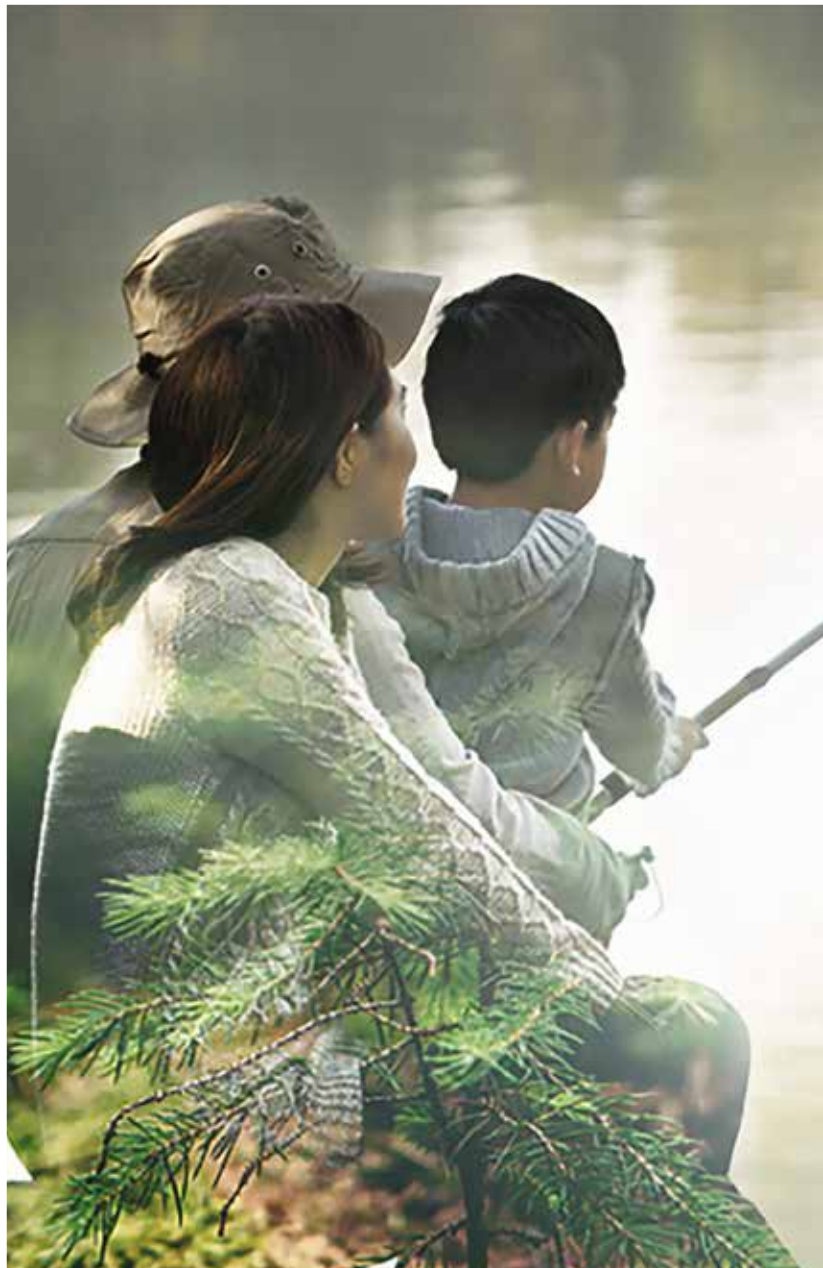




*Michif Child ∞  
Family Services*



***Annual Report***  
*April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022*

## *Vision Statement*

Métis and Inuit families and communities are nurtured through love, respect, honour, strength and heritage within their distinctive cultures.

## *Mission Statement*

Métis and Inuit families and communities have the right and responsibility to care for children within their cultures. Michif Child and Family 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 our children

## *Guiding Principles*

- Métis families and communities are cornerstones of the Métis Nation and the service delivery system must reflect their vision.
- The family is the centre of Inuit culture and cooperation and sharing is a basic principle in Inuit society.
- Responsibility for decision-making regarding Métis and Inuit children lies with the family, extended family and community wherever 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 founding principles of Michif Child and Family Services.





## ***Michif Child and Family Services Board of Directors***

<b>Celesta Badger</b>	Chairperson
<b>Echo Finlay</b>	Vice Chairperson
<b>Jeannette Brown-Porter</b>	Treasurer
<b>Ethel McKay</b>	Director
<b>Eldon Campbell</b>	Elder
<b>Marguerite Bagley</b>	Ex-officio

## ***Executive Director***

**Margaret Marin**

## ***Executive Management***

<b>Quinton Sanderson</b>	Director of Service
<b>Kisty Argue</b>	Director of Service
<b>Jared Folkerts</b>	Director of Service
<b>Anthea Tomchuk</b>	Executive Assistant

## ***Supervisors***

<b>Nina Crawford</b>	Resource
<b>Denise Tomkins</b>	Intake
<b>Angie Kuzyk</b>	Dauphin Family Services
<b>Stephanie Tokarchuk</b>	Dauphin Family Services
<b>Echo Harkiss</b>	Swan River Family Services
<b>Kayla Pasternak</b>	The Pas/Thompson Family Services
<b>Jolene Reimer</b>	Brandon Family Services
<b>Lindsay Loewen</b>	Portage Family Services
<b>Edgar Moses</b>	CART/Shelters

