

MISSION STATEMENT

Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services will deliver comprehensive child and family services to the members of Opaskwayak Cree Nation.

By promoting protection and preventative services to children and their families, members of Opaskwayak Cree Nation can be assured that the workers of Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services are delivering community-based child and family services.

VISION STATEMENT

Family services are provided by the workers of Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services to Opaskwayak Cree Nation children and their families.

ALTERNATIVE CARE UNIT

Stephanie Hutchinson, BSW
Unit Supervisor

Bridget Young, BA
Alternative Care Worker

Nicole Knutson,
Alternative Care Worker

Elaine MacQuarrie,
Alternative Care Worker

Donna Janzen, BSW
Adoption Worker

Stephanie Taylor,
Alternative Care/Human Resource
Administrative Assistant

LOCATION

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*Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Child & Family Services*



**ALTERNATIVE
CARE PROGRAM**

**OPEN YOUR HOME
BECOME A FOSTER PARENT**
children need caring homes too

ALTERNATIVE CARE PROGRAMMING

FOSTER CARE IS A TEAM EFFORT

As a foster family or foster parent, you are part of a team which includes children and Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services Worker. At times, the foster child's family, school, physicians, neighbors and social workers will be working in unity with one another.

WHERE DO I APPLY TO BE A FOSTER PARENT?

You can apply by contacting Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services workers within our community. Other interested applicants can contact Stephanie Hutchinson, Alternative Care Unit Supervisor, at [204] 627-7227 or email: stephanie@ocncfs.ca.

OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES' PHILOSOPHY

Having licensed foster homes in our community is important in order to keep the children with their family and their community. Foster home placements reflect the needs of the community and assists the agency in maintaining its community based philosophy in terms of language, values, beliefs and customs.

It is with your commitment and dedication to fostering that you will be actively providing a stable and safe foundation for our First Nations children.

WHAT IS FOSTERING?

Foster care is providing a stable and caring home environment to children in need. Children who have been separated from their biological families. The separation could have been a result of: Breakdown, illness or death in his/her biological family, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect or abandonment by someone they love or by way of a Voluntary Placement Agreement.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A FOSTER PARENT

- To provide nurturing to the child placed in your home.
- To provide patience and understanding to the child as they may have come from an unstable family background or may not want to be with a foster family.
- To help a child who may be withdrawn or hyperactive.

WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN?

- They are children who are in special need, such as suffering from emotional issues or a physical disability.
- Adolescent children experiencing conflict within their biological families due to difference of views and/or identity problems.
- Foster children range in the ages from infant to 17 years of age.

- Children experiencing breakdown and/or illness in the family.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

- They receive guidance and support from their agency's resource department.
- They have the opportunity to attend available training and workshops regarding foster care and the needs of child(ren).

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF STAY?

- Emergency foster placement, which can be overnight or for a few days, such as a weekend.
- Short-term care may mean for a few weeks to two (2) years.
- Long-term care that is two (2) years or possible placement until the child reaches the age of majority (18 years old) or ready to go out on their own.

WHAT FOSTER PARENT(S) MAINTENANCE COVERS.

- Household allowance
- Repair equipment, such as, batteries for smoke detectors
- Food & Utilities
- Health & personal care, such as, over the counter medication
- **"Respite/Support"** is to provide foster families with time off and supports for children in care
- Replacement of clothes
- Personal allowance which is spending money for the child(ren)
- Babysitting, Bedding & Linen
- Damages | Deductibles