

Métis Child and Family Services Authority Annual Report 2025-2026

Reporting Year: April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026



*Proud Affiliate of the
Manitoba Métis Federation*





MISSION

Métis Child and Family Services Authority contributes to strong and healthy Métis and Inuit families and communities through culture, values and heritage supported through the wisdom of our Elders.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ensure daily practice is guided by asking ourselves "Is It Good For The Children?"

Change the landscape and history of child welfare practices through recognizing the importance of reconciliation, culture and family.

Recognize the responsibility for decision-making stays with the family, extended family and community whenever possible.

Provide community based supports to our agencies that mirror the needs of the children and families.



Recognize the importance of reflecting family values through our service delivery.

Apply the wisdom of Elders to guide our decisions and service practices that we know will impact future generations.

Respect and honour the diverse individuality of all people.

Support our agencies to build capacity within the original family unit to care for and provide a safe environment for their children.

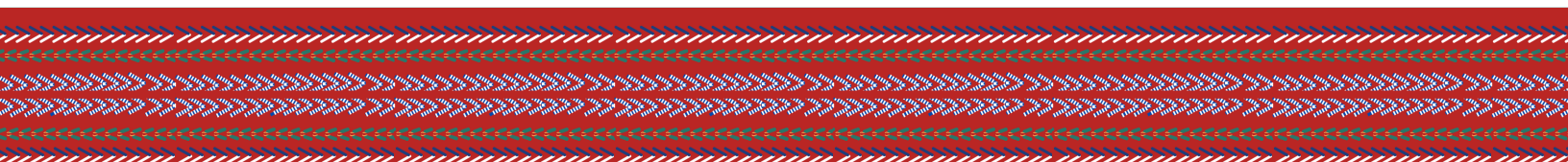




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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*David Chartrand
President of the
Manitoba Métis Federation*

The Red River Métis have always cared deeply about the health and wellbeing of our children and families thanks to the vision of the matriarchs and other leaders who have come before us. It is with this in mind, and with the hard work of our staff, that we have maintained being one of the best Indigenous Child and Family Service systems in the world.

It is with this spirit that we move forward today. As the Red River Métis - resilience is woven into who we are. Throughout our history, we have overcome many challenges by drawing strength from our culture, communities, and one another. Even through this past year, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to children and families, living up to the reputation our Nation has earned. Together, we continue to move forward and will emerge stronger than ever before.

As you may have seen, we are continuing to fight for every penny that has been taken from our children as we continue a second Child Special Allowance (CSA) Litigation for children who were in care after 2019. Our recent victory in the pre-2019 CSA class action has opened new doors for so many former children in care and I'm proud of the work by the Authority in returning this money back to where it belongs – with our youth.

In early 2026, 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. We look forward to this important piece of legislation moving quickly through the House and Senate this Fall. This long-time dream for many of our grassroots leaders is finally becoming a reality.

I would like to thank the guidance from our Elders, the insight from our Youth, and the Authority's Board of Directors and the staff at the Authority for their strong dedication. It is the collective commitment to growth and innovation that strengthens our Authority and shapes its future.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Mona Buors
Minister Responsible for Métis
Child and Family Services

It is my honour to serve as the Minister Responsible for Child and Family Services for the Manitoba Métis Federation and to work alongside our leadership, agencies, and regions in advancing independent jurisdiction over our Red River Métis CFS system.

The advancement of jurisdiction remains my top priority. The Métis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFSA) has been instrumental in building a strong Red River Métis CFS system, while laying the foundation necessary to achieve and implement jurisdiction.

While this journey has not been without challenges, this past year reminded us that resilience is not measured by the challenges we face, but by how we respond to them. Despite significant hardships, the MCFSA remained steadfast in its commitment to our agencies and, most importantly, to the children, youth, and families we serve. Together, we continue to focus on new possibilities and opportunities that strengthen our system.

This year, the Authority continued to engage in meaningful partnerships. Through ongoing collaboration with the Métis Justice Institute, we have continued to offer supports for families intersecting with the justice system. In partnership with Housing & Property Management, we have been able to operationalize Mazoun Infinitii Pakoshayimookh – Infinity House of Hope. Delivered by the Rapid Services Team, this facility provides culturally grounded wraparound and transitional supports for young adults leaving care.

The Authority also continued its work as administrator of the Lafontaine Children's Special Allowance Class Action, ensuring eligible class members receive every dollar they are entitled to while providing additional assistance for those who need it.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Chief Executive Officer Karla Hildebrand-Eden, Associate Chief Executive Officer Desirée Gillespie, and all Authority staff for their dedication to supporting our agencies, children, youth, and families. I also thank our outgoing Authority Chairperson Barbara Bruce for her years of leadership and cultural guidance, which have helped shape our Red River Métis CFS system. I am pleased to welcome Cathy Fidlerchuk as the new Interim Authority Chairperson and thank the Board of Directors for their continued leadership and commitment.

Finally, I would like to thank President David Chartrand and the Cabinet of the Manitoba Métis Federation for their ongoing support and commitment to fostering strong partnerships across MMF departments and affiliates. Together, we are strengthening a self-determined Red River Métis Child and Family Services system that is rooted in our culture, guided by our values, and designed to meet the needs of our children, youth, and families for generations to come.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Cathy Fiderchuk
Chair of the Board
Métis Child and Family Services Authority

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority, I am pleased to present our Annual Report, highlighting another year of commitment, collaboration, and progress in serving Métis children, youth, and families across Manitoba.