# ***Board of Directors***



***Celesta Badger***  
(Chair)



***Marguerite Bagley***  
(Ex-Officio)



***Echo Finlay***  
(Vice Chair)



***Ethel McKay***  
(Director)



***Jeannette Brown-Porter***  
(Treasurer/Secretary)



***Eldon Campbell***  
(Elder)



## *Message from President David Chartrand*

*Manitoba Métis Federation*

The Red River Métis have always cared deeply about the health and wellbeing of our children and families. The Red River Métis are among the world leaders in Indigenous child and family services thanks to the vision of our ancestors and Elders and the values they instilled in us and shaped our culture and Nation. Thanks to these values, the importance of staying connected to our family and community has been instilled in us since we were children.

On July 6, 2021, the MMF signed a landmark Métis Self-Government agreement that immediately recognizes the MMF as the National Government of the Red River Métis. This agreement, among other things, acknowledges that our inherent right to self-government includes child and family services and our ability to make laws that relate to the delivery of child and family services. The MMF and Canada are taking steps towards finalizing a modern treaty that uses the July 6, 2021 agreement as a foundation to build upon. This will be a significant next step that will further entrench our collective inherent right of self-government and self-determination over the future of our families.

Indeed, these are exciting times for your Métis Government as we continue the vision of Métis leaders that have come before us. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Michif Child and Family Services Board of Directors, chaired by Chairperson Celesta Badger, and staff, led by Executive Director Maggie Marin, for their hard work and dedication to support your Metis Government as we enter into this new era of child and family services.

I would especially like to thank Minister Mona Buors for her experience, guidance, and leadership she brings to her role as Minister of Métis Child and Family Services.

President David Chartrand,  
*LL.D(hon.), O.M.*





## *Message from the Minister of Métis Child and Family Services*

I am incredibly proud of the Michif Child and Family Services (MCFS) for the work that was undertaken over the past year. MCFS is already renowned across Canada for its ability to provide strong, culturally appropriate services. Over the past year they have been able to continue to grow this reputation. Your Métis Government not only recognizes the MCFS leadership in the field, but appreciates the hard work that it has taken to get to this point.

The Red River Métis have always deeply valued strong connections with our loved ones and communities. We see these values exemplified in the day-to-day commitment made by MCFS, to ensuring our families remain connected to each other. MCFS truly goes above and beyond to ensure that their policies and practices are forward thinking and meet the standards expected by our people.

Thanks to the experience and knowledge of MCFS staff, the MMF is a national leader when it comes to implementing An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

By way of an update, our coordination agreement discussions with Manitoba and Canada are still ongoing as we look to fully return to the Métis people the jurisdiction and authority to care for our children, youth, and families. Every day we are getting closer to completing these discussions and I look forward to implementing our own laws and our own policies that are designed for the Red River Métis, by the Red River Métis.

This progress would not be possible without the dedication of the MCFS staff, led by Executive Director Margaret Marin. I sincerely thank each and every staff person for their hard work and dedication. I would like to also thank Chairperson Celesta Badger and the rest of the MCFS Board of Directors for their guidance and wisdom as we continue moving forward.

Merci,

Mona Buors  
*Minister of Metis CFS*





## *Message from the Chief Executive Officer*

*Metis Child and Family Services Authority*

On behalf of the Metis Child and Family Services Authority and our Board of Directors, I would like to commend the Michif Child and Family Services Agency for their commitment and hard work throughout the 2021-2022 year.

This agency's dedication to Métis children, youth, and families continues to overcome stereotypes of traditional Child and Family Services' models and proves, time and again, that collaborative and family-led practices are the best way to prepare and nurture our youth for their futures.

I would like to thank the dedicated staff at the agency who go above and beyond in providing what our children need, whether that be supporting them at home to enable the continuation of their studies via remote learning, connecting youth to their Métis culture, or giving them the tools to seamlessly transition into adulthood.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Executive Director, Maggie Marin, her management team, and the Board of Directors who work tirelessly on improving the agency's ability to provide child and family services to our children, youth, and families.

Respectfully,

Karla Hildebrand-Eden  
*Chief Executive Officer*







## Message from the Chair

*Michif Child and Family Services*

Thank you for your interest in the Michif Child and Family Services 2021-2022 Annual Report. I had the honor of volunteering on the Michif Board of Directors since it started in 2011, and have learned so much in regard to how the Child and Family Services system works, how the Manitoba Métis Government sought a better vision of care for its children, families, and communities, and how the front line workers dedicate themselves to keeping families together. The hope that there would not be a need for a child and family services system is still an important goal to keep, but we need to recognize that trauma and lost culture have contributed to the large number of children in care. The Michif Agency has a strong leadership team who work towards restoring the health of our families.

As Chairperson of this Board for many years, I worked closely with my fellow Board of Directors and Maggie Marin, Executive Director. I have heard the needs and concerns that were brought forward by our people. I offer my sincere gratitude to Maggie and her team for the difficult work they do every day. I want to add a heartfelt recognition to the kinship and care homes that keep children safe while work is being done to reconnect families.

I want to acknowledge the Manitoba Métis Government, President David Chartrand, Minister Mona Buors, Métis Child and Family Services, and the Metis Child and Family Services Authority, for always advocating for Children and Families and keeping the Métis culture strong.

