



-  1 (800) 263-7146
-  [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca)
-  346 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB

MANITOBA ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES 2019 - 2020

# MANITOBA ADVOCATE

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

ANNUAL REPORT  
2019 - 2020



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The mandate of the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth extends throughout the province of Manitoba and we therefore travel and work on a number of treaty areas. Our offices in Southern Manitoba are on Treaty 1 land and our Northern office is on Treaty 5 land. The services we provide to children, youth, young adults and their families extend throughout the province and throughout Treaty areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10, which are the traditional territories of Anishnaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Ojibwe and Dene peoples, and the beautiful homeland of the Metis nation.

The Manitoba Advocate is committed to the principles of decolonization and reconciliation and strives to contribute in meaningful ways to improve the lives of all children, youth and young adults, but especially the lives of First Nations, Metis and Inuit young people, who continue to be disproportionately impacted by systemic inequalities and other barriers in our communities.

**With a commitment to social justice and through a rights-based lens, we integrate the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the national *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action* into our practice.**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	Message from the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth	78	Quality Assurance
15	Executive Summary	88	Service Plan Report
20	About the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth	90	Strategic Plan and Outcomes
28	Annual Report Theme: “Amplifying Youth Voices”	96	2019-20 Financial Report
30	Overview of Key Initiatives	97	Our Team
37	Advocacy Services	99	We Were There!
49	Youth Engagement		
54	Public Education Program		
59	Investigations Program		
73	The Research Hub		

[For more information on the Youth Engagement program, see the Annual Report Companion Document.](#)





# ADVOCATE'S MESSAGE



**Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW**

Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth

I love working for kids. I have the privilege of coming to work everyday and listening to the stories, the voices, and the opinions of children and youth. My energy is spent on advocating for them, amplifying their voices, and supporting their needs, so they feel safe, protected, and valued. Children and youth have much to say and as adults, we need to listen to their thoughts and ideas whenever we make decisions that affect their lives. Indeed, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12, states that children have a right to be heard by adults and to have their opinions considered in any matter that affects them. In Manitoba, systems that

accept public money to deliver services to children and youth have a responsibility to seek out input from young people. Are children and youth impacted by what you do? If so, are you asking for their ideas? Do you know what they think of your organization?

As independent advocates for young people, my staff and I hear from children and youth every day about their experiences with government departments and non-governmental organizations. While some services are examples of excellence in youth engagement and in being responsive to the needs of youth, others continue to have barriers and obstacles to young people feeling heard and supported. Ensuring entrance criteria or program rules that make it easier for children and youth to access or complete programs also improves effectiveness of a program or organization. For services to be child centered, they must be available to children when and where they need them.



Our office regularly reflects on our own systems, policies, and procedures and which ones lift up and benefit the young people we have the privilege of serving. We know that as an advocacy organization we need to continue our own listening and learning about best ways to care and support children, youth, young adults, and their families. Youth engagement is an active process and we know we need to continue moving towards improved excellence in all areas. Some of the ways we are doing this are through launching a service satisfaction survey; continuously consulting with our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!); and by regularly inviting children, youth, and their families to provide feedback to us about how they feel we met their needs when they asked us for help. If you want to know more about these measures or offer us feedback, I invite you to contact our office: [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca).

Children and youth have a right to understand their options, which organizations are involved, and to speak their minds about services they need. We are often asked by organizations to attend service planning meetings and sometimes arrive to discover the youth at the centre of the plan has not been invited to attend or participate in the meeting. Children and youth have a right to be involved in planning that affects them. As one youth recently said to me: “No more planning about us without us!”

Engaging and including youth can take longer and may need special considerations. Often, additional time and materials may be required to ensure young people can participate meaningfully during service planning. This is true whether the discussion is in regards to

their own life, or more generally about the services that are offered by an organization or department to young people. Some practical ideas include establishing youth advisory tables; asking youth to review and audit printed or online materials; offering honoraria for participating youth; ensuring youth have safe rides to meetings and back home again; setting meetings at times and locations convenient for the young person; and holding pre-meetings with young people so they understand the issues and why several organizations will be coming together to discuss their life circumstances.

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth office is the place where all young people under the age of 21 can find support, as can their families. Our formal advocacy mandate includes a wide range of services and public systems: child welfare, adoption, education, mental health, addiction, disabilities, justice, and victim supports (including sexual exploitation and domestic violence supports). However, even if the challenge a child or youth is facing falls outside of that list, our office may still be able to provide advocacy support in other, informal ways.

As Manitoba’s Advocate for Children and Youth, my message to all young people is that my team and I are here to listen to you, help you figure out your options, and then support you so you can feel safe, loved, and valued, as we advocate for you to have your needs met. If you have a question, a problem, an idea, or a suggestion, I invite you to contact us and give us the opportunity to hear your story, and I invite all Manitobans to join us in moving Manitoba towards a more child-centred province where every young voice is heard.

# MESSAGE DE LA PROTECTRICE DU MANITOBA



**Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW**

La protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba

J'adore travailler pour les enfants. J'ai le privilège de venir au travail tous les jours et d'écouter les histoires, les voix et les opinions d'enfants et de jeunes. Je dépense mon énergie à défendre leur cause, à amplifier leurs voix et à répondre à leurs besoins pour qu'ils se sentent en sécurité, protégés et valorisés. Les enfants et les jeunes ont beaucoup à dire et, comme adultes, nous devons les écouter chaque fois que nous prenons des décisions qui ont un impact sur leurs vies. De fait, selon l'article 12 de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant, l'enfant a le droit d'être entendu par les adultes et son opinion doit être prise en considération sur toute question le concernant. Au Manitoba, les systèmes qui acceptent des deniers publics pour offrir des services aux enfants et aux jeunes se doivent

de demander l'avis de ces enfants et de ces jeunes. Est-ce que ce que vous avez faites un impact sur eux? Si c'est le cas, est-ce que vous sollicitez leurs opinions? Savez-vous ce qu'ils pensent de votre organisation?

À titre de protecteurs indépendants des jeunes, mon personnel et moi-même entendons tous les jours les enfants et les jeunes nous raconter leurs expériences avec les ministères et les organisations non gouvernementales. Bien que certains services soient des exemples d'excellence pour ce qui est de faire participer les jeunes et de répondre à leurs besoins, d'autres ont encore en place des obstacles qui empêchent les jeunes de se sentir écoutés et soutenus. En faisant en sorte que les critères d'admission ou les règles d'un programme aident les enfants et les jeunes à bénéficier du programme ou à le terminer, on améliore aussi l'efficacité du programme ou de l'organisation. Pour que les services soient axés sur l'enfant, ils doivent être accessibles aux enfants quand et là où ils en ont besoin.



Nous nous interrogeons régulièrement sur nos propres systèmes, politiques et procédures, et sur ceux qui profitent aux jeunes que nous avons le privilège de servir. Nous savons qu'à titre d'organisation de défense des droits, il nous faut nous-mêmes continuer d'être à l'écoute et d'apprendre les meilleures façons de prendre soin des enfants, des adolescents, des jeunes adultes et de leurs familles. La mobilisation des jeunes est un processus dynamique et nous savons que nous devons continuer à aller de l'avant et à nous améliorer encore plus dans tous les secteurs. Nous faisons cela notamment en lançant une enquête sur la satisfaction à l'égard de nos services, en consultant constamment notre groupe consultatif de jeunes ambassadeurs (YAAS!) et en invitant régulièrement les enfants, les jeunes et leurs familles à nous dire si nous répondons à leurs besoins quand ils nous demandent de l'aide. Si vous voulez en savoir plus sur ces mesures ou nous faire des commentaires, je vous invite à nous contacter à : [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca).

Les enfants et les jeunes ont le droit de comprendre leurs options, de savoir quelles organisations sont impliquées et de s'exprimer librement sur les services dont ils ont besoin. Les organisations nous demandent souvent d'assister aux réunions de planification de services et découvrons parfois que le jeune au centre du plan n'a pas été invité à assister ou à participer à la réunion. Les enfants et les jeunes ont le droit de participer au travail de planification qui les concerne. Comme l'un d'entre eux me l'a dit récemment : « Plus de planification nous concernant sans nous! »

Faire appel aux jeunes et les inclure peut prendre plus de temps et nécessite parfois de prendre en compte des considérations spéciales. Souvent, plus de temps et de documentation sont nécessaires pour que les jeunes participent véritablement à la planification des services. Cela est vrai, que la discussion porte sur leur propre vie ou, plus généralement, sur les services

offerts aux jeunes par une organisation ou un ministère. Dans la pratique, on peut par exemple former des comités consultatifs de jeunes, demander aux jeunes d'examiner et de vérifier la documentation imprimée ou en ligne, offrir une rémunération aux jeunes qui participent, veiller à ce que les jeunes se rendent aux réunions et rentrent chez eux en toute sécurité, organiser les réunions à des heures et dans des endroits qui conviennent aux jeunes et tenir des réunions préalables avec eux pour qu'ils comprennent les questions qui seront abordées et sachent pourquoi plusieurs organisations seront présentes pour discuter de leurs circonstances personnelles.

Le Bureau de la protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba est l'endroit où tous les jeunes de moins de 21 ans peuvent obtenir un soutien, tout comme leurs familles. Notre mandat officiel inclut toute une gamme de services et de systèmes publics : protection des enfants, adoption, éducation, santé mentale, lutte contre la toxicomanie, services aux enfants handicapés, justice et aide aux victimes (y compris le soutien aux victimes d'exploitation sexuelle et de violence familiale). Toutefois, même si les difficultés d'un enfant ou d'un jeune ne relèvent pas des domaines de cette liste, nous pouvons peut-être lui offrir un soutien sous d'autres formes informelles.

À titre de protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba, je tiens à dire à tous les jeunes que notre équipe est là pour vous écouter, pour vous aider à décider de vos options et ensuite pour vous soutenir afin que vous vous sentiez en sécurité, aimés et valorisés lorsque nous plaignons pour que vos besoins soient satisfaits. Si vous avez une question, un problème, une idée ou une suggestion, je vous invite à nous contacter et à nous donner la possibilité d'entendre votre histoire, et j'invite tous les Manitobains à se joindre à nous pour faire du Manitoba une province davantage axée sur les enfants et où la voix de chaque jeune est entendue.

# WIINDAMAAGEWIN ONJI MANITOBA ADVOCATE GAA- GIIGIDOOTAMAAGED



**Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW**

Manitoba gaa-giigidootamawaad  
abinoojiya' zhigwa oshki-ayaa

Niminwendaan anokiitamawagwaa abinoojiyag. Ningichi-inendaan endaso-giizhig ji-bi-anokiiyaan, ji-bi-bizindawagwaa, ayikidowaad, aaniin gaye enendamowaad abinoojiyag zhigwa oshki-ayaag. Mii dash enanokiiyaan giigidootamawagwaa, ji-noondawindwaa, wiji'agwaa endawendamowaad, ji-naagaji'indwaa ji-gotaajisigwaa ningoji, ji-gichi-inenimindwaaban gaye. Niibowa gegoon odayaanaawaa' abinoojiyag zhigwa oshki-ayaag gegoo noonde-inaawaad gichi-aya'aa, mii dash ji-bizindawangwaa aaniin ayinendamowaad aaniin ji-doodawangwaa obimaadiziwiniwaan. Iwe United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12, ikidoomagad gichi-aya'aag ji-bizindawaapan abinoojiya' aaniin gaye enendaminid

gegoo wii-izhichigaanindwaa. Omaa Manitoba, zhooniyaa gaa-miigiweng ji-wiji'indwaaban abinoojiyag zhigwa oshki-ayaag, onjida ji-bizindawaawaad ini oshki-ayaag. Gegoo na izhi-doodawaawag abinoojiyag zhigwa oshki-ayaag aaniin ezhichigeyan? Giishin geget, gigagwejimaag ina aaniin ayinendamowaad? Gigikendaan ina aaniin enendamowaad gaa-dananokiiyan?

Awiya nishike-giigidootamawagwaa oshki-ayaag, gaa-wiidanokiimagwaa ninoondawaanaanig abinoojiyag zhigwa oshki-ayaag endaso-giizhig aaniin ayizhiwebiziwaad bebakaan gaa-naagaji'igoowaad onji anokiiwinan. Aaniin gaa-izhi-wiji'indwaa minosewag ji-dagwiiwaad oshki-ayaag wegonen ji-izhi-wiji'indwaaban, aanind idash wiji'iwewinan ogibishkaagonaawaa' ji-bizindawindwaaban, ji-wiji'indwaaban gaye. Ji-onachigaadeg

nawach ji-wendak gegoon wiiji'iwewinan  
abinoojiyag zhigwa oshki-ayaag ji-  
ondiziwaapan, mii gaye nawach ji-minosegiban  
ini izhichigewinan gaa-dazhiikigaadegin.  
Ji-niigaan asindwaa abinoojiyag, ji-onategin  
aanapii, aandi gaye ji-wiiji'indwaaban.

Gaa-dananokiiyaang, ozhisewan  
izhichigewinan, onaakonigewinan zhigwa  
gegoon nawach ge-wiiji'igowaapan oshki-  
ayaag gaa-minoseyaang ji-wiiji'angwaa.  
Ningikendaamin gaa-giigidootamaageyaang  
bizaanigo ji-ani-bizinjigeyaang, ji-  
gikendamaang gaye aaniin ge-izhi-minoseg  
ji-wiiji'angwaa abinoojiyag, oshki-ayaag,  
oshki-gichi-ayaag, zhigwa enawemaawaad.  
Ji-dagwiawaad oshki-ayaag, ningikendaamin  
gaye ani-niigaan nawach ji-mino-  
onatoowaang gegoon miziwe. Bezhiqwewig  
ezhi-doodamaang owe, onatoowaang  
zagakibii'igewin; daabida gagwejimangidwaa  
igi Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!)  
gaa-inindwaa; apiichinaag andomangwaa  
abinoojiyag, oshki-ayaag, enawemaawaad  
gaye, ji-wiindamaagoowaang aaniin  
enendamowaad gaa-izhi-wiiji'angwaa  
apii gagwejimangidwaa. Giishin noonde-  
gikendaman ono izhichigewinan,  
gema gego noonde-ikidoyan,  
ganoonzhishinaam endananokiiyaang  
: info@manitobaadvocate.ca:

Ji-gikendamowaapan abinoojiyag zhigwa  
oshki-ayaag aaniin ge-izhichigaanindwaaban,  
awenena' ge-wiiji'igowaapan, ji-ikidowaapan  
gaye aaniin ji-izhi-wiiji'indwaaban. Daabida  
ningagwejimigoomin ji-wiindabimangwaa  
bebakaan gaa-waawiji'iwewaad, ningoding  
ako oshki-ayaa' gaa-dazhimindwaa imaa  
ayaasigwaa, gema ji-wiindabingewaad. Onjida  
abinoojiyag zhiwa oshki-ayaag ji-dagwiawaad  
gegoo ge-izhichigaanindwaaban. Bezhi  
oshki-ayaa gaa-izhid: "Gaawiin awashime  
ji-onachigezhiyaang, imaa ayaasiwaang!"

