



# **2024-2025** **ANNUAL** **REPORT**

SOUTHEAST  
CHILD & FAMILY  
SERVICES

**Mino Pimatiziwin**







**"Relations" (2025) by Sweetpea Starr  
from Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.**

The relationship between a man and a woman is a sacred bond. Sweetgrass serves as the protector of this bond, surrounding the couple with healing, honesty, and protection. The feathers symbolize the love that holds the relationship together.



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# COMMUNITY MAP



**POPLAR RIVER  
FIRST NATION**

**1**



**BLOODVEIN RIVER  
FIRST NATION**

**5**



**BERENS RIVER  
FIRST NATION**

**2**



**HOLLOW WATER  
FIRST NATION**

**6**



**PAUINGASSI  
FIRST NATION**

**3**



**BLACK RIVER  
FIRST NATION**

**7**



**LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS  
FIRST NATION**

**4**



**BROKENHEAD  
OJIBWAY NATION**

**8**



## SOUTHEAST REGION





## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

*"On behalf of the Board, I am honoured to present the 2024-25 Southeast Child and Family Services Annual Report."*

### **Chief Lisa Young**

CHAIRPERSON  
BLOODVEIN RIVER BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

As Chairperson, I have been part of this team for many years. While much has changed during that time, one thing has remained constant — the dedication and commitment of our staff to the families and children we serve. Changes within the Agency, driven by funding from our partners, have brought new challenges, yet our team continues to adapt, collaborate, and strengthen working relationships with one another.

We all play an important role within our agency, and it is vital for our families that we continue to work together. How can we support our families and children if we are not successful in collaborating as a team? As a Board, we are committed to ensuring children experience consistency—having the same worker, the same home, and the same environment whenever possible. You are the voice for our children in care, and we appreciate your advocacy on their behalf. Our goal is to ensure every child experiences the care, belonging, and support that a family provides.

To reiterate the message from previous AGM greetings, it remains the Board's goal to work alongside Agency staff, Chiefs, and Council members to support our families and communities in reducing the number of children in care. We are committed to keeping children safely at home with their families by focusing on preventative measures rather than apprehensions. We continue to partner with treatment facilities, family support agencies, and detox centres to help strengthen and support our families.

New to share in my greetings is the work being done in partnership with the Southeast Resource Development Council, the Chiefs of Southeast Tribal Council, and Shawano Wapunong Investments Corp to create and develop a treatment facility for our families.

We continue to recognize that each community is unique and faces their own obstacles. We believe that working together will assist us in ensuring we are successful in overcoming these obstacles. We have always acknowledged and respected that each community brings its own knowledge, teachings, diverse traits, strengths, and perspectives. 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.

Kih Chi Miigwich

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BLOODVEIN RIVER  
FIRST NATION  
**Chief Lisa Young**  
Chairperson



HOLLOW WATER  
FIRST NATION  
**Chief Larry Barker**



BROKENHEAD  
OJIBWAY NATION  
**Hazel Kent**



PAUINGASSI  
FIRST NATION  
**Chief Roddy Owens**



BLACK RIVER  
FIRST NATION  
**Leah Fontaine**



BERENS RIVER  
FIRST NATION  
**Glen Boulanger**



LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS  
FIRST NATION  
**Chief Clinton Keeper**



POPLAR RIVER  
FIRST NATION  
**Chief Darcy Bruce**



BROKENHEAD  
OJIBWAY NATION  
**Chief Gordon BlueSky**  
Ex-officio



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Mino Pimatiziwin (leading a good life)*

**Rhonda Kelly**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Boozhoo.

I hope this year's Annual Report for Southeast Child and Family Services captures the dedicated work our staff provides to our children, youth, young adults, and families. I am grateful to be guided by our Board of Directors who want the best for our people.

Our vision of Mino Pimatiziwin guides everything we do, from our policies and practices to the services we provide. Our services and staff are respectful and supportive, ensuring the safety and well-being of the children, families, and communities we work with. Our workplaces provide healthy and safe environments.

SECFS recognizes that connection and having a sense of belonging is crucial to being healthy. We take pride that we involve our members and communities with making decisions that affect their children and families. 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 year's Annual Report report on financial and statistical data for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, and showcases SECFS activities and events for January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. The SECFS senior management report on their respective units and programs to share updates and highlight issues for the communities they serve.

Our Annual Report is released each year at the joint Annual General Meeting of Southeast Child and Family Services and Shawenim Abinoojii Incorporated.

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 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 2024/25 reports on our financial and statistical performance for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, with our services, programs, and activities corresponding to the calendar year January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.*

## ABOUT SECFS

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

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

## LEGISLATION

*SECFS complies with 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.*

Nationally, provincially, and locally, the child welfare system is evolving to increase the First Nations responsibility for their children and families. A number of our First Nations are re-establishing their own child welfare laws and child welfare agencies, and SECFS continues to work alongside communities to adapt its practices to keep children and families safe while honouring First Nation laws and customary practices.

The changes to the provincial legislation effective October 1, 2024, have created options for parents to access alternate care arrangements with family and/or community members without the child coming into care. The Kinship Care Agreement or Customary Care Agreement provides for the parents/guardians, and caregivers to determine the care for the child, while the financial support is provided by the CFS agency to the caregivers. It is anticipated that fewer children will enter care and that an increased number of children will be placed with families under these new agreements. SECFS currently has 7 Kinship Care Agreements in place.



## FUNDING

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

The Province's Single Envelope Funding (SEF), imposed in 2018, is a block model funding system which would be a preferred model if the funding allocation was reasonable. The current SEF funding model fails to recognize the unique challenges SECFS experiences and has not been adjusted to reflect the significant increase of provincially funded children who have come into care due to the current drug crisis.

SECFS, unlike our southern sister agencies, also incurs the high costs associated with serving remote communities including travel for family visits, costs for the eight communities' office maintenance, continued shortages in housing and child placement resources, plus the limited human resource shortages in our communities which adds to the increased travel costs. Furthermore, the SEF model is "blind" to the current drug crisis, exceptional costs for our high needs and high-risk youth, the reluctance of families to open their homes to our youth, and the growing reliance on high cost third party service providers for placements. The provincially funded cases are now 70% of our total cases and has moved the SECFS provincial deficit to a crisis level. The Southeast leadership continues to advocate for funding changes but has not had any success with addressing the severe funding shortfall.

Federally, through Indigenous Services Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) orders, SECFS has been able to provide enhanced services to federally funded children, youth, young adults, and families. In addition, five of our First Nations allocate a portion of their community prevention funds to SECFS to support their members with prevention costs that is not funded by SECFS.

## 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. When needed, ad hoc committees are established for specific purposes.

SECFS is fortunate to have First Nation Chiefs and Councillors sitting as members of the SECFS Board. This high-level involvement has increased the communication and knowledge of the SECFS issues and services with the communities and members served.

## 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 and effectively implement the new direction or policies.

The Executive Director may bring to the Board the management team's recommendations for new policies or changes to existing policies, new staff or changes to 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, 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.

The Directors of Services and Community Supervisors 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 forums to address complex cases and plan for joint community activities, events, and programming.

## CASE NUMBERS

SECFS commits to reunifying children in care back to their families and communities and to support families to be healthy and remain together. Our statistics show that as of March 31, 2025, there were 1,393 children in care - an increase of 78 children from March 31, 2024. For the family cases, as of March 31, 2025, there were 658 families receiving services - an increase of 55 cases.

The addiction epidemic remains the main reason for children coming into care and creating challenges for children to be returned to their families and placed with extended families. Our focus has been to encourage parents and young people to attend treatment and programs to promote healing and recovery. Currently, we are seeing a growing number of alcohol/substance misuse due to the drug crisis and the CSA and federal compensation payouts.

## POST MAJORITY SERVICES

The Post Majority Unit serves young adults aged 18 to 25 years who were federally funded children in care and turned 18 years old while in care. This voluntary service offers our Post Majority young adults services to support their transition to independence. Services may include basic and essential necessities (food, shelter, clothing), education/training, addiction and mental health support, prenatal and perinatal support, recreational activities, and cultural activities e.g. sweats, naming ceremonies, sundance, fasts, cedar baths, teachings, and access to land-based therapists.

Transitional homes for our Post Majority young adults are located in Winnipeg and can serve as emergency, short-term, long-term, and sober living arrangements. The program also offers short and longer term, temporary, and emergency accommodations at the Southeast Wellness Centre located in West St. Paul, which is typically full. Onsite programming and activities are readily available to encourage the young people to connect with others, keep busy with healthy activities, and learn life skills to promote their growth to independent living.

## FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

The Family Preservation Programs offer practical and culturally sensitive intervention services to at-risk families. Programs and services to strengthen and support families include in-home supports, parenting classes, cultural programming, workshops to promote healthy lifestyles, and leadership training. The Notre Dame office has family visit rooms available to enable parents to attend programming with on-site childcare. The focus for the upcoming year is to increase the on-reserve programming.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Health and Wellness Coordinator organizes the Health and Safety Committee membership, comprised of on and off-reserve staff, coordinates meetings, manages the Mountain Avenue office, and is involved with the coordination of emergency response crises. The coordinator is to keep current with the federal, provincial, and community laws, health and environmental standards to ensure the safety and health of the SECFS staff and offices are maintained.

## FAMILY WELLNESS LODGE

The Family Wellness Lodge, across the lake on the airport side of 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. Healing is built into all workshops and activities to promote healthier behaviours and attitudes of all family members.

## ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

SECFS supported youth, young adults, and parents to attended addiction and mental health treatment centers in Manitoba and out of province. SECFS staff continue to learn to better assess an individual's readiness for treatment and refer to community resources for ongoing recovery support. The challenge remains for the recovery services to be available in all communities.

SECFS is excited to be involved as a partner to establish a Southeast First Nations treatment centre that will house a medical detox and treatment centre, while concurrently developing community-based recovery and healing programs in each community.

## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

The SECFS city-based staff are represented by the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union. Negotiations for the 2022-2026 collective agreement were ratified in 2025 and the negotiations for the 2026-2030 collective agreement will be underway in early 2026.



## RUNNING WHITE WOLVES YOUTH COUNCIL

The Running White Wolves Youth Council (RWWYC) are youth and young adult members of the Southeast First Nations who offer a voice to Shawenim Abinoojii (SAI) and SECFS. The RWWYC members initiate their own activities and workshops to grow their leadership skills. The Youth Council are involved with the annual SECFS-SAI golf tournament fundraising event, and the proceeds go towards supporting their activities. A member of the Youth Council sits on each of the SECFS and SAI Board of Directors meetings so they can contribute their experience as a former child in care to issues relating to the SECFS and SAI service delivery.

## STAFF TRAINING

SECFS has 18 staff enrolled in the 2024-2026 cohort program with the Yellowquill College First Nations Child and Family Services Worker Program. Additionally, SECFS continues to support our Southeast First Nations member staff who are enrolled in the University of Manitoba Bachelor of Social Worker program. General child welfare and specific issue training is provided throughout the year by in-house trainers and by external forums and institutions. New staff receive an on-boarding training session and community staff are mentored by the city staff prior to servicing their assigned community.



## EVENTS

The annual high school graduation gala was held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights which featured guest speakers and entertaining music, followed by a presentation of a star blanket and gift offered to the graduates. We are very proud of our 29 high school graduates and look forward to watching the growth in their life's journey.

The SECFS Social Committee organized a community resource forum for the staff in December. The theme was "building our networks of community supports" so that our staff can better connect our families and young people with the supportive services they require to thrive.

Women's and Men's Wellness Gatherings were successful with high attendance, and they received very positive feedback from the participants. Similar gatherings will continue to be organized in the new year.



## PROVINCIAL CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE SETTLEMENT

The Manitoba Court of King's Bench 2022 decision held the Province of Manitoba's claw back of the provincially funded children's CSA (Children's Special Allowance) from the CFS agencies for the period of 2006 to 2019 was discriminatory. A \$530 million agreement was negotiated to compensate those impacted.

The application process to apply for the reimbursement of the CSA funds began in January 2025 and our two SECFS Children's Helpers assisted our impacted former children in care to apply for their CSA settlement funds. The majority of the former children in care have now been compensated. Funds for children currently in care will have their funds held for them in trust by the CSA administrators until they turn 18 years old.

## CHRT FEDERAL COMPENSATION

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordered Canada to compensate the federally funded children who were wrongly removed from their families and communities. The application process began in March 2025 and a number of applicants have since been compensated. The next round of applicants will be the parents, grandparents, or caregivers who were discriminated by the child welfare system.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Meegwetch to our children, youth, young adults, families, SECFS Board of Directors, community leadership, and our staff for their dedication and commitment to working toward Mino Pimatiziwin — "living a good life."

Meegwetch

# SENIOR MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
**Vesna Maroti**



DIRECTOR OF HUMAN  
RESOURCES  
**Teekca Spence**



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
POPLAR RIVER & QUALITY  
ASSURANCE  
**Glory Lister**



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
PAUINGASSI & ASSESSMENT  
& INTAKE  
**Samantha Chabbert**



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
BLACK RIVER & HOLLOW WATER  
**Josephine Frey**



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS  
**Melanie Boulette**



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
BROKENHEAD  
**Serena Marsden**



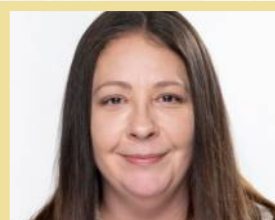
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
BLOODVEIN  
**Siera Ens**



DIRECTOR OF POST MAJORITY  
& AGE OF MAJORITY  
**Lee Bornhorst**



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
ALTERNATIVE CARE  
**Wanda Joe**



DIRECTOR OF BERENS RIVER &  
AFTER HOURS  
**Kim Baydak**



DIRECTOR OF ABUSE  
**Sara Yager**



IT DIRECTOR  
**Vlastimir Drakul**

# ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Administrative Support staff play a vital role as the first point of contact for SECFS families accessing our services. Receptionists in all offices provide a warm and welcoming environment so families will feel supported from their first interaction.