Celesta Badger,  
*Chair Michif CFS Agency*  
*Representative Northwest Region*



## Message from the Executive Director

*Michif Child and Family Services*

2022 marks the tenth year anniversary of Michif Child and Family Services. This past decade brought significant changes to how we deliver child and family services to our Métis communities in northern and western Manitoba.

In the preceding nine years, we have made a dramatic impact on so many of our children's lives. Some of the most notable achievements included the passing of Bill C-92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, which affirms and recognizes indigenous communities' jurisdiction over child and family services. In partnership with Métis CFS, Michif will be joining the 1000 Futures project, focusing on improving outcomes for children in ongoing care in selected areas. As part of this, every child in ongoing care will have a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) set up and funded through federal grants. Finally, the Métis CART (Community Addiction Response Team) pilot was made a permanent program enabling the Agency to continue supporting families in our communities.

These achievements have laid the foundation for our agency leading up to 2022 and we will continue to move forward in new initiatives and programs that meet the needs of families. In this past year, we have made it a priority to focus on transition. Change is hard for many, and we can leave impacts that can last a lifetime. Many of our initiatives were designed to ease the stress of change, and help families and children transition to new chapters in their lives, wherever they may be on their journey.

All these changes would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Michif staff. Their commitment and support guides the way to a brighter future for children and youth. MCFS looks forward to continuing to improve the Métis Child and Family system so that future generations may flourish with the support of a system that will fit the needs of the families in our Red River Métis communities.

A very special thank you to Chair Celesta Badger, who served with us for 10 years, and the current Board of Directors. The commitment and hard work of both has helped to reassure all of us that we are on the correct path in our journey to provide services to the families and children of our communities.

Thank you to the leadership of our Métis Government: President Chartrand and Minister Mona Buors. I would also like to thank the leadership of Karla Hildebrand-Eden and Desiree Gillespie at the Metis Child and Family Services Authority for their continued support throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Maggie Marin  
Executive Director



# Michif Program Summary

## Family Services

Growth, development, and innovation have been pillars of the Family Services team throughout the past ten years. We've expanded our service region to include the Southern area of the province, which has led to the establishment of two additional sub-offices located in Portage la Prairie and Brandon.

As our Agency continued to grow, so did our practice and how we serve families and children. As we position ourselves to walk alongside families, we continue to value the importance of familial connections and relationships. The goal of Family Services is to support and strengthen families while ensuring child safety. By partnering with families, we continue to honour our guiding principles to engage Métis families and communities to ensure they have a voice and are heard.

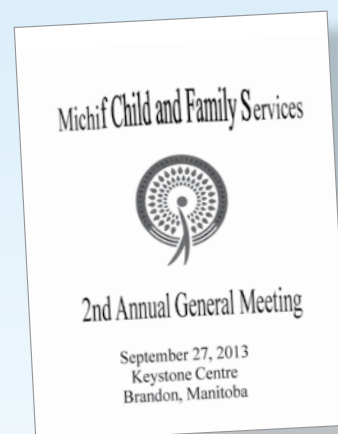
Some highlights across regions include:

- An increase in kinship placements
- Children in care reconnecting with their families and developing lifelong connections
- Honouring childrens' stories through LifeBooks
- An increase in family network meetings to ensure the safety and well-being of children through family decision making
- Streamlining processes which allow staff to spend more time with their families

Family Services can be described as 'hard and heart' work, however, we are grateful to have partnerships within our communities and from within our own Agency.

## Intake Unit - Designated Intake Agency

Our Afterhours program has changed from using direct service workers during fields to our Afterhours Coordinators, as well as dayside Family Service Workers and Intake Workers who choose to pick up extra afterhours shifts. This change ensures that our families are being provided with the best service by staff that are fully trained in assessing child protection concerns and fielding to those emergency situations that do occur.



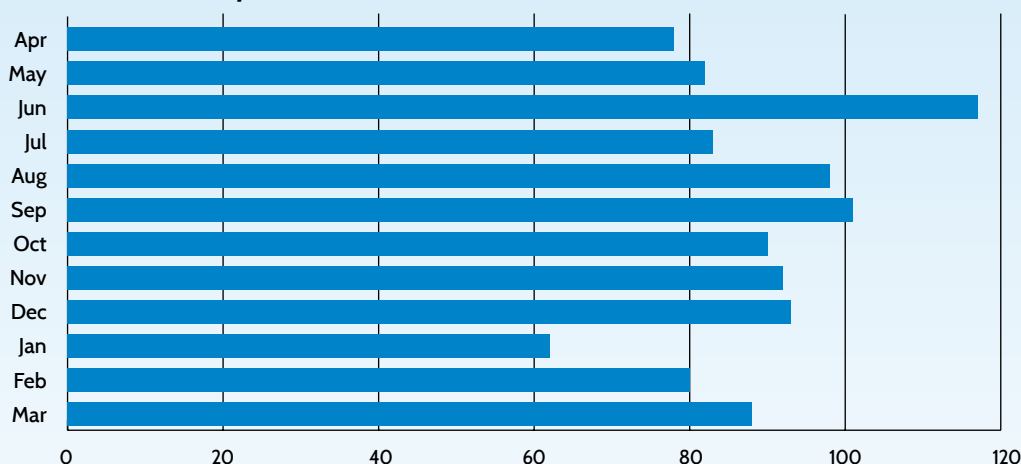
The Intake Unit has also seen the addition of a Child Abuse Coordinator position who is responsible for conducting child abuse investigations for our Designated Intake Agency (DIA) and across our ongoing service offices, as well as running the Child Abuse Committee. This worker receives training specific to child abuse investigations and child interviews and is a valuable resource for the agency. Two Intake Workers have also recently completed a child abuse training program and are able to assist the Child Abuse Coordinator in conducting child abuse investigations. The Intake Unit is working towards having all Intake Workers fully trained to conduct child abuse investigations. This will enable the agency to respond to allegations of abuse across our service region without delay.

