

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024







"Family Love" (2024) by Sweetpea Starr from Peguis First Nation.

The eagle symbolizes love, while the eagle family embodies caring, nurturing, and affection. The heart shape they form represents the unity and bond within the family. The flowers symbolize the mind, body, and spirit. The red flower represents Mother Earth, the green flower signifies all that grows on her, and the blue flower represents the sky beyond the stars. The three eagle feathers stand for truth, and the sun symbolizes life.



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COMMUNITY MAP





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BERENS RIVER FIRST NATION

2



6



PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION

3



BLACK RIVERFIRST NATION

7

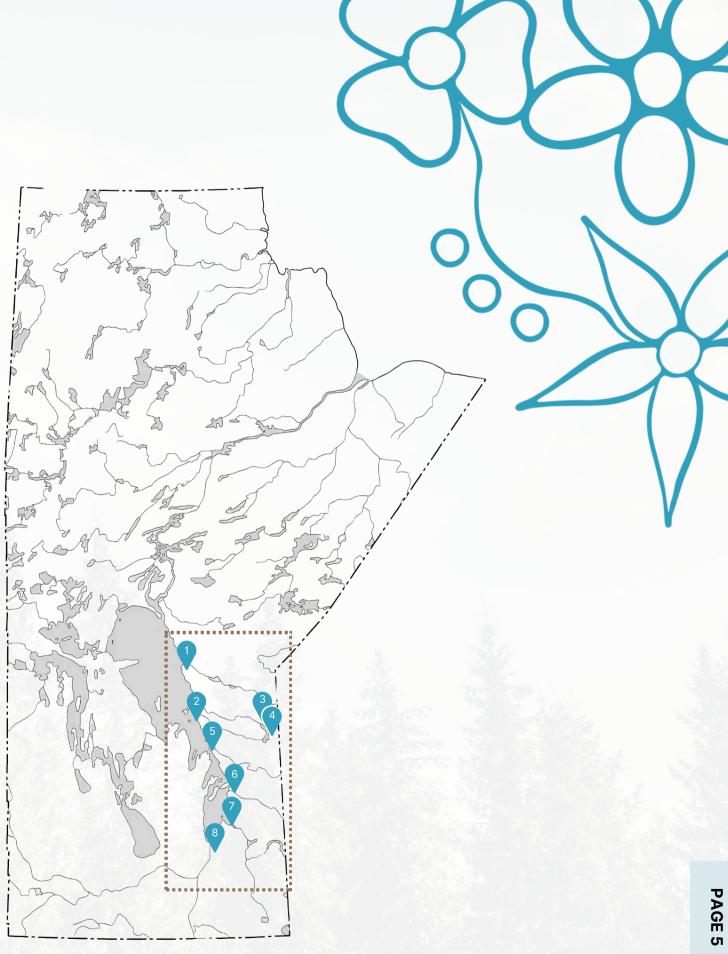


LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION





8



SOUTHEAST REGION



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

"On behalf of the Board, I am honoured to present the 2023-2024 Southeast Child and Family Services Annual Report."

Chief Lisa Young

CHAIRPERSON
BLOODVEIN RIVER BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

On behalf of the Board, I am honoured to present the 2023-24 Southeast Child and Family Services Annual Report.

As Chairperson, we, the Board, would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of each First Nation and the hard work of Southeast Child and Family Services, as they work towards ensuring our families are safe and stable. Southeast Child and Family Services is mandated under the Manitoba's The Child and Family Services Act while working with our First Nations and their newly developed laws. Some of our First Nations are in the beginning phases of creating their laws and are practicing the changes they intend to make. Southeast Child and Family Services support these changes.

The Board acknowledges the hurdles that Southeast Child and Family Services are faced with where funding is involved. The Board and Leadership have advocated for funding our On Reserve and Off Reserve. Funding for our children in care and for our families has been a number one priority.

This fiscal year, Southeast Child and Family Services had to face some financial hurdles. These hurdles are due to the Federal and Provincial funders. Our Board and local Leadership have met with both the Federal and Provincial governments to come to an understanding, agreement and/or resolution to these hurdles.

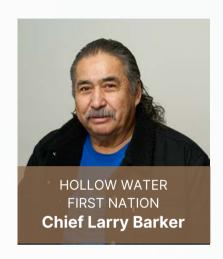
The Board and Leadership understand these circumstances and have the best interests of families, youth, children and communities at heart. The working relationship between Southeast Child and Family Services, the Board and local Leadership is crucial and continues to work in the right direction.

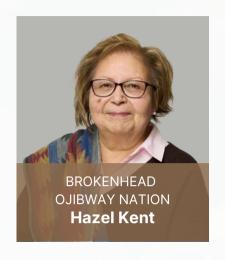
As per usual, to reiterate the message from previous AGM greetings; it continues to remain our goal as the Board to work with Southeast Child and Family Services staff and Chief and Council members in assisting our families and communities with reducing the numbers of children in care. We continue to stress the importance of ensuring our children remain at home with their families. Family is a priority!

We continue to recognize that each community is unique and faces their own obstacles. We continue to believe that working together will assist us in overcoming these obstacles to ensure that we are successful. We have always acknowledged and respected that each community has their own knowledge and teachings to offer as each community brings with it their own diverse traits, strengths, and weaknesses. Sharing those diversities amongst each other has assisted us in our day-to-day decisions in ensuring our agency is moving in the right direction.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



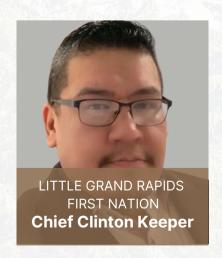


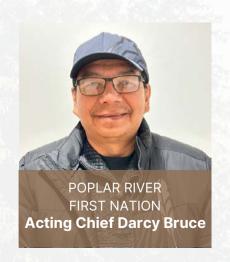
















MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mino Pimatiziwin (leading a good life)

Rhonda Kelly EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Boozhoo.

I wish to thank you for taking the time to read this year's Annual Report for Southeast Child and Family Services. It is an honour to be serving the children, youth, young adults, and families served by SECFS, and being guided by our Board of Directors who lead us to ensure the service delivery, policies, and practices will meet the needs of those we serve and are supportive for healthy workplaces.

Our vision of *Mino Pimatiziwin* guides us to encompass a respectful and compassionate service to enhance the well-being and safety of the children, families, and communities we work with.

Supporting our families and reunifying children in our care with their families and their communities remains our priority. Our children will know who they are and where they belong.

SECFS continues to strive to empower our members and communities to be involved with decisions that relate to determining the betterment of their families and communities. This includes supporting the capacity-building initiatives for the communities who are on their journey to have their own child welfare laws and/or child welfare agency.

This Annual Report provides financial and statistical data for the fiscal year April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, along with a summary of SECFS activities and events for January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The SECFS senior management has the opportunity to report on their respective units and programs which provides an overview of happenings and issues on-reserve and off-reserve in the past year.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting of Southeast Child and Family Services that is held in partnership with the Shawenim Abinoojii Incorporated Annual General Meeting.

Meegwetch.

Rhonda Kelly
Executive Director



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

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS) Annual Report 2023/24 reports on our financial and statistical performance for the fiscal year April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, with our services, programs, and activities corresponding to the calendar year January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

ABOUT SECFS

Southeast Child and Family Services was mandated in 1985 as a First Nation child welfare agency to serve the 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 mandate expanded to serve the on and off-reserve members of the Southeast First Nations. Buffalo Point First Nation later opted to be served by Animikii Osozon Child and Family Services in 2008 under a sub-agreement (that continues to this day).

The Poplar River, Pauingassi, and Little Grand Rapid First Nations are remote communities that are accessible by air or a limited winter road. Whereas the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Berens River, Bloodvein, Hollow Water, and Black River First Nations are road accessible. Each First Nation is unique in their culture, community norms, geography, population, social issues, and economic development to which SECFS must be mindful and respectful of.

LEGISLATION & FUNDING

SECFS is required to adhere to the legal requirements and mandatory service provisions of the federal An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis children, youth, and families and the provincial Manitoba Child and Family Services Act.

While the landscape for the child welfare system is rapidly changing nationally, provincially, and locally, SECFS is dedicated to support our First Nations that are developing their own child welfare laws and/or are establishing their own child welfare agencies. Where changes occur, SECFS needs to continuously be prepared to ensure our practices to keep children and families safe are reflective of the First Nation laws and customary practices.

New Provincial legislation came into effect on October 1, 2024, to allow for parents to access alternate care arrangements with family and/or community members without the child coming into care. These Kinship Care Agreements or Customary Care Agreement provides for agreement by all parties outlining the care of the child, and financial support and services are provided to the caregivers by the CFS agency. It is anticipated that fewer children will enter care and that an increased number of children will be discharged under these new agreements.



FUNDING

Funding for SECFS is complex. Funds for our federally funded children, youth, young adults, and families comes from Indigenous Services Canada, and our provincially funded children, youth, young adults, and families is from the Province of Manitoba.

The Province's Single Envelope Funding (SEF) model remains at 2019 funding rates and fails to account for the unique challenges posed by SECFS. SECFS continues to carry a high number of children in care and family cases, and must provide services that do not take into account the high costs associated with serving remote communities including travel for family visits, staff, office maintenance, increasing reliance on high cost third party service providers for placement options, continued shortages in housing and child placement resources, plus the limited human resource shortages in our communities which adds to the increased travel costs. Further, the Single Envelope Funding model has not increased to account for inflation and rising costs. All of these factors and despite the fact that 70% of our cases fall under provincial responsibility, the SECFS provincial deficit is at a crisis level.

The federal Indigenous Services Canada funds have been responding to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) orders which has enabled SECFS to provide some enhanced services to the federal funded children, youth, young adults, and families. In addition, five First Nations allocated a portion of their community prevention funds to SECFS to support their members with emergency food, diapers, supplies, or other necessary costs. SECFS was also successful with securing emergency family funds to provide families with necessities to sustain their immediate home and family needs.

With the provincial deficit and Brokenhead Ojibway Nation set to deliver its own services, SECFS will need to undertake a restructuring and review of its services and staffing in early 2025. The leadership and Board of Directors will guide this process to ensure that quality service delivery remains a priority while recognizing that new fiscal arrangements will drive the decision-making process.



GOVERNANCE

SECFS is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of a representative from each of our eight First Nations. The Governance, Human Resources, and Finance Sub-Committees meet to address the operational, policy and financial matters to present recommendations for decision making purposes to the Board. Ad hoc committees are formed on an as needed basis.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The Senior Management Team meets regularly to keep one another apprised of service delivery and operational issues and keep current with the child welfare programming and funding changes. Directives from the Board of Directors are shared and discussed with ideas of how to quickly implement the new direction or policies. In turn, the team may provide input or make recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider. These recommendations may include suggestions for new policies, staffing positions, and the introduction of programs to meet the current and priority needs of the children, youth, young adults, and families served by SECFS.

SERVICE DELIVERY

The First Nations are assigned a Director of Services, City and Community Supervisors, Direct Services Workers, an Alternative Care Worker, and an Administrative Assistant. The structure provides for the unit staff to be more familiar with their assigned community and their families and children to better support the children should they be 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.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

The SECFS city-based staff are represented by the Manitoba Government Employee Union (MGEU). A new collective agreement for 2022-2026 is currently being negotiated.

