



MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

2025 2026



MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.

WHO WE ARE



Vision

The Métis family and community is the cornerstone of our Nation and is built upon love, respect, honour, strength and heritage.

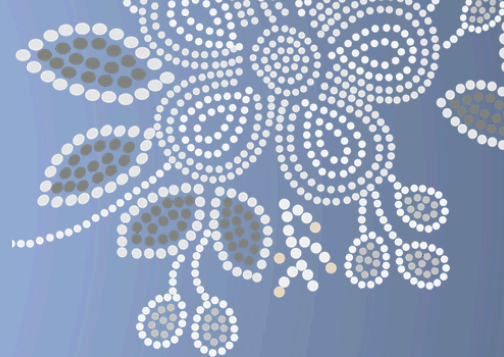
Mission

Métis families and communities have the right and responsibility to care for children. Métis Child, Family and Community Services will work to strengthen the capacity of families to care for children through culturally relevant community-based programs. We believe in the inherent strength of our families and in the need to build on the capacity of our community to care for and nurture Métis children.

Guiding Principles

- Métis families and communities are the cornerstone of the Métis Nation and the service delivery system must reflect this vision.
- Responsibility for decision-making regarding Métis children and families lies with the family, extended family and community whenever possible.
- The organizational structure promotes and supports community governance at all levels.
- The service delivery system will encompass both formal and informal elements.
- The service delivery system must be operated in an efficient and effective manner.
- The service delivery system will be outcome based and will reflect the core guiding principles of MCFCS.

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DAVID CHARTRAND

President of the
Manitoba Métis Federation

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since the beginnings of our Nation, we have cared about the health and well-being of our children and families has been the heart of everything we do.

Thanks to the vision of the matriarchs and leaders who have come before us, and the hard work of our staff, we have built one of the strongest Indigenous Child and Family Service systems in the world. .

That legacy is what carries us forward today. As the Red River Métis people, resilience is woven into who we are. Throughout our history, we have overcome challenges that at times seemed insurmountable by drawing strength from our culture, our communities, and one another. Even through this difficult period, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to children and families, living up to the reputation our Nation has earned. United, we will continue to move forward together and emerge stronger than ever before.

The 2019 Child Special Allowance (CSA) class action we won in 2024 for the years prior to 2019 has opened new doors for so many former children in care and I'm proud of the work by your Authority in returning this money back to where it belongs – with our youth. I look forward to achieving justice for all our children in care. We are continuing to fight for every penny that has been taken from our children as we pursue a second CSA Litigation for children in care from 2019 and onwards.

The Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty's implementation legislation received its first reading in the House of Commons and started its second reading. As it continues making its way through the House, we look forward to this important piece of legislation receiving Royal Assent this Fall. This long-time dream for many of our grassroots leaders is finally becoming a reality.

I would like to express my gratitude for the guidance of our Elders, the wisdom and perspectives shared by our youth, the steady hands of the Agency's Board of Directors, and the commitment of our staff. Together, your dedication continues to strengthen our agency in moving forward.

I'd also like to thank Minister Buors for her leadership in the portfolio and for always bringing her expertise and advocacy to the Cabinet table in the best interest of our children, youth, and families

Meeqwetch,
David Chartrand





MONA BUORS

Manitoba Métis
Federation Minister
Responsible for
Métis Child and
Family Services

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

I am pleased to serve as the Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services for the Manitoba Métis Federation and to work towards the advancement of full jurisdiction over our Métis CFS system.

This past year tested our Métis Child, Family, and Community Service (MCFCS) Agency in ways few could have anticipated. We experienced significant challenges, including difficult outcomes that impacted tenured and valued staff, including the prevention supports that have previously shown tremendous success for our families. While these realities cannot be overlooked - they do not define who we are.

What defines us is the resiliency demonstrated by our staff, caregivers, leadership, partners, and the families we serve. Through uncertain times, your devotion to the Red River Métis families we service never wavered.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism to a system built on preventative services for our Red River Métis CFS system. As the minister responsible, my commitment to the advancement of jurisdiction has not wavered, and your Red River Métis government continues to push forward and seek resolve with provincial and federal partners to bring these efforts to reality for our CFS system.

This is an opportunity to rebuild and strengthen our Red River Métis CFS system - designed by our people, for our people. It gives us the opportunity to ensure that culture, community, and self-determination guide the services we deliver to our families, and how they are supported. Together, we will lay the foundation for a stronger, prevention-based CFS system that reflects our values, customs, and traditions – while creating lasting change for generations to come.

While the road ahead will require continued effort, partnership, and perseverance, we move forward with confidence in our collective strength. I want to thank everyone of you for your trust over the past year, and I want to acknowledge the creative work you do to find solutions to the systemic barriers we face while we await the full implementation of jurisdiction for our Red River Métis CFS system.

To every staff member at MCFCFS—thank you. Your continued presence, support to one another, and commitment in advancing the work that matters most has not been overlooked. I also extend my appreciation to MCFCFS Executive Director Scott Maksymyk, MCFCFS Chairperson Brenda Zak, and the Board of Directors for their continued leadership.

A special thank you as well to President David Chartrand and the Cabinet of the Manitoba Métis Federation for their continued work in the advancement of our Métis CFS System.

Merci,
Mona Buors
Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services
MMF – National Government of the Red River Métis





BRENDA ZAK

Chair of the Métis Child,
Family and Community
Services Board

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present this year's annual report and reflect on the progress, challenges, and accomplishments of the past year.