MCFS, as an agency has a strong focus on building our families supports within their extended family units and their community. This enables our family's to engage with their networks of support and rely on them during times of need. Our Intake Unit supports this by starting this process during intake involvement. Intake workers begin this process of talking with family's about their supports, identifying existing supports and with permission bringing them into conversations around safety planning. By doing this it is the goal of the agency to ensure the safety of children without removing them from this extended network of support. By utilizing this approach the agency has seen a decrease in children brought into agency care.

The Intake Unit as a whole strives to be consistent in meeting agency and provincial standards while responding and engaging with our families in a respectful way that allows us to build connections in our communities and trust with the families we serve. As Intake Workers are a first point of contact for families with Child and Family Services, it is imperative this contact is one that accurately represents the beliefs and values of MCFS and is always lead by respect for the families and children that we serve.



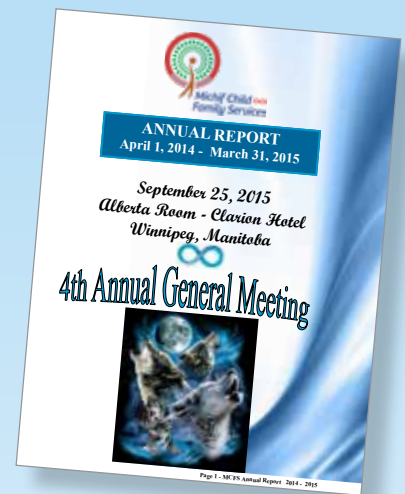
### ***Intake Volume: April 2021 - March 2022***



## Family Enhancement

The Family Enhancement (FE) program currently has staff in Dauphin and Brandon. There is an open vacancy in The Pas and we hope to create a fourth position in Portage la Prairie in the next year. The FE workers are beginning to identify programs that they can run for families within our regions. They have begun doing presentations with all Family Service units within the Agency to provide awareness of the program and the support and services that they offer.

Reflecting back on the last 10 years, and the development of our Family Enhancement program, Michif CFS has strived to prioritize prevention work and service delivery for our families. The Family Enhancement unit has been busy with developing our service delivery guidelines, and how to best meet the needs of the families that we work alongside, utilizing a prevention lens. Our intent with this unit is to ensure that services offered to families is program based and family-centred. We are excited about the upcoming training opportunities for Family Enhancement workers, such as Circle of Security training, which will enhance the skills of parents involved with our agency, with a focus on trauma informed parenting and healthy attachment. This team is motivated and excited to move forward with further program development, and have been goal setting in order to do this effectively and efficiently.



## Shelters

The shelters have undergone tremendous changes within the last two years. With the relocation of Sunrise House to Brandon, children and youth are having a lot more access to resources. Staff in all three facilities are focused on supporting every child to make them comfortable and respected. Children participate in their menu planning, activity planning and efforts to keep the shelter environment clean. Youth at the shelters are encouraged to learn life skills for use after their time with the Agency has ended.

While there has been a challenge to fill Child and Youth Care Worker Positions within the Dauphin area, collaboration between staff from Dauphin and those from Brandon help to ensure continuity of service, quality care and supports to the children and youth. Both teams have worked together to make the shelters meet the highest licensing standards possible while making them feel like home for the children.

Child and Youth Care Workers received additional relevant trainings from the LINKS Institute following a grant given to the Agency. This training has enhanced staff knowledge in terms of being more trauma-informed and in understanding the concepts of harm reduction, food safety, Aboriginal health, and cultural awareness among others.



## Michif Spirit

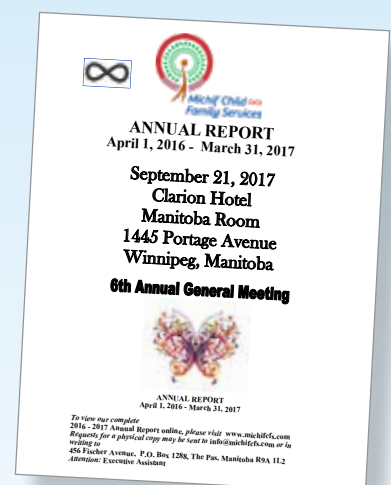
We continue to have one Michif Spirit Worker based out of the Portage la Prairie region. Discussion has occurred with the MMF regarding a second worker to be based in the Parkland area, but no formal agreements have been made. For this fiscal year, the MMF has changed how we access funding for the program. Proposals are made to Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) instead of Indigenous Skills & Employment Training (ISET). Over the last several years, the program's effectiveness and service delivery has demonstrated continued growth. There are currently 38 Youth connected to the Michif Spirit program receiving support. Feedback from participants show their gratitude for having a connection point as they transition out of agency care into adulthood. This can be an overwhelming period, and the program creates a more person-centred transition. Our Michif Spirit Worker continues to assist youth with cultural connections, accessing resources including those offered by the MMF, awareness building about the Tuition Waiver program, and additional needs such as income, housing, and accessing identification documents.