POST MAJORITY SERVICES

The Post Majority Unit serves 280 young adults aged 18 to 25 years. Services provided involve supporting the transition of young adults to be independent. Provisions include offering basic and essential necessities (food, shelter, clothing), education/training, addiction and mental health support, pre and perinatal support, recreational activities, sweats, naming ceremonies, sundances, fasts, cedar baths, teachings, and access to land-based therapists.

The three transitional homes dedicated for our Post Majority young adults are located in Winnipeg and serve as emergency, short-term, long-term, and sober living arrangements. Additional living spaces will be available at the Southeast Wellness Centre by February 2025.

CASE NUMBERS

SECFS commits to reunifying children with their families and supporting families to remain intact. Despite our best efforts, as of March 31, 2024, SECFS saw an increase of 99 children in care, an increase of 19 families receiving services, and the reunification of 88 children with their parents and extended families.

The addiction epidemic remains to be the main reason for children coming into care and prevents children being able to be returned safely to their families. Our focus has been to encourage parents and young people to attend treatment and healing programs to promote sobriety. Sadly, we are seeing addictions growing amongst the younger ages.

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

SECFS received funding for Family Preservation Services to offer intervention services to at-risk families. Programs and services that focus with strengthening and supporting families include in-home supports, parenting classes, cultural programming, workshops to promote healthy lifestyles, and leadership training. The Notre Dame office offers childminding that allows parents to attend programming without having to worry about finding child care. The focus for the upcoming year is to increase the on-reserve programming.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our Health and Wellness Coordinator monitors the health and safety needs of the SECFS offices and staff, while keeping current with the federal, provincial, and community laws, health and environmental standards. The Health and Wellness Coordinator also oversees the Health and Safety Committee, manages the Mountain Avenue office, and provides guidance during any emergency response crisis.

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Our In-House Therapist, located at our Notre Dame Avenue office, provides clinical therapy services to our children, youth, and parents involved with SECFS.

Dr. Dell Ducharme has joined our team and has been busy reviewing our current therapeutic services that the children, youth, young adults, and families receive. SECFS remains committed to ensure that the mainstream and non-Western therapeutic services are having a positive impact on those who receive the services.

SHAWENIM ABINOOJII INC.

SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii continue to collaborate to improve our communication to enhance the services we provide to the children, youth, young adults, and families we serve.

The Running White Wolves Youth Council, a joint venture between Shawenim Abinoojii and SECFS, offers youth council members the opportunity to grow as leaders to their peers. The Youth Council hosts the annual SECFS-SAI golf tournament fundraising initiative to support their activities. A member of the Youth Council attends the SECFS and SAI Board of Directors meetings to offer their perspective relating to issues being addressed and to expand their leadership skills.

Planning for a joint SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii Board of Directors forum is underway for 2025. This forum will provide a platform for discussions to strengthen the collaboration and coordination for stronger service delivery by SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii to our members.

FAMILY WELLNESS LODGE

The Family Wellness Lodge, located across from the Little Grand Rapids First Nation, offers residential and day-programming healing services, and cultural and land-based programming. Many families who attend request to return as they appreciate an environment where they are supported and respected while they learn healthier parenting skills. Grief and loss workshops are regularly offered as many of our members struggle with coping with loss.

ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

SECFS continues to advocate for funding to support parents and young adults to access addiction and mental health treatment centers in Manitoba and out of province. SECFS staff are learning how to better assess individuals or family's readiness and the most suitable service provider for treatment referrals. There is a strong need for after care services in the urban and community settings.



STAFF RELATIONS AND SUPPORTS

A training coordinator has been hired for the new year, which is urgently required for our new staff so they can provide the best services possible to our children, youth, young adults, and families.

Advanced training opportunities have included the Yellowquill University College First Nations Child and Family Services Worker Cohort which ran from 2022-2024. There were 14 staff graduates in 2024, and a new cohort of 22 students started in September 2024, with graduation set for 2026. SECFS is exploring the opportunity to offer the University of Manitoba Bachelor of Social Worker cohort to our staff in September 2025.

EVENTS

We were excited to expand this year's high school graduation to include a celebration for the Yellowquill University College First Nation Child Welfare Cohort graduates. The honouring gala was held at the Canadian Human Rights Museum which featured guest speakers and entertaining music, followed by a presentation of a star blanket and gift offered to the graduates. We are so proud of our 44 high school graduates and 14 Yellowquill graduates and appreciate being a part of their education journey.

This year the SECFS Social Committee was tasked with organizing office and staff potluck contributions towards the office Christmas lunches. The events also included staff games and prizes.

While we were unable to hold a conference this year, there are upcoming plans for an all-staff conference in March 2025. The intent is to build upon the 2023 "SECFS Journey of Change" conference which included the SECFS staff, SECFS Board, leadership, youth, Elders, and interested members learn about national, provincial, local changes and best practices in the child welfare system.

PROVINCIAL CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE SETTLEMENT

SECFS recently hired a Children's Helper to assist our former provincial-funded children in care to apply for their Provincial Children's Special Allowance (CSA) that had been clawed back from SECFS in 2010 to 2019. While the 2022 court decision that held Manitoba's claw back was discriminatory, the process to return CSA funds to their rightful owners opened its application process in January 2025.

CHRT FEDERAL COMPENSATION

In 2019, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered Canada to financially compensate the federal funded children, and their parents or grandparents, who were discriminated by the child welfare system since January 2006. The application period for the federal compensation is scheduled to start in March 2025.

ACKNOWELDGEMENTS

Meegwetch to our children, youth, young adults, and families for allowing SECFS the honour to provide our support and services. Thank you to our Board of Directors, community leaderships, and our staff for their commitment to a vision where we share a collaborative approach to create an environment where healing is our focus for Mino Pimatizawin "living a good life".

Meegwetch

SENIOR MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS











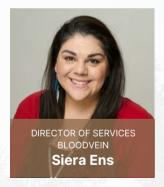




















COMMUNICATIONS

Stacey Slater
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The Communications Coordinator plays a vital role in enhancing the flow of information with SECFS and in promoting its initiatives. This includes managing events, announcements, newsletters, videos, social media, messages across multiple platforms, and participates in event planning committees.

Stacey Slater, the new Communications Coordinator, joined the SECFS team with a diverse background in information technology, community resource support, administration, sales, and marketing. She manages the SECFS website, social media pages, and the creation of Agency promotional materials such as brochures, posters, agendas, and signage.

Stacey oversees the planning and execution of key SECFS events, including the SECFS High School Graduation, the SECFS-Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. (SAI) Joint Annual General Meeting, SECFS-Shawenim Abinoojii Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament, partnered with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. and Southeast Resource Development Council (SERDC) for the Zoongide'ewin Bawaajigan: Brave Dreams Semi-Annual Career Fair, along with SECFS Social Committee events such as Christmas Spirit Week and staff conferences.

With her creativity, community-focused values, and a passion for relationship-building, Stacey is excited to contribute to supporting the SECFS team and empowering connections within the Southeast communities and networks. Her goals for this next year are to get out to each community to experience and highlight the hard work and dedication of our staff in the communities, create a newsletter that shows SECFS' commitment to family values, preservation and healing.

Stacey wants to help grow awareness of the programming offered at SECFS through online channels, events and networking opportunities and have the programming and events information on rotation by digital display at each SECFS office.



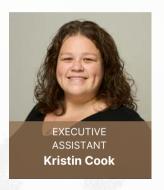


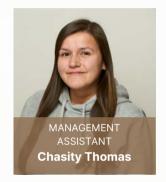
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Administrative Support Services staff are the backbone of SECFS and play a crucial role with ensuring the operations and functions of our organization run smoothly. These staff provide essential administrative support across multiple units including senior management, finance, and the city and community-based services.

As the first point of contact for individuals engaging with our offices, the Administrative Support team offers a warm welcome to families and visitors and directs them to the appropriate staff members, either in person or by phone.

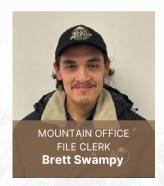
STAFF





The Unit Administrative Assistants are responsible for maintaining accurate and up-todate information in our database systems for their respective units. They also follow strict procedures for managing paperwork, ensuring that all documents are securely filed, and that confidentiality is upheld. Not only do they support the day-to-day functioning of the organization, but they also enhance the overall experience for staff, families, community. We are proud to have such an exceptional team.

















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HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The SECFS Human Resources Department has 5 full-time Indigenous human resource staff to oversee the 315 staff.

Our priority is to actively recruit for Southeast First Nation community members and increase the First Nation staff ratio which is currently at 51% Indigenous.

Teekca Spence is the HR Director and Corrin Toews was recently promoted to the HR Manager. HR Generalists Cari Lynn Lecocq and recently hired Eileen Kriskovic play a large role in recruitment and on-boarding of new employees. You can find them behind our recruitment booth at Indigenous Career Fairs sharing employment opportunities with the community. Every morning, we look forward to Eileen's language preservation initiative with her Anishinaabemowin word(s) of the day.

We are excited to share that our very first Yellowquill University College First Nations Child & Family Services Worker Program cohort successfully graduated in June 2024, marking a significant milestone for everyone. Building on this success, we launched our second Yellowquill cohort this fall. This new group is already diving into their learning journey and is set to graduate in 2026. We are looking into the Bachelor of Social Work Cohort with the University of Manitoba and hope to launch it in September 2025.

Our Labour Relations Specialist has taken on the important job of delivering respectful workplace training to all staff. The sessions are a great way to refresh things for long-time employees and help new team members get up to speed. She started with the community units and is meeting with everyone in smaller group settings. This setup makes it easier for people to engage, ask questions, and share their thoughts, helping ensure the training is meaningful and connects with everyone across the organization.

We recently hosted a career fair in partnership with Shawenim Abinoojii and Southeast Resource Development Corporation which brought together job seekers, employers, and community resources in an engaging and dynamic environment. The event provided a valuable platform for networking, skill-building, and exploring career opportunities, leaving participants feeling inspired and motivated. Building on this momentum, we are excited to start planning future career fairs, both within the communities and in the city, to continue supporting career growth and development for everyone involved.

This year, our Health and Safety team enhanced safety protocols across our organization. We successfully certified over 50 staff members in First Aid and ensured that most of our communities were equipped with essential safety devices, including AED machines, Life Vac choking devices, and Narcan kits. Additionally, we completed the annual inspection of the office fire extinguishers and certified those that were outdated. We remain committed to expanding this coverage and plan to reach all communities by spring.

Additionally, our Mountain Office Building Manager managed the transition of 30 staff members to the first floor of 1410 Mountain. This process involved overseeing renovations, assigning office space, and ensuring the move was carried out smoothly and efficiently. Our goal was to create a functional and comfortable workspace that promotes collaboration and productivity for our team.