This past year has been one of continued transformation and opportunity. As child and family services continue to evolve, particularly through the implementation of Indigenous jurisdiction and the principles established under the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, our Authority has remained steadfast in its responsibility to provide strong governance, strategic oversight, and accountability while supporting the delivery of culturally grounded services that reflect the unique needs, values, and objectives of our Métis families.

The Board's role is to ensure that the Authority remains focused on its mandate: overseeing the service delivery of the two mandated child welfare agencies, ensuring the agencies are keeping children safe, strengthening families, and supporting healthy, resilient Red River Métis communities. Throughout the year, we have continued to oversee financial stewardship, organizational risk management, and policy development while ensuring the Authority remains accountable to the communities we serve and to our government and community partners. Our accomplishments this year reflect the dedication and professionalism of our Executive Leadership Team and staff. Their commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, and service excellence has enabled the Authority to respond to changing legislation, strengthen organizational capacity, and enhance the quality of services provided throughout the Métis Child and Family Services system.

The Board also recognizes the invaluable contributions of our Métis Child and Family Services Agencies, community partners, Elders, caregivers, foster families, and the many individuals who work diligently to improve outcomes for children and families. Their collaboration and shared commitment are essential to building stronger families and healthier communities.

As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to supporting a strong, sustainable, and accountable child and family services system that embraces Red River Métis culture, traditions and identity. We will continue to provide strategic leadership that promotes good governance, fiscal responsibility, transparency, and continuous improvement while ensuring the voices of Red River Métis families remain at the centre of our work. Together, we are building a future where every Red River Métis child has the opportunity to grow up safe, connected to their family, culture, and community, and empowered to reach their full potential. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere appreciation to our employees, leadership, partner agencies, government partners, community organizations, caregivers, and the families who place their trust in us. Your dedication and partnership continue to strengthen our collective efforts and inspire our work every day. Thank you for your continued confidence in the Métis Child and Family Services Authority. We look forward to building on our achievements as we continue our shared journey toward stronger children, stronger families, and stronger Red River Métis communities.

Respectfully,
Cathy Fiderchuk
Interim Board Chair
Métis Child and Family Services Authority



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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

It is my privilege to present the Métis Child and Family Services Authority's Annual Report and to reflect on another year that proved our system's ability to weather difficult times while demonstrating resilience, our commitment to the children, youth, and the families we serve.

Throughout the past year, the Authority continued to navigate a rapidly evolving child and family services landscape while remaining focused on delivering services that are culturally responsive, accountable, and centred on the needs of Métis children and families. We worked closely with our agencies, community partners, and governments, to strengthen service delivery, improve organizational effectiveness, and support positive outcomes for children and families throughout Manitoba.

Significant effort was dedicated to strengthening our governance framework, modernizing policies, enhancing financial stewardship, and improving organizational accountability. These initiatives help ensure that the Authority remains well-positioned to meet current responsibilities while preparing for future opportunities, including the continued advancement of Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services.

This year also demonstrated the strength and dedication of our employees. Across the Métis Child and Family Services System, staff continued to respond with professionalism, compassion, and unwavering commitment despite increasing complexity and demand. Their expertise, resilience, and genuine care for the families we serve are the foundation of our success and the reason we continue to make meaningful progress.

Our success would not be possible without the strong relationships we share with our Indigenous Governing Body - the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Métis Child and Family Services Agencies, governments, community partners, and the many individuals who work together to improve the lives of children and families. Collaboration remains one of our greatest strengths, and together we continue to create opportunities that promote healing, stability, and long-term well-being.

As we move forward, the Authority remains committed to continuous improvement and innovation. We will continue enhancing accountability and transparency, investing in our workforce, modernizing our systems and processes, and ensuring that our decisions remain grounded in the voices and experiences of the families and communities we serve.

The future of child and family services lies in empowering Indigenous communities to care for their own children in ways that reflect their unique cultures, traditions, and values. We are proud to contribute to this important work and remain committed to supporting a system where Métis children grow up with strong cultural identities, healthy family connections, and every opportunity to succeed.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services, Mona Buors for her support, encouragement, and guidance; our Board of Directors for their leadership and direction; to the Authority's Executive Management team for their passion, commitment and loyalty; to our dedicated employees for their exceptional work; to our partner agencies and community organizations for their collaboration; and to the children, youth, families, caregivers, and communities who continue to place their trust in us.

Together, we are creating stronger systems, stronger families, and stronger futures for Métis children and communities. While there is still important work ahead, I am confident that through partnership, innovation, and our shared commitment, we will continue to make a lasting and positive difference for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority.

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



OUR BOARD



In October 2025, Board Chair Barbara Bruce announced that she would be resigning from the Métis CFS Authority Board effective December 31, 2025. We would like to thank Barbara for her unwavering support and words of wisdom and guidance during her time as Board Chair. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

As Barbara departed as Board Chair, Cathy Fiderchuk was appointed by MMF Cabinet to be the Interim Board Chair of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority. Cathy has been on the Authority Board of Directors as Secretary since 2021. We welcome Cathy to her new interim position and look forward to working with her in this new role.