Over the past year, we were required to navigate a complex and evolving environment while continuing to focus on the long-term sustainability of the organization and the needs of the Métis children, youth, and families we serve.

Throughout the year, the Board worked closely with the Executive Director and leadership team to support the organization through a period of significant change. Careful stewardship of resources, thoughtful decision-making, and a continued commitment to strong governance remained central to our work. While the challenges we faced were considerable, the Board remained focused on ensuring the organization was positioned to adapt, respond, and continue delivering meaningful services to the community.

The successes highlighted throughout this report are a reflection of the dedication and commitment that exist throughout the organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Executive Director Scott Maksymyk, the management team, and all staff for their ongoing service and commitment to our mission. We are grateful for the professionalism, compassion, and care that are demonstrated each day in support of children, youth, and families.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued support of the Manitoba Métis Federation, including President David Chartrand, the MMF Cabinet, and Minister Buors. Their leadership and advocacy continue to be important in advancing supports and services for Métis families and communities.

We are equally appreciative of our ongoing partnership with the Métis Child and Family Services Authority and its Board of Directors, whose collaboration helps strengthen our collective efforts.

As we look to the future, the Board remains committed to ensuring strong governance, fiscal responsibility, and strategic leadership. We are encouraged by the opportunities ahead and confident in the organization's ability to continue evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Thank you to our staff, partners, supporters, and community members for your continued trust and commitment. Together, we will continue working toward a future where Métis children, youth, and families are supported, empowered, and connected to their culture and community.

Meegwiitch,
Brenda Zak
Chairperson of the Board





**KARLA
HILDEBRAND-EDEN**

**Chief Executive Officer for the
Métis Child and Family
Services Authority**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It is my privilege, on behalf of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority, to provide this message in recognition of the important work undertaken by our Métis Child and Family Services Agencies over the past year.

Our Agencies are at the heart of the Métis Child and Family Services system. Every day, their leadership, staff, caregivers and community partners work to support children, youth and families—often during some of the most difficult and vulnerable moments in their lives. This work requires compassion, sound judgment, perseverance and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of the people they serve.

As the administrative and oversight body for the Métis Child and Family Services system, the Authority is committed to supporting strong, accountable and effective Agencies while ensuring that services reflect the distinct identity, culture, values and aspirations of the Métis Nation. Our role is not only to provide oversight, but also to create the conditions that allow our Agencies to succeed.

Throughout the past year, the Authority and Agencies have continued to work together to strengthen service delivery, enhance accountability, improve outcomes and build greater consistency across our system. This partnership is essential. The challenges facing child and family services are complex, and meaningful change requires a coordinated approach grounded in shared responsibility, open communication and a commitment to continuous improvement.

At the centre of this work are our children, youth and families. We remain committed to a system that places greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention, family preservation and culturally appropriate supports. Whenever possible, children should be supported within their families, extended families and communities, surrounded by the relationships, culture and identity that provide them with a strong sense of belonging.

For Métis children and youth who do enter care, maintaining connection to family, community, culture and Métis identity must remain a priority. Knowing who you are and where you come from is fundamental to belonging and well-being. Our collective responsibility extends beyond ensuring safety; it includes helping children and youth develop the relationships, identity and connections that will support them throughout their lives.

The broader child and family services environment continues to evolve, particularly as Indigenous governments exercise greater authority over the well-being of their children and families. This represents an important opportunity for the Métis Nation. The Authority remains committed to working collaboratively with the Manitoba Métis Federation, our Agencies, governments and other partners to advance Métis priorities and support the continued transformation of child and family services.

Our progress would not be possible without the people who carry out this work every day. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Boards of Directors, Executive Directors, leadership teams, frontline staff, caregivers and community partners who continue to demonstrate extraordinary dedication to Métis children and families.

I also want to acknowledge the families who place their trust in our system. Your experiences, voices and perspectives must continue to inform how we improve our services and how we build a stronger system for future generations.

I am proud of what our Agencies have accomplished this year and grateful to everyone who has contributed to this important work. There remains much to do, but through our shared commitment and collective leadership, we will continue moving forward toward a stronger future for Métis children, youth and families.

Karla Hildebrand-Eden
Chief Executive Officer
Métis Child and Family Services Authority





SCOTT MAKSYMUK

Executive Director of
Métis Child, Family and
Community Services

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my privilege to present our annual report for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

This year tested our organization in ways we could not have anticipated. We entered the year facing significant uncertainty and the difficult reality of operating with fewer resources, fewer staff, and reduced capacity. Programs and services that had become important supports for children, youth, young adults, and families were scaled back, and we were challenged to find new ways to continue meeting the needs of our community.

While the circumstances were difficult, what stands out most when I reflect on this year is the remarkable resilience of our staff.

Throughout every challenge, our team demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the children, youth, and families we walk alongside. Staff continually adapted to changing circumstances, embraced new ways of working, sought out creative solutions, strengthened community partnerships, and supported one another through periods of uncertainty. Time and again, they stepped forward with a willingness to pivot, innovate, and do whatever was necessary to ensure families continued to receive the support they needed.

I cannot speak highly enough of the dedication, professionalism, and perseverance shown by our staff, management team, and leadership group. Watching this organization come together, support one another, and find a path forward has been both humbling and inspiring. Their commitment to our mission never wavered, even when the work became increasingly difficult.