This year, we implemented a new approach by moving administrative staff into a shared administrative pool. This allowed them to collaborate across all units, share daily tasks and provide support wherever it is needed most, rather than being assigned to a single unit. This flexible model was intended to increase efficiency and ensured that administrative support was consistently available throughout our organization. The administrative pool will be revamped in January 2026 for the individual Administrative Assistants to return to an assigned unit. We are extremely proud of our administrative team. Their dedication, professionalism, and contributions are essential in supporting our programs, staff, and the families and children we serve.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



ADMIN SUPERVISOR  
**Tessa Inglis**



ADMIN  
**Jana Fong**



ADMIN  
**Randy Kolba**



ADMIN  
**Shenae Hudson**



ADMIN  
**Allyson Bushie**



ADMIN  
**Faith Anderson**



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
**Kristin Cook**



MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT  
**Chasity Thomas**

The Executive Assistant supports the Executive Director and Board of Directors stay organized, handling schedules, meetings, and important communications.

The Management Assistant supports the Directors of Service with day-to-day tasks, scheduling, and keeping things running smoothly, and also steps in to help the Executive Assistant when needed.

Both roles are crucial to keeping our organization running efficiently and effectively.

## MOUNTAIN SUPPORT STAFF



RECEPTION  
**Patricia Thompson-Parenteau**



FILE CLERK  
**Hope Murdock**

## NOTRE DAME SUPPORT STAFF



REPORTING COORDINATOR  
**Cheyenne Beaudry**



REPORTING WORKER  
**Shania Thordarson**



RECEPTION  
**Emily Bushie**



CHILDMINDER  
**Crystal Beaudry**

# HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Southeast Child and Family Services employs approximately 300 staff who work in the three city and eight community offices.

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

This year brought important developments in staff training, orientation, and professional growth. The 2022-2026 SECFS-MGEU Collective Agreement, representing the unionized city staff, was finalized in 2025.

Significant progress was made in strengthening internal resources. Program manuals were created for multiple units, offering clear guidance and ensuring consistent practices. A comprehensive two-day New Employee Orientation was introduced to better prepare staff, providing an overview of SECFS culture, core values, service philosophy, and essential training, including Respectful Workplace, CFS standards, and professional conduct expectations. This structured approach has greatly enhanced engagement and readiness for new employees.

Education and career development initiatives also continued to expand. The Yellowquill cohort launched last year is progressing well and remains on track for graduation in 2026. Building on this success, SECFS secured seats in a new Yellowquill cohort with the Southern First Nations Network of Care, which began in the Fall 2025. These partnerships strengthen opportunities for staff to advance their education and enhance service capacity across the organization.

To support compliance and operational integrity, the HR department also initiated a comprehensive Employee File Audit. This work ensures that files are accurate, complete, and aligned with policy and legislative requirements, reinforcing accountability for SECFS.

## RECRUITMENT

Recruitment efforts expanded significantly in 2025, strengthening our presence both within Southeast communities and across Manitoba. A major achievement was the successful hosting of the SECFS two-day Career Fair on May 31 and June 1, 2025. The event attracted strong participation from job seekers, community members, and partner organizations. It served as an important platform to highlight career pathways, showcase the cultural foundation of our work, and support employment opportunities for Southeast members.

Beyond our own event, the HR team represented SECFS at more than sixteen external recruiting events throughout the year. These included postsecondary career expos, community gatherings, and targeted recruitment forums in both urban and rural areas. This increased outreach has significantly strengthened our visibility, expanded our talent pipeline, and increased interest in SECFS as an employer of choice.

Recruitment also extended directly into each of the eight Southeast communities. The HR team engaged with leadership, connected with potential applicants, and promoted roles that align with community needs and longterm employment goals. These visits reflect our commitment to building a strong and respectful workforce that is grounded in the communities we serve.

# STAFF

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Throughout the year, the Health and Safety team completed annual inspections at the community offices to ensure safe work environments. Expired fire extinguishers were identified and replaced, and 72-hour emergency roadside kits were provided for staff who regularly travel the highways to our First Nation communities. In addition, 20 staff members were certified in First Aid, strengthening our organization's emergency preparedness.

Looking ahead, our goal for this year is to train additional staff in First Aid and to offer Narcan training to staff. To support this initiative, we partnered with SERDC's Fire by Fire program, which has supplied Narcan kits for staff to carry while working with our families in the city and in our communities.



DIRECTOR  
**Teekca Spence**



MANAGER  
**Corrin Toews**



GENERALIST  
**Cari-Lynn Lecocq**



GENERALIST  
**Eileen Kriskovic**



HEALTH & SAFETY  
**Belinda Selkirk**



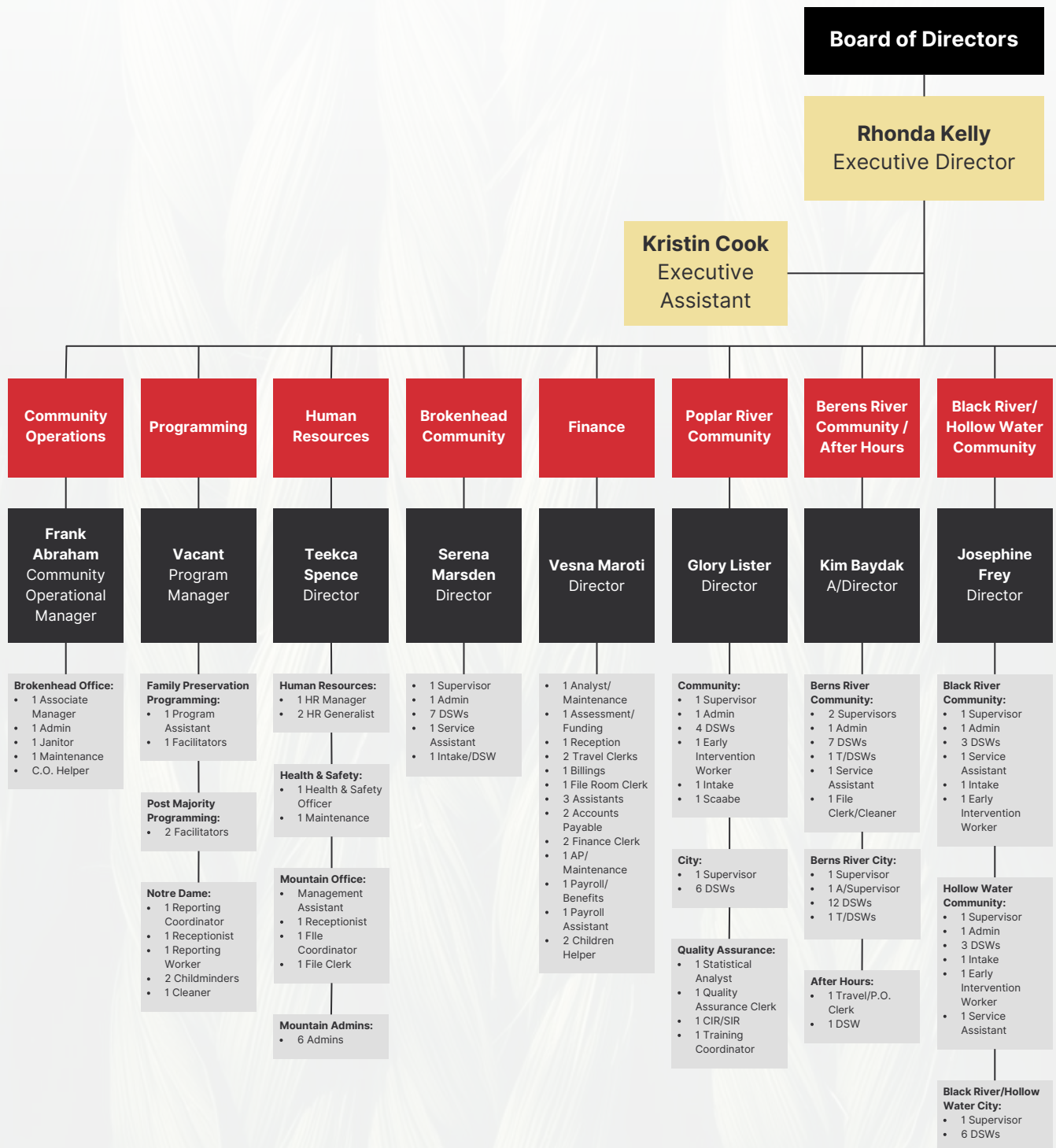
MAINTENANCE  
**Jared Richard**

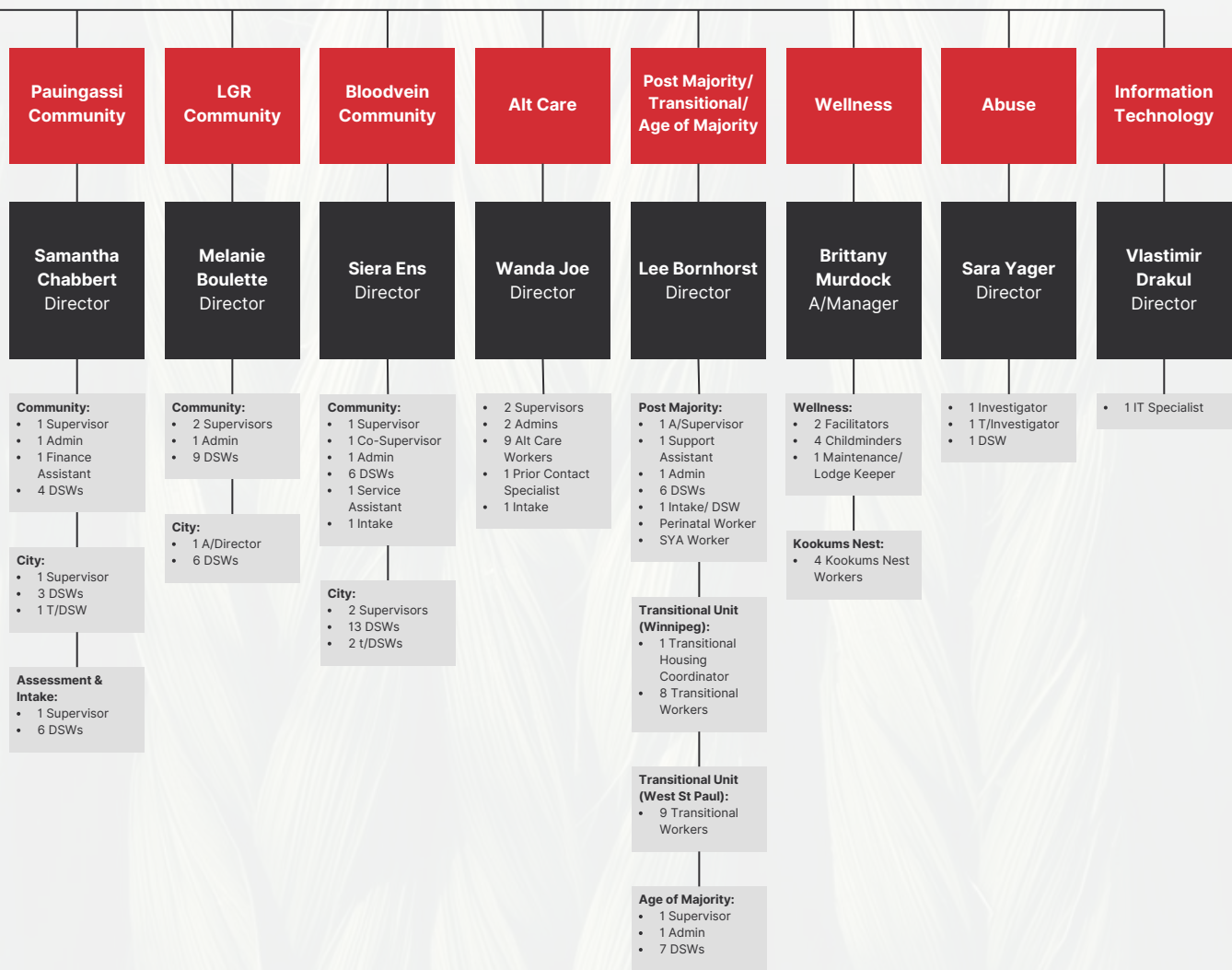
## YELLOWQUILL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES WORKER PROGRAM

2025 COHORT



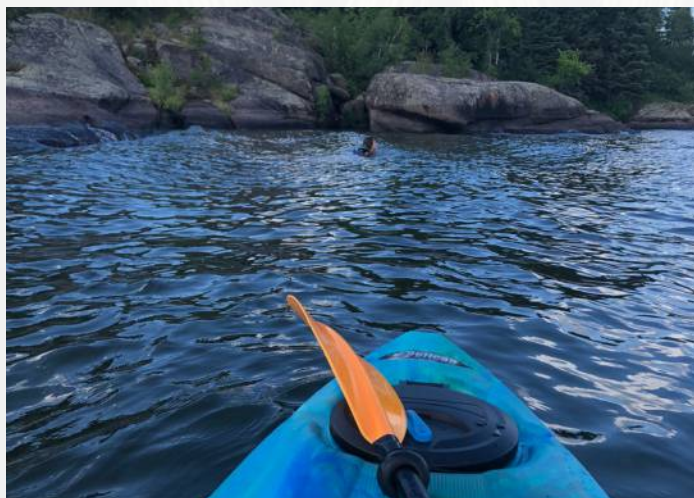
# SECFS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





## QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit collects Agency wide data, and ensures our services are aligned in accordance with standards and regulations governing the child welfare legislation. The QA Unit provides both quantitative (numerical) and qualitative (written reviews/reports) to our Board of Directors, senior management, funding and compliancy bodies such as Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Province of Manitoba (Province), Manitoba Advocacy for Children and Youth (MACY), or the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC).



**The unit has 4 areas of focus;**

### CRITICAL & SERIOUS INCIDENTS

Following every child death or serious injury, the QA staff investigates and assesses the work done by the Agency. Initial reports are compiled and sent to the SFNNC and government bodies as legislated by provincial standards. The QA staff then completes an Internal Agency Review which is an examination of all work completed by staff at the Agency.