STAFF

LIST OF 2024 COHORT GRADUATES

- Betty Saiinawap
- Blaine Johnston
- Candace Stoneman
- Cecilia Cook
- Chasity Thomas
- Cindy Young
- Corrina Kotak
- Ernestine Swain
- Frank Young
- Ginger Whiteway
- Lisa Buffalo
- Sandra Sveinson
- Sherri Hudson
- Tammy Ducharme













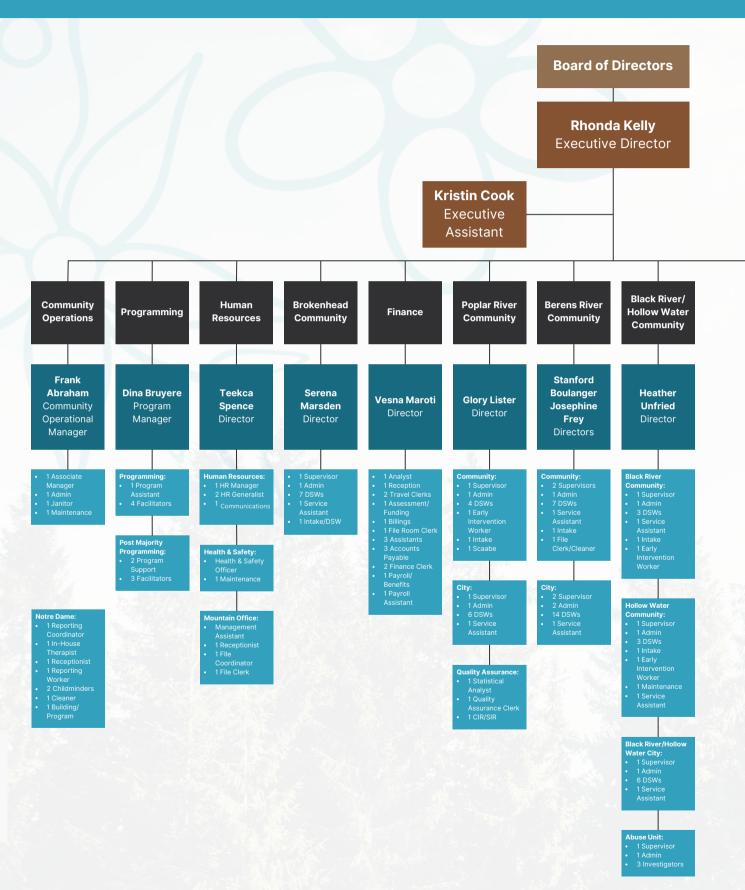
YELLOWQUILL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES WORKER PROGRAM

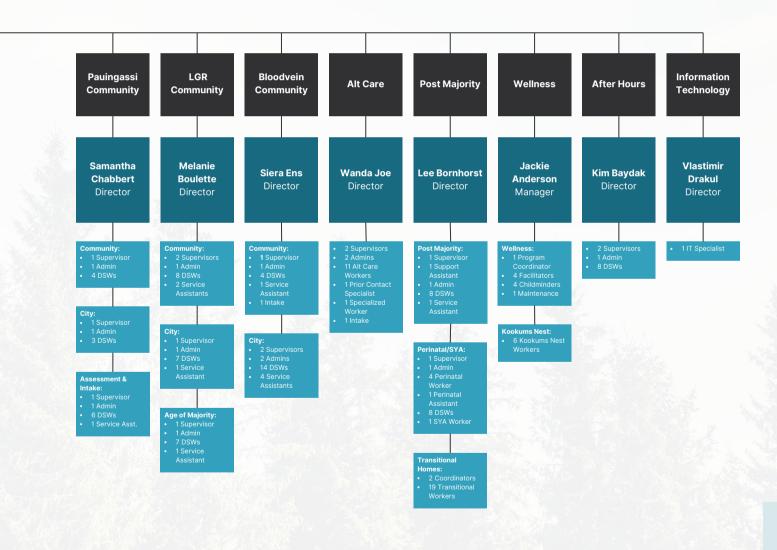
2024 COHORT GRADUATES



AGE 20

SECFS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit supports staff to ensure that quality services are provided to the families and communities we serve, and that the services provided meet provincial/federal child protection legislation and standards.

THERE ARE THREE AREAS OF FOCUS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Training
- · Critical & Serious Incidents
- · Data Collection & Analysis

CRITICAL & SERIOUS INCIDENTS

As we enter the 2025/2026 fiscal year, the Finance Department will assist the SECFS Board to find cost cutting measures to address the SECFS deficit. Accessing additional financial resources, enhancing operational efficiencies, and the continued support for our staff, children, families, aAll Critical and Serious Incidents are reported to the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY), the Department of Families (FAM), and The Southern First Nation Network of Care (SFNNC). Critical Incident Reporting for youth aged 0-17 started in 2014. It was noted that there were often "near misses" prior to a critical incident, so the legislation was expanded in 2023 to include serious incidents and young adults ages 18-20.

In January of 2024, SECFS hired a "Critical & Serious Incident Report Writer" (CI/SI Reporter) to ensure that serious and critical incidents are reported. They also provide case management support and mentoring to units when critical and serious incidents occur.

When a serious incident has occurred, the CI/SI Reporter guides the unit staff with gathering the necessary information regarding the incident, submitting the report, and providing feedback regarding changes that may be needed in the services being provided to children and families. For critical incidents, the CI/SI Reporter completes a full review of the services SECFS provided to the youth and family. Recommendations regarding gaps in services are then made. These reviews provide insight and recommendations for changes, policy development, programming, or training to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. This process results in improved service delivery for children and families.

TRAINING

The Training Coordinator position was filled in January of 2025 after a lengthy vacancy. The QA Unit is looking forward to providing our on and off-reserve staff with regular in-house training.

During the past year, the Critical/Serious Incident Reporter provided some training, including support around using the Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS), The Intake Module, and short sessions on Recommendations Training, which are explained more below. These sessions proved popular, and they were available for presentation at staff Team Days as well.

Regularly scheduled training sessions on standards and legislation, safety and risk assessment, and interviewing will begin in January. The new trainer will begin to assess and prioritize the staff's training needs, offering training topics relevant to child welfare and best practice. Training modules will include background information on the effects of previous harmful government policy on Indigenous people and educating staff to provide service through a trauma-informed lens.

The QA Unit is also taking the lead in developing materials and resources for the new Kinship, Customary, and Voluntary Care Agreements that were added to the Manitoba CFS Standards. These Agreements are meant to be a more cooperative format in working with children and families who need in- and out-of-home support.



This year, the CI/SI Reporter developed and delivered five 1.5 hour "Recommendations Training" sessions on topics such as Visits with Children in Care, Visits with Families, Following Up on Incidents of Abuse and Neglect, Reporting Serious and Critical Incidents, and Safe Sleep Environment Assessment. These short sessions will be offered again to complement the work of the Training Coordinator and provide all staff with concrete tips and tricks to improve the work they are already doing. The Recommendations Trainings, as well as a training on Reporting Serious and Critical Incidents are available on request.

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

The QA Unit ensures our service delivery aligns with mandated standards and regulations. Maintaining up-to-date electronic files is imperative, not only for the well-being of our children and families, 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.

The QA Unit generates monthly reports that record the number of active files within each unit and the work that is done within each file, such as face-to- face visits, legal status, recording, etc. These reports utilize both CFSIS, the data management system developed by the Province and internally created case lists. These data sources are cross-referenced to uphold data accuracy. This information is shared with our First Nations leadership, offering a comprehensive understanding of the services delivered to their community members.

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 SECFS care and evaluating the success of reunification efforts.

Our analysis of trends within SECFS is based on the quantity and quality of data entered for our children and families, and the QA Unit has provided support to staff with ensuring information is added to the system. The Province conducts a yearly audit of each agency's data to ensure it is compliant with standards; the SFNNC informed us that SECFS had achieved 100% compliance in the data for the year end. This is a very high standard to meet, and an excellent achievement for our agency, demonstrating the work being done by all our teams.

In January of 2024, SECFS hired a "Critical & Serious Incident Report Writer" (CI/SI Reporter) to ensure that serious and critical incidents are reported. They also provide case management support and mentoring to units when critical and serious incidents occur.

When a serious incident has occurred, the CI/SI Reporter guides the unit staff with gathering the necessary information regarding the incident, submitting the report, and providing feedback regarding changes that may be needed in the services being provided to children and families. For critical incidents, the CI/SI Reporter completes a full review of the services SECFS provided to the youth and family.

STAFF









STATISTICS 2023-2024

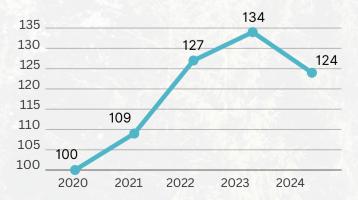
As of March 31, 2024, there were 1,315 children in care (CIC), 124 young adults (ages 18-21) under Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs), and 603 families receiving services from SECFS. In comparison to March 31, 2023, there was an increase of 99 more children-in-care, a decrease of 10 young adults receiving voluntary services, and 19 more families receiving services.

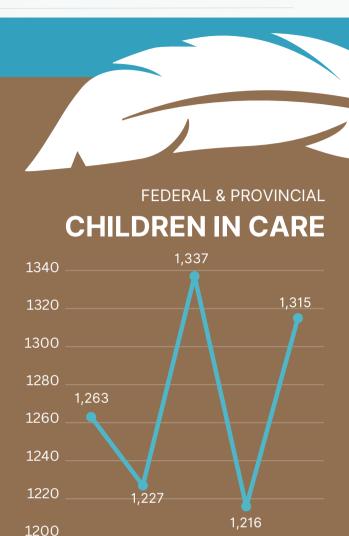
Type of Case	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024
Children in Care (CIC)	1,337	1,216	1,315
Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)	127	134	124
Family Files	544	584	603
Total	2,008	1,934	2,042

AGREEMENTS

WITH YOUNG ADULTS (AYAS)

On March 31, 2024, SECFS had 124 Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs). This is a decrease of 10 agreements from the previous year. This decrease is linked to the efforts to transfer some of the Age of Majority cases to the Post Majority Unit. Some youth struggle with the expectations and structure of the AYAs, and the Post-Majority Unit is able to divert some of our youth out of the child welfare system while still supporting them. The total amount of AYAs is counted from each community unit and the Age of Majority unit.





As of March 31, 2024, there was an increase of 99 children in care (CIC) from the previous year, or nine percent (Figure 1). The average number of children in SECFS care has remained consistent through SECFS efforts to provide support to families, with the goal of reducing the number of apprehensions and prioritizing reunification. Despite these efforts, the legacy of colonization, and the trauma associated with it continues to affect our families. The main reasons for admissions into care substance use, abandonment, physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect, mental health, and domestic/intimate partner violence. Treatment resources for these issues can be difficult to come by, and short-term programs are not always effective for long-term trauma.

2021

2020

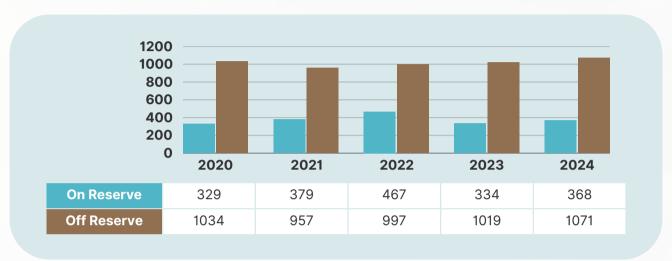
2022

2023

2024

ON AND OFF RESERVE PLACEMENTS

As of March 31, 2024, there were 368 CICs and AYAs placed in our First Nation communities and 1,071 placed off-reserve. The graphs below demonstrate that there was an overall increase in placements both on and off-reserve. Specifically, there was a ten percent (10%) increase with placement in our First Nation communities and a five percent (5%) increase in the off-reserve communities.