Despite the challenges we faced, our purpose remained clear. Every day, our team continued to walk alongside Métis children, youth, and families, helping to strengthen connections, build stability, and create opportunities for brighter futures. The stories and outcomes highlighted throughout this report are a testament to that commitment.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, the Manitoba Métis Federation, our community partners, and all those who continue to support our work. Your guidance, advocacy, and partnership remain critical to our success.

As we look ahead, I remain optimistic about the future. The past year demonstrated not only the challenges we face, but also the strength, adaptability, and determination that exist within this organization. Those qualities will continue to guide us as we build capacity, strengthen services, and advance our shared vision of strong, healthy Métis families and communities.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our work.

With gratitude,
Scott Maksymyk



OUR BOARD AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Our Board

Chair – Brenda Zak
Vice-Chair – Karen Beaudin
Secretary/Treasurer – Lydia Gork
Member - Lucille Lavoie
Member - Clint Webb
Ex-Officio - Darlene Grantham
Elder – Marcella Vezina



Executive Management

Executive Director – Scott Maksymyk
Executive Assistant – Amanda Glassock
Director of Resources – Jason Orchyk

Director of Services – Stacy Jerema
Director of Services – Cory Donald
Human Resources Manager – Corralie Smith-Champagne
Director of Finance – Joyce Luyun

MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION



We extend our deepest gratitude to our Indigenous Governing Body, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – National Government of the Red River Métis, for its leadership, support, and commitment to strengthening child and family well-being.

Your generous contributions to child welfare help make it possible for Métis Child, Family and Community Services to provide essential, culturally-grounded services to Red River Métis children, youth, and families.

Through the MMF's leadership and guidance, our communities continue to grow stronger. Together, we are helping ensure that Red River Métis children and youth have the opportunity to grow up in family environments that honour their history, culture, traditions, and identity.

BILL C-92: AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES.



Bill C-92: An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families continues to represent a historic opportunity to advance Métis jurisdiction and transform the child and family services system in a manner that better reflects the needs, values, and priorities of Métis children, youth, and families.

Over the past year, however, progress toward implementation remained stalled as negotiations with the federal government failed to advance in a meaningful way. This lack of movement has been both frustrating and disappointing. Significant work has already been undertaken by the Manitoba Métis Federation and the agency to prepare for the exercise of Métis jurisdiction, yet meaningful progress requires all parties to be actively engaged at the table.

Despite these challenges, our commitment to the implementation of Bill C-92 has remained steadfast. Throughout the year, we continued to participate in planning efforts, support readiness activities, and work alongside our partners to ensure we are prepared when negotiations resume. We remain committed to building the systems, relationships, and capacity necessary to support Métis-led child and family services.

The principles underlying Bill C-92 continue to guide our work. We believe that Métis children and families are best served through culturally grounded approaches that strengthen families, honour community connections, and support Métis self-determination.

While the pace of progress has been slower than anticipated, we remain hopeful that the federal government will re-engage in meaningful discussions so that this important work can move forward. Until then, we will continue preparing for the future and advocating for the recognition and implementation of Métis jurisdiction over child and family services.

FAMILY SERVICE



EASTMAN

The Eastman team, based out of Beausejour, continues to provide child and family services grounded in consistent engagement with children, youth, and families across the region.

During the reporting period, the Eastman office supported a total of 146 families and children. This included 34 Protection families, 99 Child in Care, and 13 Agreement with Young Adult. These numbers reflect the significant level of support provided to families requiring ongoing care, safety planning, and long-term engagement.

The Eastman team continues to focus on responsive, relationship-based service delivery, ensuring that the needs of children and families remain central in every intervention. Staff work closely with families, caregivers, and community supports to maintain stability and support positive outcomes for children and youth involved with the agency.

INTERLAKE

The Interlake team, currently based out of the Winnipeg office, continues to provide ongoing care and family services across the region with a focus on timely response and consistent support to families.

During the reporting period, the Interlake region supported a total of 104 families and children. This included 16 Protection families, 4 Voluntary Family Services, 78 Children in Care, and 6 Agreement with Young Adult.

The Interlake team continues to respond to the needs of children, youth, and families through ongoing case management and collaborative service planning. Staff remain focused on ensuring that families receive appropriate supports and that children and youth in care are supported through stable and consistent planning processes.

WINNIPEG FAMILY SERVICES

The Winnipeg Family Services team continues to provide comprehensive support to children, youth, young adults, and families across Manitoba's largest service region.

Throughout the year, staff worked closely with children, parents, extended family members, caregivers, and community partners to develop plans that prioritized safety, stability, family connection, and positive outcomes for children and youth.

A key focus of the team's work continues to be strengthening family and community supports whenever possible. Through family planning, kinship exploration, and collaborative decision-making processes, staff work to identify opportunities for children to remain connected to family, community, and culture.

Beyond direct service delivery, the Winnipeg team continued to strengthen relationships with community organizations and service providers. Throughout the year, the office welcomed community partners to participate in learning sessions and information-sharing opportunities designed to increase collaboration, improve service coordination, and build awareness of available supports for families. These partnerships help create stronger networks of support and contribute to more effective outcomes for the children, youth, and families we serve.

The dedication and professionalism of the Winnipeg Family Services team remain central to this work. Each day, staff navigate complex situations while maintaining a commitment to relationship-based practice, cultural connection, and supporting families in achieving their goals.