## The CART Program

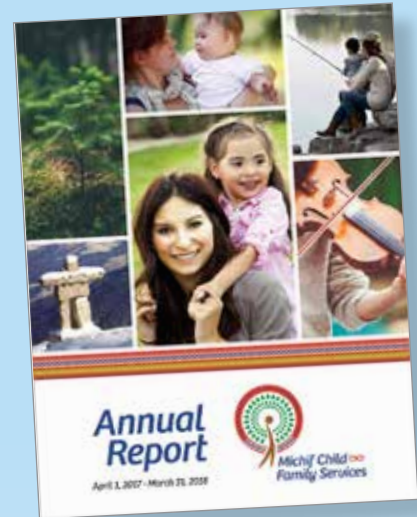
The CART program has supported families in remaining together while parents are receiving supports for mental health and addictions challenges that perpetuate child protection concerns. The program has helped families receive expedited mental health and addictions supports, which has resulted in decreased wait times for families accessing supports. With a focus on collaboration with families and safety planning, children have safely remained in the care of their parents while the parents access supports. Out of a total of 34 families and 144 children since the start of the program, 92.8% of children remained supported in their parental homes, and 100% of the children requiring placement outside of the home were able to be placed with their extended family.

CART case managers prioritize connecting more with families and working collaboratively to formulate solutions. The CART peer mentor has been a significant support for families by providing hope for recovery, empathy and, encouraging the self-determination of parents while fostering lifelong learning and personal growth. Having the tripartite addictions, mental health and family services under one roof enabled swift problem solving, increased coordination between service providers, and more ideas for prevention supports for families.



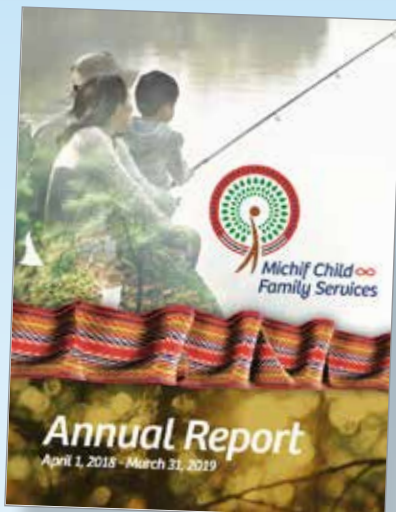
## Michif Connect

We have one Michif Connect Worker who has had many successes connecting families. Family meetings have been held that have helped to heal relationships and re-open the lines of communication between family members. Additionally, siblings have been found and connected that were previously unknown to each other. Children have also been connected to many additional supports and living options through identifying and networking with paternal family members. As a result, stronger family support networks are developing and more children are staying with their families. There are also positive outcomes of children leaving foster care and the shelters to safely reside with family members, where they belong.



## Direct Service Workers

Direct Service Workers (DSWs) have a pertinent role in supporting children and families with transportation, visit support, and one-to-one work. We continue to work toward building the number of DSWs hired by our agency, with a focus on skill set and lived experience, in order to meet the needs of our families. Looking at the evolution of the program, there has been an identified need for understanding of how they fit into agency structure, and how we can ensure this role is consistent and concise. It is evident that DSWs have a crucial role in ensuring that family connections and relationships continue for families and children involved with our agency. For this reason, further growth for this unit will focus on a more collaborative approach between case managers and DSWs, placing value and emphasis on this role.



## Agency Day

Zoom Agency Day took place in June 2021. We are looking forward to an in-person Agency Day scheduled in 2022. Congratulations to the staff celebrating their milestone of years of service.

### 5 Years of Service

Brenda Edwards

Dennis Gosselin

### 10 Years of Service

Christine Martin

Daphne Kopecky

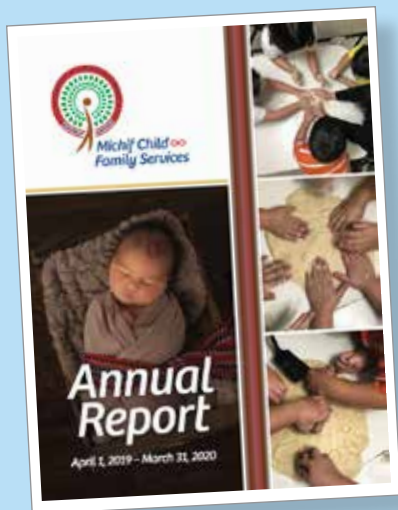
Pam Harrigan

### 15 Years of Service

Camille Giesbrecht







## Youth Celebration

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic - we were unable to host a Youth Celebration this year. We look forward to being able to gather again next year to celebrate the youth on their journey into adulthood.



## Comfort Kits

Michif CFS received more grant funding from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada's Ted and Loretta Rogers Foster Care Comfort Kit Program, which provides Comfort Kits for children and youth entering Agency care. These Comfort Kits consist of a variety of items that help support children's well-being, safety, and sense of security.