Ji-dagwiawaapan oshki-ayaag maagizhaa  
ginwezh daa-noojise, ji-naagadawenjigaadeg  
gegoon. Naanigoding maagizhaa nawach

ginwezh daa-izhise ji-onachigaadegin  
gegoon oshki-ayaag ji-dagwiawaad apii ge-  
izhichigaanindwaaban dazhinjigaadenig.  
Giishin wiinawaa gechiwaag dazhimindwaa  
bemaadiziwaad, gema bebakaan gaa-  
izhi-wiiji'iweng ningoji anokiiwining onji  
gema gaa-wiiji'aawaad oshki-ayaa. Aanind  
inendamooj ji-onabiwaad gewiinawaa  
odadoopiwiiniwaang oshki-ayaag; ji-  
anamitoowaad gegoon dezhanjigaadenigin;  
bangii ji-diba'amawindwaa wiiji'iwewaad;  
ji-izhi-booziwindwaa imaa, ji-  
giwewinindwaa gaye ima onji; niyaag  
ji-wiindabimindwaa oshki-ayaag wegonen  
waa-dazhinjigaadenigin aaniishwiin gaye  
bebakaan awiya waa-onji-bi-izhaawaad ji-  
dazhimindwaa ge-izhichigaanindwaaban.

Iwe Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth  
gaa-inindwaa, mii imaa jibwaa 21 apiitiziwaad  
daa-wiiji'aawag abooshke enawemaawaad.  
Bebakaan nindinasigoomin ji-izhi-  
wiiji'iweyaang bebakaan ji-ondinamaangiban:  
Abinoojiyag omino-ayaawiniwaan,  
ombigi'aawasowin, gikino'amaagewin, mino-  
ayaang inendamowin, adisigoowi, maakiziwin,  
dibaakonigewin zhigwa wiiji'indwaa  
gaa-maanidoodawindwaa (abooshke  
nishibaapizhiwewin, datagokaazhiwewin).  
Giishin dash ji-wiiji'aasiwindwaa omaa,  
ninga-mikaamin gegoo bakaan ji-izhi-  
wiiji'angidwaaban endanokiiyaang onji.

Niinawind Manitoba Advocate for Children  
and Youth egoowaang, niwiindamawaag  
oshki-ayaag, wiidanokiimagwaa omaa giga-  
bizindaagoom, giga-wiiji'igoom aaniin  
ji-izhichigeyaang, aaniin gotanziwan  
gegoon, ji-zaagi'igoowin, ji-gitenimigoowin,  
wiiji'igoowin aaniin igo izhi. Giishpin gegoo  
ayaayan noonde-gikendaman, gegoo  
zanagi'igooyan, gema gegoo ayaayan ge-  
izhi-wiiji'iweseg, ginandom ji-ganoonzhiyaang  
ji-dibaadodaman ayinendaman, ninandomaag  
gakina onji Manitoba eyaawaad omaa  
abinoojiyag ji-onji-naagajichigaazowaad,  
bizindawindwaa gakina ayikidowaad.

# ITWÉWAHITOWIN ANTÉ OCI MANITOBA OTAYAMIHISTAMÁKÉW



**Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW**

Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth

Mitoni é sákihiwénitamacihoian óma é atoskéstamawakik ókik awásisak. É ayáyán pakitinikowin óma kita pé atoskéyán tanto kísikáw éko kita natotamán otácinókéwina, opíkiskwéwina, éko wínowáw ká iténitakik oci kékwána ókik awásisak éko oskátisak. Wésám piko ká tápitawi nócitáyak óma é ayamihistamáwakik ékwánik kita pétákosicik, éko é natamawak óhi kékwána ké isi natawénitakik, wina inikok kita péyatakénimocik, kawisk kita nákcacihicik éka ta wísakáspínaticik nántaw isi éko kito kisténitakosicik. Anikik awásisak éko oskátisak wístawáw kékwána ayáwak éwí nóté wítakik mwéci anikik ininiw ásay kákí kisi opikicik, éko kinatawéniténaw kita natotawáyak óhi kékwána ká iténitakik éko otiténitamowin óma ispík nántaw ká itasowániwak éko wínowáw kita ati pakamiskákocik ékwénik. Tápwé anima, anta United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12, itasinahikátéw éki itasowániwak ókik awásisak kita natotákocik

anikik ininiwa ásay kákí kisi opikinit éko kita natotácik tánisi óma wínowáw éténitakik anihí oci itasowéwin óhi kita ati pakamiskakocik óté níkanik. Óta Manitoba, anihí paminikéwina ká ápaciyácik sóniyáwa éki pakitinimit ékota isi óhi kita paminácik awásisa éko oskátisa wínowáw kita nípwístakik óma ta natonakik óma éténitakik éko táti masinahikáténik ókik kakinaw oskátisak ká itwécik. Anikik awásisak éko oskátisak nántaw ká isi pakimiskákowak óma kákípe itasowéyék? Kísáspin tápwé kikakwécimáwak ná tánisi wínowáw éténitakik? Kikiskéniténáwáw ná tánisi óma éténimikoyékok anima anta ká mámawiyék é itótamék kékwána?

Óma ká péyakókamák é ayamihistamawáyákok óki oskástisak, niwítatoskémákanak éko nína mána miwítamákonáninik ókik awásisak éko oskátisak tanto kísikáw óma kákípe isi wápatatik ési pamihikocik kici-okimáwiwin éko anihí éká kici okimáwiwin ká itakisocik máka taki paminácik kawisk anihí oskástisa. Tápwé wina anihí atit paminikéwina kawisk itótamwak kita wíciyácik awásisa kita itótaminik kita nócitánit kékwána éko wínowáw pakamiskákowak óma ká minwénitamihihikocik ókik oskátisak kita itótakik, éko anikik kotakik óma ká isi nócicikécik takí níkanístakik ocitaw piko tápitawi itasowátamwak óma nántaw kita isi nakáskawácik atit oskátisa éká ékoté kita wícicikénit wéká éká apók ta natotácik wéká kita wícihíciak óma nanátok káwí nóté isicikéstamásocik. Kita kécináhonániwak óma nawac ta wétak ta pítokéhasonániwak óhi kékwána káwí kiskinawámákániwaki wéká itótamonániwaki éko anihí itasowéwina kita méskwatástéki inikok nawac ta wétak tapé itotécik ókik awásisak éko oskátisak inikok kita kísitácik anihí kékwána kákí mácitácik éko mina ékota oci minonákotáwak anikik óma paminakik ká isicikék éko anikik ká mámawícik óma ékosi é isi nócicikécik. Kísáspin ohi paminikéwina awásisak kitakí ápacitácik ta natamákokik piko ité isi, piko tápitaw ta payitépicik ta itotécik ité éko ispík ké natawénitákosicik kita natawi wíciyácik awásisa nántaw pici isi macipanihikoci wéká natawénitam kita wícihit kékwániw oci.

Anima ita ká otatoskéyák nókonwa anihi nínanán ká isi paminikéyák, niwanasowéwináni, éko ká isi itótamak kékwána éko tániwéki ká maskawískakocik éko ta otisicik ókik oskátisak káki pakitinikawiyák kita atoskéstamawáyákok éko kita isicikéstamāwāyakok kékwána kita nócitācik tāpitaw. Nikiskéniténán óma ká māmawi atoskātāmāk é ayamihistamākéyák piko kita tāpitawi natotamāk éko ta kakwé kiskénitamāk tātisi māvaci kékí isi minwāsik ókik kita nākacyāyákok éko kita sítoskamawáyákok ókik oskátisak anikik anohc káki kísikwā apikicik éko anihi wícisāniwāwa. Oskátis kita wícihit kita nócicikék mōna wíkāc pónénitákon éko kinatawéniténānaw tātisi óma kékí isi tāpitawi níkanastāyak anihi kakinaw kékwána ká itótamawáyak awāsissak éko oskátisak kita ati mino wícihisocik óté níkanik. Átit óhi kékwána ékosi ká isi nócitāyák nitāpacitānán anihi ká sákaskinahikátéki kakwécikémo masinahikana māti kawisk ká itótamāk káki isi natotamākāniwak wékā ki kaskitānán ékwani kawisk kita itótamāk, kita tāpitaw wítatoskémāyákok anikik Oskátisak Mino isitisawākanak Owítamākéwa (YAAS!); éko mína é tāpitawi wíkomāyákok ókik awāsissak, oskátisak éko anikik owícéyāmākaniwāwa kitapé wítamākoyákok tātisi óma éténitakik éko étiskākocik óma kákípe nātikoyákok óma ta wíciyāyákok piko nāntaw isi. Kisāspin awasimé kékwána ki nóté kiskénitén óhi oci isicikéwina wékā nāntaw kékwān kiwi isi nóté naskwāsiwinán, ki wíkomitinán óté tapé isi násiyák óma nitatoskéwikamikosinák: [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca).

Ókik awāsissak éko oskátisak ayāwak anihi asotamátowina kita oci nisitotakik tāntowa óhi, kékó māmawi otatoskéstamākéwak té koki tātisi kékí isi wícihiwécik éko kita wítakik tātisi óma éténitakik óma ká isi wícihicik ké isi natawénitakik piko ispík. Miscétwā māna nipé kakwécimikonānik ókik ká māmawi isicikécik kita wítapimāyákok ispík māna ká mamawapicik wanénitamowina étasitakik éko māna ispík ité ká takosinák mwác ana awiyak oskátis ékoté éko wina ká animómít óma éká apók éki oci wísamicik óma kitapé wícicikécik éténitakik óma káwí isicikéstamācik. Awāsissak éko oskátisak ayāwak anima asotamátowin kita akimicit kita wícihiwécik anihi oci wanénitamowina ká ati pakamiskākocik óté níkanik. Tāpiskóc awa péyak oskátis káki isi wítak ékwéniw: “Ekwani inikok éká otína éwí wítapimiyák ékwéni kitakí māmawi itótamāk!”

Kita kaskiyācik éko ta takwénitākosicik ókik oskátisak nawac apók étoké kita nócitāmakan éko piko nanátok kakinaw kita nanákatawénicikátéki ispík māna káwí paminacik ékwani. Miscétwā māna, nawac kinwésis kita natawénitákon kékwána kita nócitāniwaki éko mína nawac awasimé kita natawénitákonwa óma kita kécināhonāniwak ókik oskátisak kitapé wícihiwécik ta natotācik óma ispík māna ká māmawapināniwak é nócitāniwaki wanénitamowina. Ékwāni óma tāpwé

ispaniw ispík māna ká tasitamoyāné opimāchoniwāw wékā anihi ká isi paminikocik anikik taki māmawi isicikéstamākocik wékā anihi kici okimāwin taki wícihiwokic ókik oskátisak. Átit anihi kékwána ká iténitācik kitakí mino wícihiwokic ókik oskátisak kita mácitāniwa ita ókik oskátisak kita kakwécimit tātisi éténitakik kitakí isi nócitāniwaki kékwána; kita mínicik papéyatak ta ayamitācik éko kita kinawāpatakik anihi kékwána ká masinahikátéki éko éyako énokopaniki misiwé, kita tipahamācik ókik oskátisak óma ká iss wícihiwécik kita kécināhonāniwak óma ta natawi takosik anté wíkiwāk ispík kí kisi wícihitāwāki nāntaw ité; ta wanastāniwak éko kita isicikāniwak ité māvaci ké wétaniwik kita pé itotécik ókik oskátisak; éko kita kísac wítapimicik óma ta wítamācik kékwāniw káwí animócikáték wístawāw kawisk kita nisitotakik éko kita kiskénitakik kékwāniw óma ékosi wéci isi ánimócikátācik anikik māna ká māmawi nócitācik kita isicikāstakik kékwāniw éko wināwāw tāti pakamiskākocik ókik oskátisak óté níkanik.

Anima Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth atoskéwikamikos ékoté kitakí miskamwak ókik oskátisak éká céskwa 21 ká tatwéskínécik kitakí miskakik ta wícihiwokic piko anima, tānté éko ispík ké natawénitakik, kiki anikik owícisānwa. Anihi ká masinahikátéki éko kawisk ká paminamak é ayamihistamākéyák ókik oci paminikéwina éko anihi okimāwin isicikéwina, awāsiss ká paminít, ká opikihit pakānta ité, kiskinawāmākéwina, mamitonénicikana, mácikwapisona, máskisiwin, kici okimāwin wanasowéwin, ká manāspinatit awina (ékota mína óhi ká mácitótāt awāsiss éko ká nótonicik ékitimahicik ta natamācik ókik ininiwak). Māka wína, anihi kékwána ké ániménitamihkocik ókik oskátisak éko mwác anté kí masinahikátéwa wékā wíciwátéwa, anima nitatoskéwikamikosinan nikakí kaskitānán kiyāpic kita wíciyāyákok ókik oskátisak ká isi natawénitakik, kiyām éká apók nāntaw é masinahikáték anima ékosi ta isi wícihiwéyák.

Óma ká itakisoyān Manitoba’s Advocate for Children and Youth, éwítamawakik ókik kakinaw oskátisak óki nínanán káwítatoskémakik nitayānán óta kita natotātāk, kita wícihitāk tātisi óhi kékwána nanátok itapiyák kita isi wā wícihitāk, éko ké isi isko kaskitāyān óma kita ayamihistamātāk inikok ké kaskitāyān ta wícihiwakiyān anima ké isi natawénitaman. Kisāspin kitayān kakwécikémōna; kékwān é maci nócihihoyān, kekwanā éténitaman wékā nákatawénitaman ta isicikāniwak, ki wíkomitinán kitapé násiyák óma ta natotātāk tātisi káwí itācimostawiyák, éko niwíkomāwak kakinaw ininiwak óta Manitoba tapé wícéwākanimikoyákok óma énákatawénimit awa oskátis éko wina é nikákākimit óma kakinaw kékwána ká isi nócitayák kita pétāt óma ká itwécik



# WIINTAMAAKEWIN MANITOBA OKANOOCIKETAMAAKE



**Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW**

Manitoba kaa kanociktamawaac  
Apinoonciishihshan miina Oshkaatisan

Ni minwentaan ehankokiitawakwaa apinoonciishihshak. Ni minose tahso kiishikaa epi antawano kiiyaan miina episintamwak otipaacimoowiniwaa, otihkitoowiniwaa, miina otinentamoowini waa apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak. Mishtahi nintanokii ekanooicketamawakwaa, emash kawitaakwamohtaawak okitowiniwaa, miina ewiicihakwaa onoontesewiniwaa, ci peyahtakeni mowaac, ehkanawenimintwaa miina ekihciinenimintwaa. Apinoonciishihsh miina oshkaatisak mishtahi ihkitowak ekwa kaa kiishikiyahk, ci pisintawahk enentamiwaac miina kaa ayinentamiwaac pikwaanahpii kekoon kaa onentamahk naanta ke ishi sahikoowaac. Shaakooc, ihiwe United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12, ihkitoomakan apinoonciishihsh mashkawisiwinini otayaan ci noontaakoc kaa

kiishi nihtaawiki nic awiyan miina otinentamoowiniwaa ci pisincikaatenik kekoonini kaa kanootamowaac. Ohomaa Manitoba, aapacihtaakanan kaa otaahpinaac okimaawi shooniyaan ewiicihaac apinoon ciishihshan miina oshkaatisan papaamisiikancikewin otayaan ci ontinamawaac oshkaatisan otin entamoowininiin. Naanta ina apinoonciishihsh miina oshkaatis kitishisahaa kekoon kaa toota man? Kiishpin tash, kikakwecimaak ina enentamiwaac? Kikihkentaan ina enentamiwaac ki onah cikewinini?