MÉTIS CONNECT

The Métis Connect Program continues to play an important role in strengthening our practice approach across the agency by reinforcing the importance of family, community, and cultural connection in all aspects of service delivery.

This year marked a significant milestone for the program, as Métis Connect achieved formal licensing in Kevin Campbell and Elizabeth Wendel's Family Seeing™ model. This recognition has further strengthened our ability to embed Family Seeing principles into everyday practice and has provided a clear framework to guide our work with children, youth, and families.

Throughout the year, the Métis Connect Mentors have been actively engaged in supporting staff through ongoing training, coaching, and practice development. This has included facilitating cohort-based learning sessions, facilitating monthly peer consultation, and providing direct mentorship to staff across programs and regions.

These learning opportunities have helped deepen understanding of Family Seeing principles and supported consistent application in practice. In addition to its training and mentorship role, Métis Connect continues to provide hands-on support to staff working directly with families. This includes assisting in family-led planning processes, navigating complex circumstance and conversations, supporting efforts to keep children safely connected within their family networks (connection should be non-negotiable), and helping identify alternative care arrangements for children when needed.

The program continues to be a key contributor to strengthening relational, culturally grounded practice across the agency. By supporting staff development while also directly contributing to service delivery, Métis Connect helps ensure that family and community remain central to all decision-making processes involving Métis children and youth.



ONGOING CARE

The Ongoing Care team remains focused on supporting children, youth, caregivers, and families while working toward safe, permanent, and culturally connected outcomes for children in care.

This year marked the continuation of a positive five-year trend in reducing the number of children in care. The number of children in care served by the Agency **declined from 877 children five years ago to 743 children at the end of this reporting period**. This ongoing reduction reflects our continued commitment to strengthening families, exploring kinship and community-based options, and supporting permanency planning that prioritizes family connections whenever possible.

One of the most significant accomplishments this year was the rescission of 13 Permanent Orders. As a result, four children were successfully reunified with their mothers, six returned to the care of their fathers, two transitioned to the care of their grandparents, and one child was placed with extended family. These outcomes represent meaningful opportunities for children to reconnect with their families and communities while achieving greater permanency and stability.

The Ongoing Care team works closely with caregivers, parents, extended family members, and community supports to identify pathways toward reunification, permanency, and lifelong connections for children and youth. Through ongoing planning, relationship-building, and family engagement, staff strive to ensure that children remain connected to the people, culture, and communities that are important to them.

This year also saw 69 youth in care reach the age of majority and transition into adulthood. Many continued their relationship with the Agency through Agreements with Young Adults (AYA's), allowing them to access ongoing support as they pursue education, employment, housing stability, and other goals associated with independent living. At the end of the year, we were working with over 100 young adults on AYA's!

The successes achieved throughout the year are a testament to the dedication of families, caregivers, youth, and staff who work together to create positive outcomes for children. While challenges remain, the continued reduction in children in care and the increasing number of children achieving permanency with family members demonstrate the impact of a family-centred and culturally grounded approach to service delivery.



	Protection (PRT)	Voluntary Family Services (VFS)	Expectant Parent Services (EPS)	Family Enhancement (FE)	Children in Care (CIC)	Agreements with Young Adults (AYA)
2021-2022	378	42	2	64	877	96
2022-2023	406	43	7	56	869	105
2023-2024	370	40	8	41	804	105
2024-2025	357	43	4	32	783	112
2025-2026	344	40	2	19	743	101

A Family Moving Forward Together

One young person we were walking alongside had long struggled with attending school and keeping up with coursework. The added worry about the costs of graduation made it even harder for them to stay engaged. With support from the agency and their high school, they were connected to Gowns for Grads, where they spent a day choosing a dress, shoes, purse, and jewelry — all for just three dollars. That experience helped shift things for them. Their attendance improved, their grades went up, and they are now set to graduate in a week and a half. This will be a significant milestone, as they are believed to be one of the first in their family to complete high school.

During this same period, their mother was also working hard to make changes in her life. Over the past year, she remained substance-free, secured stable housing, and maintained employment. Her two youngest children have since been reunified with her and are doing well at home. She continues to stay connected with her older children, and the agency is supporting her as she works toward the possible reunification of another child.

Their progress — both the young person's and the mother's — reflects steady effort, support, and a shared commitment to moving forward. It's a story of a family rebuilding in different ways, each step opening new possibilities for their future.

Family Support

The Family Support Program provides practical, family-centred services designed to strengthen relationships, enhance parenting capacity, and promote positive outcomes for children and families. A key component of the program is facilitating supported family time, creating safe and meaningful opportunities for children and family members to maintain important connections. These visits help preserve relationships, support reunification efforts, and provide families with opportunities to build confidence and strengthen attachment.

Recognizing that lasting success often depends on access to broader community supports, Family Support staff work closely with families to identify resources and services that can assist them in achieving their goals. Whether connecting families to community programs, parenting resources, housing supports, or other services, the program helps build a network of support that extends beyond agency involvement.

Through encouragement, skill development, and connection to resources, the Family Support Program continues to help families build on their strengths and create stable, nurturing environments where children can thrive.