Here is some feedback received from Agency staff after providing Comfort Kits:

H, age 4: "The Comfort Kit made a difference as H came into care with nothing. H loves colouring, toys and learning and was able to have items that she really enjoyed."

B, age 8: "B was happy with the clothing items, the warm blanket, and the hygiene. B told the foster parent that she is still grieving the loss of her father and the Comfort Kit lifted her spirits and made her smile. She thanks the Agency for the kind gesture."





## Feature Story: From Our Youth



I was placed in foster care when I was only five years old. Being in foster care was hard for me because of how close I was to my Mom.

I was in foster care for 13 years and it definitely wasn't easy. Within those 13 years, I was placed in eight different homes and shelters. Staying in these homes and shelters wasn't always the best for me and even though there were ups and downs, I still made it through. Therefore I am proud of myself.

Through some of the tough times in foster care, I struggled with anxiety and depression. I was sad at a young age being separated from family. When I was 17, I was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. When I was diagnosed I felt crushed, I felt I wasn't normal. Since being diagnosed, I've learned to accept that I have Bipolar Disorder and my diagnosis doesn't mean that I am not a normal person.

When I aged out of care in late 2020, I was placed in a shared home under CLDS. In this shared home I had a mentor who helped guide me into living independently. I lived in the shared home for a year and a half. Also while living there I worked at Asessippi Ski Area and Resort for two winter seasons. I had so much fun working there! I now live in Brandon in my own apartment and on my own.

I am currently attending post secondary studies at Systems Beauty College Hairstyling School and I am loving it! I've always enjoyed doing hair, and I have wanted to be a hairstylist since the age of 13.

The Youth Spirit Program with Michif CFS has been a great support for me. Myrna Lavallée, Youth Spirit Worker, has worked with me to help secure post secondary education funding which I received from the Manitoba Métis Federation MET Department.

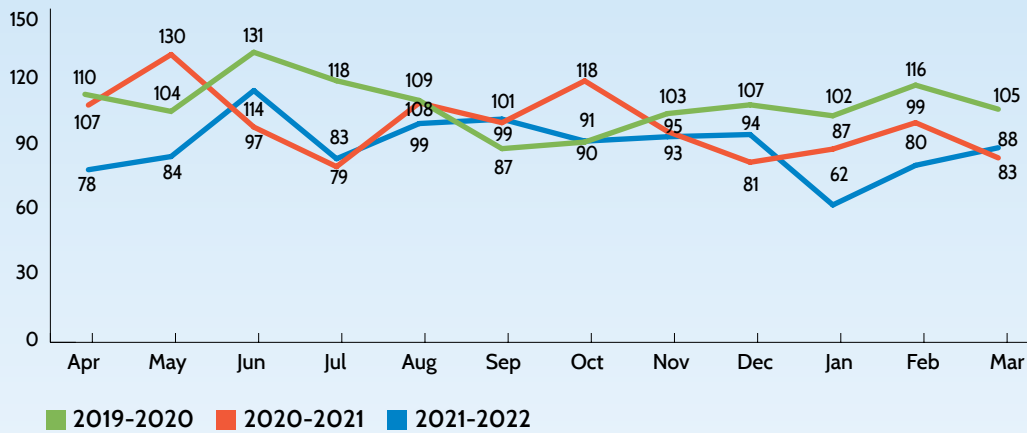
My future goals are to graduate college and find a salon where I can do my two-year hairstyling apprenticeship. Accomplishing these goals will lead me to earning my Red Seal License for hairstyling. My end goal is to have my own home salon once I build up a large clientele.

I am very thankful to the people and programs whose support made it possible for me to attend college.