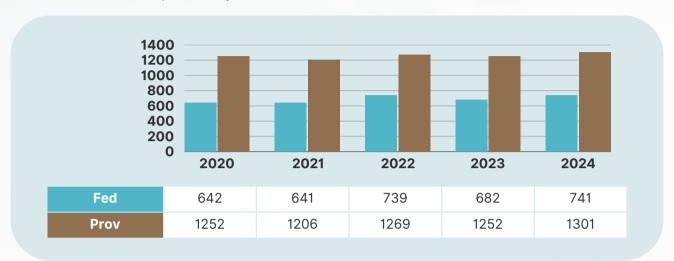
FAMILY CASES

As of March 31, 2024, there was a total of 235 family cases in First Nations communities and 368 off-reserve cases, for a total of 603 family cases. This is an increase of 19 family cases from the previous year. Despite the increase in family cases overall, the number of family cases has decreased by nine percent (9%) for family cases in the First Nation communities.



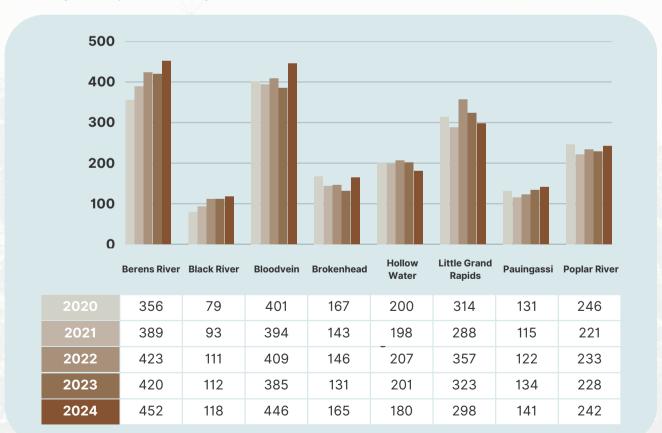
FUNDING

SECFS is funded 40% federally and 60% provincially. On March 31, 2024, there were 741 federally funded cases and 1,301 provincially funded cases.



TOTAL CASES (PER COMMUNITY)

The total number of files that includes Children in Care (CICs), Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs), and Family Cases per community from 2020 to 2024.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ACHIEVEMENTS

Moving to the Cloud: This year, we started the transition to the cloud as part of our long-term IT strategy. This move is expected to update operations and strengthen our security.

Two-Factor Authentication Implementation: This year we implemented a Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for system logins. This added layer of security ensures that only authorized users can access their devices, reducing the risk of unauthorized access and potential security breaches.

2025 GOALS

Windows 11 Upgrade: For the upcoming year we will upgrade the staff computers from Windows 10 to Windows 11. This transition is necessary due to Microsoft ending support for Windows 10. The upgrade will ensure that our systems continue to receive security updates and allow us to maintain performance and security.

Remote Desktop Upgrade: Along with the desktop operating system upgrade, we will also focus on upgrading our remote desktops to be fully compatible with Windows 11. This will ensure that remote access remains secure, efficient, and user-friendly.

The past year has seen great progress in the IT department with increasing security, moving to the cloud, and upgrading our computer systems to ensure we remain current with industry standards.

The in-house IT team provides daily support for our SECFS staff that may include troubleshooting, resolving technical issues, hardware repairs and software updates. Our IT team continually provides online training modules geared towards the security and protection of SECFS' data, network and internet safety. The following outlines our achievements and plans for the year ahead.



STAFF





FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The SECFS Finance Department operates from two locations: the 4th floor of 360 Broadway and the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation headquarters office. The department is staffed by a dedicated team of over a dozen professionals. The team is responsible for a wide range of tasks, such as processing payments for foster/kinship homes, third party service providers, and supporting youth and young adults in independent living.

Key responsibilities of the department include accounts payable management, data entry and analysis, funding and rate assessments, purchase order creation and maintenance, payroll and benefits management.

The Finance team works closely with its key funders Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Province of Manitoba. Through ongoing communication and partnership with these funders, the Finance team ensures compliance with funding agreements. This approach helps guarantee that the financial resources allocated to support children, families, and caregiver providers are used efficiently and in accordance with both federal and provincial guidelines.

In collaboration with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors, the Finance team plays a critical role in the creation, implementation, and monitoring of the annual operating budget. This process ensures that financial resources are allocated effectively to meet the needs of the communities and programs supported by the organization. The Finance team carefully tracks expenditures and adjusts the budget as needed to maintain financial stability and operational effectiveness.

Additionally, an annual audit conducted by the Exchange Group adds an extra layer of accountability, ensuring that all financial activities are thoroughly examined and comply with relevant standards and regulations. This audit provides further assurance to the Board and funders that the organization is managing its resources responsibly and with integrity.

2023-2024 AUDIT

In the fiscal year, 2023-2024, SECFS funding increased to \$112,075,230, compared to \$93,009,487 in 2022-2023. Total expenses also rose from \$105,522,449 on March 31, 2023, to \$119,909,119 on March 31, 2024. Notably, an additional \$ 2,683,095 in Children's Special Allowances (CSA) funds for federal children in care and \$5,206,134 in CSA for provincial children were secured in the 2024 fiscal year.

Despite operational deficits, it is essential to highlight that SECFS is required to include the CSA and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) funds in its financial statements. As of March 31, 2024, the reported deficit of \$5,252,082 is confirmed by the Exchange Group's annual audit, affirming compliance with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations.

GOALS FOR 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR

As we enter the 2025/2026 fiscal year, the Finance Department will assist the SECFS Board to find cost cutting measures to address the SECFS deficit. Accessing additional financial resources, enhancing operational efficiencies, and the continued support for our staff, children, families, and the communities we serve will be continued. These efforts will be guided by sound accounting principles, ensuring transparency, accountability, and integrity in all our operations.

STAFF





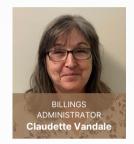
































DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION UNIT

The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON) is a Treaty 1 Anishinaabe Nation located on Highway 59, 100 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. The community boundary extends north to the shores of Lake Winnipeg which includes part of the Netley Creek Marsh area with the Brokenhead River running through the core of the community. The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation is a land-based community with a strong cultural heritage.

The BON on-reserve population is 669 and the off-reserve population is 1,623 for a total of 2,292 members.

Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Chief Gordon Bluesky and the CFS Portfolios are Councilors Christopher Kent and Wendell Jr. (Ogimaa) Sinclair.

BON has been actively developing their own child welfare laws Bimaadizewag Abinoojiiag Inaakonigewin (Our Children Will Live Law) and will establish its own child welfare agency in 2025. The community will have its own Lodge that will replace the services of SECFS and will prioritize Kinship Care Agreements with immediate family and provide services to young persons to age 26.

BON is home to the South Beach Casino and Resort, BON Entertainment Centre, Community Store, Grocery Store, Pharmacy and Wavers of Brokenhead. The community actively works towards protecting its culture, traditions and community, while expanding their economic development. Some of many projects on the go include the construction of a bus garage, school renovations, and several Jordan's Principle initiatives.

BON has secured the services of the Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS) to oversee the policing services for the community. BON also hosts its annual Treaty Days and Pow Wow in August. The BON Unit has taken proactive steps to strengthen partnerships with the community and urban resources to ensure ongoing preventive services and referrals are in place to support the children and families.

The Brokenhead Unit prioritizes family placements and has a large number of its children in care placed with family. There are 37 children placed in kinship homes. SECFS and the BON Local Child Care Committee (LCCC) collaborate to secure family placements. There are two Shawenim Abinoojii homes in the community that allow children to remain in the community.

We continue to see the impact of addictions and mental health affecting families which is resulting in children coming into care or remaining in care. In addition, this Unit has seen a rise in the number of transfers from another Designated Intake Agency (DIAs) to the BON Unit.

UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for the Brokenhead Unit has increased by 16 cases (+18.6%) from last year. There are 96 children in care as of March 31, 2024.

The number of family service cases for Brokenhead increased by 15 cases (+38.5%), and there were 45 protection files as of March 31, 2024.

CHILDREN IN CARE FAMILY SERVICES

STAFF



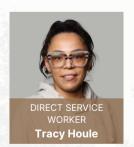










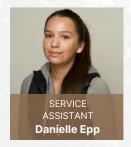












DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION UNIT

Black River First Nation (Makatay Ziibe) is a road accessible community located in the Treaty 5 territory approximately 158 km northeast of Winnipeg. It is surrounded by the O'Hanley and Black Rivers. Powerview/Pine Falls, a 30-minute drive, is the closest community for shopping and services. As of December 2024, Black River has a total population of 1,715 members with 869 members living in the community and 846 members residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Sheldon Kent and CFS Portfolio Councillor is Nelson Bird. Councillor Bird represents Black River First Nation on the SECFS Board of Directors.

The Black River community is waiting for the Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. (SAI) homes to be ready to provide placement options in the community. This has been a long process due to challenges finding suitable land locations to build new or install Ready to Move homes. The community is very close to completion of the first home and are eager to utilize it. The goal for 2025 is to move several children and youth back to the community where their connection to family, community and culture can be nurtured.

The community and city teams work together to offer cultural programs in the community. The Family Preservation staff have attended the community several times to provide cultural programming such as skirt making and cedar baths. The Community Prevention team provided wild meat for participants of the two-day cooking class and everyone got to take home a basket of ingredients of the dish they prepared.

Black River Community Intervention Unit and other SECFS staff helped develop bi-weekly groups for men, women and youth. One of the tasks of the men's group was to clear a spot of land in the community and build a sweat lodge shelter. The men's group also cleared two additional spots for the women and youth to gather. The goal of the men's, women's and youth groups is to return our cultural teaching and customs back to the community. The Intervention Unit works closely with Black River's Jordan's Principle, Health Center, Black River Anishinaabe School and leadership in promoting Mino-Pimatiziwin – Living a Good Life.

The community team has contracted a Recovery Coach to work with parents and youth to support them with maintaining their sobriety. The Recovery Coach attends the community two days per week, and the feedback from families has been positive and highlights the need for treatment aftercare in the community.

In 2024, the LCC Elders Committee meetings resumed, as they were paused during COVID. The Committee includes several Elders whose words of wisdom and guidance is invaluable to the Black River Team. The Committee hopes that SECFS will continue with having families involved with their children and keeping the children closely connected to the community.

UNIT STATISTICS

65

2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

43

2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

62

46

CHILDREN IN CARE

FAMILY SERVICES

70 60

50 40

30 20

10

60 50 40

30 20

10

28

The number of children in care for Black River has increased by 1 case (+1.6%) from last year. The number of family service cases for the Black River Unit has increased by 6 cases (+13%).

Although the teams were able to reunite a few children this past year, the Black River Unit received several transfers of files from other Agencies. This accounts for the one (1) case increase in the number of children currently in care.