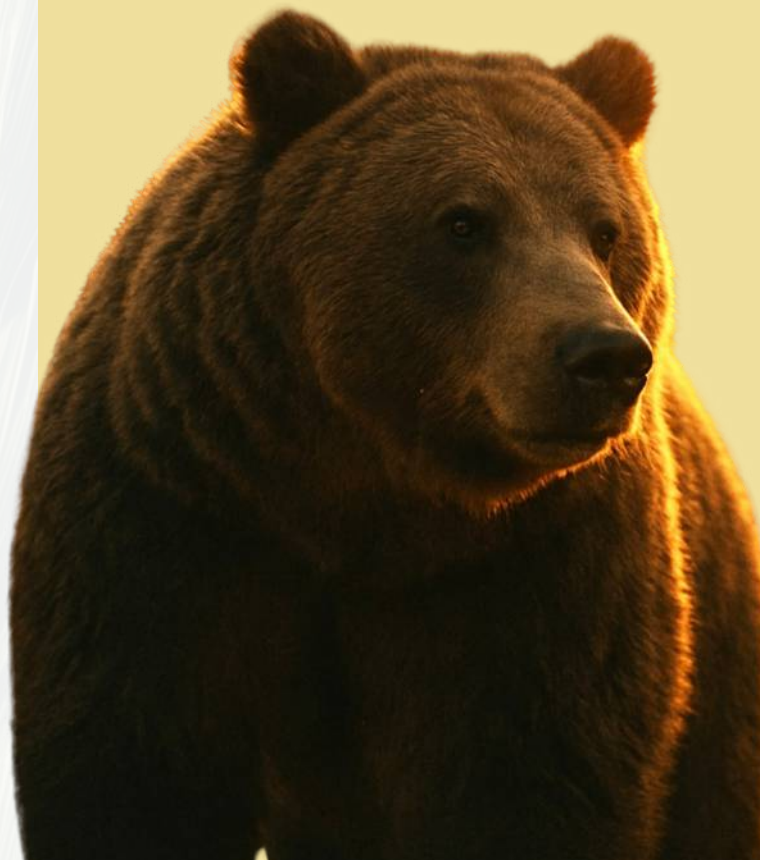
The purpose of the report is to assess whether there were any gaps in services apparent in the findings of the file, and/or determine what training needs are required by the staff. These reviews provide insight and recommendations for changes, policy development, programming, and training to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. The QA Unit meets with the Province, SFNNC, and the MACY regarding service delivery and follow the recommendations.

### TRAINING

The Training Coordinator position was filled last year after a lengthy vacancy. Training was completed on case documentation and support using the Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS). The Abuse Unit underwent orientation to the Abuse Investigation Process.

### NETWORKING & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The QA staff developed and prepared forms for the delivery of the new Voluntary Care, Kinship, and Customary Care Agreements implemented by the Province. These Agreements allow for a more cooperative format in working with children and families if an out of home placement is required and continues the Agency's goal to keep children with their families. Although there are only a few of these agreements in place, the Agency continues to assess when these agreements can be utilized.



## DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

The QA Unit gathers information and provides statistics that measure the services we provide for our children and families. Maintaining up-to-date electronic files is imperative, not only for the well-being of our children and families, but also to meet the stringent funding criteria set by Province and ISC. Our reports serve as a crucial tool for making staffing decisions, addressing workload concerns, managing cases, and guiding training initiatives.

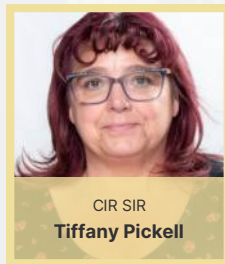
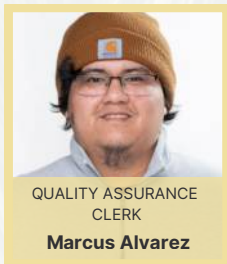
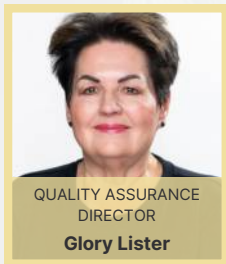
The QA Unit generates monthly reports from CFSIS, the provincial data management system, and internal lists that measure the services we provide to our children and families. These reports include the number and type of active files within each unit, and the work that is done within each file such as face-to-face visits, legal status, recordings, assessments, and other service markers. Monthly feedback is provided to staff regarding the completed and outstanding work required on electronic files. The Agency maintains a near-perfect record of compliance every year.

The Unit also compiles monthly statistics and yearly reports for the SECFS Board of Directors. Additionally, as the First Nations work on their own legislation, detailed reports are prepared and sent to the Chiefs and Councils, and specific reports will be developed as requested.

Although our goal remains to keep children with their families in their home communities, there was a slight increase in numbers this year. We continue to focus on collecting data related to admissions, readmissions, and discharges of children in care, to assist us with analyzing data to determine the reasons children come into care and evaluate the success of our reunification efforts.



## STAFF



# STATISTICS 2024-2025

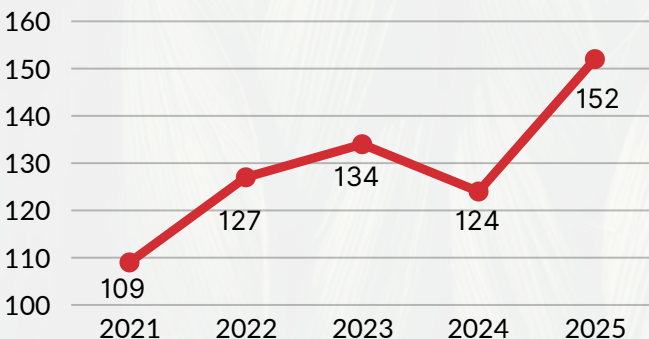
As of March 31, 2025, there were 1,393 children in care (CIC), 152 young adults (ages 18-21) under Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs), and 658 families receiving services from SECFS. In comparison to March 31, 2024, there was an increase of 78 children-in-care, an increase of 28 young adults receiving voluntary services, and 55 additional families receiving services.

| Type of Case                       | March 31, 2023 | March 31, 2024 | March 31, 2025 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Children in Care (CIC)             | 1,216          | 1,315          | 1,393          |
| Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) | 134            | 124            | 152            |
| Family Files                       | 584            | 603            | 658            |
| Kinship Care Agreements (KCAs)     | -              | -              | 7              |
| Total                              | 1,934          | 2,042          | 2,210          |

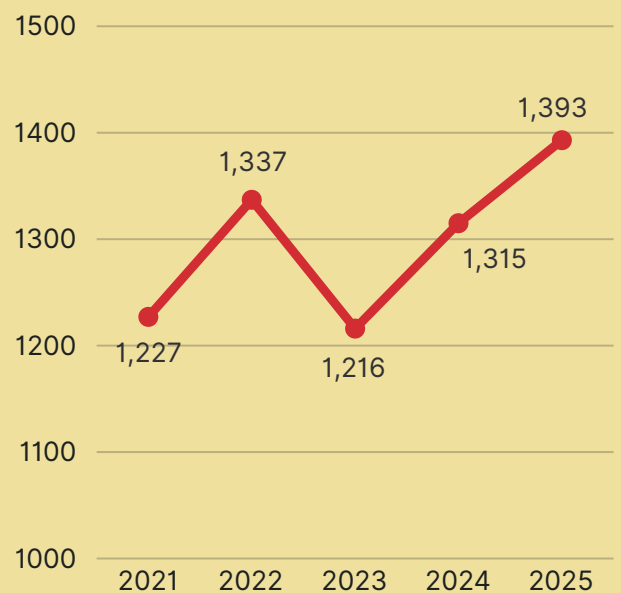
## AGREEMENTS

### WITH YOUNG ADULTS (AYAS)

On March 31, 2025, the Agency had 152 Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs) which is an increase of 28 from the previous year.



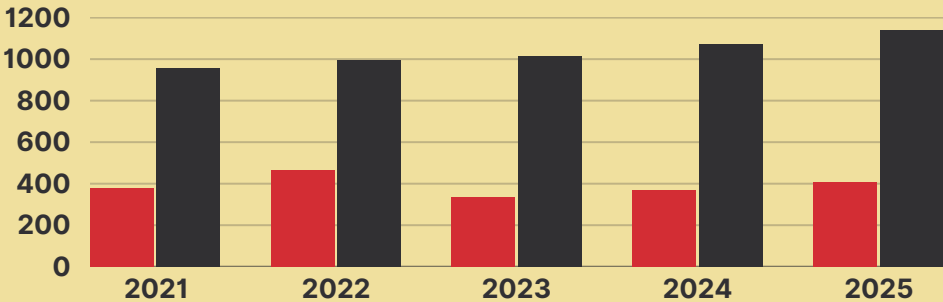
## FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL CHILDREN IN CARE



As of March 31, 2025, there was an increase of 78 children in care (CIC) from the previous year which is a 6% increase. The number of children in SECFS care has remained consistent despite the children that SECFS has reunified and supports provided to families to remain intact. The major reason children come into care and/or remain in care is parental and family substance use which effects abandonment, physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect, mental health, and domestic/intimate partner violence. The addiction epidemic is the challenge that families are dealing with, but SECFS has been promoting and encouraging addiction treatment services for families and young adults to get healthy in order to care for their children.

# ON AND OFF RESERVE PLACEMENTS

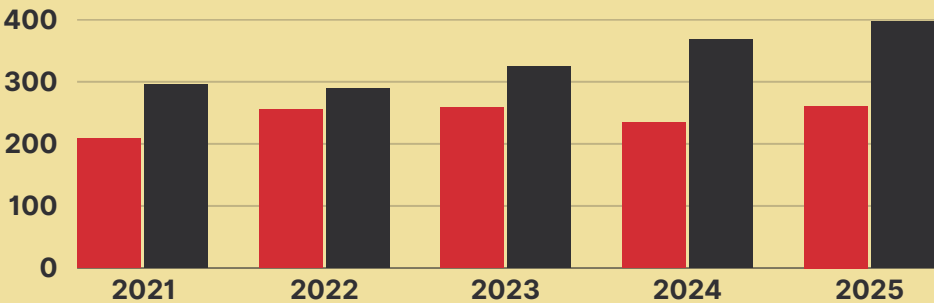
As of March 31, 2025, there were 406 CICs and AYAs placed in our First Nation communities and 1,139 placed off reserve.



|             |     |     |      |      |      |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| On-Reserve  | 379 | 467 | 334  | 368  | 406  |
| Off-Reserve | 957 | 997 | 1016 | 1071 | 1139 |

# FAMILY CASES

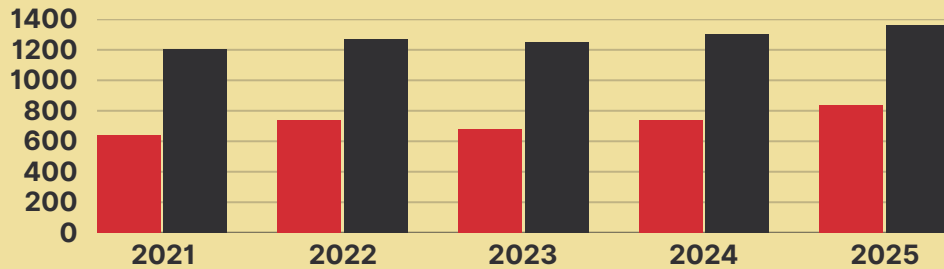
As of March 31, 2025, the total on-reserve family cases were 261 and 397 off-reserve cases for a total of 658 family cases. This is an increase of a total of 55 family cases from the previous year.



|             |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| On-Reserve  | 209 | 255 | 259 | 235 | 261 |
| Off-Reserve | 296 | 289 | 325 | 368 | 397 |

## FUNDING

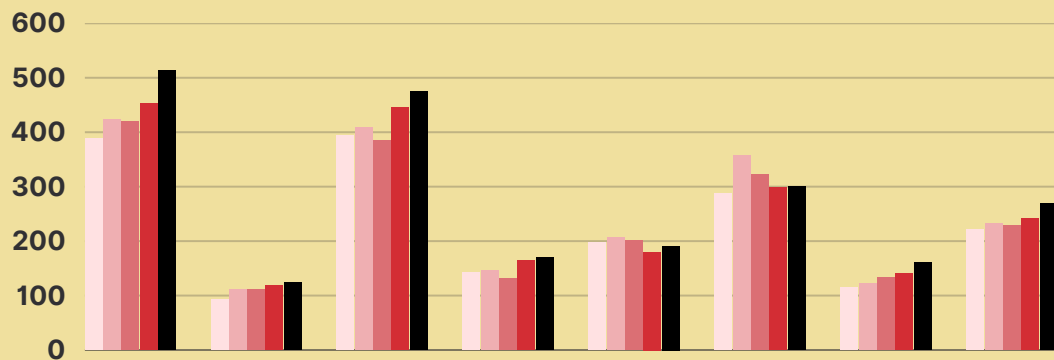
On March 31, 2025, the SECFS had 839 federally funded cases and 1,364 provincially funded cases. The increase was about thirteen percent (13.2%) in the federally funded cases, and about five percent (4.8 %) in the provincially funded cases.



| Fed  | 641  | 739  | 682  | 741  | 839  |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Prov | 1206 | 1269 | 1252 | 1301 | 1364 |

## TOTAL CASES (PER COMMUNITY)

Figure 6 shows the total number of files that includes Children in Care (CICs), Agreements with Young Adults (AYAs), and Family Cases per community from 2021 to 2025.



|      | Berens River | Black River | Bloodvein | Brokenhead | Hollow Water | Little Grand Rapids | Pauingassi | Poplar River |
|------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| 2021 | 389          | 93          | 394       | 143        | 198          | 288                 | 115        | 221          |
| 2022 | 423          | 111         | 409       | 146        | 207          | 357                 | 122        | 233          |
| 2023 | 420          | 112         | 385       | 131        | 201          | 323                 | 134        | 228          |
| 2024 | 452          | 118         | 446       | 165        | 180          | 298                 | 141        | 242          |
| 2025 | 514          | 124         | 475       | 170        | 191          | 300                 | 160        | 269          |

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) department is overseen by Director Vlastimir Drakul with assistance from IT Specialist Dominic Chartrand. The IT department is responsible for ensuring the IT services, including the virtual and landline network services, phones, copying machines, etc. are operational and are meeting the needs of SECFS urban and community staff and offices.