Mona Buors
Minister Responsible for CFS



Barbra Bruce
Former Chair of the Board



Cathy Fiderchuk
Interim Chair of the Board



Barb Lavallee
Vice Chair



Darlene Grantham
Secretary



Ron Chartrand
Treasurer



Reid Hartry
Elder Advisor



Marguerite Bagley
Elder Advisor

Executive Management

Karla Hildebrand-Eden
Chief Executive Officer

Desirée Gillespie
Associate Chief Executive Officer

Alam Khan
Chief Financial Officer

Cindy Marykuca
Executive Assistant



MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

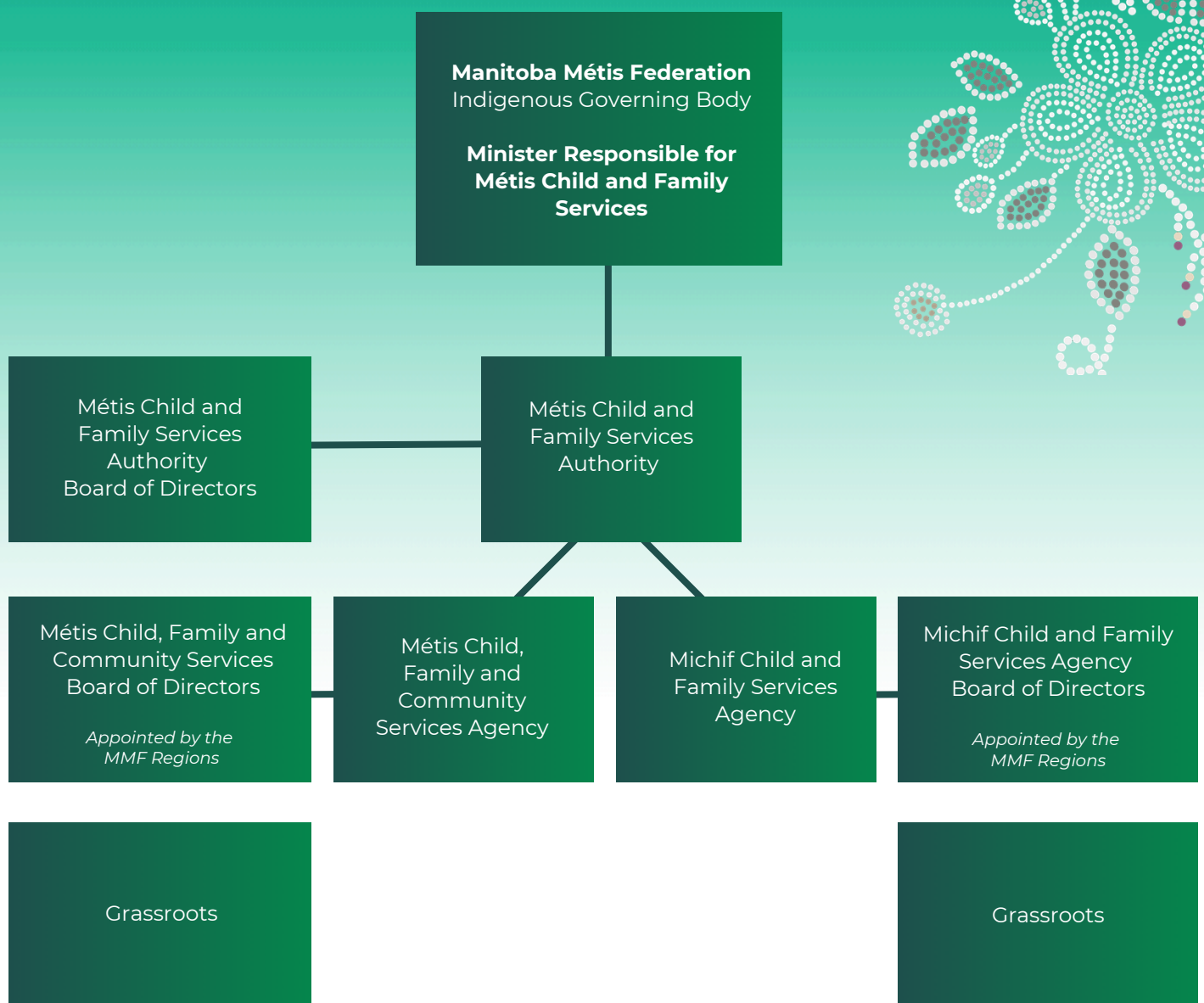


Indigenous Governing Body (IGB)

We extend our heartfelt thanks for our Indigenous Governing body, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – National Government of the Red River Métis. Your steadfast support and generous contributions to child welfare make it possible for the Métis Child and Family Services System to deliver essential services to Red River Métis children, youth and families.

