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Portfolio Councillor
Opaskwayak Cree Nation

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Louis Personius, Community Member
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Child Prevention Unit
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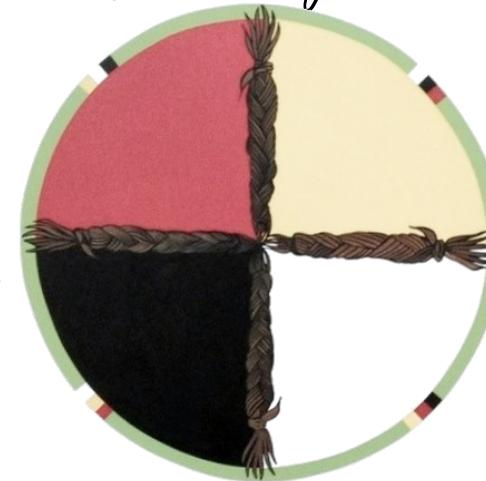
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Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Child & Family Services



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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.

“to deliver comprehensive child and family services for members of Opaskwayak Cree Nation.”

Vision Statement

To ensure that quality child and family services are provided by the workers of Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services to Opaskwayak Cree Nation children and their families.

Programs and Services

Child & Family Services

One major component of the agency's operations is Child & Family Services. The office situated in Opaskwayak provides advisory and financial management support to the community of Opaskwayak Cree Nation. The agency provides community-based services by incorporating both child protection services and prevention programs. Emphasis is placed on the **safety of children** and the steadfast concept of family unity and reunification.

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Department of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family is responsible for all financial aspects of the Agency including budget preparation, monthly reporting to the Board of Directors and Chief and Council. Financial controls, expenditures and reporting procedures are done in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Child & Family Services Workers

The CFS Workers provide support for our children that come into care for various reasons, such as treatment centers, medical needs and specialized/group home placements. A Unit Supervisor supervises the CFS Workers.

In collaboration with the Unit Supervisor, they develop a case for family reunification or alternative permanence planning.

Child Abuse Program | Intake

The Child Abuse Program is managed and supervised by a Child Abuse Coordinator.

The Coordinator networks with service providers and coordinates activities of child and family care relative to child abuse and protection. The Child Abuse Coordinator also develops and presents, either directly or under supervision, education programs relative to child

abuse/protection, along with the management of special cases for the Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services. The intake system will be the initial contact with Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Services. The Intake Worker will be responsible for receiving referrals and determining whether the matter is a child protection issue. If it is not, it is then referred to other collateral resources. Should it be a protection issue, assessments are completed and followed up. The Intake System is a critical component of child welfare and ensures that the child's safety is priority. Statistics are maintained throughout the year to identify the forms of referrals by community.

Legal Support Services

The Legal Technician is responsible for the preparation of all legal documentation related to services provided to children and families. The Technician, under the direction of the Unit Supervisor, determines whether outside legal advice is required with respect to issues that arise such as labor relations, civil liability and Agency governance.

The Agency legal counsel is responsible for the conduct of all court cases, trials and provides advice and assistance on all legal matters.

Family Enhancement Services

"**Family Enhancement**" is A New Service Delivery Model That Responds to Child Welfare Concerns and services tailored to meet the unique needs of each family.

Family Enhancement is a term used to describe a number of important activities that have one major goal in mind: To prevent children from coming into care by addressing the needs of the child and family.

Family Enhancement is **Prevention Focused** and the main goal is to engage with fami-

lies early before there are any protection concerns that result with children coming into care and also **provides** support for children and families to attend programming and/or therapy.

Adoption | Repatriation Program

The Child & Family Services Act recognizes agency adoption, private adoption, adoption by a person who has married a child's parent, extended family adoption, defacto adoption and international adoption. Adoption is a legal and social process to give children permanent homes with parents who love them.

The Repatriation Program will provide support services to Adult Adoptees of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation community who have been adopted out of our region. Such services may include, but are not exclusive to post-adoption registry applicants for birth parents and birth siblings and coordination or reunions.

The laws and procedures on adoption in Manitoba are aimed at meeting children's needs for home and family. Many people are interested in adoption a child, so the adoption process has been developed to ensure that the child's needs and best interests match as closely as possible with homes offered by prospective adoptive parents.

Foster Resource

The Foster Resource Program believes in supporting and rebuilding families in their own homes and in their existing communities. The programs and supports delivered under this program will offer care and guidance in a nurturing environment and where possible, involve the children and provide accessibility to a wide range of quality services and supportive resources as they become needed and required.

As a foster family or parent, you are part of a team, which includes a child and an Opaskwayak Cree Nation Child & Family Ser-

At times, the foster child's family, school, physicians, neighbor, and social workers will be working in unity with one another.

Foster parents receive maintenance payments to assist in the care of the children.

Foster maintenance is issued monthly on the first working day of each month based on a daily per diem rate.

Support Workers would be providing supervision and support directly to children in care. In times of crisis or unforeseen circumstances, a support worker can be hired on a short-term basis.

In these situations, a worker may be required to provide overnight supervision and support depending on the situation. Planned situations may involve the help of support worker to work directly with a specific foster child.

Support Workers may have to assist parents in developing safe and healthy parenting practices. The assigned worker provides positive methods of care-giving practices, in terms of providing the parents with alternative ways of coping with daily stress.

Human Resources

The Human Resources department is responsible for planning, organizing, supervising, and controlling its operations. Key areas of responsibility include: recruitment and selection, training and development, administrating the benefits and pension plan, and policy and procedure updating and development.

Quality Assurance

Monitors processes and procedures to ensure quality of standards are met.

The department provides support to staff and community regarding issues of management.