A major priority for 2025 was upgrading the organization's main systems from Windows 10 to Windows 11, in anticipation of Windows 10 becoming obsolete in October 2025. The upgrade was completed with minimal disruption so staff could continue their work without interruption.

In addition, the IT team has been working to stabilize network connections across the eight Southeast First Nations, improving reliability and connectivity for staff in remote communities. Notably, the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation has successfully transitioned to Starlink, which now provides faster and consistent internet access to support operations and service delivery.

These advancements reflect the IT department's ongoing commitment to maintaining secure, up-to-date, and efficient technology systems that enable staff to deliver high-quality services to the communities we serve.

## STAFF



DIRECTOR  
**Vlastimir Drakul**



IT SPECIALIST  
**Dominic Chartrand**



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The SECFS Finance Department operates from two key locations: the 4th floor of 360 Broadway and the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation headquarters. The department is staffed by a dedicated team of over a dozen employees, each specializing in the complex financial operations related to the First Nation child welfare system.

**The Finance Department is responsible for a range of crucial tasks, including:**

- Accounts Payable Management
- Data Entry and Analysis
- Funding and Rate Assessments
- Purchase Order Creation
- CS Maintenance
- Payroll and Benefits Management

The Finance Team processes payments for foster/kinship homes, community care providers, vendors, provides support to youth and young adults in independent living programs, and works closely with our key funders: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Province of Manitoba, and Southern First Nations Network of Care.

Through ongoing communication and partnership, the department ensures compliance with funding agreements, ensuring that financial resources are allocated efficiently and in accordance with federal and provincial guidelines.

The Finance Team plays a critical role in the creation, implementation, and monitoring of the annual SECFS operating budget. In collaboration with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors, the department ensures that financial resources are used effectively to meet the needs of the communities and programs supported by SECFS.

This includes:

- Tracking expenditures
- Adjusting the budget as needed to maintain financial stability and operational effectiveness

An annual audit, conducted by the Exchange Group, adds an extra layer of accountability. The audit ensures that financial activities comply with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations, providing assurance to the Board and funders that the organization is managing its resources responsibly and with integrity.

## 2024-2025 AUDIT

As of March 31, 2025, a deficit of \$14,684,743 was confirmed through the Exchange Group's annual audit, which affirmed compliance with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations.

For the fiscal year 2024-2025, the SECFS experienced the following financial changes

- SECFS funding increased from \$112,166,043 in 2023-2024 to \$136,698,286 in 2024-2025
- Total expenses rose from \$119,999,936 as of March 31, 2024, to \$158,433,702 as of March 31, 2025
- Children's Special Allowances (CSA):
  - An additional \$ 3,434,573 in CSA was received for federal children in care
  - An additional \$5,535,562 in CSA was received for provincial children in care

Despite operational deficits, it is essential to highlight that SECFS is required to include both CSA and Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) funds in its financial statements.

## GOALS FOR 2026/2027 FISCAL YEAR

- Seeking additional financial resources
- Enhancing operational efficiencies, supporting our staff, children, families, and the communities we serve
- Developing an effective deficit strategy with the SECFS Board and Executive Director

# STAFF



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
**Vesna Maroti**



FINANCIAL ANALYST/  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR  
**Wendy Malcolm**



ASSESSMENT & FUNDING  
SPECIALIST  
**Christophe Audette**



FILE ROOM CLERK  
**Shirley Vandale**



PAYROLL/BENEFITS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
**Derek Martin**



BILLINGS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
**Claudette Vandale**



FINANCE ASSISTANT  
**Sherry Anderson**



ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
PAYROLL  
**Donna Manchulenko**



TRAVEL CLERK  
**Keri Beaudry**



ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
CLERK  
**Sharon Monkman**



ACCOUNTS  
PAYABLE/MAINTENANCE  
**Roxanne Swain**



FINANCE CLERK  
**Devin Bruce**



FINANCE CLERK  
**Amber Daniels**



FINANCE ASSISTANT  
**Taylor Bruce**



PAYROLL ASSISTANT  
**Seth Keplatz**



CHILDREN'S HELPER  
**Matthew Bouchey**



CHILDREN'S HELPER  
**Courtney Thibert**



*DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*  
**BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION UNIT**

***Baaskaandibewiziibing***



The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON) is a Treaty 1 Anishinaabe Nation located on Highway 59, 100 kilometres 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 promotes its strong culture and land-based practices.

The BON on-reserve population is 704 and the off-reserve population is 1,663 for a total of 2,367 members.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief is Gordon Bluesky and CFS Portfolio Councillors are Christopher Kent and Wendall Sinclair Jr.

The BON leadership is underway to implement their own child welfare laws, Bimaadizewag Abinoojiiag Inaakonigewin (Our Child Will Live Law), and establish its own child welfare agency. Their laws prioritize Kinship Care Agreements, prevention services, providing services for young adults up to age 26, with traditional and spiritual supports.

The community continues to advance their economic and social development opportunities. Their community boasts the South Beach Casino, Health Centre, EAST Resource Centre, Manitoba First Nations Police Service, and hosts an annual Treaty Days/Pow Wow at their beautiful arbor. Off-reserve the community opened the Oodena Gas and Convenience Store in Winnipeg, in partnership with Treaty One and now fully governs The Link Corporation.

The Brokenhead Unit partners with the BON Local Child Care Committee (LCCC) to stay informed on child and family matters and ensure services and resources are in place to promote family stability and provide quality care for children in care. There are two Shawenim Abinoojii homes to support children in care to remain in community.

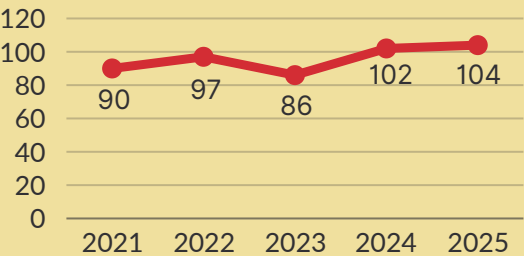
The BON Unit prioritizes family placements and has many children in care placed with family. The agency utilizes the four Provincial Agreements (Kinship/Customary Care, Voluntary Care Agreement and Family Support Agreement). The addictions and mental health crisis affecting families continues to impact the number of children coming into care or remaining in care.

# UNIT STATISTICS

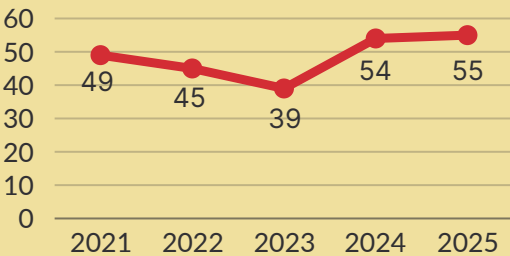
The number of BON member children in care increased by two (+2%) from last year, while the number of family service cases for Brokenhead increased by one (+1.9%).



## CHILDREN IN CARE



## FAMILY SERVICES



## STAFF

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Serena Marsden**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
**Savannah Moneyas**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER & INTAKE  
**Carol Gibson**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Alyssa Fournier**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Jessica Gray**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Anne-Marie Sinclair**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Jamie Jobson**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Marcy Raven**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Angel Prince**

SERVICE ASSISTANT  
**Danielle Epp**

*DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*  
**BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION UNIT**



***Makatay Ziibi***

Black River First Nation is located in Treaty 5 territory approximately 194 km off of Hwy 304 northeast of Winnipeg. As of December 2025, Black River has a total registered population of 1,787 with 922 people on-reserve and 865 people off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief Sheldon Kent and the CFS Portfolio Councillor is Leah Fontaine.

The community leadership is collaborating with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. (SAI) to develop homes to return children and youth to the community and reconnect with their family and culture. There is currently one SAI home operating, with two new homes near completion. The goal is to increase on-reserve placements in 2026.

The SECFS community and city teams jointly deliver activities and programs in partnership with the community's Family Preservation and Prevention Units. Cultural revitalization remains a priority through the offering of such programs as skirt and rattle making, cedar baths, traditional medicines and traditional cooking classes. There are regular bi-weekly groups for men, women, and youth offering cultural teachings and promoting Mino-Pimatiziwin—Living a Good Life.

Additional supports include Recovery Coach services for parents and youth to promote sobriety and recovery aftercare, addressing trauma, and supporting individual needs to be healthy. The Local Child Care and Elders Committee offers guidance and vision to ensure cultural continuity and family connectedness is prioritized in the services SECFS provides. These efforts collectively strengthen community resilience and cultural identity while addressing child safety and well-being needs.

The Black River leadership, collaterals, community, and Elders are underway with developing their own child welfare laws and encourage all Black River community members to participate in this development.

# UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Black River increased by 4 cases (+6.3%) from last year, while the number of family service cases remained at 52 cases.

## STAFF



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Josephine Frey**



SUPERVISOR  
**Shelly Guimond**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Valerie McDonald**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Laurell McKenzie**

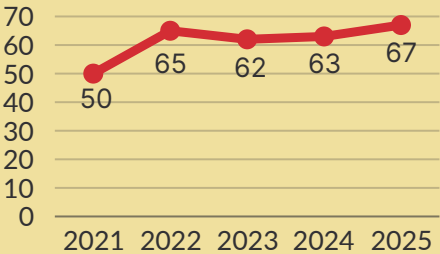


SERVICE ASSISTANT  
**Ellie Marsh**

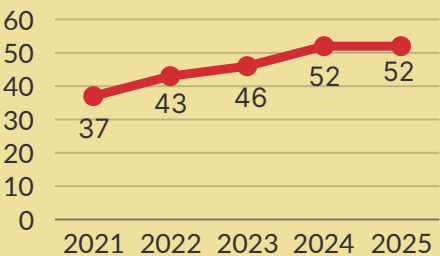


EARLY INTERVENTION WORKER  
**Crissy Courchene**

### CHILDREN IN CARE



### FAMILY SERVICES



*DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*  
**HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION UNIT**



***Wanipigow***

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-hour and 20-minute drive from Winnipeg. As of December 2025, the total registered population of Hollow Water First Nation is 2,304, with 1084 on-reserve and 1220 off-reserve.

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

Hollow Water First Nation hosts a variety of community events throughout the year, including fishing derbies, cultural celebrations, seasonal gatherings, and family-friendly activities that bring community members together.

This year, the community office was a busy and welcoming space, offering many supports and programs aimed at keeping families together and preventing children from entering care. Programs focused on early intervention, family preservation, wellness, parenting, and cultural connection. Children and families participated in a wide range of activities, including wellness groups, parenting programs, cultural ceremonies, and community gatherings, all of which were well attended and positively received.

The community's Prevention Team supported a variety of community events and activities throughout the year, including back-to-school programs, sports registration, graduation recognition, recreational outings, and holiday celebrations for children and families.

Chief and Council continue to contribute a portion of their prevention funds to SECFS to assist their members who live off reserve. The Hollow Water city team is able to assist families who are struggling to manage with the increased costs of necessities to meet their basic needs.

The Shawenim Abinoojii homes in the community continue to support children to remain in community and close to family. A new 5-Bedroom Reunification Home was ready in the summer of 2025 and received its first family in September. We are hopeful this new home will assist many families with successful reunifications in the future.

**STAFF**



DIRECTOR  
**Josephine Frey**



SUPERVISOR  
**Lorna Bjork**



ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
**Deirdra Berens**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Donna Smith**



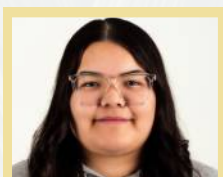
DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Phoebe Moneyas**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Valene Williams**



EARLY INTERVENTION  
WORKER  
**Patricia Moneyas**



INTAKE  
**Jasmine Courchene**



SERVICE  
ASSISTANT  
**Kara Bjork**

# UNIT STATISTICS

The number of children in care for Hollow Water increased by 3 (2.7%) from last year, while the number of family service cases for Hollow Water remained at 54.

Black River & Hollow Water City

## STAFF



SUPERVISOR  
**Maureen Line**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Michelle Daly**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Stacey Belyk**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Hermella Seyoum**

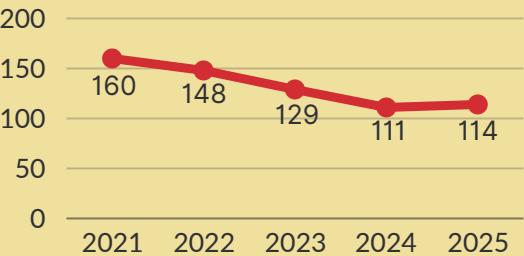


DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Gayle Parisien**

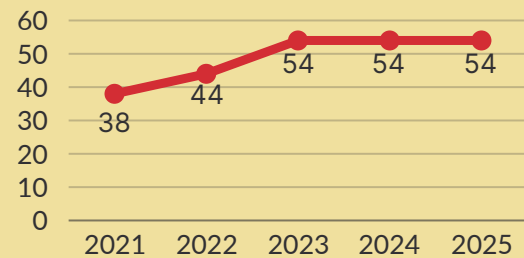


DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Olusola Oki**

### CHILDREN IN CARE



### FAMILY SERVICES



DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION UNIT**



***Mishi-baawitigong***

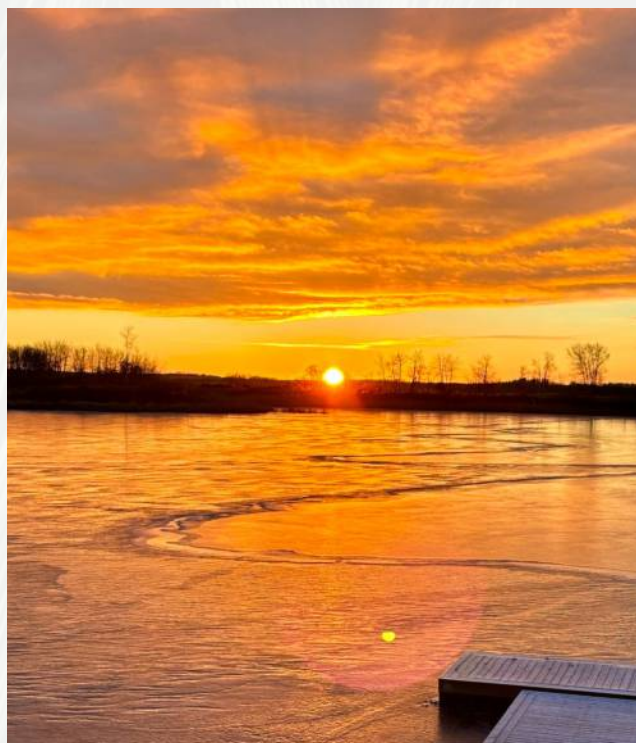
Little Grand Rapids First Nation is a remote Anishinaabe community located approximately 370 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg. Accessible primarily by air, with limited winter road access and seasonal helicopter transport, the community faces unique logistical challenges that impact our child protection service delivery.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief is Clinton Keeper and all Councillors share the CFS Portfolio.