STAFF

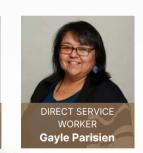














ADMINISTRATIVE

Michelle Wiebe



ADMINISTRATIVE

Shenae Hudson



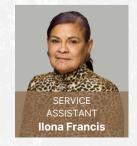














DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION UNIT

Hollow Water (Wanipigow) First Nation is located on Treaty 5 territory,
199 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg. It is accessible by an all-weather road and
is a 2 hours and 20 minutes drive from Winnipeg. As of December 31, 2024,
Hollow Water's total membership is recorded as 2,247, with 1,093 members residing in the community
and 1,154 residing off the community.

WATER FIRST NATIONS

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief is Larry Barker and Maurice (Les) Williams is the CFS Portfolio Councillor.

The Hollow Water community team has been busy developing programming to promote reunification of children in care and to prevent children from entering care. The statistics for the year show a significant reduction in the number of children in care for both the community and city units, while the number of families we are working with remained unchanged. In 2024, a local community member was hired as the Early Intervention worker. As a result of this additional position, there was a big increase in programming and events occurring within the community. Some of the programming that was offered included a ten-week traditional parenting program which was open to all community members, grief and loss programming, cedar baths and sweat lodge ceremonies. In addition, the community offered beading and ribbon shirt making workshops.

With the use of prevention funds, generously provided by Chief and Council, a small building on the property was renovated and equipped to provide programming. The revamped building was launched by hosting a Mother's Day brunch for community members. Other renovations occurred inside the building, which offers an inviting space where families can visit or attend therapy and programming. A suite was also built in the office to accommodate out of town trainers and staff while we await the addition of staff housing. The staff take tremendous pride in their workspace and property. Although staffing has been a challenge this last year, the team banded together to ensure that families continued to be served while awaiting the new hires. The prevention funds have also been utilized to hire a Recovery Coach, who is in community one day per week to work with parents who have recently completed treatment, as well as those who are at risk of relapse.

Hollow Water received their Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) status in June of 2024, with the Chief and Council hiring their First Nation Representative by the end of 2024. This upcoming year will be a transformational year for the Nation to develop its own child welfare law.

Chief and Council also donated prevention funds to assist their members living off-reserve. The funds are used for both families that the city is working with and for members who need a hand up to avoid financial hardship, which can lead to increased social problems. The Hollow Water city team is grateful for the funds to assist families who are struggling to manage with the increased costs of basic needs. The city team has undergone significant staffing changes in the past year, resulting in the team being short staffed for a large portion of the year. A strong supervisor combined with the assistance of key senior staff managed to continue service provision to the best of their ability. The team is now fully staffed and can focus more time and attention on the case plans for their families and increasing their referrals to community partners. The Family Preservation Team out of the Notre Dame office is a significant resource as they offer a wide range of programs and activities.

UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Hollow Water decreased by 18 cases (-14%) from last year.

The number of family service cases for Hollow Water remained the same (54 cases).

STAFF









CHILDREN IN CARE

FAMILY SERVICES





SUPERVISOR

Lorna Bjork



















DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION UNIT

Little Grand Rapids First Nation (Miishipaawitiik) is a Treaty 5 Anishinaabe community located 370 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg. The community is assessable by air, with a short winter road season. Helicopter access to the community is required during Fall and Spring during the freeze and break-up periods. The Little Grand Rapids on-reserve SECFS office is in the central area of Little Grand Rapids First Nation, located between the Band Office and Nursing Station.

As of December 31, 2024, the Little Grand Rapids First Nation population is 1,909 with 1,461 members residing on reserve and 448 living off reserve.

Little Grand Rapids First Nation (LGR) is spread out over an eight-kilometer area along Family Lake and is surrounded by the boreal forest, small lakes, rivers, and rapids. It is home to wildlife that provides a traditional food source for community members, such as moose and fish. Elders and other knowledge keepers have mapped out locations and areas that families have used for generations for harvesting traditional medicines. Community members enjoy their land and continue to offer the next generation's experience with boating, trapping and camping activities. Little Grand Rapids First Nation community members are fluent in their Anishinaabe language.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Clinton Keeper and the CFS Portfolio holders are Wendy Leveque and Diane Keeper.

Due to the remote location of the community weather has repeatedly caused issues of food insecurity, lack of medical care due to numerous cancelled flights, and a lack of resources for on-going programming. Many parents have challenges finding reliable, safe care providers so there are numerous requests to utilize resources like Kookum's Nest. Although the remoteness can be challenging, the community comes together frequently throughout the year for fishing derbies and moose hunting, creating a strong sense of community. Community resources have been working together to ensure the needs of the LGR members are being met collectively to minimize duplication of services.

SECFS community staff have participated in several community events this year including attending the Mother's Day gathering, MMIWG Walk, Christmas community dinner, Treaty Days, and fishing derbies. If SECFS staff are not actively participating, they make sure that families and children are attending community events by providing transportation. During the community Pow Wow, staff ensured that families were able to spend time together with their children.

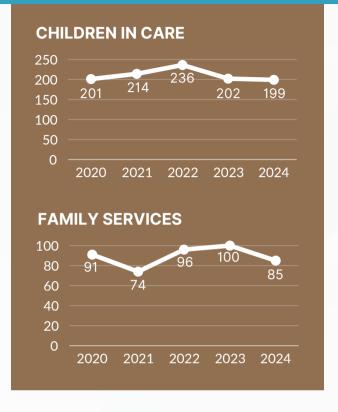


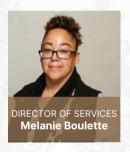


UNIT STATISTICS

When compared to last year's numbers, the number of children in care decreased by 1.5% and family services cases decreased by 15%.

This is due to the city and community units increase intervention services that focus on the family unit's strengths. In the community, the Wellness Lodge and Kookum's nest are a valuable resource as they continue to provide 24-hour care and support for community members as needed.















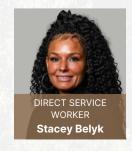


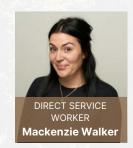


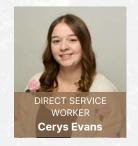














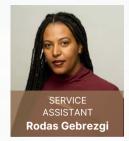
2023 - 2024 Annual Report

















DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION UNIT

Pauingassi First Nation is a beautiful remote community located 280 kilometers northeast of Winnipeg, situated 13 kilometers north of Little Grand Rapids on a peninsula extending onto Fishing Lake. The community has an on-reserve population of 651 and an off-reserve population of 104. Pauingassi residents actively engage in year-round hunting and fishing practices and proudly maintain a high retention rate of the Anishinaabe language. Travel is accessible by fly-in float plane during the spring and summer months, by helicopter from Little Grand Rapids, by snowmobile during the winter months, and if it is safe enough, by vehicle on the winter road.

Chief & CFS Portfolio: The role of Chief is held by Roddy Owens, who also manages the CFS Portfolio.

In collaboration with the Pauingassi Chief and Council, SECFS has implemented various prevention initiatives to enhance the well-being of families both on and off-reserve. This year, a dedicated Prevention Program was established in Pauingassi. The program includes a hunting camp where families can connect with their culture and traditions by learning essential hunting and fishing skills as part of a healing process.

Additionally, the community has opened a new facility to host programs, staffed by a coordinator and two program facilitators. The SECFS Family Preservation Unit supported the Pauingassi Prevention team by delivering workshops for families throughout the year.

SECFS has actively participated in community events including the Pauingassi Family Camp, which hosted over 100 attendees during its four-day run in July. Other community-supported events include a Halloween Dance, an Orange Shirt Day Walk, and Christmas dinners for on- and off-reserve members.



UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care from Pauingassi increased by 10 cases (+13%) compared to last year, while the family service cases decreased by three (-5.8%).

Challenges persist due to substance abuse, resulting in more children requiring care. Protection concerns affecting the community are discussed with Chief and Council in an effort to strategize solutions to keep families together. To address these issues, SECFS has provided funding for families to attend private treatment centers to support their healing. SECFS has also collaborated with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. to create placement homes tailored for Pauingassi children both within the community and in urban areas, ensuring the preservation of family and community connections.

STAFF

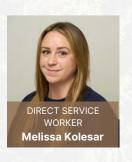




DIRECT SERVICE

Jeniel Aiken











CHILDREN IN CARE

76

2021

2021

73

2022

39

2022

2023

2023

2024

49

2024

90

2020

2020

FAMILY SERVICES

100

80

60 40

20

0

50

40

30

20

0









DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BLOODVEIN FIRST NATION UNIT

Bloodvein First Nation is located on Treaty 5 territory and is 285 kilometers north of Winnipeg, located on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg. The community is situated along three kilometers of the banks of the Bloodvein River and is accessible via air travel or an all-weather road, and is a 3.5 hours drive from Winnipeg. Bloodvein First Nation is home to a large on-reserve population of 1,239, and an off-reserve population of 905, with a total of 2,144 members.

Bloodvein First Nation Chief is Lisa Young and CFS Portfolio is Councillor Ellen Young.

Bloodvein First Nation is a community with strong generational traditions that includes hunting, fishing, trapping, canoeing, and waterway navigation. Bloodvein First Nation also contains the largest collection of pictographs in Canada. Hundreds of millennia-old pictographs (rock art paintings) have been documented at over 30 locations throughout Bloodvein.

Over the past year, our community has endured immense loss, beginning with the sudden passing of Chief Roland Hamilton. This loss was further compounded by the unexpected and heartbreaking loss of 20 other community members. The community remained resilient during this time of mourning to heal and support one another. SECFS supported families of those who lost loved ones and community resources brought grief and loss counsellors to help with the healing process.

Dusing this year, SECFS was able to work with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. to open two additional homes which helped prevent children from leaving the community and enabled additional children and siblings to return to the community. Sixteen children and youth were reconnected with their homeland, identity, and family.

During the 2024 Bloodvein First Nation Treaty Days weeklong celebration, the SECFS Community Unit, Post Majority Unit and Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. hosted a community breakfast, children's and adult bingo, and a dinner and show. A magician was brought out to perform illusions and to hypnotize willing participants.

Bloodvein First Nation is developing its own child welfare law. Job opportunities have been posted to secure a First Nations Family Law Coordinator to begin the community engagement sessions, surveys, and in-person consultations.

SECFS continues to build its partnership the community's Prevention Team, the Health Centre and Nursing Station, the RCMP, and Frist Nation Safety Officers. SECFS works in partnership with the Chief and Council to provide emergency assistance and ongoing support to its off-reserve members with the community's prevention funding.

Collaboration between the SECFS Bloodvein Community Unit and two Bloodvein City Units prioritizes connection between parents and children who live on and off reserve.

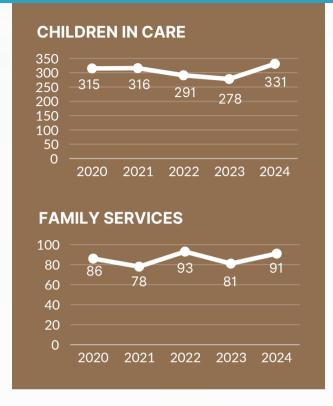
Bloodvein First Nation

UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Bloodvein increased by 53 cases (+19%) from last year.