Reconnecting With Family Roots

A young person approaching adulthood had long carried questions about their paternal family. With support from Métis Connect, their caregiver, and an aunty, they were able to write a series of questions to their father — everything from why he had never reached out, to simple things like his eye colour and the music he listens to. He responded openly, and after years of distance, they have begun communicating and getting to know one another. It has been an important step in helping the young person understand more about where they come from and strengthening their sense of identity.



Restoring Trust and Strengthening a Family Network

Another family was referred to Family Enhancement after previous difficult experiences with the child welfare system, and they were understandably hesitant to engage. Métis Connect and the FE worker invited the parents and grandparents to share their story in their own words. By approaching the family with genuine curiosity and respect, the team was able to understand the complexity of their experiences and build a foundation for honest, transparent conversations. With an engaged natural family network and a shared focus on the children's wellbeing, the agency was able to end involvement in a way that upheld the family's dignity and recognized them as the people responsible for their children's safety and decision-making.



Family Enhancement

The Family Enhancement Program provides intensive support to families experiencing challenges that place children at risk. Through early intervention, practical support, and connection to community resources, the program helps strengthen family functioning and promote safe, stable home environments for children. Family Enhancement workers partner with families to address concerns such as parenting challenges, family conflict, housing stability, and access to supports. By working collaboratively with families and service providers, the team helps identify strengths, develop goals, and create plans that support long-term stability. Prevention remains a key focus of the program. Whenever possible, staff work to reduce risks and support children remaining safely within their family networks. When additional intervention is required, the team assists families in developing safety plans and accessing the supports needed to create positive change. Through a strengths-based approach, the Family Enhancement team continues to help families build resilience, strengthen protective factors, and create brighter futures for their children.



Métis Spirit

The Métis Spirit Program provides individualized support to young adults aged 18 to 25 as they navigate the transition to adulthood and increasing independence. Many of the young people served through the program are working toward stability in areas such as housing, education, employment, financial well-being, and community connection. At the heart of the program is a commitment to relationship-based support. Métis Spirit Workers assist young adults in identifying goals, developing life skills, accessing community resources, and overcoming barriers that may impact their success. Through advocacy, mentorship, and practical assistance, staff help youth build confidence and strengthen their capacity to achieve greater independence. The program recognizes that the transition to adulthood does not happen overnight. By providing ongoing guidance and support, Métis Spirit helps young adults remain connected to services, opportunities, and relationships that contribute to long-term success and well-being. Throughout the year, the program continued to play an important role in supporting young adults as they pursued their goals and built foundations for their future.

ALTERNATIVE CARE

Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care

Even with our strong focus on keeping children connected to family and community, there are times when a foster home is needed to provide safety and stability. Our foster caregivers play an essential role in those moments — offering care that is grounded in understanding, patience, and respect for each child's story. Through our Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care programs, we continue to recruit, train, and support foster parents who open their homes to children of all ages and circumstances. These caregivers provide day-to-day stability while helping children maintain connections to their families and culture.

Specialized foster homes provide individualized, responsive care for children and youth with more complex needs, supported by experienced foster parents and agency staff. These homes are designed to meet each child where they are — providing structure, encouragement, and the kind of consistent support that helps them grow and heal. Foster care remains an important part of our continuum of care. While the majority of children are placed with family, foster caregivers extend that circle of support, ensuring that every child has a safe and nurturing place to belong.

Kinship Care

Kinship care continues to be the foundation of how we support children who cannot remain safely with their parents. Whenever possible, children are placed with relatives or trusted community members — people who already know them, understand their routines, and can keep them connected to their family, culture, and sense of belonging.

This year, our agency supported **approximately 250 kinship homes, caring for 386 children**. These caregivers open their homes during moments of uncertainty and provide stability rooted in family and community. Our role is to walk alongside them with training, advocacy, and practical supports that strengthen the natural caregiving capacity already present in their networks.

Kinship care reflects a core belief of our agency: Métis families and communities are central to the wellbeing of Métis children. When children can remain with family, they experience less disruption, maintain important relationships, and stay connected to who they are.

Kinship Care Placement Comparison



MAZOUN INFINITI PAKOSHAYIMOCHK – INFINITY HOUSE OF HOPE

Mazoun Infiniti Pakoshayimookh – the Infinity House of Hope – reached an important milestone this year. In partnership with MMF Rapid Services, the building officially opened in March 2026, and young adults have already begun moving into the space. After years of planning, design, and construction, Mazoun is no longer an idea on paper — it is a living, welcoming home for Red River Métis youth stepping into adulthood.

Mazoun was created as a culturally grounded urban transition home for young people who are aging out of care or have already begun living independently. The space offers a blend of practical supports and cultural connection: life-skills development, therapeutic programming, opportunities to build community, and guidance rooted in Métis values. Emergency suites are also available for youth formerly involved with Métis Child and Family Services, ensuring they always have a safe place to return to when they need it.

Rapid Services has brought strong expertise to the home, helping shape daily programming, routines, and supports that meet young people where they are. Their involvement has already made a meaningful difference for the youth who have moved in, and we are excited to continue building this partnership as Mazoun grows. In the coming year, we look forward to bringing the facility to full capacity and expanding the range of supports available. Mazoun stands as a place of stability, belonging, and possibility — a home where young people can build confidence, strengthen their identity, and take their next steps with a strong community behind them.



Healing a Parent–Teen Relationship

We had the privilege of walking alongside a parent who was facing significant mental health challenges and substance use concerns. During this difficult period, the relationship between the parent and their teen became strained, and the teen made the thoughtful decision to stay with a friend's family for stability. Although this was painful, the parent supported the teen's plan, recognizing it was what their child needed at the time.