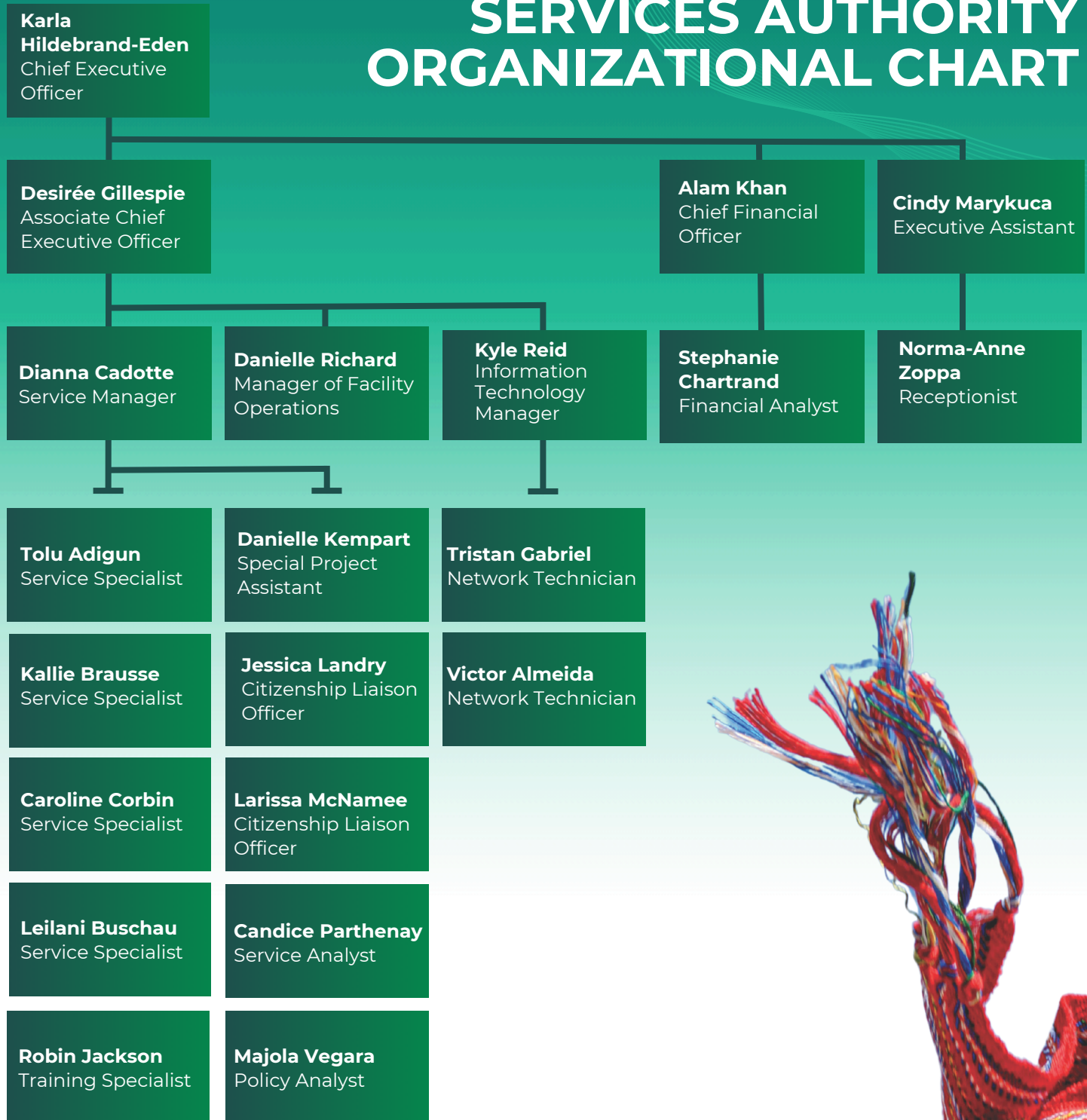
Under your leadership, our communities continue to thrive. Because of the MMF's guidance, Red River Métis children and youth can grow up in family environments that honour their history, culture and identity.

MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AUTHORITY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





BILL C-92:

AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

It has been six long years of negotiations with the Federal and Provincial governments on Coordination Agreements so that the Red River Métis can draw down law. Countless hours from the Authority and Agencies' have gone into writing the Red River Métis CFS laws, negotiating the Coordination Agreements between the Federal and Provincial governments, the Asset Transfers, and the Funding Agreements.

The negotiations with the federal government have stalled, however, the Authority and Agencies continue to review legislation to ensure any changes required can be incorporated into the Red River Métis CFS Legislation.

In Spring 2026, federal Minister Mandy Gull-Masty – Minister of Indigenous Services Canada came to Winnipeg to meet with Minister Buors, Minister Campbell, and Minister Genaille to discuss areas that have not been resolved, and Bill C-92 was the focus of Minister Buors' discussions with Minister Gull-Masty. Suggestions by Minister Gull-Masty to move Bill C-92 forward for the Red River Métis were made and are being followed up on.



“Yes, I have done my duty. During my life I have aimed at practical results. I hope that after my death my spirit will bring practical results. All that I have done and risked... Rested certainly on the conviction that I was called upon to do something for my country I know that through the grace of God I am the founder of Manitoba.”

– Louis Riel



CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION



The Children's Special Allowance Administration and Distribution has been in place since December 2024. The Métis CFS Authority have been listed in the court-ordered Settlement Agreement as the Administrator and the Distributor of the settlement funds. A team of six staff at the Authority have been re-assigned to be the Identification and Verification Team whereby they hold in-person or virtual meetings with Class Members to answer the Identification and Verification package for the Class Member to receive their settlement.

The Authority has partnered with other Departments and Affiliates from the MMF to provide these valuable resources.

As of March 31, 2026, the Métis CFS Authority has distributed **\$33,580,123.27** to **1332 Class Members**.

The Authority continues to distribute Settlement Funds to Class Members and as part of the Settlement Agreement, will begin distributing Second Distribution to the Class Members in November 2026. This Second Distribution funds are reconciliation funds ordered by the court as part of the Settlement Agreement.



OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER – MÉTIS SETTLEMENTS SYMPOSIUM

In May 2025, the Authority was asked to present at the “Our Journey Together Symposium” in Edmonton, Alberta.