Eighteen children in care who were apprehended were reunified with their parents or grandparents, 12 were placed in care with their extended family, and 24 children were placed with their siblings. This year, the Unit successfully reunified 25 children and youth.

The number of family service cases for Bloodvein increased by 10 cases (+12.3%).





























































DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BERENS RIVER FIRST NATION UNIT

Berens River First Nation is located on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg and accessible by an all-weather road. As of December 31, 2024, the on-reserve population was 2,261 and off-reserve population was 1,578 for a total of 3,839 members.



Chief & CFS Portfolio: Chief Hartley Everett. CFS Portfolio is held by Councilor Glen Boulanger.

Berens River is a beautiful community where the people are connected and heavily embrace the land through traditional ways. Most adults in Berens River First Nation still speak the Saulteaux language and strongly advocate for language classes in school to ensure the preservation and future of their language for generations to come.

Berens River First Nation members demonstrate their strength and resilience by continuing to make Berens River their home while experiencing regular water and power outages, lack of funding to address housing issues and enduring the high cost of living. They actively participate in work and initiatives to support their community after completing their post-secondary education.

SECFS Berens River team consist of 4 units, two units in Winnipeg and two units in the community, to provide protection services to all Berens River First Nation members on and off reserve.

In 2024-25, the Berens River Child and Family Services became responsible for the Berens River Prevention Program. The Prevention Program consists of an urban office and a community office that delivers programs, services, activities and events. Some of the Prevention Team activities provided were traditional medicine harvesting, men's and women's groups, distribution of 760 food hampers for both on and off reserve members, awareness walks for drugs & alcohol.

Our involvement in the community events this year include the Community clean up, 149th Treaty days Celebration, Berens River Reconciliation Day, Annual Christmas Open House, Community Christmas Dinner, 13th Annual Santa Claus Parade, Prevention Minor Hockey Tournament, and ended the year of with community radio fun and games. In addition to these events, Berens River First Nation has a committee of members who organize sporting events in the community for both youth and adults all year round.

In fall of 2024, Berens River Chief and Council issued a Band Council Resolution identifying their commitment to the health and safety of their members and to stop the illegal selling of drugs and alcohol in the community. The SECFS Berens River community team supports this action as the effects of drug and alcohol selling have increased family breakdowns, abuse and neglect of children who require intervention from the child welfare system. With the support of Chief and Council and the Berens River Prevention team, SECFS has brought in quarterly drug testing to the community to support parents and care givers who want help to maintain sobriety while community teams assist in applying for and securing treatment.

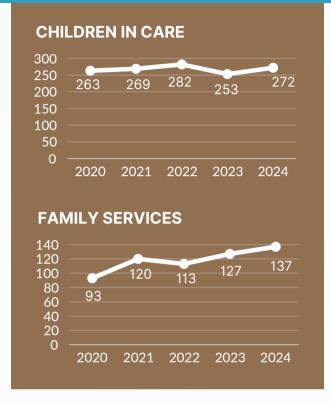
UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Berens River increased by 19 cases (+7.5%) from last year.

Children in Care files are opening at a higher rate over last year due to the increase of mental health or addiction issues within the home.

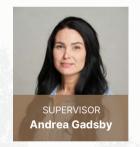
The number of family service cases for Berens River increased by 10 cases (+7.9%).

Family Service files are opening at a higher rate due to families struggling with mental health issues and addictions related to drugs and alcohol.

















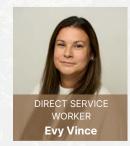




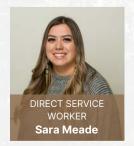










































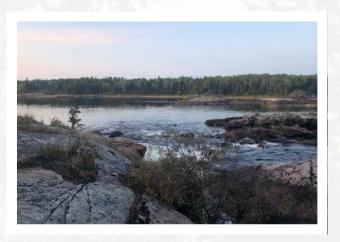












DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

POPLAR RIVER FIRST NATION UNIT

Poplar River First Nation is an Anishinaabe community located in Treaty 5 territory. It is a remote fly-in community of which 1,237 people reside on reserve and 930 live off reserve for a total of 2,167 members. In winter months, Poplar River has winter road access via a winter road connecting to Berens River First Nation.

The Poplar River SECFS team has continued to work closely with the First Nation leadership regarding child welfare issues. The First Nation has hired a First Nation Representative Service Facilitator who shares the responsibility of advocating for Poplar River families and caregivers.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: The acting Chief is Darcy Bruce. CFS Portfolio is held by Councilor Debbie Favell.

Collaboration with Jordan's Principle, the Detox Centre of Manitoba, Kelburn Recovery Centre and other treatment centers for families has occurred this year. SECFS has maintained two reunification homes in the community which allows children and their parents to remain together during the healing process. The SECFS team has also continued to refer families to the Family Healing and Wellness Centre in Little Grand Rapids, where they receive culturally appropriate programming to address parenting skills, grief and loss, and previous trauma.

This year we held a Christmas community gathering in Poplar River for families, children, and their caregivers. The community staff has continued to participate in Treaty Days and organizes all the games and prizes for children and hosts a community barbeque.

Poplar River has continued the process of writing their own child welfare laws. Meetings were held throughout the year exploring various models. The child welfare committee that is creating the Poplar River legislation will continue to meet in the upcoming year.

The Poplar River unit proudly saw three staff graduate from the Yellowquill College First Nations Child Welfare Worker Program and the unit's newest employee is enrolled in the 2024-2026 Yellowquill cohort.

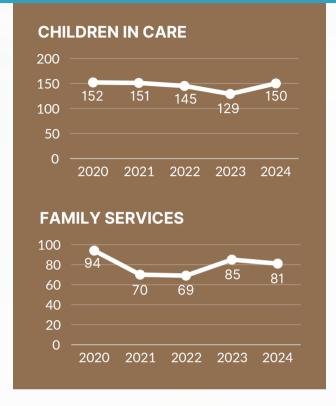


UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Poplar River increased by 21 cases (+16.3%) from last year.

This year, substance use contributed to half of the children coming into care. Other reasons that led to children coming into care included domestic violence and physical and sexual abuse. SECFS consults with the Chief and/or Council regarding all children coming into care, and continues to prioritize the use of family-centered healing and clinical resources to help reconnect children with their families.

The number of family service cases for Poplar River decreased by 4 cases (-4.7%).





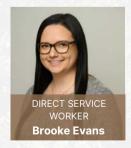






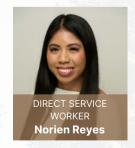






















PHOTOS













AGE OF MAJORITY

(AOM) UNIT

The Age of Majority (AOM) Unit is located at 4th Floor 360 Broadway. We provide services and supports to the youth and young adults from the Southeast First Nation communities.

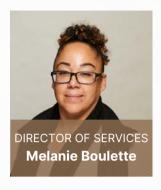
This specialized unit focuses on providing transitional services to youth and young adults (15 to 21 years) transitioning out of care. The Direct Service Workers (DSW) focus on assessing the unique needs of the individual youth or young adult and builds wrap-around community supports to support their transition. Caseloads are maintained at 20 to 22 which enables the DSW to provide the youth/young adults with the additional support needed to connect them with the services, resources and supports.

The Unit is also responsible to network and build relationships with community resources so they can attach the young person with the most appropriate resources to meet their unique needs. When transitioning youth out of care, it is important to assess their needs, bearing in mind the cognitive functioning of the individuals, their life skills, supports, cultural needs, their strengths and weaknesses. This involves the completion of assessments to connect them with the best resources including transitional placement programs, Independent Living, Community Living Disability Services (CLDS), SECFS and external programs, family and community connections, Positive Alternative Support Services (PASS), Employment and Income Assistance, educational, employment, mental health and addiction programs. Additionally, preparation of independent living skills is vital for positive outcomes and is the key component when case planning.

This year, the AOM team created a resource package for the young adults so they have a list of resources they can reach out to on their own after they leave the AOM services. Community resource presentations were provided to the DSWs so they became more familiar with programs and services to refer our youth and young adults to. The AOM unit, in conjunction with the SECFS Post Majority and Family Preservation Units, has organized a number of youth drop-in evenings, workshops, programs, cultural activities to promote rapport, build friendships, and maintain healthy lifestyles.

The ongoing challenge for youth and young adults is securing stable housing and accessing the essential services needed to address addiction and trauma. The AOM unit encourages the youth and young adults to remain connected with SECFS through its Post Majority and Family Preservation Units programs and services that are always open to them.







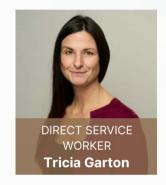






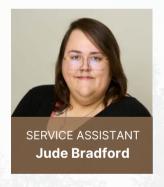














DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

POST MAJORITY UNIT

The Post Majority Unit provides support and services to federally funded young adults between the ages of 18-25, who aged out of care when they turned 18 years old. Services are voluntary and aim to support the safety and well-being of the eligible young adults in a culturally appropriate approach that ensures equal opportunities and outcomes.

Over the past year, more than 300 eligible young adults have accessed voluntary services through Post Majority and the provincially funded Services for Young Adults (SYA) programs. These young people sought assistance with a wide range of needs, including housing support, driving lessons, substance use treatment, clinical therapy, mental health crisis intervention, family visits, education and training applications, and help with basic needs like winter clothing and groceries. Additionally, we provided support with legal fees, sports fees, technology items, and other services as requested.

The Post Majority Transitional Housing Program provided emergency and short-term supportive housing with 24/7 transitional support to more than 45 young people and families experiencing homelessness, awaiting treatment or those needing assistance with crises, medical issues, and parenting. Participants work on individualized goal plans and engage in activities such as grocery shopping, meal planning, cooking, cleaning, and yard maintenance in a shared living environment. Their goals focus on education, employment, program attendance, support networks, culture, and their personal well-being.

Currently, we have two homes in St. Vital and one program in West St. Paul located at the SERDC Wellness Lodge. We have a total of 13 rooms available in a shared living setting and two- 2-bedroom self-contained suites for families. We plan to have 16 more rooms available in our West St. Paul location by January 2025. Of the five families who accessed our two 2-bedroom self-contained suites in St. Vital, four were transitioned to safe and affordable permanent housing in Winnipeg, and one family returned to their home community with an employment opportunity.

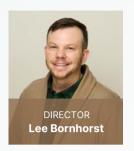
Dibendizowin Sober Living ("To own your own life, to care for your life") provides an abstinence-based, recovery focused supportive living option for young people transitioning from in-patient treatment programs or with 30 days of sobriety. Participants are required to attend 90 recovery groups or meetings within the 90 days upon admission and maintain an individualized goal plan with a priority focus on recovery. The home consists of 5 bedrooms available to male identifying young people with a desire to recover from substance use, with 24/7 on-site staffing support. The lower level offers a 2-bedroom unit available for young families awaiting treatment or in need of family sober living. In 2024, our program saw 24 intakes, with 2 of our current participants achieving 6- and 7-month sobriety milestones.