As of December 31, 2025, Little Grand Rapids First Nation had a population of 1,923, with 1,471 members residing on-reserve and 452 residing off-reserve. The community spans eight kilometres along Family Lake and is deeply rooted in Anishinaabe traditions, language, and land-based practices. Despite geographic isolation and recurring issues such as food insecurity and limited medical access, the community demonstrates resilience through cultural events and collaborative resource sharing.

In 2025, the LGR SECFS staff supported families by taking part in community events including their Treaty Days and fishing derbies. The LGR Health and Prevention teams offered programs such as Red Path and Parenting classes to strengthen family connections and keep their cultural traditions alive. SECFS staff provide families and children with transportation to community events so they can attend and participate.

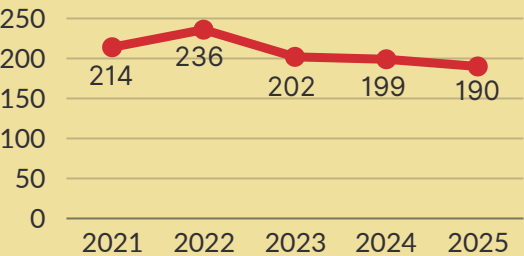
The LGR Unit remains committed to supporting family well-being and reducing the number of children in care.



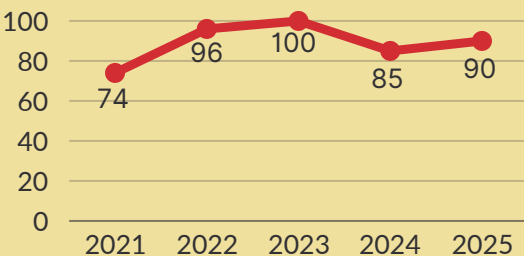
# UNIT STATISTICS

With improvements to intervention strategies that focus on family strengths and community support, including the Wellness Lodge and Kookum’s Nest, which provide 24-hour care and emergency assistance, along with regular community programs offered on and off reserve, the number of children in care for both on and off reserve decreased by 4.5%. However, due to the addiction crisis, the number of family cases increased by 5.9%.

## CHILDREN IN CARE



## FAMILY SERVICES



# STAFF

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Melanie Boulette**

CO-SUPERVISOR  
**Michelle Scott**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Christine Moar**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Cassidy Emms-Shalagan**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Emily Halchakar**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Rabia Harb**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Mackenzie Walker**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Cerys Evans**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Jasmine Cranford**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Keegan Eaglestick**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Mackenzie Marshall**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Bridgette Aidoo**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Tracy Houle**

SERVICE ASSISTANT  
**Rodas Gebrezgi**

*DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*  
**PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION UNIT**



***Bawingaasi***

Pauingassi First Nation is situated on a peninsula extending into Fishing Lake, approximately 280 km northeast of Winnipeg by air. This remote community is accessible by air, where the nearest airport is 13 km away at the Little Grand Rapids Airport and planes land on Fishing Lake in the summer season. Residents rely on the seasonal winter road to bring in their annual supplies.

The community consists of 690 members, including 624 on-reserve and 66 off-reserve residents. A stronghold of Anishinaabe identity, Pauingassi is characterized by its high retention of the Anishinaabe language and a deep commitment to traditional land-based practices, including year-round hunting and fishing.

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

SECFS works closely with the Chief and Council and has expanded its prevention and family support initiatives to strengthen community well-being. Hunting camps are a central feature which offer families the opportunity to reconnect with their land-based practices. The community prevention building has extended their operations and staff have grown to include a Program Coordinator and Program Facilitator positions. The prevention building has been hosting youth nights, support for parents, and cultural programming.

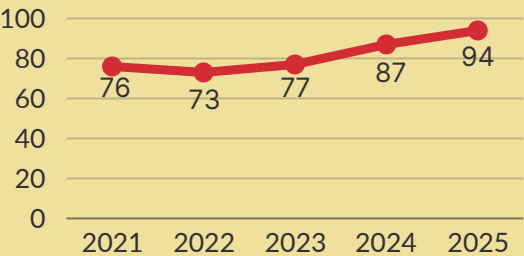
The partnership between SECFS and local resources continues to thrive through community wide engagement initiatives. This collaborative spirit was exemplified through the joint coordination of several major milestones, including Treaty Days and numerous seasonal celebrations. By hosting these events on- and off-reserve, SECFS and the First Nation remain dedicated to preserving family and community connections.



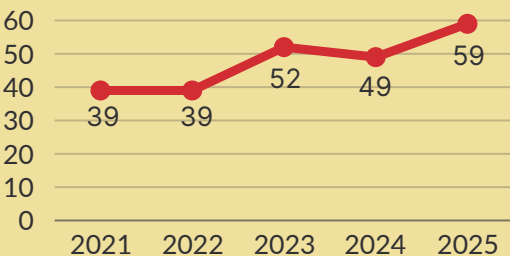
# UNIT STATISTICS

While Pauingassi has seen a rise in children requiring care (increase of 8%) and families seeking support (increase of 20%), the focus remains on bringing children home. There are currently several active reunification plans. SECFS is working closely with community leadership to address the underlying impacts of substance abuse. To address these challenges, we are investing in healing centres for parents and collaborating with Shawenim Abinooji to ensure dedicated homes are available for our children. Whether in the community or the city, these homes ensure Pauingassi children stay connected to their roots while their families heal.

## CHILDREN IN CARE



## FAMILY SERVICES



## STAFF



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Samantha Chabbert**



SUPERVISOR  
**Rick Paskaruk**



SUPERVISOR  
**Renee Larocque**



FINANCE ASSISTANT  
**Tanisha Thordarson**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Alyza Samson**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Evy Vince**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Melissa Kolesar**



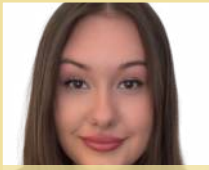
DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Jasmine Deato**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Melodie Valiquette**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Imisi Fashanu**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Makiera Hobin-Duddridge**



DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Amanda Hallett**

**DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**BLOODVEIN RIVER FIRST NATION UNIT**



***Miskooseepi***

Bloodvein River First Nation is located on Treaty 5 territory, approximately 285 kilometres north of Winnipeg, along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. The community stretches along three kilometres of the Bloodvein River and is accessible by air or via an all-weather road, with a driving time of about 3.5 hours from Winnipeg.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief is Lisa Young and the CFS Portfolio Councillor is Ellen Young.

Bloodvein River First Nation has a large on-reserve population of 1,243 and an off-reserve population of 926 totaling 2,169 members. It is a proud community that has preserved and passed down traditional practices such as moose hunting, fishing, trapping, canoeing, and navigating the waterways. The community is also home to the largest collection of pictographs in Canada.

SECFS partnered with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. to open an additional placement home in Bloodvein helping children remain close to home and/or allowing children to return to the community. Over the past year, the Bloodvein team reunified 27 children with plans to reunify an additional 14 children early in the new year.

In 2025, Bloodvein River took steps to address the growing drug and bootlegging problem and support the well-being of its members. In May, the community set up a Check Stop on the main provincial road. Berens River and Poplar River First Nations later joined the effort, and the Check Stop was moved further down the road past the Bloodvein River. This helped reduce the flow of drugs and alcohol into all three communities.

In August, Bloodvein River successfully hosted its second annual off-reserve Treaty Days in Winnipeg to enable community members living off-reserve to participate in celebrations with games, food, a live band, wrestling, and fireworks.

In September, the Chief and Council declared a State of Emergency due to the ongoing drug and bootlegging crisis, which had led to increased mental health challenges, violence, and illegal activity. The impacts of the drug and alcohol crisis increased the incidence of child protection concerns and saw an increase in the number of child apprehensions. To respond to this need, Auntie's Place will open early in the new year to provide culturally safe and temporary care for children. The program aims to prevent children from entering care by offering short-term support to caregivers while ensuring children remain safe and well cared for.

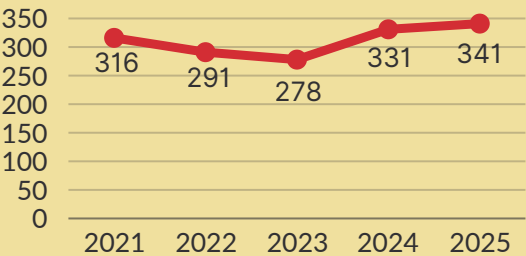
SECFS continues to engage with Bloodvein River leadership, maintaining regular communication with Chief and Council to share updates and collaborate on case planning. We also have a partnership with the Circle of Voices Prevention Program, the Bloodvein River First Nation Community Prevention Team, Health Centre and Nursing Station, RCMP, and First Nation Safety Officers. The SECFS on-reserve team delivers mandated child welfare services, while the Prevention team provides workshops, parental programs, cultural supports, in-home services, and mental health and addiction support. SECFS has facilitated in-community activities, such as a monthly video game tournament for children and youth, in partnership with the Post Majority and Family Preservation teams.

# UNIT STATISTICS

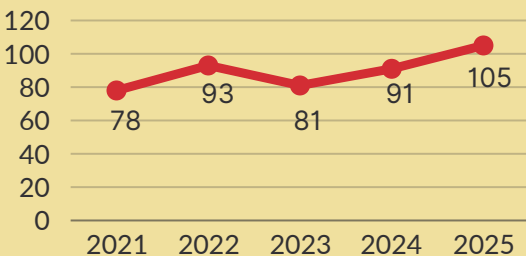
The number of children in care for Bloodvein River increased by 10 (+3%) from last year, and the number of family service cases for Bloodvein increased by 14 (+15.3%).



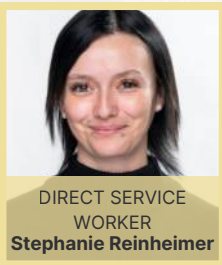
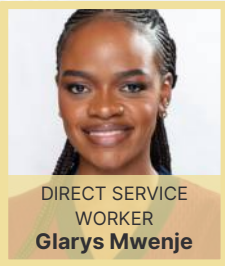
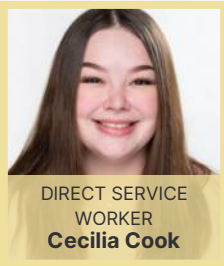
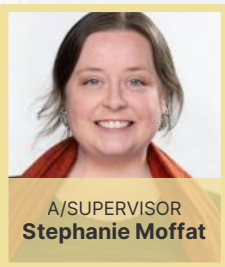
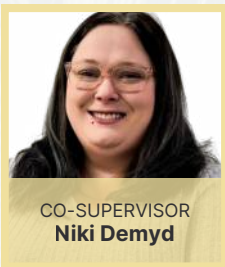
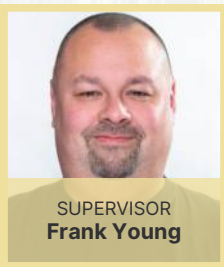
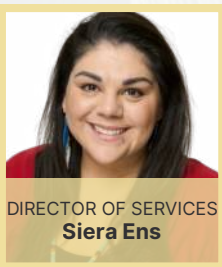
## CHILDREN IN CARE



## FAMILY SERVICES



## STAFF





DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Kel Sherman**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Krista Whitehead**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Morgan Morrow**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Taylor Brown**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Chidera Imoh**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Chizoba Okeke**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Darian Pruden**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Esther Alagbe**



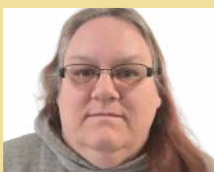
DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Ahou Thomas**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Anthony Swampy**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Memory Catagas**



SERVICE  
ASSISTANT  
**Patti-Anne Green**



***Miimiwiziibiing***



Berens River First Nation is located on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg and is accessible by an all-weather road. As of December 2025, the on-reserve population was 2,274, with an off-reserve population of 1,595, for a total membership of 3,869.

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

Berens River First Nation is a vibrant and close-knit community where members maintain strong connections to the land and continue to practice their traditional ways of life. Anishinaabemowin remains widely spoken among the adults, and there is strong advocacy for language instruction within the school system to ensure its preservation for future generations.

The SECFS Berens River team consists of four units—two based in Winnipeg and two located within the community - to provide child protection services to the on and off-reserve Berens River First Nation members.

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Berens River Child and Family Services assumed responsibility for the Berens River Prevention Program, a role that continues today. Through both urban and community offices, the Prevention Team offers a range of programs, services, activities, and community events. Initiatives have included the Annual Urban Christmas Open House, SEED workshops, food hamper distribution on- and off-reserve, a Men's Retreat, and many additional support services.

Throughout the year, SECFS participated in numerous community events, including the historic 150th Treaty Days Celebration, Berens River Reconciliation Day, Community Christmas Dinner, Annual Santa Claus Parade, Prevention Minor Hockey Tournament, and various Christmas activities. In addition, a dedicated community committee organizes ongoing sporting events for youth and adults throughout the year, promoting wellness and community engagement.