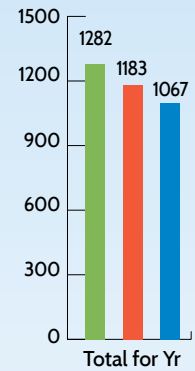
Keasha

# Agency Statistics

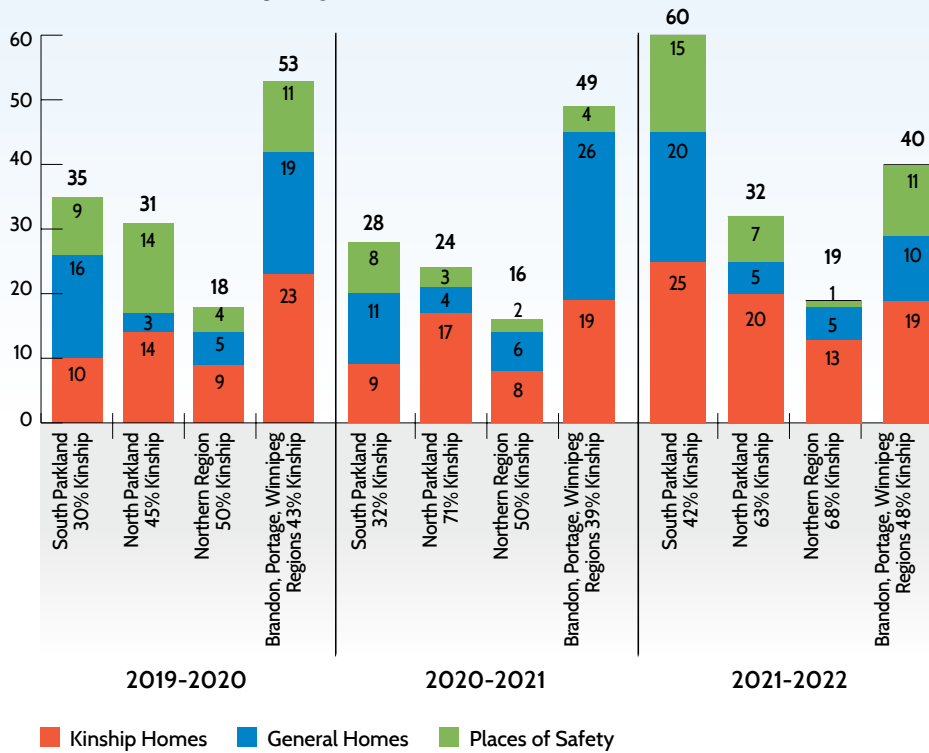
## Intake Volumes: By Month



## Annually

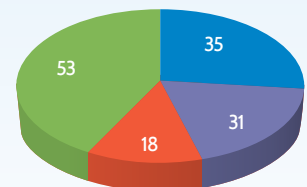


## Foster Care: By Region and Placement

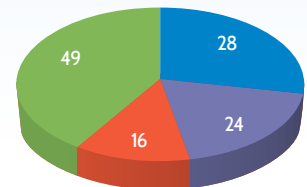


South Parkland = Dauphin  
 North Parkland = Swan River  
 Northern Region = The Pas & Thompson  
 Brandon, Portage, Wpg Regions = Self Explanatory

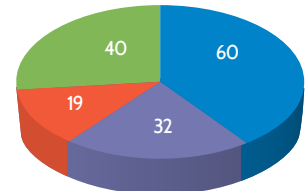
## Total By Region



2019-2020: Total 137



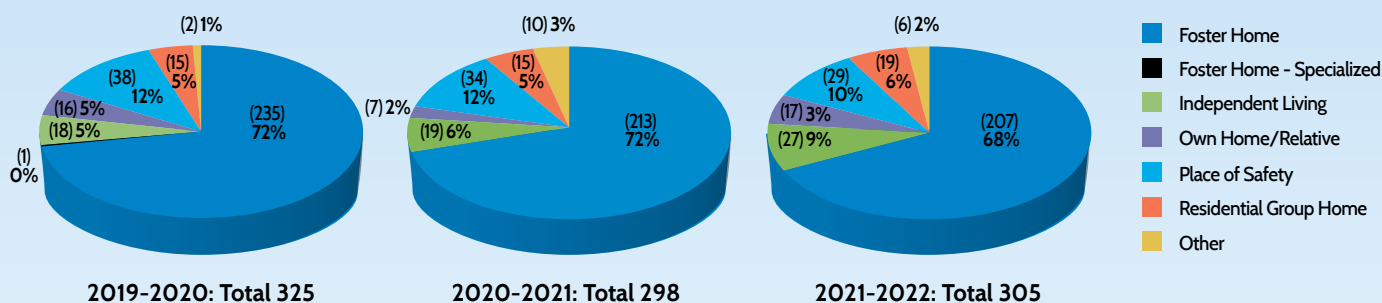
2020-2021: Total 117



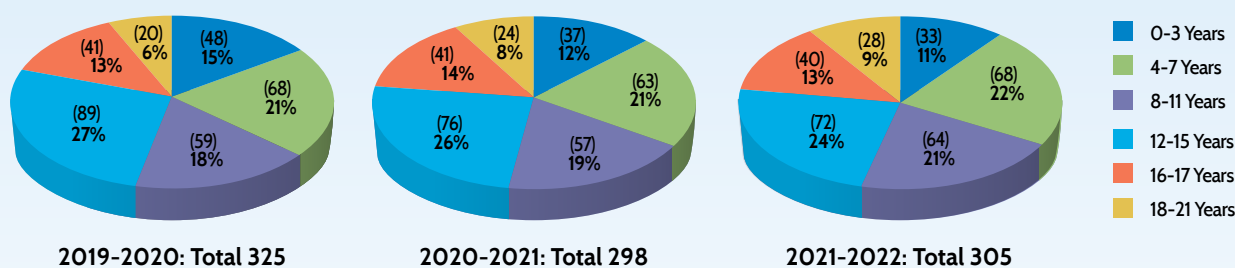
2021-2022: Total 151

South Parkland  
 North Parkland  
 Northern Region  
 Brandon, Portage, Winnipeg Regions