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Over 75 young people have secured or maintained employment and over 35 have accessed postsecondary education and training. Two young women successfully completed multi-stage treatment programs with one celebrating 2 years of sobriety and the other is on track to achieve her 2-year milestone in early February 2025.
- Our Perinatal Unit provided specialized case management to over 70 expectant young parents or those with young children. Young people accessed doula services, parenting support, and collaborative intervention with mandated services.
- Young parents attended our weekly, Registered Nurse supported Maawandoobiwag perinatal group. This group will be travelling to communities over the next year.
- Transitional Program developed and opened at 225 Masters Avenue, West St. Paul, to meet the growing demand for emergency supportive housing for families and young people. We appreciate the collaborative efforts from Southeast Resource Development Corp. (SERDC) to ensure young people and families are safe and supported on site.
- Transitional and Sober Living programs engaged young people in medicine picking, fishing (and filled the freezers with fresh caught fish), skiing at Falcon Lake, go cart racing at Speed World, wall climbing at The Hive, travel to Sundance in Roseau River First Nation, Orange Shirt Day Pow Wow, skating at Wheelies, games at Activate on New Year's Eve (Sober living), Heebie Jeebies on Halloween, Winnipeg Jet's games, movie theatre outings, workouts at the local fitness gyms, and holiday meals together. Participants report access to these activities improves their mental health and self-worth.
- Young People formed a volleyball team called "The Rez Dogz" and competed in JAM Sports' summer league. Despite differing experience levels, the team supported each other during practices and ingame to learn the fundamentals of volleyball. At the end of the season, the team tied for 4th place.
- Sweat Lodge ceremonies are offered twice monthly at the SERDC Wellness Lodge, with priority to
 young people living in our transitional and sober living programs. One young man has taken on
 responsibility of maintaining the lodge grounds and fire keeping, while a few others have assisted
 with shoveling as needed.
- Wolfpack Hockey Team, registered in the Adult Safe Hockey League, supports youth and young adults in getting equipment and playing out the season. One of our players took on Team Manager position to help keep things organized.
- Post Majority and Age of Majority hosted a Christmas Gathering at our Notre Dame office with prize draws, karaoke, bingo, dreamcatcher making with Sweetpea Starr, photographs with Santa, presents for young adults and children, and a Christmas feast dinner. This gathering has become an annual favourite amongst young people.

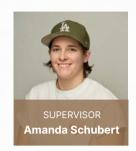
As we move forward, we remain focused on creating pathways for young adults to thrive, celebrating their successes, and empowering them to own their futures. The Post Majority Unit's approach ensures that these young adults are not just surviving but thriving—equipped with the skills, resources, and support to lead fulfilling lives.

































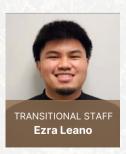




































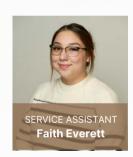


















FAMILY PRESERVATION

The Family Preservation and Post Majority Units became operational in 2024. The programs develop and facilitate culturally informed programming, healthy lifestyles and life skills enhancing workshops, parenting, and therapeutic groups for families in the Southeast communities. We incorporate a wide range of presentation methods and techniques to engage families and build trust. Many programs, workshops and support groups are provided in-person for families in the communities we serve.

Through wellness gatherings, life skills development, family fun day events and programs, we restore ancestral knowledge and support the healthy growth of the family unit. Our goal is to equip parents with the tools needed to maintain stability, reduce social isolation, nurture their family relationships and connections to their culture.

The wellness and self-care programs offered a variety of activities for different groups, including youth, men, women, families and the LGBTQ2S+ community. Some of these included wellness gatherings, summer camps, and specialized wellness days geared towards empowerment, healing and recovery.

Life skills workshops included cooking classes, traditional craft-making, resume building, and Doula training, as well as hands-on bike repair lessons in partnership with WRENCH. The Family Preservation and Post Majority Programs offer support groups, such as We're Better Together and Spirit Circle. These support groups provided a safe space for healing and sharing, including teachings on grief and loss.

Youth participated in traditional and cultural activities including sweat lodge ceremonies, drum groups, traditional song lessons, with opportunities to hunt and fish. One program that was highly received was the Little Ninjas Program, which helped build healthy relationships between fathers and their children through martial arts training. The Family Preservation and Post Majority units also stay involved with the Running White Wolves Youth Council, run jointly with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc., and their initiatives to create leadership and cultural learning opportunities for our youth.

The Family Preservation and Post Majority Units organize family focused events such as the Family Fun Week, Halloween festivities, and a special Skating with Santa event. Additionally, we held many movie nights, karaoke, and community-building events throughout the year.

Our team will continue to develop and deliver programming that enhances the quality of the relationship participants have with themselves, their family and respective communities.

We look forward to providing more cultural, traditional and exciting community-based programs in 2025!



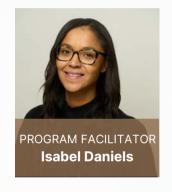






















ALTERNATIVE CARE UNIT

The primary role of the Alt Care Unit is to secure kinship placements for children who come into care. We recruit, screen, and license approved caregiver applicants, along with providing supervision and ongoing support to caregivers to ensure the needs of our children/youth are met.

Our priority is to encourage on- and off-reserve family and community members to apply to be caregivers. Often, placements are arranged in licensed general caregiver homes until a kinship or community home is secured.

The Unit actively engages in the recruitment of community and kinship caregivers through setting up recruitment booths in our First Nation communities, various community organized events, and with broadcasting on NCI Radio. In 2024, the Alternative Care team set-up recruitment booths at the North/South Conference, Jordan's Principle Orange Shirt Day event, Bloodvein Urban Treaty Days, and the Treaty Days in Berens River, Black River, Hollow Water and Brokenhead First Nations. Since December of 2023, there has been a 10% increase of new family and kinship-based care homes developed which has resulted in a decline in the need for non-culturally appropriate placements.

SECFS is the licensing body for Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. which provides placement homes specifically for SECFS. With the increasing number of licensed Shawenim Abinoojii and SECFS homes in the community, children in care are able to remain in or return to their respective communities. The number of family or kinship homes placement homes for our children in care is 252 out of the 472 homes we license.

Caregivers are an invaluable resource to our organization. To honour and acknowledge our current caregivers and our children in care, the Alt Care Unit held its annual Caregiver Appreciation Dinner on December 7, 2024. This event had an overwhelming response from the caregivers and a record number of participants. This year's event had a cultural performance by the Flett family which generated interest in community-based Pow Wow club programs.

In the coming year, our priority will continue to focus on the recruitment of kinship and community care providers by holding information and recruitment booths at more community events, and urban events where our Southeast members attend.

Finally, the Alt Care staff will be trained on the new provincial Kinship and Customary Care Agreements to encourage and better support our families and community members to be caregivers for our children requiring placement.

STATISTICS

Placement Types	#
Foster/Kinship Homes	319
Specialized Homes	16
Places of Safety	137
Total	472
Caregiver Types	#
Caregiver Types Kinship/Cultural Appropriate Homes	# 252
Kinship/Cultural	
Kinship/Cultural Appropriate Homes	252













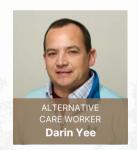






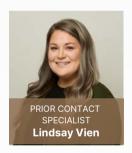


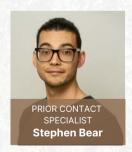
















ABUSE UNIT

The SECFS Abuse Unit is a specialized unit that is responsible to conduct child abuse investigations for the eight Southeast communities. The Unit is staffed with workers who have extensive experience, special skill sets, knowledge and expertise and close collaboration with community SECFS teams, the RCMP, Nursing Stations/Health Centres, Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and the Toba Centre to carry out thorough investigations.

The team handles cases involving physical and sexual abuse of children and youth aged 0-17, regardless of whether they are involved in the child welfare system. Our primary focus is ensuring the safety and well-being of children within the community and the home where abuse is suspected.

The abuse investigations are conducted alongside criminal investigations but remain separate in scope and process. If a child or family is not prepared to file an official report with law enforcement, our team continues to assess safety and risk concerns for the children involved. All investigations are reviewed and presented to the SECFS Child Abuse Committee, which provides crucial feedback, expertise, and guidance.

The Child Abuse Committee includes representatives from the abuse unit, medical professionals, law enforcement, school officials, and other key SECFS staff. Monthly meetings ensure updates are provided, strict timelines are followed, and informed decisions are made.

Since March 2024, the Abuse Coordinator has been facilitating the Global Interview Training to the SECFS staff, which has been well attended, received, and successful both in the city and community. This training prepares the Workers to interview children to ensure their safety and well-being while simultaneously laying the groundwork to build meaningful relationships. This training will continue to be offered throughout 2025. Our Unit is in the process of collaborating with the Quality Assurance Unit to determine how we can best serve the members in our community to mitigate further abuse investigations, by reviewing and analyzing statistical data from the abuse investigations.

The Abuse Coordinator has also begun the process of traveling to the communities to provide stakeholders with information on "The Duty to Report" incidents of child abuse visiting the community schools, starting with the schools. The goal is to branch out as needed to the community Health Centres and Nursing Stations.

The Unit remains committed to supporting staff with consultations on abuse-related matters. Together, we aim to enhance safety and protection for children in our communities.

The unit statistics for the period of review indicate that the Abuse Team has been able to close significantly more cases than they have opened

STATISTICS

FOR APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

Community	Opened	Closed
Brokenhead	5	8
Hollow Water	4	6
Black River	6	9
Bloodvein	10	16
Little Grand Rapids	22	17
Pauingassi	9	7
Berens River	4	9
Poplar River	11	20
Buffalo Point	0	2
Total	71	94





SUPERVISOR Lauren Turney











IN-HOUSE THERAPY PROGRAM

Melissa Lela
IN-HOUSE THERAPIST

The In-House Therapy program is located on the second floor of the 470 Notre Dame Avenue office. The In-House Therapy program offers clinical therapeutic services to children, youth and young adults between the ages of 4-25 who have experienced trauma, grief and loss or family disruptions. The program provides trauma-informed and attachment-based services that are individualized to each family, with a focus on developing safety, healing and processing trauma, restoring connections and relationships, regulating emotions and managing trauma responses, and building positive identity.

The In-House Therapy program currently has one full-time therapist. Melissa Lela has her Masters of Social Work, with a clinical focus on trauma and attachment in children and adolescents. Melissa specializes in Brainspotting – a mid-brain therapy that offers rapid healing from trauma.

In 2024, the In-House Therapy program provided over 800 sessions to 25 children, youth and young adults.

This next year, the goal of therapy program is to continue meeting the needs of the children in our care by offering support through connection and compassion to help them with their mental well-being on their personal journey of growth and healing.





AGE 62

ASSESSMENT & INTAKE

The Assessment and Intake Unit was established in January 2024. This specialized unit provides support with completing intakes to the community units. The Unit also conducts comprehensive assessment and case planning for families when they are transferred to SECFS. Previous, external file transfers lacked a thorough assessment and planning which resulted files being opened for families who only required brief services.

The Assessment and Intake unit works diligently to case plan with families, in a culturally appropriate manner. Families are connected to resources and supports to minimize their child welfare involvement. Through their assessment and case planning work, the team offers practical resources to prevent further family breakdown. Since January 2024, the Unit has prioritized communication with extended families and external resources to provide specific support to families and limit their child welfare involvement. The team has collaborated with schools to address issues like bullying, ensuring better school attendance, and customizing resources to meet specific student needs. Additionally, the team has connected families to counselling services, exploring appropriate intervention for families in crisis to prevent children from coming into care.