With steady support and their own determination, the parent began to rebuild. They abstained from substances, engaged fully in therapy, and gradually saw their mental health improve. Over time, they welcomed a new baby and have been parenting safely and consistently.

The teen continues to live with an alternate caregiver, but the relationship with their parent has strengthened significantly. They stay connected, communicate openly, and have rebuilt trust. The teen is also thriving — on track to graduate, working toward their driver's license, and preparing for post-secondary education.

EVENTS

Pride Ceremony

On May 23, 2025, our agency came together to raise the Pride Flag in front of our building, marking a meaningful moment of celebration, visibility, and inclusion. The Pride Flag represents more than a symbol — it reflects our commitment to creating a workplace and service environment where Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+ staff, youth, families, and community members feel seen, respected, and supported. For our agency, this day is a reminder that belonging matters. The children, youth, and families we serve come from diverse identities and experiences, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our practices, spaces, and relationships honour that diversity.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation continues to be a solemn and important moment for our agency. Each year, September 30 invites us to pause and reflect on the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools, honour the survivors who carry those memories, and remember the children who never returned home. For those of us working in child and family services, this day carries particular weight. The truths we acknowledge are not distant history —

they shape the systems we work within, the families we walk alongside, and the responsibilities we hold as an agency serving Métis children, youth, and communities. It is a day that reminds us why cultural connection, family belonging, and community-led approaches matter. It reinforces the importance of listening to survivors, supporting healing, and ensuring that our work contributes to a future where Indigenous children grow up safe, connected, and surrounded by their culture. Across the agency, staff took time to reflect, learn, and honour the day in ways that were meaningful to them. What united us was a shared commitment to truth, to reconciliation, and to continuing the work of creating systems that respect and uphold the rights, identities, and stories of Métis families.



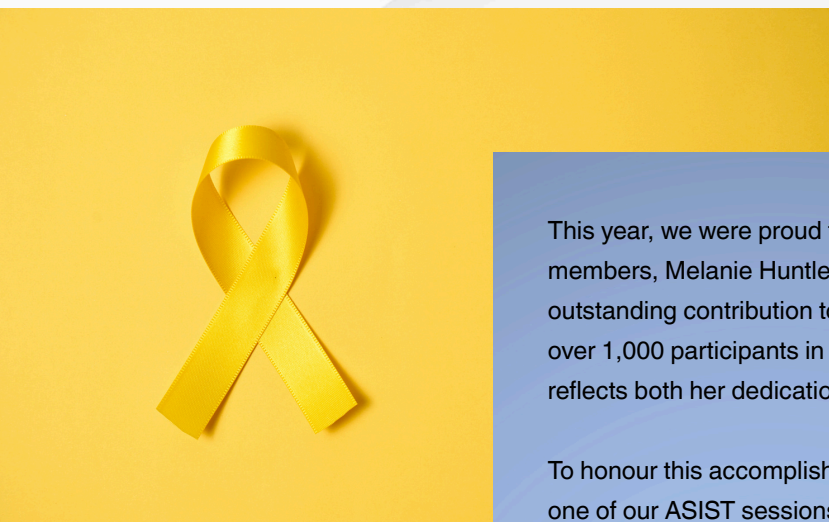


AGENCY DAY

In February 2026, we held our first Agency Day since the staffing reductions, a moment that carried a mix of emotions for many across the organization. For some, it was a chance to reconnect after a difficult year; for others, it was a reminder of the changes we had navigated together. Both experiences were real, and both were present in the room. What mattered most was that we came together. After a year marked by uncertainty and transition, Agency Day offered space for staff to gather, reflect, and rebuild a sense of connection. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the challenges we faced, recognize the strength it took to move through them, and look toward the future with a renewed sense of shared purpose.

The Agency Day Planning Committee did an exceptional job creating an event that was thoughtful, grounding, and supportive. Their work helped bring staff together in a way that honoured where we've been while making room for where we are going.

Agency Day reminded us that even in difficult times, our greatest strength continues to be the people who show up every day for Métis children, youth, and families — and for one another.



STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

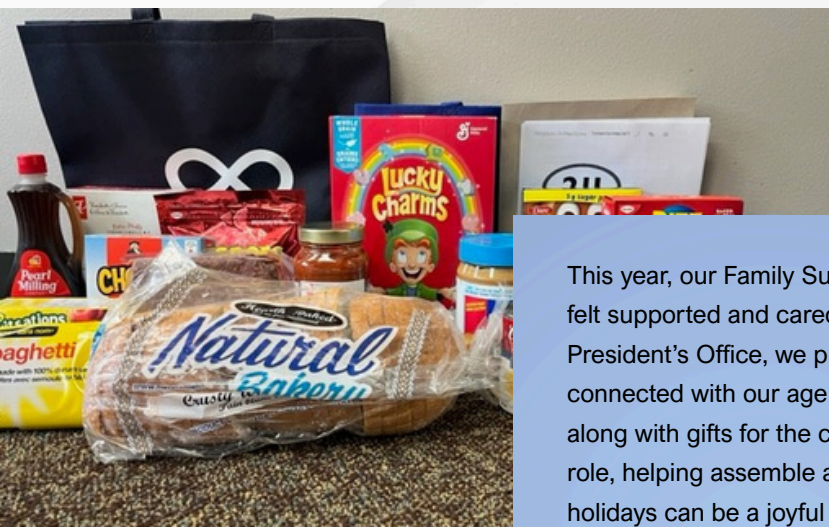
This year, we were proud to celebrate an extraordinary achievement by one of our staff members, Melanie Huntley. In March, Melanie was formally recognized by LivingWorks for her outstanding contribution to suicide prevention training. Over the years, she has trained well over 1,000 participants in ASIST and other suicide-prevention programs — a milestone that reflects both her dedication and the profound impact of her work.