Kaa kanoociketamawankic oshkaatisak, nintanokiinaakanak miina niin ninoontawaamin apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak tahsokiishikaa kaa ishi sahikoowaac okimaan miina ekaa kaa oki maawiniwank pimiwicikewinak. Aaninta wiicihiwewinan maawac mino naakwan kaashi wiici haac oshkaatisan miina kaashi wahkawiinontamiwaac onoontesewinonin oshkaatisan, kotaki yak mii eshi kipishkaakoowaac miina ekiptahtenik oshkaatisak ci noontawintwaa miina wiicihin twaa. Kehcinaac piintike piihwitiwin naanta kihkinwahamaakewin inahcikewinan kaa onci wentaninik apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak ci tempinamiwaac naanta kiishihtoowaac kihkinwahamaa kewinan kaye onci wiicihiwemakan kihkinwahamaakewin naanta onahcikewin. Wiicihiwewin te pwe apinoonciishihshan kaa anokawaac, ci kwayaanci ayaawaac apinoonciishihshan pikwaanahpii miina aanti keshi antawenimintwaa.



Nintofficiminaan moonshak ni naanaakatawapaantamin nintaapacihtaakaninaan, onaahkonike winensan, miina nintootamoowininaan miina kecoonenan e opinikoowaac miina wiicihikoo waac oshkaatisak kaa anohkawankitwaa. Ninkihkentaamin kaa kanoociketamaakeyaank keniina wint cipimi pisintaakeyaank miina ci nanaantonamaank maawac keshi mino kanawenimakint waa miina wiicihankitwaa apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, nonkom kaa kiishaatisiwaac oshkaa tisak, miina otipencikewiniwaank. Oshkaatis kaa anokaaninc kici anokiiwiniwan miina ninkihken taamin monshak keniishi minosek ci aniishiwicikeyaank minsiwe. Aaninta kaawii onci kihkenta maank niwii aapacihtoomin aapacihtaakan moshkinepiihikan; mon shak ci kakwecimintwaa Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) ekwa miina moonshak ci kakwecimintwaa apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, miina otipencikewiniwaa ci wiintamaakoo yank ani kaakii ishi wiicihankitwaa kaakii kakwecimikooyaank wiicihiwewin. Kiishpin kiyaapi wii kihkentaman ohowe onci naanta wii wiintamawishiyaank, nintofficiminaank piicikiton: [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca).

Apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak miinaawak ci nihsitohtamiwaac otishisewiniwaa, awane nan ke wiicihikoowaac, miina ci kanootamiwaac kekonenini entawentamiwaac. Moonshak ki kakwecimikoomin onahcikewinak ci piishaayahk opimiwicikewiniwaa ewii tashintamiwaac ekwa eshkam kaa takoshiniyahk oshkaatisak kaawin kii onci kakwecimaahsiin ci piishaac. Apinoonci shihsh miina oshkaatis tepwe cikii ayaahpan kaawii onencikaatenik otootaakoowin. Ohowe nin kii inik oshkaatis nonkomiihke: “Kaawin onashiwaanishinaam ekaa ihimaa ayaayaank!”

Wiitanokiimintwaa miina kikinintwaa oshkaatisak kinwensh to pimihse miina kwayahk ci maa mitonenimintwaa. Mishiinwaa, kinwensh nawac miina aapacihtaakanan ta antawentaakwan ke cinaac oshkaatis ci wiicihiwec onahcikaatenik owiicihikoowin. Tepwe howe kiishpin opimaatisi win tashincikaatenik, naanta kaye owiicihiwewin kaa miinaac opimiwicike kaye kaa ishi wiici haac oshkaatisan. Kekii aapatahkin inentamoowinan

kaye oshkaatis apiihtamaakewinan; kakwe ciminc oshkaatis ci naanaakatawapaantank miina ci ayamitooc masinahikanan kaye piinci pii waapihk; pankii ci tipa hamawinc oshkaatis kaa wiicihiwec; ci shi taapaaninc maawacihitowi nink miina ci kiwewininc; ci onahcikaatek maawacihitowin aan ahpi miina aant keshi minosec oshkaatis; ci tashintama winc niikaan kehcinaac ci nihsitohtank ishisewinan oshkaatis miina aaniinihi onahcikewinak wen ci wii piishaawaac ci tashintamawaawaac oshkaatisan opimaatisiwininiin.

Manitoba kaa kanoociketamawaac Apinoonciishihshan miina Oshkaatisan mii imaa keshi mihka miwaac wiicihikoowinini oshkaatisak ekaa 21 kaa tahso pipoonewaac, kaye otipenimikoowini waa. Ninkanoociketamaakewininan inahte mishiin wiicihiwewinan miina kahkina awiya owiicih koowiniwaa; apinoonciishihsh ashankewin, otaahpinaawahson, ishkooniwin, omaamitonenci kan wiicihiwewin, aapacihcikewaahpinewin, maahkisiwinan, minotootaakewin, miina omiikaani koo wiicihiwewinan (kaye waahsaahkonawepicikewin miina wiiwi miikaasoowin wiicihiwewi nan). Shaakooc, kiishpin omacisewin apinoonciishihsh naanta oshkaatis akwaci ahiink ishisenik kaa akine piihikaatenik, nintofficiminaan kiyaapic nintaakii kanoociketamawaamin pahkaan ayek.

Manitoba kaa kanoociketamawaac Apinoonciishihshan miina Oshkaatisan, nintinaak kahkina oshkaatisak niwiitanokiiminaanak miina niin ohomaa nintayaamin ci pisintaakooyan, ci wiicih koyan keshi otaahpinamaasoyan, miina kaye ci wiicihikoyan ci peyahtakamancihoyan, saakihiko yan, miina kiciinenimikoyan, kaa kanoociketamaakoyan ki noontesewinan ci tepinaman. Kiish pin kakwetwewin ayaayan, naanta macihseyan, kekon inentaman, naanta kekon wii ikitoyan, pi kanoonishinaam miina pakitinishinaam ci nooncikaatek kitipaacimoowin, miina ninkakweci maak kahkina Manitobans ci wiiciiwikooyank ciishi kaantininc Manitoba ci noontawaac kahkina oshkaatisan kaa kanoonikoc.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The theme of this year's annual report is Amplifying Youth Voices – perhaps the most important facet of all of the work we do at the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY). Throughout this report and its companion document focused on the Youth Engagement Program, we have included messages from Manitoba children and youth, using their direct quotes, artwork, and photographs.

The companion document features program updates from Youth Engagement, as well as our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!), which celebrated its first anniversary during this fiscal year.

This annual report highlights the results achieved by our office between April 2019 and March 2020. It provides an overview of our activities and initiatives, including:

- Events we participated in throughout the year, including the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates national conference we co-hosted in Winnipeg;
- Program updates from our six service areas: Advocacy Services, Youth Engagement, Public Education, Investigations, Research and Quality Assurance;
- News from our Knowledge Keeper and Elders Council;
- A look at our ReconciliAction committee's framework;
- A map and list of where we traveled to meet with children, youth, their families, communities, and other organizations;
- An overview of the special reports we released based on child death investigations and research on systemic child advocacy issues;
- A list of formal recommendations issued to improve provincial child-serving systems;
- And plenty of photos!

**This report also contains an annual financial report, outlines our 2020-21 and 2021-22 service plans, lists our team members and shares success stories.**

Key stats over the past fiscal year you will see described in more detail in this report include:

3,196	requests for advocacy services
789	ongoing advocacy cases opened
1,053	children, youth and young adults supported with ongoing advocacy
198	formal child death notifications received
71	child death reviews completed with:
38	cases resolved and closed following a formal review
33	cases progressing to more in-depth investigations
26	child death investigations completed
3	special reports completed and released to the public
2	based on child death investigations
1	systemic research report
29	formal recommendations issued, based on concerns arising from child death investigations and systemic research on children's rights issues
2,085	points of contact with children, youth, and young adults from our youth engagement team
33	educational workshops delivered on children's rights
241	visits to communities outside Winnipeg

# SOMMAIRE

Amplifier les voix des jeunes est le thème du rapport annuel de cette année et peut-être l'aspect le plus important de tout le travail que nous effectuons au bureau de la Protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba (PEJM). Tout au long de ce rapport et de son document d'accompagnement centré sur le Programme de mobilisation des jeunes, nous avons inclus des messages d'enfants et de jeunes du Manitoba en utilisant directement leurs citations, leurs travaux artistiques et leurs photos.

Le document d'accompagnement fait le point sur le Programme de mobilisation des jeunes et sur notre groupe consultatif de jeunes ambassadeurs (YAAS!), qui a fêté son premier anniversaire au cours de l'exercice.

Exemples de statistiques importantes de la dernière année financière qui sont expliquées plus en détail dans ce rapport :

<b>3,196</b>	demandes de services de défense des droits
<b>789</b>	dossiers ouverts en vue de services de défense continus
<b>1,053</b>	enfants, adolescents et jeunes adultes bénéficiant de services de défense continus
<b>198</b>	avis officiels de décès d'enfants reçus
<b>71</b>	examens de décès d'enfants effectués dont
<b>38</b>	dossiers réglés et clos à l'issue d'un examen officiel
<b>33</b>	dossiers nécessitant des enquêtes plus approfondies
<b>26</b>	enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants effectuées
<b>3</b>	rapports spéciaux rédigés et rendus publics
<b>2</b>	issus d'enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants
<b>1</b>	rapport de recherche systémique
<b>29</b>	recommandations officielles formulées à la suite d'inquiétudes soulevées par les enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants et les recherches sur les questions systémiques touchant les droits des enfants
<b>2,085</b>	points de contact établis avec des enfants, des adolescents et de jeunes adultes grâce à notre équipe de mobilisation des jeunes
<b>33</b>	ateliers éducatifs sur les droits des enfants
<b>241</b>	visites de localités à l'extérieur de Winnipeg

Le rapport annuel énonce les résultats que nous avons enregistrés entre avril 2019 et mars 2020. Il donne un aperçu de nos activités et initiatives, notamment les suivantes :

- Événements auxquels nous avons participé tout au long de l'année, y compris la conférence nationale du Conseil canadien des défenseurs des jeunes et des enfants, que nous avons co-organisée et qui s'est déroulée à Winnipeg;
- Mises à jour des programmes dans nos six secteurs : Services de défense des droits, Mobilisation des jeunes, Éducation du public, Enquêtes, Recherche et Assurance de la qualité;
- Nouvelles de notre gardienne du savoir et de notre Conseil des aînés;
- Examen du cadre de travail de notre comité de réconciliation;
- Carte et liste des endroits où nous nous sommes rendus pour rencontrer les enfants, les jeunes, leurs familles, les communautés et d'autres organisations;
- Aperçu des rapports spéciaux que nous avons publiés à partir d'enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants et de recherches sur les questions systémiques touchant la défense des droits des enfants;
- Liste de recommandations officielles que nous avons formulées pour améliorer les systèmes provinciaux qui offrent des services aux enfants;
- Et beaucoup de photos!

**Le rapport renferme également un rapport financier, énonce nos plans de services pour 2020-2021 et 2021-2022, énumère les membres de notre équipe et raconte des cas de réussite.**

# NIIGAAAN ZAGAKIBII'IGEWIN

Owe ge-akiiwang zagakibii'igewin Ji-noondawindwaa Oshki-ayaag – Mii owe ganabach maawanj getendaagwak minik enokaadamaang imaa Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) gaa-inindwaa. Miziwe omaa ozhibii'iganing dago imaa Youth Engagement Program gaa-ijigaadeg, ningii-dagonaamin ekidowaad omaa Manitoba abinoojiiyag zhiigwa oshki-ayaag, aabajitoowaang aaniin igo ekidowaad, omazinichiganiwaan, omazinaakiziganiwaan gaye.

Gaa-dagosing imaa ozhibii'igan giga-wiindamaagoo ishkwaach ekidowaad Igi Youth Engagement gaa-inindwaa, zhiigwa niinawind Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) gaa-ijigaazowaad, mii owe ningowaki ji-ayaawaad.

Owe dash ningowaki zagakibii'igewin nindanokiiwinaang onji apii April 2019 akoo March 2020. Giwiindamaagon aaniin gaa-ayizhichigeyaang, daabishkoo:

- Gaa-wiiji'iwewaang gegoon ningowaki apan, daabishkoo iwe Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates gaa-ijigaadeg maama'obing, gii-wiiji-atoowaang Winnipeg.
- Wiindamaagewin ningodwaaswi gegoon wiiji'wewaad: Advocacy Services, Youth Engagement, Public Education, Investigations, Research zhiigwa Quality Assurance gaa-ijigaadegin;
- Wiindamaagewin onji imaa Knowledge Keeper zhiigwa Elders Council gaa-inindwaa;
- Ganawaabanjigaadeg iwe ReconciliAction gaa-onabiwaad izhichigewin;
- Mazinising aandi gaa-ayizhaayaang ji-nagishkawangwaa abinoojiiyag, oshki-ayaag, enawemaawaad, okogamigiziwinan, zhiigwa bebakaan endananokiing;
- Ozhibii'igaadewan wiindamaagewinan andooshkigaadeg abinoojiiyag gaa-gii-nibowaad, ganawaabanjigaadeg gaye ezhi-naagaji'indwaa abinoojiiyag;
- Niibidebii'igaadegin aaniin ji-izhichigengiban nawach minoseg gaa-wiiji'indwaa abinoojiiyag;
- Gagaana mazinaakiziganan!

**Owe zagakibii'igewin gaye ozhibii'igaade zhooniyaa gaa-izhi-aabadizid, imaa apii 2020-21 akoo 2021-22 gaa-izhichigeng, ozhibii'indwaa gaa-wiidanokiimangwaa, dibaadodamowaad gaa-doodamowaad.**

Gaa-izhichigeng ningowaki odaanaang da-ozhibii'igaadewan omaa zagakibii'igewining, daabishkoo:

3,196	gagwedweng wiiji'iweng ningoji
789	megwaa dezhiikigaadeg genawaabanjigaadegin
1,053	abinoojiiyag, oshki-ayaag, gegaa giizhigiwaad awiyag megwaa giigidootamawindwaa
198	wiindamaageng awenenag abinoojiiyag gaa-nibowaad
71	zagakibii'igeng abinoojiiyag gaa-gii-nibowaad giizhichigaadegin
38	gii-giizhichigaadegin apii weweni gii-ganawaabanjigaadegin
33	megwaa dezhiikigaadegin awashime ji-andooshkigaadegin
26	gii-giizhichigaadegin andooshkigaadegin abinoojiiyag gaa-onji-nibowaad
3	zagakibii'igewinan gii-giizhichigaadegin, gaa-izhi-zaswesi-miigiweng
2	gii-andooshkigaadeg abiinoojii nibowinan
1	aaniin enanokiing wiindamaagewin
29	aaniin ekidong ji-izhichigengiban, noonde-gikenjigaadeg abinoojii nibowin ezhi-andooshkigaadeg, zagakibii'igaadegin abinoojiiyag ogashki'ewiziwiniwaan
2,085	apii gaa-waabamindwaa abinoojiiyag, oshki-ayaag, gegaa gaa-giizhigiwaad imaa nindizhichigewininaang ji-wiidookawangwaa
33	gikina'amaageng wegonenan ini abinoojiiyag ogashki'ewiziwiniwaan
241	okogamigizing gaa-izhaayaang agwaji-Winnipeg

# KICI PAMINIWÉW WANASOWÉWINA MÁMAWASINAHIKAN

Ayík káwí isi wítamák óma tanto askíy tipácimowin masinahikan ká pakatinamák Kita Natotácik Oskátisak étoké éyako máwaci kákí nócitáyak óma óta inikok kékwána ká atoskátamák Manitoba Otayamihistamákéwak Awásisak éko Oskátisak (MACY). Misiwé óma ácimowinik éko anihi masinahikana ká takoki énokok ohi kákí itótamák wínowáw anihi oskátisak piko éki atoskátamák kita ayáćik Oskátisak kita Itókakik-Minénitamowin, éko mína ékota masinahikátéwa kápé isi wítakik kékwána ókik Manitoba awásisak éko oskátisak, wínowáw mwéci kákí itwécik ékosi étasinahikátéki, opésonákostayikéwina éko anihi cakástésimona.