The team also plays a crucial role in guiding families through registration for band memberships. This involves providing families with information on upcoming clinic registrations, arranging transportation to clinics, assisting with form completion, and securing necessary documentation for registration. By removing barriers to access and offering clear guidance, the team helps families connect with essential services, ensuring that children's needs are met for their future well-being.

The goal of this Unit is to close files. This decreases the time families are involved with the child welfare system and can provide them with resources and strategies to improve the family's well-being. The Unit carries files for six months to a year and if the file closure is not possible in this time frame, it is transferred to its respective community unit within SECFS.

This year, the Assessment and Intake Unit held a total of 62 files. Five files were closed and two have been transferred to their applicable units.



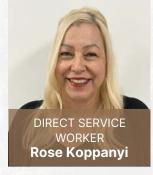
















AFTER HOURS

Kim Baydak

The SECFS After Hours Unit was established in December 2024 to enhance the existing after hour services provided to our eight community and city members. The primary goal of the After Hours Unit is to offer comprehensive and immediate emergency and support services during the evenings, weekends, and holidays.

When an emergency arises, the After Hours Unit will provide timely, culturally sensitive services to address the needs of the children and families we serve. Existing services available in Winnipeg and the surrounding area often lack the capacity to meet the immediate needs, and it is intended that the After Hours Unit will bridge this gap in services.

The After Hours Unit will collaborate with existing community and city units to improve communication, streamline reporting, and provide services and support including emergency check-ins for families, purchase orders, or transportation. This collaboration is crucial to securing necessary support services and ensuring the safety and well-being of children and families. Teams will be deployed in both Winnipeg and various community offices, and support services will be provided both remotely and inperson.

Working in collaboration with the SECFS units and community collaterals, we anticipate creating a seamless network of care that addresses immediate needs while ensuring long-term stability and safety for our children, youth, young adults, and families served.





FAMILY HEALING & WELLNESS LODGE

The Family Healing and Wellness Lodge (FHWL) is located across from Little Grand Rapids First Nation. The FHWL offers traditional healing services to families and children in a home-like setting to promote healthy family dynamics, prevent breakdowns, and support successful family reunifications. The program is open to members of the eight Southeast First Nation communities.

Participation in our programs is voluntary, and families do not need to have an open file with SECFS; however, they must be ready to participate in the healing process as a family. We receive referrals from SECFS, Jordans Principle, and the community prevention programs.

After a referral is received, FHWL staff meet with the family to assess their overall well-being and to discuss the resources and support available in the program. Once the family is approved, they will be assigned to the next available start date. Upon completing the ten-day program, families will receive certificates for the sessions attended, and facilitators will help them build a support network and a transition safety plan for their return to the community.

Some of the programs provided include workshops on Healthy Relationships, Domestic Violence, Anger Management, Relapse Prevention, Mindfulness and Self-Care, First Aid/CPR Certification, Mental Health Support, One-on-One Supports, Safety Transition Planning, and Creating Your Village. There is also focus on programs such as Responding to Children's Behaviors and Developmental Delays for positive outcomes.

Cultural programming includes making Hand Drum, Rattles, Medicine Bags, the Four Sacred Medicines teachings, Traditional Parenting, Stages of Life Teaching, Tipi Teachings followed by building a Tipi, Ribbon Skirt and Shirt workshops, Land-Based Learning, Seven Sacred Teachings, and Sweat Lodge Ceremonies.

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"

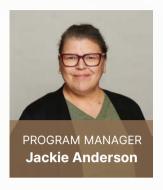
FAMILY FROM BERENS RIVER

"I got to learn about my culture again and started using my medicine at home and thank you to the lodge for providing me with the medicines to use at home"

MOTHER FROM LGR

"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 BLOODVEIN



























KOOKUMS NEST

Kookum's Nest is a unique program for the Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nation families. The program's goal is to prevent children from entering care by providing short-term voluntary placement for children. Trained childminders operate the home daily, offering a safe space for children when parents require assistance. Some examples are when parents travel to the city for medical purposes, need a wellness break, or when children need a safe place until parents are able to care for them. Referrals come directly from parents, SECFS on-call, through the Chief and Council, or the community prevention teams.

Kookum's Nest can accommodate up to 8 children at a time in its 5-bedroom home, where all basic needs are met. From November 2023 to November 2024, Kookum's Nest provided 460 children stays with many repeats.















Frank Abraham and Stewart Racette serve as the Community Development Liaison and Assistant Community Operations Manager, respectively. As of January 2024, Stewart was brought on board to train for the role of Community Operations Manager. Since his onboarding, we have expanded our focus to include more in-house maintenance and repairs for our equipment, such as the trucks and trailers. This approach has streamlined operations and reduced external maintenance costs.

In November 2024, we welcomed Tessa as our Community Operations Administrative Assistant. She has been catching on quickly and is proving to be a valuable addition to the team. With Ginew and Nathan providing part-time maintenance and janitorial support at the Brokenhead office, our team is operating efficiently.

Throughout the year, we plan extensively for the winter road season. We provide essential services to all eight SECFS community offices, ensuring they have all their operational needs, such as office supplies, working equipment and that the needed maintenance is done on the trucks.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024

Community Support: We completed 24 trips to the communities, delivering essential supplies such as baby supplies, furniture, skidoos, and side-by-sides to Little Grand Rapids, Poplar River, and Pauingassi First Nations. Despite the shortened winter road season, we successfully delivered most of the requested supplies. For items that required repair in Winnipeg, we ensured communities had an adequate number of working vehicles available to maintain their operations.

Infrastructure Improvements: We expanded and enhanced the parking lot at the Brokenhead office and laid underground electric wiring to the warehouse, improving operational efficiency.

Equipment Maintenance: We have taken on more responsibility for maintaining and repairing our fleet, ensuring that vehicles and equipment remain in good working condition. This includes filing MPI claims to repair any damaged equipment.

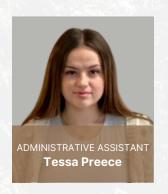
GOALS FOR 2025

Finalize plans to replace older vehicles in our fleet. We have already initiated discussions with dealerships to obtain quotes and will prioritize securing costeffective and reliable options.

Ongoing mentoring for Stewart to transition into the Community Operations Manager role. Support Tessa with advancing her skills and responsibilities as she grows in her position.









SECFS STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Stephen Bear
- Lee Bornhorst
- Dominic Chartrand
- Amber Daniels
- Brooke Evans
- Kianna Greene
- Melissa Kolesar
- Corinna Kotak
- Renee Larocque
- Jessica Mason
- Meagan Parisian
- Stewart Racette
- Betty Sainnawap
- Michelle Wiebe

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Sherry Anderson
- Melanie Boulette
- Josephine Frey
- Sandra Keeper
- Rhonda Kelly

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Glory Lister

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Muriel Green
- Cheyenne Beaudry

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chief Hamilton

Southeast Child and Family Services wish to recognize Bloodvein First Nation Chief Roland Hamilton for being a dedicated leader and a tireless advocate for his community. May his memory be a guiding light, and may his spirit live on in the hearts of those who knew and admired him. His leadership, wisdom, and passion will never be forgotten.





PHOTOS















INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Southeast Child and Family Services

Opinior

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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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 *Auditors' 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.

(continues)

E-mail: info@exg.ca Website; www.exg.ca

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

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information

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 auditors' 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 auditors' 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 auditors' 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 September 19, 2024

SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2024

		2024		2023
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash (Note 4)	\$	11,931,555	\$	18,452,404
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	Ψ	11,371,030	Ψ	8,475,721
Prepaid expenses		584,255		485,352
		23,886,840		27,413,477
		,		,
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)		9,505,683		8,309,650
DUE FROM RELATED PARTY (Note 7)	_	537,662		185,365
	\$	33,930,185	\$	35,908,492
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT		44.455.000		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (<i>Notes 8, 12</i>)	\$	11,172,999	\$	7,187,612
Deferred revenue (<i>Note 9</i>) Working capital advance (<i>Note 10</i>)		5,962,158 894,570		5,578,706 1,989,634
working capital advance (<i>Note 10</i>)	_	094,570		1,989,034
		18,029,727		14,755,952
PROVINCIAL CHILD TAX BENEFIT PAYABLE (Note 11)	_	3,190,294		3,190,294
	_	21,220,021		17,946,246
NET ASSETS				
Federal Core		23,236,277		10,555,324
Federal Prevention		5,760,035		7,496,807
Federal Protection		(44,086,403)		(36,094,718
Federal Maintenance		1,147,733		1,107,380
Provincial Core		(18,299,647)		(15,842,077
Provincial Prevention		906,399		616,309
Provincial Protection		2,822,012		2,406,322
Provincial Maintenance		(18,731,179)		(7,720,483
Children's Special Allowance and Other	_	59,954,937		55,437,382
	_	12,710,164		17,962,246
	\$	33,930,185	\$	35,908,492

ONÆEHALF OF THE BOARI

_____Direct

Director

See notes to financial statements

SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Statement of Operations Year Ended March 31, 2024

	Budget 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
REVENUES			
Indigenous Services Canada (Note 17)			
Federal Core (Schedule 1)	\$ 4,796,597	\$ 7,887,842	\$ 6,384,514
Federal Prevention (Schedule 2)	20,318,890	13,671,024	12,340,601
Federal Child Protection (Schedule 3)	10,987,279	17,559,063	9,617,089
Federal Maintenance (Schedule 4)	23,936,146	34,043,515	26,447,512
redetal Maintenance (Schedule 4)	60,038,912	73,161,444	54,789,716
	00,038,912	/3,101,444	34,/89,/10
Southern First Nations Network of Care			
Provincial Core (Schedule 5)	805,778	968,795	1,065,699
Provincial Prevention (Schedule 6)	799,793	799,793	799,793
Provincial Protection (Schedule 7)	5,928,747	7,687,186	6,127,302
Provincial Maintenance (Schedule 8)	27,542,399	27,613,079	28,602,496
	35,076,717	37,068,853	36,595,290
Children Special Allowance & Other (Schedule 9)	7,400,000	9,824,975	8,473,700
	102,515,629	120,055,272	99,858,706
EXPENSES			
Federal Core (Schedule 1)	2,539,085	2,201,688	2,570,605
Federal Prevention (Schedule 2)	20,382,683	13,789,965	14,221,860
Federal Child Protection (Schedule 3)	16,879,727	20,837,626	16,032,470
Federal Maintenance (Schedule 4)	29,464,219	33,984,999	28,211,723
Provincial Core (Schedule 5)	3,808,627	3,302,532	3,855,906
Provincial Prevention (Schedule 6)	799,803	520,513	743,768
Provincial Protection (Schedule 7)	7,334,674	7,319,492	7,425,694
Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8)	33,057,081	38,043,121	31,785,656
Children Special Allowance & Other (Schedule 9)	2,000,000	5,307,418	1,545,895
	116,265,899	125,307,354	106,393,577
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ (13,750,270)	\$ (5,252,082)	\$ (6,534,871)

CITY OFFICES



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594-0494

Fax: (204) 594-0499/0496



WINNIPEG SUB-OFFICE

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COMMUNITY OFFICES



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10 Thunderbird Road Box 240 Scanterbury, MB R0E

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BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION

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BLOODVEIN FIRST NATION

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LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION

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