The CEO, Associate CEO, Director of CFCI and Senior Policy Analyst from PDU presented on how the Red River Métis System has prepared for Bill C-92 which included:

- Our History
- Our Government
- Our Programming
- Our Legislation and
- Our Future

This was an important opportunity for the members of the Métis Settlements to hear our experiences navigating relationships with the provincial and federal governments, developing Red River Métis child welfare legislation, and navigating Coordination Agreements. It was also a good reminder to us who work in this every day, how far we have come since beginning this journey.





MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION DEPARTMENT AND AFFILIATE PARTNERSHIPS



Métis Justice Institute – Youth Justice Navigation Partnership

The Red River Métis Youth Justice Navigation Partnership continued to strengthen supports for youth involved with both the child welfare and justice systems through a collaborative partnership between the Métis Justice Institute (MJI) and the Métis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFSA). Established as a first-of-its-kind distinctions-based initiative, the program was designed to address the unique needs of Red River Métis youth by providing culturally grounded navigation, advocacy, education, and coordinated support across systems.

Through close collaboration with Métis Child, Family and Community Services and Michif Child and Family Services, the program has helped youth navigate court processes, access legal and community supports, connect to cultural resources, and address barriers that contribute to justice involvement.

Between September 2024 and March 2026, the program supported 37 youth files. The majority of youth served were Red River Métis, while support was also extended to First Nations and non-Indigenous youth receiving services through the Métis Child and Family Services Authority. Youth were assisted at various stages of justice involvement, including pre-charge diversion, post-charge support, reintegration, and preventative interventions.

A key strength of the partnership has been the ability to provide coordinated wraparound support. Through collaboration with the Red River Métis Court Work Program, Red River Métis Justice Support Program and the Métis Community Justice Program, youth received assistance with court navigation, diversion opportunities, reintegration planning, employment readiness, housing supports, education planning, and cultural connections. In several cases, early intervention and coordinated planning contributed to successful diversion outcomes, improved court compliance, stable housing, school attendance, employment, and reduced risk of further justice involvement.

The program also prioritized prevention and education. Justice-related resources were developed and distributed to youth, caregivers, and service providers, including educational materials on breaches, gang involvement, auto theft, and youth justice processes. These resources helped improve understanding of the justice system while promoting informed decision-making and accountability. Métis Child and Services also assisted in vetting a future Métis Child and Family Services Authority and Métis Justice Publication: Navigating Child and Family Services in Manitoba to ensure information was correct for families navigating the system.



One of the most significant accomplishments of the partnership has been the strengthening of relationships between child welfare and justice systems. The partnership has improved communication, clarified roles and responsibilities, and ensured youth receive coordinated support rather than navigating multiple systems in isolation.

This initiative has demonstrated that culturally grounded, distinctions-based services improve outcomes for Red River Métis youth. When youth are supported by a coordinated team that understands the justice system, child welfare system and the importance of cultural identity, they are more likely to engage in services, build positive connections, and achieve successful outcomes. As demand for the program continues to grow, the successes achieved through this partnership reinforce the importance of sustained investment in collaborative, youth-centered approaches that support the long-term well-being of Red River Métis youth and their families. The Métis CFS Authority and its agencies would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jessa Champagne, Lead Community Justice Navigator - Métis Justice Institute for working with our youth and families to make the justice process an easier system to navigate.



Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)

All children ages 0 – 6 who have their MMF Citizenship are registered to receive Little Métis Boxes from the MMF's Early Learning and Childcare department quarterly. We welcome this partnership with the Early Learning and Child Care Department (ELCC.) These boxes provide culturally appropriate activities and education, strengthening cultural connections for our families and children in care.

Central Registry Office (CRO)

The Central Registry Office has been invaluable to our Métis CFS System in obtaining Citizenship for our children, youth and families who are served by our child and family services agencies. As we move into federal child and family services legislation, it is imperative that all of the families that we are serving are Red River Métis Citizens.

Child Family & Community Institute (CFCI)

CFCI continues to support the Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services through work on Bill C-92, Notices of Significant Measure and is a liaison for the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis Child and Family Services System.



Department of Housing and Property Management

We have partnered with the Department of Housing and Property Management in the building of Mazoun Ininitii Pakoshayimook, meaning Infinity House of Hope. This has been an effortless partnership. The Department of Housing and their staff shared our system's vision to serve Métis youth who have aged out of care and provides them with wrap-around and culturally-safe services.

Mazoun saw its first residents move in during the Spring of 2026! A video that highlights some of the residents' experiences at Mazoun will be featured at the MMF's National Assembly in October 2026.





WORKING TOGETHER TO ADVANCE MÉTIS CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship Liaison Officers

The Citizenship Liaison Officers (CLOs) work in collaboration with our MMF Citizenship Department and agencies to determine Red River Métis Citizenship eligibility and assist the families we serve in obtaining their Citizenship.

Outside of assisting with obtaining Citizenship for our children, youth and families, the Citizenship Liaison Officers can identify First Nations affiliation which assists our Métis Child and Family Services System in preparing for Bill C-92. This happens through determining the culturally appropriate Authority of those children and youth who continue to be served by our Métis CFS System while educating our system on the impacts of the second-generation cut-off under *The Indian Act*.



**The Citizenship Liaison Inbox received
3,485 names to have Red River Métis
Eligibility checks completed.**

ADVANCING MÉTIS CITIZENSHIP



While honouring cultural connection, we ensure all Indigenous connection is explored and communicated with collaterals. Family choice is also a priority when we are working through blended cultural backgrounds within family units.