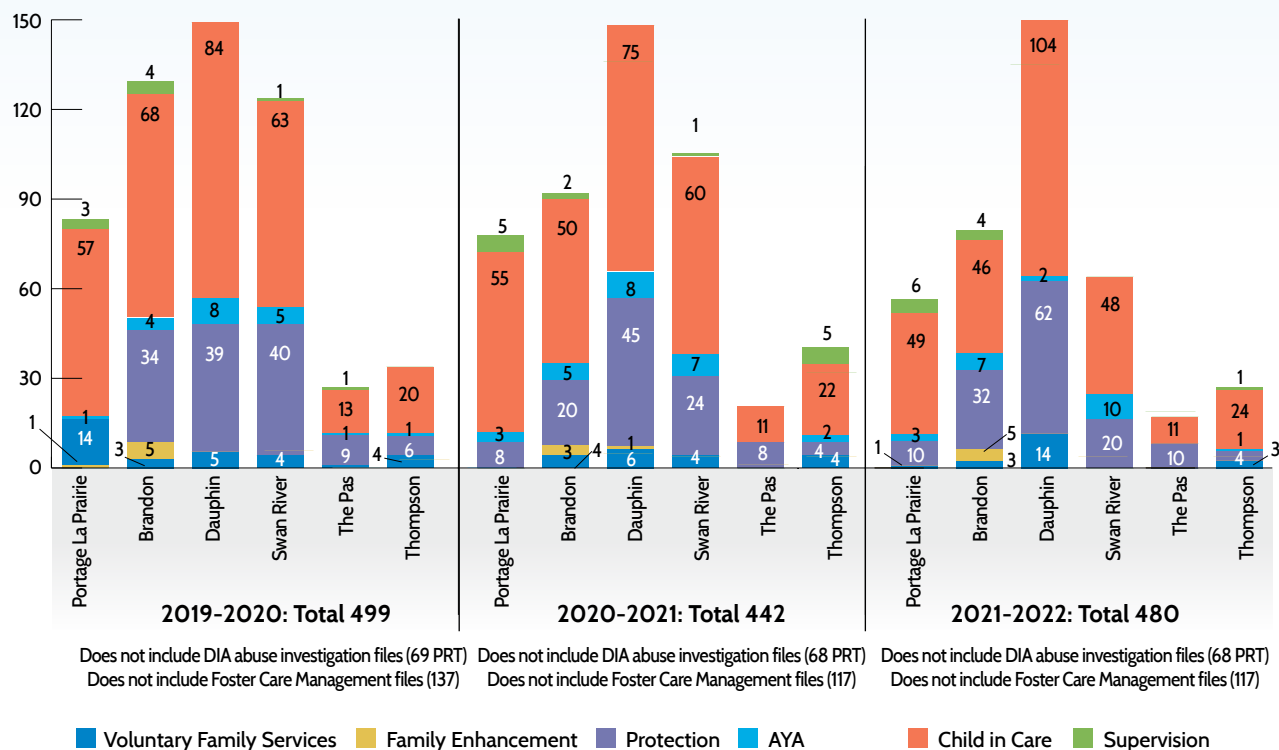
## Children in Care: By Placement



## Children in Care: By Age



## Case Count: By Region and Case Type





# Agency Events

## CIC Camp



## Orange Shirt Day



## Halloween



## Unit Pictures

Brandon Unit



Dauphin Unit



Intake Unit



# Acknowledgements

Michif Child and Family Services would like to acknowledge the following donors for their support of our special events, such as our Children's Christmas parties, Youth celebrations, and Agency Day. Our events would not be a success without the incredible contributions from the following:

## **Government**

City of Brandon  
City of Dauphin  
Manitoba Advocate for Youth and Children  
YES (Youth Employment Services)

## **Agency**

Back to the Land grant - Children's Aid Foundation of Canada  
Community Cooler Food Bank - Portage La Prairie  
Manitoba Métis Federation - Training and Employment  
MMF - Brandon Regional  
MMF Local - Portage la Prairie  
Métis CFS Authority  
Northwest Metis Council  
Salvation Army - Portage La Prairie  
Ted and Loretta Rogers Foster Care Comfort Kit Program -  
Children's Aid Foundation of Canada  
The Dauphin Friendship Centre

## **Education**

The Louis Riel Institute Assiniboine Community College  
Red River Community College (Portage La Prairie Campus)  
University of Brandon

## **Business**

Cochrane Saxberg Barristers & Solicitors  
Co-op - Dauphin  
Co-op - Portage La Prairie  
Courtney's Cake Creation - Brandon  
Etchiboy's  
McDonald's - Brandon  
McDonald's - Dauphin  
Miljeans Floral and Gift Shop - Portage La Prairie  
Olina's Floral Shoppe - Portage la Prairie  
Pizza Hotline - Portage la Prairie  
Pizza Hut - Portage La Prairie  
Portage la Prairie Golf Course - Sue Anderson  
Safeway  
Tim Hortons  
Twin Motors of Dauphin  
Western Bakery



**Michif Child ∞  
Family Services**

*email: [info@michifcfs.com](mailto:info@michifcfs.com)  
[www.michifcfs.com](http://www.michifcfs.com)*

## **Offices**

### **Dauphin**

505 Main St S  
Dauphin, MB R7N 1L3  
204-638-7896  
Resource Office: 204-622-3520  
202 Main St S  
Toll Free Intake: 1-866-834-4242

### **The Pas**

Box 1288; 456 Fischer Ave  
The Pas, MB R9A 1L2  
204-627-2060  
Toll Free: 1-877-257-4972 or  
1-855-627-2060

### **Thompson**

309-83 Churchill Dr  
Thompson, MB R8N 0L6  
204-677-0120  
Toll Free: 1-877-257-4972

### **Swan River**

605 Main St  
Swan River, MB R0L 1Z0  
204-734-3927  
Toll Free: 1-877-676-7920

### **Brandon**

141 Rosser Ave  
Brandon, MB R7A 0J6  
204-727-8540

### **Portage La Prairie**

27 Royal Rd S  
Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 1T8  
204-239-8720



Love | Respect | Honour | Strength | Heritage



[www.michifcfs.com](http://www.michifcfs.com)