Éko anihi masinahikana óta ká takwastéki ékota masinahikátéwa anihi kákí isi Nóćicicéćik anikik Oskátisak, éko mína anikik Oskátisak Mino isitisawákanak Owítamákéwa (YAAS!), ékwáni óma péyak ká titipipanik askíy ékosi éki isi nóćicicéćik ókik, sóniyáw ká isi mátakimit.

Inikok kékwána kákípé nóćitániwaki éko kákí itótamák óma kákípé askíwak, sóniyáw é akimit awasimé kika wápatén kita ayamítáyan óhi kékwána kákí nóćitáyak anta anima ácimowi masinahikan éko ékota ohi:

3,196	mámaw ékípé natomikawiyak kita natawi ayamihistamákéyák
789	kiyápíc nipaminénán é ayamihistamákéyák
1,053	awásisak, oskátisak éko anikik ká ati kisi opikicik éki wíćihicik óma é ayamihitamácik
198	éki kécináhonániwak awásisak éki póni pimátisicik éki otitikoyák
71	anihi ókik awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik kákí kinawápacikátéki kítwám kí kísitániwana éko
38	anihi kí pónitáwna éko kí nástániwana ispík kawisk papéyatak kítwám kákí kinawápacikáték tánisi mwéci kákí ispanik
33	anihi kiyápíc nawac papéyatak ki natokiskénitamanániwak kékwán kákí oci ispanihikocik ékwéniw
26	awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik kí kísitániwana
3	kistácimona kí kísitániwana éko kí pakitinikátéwa piko anihi awiyak kitakí ayamítát
2	anihi é áćimonániwak anima kákí póni pimátisicik awásisak natonikéwi kiskénitamowina
1	kiskénitotamowin nato kiskénitamowin ácimowi masinahikan
29	mámaw éki natotamákániwak pikiskwéstamákéwina éki míninániwaki, anté oci anihi kinomáciskakona kákí animocikáték kákí póni pimátisicik awásisak natonikiskénitamowin éko kita pimitisayakik wanasowéwina óma ká nato kiskénitakik aniki otasotamátowin awásis ká animótakik
2,085	mámaw éki wápmáyákók awásisak, oskátisak, éko anikik ásay ká kisi opikicik óma óta ókik ká mámawatoskátamák ékwéniw
33	kiskinawátowi mámawihitowin étasicikátéki anihi awa awásis otasotamátowina
241	tantwá kí itótánán anihi itáwina é oci sipwétéyák óta wanawítimáyk Winnipeg

Óma tanto askíy ká pakitinikáték ácimowi masinahikan ékwani óhi kákí kaskitáyák kita paminamák éko kita itótamák ayík oci April 2019 isko March 2020 kákí akimicak písimwak. Ékota wítamákáiwana tánisi óhi kákí isi pamitáyák kákí yá itótamák éko anihi tanto niténitamowináni, éko ékwani óhi:

- Ité kákí mámawi nóćicikániwak éki natawi wíćicikémáyákók, tápiskóc anima Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates óta kákípé ototécik misiwéskamik oci ininiwak kákí-wítatoskéstamak Winnipeg;
- É áćinókániwaki tánisi óma kákípé isi paminamák kékwána anihi nikotwásik paminikéwina: Ayamihistamákéwina, Oskátisak ká Nóćitácik Kékwániw, Kiskinawámátowin Natawikiskénitamowina, Natonikéwin éko Kistápaténimowin;
- Ácimowina anté oci Kayitáyatisak Kiskénitamowina éko anikik wanasowéwak;
- Kítwám éki kinawápatamák anima mino kakéćihitowinitótamowin ókik omámawapiwak kákí isi wanastácik ta atoskátakik kékwána;
- Ékota mína ki takwastániwana askíwasinahikan éko ité kákí yá itotéyák éki natawápmáyákók awásisak, oskátisak, owíćisánáwa, otitáwiniwak éko kotakak ká mámawicitocik ékosi óma wístawáw é itótakik;
- Éki mámawasinayamák anihi kistácimowina kákí pakitinamák anihi oci ókik awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik natonikéwina éko anihi nato kiskénitamowina anihi ká maci paminit awásis ayamihistamákéwin ká animocikátéki;
- Ká nípitéwi masinahikátéki pikiskwéstamákéwina ká ánimócikátéki óhi nawac kita nahi kici okimáwiniwak inikok ókik ká isi kinawápmacicik awásisak éko ká isi paminicik;
- Éko miscét cikástésimon!

**Óma ácimowi masinahikan ékota mína wíćikátéw tánisi éko tánté kákí isi ápatisit sóniyáw, éko ké ati itápaciýit óma ati askíwaki 2020-21 éko 2021-22 atoskéstamákéwin wanénitamowina, awina tanto ká wítatoskémikoyakók éko anihi kákí káskitáyák kita itótamak minwákácimona.**

# NIHSOTIHTAAKWAMOHCIKAN

Kaa ishinikaatek noncom ahkiiwi tahso ahki tipaacimoowin Kishiiwewesin Oshkaatis Okitowinan – mii iitok ihiwe maawac kaa kiciinentaakwahk nintanokiiwininaan ohomaa Manitoba Kaa Kanoociketama waac Apinoonciishihshan miina Oshkaatisan (MACY). Kape owe tipaacimowin miina Kotak Wiici Pepan tashincikaate Oshkaatis Kaa anokaaninc Wiicihiwewin, ninkii kikinaamin otihkitoowiniwaa Manitoba apinoon ciishihshak miina oshkaatisak, otihkitoowiniwaa wiinawaa, masinipiihikaniwaa, miina cikaatesicikanan.

Kotak Wiici Pepan tipaatotewan kaa ani ayishicikaaniwank Oshkaatis Kaa Anokaaninc, miina kaye ni Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) Oshkaatis Otishaatamaake Omiinomowe Okanokiinaakanak, nonkom shoonyaawahking peshikoyahki kii tipishkamiwak.

Ohowe tahso ahki tipaacimoowin paahpankii onci wiincikaate kaakii ishihcikeyaank April 2019 miina March 2020. Aatotewan kaakii ishihcikeyaank miina ni maasihcikewininaan, kaye:

- Kaakii ishihcikeyaank kaa pimi ahkiiwahk, kaye kaakii wiici maawachitoowinihkemankic Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates ohomaa Winnipeg;
- Ni wiicihiwe tipaacimoowininaan ninkotwaahswayek anokiiwinink: Kanoocikewinink, Oshkaatis Kaa Anokaaninc, Kihkinwahamaakewinink, Nanaantawikihkencikewinink, Kaa Macihsek kekoon Nanaantawi Kihkencikewin miina Minwahcikewin;
- Otipaacimoowin Kici Ahaa miina Kici Ahaa Apiihtamaakewin;
- Ci kanawaapancikaatek ReconciliAction Committee otinahtamaakoowin;
- Ahkiiwi masinahikan miina akinepiihikan aanti kaakii nakishkawankic apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, otipencikewiniwaank, otapiwiniwaank, miina kotakiyan onahcikewinink;
- Paahpankii ninkii kikinaamin ninanaatawi kihkencikewininaan apinoonciishihsh kaakii pooni pimaatisic miina kaapiishi maamacihsec apinoonciishihsh okanoociketamaakoowinink;
- Kaa akine piihikaatekin ihkitoowinan ke mino wiicihikoc Ahkiiwikimaa otapinoonciishihsh wiicihiwewinink;
- Kaye mishiin cikaatesicikanan!

**Ohowe tipaacimoowin kaye kikihsin tahso ahki shoonyaa tipaacimoowin, kikihsin 2020-2021 miina 2021-2022 kaawii ishihcikeyaank, masinahikaasowak nintanokiiminaanak miina okahshkihoowiniwaa aatoten.**

Kaa kiciinentaakwahkin otaanaank shoonyaawahki aacimoowinan kaye:

3,196	kakwetwewinan ci kanoocikehtamaakeyaank
789	kanoociketamaakewinan kiyaapi kaa paahkihsinkin
1,053	apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak miina kici oshkiniikiwak kiyaapi kaa wiicihintwaa
198	apinoonciishihsh opoonipimaatisiwi pepanom kaa ishinishahikaatenik
71	kaakii nipowaac kii kiishihcikaateni onci
38	kipahikaatewan eyishkwaa naanaakatawencikaatekin
33	kiyaapi awashime onaanaakacihikoowinan
26	apinoonciishihsh kaa nipoc naanaakacihcikewinan
3	kici tipaacimoowinan kii kiishihcikaatewan miina pakitinikaatewan
2	apinoonciishihsh kaa nipoc naanaakacihcikewinan
1	aapacihtaakan naanaakatawencikewin aacimoowin
29	ihkitoowinan kii pakitinikaatewan, kaakii ishi mihkikaatekin apinoonciishihsh nipowinink onci miina kaa ishi macisec owiicihikoowinink apinoonciishihsh
2,085	intahsiin kii wiicihaawak apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, miina kici oshkiniikiwak kaakii anokaaninc oshkaatis
33	kihkinwahamaakewinan ninkii tootamin apinoonciishihsh omashkawisiwin
241	ninkii kiwikemin apiwinink akwaci Winnipeg





# ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

# ABOUT THE MANITOBA ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH









## MANDATE

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (the Manitoba Advocate) represents the rights and amplifies the voices and opinions of all children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. The office of the Manitoba Advocate receives its mandate through *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA). The mandate includes:

ADVOCACY SERVICES	The Manitoba Advocate is here to support, assist, inform, and advise children, youth, young adults, and their families on designated services.
SERIOUS INJURY AND DEATH REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS	The Manitoba Advocate reviews, investigates, and reports on the serious injuries and deaths of children, youth, and young adults.
RESEARCH	The Manitoba Advocate is responsible for conducting research on designated services to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of those services, such as mental health and addictions treatment, victim services, or Child and Family Services, among others.
MONITORING	The Manitoba Advocate must monitor the implementation of recommendations made in investigations or special reports to the Government of Manitoba.
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	<p>The Manitoba Advocate takes steps to raise awareness and understanding of the <i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>.</p> <p>The Manitoba Advocate also assists and informs children, youth, young adults, and their families in accessing designated services.</p> <p>The Manitoba Advocate provides information to the public about the opinions and experiences of young people in the province and in all things, promotes the best interests of the child.</p>
ADVICE TO MINISTERS	The Manitoba Advocate may also advise a minister responsible for a designated service.

## DESIGNATED SERVICES

Designated services are the services provided to children and youth in Manitoba that the Manitoba Advocate has a responsibility to monitor. Designated services are:

	<b>CHILD WELFARE</b>	All services from birth-17, plus young adults 18-21 who were former permanent wards.
	<b>ADOPTION</b>	All services from birth-17.
	<b>DISABILITIES</b>	All services provided by or funded by the government within health, education, justice, and community services, plus services to 18-21 if CFS had been involved prior to individual turning 18.
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	All educational programming for children with an IEP, plus 18-21 if eligible for an IEP and the young adult had received child welfare services as a child.
	<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>	All services from birth-17 provided by or on behalf of a public body.
	<b>ADDICTIONS</b>	All services from birth-17 provided by or on behalf of a public body.
	<b>VICTIM SUPPORTS</b>	All services provided to children or their families as victims of crime, witnesses in criminal proceedings, those impacted by domestic violence, those who are sexually exploited or at risk of sexual exploitation.
	<b>JUSTICE</b>	All services for youth including custody, community supervision, & probation.

## VISION, MISSION, VALUES

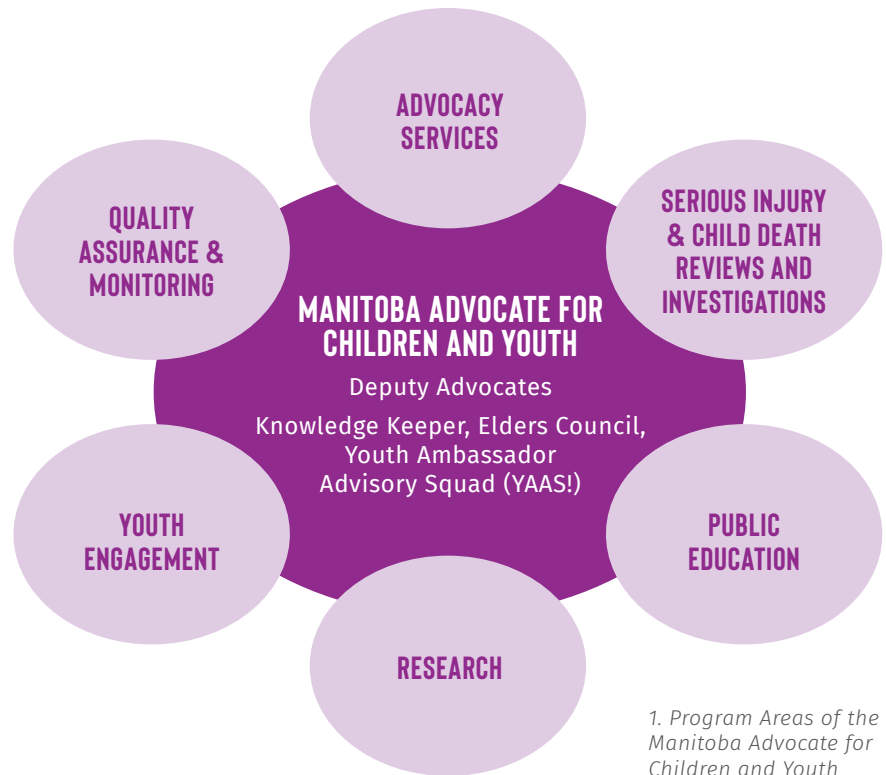
**VISION:** A safe and healthy society that hears, includes, values, and protects all children, youth, and young adults.

**MISSION:** We amplify the voices and champion the rights of children, youth, and young adults.

**VALUES:** Child-centredness, equity, respect, accountability, independence.

## ORGANIZATION

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth has two offices in Winnipeg and one in Thompson. Through outreach activities, the Manitoba Advocate engages with children, youth, and families across the province. The Manitoba Advocate's staff have backgrounds in child welfare, youth engagement, youth justice, youth law, community development, communications, education, psychology, policy analysis, and research. Each program area works collaboratively to respond to systemic issues challenging the rights of children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.



## THE KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

The Indigenous Knowledge Keeper provides advice and guidance to all MACY (Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth) program areas across three offices and delivers cultural supports to the youth and families that we serve. Importantly, the Knowledge Keeper provides guidance to our internal ReconciliAction Committee meetings and supports the implementation of MACY's ReconciliAction Framework.

### KNOWLEDGE KEEPER REPORT

This was a busy year for MACY's Knowledge Keeper, Cheryl Alexander. She supported and spent time with youth, families, staff, and members of the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) to ensure they felt safe, valued, and heard. She began the year by supporting the Manitoba Advocate, the Deputy Manitoba Advocates, and Elder Ed Azure at the opening of MACY's Northern office in Thompson.

Throughout the year, the Knowledge Keeper visited Canadian Museum for Human Rights several times with members of our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!), MACY staff, and Elders. Cheryl also actively organized numerous cultural opportunities for YAAS!, MACY staff, youth, and families, including providing cultural protocols, opening and closing meetings with prayers, leading sweat lodges, smudges, feasts, pipe ceremonies, sundances, and medicine gathering. Cheryl considers it a privilege to share knowledge about sewing, beading, and medicine gathering. Attending YAAS! meetings are a highlight for her because she sees the growth in each youth that participates and shares their path with us.