Genealogical research conducted by the Citizenship Liaison Officers is not only centered on identifying family, but historic Métis communities of origin in hopes of encouraging a sense of identity for the families we walk alongside and ultimately addressing reconciliation in a meaningful way.



Organization	Number of Eligibility Checks
Métis CFS Agencies	1,814
General Authority	581
Southern First Nations Network of Care	0
Northern Authority	1
ANCR	1,082
Beyond Borders	7
Total:	3,485



Partner with MMF's Citizenship Registry Office for Young Adults Exiting Care

The Citizenship Liaison Officers prioritize obtaining MMF Citizenship for youth and young adults who will be exiting our agencies' care. Contact information is updated to ensure those that are most vulnerable have access to MMF resources available only to Métis Citizens, as well as ensuring our young adults have voting rights.

When youth and young adults are exiting care, the Citizenship Liaison Officers provide information packages that include resources offered by MMF departments and affiliates as well as the contact information for their MMF Region & Local. This ensures that they know how to stay connected to their MMF government, culture, and community.

This includes some of the most relevant MMF Departments and Resources and other partnerships:

- Manitoba Métis Federation
 - Mental Wellness Support Line
 - Rapid Housing
 - Red River Métis Community and Resource Department
 - Métis Justice Institute
- Vital Statistics
- St. Boniface Historical Society
- Post-Adoption Services





CITIZENSHIP DATA

The following data outlines the Métis Citizenship status of our children, youth and families within our Métis Child and Family Services System.

This data shows how much our Métis Child and Family Services System impacts Red River Métis children, youth, and families as well as our commitment to preserving our culture.





AGREEMENTS

On October 1, 2024, the provincial government introduced four new agreement types to *The Child and Family Services Act* in order to support the National Standards that create placement priorities for Indigenous children and families. These agreements provide CFS agencies with more out of court options and new ways to work with and preserve families when there are concerns. Parents keep guardianship and can actively be involved in planning for their children.

1. Family Support Agreement
 - a) Children remain in their home
 - b) Provides supports to meet the needs of the child and their family so that children can stay at home or return home
2. Kinship Care Agreement
 - a) Children live with a kinship caregiver
 - b) The agreement is between the parent, the caregiver, and agency/Authority
 - c) Caregiver has a family connection or a significant relationship with the child or the parent
3. Voluntary Care Agreement
 - a) Children live in a foster or group home
 - b) This is an agreement between the parent and the agency
 - c) Provides care to a child outside the child's home

Type of Agreement	Total Number of Agreements
Family Support Agreements	25
Kinship Care Agreements	12
Voluntary Care Agreements	68
TOTAL	105

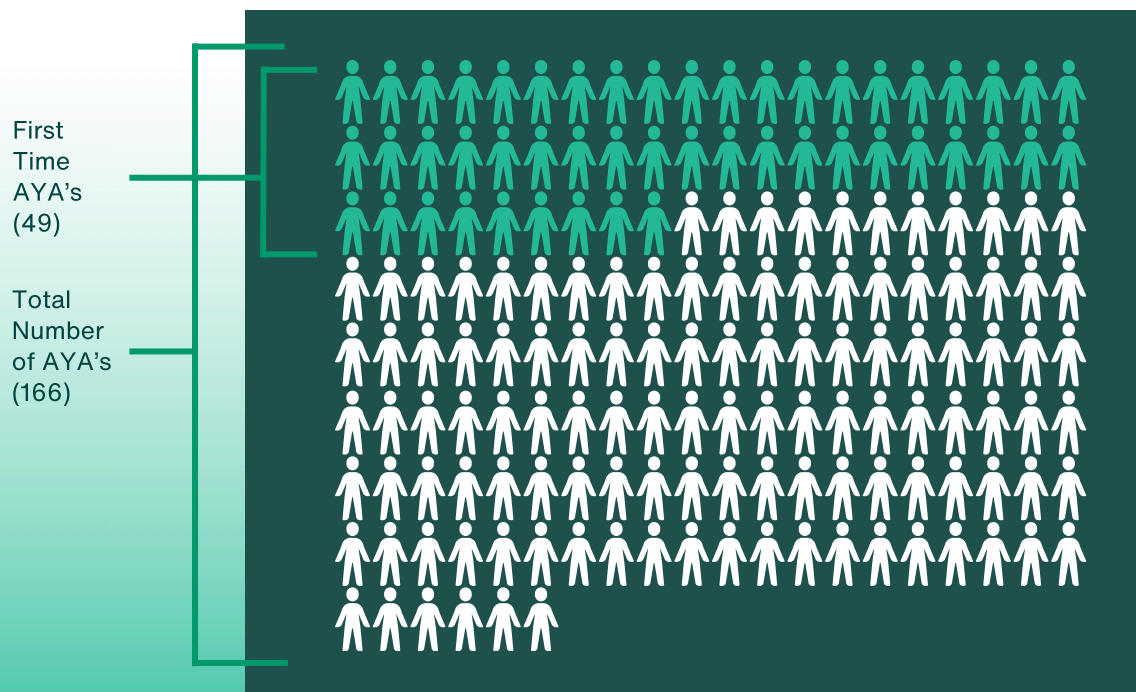


AGREEMENTS WITH YOUNG ADULTS (AYA)

An Agreement with Young Adult (AYA) for support services is offered to youth who are under a Permanent Order at the time they turn 18 years of age and whose further planning meets the criteria below. These agreements may be renewed up until the age of 21 years.

