	9
Black River	11	10
Bloodvein	21	14
Little Grand Rapids	22	14
Pauingassi	6	-
Berens River	18	7
Poplar River	18	12
Sandy Bay	1	-
Sagkeeng	-	2
Total	116	71





Many of the individuals referred to our program carry a history of trauma and insecure attachments, resulting in challenges such as poor self-esteem, a lack of positive identity, feelings of grief and loss, and struggles with addictions and self-harm. Recognizing these complexities, our program employs individualized treatment planning and care to support families on their healing journey. Our mission is to help them overcome past traumas, establish secure attachments and healthy relationships, and restore positive self-worth and identity. In doing so, we acknowledge the inherent value of each child as a precious gift from the Creator.

In 2023, our program delivered a total of 525 clinical therapy sessions, catering to the unique needs of 21 children, youth, and young adults.

FAMILY WELLNESS & HEALING LODGE

The Family Healing and Wellness Lodge located across from Little Grand Rapids First Nation offers comprehensive support to families and children through its residential and day programming.

Programming focuses on healing families from their Intergenerational Trauma which often impacts our members' capacity to parent and have healthy relationships. Families served by SECFS are encouraged to attend this programming, with the SECFS workers completing the referrals to the Lodge program. Eligibility requires families to be open to SECFS with a protection file, or those families who are in the process of family reunification. Our dedicated Wellness Helpers extend ongoing support, ensuring families adhere to their transition plans and receive necessary post-program support.

The Lodge, designed to accommodate up to four families during each 10-day stay, boasts a range of housing options. This includes a four-bedroom self-contained trailer on the land, two in-house self-contained suites, and a single bedroom with a crib for a parent and baby.

The essence of our program lies in the revitalization and practice of our Indigenous Ways of Knowing, emphasizing communal child-rearing with the belief that "It takes a village to raise a child." Our Wellness Facilitators tailor program learning and activities to the unique needs of the participants. Regular capacity-building workshops and group sessions cover various including Traditional aspects, Parenting. Healthy Relationships, **Domestic** Violence, Addictions, Coping Mechanisms, Understanding and Healing from Inter-Generational Trauma, and participation in ceremonies such as Healing Sweat Lodge, Full Moon Ceremonies, and Letting Go Ceremonies. Additionally, we conduct six-day Grief and Loss healing workshops exclusively for parents on a quarterly basis, and provide a dedicated space for healing without additional responsibilities.

Due to funding changes, the Lodge resumed programming in November 2023 and witnessed an impressive total of 64 participants from the following communities:

Little Grand Rapids First Nation - 30 individuals Bloodvein First Nation - 13 Individuals Berens River First Nation - 2 Individuals Paungassi First Nation - 6 Individuals Poplar River First Nation - 13 Individuals

FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

"Being at the wellness lodge made me feel safe and helped me find ways to cope when I'm having a hard time or a bad day"

FAMILY FROM BERENS RIVER

"The stages of life workshop we did made me realize that I don't want to repeat the same things my parents did, and I just want my kids to have a happy life"

FAMILY FROM BLOODVIEN

"That was my first time in a sweat lodge, and I was scared but having a sweat at the lodge was very comfortable and I learned a lot and I feel safe going in a sweat in the future"

MOTHER FROM POPLAR RIVER



























Kookums Nest is not exclusively crisis or protection-oriented but rather it offers support to families facing various challenges or requiring temporary care of their children. Grandparents who have caregiver responsibilities for their grandchildren, parents attending medical appointments in Winnipeg, or parents needing respite from a stressful home life can seek support from the Kookums Nest.

Staffed by four dedicated full-time workers operating on a two-person rotation, Kookums Nest offers seven beds in a five-bedroom home. The home is equipped with essential resources, including emergency clothing, baby essentials such as diapers, formula, and baby food, as well as a diverse array of toys and crafts catering to the entertainment and developmental needs of older children. This comprehensive approach ensures a nurturing environment for the children during their stay.

Due to the location, Kookums Nest extends its services to members of Little Grand Rapids and Paungassi. From its inception, March 13, 2023, to December 12, 2023, Kookums Nest has accommodated 156 children for short-term stays, underscoring its impactful role in supporting families and keeping children safe and welfare within the community. This data attests to the substantial demand and positive reception of Kookums Nest's services during its initial operational period.





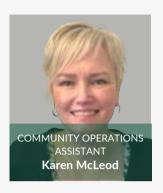


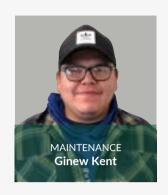




COMMUNITY OPERATIONS









Community Development Liaison, Frank Abraham, oversees the ordering, purchasing, deliveries, and maintenance of equipment, supplies, vehicles, and building/renovations for the community offices.