In May 2025, the Berens River leadership joined efforts with the Bloodvein First Nation with the highway check stop initiative in efforts to prevent the flow of drugs and alcohol into their communities.

The Berens River CFS Prevention Team has played an essential role by supporting community-based drug testing initiatives, assisting parents and caregivers in maintaining sobriety, and facilitating access to treatment services when required. SECFS remains committed to ongoing collaboration with both urban and community prevention teams.

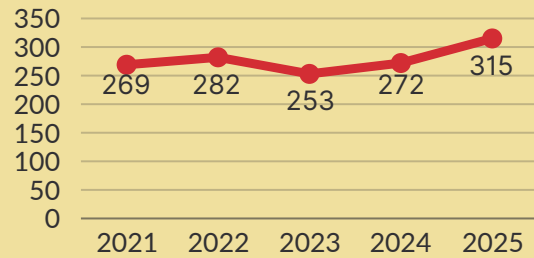
In the upcoming year, we will be supporting the community in their plans for addressing the loss of their school that occurred at the end of January 2026.

# UNIT STATISTICS

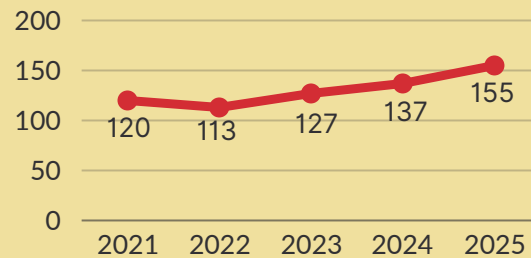
This year the number of children in care for Berens River increase by 43 (15.8%) and the number of family services cases for Berens River increased by 18 (13.1%).



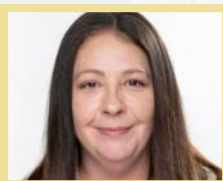
## CHILDREN IN CARE



## FAMILY SERVICES



## STAFF



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Kim Baydak**



SUPERVISOR  
**Rick Paskaruk**



CO-SUPERVISOR  
**Claudia Sanchez**



CO-SUPERVISOR  
**Corinna Kotak**



ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
**Reanna Andrews**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Russel Nielsen**



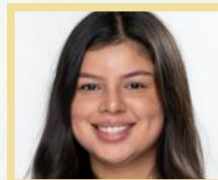
DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Nakita Berens**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Desiree Bradford Knight**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Evy Vince**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Sarah Mowat**



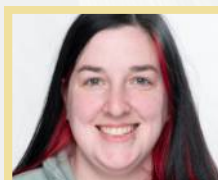
DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Angel Woodhouse**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Ashley Thurston**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**George Thomas**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Meghan Schwarz**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Aleesha Lavallee**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Annette Cochran**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Muriel Green**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Romana Linklater**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Jainna Cabral**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Marcea Everett**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Monique Desjarlais**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Tayo Odusanya**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Justin Garcia**



FILE CLERK CLEANER  
**Caitlin Whiteway**



*DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*  
**POPLAR RIVER FIRST NATION UNIT**



***Azaadiwi-Ziibiing***

Poplar River First Nation is a remote community located about 334 miles by air or 428 miles by road northeast of Winnipeg, at the mouth of the Poplar River in Manitoba's boreal forest. It is the northernmost community that SECFS serves, and has no permanent road access, relying on air travel, boats in summer, and a seasonal winter road.

As of December 31, 2025, Poplar River First Nation reports a membership of 2,231 with 1,252 residing on-reserve and 979 residing off-reserve.

Chief and CFS Portfolio: Chief is Darcy Bruce and CFS Portfolio is Councillor Debbie Favell

The Poplar River Unit support families through prevention, early intervention, and mandated child welfare services. The community faces challenges from a growing drug crisis, which is negatively affecting children and families. Families receive support through programs such as land-based camps, NADAP Red Path, in-home therapy, and cultural programming. Families and children living off-reserve are referred to appropriate services in Winnipeg.

The Poplar River Unit works closely with Shawenim Abinoojii to provide placement options, including a new Aftercare Home in the community to support parents transitioning from treatment and reunifying with their children. This is in addition to the existing SAI homes in the community which support children to remain close to families.

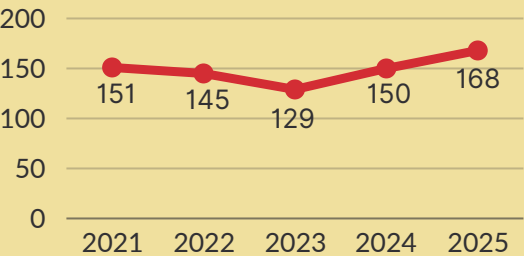
The Poplar River Unit operates on- and off-reserve units with seven staff members, collaborating with leadership on the development of a Poplar River Child Welfare Law. SECFS combines culturally grounded programming, community partnerships, and family-centered services to keep children safe, support parents, and strengthen the community.



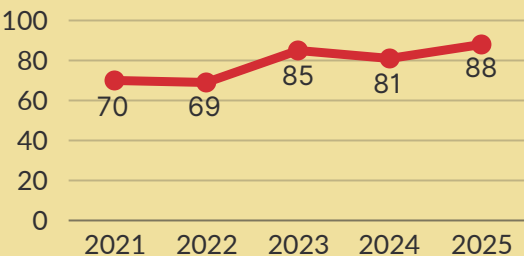
# UNIT STATISTICS

The number of Poplar River children in care increased by 18 (12%) from last year, while the number of family services cases increased by 7 (8.6%).

## CHILDREN IN CARE



## FAMILY SERVICES



# STAFF

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Glory Lister**

SUPERVISOR  
**Sherri Hudson**

SUPERVISOR  
**Julia Mann**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Melissa Lela**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Krystal Obirek**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Jacqueline Oulette**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Brooke Evans**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Teri McKay**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Colin Smart**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Andrea Klippenstien**

DIRECT SERVICE WORKER  
**Chelsea Little**

SCAABE WORKER  
**Lisa Buffalo**

EARLY INTERVENTION WORKER  
**Betty Sainnawap**

## AGE OF MAJORITY

The Age of Majority Unit (AOM) is located on the 4th Floor at 360 Broadway. The AOM Workers provide specialized services and support to the SECFS youth and young adults (15 to 20 years old), with the focus to transition our young people to their independence.

The AOM Workers maintain caseloads of up to 20 young people which allows them to offer personalized support and connect individuals to appropriate resources and programs. Supports provided include transitional placements, outreach mentoring, clinical and cultural services, justice advocacy, employment and education assistance, mental health and addictions supports, and referrals to Community Living Disability Services (CLDS), where applicable.

The AOM team hosted a variety of community resource presentations and forums to strengthen our young people's knowledge of resources that are available to support them.

The AOM Unit is currently undergoing a transition and is planning a full program redesign by April 2026. The redesigned program aims to improve outcomes for young people leaving care and moving toward independence. It will provide hands-on case management, group and individual skill-building, and connections to outside resources to help youth live stable and self-sufficient lives.

In collaboration with the Post Majority Unit, the program will focus on teaching independent living skills and support overall well-being to create a strong, capacity-building approach for youth transitioning to adulthood.

Shawano Wapunong Investments Corp. has purchased an apartment building suitable for short-term housing for young people receiving independent living services from the AOM Unit. SECFS will lease the building and provide outreach supports to residents to better equip them for living on their own. We hope this partnership will assist us in bridging the gap for young people who are transitioning from other care arrangements.

Although youth face many challenges as they age out of care, we strive to support them—building resilience, encouraging independence, and helping them achieve their goals.



STAFF



DIRECTOR  
**Lee Bornhorst**



SUPERVISOR  
**Dennis Dare**



ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
**Trinity Moneyas**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Sheriane Ritchie**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Reina Aviles**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Emmanuel Ameh**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Justin Lambert**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Tricia Garton**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Ryan Heinrichs**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Tammy Robinson**



*DIRECT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

## **POST MAJORITY UNIT**

The Post Majority Unit provides support and services to young adults between the ages of 18-25, who reached the age of majority while in agency care and were federally funded. Services are voluntary and aim to support the safety and well being of these young adults with a culturally sensitive approach. Post Majority Services are provided to both on and off-reserve eligible young adults. The Services for Young Adults (SYA) is a provincially funded service for young adults ages 18-21 years who require ongoing support.

Over the past year, more than 300 young adults accessed voluntary services through the Post Majority and the SYA programs. These programs helped young adults with accessing housing, education, and training costs, mental health and substance use support, therapy and crisis intervention, legal and advocacy needs, and basic necessities such as clothing and groceries. Additional supports included driving lessons, identification, family visits, sports and recreation, and other individualized services to assist young people in successfully transitioning to independent living.

The Post Majority Transitional Housing Program provided emergency and short-term supportive housing, with 24/7 transitional support to over 80 young people and families experiencing homelessness, awaiting treatment, or needing extra support with crises, medical needs, or parenting. With staff support, young people maintain individualized goal plans, and participate in grocery shopping, meal planning, cooking, cleaning and yard maintenance as part of a cooperative living environment. The young people's plans include goals pertaining to education, employment, program attendance, building connections, and Anishinaabe culture. The Wellness Lodge, located in West St. Paul, features 23 participant rooms, a shared lounge, kitchen, computer lab, program space and laundry. Staff host independent living and well-being programming on-site daily.

Dibendizowin Sober Living ("To own your own life, to care for your life") provides an abstinence-based, recovery-oriented supportive living option for young people transitioning from in-patient treatment programs and/or with 30 days of sobriety. Participants attend 90 recovery groups or meetings in 90 days upon admission and maintain an individualized goal plan with a priority focus on recovery. The home can accommodate 7 participants who have a desire to recover from substance use dependency with the support of 24/7 on-site staffing. The program saw 14 new admissions in 2025 and celebrated 1 and 2-year milestones with 2 long term participants.

Renovations were completed at our Transitional Program in West St. Paul, where space is available to meet the growing demand for emergency supportive housing for families and young people. We have appreciated working together with Southeast Resource Development Corp. (SERDC) to ensure young people and families are safe and supported on site. Sweat Lodge Ceremonies are held twice monthly at the SERDC Wellness Lodge for young people living in our transitional and sober living programs.

A Registered Nurse supported the Maawandoobiwag ("they sit together") perinatal group once a week, providing valuable education and support to expectant and new parents.

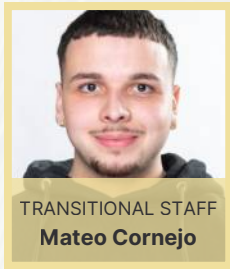
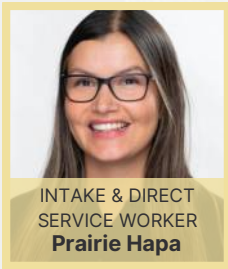
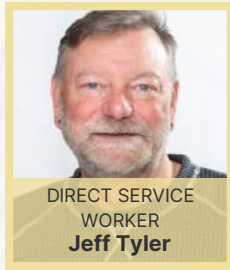
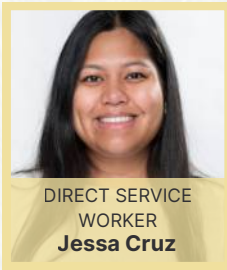
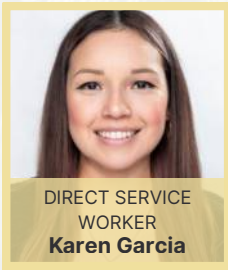
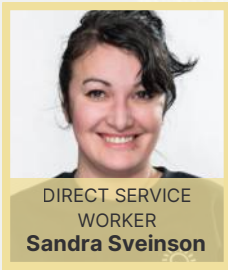
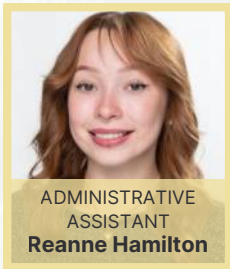
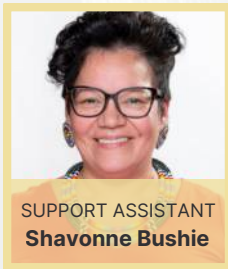
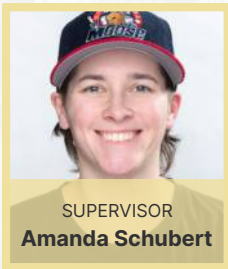
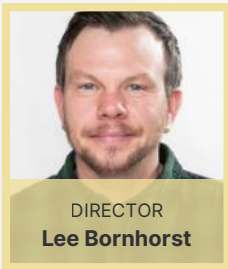
Southeast Resource Development Corp., Shawenim Abinoojii Inc., Shawano Wapunong Investments Corp., and SECFS co-hosted Wabinogamik: Anishinaabe Healing Venture Development Gathering to gather community feedback on the development of a Southeast community-operated treatment facility. Young people attended the gathering, sharing their experiences with substance use and recovery and offering their unique perspectives to inform the planning process.