# THE ELDERS COUNCIL

The Manitoba Advocate acknowledges the valuable role of the Elders Council, that provides the office with cultural support and guidance on activities and cultural protocols. Guided by the Seven Teachings — Love, Respect, Truth, Courage, Wisdom, Honesty and Humility — the Elders are respected by their communities and hold the knowledge that is needed to ensure MACY services are delivered in a respectful and culturally-informed manner.

Supported by the Knowledge Keeper, the Elders Council meets on a quarterly basis with the Advocate and the two Deputy Advocates and supports the office as a whole as needed

through ceremony, and offerings. This year, Elders spent time with our YAAS! members, supported the opening of our Northern office in Thompson, provided consultation to the Manitoba Advocate, and attended the national Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA) conference hosted by our office in September.

The Elders Council at MACY consists of male and female members from Indigenous communities that are representative of the children and youth that we serve. There are currently six Elders Council members.

NAME	COMMUNITY
Bill Ballantyne	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Coleen Bailey	Norway House Cree Nation
Ed Azure	Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Fred Stevens	Sapotewayak Cree Nation
Gertrude Ballantyne	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Louise Lavallee	St. Laurent, Manitoba

MACY staff with the Elders Council.







Some of the YAAS! crew poses for a group photo outside the MACY office on Osborne St. N. (June 2019)

## THE YOUTH AMBASSADOR ADVISORY SQUAD!

The voices of youth are central to the work of MACY. The Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (also known as YAAS!) guides the work of the Manitoba Advocate and provides youth perspectives and insight to programs and services at MACY. YAAS! consists of 22 youth from 17-25 years of age, who have life experience in systems including child welfare, youth justice, disability, mental health, and more.

## THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATES

The Manitoba Advocate is a member of the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA). The CCCYA is an association of government-appointed, independent children's advocates and one ombudsperson from ten provinces and two territories: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.

Attending the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates national conference at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. (September 2019)





## RECONCILIATION FRAMEWORK

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth is committed to reconciliation. This commitment is embodied in the structure of the organization which includes the ReconciliAction Committee and its Framework.

## THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

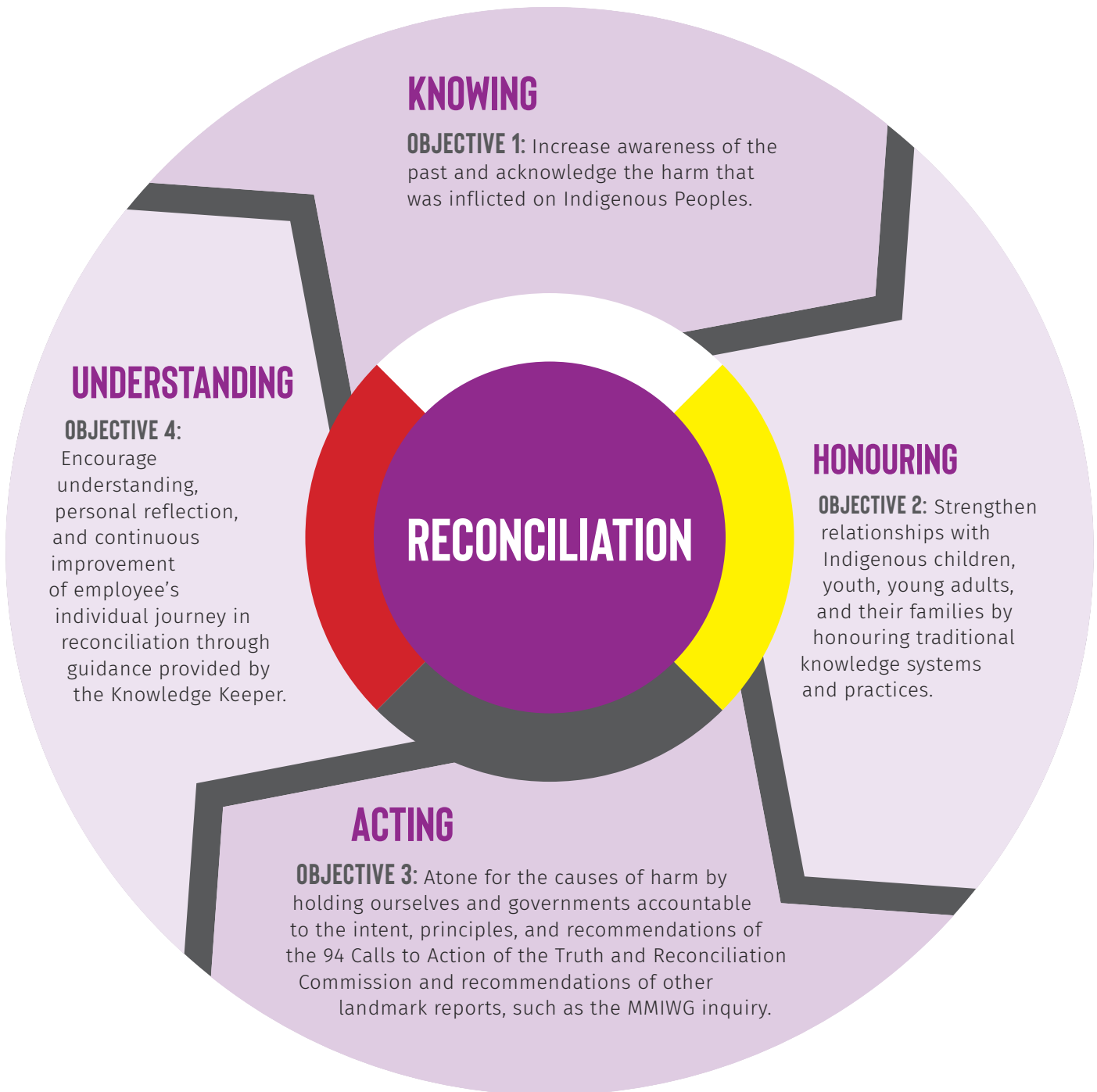
The ReconciliAction Committee is co-chaired by the Indigenous Deputy Advocate for Advocacy Services and Youth Engagement and the MACY Knowledge Keeper. The committee is comprised of staff from each program area at MACY. Active reconciliation is a central commitment of the entire office and all MACY staff support reconciliation throughout the workplace and beyond. In 2019-20, the committee developed a ReconciliAction Framework.

“We have described for you a mountain.  
We have shown you the path to the top.  
We call upon you to do the climbing.

— JUSTICE MURRAY SINCLAIR,  
former chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The framework describes MACY’s approach and plan to advance reconciliation through our work and is intended to assist employees in understanding and practicing reconciliation everyday. The ReconciliAction Framework is integrated into MACY’s Service Plan, which includes goals, objectives, and performance measures. To read more about the activities in the ReconciliAction Framework, please read our Service Plan, which is included on page 88 in this report.

# RECONCILIATION FRAMEWORK





# AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

## ANNUAL REPORT THEME

Whether they are shouting with a bullhorn in hand or do not yet know how to speak, the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is privileged to fulfill its duty to amplify the voices of all young people in this province.

**Because children should  
be seen – and heard.**

The theme of our 2019-20 annual report, Amplifying Youth Voices, reflects a welcome shift we have noticed happening in the community over the last few years. Children and youth are increasingly becoming role models for the rest of us, making their voices heard and standing up for causes they believe in.

We have seen tens of thousands of Manitoba youth organizing marches and demanding meaningful action from governments to combat issues they see as important – from climate change, to post-secondary access, to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and more.

We applaud any youth taking a stand and exercising their right to protest respectfully, on any issue they feel connected to. Article 15 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* protects the right of all children to voice their opinions. Adults, in turn, have a responsibility to listen and consider the opinions of young people.

One of our office's main priorities is to amplify the voices of children, youth, and young adults. This often means speaking up when young people cannot speak for themselves, as we did this year.



YAAS! members and MACY staff hang out at the Red River Ex. (June 2019)

## YOUTH AMBASSADOR ADVISORY SQUAD!

We work every day to ensure our work supports and amplifies the voices and experiences of children, youth, and young adults. One way we do this is by consulting with our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!).

YAAS! is a group of approximately 25 youth and young adults with current and previous lived experience in service areas that MACY is responsible for, such as Child and Family Services, mental health, addictions, disabilities, education, victim supports, and the justice system. The members of YAAS! help guide our systemic advocacy, and improve the effectiveness of our responses to Manitoba children and youth.

Since YAAS! plays such a key role at MACY, we wanted to tell all Manitobans more about the youth squad and the roles it plays in the work of our office. Along with this year's annual report, we are releasing a [companion document](#) that highlights and profiles MACY's Youth Engagement Program, the program that coordinates YAAS! In keeping with the theme of the annual report, readers will find quotes, artwork and more from Manitoba youth and YAAS! members, who are using their voices, ideas, and skills to improve the lives of others.

Children and youth cannot choose to be sexually exploited, nor do they choose to be sexually abused. Society often ignores and turns a blind eye towards the crimes that are being committed towards our young people who are being harmed through exploitation.

— SOPHIA

Youth Ambassador, on Article 34  
(Governments should protect children from sexual abuse)

# OVERVIEW OF KEY INITIATIVES

In addition to the ongoing work, the Manitoba Advocate championed numerous key initiatives throughout the 2019-20 year.

## APRIL 2019

### GRAND OPENING OF THE THOMPSON OFFICE

On April 16, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate opened an office in the northern city of Thompson. The office is shared with the Manitoba Ombudsman and is open for intakes and questions at Thompson's City Centre Mall. The new office helps us to amplify the voices of youth living in Manitoba's north.



MACY staff prepare for their new office opening in Thompson. (April 2019)

## APRIL 2019

### PRESENTATION OF OUR MENTAL HEALTH AND YOUTH JUSTICE RESEARCH TO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS THROUGH THE PSYCHIATRY GRAND ROUNDS

On April 9, 2019 the Manitoba Advocate, the Deputy Advocate, and one of our Researchers presented findings from our office's February 2019 report about segregation and solitary confinement in Manitoba's youth custody facilities. We co-presented alongside forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Hygiea Casiano, at the Psychiatry Grand Rounds at Health Sciences Centre, a talk that was broadcasted across the province to physicians, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, and students. The presentation can be viewed at: [http://talbot.cc.umanitoba.ca/legacy/bann/psyc/psyc\\_2019\\_04\\_09/](http://talbot.cc.umanitoba.ca/legacy/bann/psyc/psyc_2019_04_09/)





Staff from the Canadian Mental Health Association and MACY meet with the Right Honourable Paul Martin to discuss their joint Thrival Kits™ project. (May 2019)

## MAY 2019

### PRESENTATION TO A FORMER PRIME MINISTER ABOUT CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

On May 28, 2019, alongside our project partners at the Canadian Mental Health Association (Manitoba and Winnipeg), our office presented the Thrival Kits™ project to the Rt. Honourable Paul Martin and his foundation's leadership team in Montreal. Mr. Martin had contacted the Manitoba Advocate having heard about the Thrival Kits™ project. He invited us to tell his team about this Manitoba initiative that had emerged from our suicide research and the CMHA's work in community-level mental health programming and which was then being piloted with Manitoba children.

## JUNE 2019

### SUBMISSION TO THE MANITOBA COMMISSION ON K-12 EDUCATION

On June 20, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate was pleased to make a submission to the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education with the purpose of improving education services and educational outcomes for all children and youth in Manitoba.

The submission highlights five key concerns and makes six recommendations. Read about the Manitoba Advocate's submission in the Research Program section of this report or [read the full submission on our website.](#)

MACY management meet with members of Manitoba Education's K-12 Commission. (June 2019)





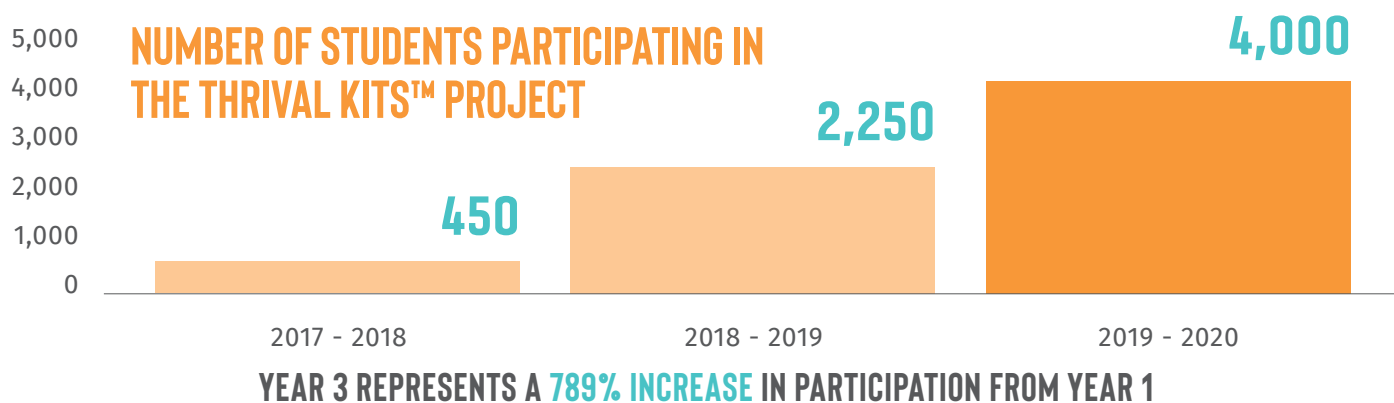
## AUGUST 2019

### THRIVAL KITS™

Since 2016, the Manitoba Advocate has collaborated with the Canadian Mental Health Association (Manitoba and Winnipeg) on the creation and distribution of Thrival Kits™ to Grades 4-6 classrooms around Manitoba. Thrival Kits™



promote children's mental health and wellness through daily practices that build mental health awareness and provide students with coping skills and tools. Every fall, the Thrival Kits™ arrive at participating schools for the next school year:



In the fall of 2019, we were thrilled that the Manitoba government announced a significant investment into the Thrival Kits™ project. We will be able to provide Kits across the province to all Grades 4-6 students in the province, beginning in the fall of 2020.

WEBSITE: [www.thrivalkits.ca](http://www.thrivalkits.ca)

**If you are a classroom educator in Grades 4-6 and would like to know more about how this made-in-Manitoba program is changing classrooms and students' lives, please contact us for more information!**

EMAIL: [info@thrivalkits.ca](mailto:info@thrivalkits.ca)

## SEPTEMBER 2019

### NATIONAL PAPER ON YOUTH SUICIDE

The Manitoba Advocate collaborated with other members of the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates (CCCYA) to publish *A National Paper on Youth Suicide* in September 2019. The paper integrates findings from the work of offices across Canada, including *The Changing Face of Youth Suicide in Manitoba*, Phase One (2015) and Phase Two (2016) reports published by the Manitoba Advocate.

The 2019 national paper makes three calls to action to the Government of Canada: (1) to develop and resource a National Suicide Strategy; (2) to develop and implement a cross-jurisdictional data system with mandatory reporting; and (3) to engage in meaningful partnerships with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities to eliminate health disparities. Read the full report at [cccya.ca](http://cccya.ca)



Manitoba Advocate Daphne Penrose fields questions from media at the national Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates conference in Winnipeg. (in September 2019)

## SEPTEMBER 2019

### CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATES NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth and the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth co-hosted a national conference for independent child and youth advocacy offices across Canada in Winnipeg, from September 16-18, 2019. The conference theme was the 30th anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) and it focused on provincial, territorial, and national advocacy for children's rights. Nearly 100 delegates from our provincial and territorial counterparts' offices came to Winnipeg to share their experiences and stories, and to collaborate on strategies for best practices.