The reasons for an Agreement include:

- Educational Goals
- Transition to Adult Services
- Transition to Independent Living
- Employment Training
- Treatment Programs
- Other services that will provide opportunities for the young adult to achieve safety, success, and better outcomes, while being supported through culturally appropriate services



SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS GRANT (SYA)

Funding is available under the Supporting Young Adults Grant (SYA) program to support young adults transitioning out of the child welfare system. The SYA Grant enables child and family services agencies to provide assistance to young adults who would usually not be eligible for an Agreement with young Adults (AYA), either due to legal status or age. Young adults between the agencies of 18 - 21 who are ineligible for an AYA due to legal status funding.

16

NUMBER OF GRANTS PROVIDED IN THE
2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR.

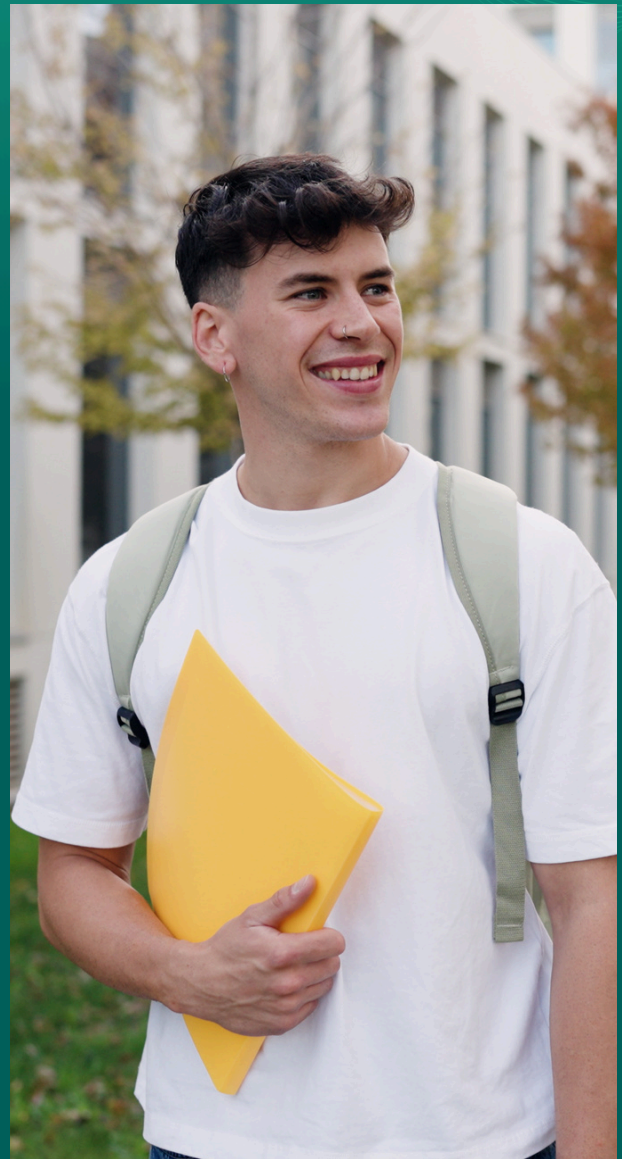


KEITH COOPER SCHOLARSHIP

In 2002, the Winnipeg Child and Family Services (WCFS) Board and staff announced the creation of the Keith Cooper Scholarship Fund for children in and from care who wish to pursue post-secondary education. The fund acknowledges the commitment to the education of children in care by the late Keith Cooper, former educator and WCFS Chief Executive Officer. The scholarship program draws on funds from the Winnipeg Foundation Gilroy-Acheson account, which is designated for use by children in care.

The Keith Cooper Scholarship Fund is available to current and former children from the four Child and Family Services Authorities and Peguis Child and Family Services. Ten scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded annually and recipients are able to re-apply for the scholarship in each year of study in order to complete their first university degree, diploma, technical or vocational program or certificate.

In 2025-2026, the Keith Cooper Scholarship Committee received 30 applications and awarded 14, \$1,000 awards. The Committee was able to award an additional four scholarships as there were unclaimed awards from the previous year. This year one student from Métis Child, Family and Community Services received a scholarship.





TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

Futures Forward, the facilitator of the Tuition Waiver Program, is a collaborative organization which includes Youth Employment Services Manitoba, Community Financial Counselling Services and Canadian Mental Health Association. The organization aims to reduce the barriers faced by young people between the ages of 15 and 29 exiting the Child and Family Services system. A Tuition Waiver recipient is a current or former Manitoba youth-in-care who receives the cost of their tuition to one of 10 post-secondary institutions in Manitoba. Some recipients also receive a portion of their living expenses. The post-secondary institutions involved include the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Red River College Polytech, Brandon University, the University College of the North, Assiniboine College, Université de Saint-Boniface, Booth University College, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology and others.

In the 2025-2026 academic year, 13 students who were once in the care of a Metis child and family services agency received a Tuition Waiver. Of the 13 recipients, seven began their first year of study, six were returning students and one student withdrew. Providence University College and Theological Seminary boasted one student, one student attended Assiniboine College, one student attended the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology, four students attended River College Polytech, five students were at the University of Manitoba and one student briefly attended the University of Winnipeg.