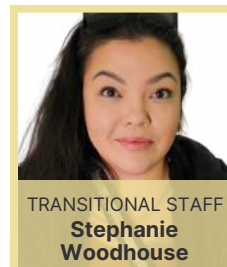
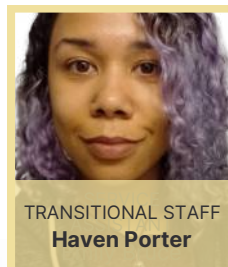
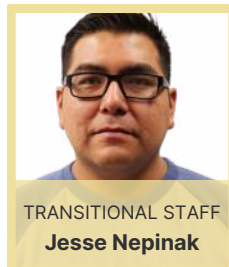
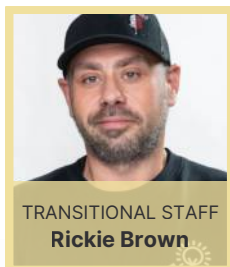
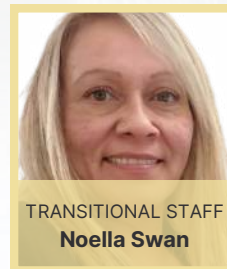
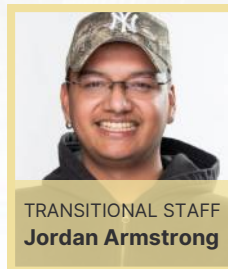
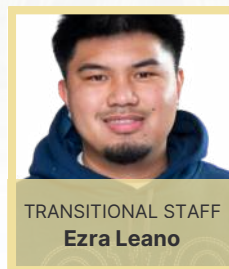
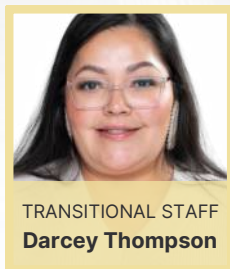
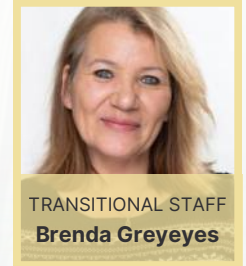
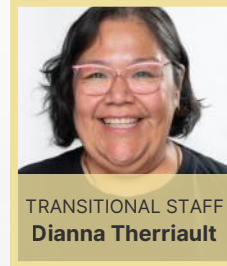
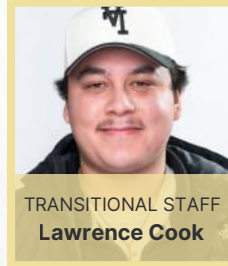
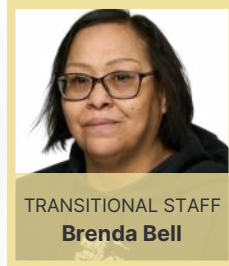
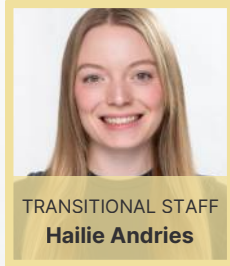
The Post Majority and Family Preservation Units partnered to host cultural, wellness, parenting, recreational and life skill-based programming in Winnipeg and the eight Southeast communities. Men's Wellness and Women's Wellness Gatherings of 2025 were also a huge success.

The Wolfpack Hockey Team is registered in the Adult Safe Hockey League and supports youth and young adults by assisting with access to equipment and enabling them to participate throughout the season. One of our players continues to serve as Team Manager, helping to keep the team organized and running smoothly.

Post Majority and Age of Majority Units hosted our annual Christmas celebration at RBC Convention Center on December 18th. Young people sang karaoke, made medicine bags, designed hoodies with pre-made decals, posed for pictures with Santa or with props in the photo booth, and played Bingo. There were lots of prizes, a gourmet buffet dinner, desserts and an always popular candy bar.

# STAFF





# FAMILY PRESERVATION

The Family Preservation Unit became operational in 2024. The Unit was established to implement intervention and intensive services to support positive parenting and family well-being. A number of events, activities, and programming are shared with the Post Majority Unit due to the growth of young parents.

The programs are intended to develop life skills and facilitate healthy lifestyles through regular on and off-reserve workshops and therapeutic groups for families. Many programs, workshops, and support groups are offered in-person to families in the communities we serve, using different approaches to connect with participants and build trust.

Through wellness gatherings, life skills development, family fun events and programs, we restore traditional knowledge to 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 strengthen connections to their identity and 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 highly successful and well attended wellness gatherings for men and women, geared towards empowerment, healing, and recovery.

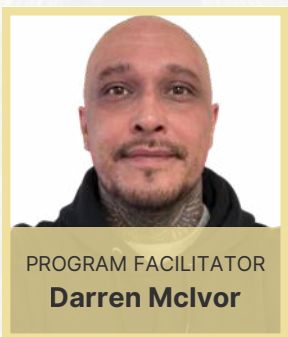
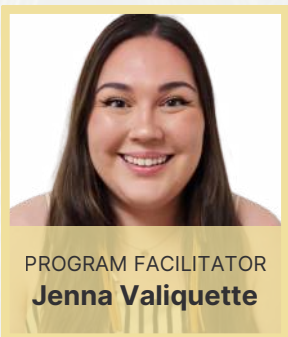
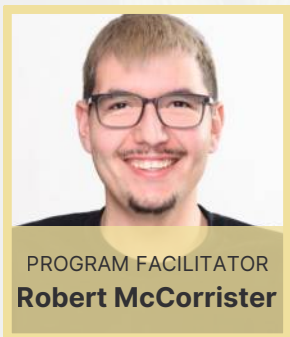
Life skills workshops included cooking classes, traditional craft-making, and resume building. The Family Preservation and Post Majority Programs offer support groups, such as We're Better Together Recovery Support Group and Spirit Circle for our LGBTQ2S+ relatives. These support groups provide a safe space for healing and sharing. We also hosted Status Card, Money Management and Income Tax Clinics. Youth and young adults participated in traditional and cultural activities including sweat lodge ceremonies, drum groups, music lessons, with opportunities to hunt and fish.

In partnership with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc., we support the Running White Wolves Youth Council and their initiatives to create leadership and cultural learning opportunities for our youth and young adults.

The Family Preservation and Post Majority Units organize family-focused events such as the Spring and Summer Family Fun Days, Halloween festivities and Winter Family Fun at Miracle Ranch. Additionally, we held movie nights, karaoke, and community-building events throughout the year.

The Family Preservation Unit will be transitioning to focus on family protection services in the upcoming year. This involves increasing the in-home aide supports, intensive parenting programs, and healthy lifestyle services.

## STAFF



# ALTERNATIVE CARE UNIT

The Alternative Care Unit (Alt Care Unit) function is to facilitate kinship care for children who enter care. This includes recruiting, screening, and licensing caregivers, plus providing supervision and support in the placements to ensure the well-being of children and youth.

Our priority is encouraging on- and off-reserve family and community members to be the children's caregivers. When kinship or community placements are not immediately available, children are temporarily placed in licensed general caregiver homes until a suitable placement is secured.

The Alt Care Unit actively engages in caregiver recruitment through community outreach, event participation, and radio advertising with NCI Radio. In 2025, recruitment efforts were held at various community events and urban Indigenous cultural events, including National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, Manito-Ahbee, and Vision Quest.

SECFS is the licensing authority for Shawenim Abinoojii Inc., which operates placement homes exclusively for SECFS. As the number of licensed homes grows throughout the Nations, more children are able to remain within their home territories and kinship circles, supporting identity, belonging, and connection to culture, family, and teachings. Shawenim Abinoojii operates 39 care homes across the 8 Southeast First Nations. SECFS currently supports 112 care homes throughout these Nations, helping ensure children remain connected to their people, language, and ways of life.

Caregivers are an invaluable part of our organization, and we are grateful for the love and support they provide for our children in care. The annual Caregiver Appreciation Dinner was held on December 6, 2025, where 500 caregivers and children attended. The event included pow wow dancing, a drum group, and Santa Claus.

In 2025, three Level V homes were developed plus two duplex homes were borrowed from the Post-Majority Unit and utilized as emergency homes. To date, the emergency homes have provided a safe placement for approximately 20 children in need of immediate care and shelter. Looking ahead, the Unit will continue to focus on recruiting kinship and community care providers through expanded outreach at community and urban events.

## UNIT STATISTICS

| Placement Types      | #          |
|----------------------|------------|
| Foster/Kinship Homes | 327        |
| Specialized Homes    | 15         |
| Places of Safety     | 170        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>512</b> |

| Caregiver Types                    | #          |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Kinship/Cultural Appropriate Homes | 279        |
| Shawenim Homes                     | 91         |
| Other                              | 142        |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>512</b> |

# STAFF



DIRECTOR  
**Wanda Joe**



SUPERVISOR  
**Brynn Rosjer-Doyle**



ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
**My Spence**



ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
**Trevor Harper**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Rafael Leal**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Daniela Chevasco**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Amber Gareau**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Amber Catellier**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Bev Thomas**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Lindsay Nobess**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Darin Yee**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Kaylee Funk**



ALTERNATIVE  
CARE WORKER  
**Lindsay Vien**



PRIOR CONTACT  
SPECIALIST  
**Stephen Bear**



INTAKE  
**Cara Grapentine**



## ABUSE UNIT

The SECFS Abuse Investigation Unit is a specialized team who receives referrals and investigates child abuse cases in our eight Southeast First Nations communities.

In 2025, the Unit went through organizational changes. Oversight responsibilities, formerly the Abuse Unit Coordinator's role, were assigned to the Director Sara Yager. A number of staffing changes were made, including temporary coverage for a maternity leave until February 2026 and hiring a new investigator after a staff member left. The team is now stable and continues to build its skills and experience.

The Unit investigates all child abuse referrals involving children and youth aged 0-17, whether or not they are involved with the child welfare system. The main goal of the Unit is to keep children safe in their homes and communities whenever abuse is reported.

Child welfare investigations are separate from criminal investigations, although the investigations may occur concurrently. A criminal investigation is not required for a child abuse investigation to take place, and the outcomes may be different. This ensures that child safety is addressed even if criminal charges are not laid. Investigators regularly assess safety and risk factors to protect children.

All cases are reviewed by the Child Abuse Committee (CAC) who provide guidance and support. The CAC members are representatives from the medical, law enforcement, and education fields, and SECFS staff. The CAC meets monthly, as required by The Child and Family Services Act, to share updates, meet timelines, and support informed decision-making regarding the investigations.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Director will resume providing Global Interview training for all SECFS staff. This training has been successful in both urban and community settings and helps staff conduct child interviews in a safe and respectful way. The Director will also travel to communities to educate partners (e.g. schools, nursing stations, health centres) about their duty to report signs of child abuse.

The Unit will be reorganizing to improve how investigations are categorized and track data to provide clearer and more accurate information about the Unit's decisions and activities.

The Abuse Investigation Unit remains committed to supporting staff through consultations and addressing concerns related to abuse and neglect. This work supports the Unit's ongoing goal of protecting children and keeping communities safe.

## STAFF



DIRECTOR  
**Sara Yager**



CHILD ABUSE  
INVESTIGATOR  
**Cynthia Eyleshemitan**



CHILD ABUSE  
INVESTIGATOR  
**Norien Reyes**



T/INVESTIGATOR  
**Ashley Paterson**



# ASSESSMENT & INTAKE

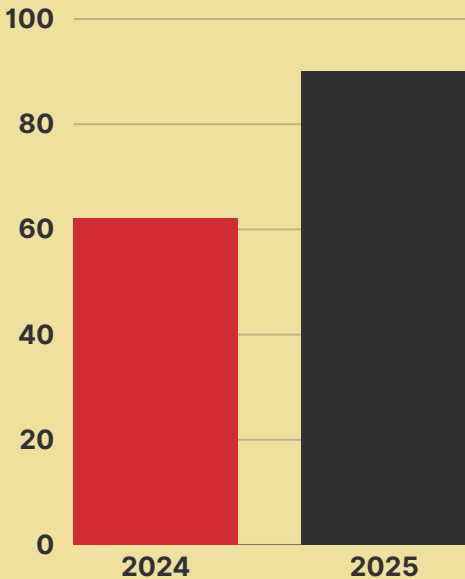
The Assessment and Intake Unit, established in January 2024, was created to strengthen the intake process. The Unit conducts culturally appropriate assessments for newly referred families to SECFS and develops tailored case plans to connect families with resources to minimize child welfare involvement. Emphasis is placed on family and community engagement including communication with extended families, collaboration with external resources, and partnerships with schools to address issues such as bullying, attendance, and individual student needs.

The Unit also connects families with counseling services and crisis interventions to prevent children from entering care. Additionally, the team supports band membership registration by providing information on upcoming clinics, arranging transportation, and assisting with forms and documentation. Overall, the Unit aims to close files within 6–12 months to limit the length of time families are involved with the child welfare system or transferring cases to community units when longer-term support is required.

## UNIT STATISTICS

### FAMILY SERVICES

The number of family service cases increased by 28 (45%) for a total of 90 families being serviced.



## STAFF



DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
**Samantha Chabbert**



SUPERVISOR  
**Elizabeth Mahmoud**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Rose Koppanyi**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Phoebe Ross**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Chelsea Bamendine**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Chinemerem Oraetue**



DIRECT SERVICE  
WORKER  
**Daniela Ulloa-Juarez**

# AFTER HOURS

The SECFS After Hours Unit was established in December 2024 to enhance service delivery for our eight First Nation communities. This Unit is staffed by experienced front-line workers, referred to as Relief Workers, who provide in-community support based on demand and availability. Relief Workers attend community offices as needed, offer on-call services, and address a designated priority work list while in community.

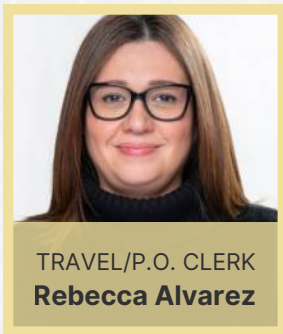
Since its inception, the After Hours Unit has delivered evenings, holidays, and weekend services within the Southeast First Nation communities and will continue to expand this support. The work completed by the unit has contributed significantly to reducing the SECFS community workers' workloads while ensuring continuity of services and timely assistance.

Relief Workers are actively building strong, collaborative relationships with community collaterals and maintaining effective, timely communication with ongoing workers, supervisors, and directors to support coordinated service delivery.

The Unit includes an on-call Finance Travel and Purchase Order Clerk who provides essential support during evenings and weekends. They have developed strong working relationships across the Agency and with external vendors, strengthening the team's ability to provide timely and reliable support.

This Unit remains committed to providing a seamless network of care that responds to immediate needs while promoting long-term stability, safety, and well-being for the children, youth, young adults, and families we serve.

## STAFF



## FAMILY HEALING & WELLNESS LODGE

The Family Healing and Wellness Lodge is located across the lake on the airport side of Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

The Family Stay Program is rooted in Anishinaabe cultural teachings and ceremonies and is designed to support individual and family healing while empowering families toward lasting wellness and cultural renewal. Grounded in teachings such as the Medicine Wheel and ceremonies including the sweat lodge, the program reconnects families to identity, spirituality, and sacred relationships that form the foundation for both personal and collective healing.

The Family Healing and Wellness Lodge provides support to families and children in a home-like setting to promote healthy family dynamics, prevent family breakdown, and support successful reunification.