To honour this accomplishment, the Regional Training Manager from LivingWorks attended one of our ASIST sessions to present Melanie with a special award. We are deeply grateful for Melanie's leadership, her unwavering commitment to safety and prevention, and the care she brings to every training she delivers. Her work has strengthened our agency, supported our community, and equipped countless individuals with the tools to help save lives. We congratulate her on this significant and well-deserved recognition.



SAFETALK

This year marked the successful completion of our Ready to SafeTALK...About Suicide project, made possible through the generous support of the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund. Their \$20,000 contribution allowed us to expand suicide-prevention capacity in a meaningful and lasting way. Through this partnership, eight staff and community partners became certified LivingWorks SafeTALK trainers, creating a sustainable foundation for ongoing suicide-prevention education across our agency and within the broader community. Over the course of the project, these trainers delivered 11 workshops and trained 137 participants — each one gaining the skills to recognize signs of suicide and connect people to help. The impact of this work extends far beyond the numbers. By building internal training capacity, we have strengthened safety, awareness, and preparedness across the organization. The support from Bell Let's Talk has helped ensure that more people in our communities have the tools to respond with confidence and compassion when someone is struggling. We are deeply grateful to BellMTS and the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund for their commitment to mental health and for supporting this important initiative. Their partnership has made a real difference in the lives of staff, families, and community members.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This year, our Family Support Program continued its commitment to ensuring families felt supported and cared for during the holiday season. In partnership with the MMF President's Office, we prepared and delivered 32 Christmas hampers to families connected with our agency. Each hamper included the essentials for a holiday meal, along with gifts for the children in the home. Staff teams once again played an important role, helping assemble and distribute the hampers with care and respect. While the holidays can be a joyful time, they can also bring added stress for many families. Providing these hampers is one way we help lighten that load and make the season a little brighter. Thanks to the support of the MMF President's Office and the efforts of our staff, families were able to enjoy moments of connection, comfort, and celebration.

JIGGING AND CULTURAL CRAFTS



Throughout the year, we continued to offer cultural programming that brought together children, youth, and staff to learn, create, and celebrate Métis culture. Our cultural craft nights provided hands-on opportunities to explore traditional art forms, connect with teachings, and build community through shared creativity. These gatherings offered a welcoming space for participants to learn new skills, express themselves, and deepen their connection to Métis identity.

In addition to craft nights, we were proud to offer jigging classes for our youth in care. These sessions quickly became a highlight of the year, blending movement, music, and cultural pride. The youth embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm — and their hard work showed. They even performed at events across the city, sharing their talent and representing the agency with confidence and joy.

Together, these cultural activities helped strengthen relationships, build cultural knowledge, and create meaningful experiences rooted in Métis tradition and community.





CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The generous support of the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada allows Métis Child, Family and Community Services to provide opportunities that extend beyond traditional child welfare services. From comforting children entering care, to helping youth discover new passions, to supporting academic success, these investments create lasting impacts in the lives of the children, youth, and families we serve.

TED AND LORETTA ROGERS FOSTER CARE COMFORT KIT PROGRAM



\$23,400 + 180 Comfort Kits

Entering care can be one of the most difficult experiences in a child's life. Through the Ted and Loretta Rogers Foster Care Comfort Kit Program, children entering foster or kinship care receive backpacks filled with comforting items, including blankets, stuffed animals, toys, and personal essentials that help provide a sense of security during a time of uncertainty.

“After suddenly losing his mother, a three-year-old boy was placed with kin. When his worker arrived with a comfort kit, he immediately hugged the stuffed animal and wrapped himself in the cozy blanket. His caregiver shared that such a simple gesture brought comfort and brightened an incredibly difficult day. Assisting with school supplies, technology, tutoring, or educational opportunities, the program helps students stay engaged and reach their full potential.”

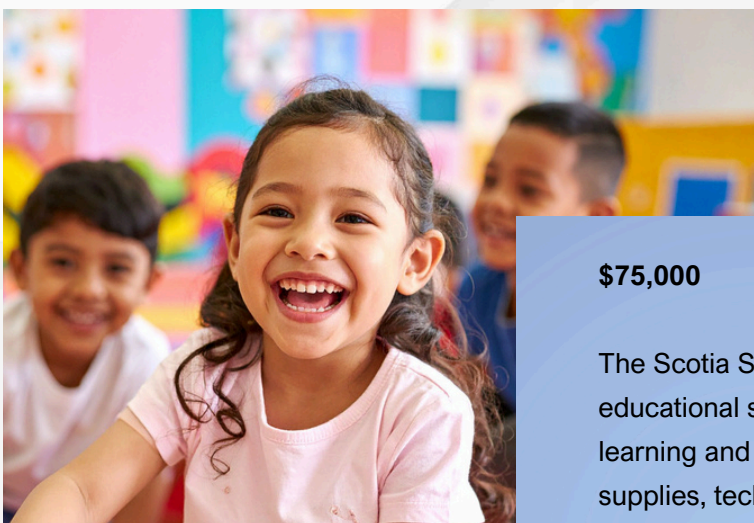


IGNITE THE SPARK FUND

\$75,000 over three years

The Ignite the Spark Fund provides children and youth with opportunities to participate in sports, recreation, arts, and cultural activities that may otherwise be out of reach. These experiences help children build confidence, discover their talents, and develop a sense of belonging.