Children perform during the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates national conference at the Fort Garry Hotel. (September 2019)

## NOVEMBER 2019

### MACY CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WEEK

Each year, our office is excited to celebrate Children's Rights Week, usually the third week of November. This year, we hosted our 8th annual children's block party on November 16th as part of Winnipeg's Santa Claus Parade. Then, on November 20th, to mark the anniversary of the UNCRC, our Youth Ambassador Advisory

Squad (YAAS!) took over our Portage Avenue office to host a community open house and children's rights awareness event. We were thrilled to spend the day supporting our youth and witnessing their knowledge and passion for children's rights education.







1: MACY staff present to students in Thompson during the Listening Tour. (January 2020)

2: Students in Swan River provide feedback during the Listening Tour. (January 2020)

3: Students in Thompson listen to a presentation by MACY staff.. (January 2020)

## JANUARY 2020

### LAUNCH OF THE LISTENING TOUR

The Listening Tour is an innovative engagement initiative led by the Youth Engagement Program. Its goal is to create opportunities for active conversations with youth across Manitoba and to create safe spaces where youth can voice systemic advocacy needs. The Listening Tour also involves activities and presentations that raise awareness and understanding of children's rights and the UNCRC. Youth Engagement Coordinators and other staff were honoured to engage with over 1,000 youth in custody facilities, schools and communities across Manitoba between January and March 2020. Read more about the initiative in the Youth Engagement program's [companion document](#), released alongside the annual report.

## FEBRUARY 2020

### LAUNCH OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

We created a new program area in our office this year to help us better inform the public about all the work our office does. This area of the office will be responsible for assisting the Manitoba Advocate in fulfilling legislated duties to inform and educate the public, as well as promoting children's rights. We are excited to be able to connect with children, youth, and other stakeholders via presentations, social media, and new-to-us platforms, like Facebook Live. Read more in the Public Education Program section.

1. YAAS! member Michael plays guitar during Youth Takeover Day. (November 2019)

2. Wavy Guy makes friends during the Santa Claus Parade. (November 2019)

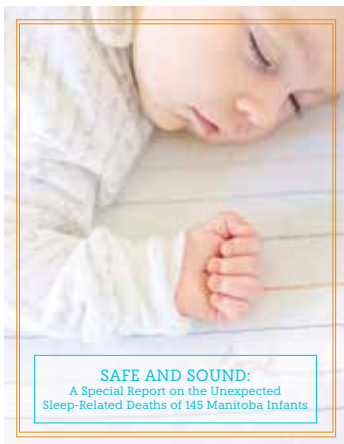
## FEBRUARY 2020

### SPECIAL REPORT: *THE SLOW DISAPPEARANCE OF MATTHEW: A FAMILY'S FIGHT FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE WAKE OF BULLYING AND MENTAL ILLNESS*

On February 27, 2020, the Manitoba Advocate released a child death investigation about Matthew, a 16-year-old boy from Winnipeg who died by suicide in 2017. Matthew's family spent years trying to get him the mental health help he needed. The Advocate's report made eight recommendations for ways to improve the youth mental health and addictions systems with policy changes that could have helped save Matthew's life. To learn more about the report, visit the Investigations section (Page 71). To read the full report, visit: <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/MACY-Special-Report-The-Slow-Disappearance-of-Matthew-Feb2020.pdf>



**The Slow Disappearance of Matthew**  
A Family's Fight for Youth Mental Health Care  
in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness



**SAFE AND SOUND:**  
A Special Report on the Unexpected  
Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants

## MARCH 2020

### SPECIAL REPORT: *SAFE AND SOUND: A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE UNEXPECTED SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS OF 145 MANITOBA INFANTS*

On March 13, 2020, the Manitoba Advocate released a report that reviews 145 sleep-related infant deaths in Manitoba. This research report was the first of its kind in Manitoba and outlines the risk factors associated with sleep-related deaths. To read more about the report findings and 13 recommendations, go to the Research Program section (Page 86). To read the full report, visit: <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/SafeSleep-Report.pdf>

RCMP Manitoba Staff Sgt. Jared Hall, Manitoba Advocate Daphne Penrose, MACY Public Education Manager Jessica Botelho-Urbanski and Wanda Phillips-Beck from the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat Manitoba presented the Safe and Sound report to the public via Facebook Live. (March 2020)







Some furry new co-workers joined MACY staff at their homes as staff began remote work during the pandemic. (March 2020)

## MARCH 2020 RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In times of crisis, it is the role of the Manitoba Advocate to ensure designated services are responding to the needs of children, youth, young adults, and families with consideration to the protection of the rights and best interests of the child. To protect the public through physical distancing, we closed our offices to walk-in traffic in mid-March and moved all programs

to online and remote work. As the Advocate's work is an essential service, our work continued and in many cases expanded in new ways. We also implemented creative ways to engage with children and youth, such as Facebook Live lessons on Fridays and weekly Zoom meetings with our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!).

## MARCH 2020 (RELEASED IN MAY 2020 DUE TO COVID-19) SPECIAL REPORT: "STOP GIVING ME A NUMBER AND START GIVING ME A PERSON": HOW 22 GIRLS ILLUMINATE THE CRACKS IN THE MANITOBA YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SYSTEM

On May 7, 2020, the Manitoba Advocate released a special report detailing the investigative findings of 22 deaths by suicide of young girls. The report was completed in March 2020, but the release was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Advocate made seven recommendations for policy changes to improve the youth mental health and addiction systems. To read more about the report and recommendations, go to the Investigations Program section (Page 85). For the full report, visit: <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/MACY-Special-Report-Suicide-Aggregate-2020.pdf>





# ADVOCACY SERVICES







# ADVOCACY SERVICES

The Advocacy Services Program was created in 1993 and has continued to develop and evolve over the course of 27 years. The Advocacy Services Program provides direct support to children, youth, young adults, and families in Manitoba. Referrals come to the Advocacy Program through phone, email, walk-ins, mail, or social media.

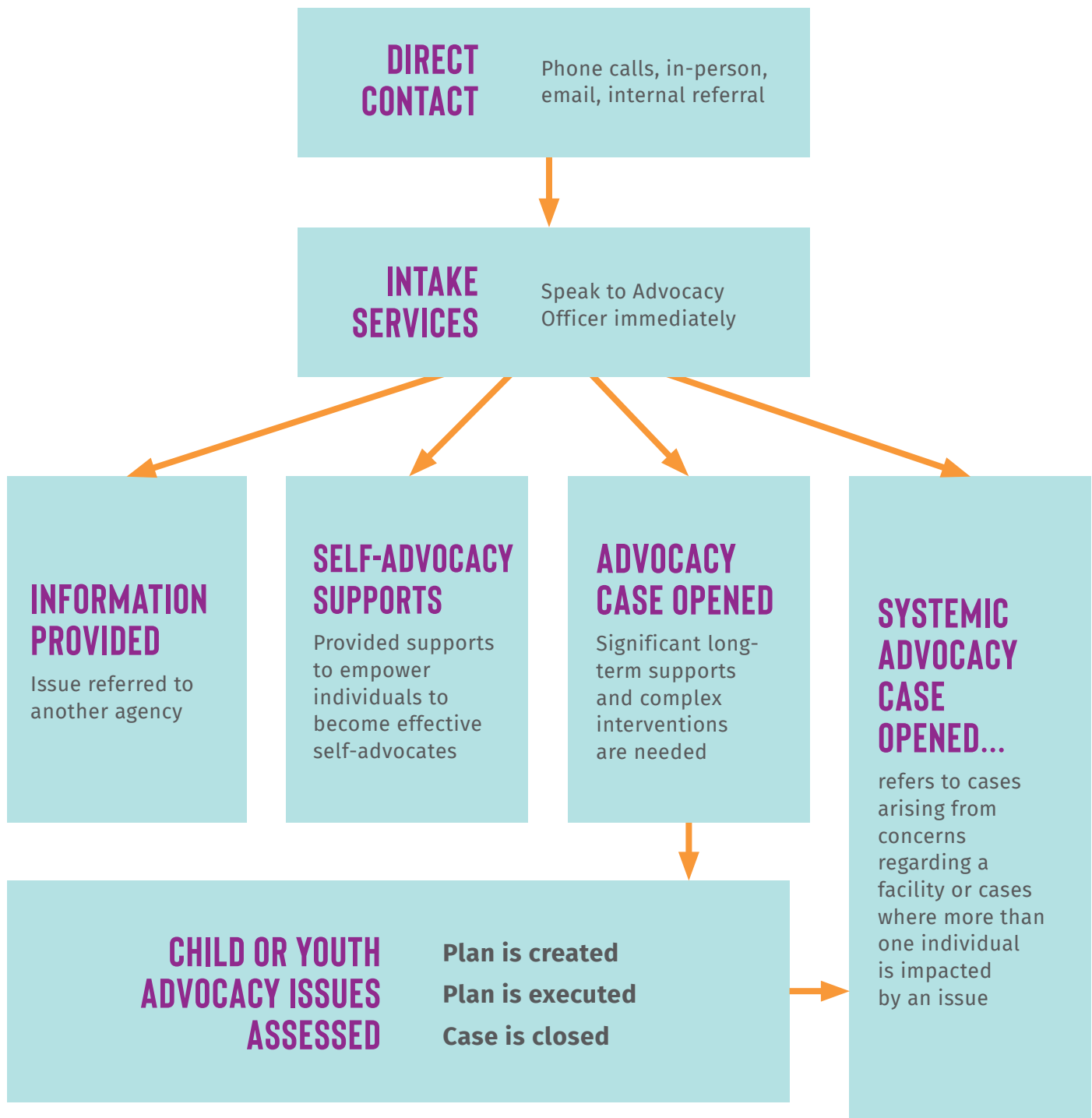
## PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- **3,196** request for services, **6% increase** since last year
- **789** ongoing advocacy cases opened, **24% increase** since last year
- **1,053** children, youth and young adults supported with ongoing advocacy, **33% increase** since last year

The role of Advocacy Officers is to listen to concerns reported by children, youth, service providers, and other concerned community members. Following that initial contact, our team listens to the concern and determines appropriate follow-up, which may involve:

- Talking with children, youth, and young adults to understand their views, needs, and best interests; supporting them to effectively express themselves to the systems working with them; establishing contact with the applicable organization.
- Providing direct advocacy support for a child, youth, or young adult by representing their rights, interests, and viewpoints to ensure that systems are providing the best possible services to them.
- Providing information and advice to children, youth, young adults, and their families about how to access designated services and how to become effective self-advocates with respect to those services.
- Reviewing the involvement of “designated services” (as described in the *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA)) and ensuring the child, youth, or young adult’s rights, interests, and needs are being met.

## THE ADVOCACY PROCESS

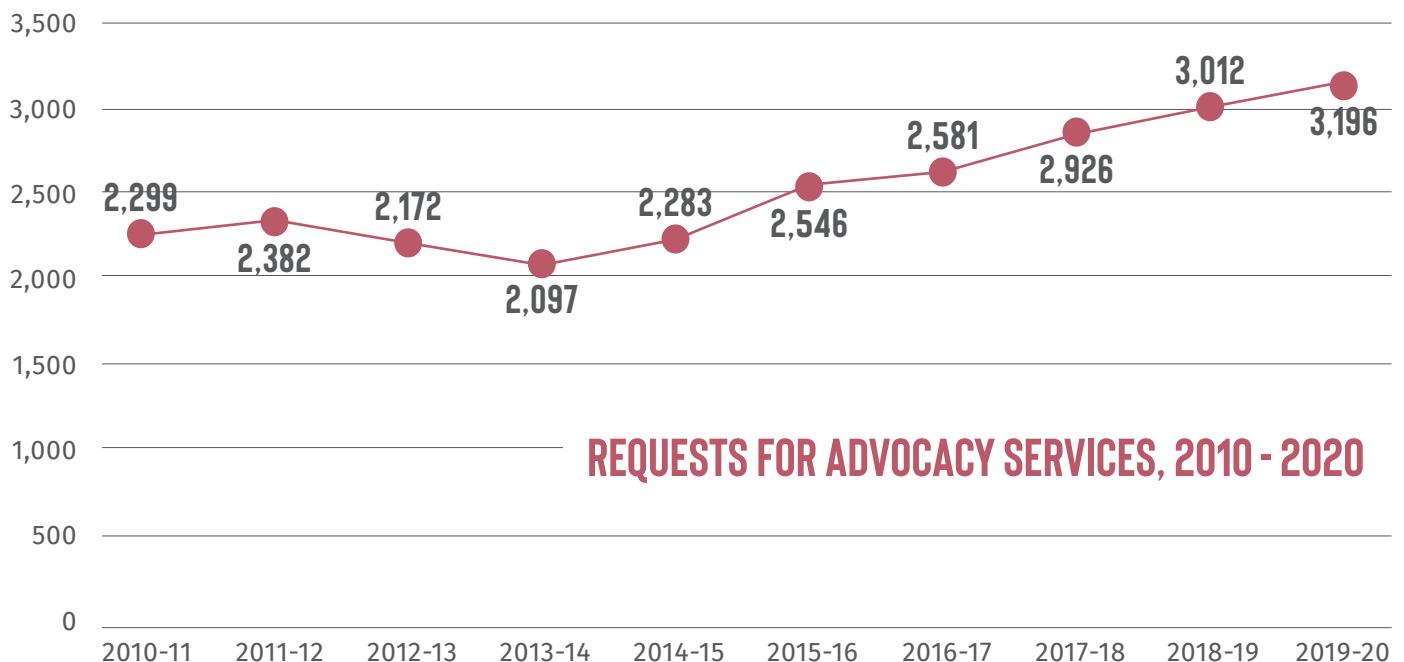


Advocacy also manages complex cases where the issues identified involve multiple systems or where there is a lack of community or family resources to meet the needs of an individual child/youth/young adult/group of young people. Advocacy staff have been involved in cases where there are significant interpersonal or environmental breakdowns that require intervention(s) by one or more service providers.

# PROGRAM STATISTICS

NEW REQUESTS FOR SERVICE			
	TOTAL 2019-20	WINNIPEG OFFICES	THOMPSON OFFICE
Requests for Service	3,196	2,844	352
Self-Advocacy Supports	2,020	1,933	87
Ongoing Advocacy	789	689	100
Information Requests	375	211	164

OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A **39% INCREASE** IN REQUESTS FOR ADVOCACY SERVICES.

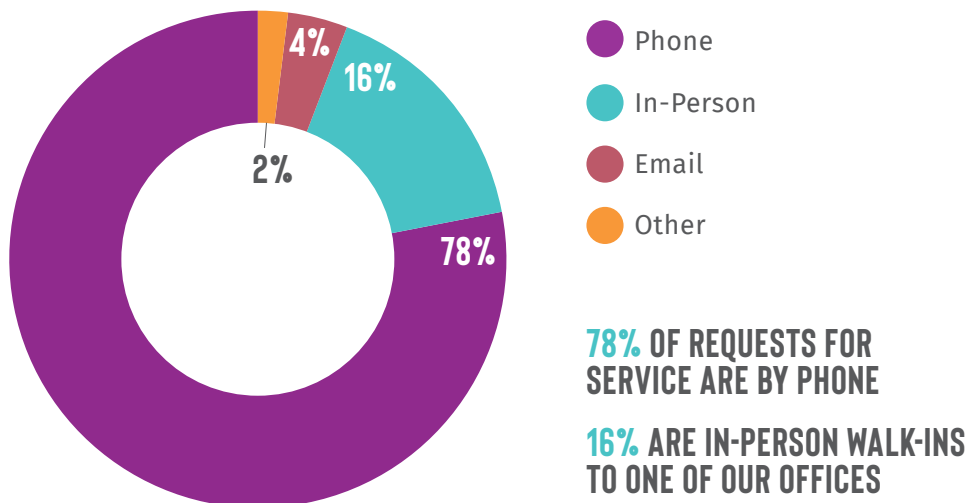


“Our justice system needs to recognize how difficult it can be to relive abuse over and over through the investigations and court process.