THE MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On December 6, 2025, the Métis Child and Family Services Authority, in partnership with Métis Child and Family Services Agency and Michif Child and Family Services, proudly hosted the 2nd Annual Children and Family Christmas Celebration at Red River Exhibition Park. The event welcomed approximately 1000 children, youth, families caregivers, and staff for a day dedicated to creating joyful holiday memories and celebrating the spirit of the season together.

This year's party included a visit with Santa, carnival ride, stockings, food, games, crafts, face painting and a Photo Booth. Often, our child in care do not have pictures of their family members and even more often, they do not have pictures of themselves and their families together. The Photo Booth at the party provides an opportunity for child to take pictures with their families that print out instantly to take home with them.

The Métis CFS Authority sent out donation request letters to businesses and vendors that our agencies and Authority utilize. The success of this celebration was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of our community. Businesses, organizations, community partners, and individual donors continued to demonstrate their commitment to Métis children and families by contributing financial donations, gifts, gift cards, and other resources that help make the event truly memorable.

The Authority extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who supported this important initiative. Your kindness and generosity help ensure that every child and youth attending the celebration experiences the warmth, hope, and excitement of the holiday season. Together, we continue to strengthen connections, celebrate Métis culture and traditions, and remind every child and family that they are valued members of our community.





Hampers for Families in Need

For the past five years, the Kinew Local hosts fundraising events to raise funds for hampers at Christmas time for the families MCFCS agency serves as well as gifts for children in care and gift cards for the youth. The Kinew Local also donates teddy bears wearing Métis sashes for the comfort kits that are given to children when they enter care of our agency. Thank you, Debi Koppel, and Kinew for your generous donations! We are so very thankful for their support!





HOW WE SUPPORT OUR AGENCIES

The Métis Child and Family Services Authority provides leadership, oversight and support to its mandated child and family services agencies, which deliver essential services to Métis children, youth and families throughout Manitoba. Together, the Authority and its agencies form a coordinated system committed to strengthening families, protecting children and ensuring that services reflect Métis culture, values, identity and community connections.

Our agencies Métis Child, Family & Community Services Agency and Michif Child and Family Services Agency are at the heart of service delivery. Their dedicated staff work directly with children, youth, families and communities, providing a broad range of child and family services that include prevention and family supports, child protection, family preservation and reunification, permanency planning, supports for children and youth in care, and services that help young people successfully transition into adulthood.

While each agency responds to the unique needs of the children, families and communities it serves, all share a common commitment: to keep Métis children connected to family, culture, community and identity whenever possible. This commitment recognizes that the well-being of children is strengthened when families are supported early, communities are engaged in solutions, and Métis ways of knowing, belonging and caring are reflected throughout service delivery.



**MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.**



**Michif Child ∞
Family Services**



The Authority works collaboratively with its agencies to promote consistent standards, strong governance, accountability, quality service delivery and continuous improvement across the Métis Child and Family Services system. This includes supporting agencies through policy direction, service oversight, quality assurance, funding advocacy, system planning, data and performance monitoring, and the advancement of initiatives designed to improve outcomes for children and families.

Throughout the year, our agencies continued to demonstrate resilience, innovation and dedication while responding to increasingly complex needs. Their work extends far beyond statutory child welfare responsibilities. Every day, agency staff build relationships with families, advocate for children and youth, connect families with resources, strengthen cultural connections and work alongside communities to create opportunities for families to remain safely together. Fundamental to the strength of our system.

The Authority recognizes that meaningful transformation in child and family services cannot occur without strong agencies and strong partnerships. By working collectively, sharing knowledge and strengthening coordination across the system, we continue to move toward a service model that places greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention and family preservation while maintaining our responsibility to protect children and youth.

We acknowledge the leadership of our Agency Boards, Executive Directors, management teams, frontline workers, foster and kinship caregivers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community partners and all those who contribute to supporting Métis children and families. Their commitment and dedication are fundamental to the strength of our system.

Together, the Authority and its agencies remain focused on a shared vision: Métis children and youth who are safe, supported, connected to their families and communities, proud of their identity, and provided every opportunity to thrive.

KEY FINANCIALS

A summary of the audited financial results for the year (ending March 31, 2026) with comparative figures for the previous fiscal year are presented below:

	2025/2026	2024/2025
SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL POSITION		
Current Assets	7,754,981	5,362,930
Capital Assets	570,661	1,117,025
Total Assests	8,325,642	6,479,955
Liabilities	7,342,666	5,312,633
Net Assets	982,976	1,167,322
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	8,325,642	6,479,955
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS		
Total Revenue	55,841,972	58,634,645
Amortization of capital assets	56,026,318	58,967,315
Deficit	-184,346	-332,670
AGENCY ALLOCATION		
Metis Child, Family and Community Services	41,262,281	
Michif Child and Family Services	10,567,703	

STAFF RECOGNITION



In December 2025, Tim Young, our Quality Assurance Specialist retired after 7 ½ years with the Authority. Tim was a valued employee of the Authority and Service Team and was a champion of quality, accountability, and continuous improvement. Tim's attention to detail, thoughtful analysis, and unwavering commitment to best practices has helped ensure positive outcomes for the children, families, and communities we serve.

Best wishes, Tim for a future filled with every happiness.

We would like to congratulate Norma-Anne Zoppa, Receptionist (10 years) and Victor Almeida, Network Technician (5 years) for their continued commitment to our Métis CFS System. Recognizing these milestones, we are reminded that the strength of our system lies in the people who care this important work forward.





*Proud Affiliate of the
Manitoba Métis Federation*