“A single mother wanted her six-year-old son to attend a hockey skills development camp but could not afford the \$500 registration fee. Through Ignite the Spark, he was able to attend, giving him the opportunity to develop his skills, build confidence, and pursue a sport he loves.”



SCOTIA STAY IN SCHOOL FUND

\$75,000

The Scotia Stay in School Fund helps children and youth overcome barriers to educational success by providing resources and supports that encourage learning and recognize academic achievement. Whether assisting with school supplies, technology, tutoring, or educational opportunities, the program helps students stay engaged and reach their full potential.

KEY FINANCIALS

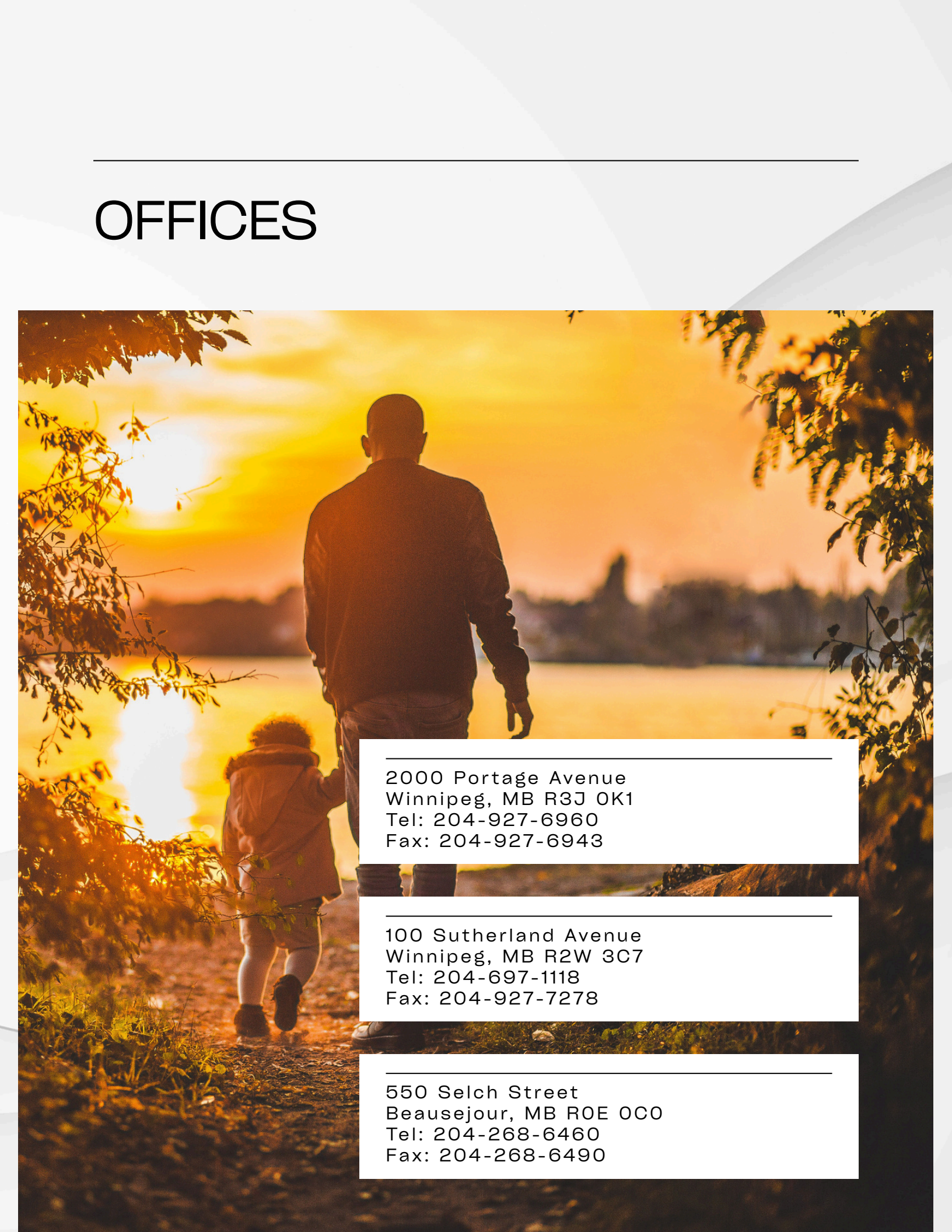
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Assets		6,958,131.00
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Liabilities		6,958,131.00
Net assets		0.00
Liabilities & Net assets		6,958,131.00

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Revenue		46,421,927.00
Operations		15,134,432.00
Child Maintenance		29,574,150.00
RAILS		125,556.00
LIFE		33,771.00
Shelters		447,027.00
Agreements Funding		173,009.00
Expenses		45,487,945.00
Excess of revenue over expenses		933,982.00
Net deficiency, beginning of. year		- 933,982.00
Net assets, end of year		0

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MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.