The program is open to members of the eight Southeast First Nation communities. Participation is voluntary, and families do not need to have an open file with SECFS. However, participants must be willing and ready to engage in their healing journey as a family. Referrals are accepted from SECFS, Jordan's Principle, and community prevention programs.

Families participate in full-day or half-day workshops offered in the mornings and afternoons. All workshops begin and end with smudge and sharing circles to ground intentions and reflect on the teachings.

The program concludes with a sweat lodge ceremony and feast led by Knowledge Keepers. This closing ceremony allows individuals and families to release what may have surfaced during their stay and to leave in a good way—embracing new beginnings rooted in healing, peace, and Mino Pimatziwin (living a good life).

The Family Stay Program is more than just workshops—it helps individuals and families heal, grow, and stay connected to their culture, benefiting the community for years to come.

## FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

*"I appreciated being in a safe place with people who understand and are not judgmental. I enjoyed the group experience and the topics discussed, it really helped me."*

**- MOTHER FROM PAUNGASSI, FN**

*"I had lots of fun and for the first time learned about my culture, I was scared to learn about it but being here helped me and I want to continue learning after I leave."*

**- FATHER FROM LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS, FN**

*"I learned about the 7 teachings and the animals"*

**- CHILD FROM BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY, FN**

*"I had so much fun, laughing until my cheeks hurt! You guys are my family now"*

**- Mother from Poplar River, FN**

# STAFF



ACTING MANAGER  
**Brittany Murdock**



WELLNESS  
FACILITATOR  
**Kim Campbell**



WELLNESS  
FACILITATOR  
**Rayne Delaronde**



CHILDMINDER  
**Samantha Rondeau**



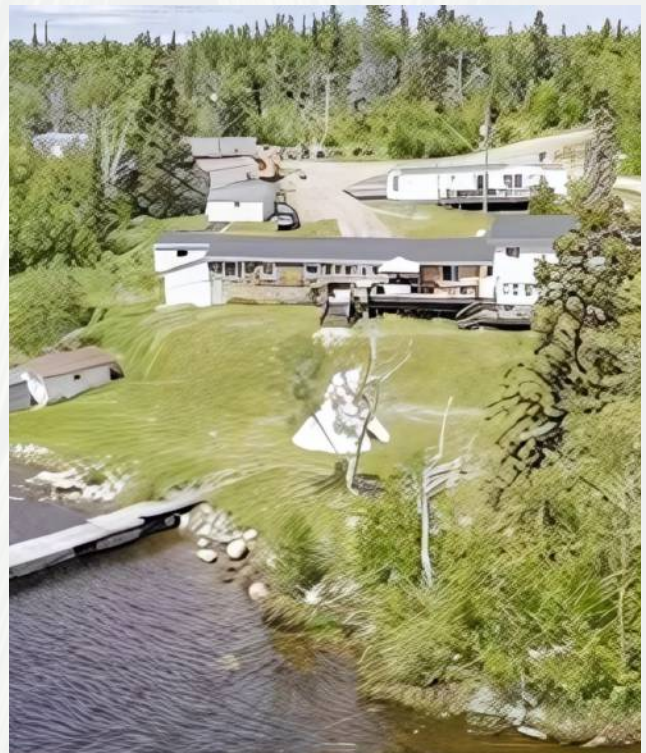
CHILDMINDER  
**Kyra Lerat**



CHILDMINDER  
**CJ Pelletier**



MAINTENANCE/  
LODGE KEEPER  
**Harrison Anderson**



## KOOKUM'S NEST

Kookum's Nest serves the children and families from the Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations with the intent to prevent children from entering care by offering short-term, voluntary placements in a safe and nurturing environment.

The home is operated daily by trained childminders who provide consistent care and supervision when parents require additional support. This may include times when parents are traveling to the city for medical appointments, need a wellness break, or when children require a safe place until parents are able to resume safe caregiving.

Referrals to Kookum's Nest are accepted directly from parents, SECFS on-call staff, Chief and Council, or community prevention teams.

Kookum's Nest can accommodate up to eight children at a time in a five-bedroom home, where all basic needs are met in a warm, home-like setting.



## STAFF



KOOKUM'S NEST  
WORKER  
**Julie Berens**



KOOKUM'S NEST  
WORKER  
**Makayla Drury**



KOOKUM'S NEST  
WORKER  
**Cheyenne Thordarson**



KOOKUM'S NEST  
WORKER  
**Lauren Mowat**

# COMMUNITY OPERATIONS

The Community Operations team works hard behind the scenes to keep all eight Southeast communities running smoothly. This year, five full-time staff supported the community offices, programs, and services to have what they needed. This includes the annual delivery of supplies, equipment, and materials to the three remote communities on the winter road.

The team takes care of many daily needs, including ordering and delivery of office supplies, vehicles, food, baby items, furniture, and program materials. For the remote communities, preplanning is necessary to keep services running even when repairs or parts are delayed. This year, three community vehicles could not be fixed on time to meet the winter road limitation.

Vehicle maintenance has been a big challenge. Nine of the 23 Chevrolet trucks bought in 2023 had transmission problems, which slowed them down and meant they had to be hauled out for repairs because roadside help is not available in remote areas.

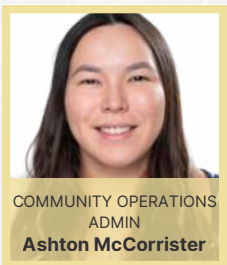
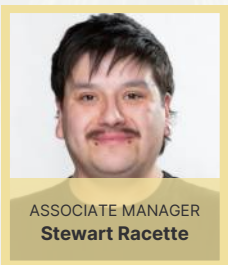
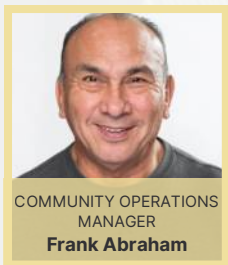
The team also manages the Family Healing & Wellness Centre, ensuring the water, sewer, and electricity systems work properly. Major sewer upgrades were needed, and there are strict provincial rules to follow for all repairs. This past summer, a power surge damaged equipment, and a repaired wire later caught fire—thankfully our team acted quickly and was able to prevent further damage.

Maintaining inventory and tracking equipment is another key focus. Vehicles, boats, and ATVs are insured, and staff now record who uses the equipment, when it is returned, and its condition.

The team also completed building repairs at the Berens River, Pauingassi, and Little Grand Rapids offices to ensure SECFS staff have safe workspaces and accommodations.

The Operations Team works hard to ensure that the staff, families, and programs in all eight communities have the resources, equipment, and support they need. Their dedication helps keep communities safe, healthy, and running smoothly year-round.

## STAFF



## SECFS STAFF YEARS OF SERVICE

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Taylor Bruce
- Cecilia Cook
- Keegan Eaglestick
- Kaylee Funk
- Prairie Hapa
- Ryan Heinrichs
- Maureen Line
- Brynn Rosjer-Doyle
- Amanda Schubert
- Teekca Spence
- Chasity Thomas

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Michelle Daly
- Cara Grapentine
- Lindsey Nobess
- Claudia Sanchez
- Sarah Beverly Thomas
- Pam Thompson

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Wendy Malcolm

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Frank Abraham
- Andrea Gadsby
- Sherri Hudson
- Gayle Parisien
- Kel Sherman






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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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To the Board of Directors of Southeast Child and Family Services

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Southeast Child and Family Services (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, 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, 2025, 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.

### *Emphasis of Matter - Material Uncertainty Relating to Going Concern*

We draw your attention to Note 4 in the financial statements, which indicates that the Organization incurred a deficiency of revenue of expenses of \$14,684,743 during the year ended March 31, 2025 and, as of that date, the Organization's current liabilities exceeded its current assets by \$11,714,344. As stated in Note 4, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 4, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### *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.

(continues)

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

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

*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 Inc.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
August 01, 2025, except as to Note 18 which is  
as of August 13, 2025.

**SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**March 31, 2025**

|                                                   | 2025                 | 2024                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                     |                      |                      |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                                    |                      |                      |
| Cash (Note 5)                                     | \$ 5,478,289         | \$ 11,931,555        |
| Accounts receivable (Note 6)                      | 9,381,046            | 11,908,692           |
| Prepaid expenses                                  | 493,353              | 584,255              |
|                                                   | <u>15,352,688</u>    | <u>24,424,502</u>    |
| <br>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 7)                       | <br><u>9,739,765</u> | <br><u>9,505,683</u> |
|                                                   | <b>\$ 25,092,453</b> | <b>\$ 33,930,185</b> |
| <br><b>LIABILITIES</b>                            |                      |                      |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                                    |                      |                      |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 8) | \$ 19,062,506        | \$ 11,172,999        |
| Deferred revenue (Note 9)                         | 3,919,662            | 5,962,158            |
| Working capital advance (Note 10)                 | 894,570              | 894,570              |
| Provincial child tax benefit payable              | 3,190,294            | 3,190,294            |
|                                                   | <u>27,067,032</u>    | <u>21,220,021</u>    |
| <br><b>NET ASSETS</b>                             |                      |                      |
| Federal Core                                      | 32,526,396           | 16,241,478           |
| Federal Prevention (Note 18)                      | 9,262,114            | 7,377,866            |
| Federal Protection                                | (56,626,986)         | (39,373,281)         |
| Federal Maintenance                               | 1,189,669            | 1,165,896            |
| Provincial Core                                   | (20,774,142)         | (18,175,814)         |
| Provincial Prevention                             | 857,374              | 895,589              |
| Provincial Protection                             | 3,149,192            | 2,774,016            |
| Provincial Maintenance (Note 18)                  | (37,443,485)         | (18,150,525)         |
| Children's Special Allowance and Other            | 65,885,289           | 59,954,939           |
|                                                   | <u>(1,974,579)</u>   | <u>12,710,164</u>    |
|                                                   | <b>\$ 25,092,453</b> | <b>\$ 33,930,185</b> |

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

See notes to financial statements

## SOUTHEAST CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

## Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2025

|                                                     | Budget<br>2025         | Total<br>2025          | Total<br>2024         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                                     |                        |                        |                       |
| Indigenous Services Canada (Note 17)                |                        |                        |                       |
| Federal Core (Schedule 1)                           | \$ 22,905,988          | \$ 19,991,522          | \$ 7,887,842          |
| Federal Prevention (Schedule 2)                     | 16,965,283             | 18,980,091             | 13,671,024            |
| Federal Child Protection (Schedule 3)               | 4,644,075              | 10,345,705             | 17,559,063            |
| Federal Maintenance (Schedule 4)                    | 26,000,000             | 48,897,220             | 34,043,515            |
|                                                     | <u>70,515,346</u>      | <u>98,214,538</u>      | <u>73,161,444</u>     |
| Southern First Nations Network of Care              |                        |                        |                       |
| Provincial Core (Schedule 5)                        | 1,053,795              | 789,186                | 968,795               |
| Provincial Prevention (Schedule 6)                  | 799,793                | 799,793                | 799,793               |
| Provincial Protection (Schedule 7)                  | 6,782,366              | 8,239,701              | 7,687,186             |
| Provincial Maintenance (Schedule 8)                 | 28,456,668             | 27,769,972             | 27,613,079            |
|                                                     | <u>37,092,622</u>      | <u>37,598,652</u>      | <u>37,068,853</u>     |
| Children Special Allowance & Other (Schedule 9)     | 9,386,000              | 9,855,231              | 9,824,975             |
| Community contributions (Schedule 2)                | -                      | 2,005,419              | -                     |
|                                                     | <u>116,993,968</u>     | <u>147,673,840</u>     | <u>120,055,272</u>    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                     |                        |                        |                       |
| Federal Core (Schedule 1)                           | 2,266,401              | 3,706,604              | 2,201,688             |
| Federal Prevention (Schedule 2) (Note 18)           | 17,024,150             | 19,101,262             | 13,789,965            |
| Federal Child Protection (Schedule 3)               | 31,038,568             | 27,599,410             | 20,837,626            |
| Federal Maintenance (Schedule 4)                    | 35,344,399             | 48,873,447             | 33,984,999            |
| Provincial Core (Schedule 5)                        | 3,399,600              | 3,387,514              | 3,302,532             |
| Provincial Prevention (Schedule 6)                  | 799,793                | 838,008                | 520,513               |
| Provincial Protection (Schedule 7)                  | 7,465,883              | 7,864,525              | 7,319,492             |
| Provincial Child Maintenance (Schedule 8) (Note 18) | 39,564,843             | 47,062,932             | 38,043,121            |
| Children Special Allowance & Other (Schedule 9)     | 4,500,000              | 3,924,881              | 5,307,418             |
|                                                     | <u>141,403,637</u>     | <u>162,358,583</u>     | <u>125,307,354</u>    |
| <b>DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>         | <b>\$ (24,409,669)</b> | <b>\$ (14,684,743)</b> | <b>\$ (5,252,082)</b> |

See notes to financial statements

## CITY OFFICES



### WINNIPEG OFFICE

4th Floor – 360 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0T6  
**Phone: (204) 947-0011**  
**Fax: (204) 947-0009**



### WINNIPEG SUB-OFFICE

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



### WINNIPEG SUB-OFFICE

470 Notre Dame  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1R5  
**Phone: (204) 794-4757**  
**Fax: (204) 947-0009**

## COMMUNITY OFFICES



### BROKENHEAD OJIBWAY NATION

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



### BLACK RIVER FIRST NATION

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



### HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION

Box 2567 Wanipigow, MB  
R0E 2E0  
**Phone: (204) 363-7344**  
**Fax: (204) 363-7343**



### BLOODVEIN FIRST NATION

General Delivery Bloodvein,  
MB R0C 0J0  
**Phone: (204) 395-2476**  
**Fax: (204) 395-2139**



### LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS FIRST NATION

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



### PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION

Box 75 Pauingassi, MB  
R0B 2G0  
**Phone: (204) 397-2134**  
**Fax: (204) 397-2273**



### BERENS RIVER FIRST NATION

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



### POPLAR RIVER FIRST NATION

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



# SOUTHEAST

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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

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