— TIARA

Youth Ambassador, on Article 39  
(Children have the right to help and protection from adults)

## HOW PEOPLE CONTACT US



## SELF-ADVOCACY SUPPORTS

Sometimes when people call us for support they do so because they don't know how to address a problem they are facing. They may not know their options, who to talk to, or what to do. Our staff will listen to the challenge the person is facing, and then we provide education to the individual about their rights and the services they are entitled to receive in Manitoba. We will then work with them to identify possible solutions. The majority of requests for services can be resolved by providing information, support, and guidance that empowers individuals to self-advocate. Of the 3,196 requests for advocacy services, **2,020 requests were eventually resolved by our team by providing support and information for an individual to self-advocate.**

### EMMA'S STORY

Emma is a young woman who was missing for many months. When she was located, it was evident she had been the victim of human trafficking and repeatedly traumatized. It was believed she had cognitive vulnerabilities, but because she was not diagnosed before the age of 18, she was denied access to adult disability services. Together with community organizations, our office advocated for an appeal of that decision by disability services, which was ultimately successful. Emma is now living in a safe and stable home and is receiving the supports she needs.

## JACKIE'S STORY

Jackie is a young mother whose son was apprehended at birth. Jackie contacted our office seeking information and support to have her child returned to her care. Our office reviewed the work of the agency and its plan and we advocated for Jackie's increased access and for the agency to develop a plan to reunify Jackie with her child. The agency responded supportively, worked with Jackie to identify what she needed, and Jackie's baby was reunited with her. Both mom and baby are doing well.

## ONGOING ADVOCACY SUPPORTS

Approximately, 1 in 4 requests for services require intensive and longer term advocacy supports. For these requests, a case is opened to ongoing advocacy services.

In 2019-20, there were **789** initial requests for service opened for ongoing advocacy services, resulting in **1,144** advocacy cases for **1,053** children, youth or young adults.

Initial requests for services may involve multiple children and/or youth, and each individual may have more than one case per year.

Coming into 2019-20, we carried over **309** ongoing advocacy cases from the previous fiscal year. We carried forward **318** ongoing advocacy cases into 2020-21.

We also resolved **1,137** ongoing advocacy cases in 2019-20.

**The number of requests for services requiring intensive advocacy supports have increased significantly since last year, as demonstrated by the:**

- **24%** increase in ongoing advocacy cases compared to the previous year
- **33%** increase in the total number of children, youth, or young adults served through ongoing advocacy compared to the previous year

“Youth should feel safe enough to go to the hospital when they need it. Whether it be for an injury or self-harm or even just mental health issues, if they need help from a hospital, youth should feel safe enough to go.

— EMILY

Youth Ambassador, speaking on Article 24  
(Every child has the right to quality health care)



## SOURCE OF REFERRAL TO ONGOING ADVOCACY SUPPORTS

Once a case has been assessed by our intake team to require more intensive intervention, the majority of ongoing advocacy matters were originated from calls to our office from professionals working with children, youth, and young adults. This is closely followed by children, youth and young adults who reached out to us directly for support.

SOURCE OF REFERRAL TO ONGOING ADVOCACY SUPPORTS		
Professional (Education, Health, CFS, legal, other)	246	31%
Self (child or youth under 21 calling about themselves)	187	24%
Parent (birth/adoptive)	134	17%
Extended Family	91	12%
Foster Parent/Legal Guardian	77	9%
Community Member	32	4%
Other/Unknown	22	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>100%</b>

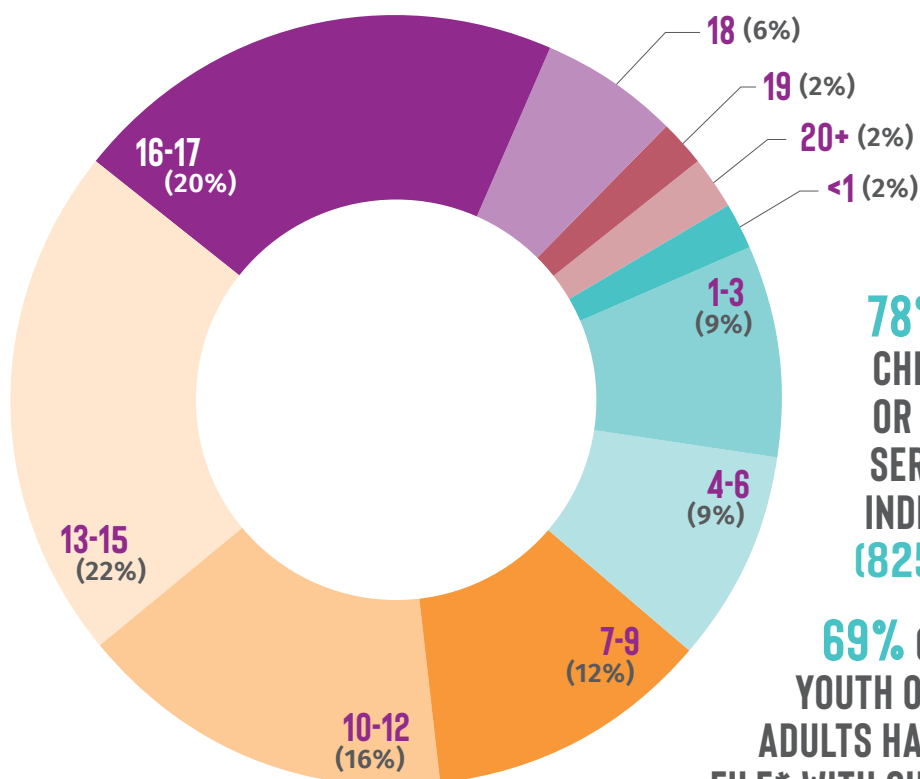
**24% OF ONGOING ADVOCACY CASES WERE SELF-REFERRALS FROM CHILDREN, YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULTS UNDER 21 YEARS OLD.**

### ALEX'S STORY

Alex, a youth living in custody, was nearly finished his custodial sentence and needed an appropriate community placement that would meet his specialized needs. A community member contacted our office on Alex's behalf to tell us about Alex and what he needed for a successful and safe transition to life after custody. When we contacted the CFS Agency responsible for Alex, we discovered the Agency had no plan for his transition and had not made the necessary arrangements to ensure he had somewhere to live once he was released. Our office met with Alex to talk about possible options available to him and then we advocated for a detailed plan that included supports for his disabilities. Within two weeks, an appropriate placement was located and arrangements were made so he could move in once he completed his sentence. Alex was released, moved to his new home, and is thriving in the setting which supports him in the many areas of his life where he requires them.

# THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WE SERVE

THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS INFORMATION ON THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SERVED THROUGH ONGOING ADVOCACY SUPPORTS THROUGHOUT THIS FISCAL YEAR.



**78%** OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, OR YOUNG ADULTS SERVED WERE INDIGENOUS (825 OF 1,053).

**69%** OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULTS HAD AN OPEN FILE\* WITH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (737 OF 1,053)

\* An open file is determined by having an active case category with a CFS agency including the following categories: Child in Care (CIC), Child in Care-Supervision (CIC-SUP), Family Enhancement (FE), Intake Module (I/M), Post Adoption, Protection (PRT), Protection Expectant Parent, Agreement with Young Adult (Support Beyond Termination of Guardianship), or Voluntary Family Services.

## EXPERIENCES AFFECTING CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS

Delivering child-centered and trauma-informed care means understanding the life experiences of children, youth, and young adults. No matter the need or issue, MACY Advocacy Officers take the time to get to know the child, youth, or young adult to identify the advocacy goals and needs that are right for them.

### OF THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS WE SERVED:

- **69%** had open files with child welfare
- **55%** had mental health and addiction issues
- **31%** were living with a physical or cognitive disability
- **31%** had been victimized through domestic violence or sexual exploitation
- **22%** were chronically absent from school or were suspended or expelled from school
- **22%** were involved with the criminal justice system

## COMPLEX HEALTH AND SOCIAL NEEDS

Many of the children, youth, and young adults we serve have multiple and complex health and social needs. Although a request for service may focus on one service area, Advocacy Officers address issues with an understanding of the multiple health and social needs of a child, youth, or young adult. This often means coordinating between service areas including child welfare, justice, and healthcare.

**99% OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS HAD MORE THAN ONE HEALTH OR SOCIAL NEED**

**42% HAD FIVE OR MORE HEALTH OR SOCIAL NEEDS**

### JASON'S STORY

Jason contacted us as he was nearing his age of majority and wanted to be supported to return to his mother's home following his time in the care of a CFS agency. We listened to Jason's ideas and opinions about what support he felt he needed for this plan to happen in a good way. We worked with Jason, the community organizations he was involved with, and the CFS agency to create a plan that kept his needs at the centre of all decisions. Jason was reunited with his mother before he turned 18. He continues to live with her and is doing well.

# TRENDS IN ADVOCACY CASES

The numbers below are based on the 1,137 ongoing advocacy cases closed in 2019-20. Following the resolution of an advocacy case, MACY Advocacy Officers will identify the concerns they addressed with service providers. The following table represents the top concerns addressed in each service area.

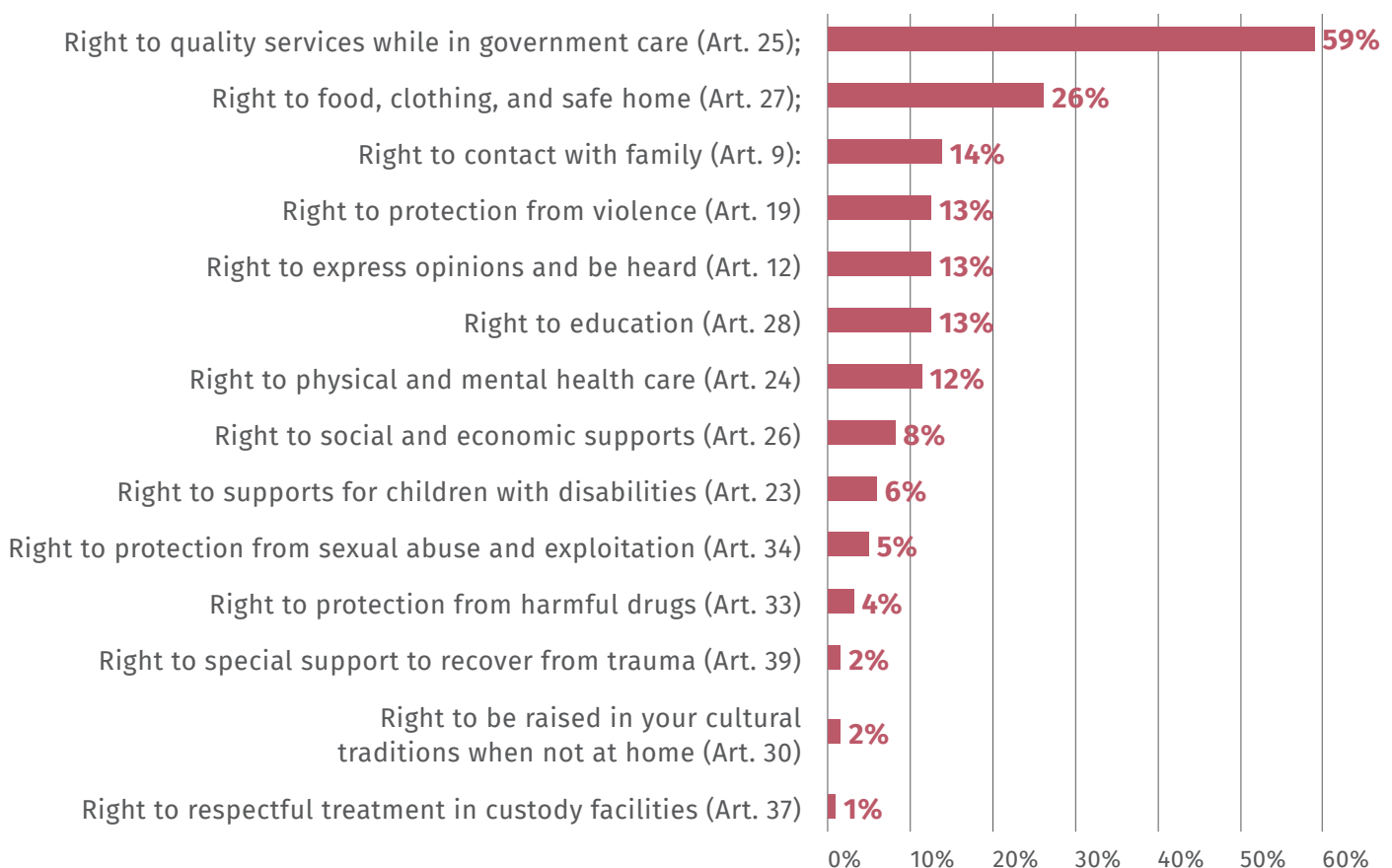
TOP TRENDS	
CHILD WELFARE AND ADOPTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case planning</li><li>• Long-term case and placement planning</li><li>• Placement concerns and placement breakdown</li></ul>
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registration in school</li><li>• Case coordination</li><li>• Special needs supports</li></ul>
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to mental health treatment</li><li>• Access to addiction treatment</li><li>• Supports for self-harm and/or suicidal ideation</li></ul>
YOUTH JUSTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transitional planning and placement out of custody</li><li>• Mental health and addictions planning/ services while in custody</li></ul>
DISABILITY SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transitioning from children's disability services to adult disability services</li><li>• Cognitive disability supports</li><li>• Transitioning from child welfare to adult disability services</li></ul>
VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impacted by domestic violence and need victim support/care</li><li>• Supports for youth who are sexually exploited</li><li>• Supports for youth who are sexually abused</li></ul>

# CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ISSUES IN MANITOBA

Every child and youth in Manitoba has inherent rights. These rights are enshrined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC). The UNCRC is an agreement between nearly every country in the world that recognizes and honours young people and the support they need to experience happy, healthy, and safe childhoods.

MACY is guided by the UNCRC and tracks children's rights issues identified in the Advocacy Services Program. In 2019-20, the Advocacy Program saw that the primary children's rights issue in 59% of cases was the quality of services for children in the care of child and family services. The next most prominent issue, noted in 26% of cases, was access to food, clothing, and a safe home.

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ISSUES IN ADVOCACY CASES, 2019-20



\*Advocacy cases can involve more than one children's rights issue.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MANITOBA ARE ENTITLED TO QUALITY SERVICES AND BASIC NEEDS. IN FOLLOWING WITH PART 3 OF THE ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT, MACY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE STEPS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNCRC, AND PROMOTE THE FULFILLMENT OF RIGHTS FOR ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN MANITOBA.

“Growing up I was never taught these (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) rights. I didn’t know about them. For me being in CFS, I honestly never thought we had these rights... You should really ask an adult or someone that you know - social worker, parent - ask them about these rights and they should teach you.