Located at the Brokenhead Headquarters office, Frank manages and oversees the maintenance staff for the office. Maintenance Worker, Ginew Kent, maintains the inside of the office and the office grounds and storage areas. Ginew is also responsible for assisting with deliveries of equipment and supplies to the communities and supports Frank with coordinating the hectic winter road orders and deliveries. Two part-time cleaners, Nathan Spence and Cindy Thomas, maintain the cleanliness and orderliness of the SECFS headquarters office. Karen McLeod assists with ordering supplies and keeping an inventory of supplies, equipment, and vehicles.

The following vehicles and equipment were purchased under the Federal Capital Fund Program to support SECFS to be able to provide programming for the children, youth, young adults, and families we serve. Most of the vehicles and equipment were distributed to the community offices or for the city-based programs, and can also be used in collaborations with communities prevention programs.

- 7 pontoon boats
- 12 fishing boats
- 17 trucks
- 3 SUVs
- 17 side by sides
- 7 Argos
- 22 skidoos
- 13 trailers
- 7 flat decks (6 covered)

Most of these items were delivered to the communities, with the exception of 3 skidoos that will be delivered on the 2024 winter road. Having the new trailers assisted with easier deliveries to the communities.

In the upcoming year, Frank will be training Stewart Racette to support him in his transition to the Associate Manager of Community Operations. Frank plans to support the Agency in a new role as a community liaison, cultural/knowledge keeper, program advisor, and advisor for ordering and purchasing from vendors for vehicles, equipment, and supplies.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Southeast Child and Family Services

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southeast Child and Family Services (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Southeast Child and Family Services (continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on
 the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast
 significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material
 uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the
 financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on
 the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may
 cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Exchange

Chartered Professional Accountants LLP Winnipeg, Manitoba October 12, 2023

SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2023

		2023		2022
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash (Note 4)	\$	18,452,404	S	20,090,828
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	7	8,475,721		12,026,908
Prepaid expenses	_	485,352		337,371
		27,413,477		32,455,107
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)		8,309,650		5,707,844
DUE FROM RELATED PARTY (Note 7)	22	185,365	_	394,951
	\$	35,908,492	\$	38,557,902
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Notes 8, 12)	\$	7,187,612	s	6,787,035
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	*	5,578,706		1,820,056
Working capital advance (Note 10)	24	1,989,634		2,263,400
		14,755,952		10,870,491
PROVINCIAL CHILD TAX BENEFIT PAYABLE (Note 11)	<u></u>	3,190,294		3,190,294
	-	17,946,246		14,060,785
NET ASSETS				
Federal Core		10,555,324		6,741,415
Federal Prevention		7,496,807		9,378,066
Federal Protection		(36,094,718)		(29,679,337
Federal Maintenance		1,107,380		2,871,591
Provincial Core		(15,842,077)		(13,051,870
Provincial Prevention		616,309		560,284
Provincial Protection		2,406,322		3,704,714
Provincial Maintenance		(7,720,483)		(4,537,323
Children's Special Allowance and Other	-	55,437,382		48,509,577
	0.0	17,962,246		24,497,117
	\$	35,908,492	\$	38,557,902

Rise Joing. Director

SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Statement of Operations Year Ended March 31, 2023

		Budget 2023		Total 2023		Total 2022
REVENUES						
Indigenous Services Canada (Note 18)						
Federal Core (Schedule 1)	5	3,518,804	S	6,384,514	S	2,213,930
Federal Prevention (Schedule 2)		9,702,489		12,340,601		14,316,368
Federal Child Protection (Schedule 3)		6,241,790		9,617,089		6,281,564
Federal Maintenance (Schedule 4)		23,936,146		26,447,512		26,096,372
1812 (A.C. 1811 (1826-1913 # 1815) (A.C. 1811)		43,399,229		54,789,716		48,908,234
Southern First Nations Network of Care						
Provincial Core (Schedule 5)		722,160		1,065,699		864,989
Provincial Prevention (Schedule 6)		799,793		799,793		799,793
Provincial Protection (Schedule 7)		5,833,747		6,127,302		5,833,747
Provincial Maintenance (Schedule 8)		27,142,400		28,602,496		27,142,400
		34,498,100		36,595,290		34,640,929
Children Special Allowance & Other (Schedule 9)		7,600,000		8,473,700		8,007,277
		85,497,329		99,858,706		91,556,440
EXPENSES						
Federal Core (Schedule 1)		1,939,037		2,570,605		1,950,529
Federal Prevention (Schedule 2)		7,139,269		14,221,860		16,378,273
Federal Child Protection (Schedule 3)		11,603,627		16,032,470		11,530,836
Federal Maintenance (Schedule 4)		27,036,797		28,211,723		26,886,036
Provincial Core (Schedule 5)		2,908,555		3,855,906		2,925,794
Provincial Prevention (Schedule 6)		1,022,100		743,768		992,326
Provincial Protection (Schedule 7)		5,946,401		7,425,694		5,844,638
Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8)		30,356,874		31,785,656		28,733,044
Children Special Allowance & Other (Schedule 9)	1	801,160	_	1,545,895	_	893,020
	_	88,753,820		106,393,577	_	96,134,496
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$	(3,256,491)	\$	(6,534,871)	\$	(4,578,056

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