— TREVOR


Youth Ambassador, on Article 42  
(Children have the right to know their rights)

Santa Claus Parade excitement outside MACY’s Portage Age. office. (November 2019)



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT





MACY's Youth Engagement Program recognizes the unique gifts, strengths and talents of young people by creating and facilitating opportunities for youth to lead change and strengthen communities through activities that are meaningful for them.

## PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- **2,085** contacts with children, youth and young adults, a **500% increase** from last year
- **33** educational workshops delivered on children's rights and the UNCRC, a **385% increase** from last year

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Guided by the articles described in the *United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC), the Youth Engagement Program strives to promote children's rights and believes every child should have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

The 2019-20 fiscal year marked the first full year for the Youth Engagement Program and a year of exponential growth. Following MACY's guiding principles, two Youth Engagement Coordinators and the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!), supported by the Knowledge Keeper, offered public education, engagement, and outreach activities throughout the province.

### Key Youth Engagement Activities include:

- Listening to the advice and feedback from young people across Manitoba to understand how to improve access, effectiveness, and responsiveness of services that children and youth need (launch of the MACY Listening Tour in early 2020).
- Ensuring youth have a voice in the work of the office through our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) and the YAAS! Support Squad.
- Connecting with child- and youth-serving organizations (including schools and community groups)
- through presentations and outreach to share information about the UNCRC and the ways the office can advocate for young people.
- Hosting or attending youth-focused and youth-led events to connect with and listen to young people.
- Ensuring MACY's activities and reports reflect the experiences and perspectives of children and youth.

Read more in the [Youth Engagement Program companion document.](#)

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Youth Engagement Program is driven by MACY's guiding principles. Its vision is to improve the lives of Manitoba's children, youth, young adults, and families.

PUBLIC EDUCATION	UNCRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of children's rights and the UNCRC</li> <li>• Create education materials</li> </ul>
	ADVOCACY CAPACITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance self-advocacy among children, youth, young adults, and families</li> </ul>
	MACY SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote advocacy supports and increase public awareness of MACY</li> </ul>

ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH	AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visits</li> <li>• Forums and conferences</li> <li>• Community, school, and other events</li> </ul>
	RELATIONSHIP BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with children, youth, young adults, their families, and service providers and organizations</li> </ul>
	FEEDBACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify issues affecting children, youth, young adults, and families in Manitoba</li> </ul>

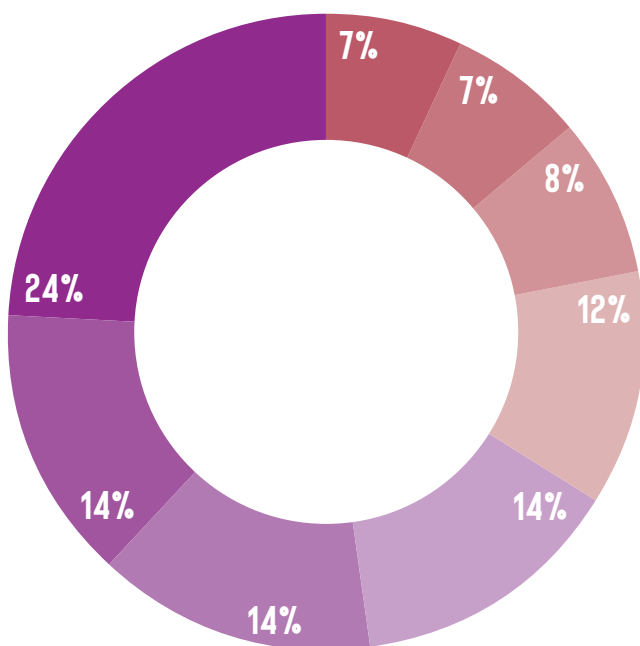
YOUTH AMBASSADOR ADVISORY SQUAD (YAAS!)	YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop leadership skills</li> <li>• Enhance self-advocacy skills</li> </ul>
	YOUTH PERSPECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify systemic issues affecting children and youth</li> <li>• Integrate youth voice in public policy and MACY activities</li> </ul>

# PROGRAM STATISTICS

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, BY PURPOSE

ACTIVITY	2018-2019	2019-2020	YEAR-OVER-YEAR
Youth engagement	235	1,853	↑ 689%
Information sharing	224	707	↑ 216%
Referrals received	16	10	↓ 38%
General outreach	14	489	↑ 3393%
Rights-based education	7	33	↑ 371%

## OUTREACH



### DOMAINS REACHED IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

- 7% Adoption
- 7% Justice
- 8% Disability
- 12% Victim Services
- 14% Child Welfare
- 14% Mental Health
- 14% Addictions
- 24% Education



## CONTACTS WITH YOUTH

2018-2019	2019-2020	YEAR-OVER-YEAR
304	2,085	↑ 586%

## CONTACTS WITH YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

	2018-2019	2019-2020	YEAR-OVER-YEAR
Indigenous organization	396 (65%)	2,353 (71%)	↑ 494%
Non-Indigenous organization	216 (35%)	965 (29%)	↑ 347%

## YOUTH AMBASSADOR ADVISORY SQUAD — YAAS!

Working with MACY's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) is one of the main areas of focus for the Youth Engagement Program. Nearly two dozen YAAS! members between the ages of 17 and 25 represent their system experience and their home communities from across the province and meet regularly with the Youth Engagement team.

YAAS! members are engaged in the activities of the office at all three MACY locations, hosting or volunteering at events, or meeting with staff on issues that affect children and youth in Manitoba. YAAS! is consulted on systemic issues reviewed by the office, ensuring any output of the organization reflects the perspective of how children and youth view and experience their communities and the public systems that provide services to young people in Manitoba.

### YAAS! members have connections to 14 communities:

- Bloodvein First Nation
- Fisher River Cree Nation
- Fox Lake Cree Nation
- Misipawistik Cree Nation (Grand Rapids)
- Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb) Cree Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation
- Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
- Selkirk
- Steinbach
- The Pas
- Thompson
- Winnipeg

## YAAS! CONTACTS AT MEETINGS AND RELATED EVENTS

2018-2019	2019-2020	YEAR-OVER-YEAR
91	347	↑ 281%



# PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM



Our office has a long record of working to educate the public about the experiences of children and youth and our data and findings from the work we do. When *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA) was proclaimed in 2018, this was formalized and public education became a core responsibility of the Manitoba Advocate. This year, we were excited to further develop that work by creating a specific program within the office responsible for coordinating our public engagement and education efforts. Today, the Public Education program focuses on how to inform the public about the many activities and areas of concern at MACY. This work includes developing written materials, like posters, brochures and pamphlets; engaging with media to help them elevate the stories of children and youth through news releases, special report launches and interviews; maintaining our website and social media pages; and coordinating in-person and online presentations with groups throughout the province.

## PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- **241 visits to communities outside of Winnipeg, 56% were** visits to provide direct advocacy supports to a child, youth or young adult where our staff also provided public education and engaged in outreach activities in the community.
- **50 public education presentations and attendance at 53 community events**

## PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

During its first few months of existence – which coincided with the last two months of this fiscal year – the Public Education Program worked on two special report launches for February and March 2020.

First, the Advocate released *The Slow Disappearance of Matthew: A Family's Fight for Youth Mental Health Care in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness*. This special report, based on a child death investigation conducted by our office, was made public at the Manitoba Legislature in February. The Manitoba Advocate spoke to media and answered their questions. We streamed the event live on social media and received coverage from most local news outlets.

In March, the Advocate was scheduled to release *Safe and Sound: A Special Report on the Unexpected Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants* at the University of Winnipeg during a news conference. Because of concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the Advocate decided to forgo the public event and staff documented a Facebook Live conversation about the report instead, which was broadcast from our boardroom at 270 Osborne Street North. Members of the Manitoba RCMP and the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba participated in the discussion, which drew hundreds of views. Several local media also covered the launch of the report.

## PRESENTATIONS

Public Education worked with the Youth Engagement team to develop and promote weekly Facebook Live teachings for children and youth. The aim of these lessons was to help educate and entertain kids, many of whom were stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, as in-person classes at schools were suspended. The roughly 20-minute lessons focused on the importance of maintaining good mental health and spotlighted individual children's rights as laid out in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC).

The Public Education and Youth Engagement Programs also worked together on developing an outreach strategy for the Listening Tour, which was temporarily suspended in March due to COVID-19's impact. MACY staff began the Listening

Tour by presenting in-person to hundreds of children, youth, and adults across the province in January and February, hearing directly from young people about the issues they face. While COVID-19 meant our staff weren't able to travel across the province anymore starting in mid-March, MACY continued the Listening Tour by offering an online survey, which collected about 200 responses from youth. The plan is to revisit the communities and regions we missed later in 2020, when travel restrictions are lifted.

**Read more about the first phase of the Listening Tour in the [Youth Engagement Program companion document](#).**

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our office is active on four social media platforms. We post about youth who inspire us, current events, emerging research, fun ideas, and what our staff are up to as we engage with and amplify the voices and opinions of young people across the province. If you are not yet following us, find us on:



<https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaAdvocate/>



[https://twitter.com/MB\\_Advocate](https://twitter.com/MB_Advocate)



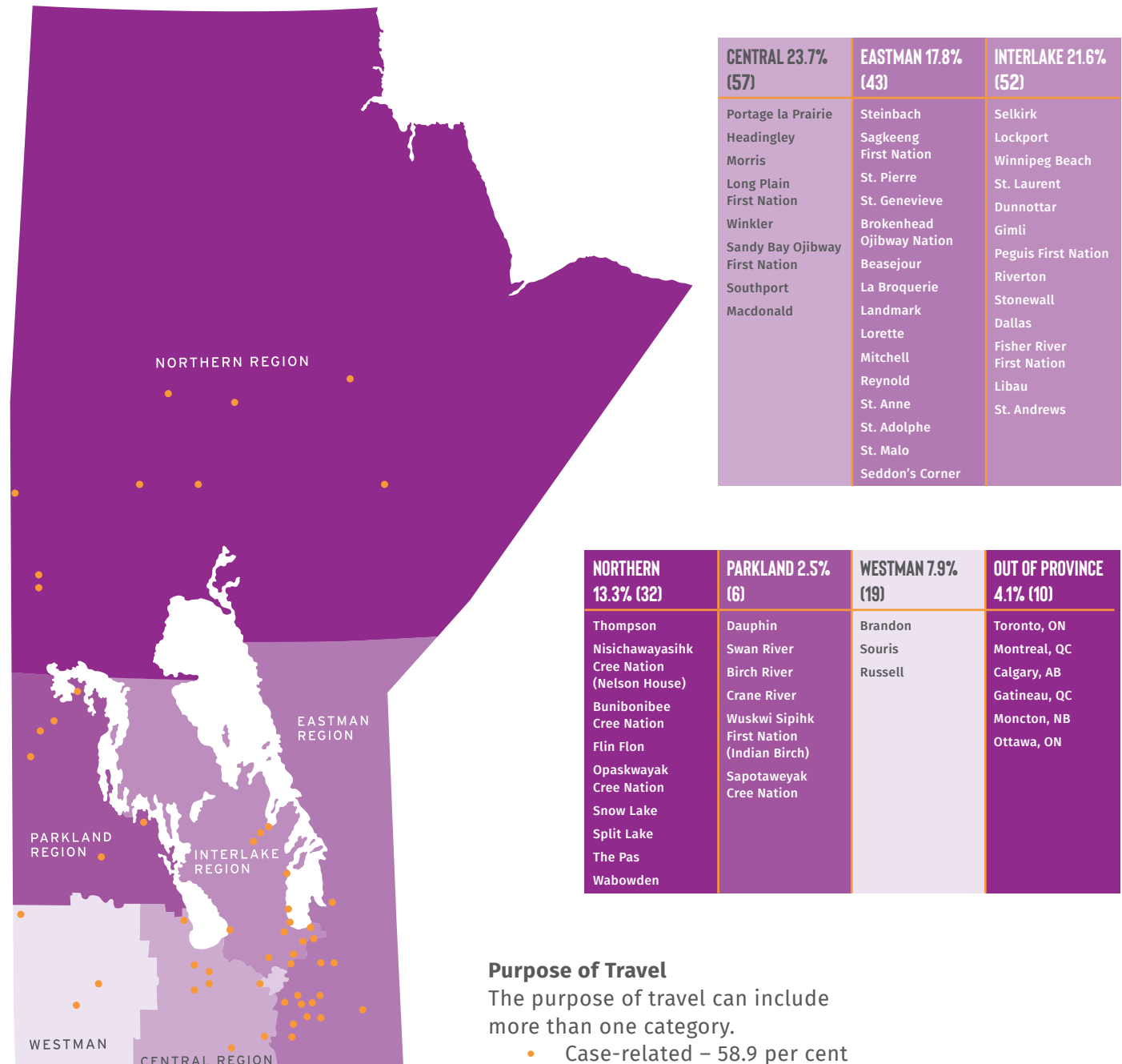
<https://www.instagram.com/manitobaadvocate/>



<http://tinyurl.com/ManitobaAdvocate>

## TRAVEL IN 2019-20

MACY serves children, youth, and young adults across Manitoba. In 2019-2020, MACY staff conducted 241 service visits, presentations and meetings outside of Winnipeg related to advocacy, investigations, youth engagement, and community outreach. The table below represents the regions and communities we visited.



### Purpose of Travel

The purpose of travel can include more than one category.

- Case-related – 58.9 per cent
- Youth engagement – 12.9 per cent
- Presentation request – 8.3 per cent
- Other community event – 7.9 per cent
- Community outreach – 7.9 per cent
- Conference/training – 5.0 per cent
- CFS agency/authority event – 2.5 per cent



- 1: Manitoba Advocate Daphne Penrose is interviewed by APTN about the Safe and Sound report. (March 2020)
- 2: Cheering on the Winnipeg Blue Bombers at Investors Group Field. (September 2019)
- 3: Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans, our manager of research and quality assurance, participates in a living library, describing what MACY does to participants. (April 2019)

## OUTREACH: PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

In 2019-20, MACY delivered 50 public education presentations to service providers and youth-serving organizations and attended 53 outreach events. Our presentations and workshops cover our work and mandate, children's rights, and issue-specific topics such as our youth suicide research, examinations of youth custody practices, and more.

If you would like us to present about our office or a specific topic, or if you would like our staff (or our friendly mascot, The Wavy Guy!) to attend an event, please email us at [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca)





# INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM



When any child, youth or young adult under age 21 dies in Manitoba, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) officially notifies the Manitoba Advocate of the death. If the child or their family had received any child welfare services within one year of the death of the child, the Manitoba Advocate may review and investigate any of the public services that were delivered to the child and their family. The purpose of the reviews and investigations is to examine the effectiveness and responsiveness of the services provided to the child and their family.

## PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- **71** child death **reviews** completed
- **26** child death **investigations** completed
- **2** **special reports** on child deaths **published**
- **16** **recommendations** issued

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

If the Manitoba Advocate opens a review or investigation following the death of a child, our team of Investigators will collect and assess information from systems that may have provided services to the family, including child welfare, adoption, disabilities, education, mental health, addictions, victim supports, and youth justice.

In addition, we may collect information such as police reports, fire commissioner reports, medical records, and more. The Manitoba Advocate's legislation allows the Advocate to require a public body or other person to provide any information in its custody or under its control – including personal health information – so the office of the Manitoba Advocate can carry out its responsibilities.



During a crafting activity, MACY staff beaded small red dresses to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

## INVESTIGATIONS

The focus of our investigations is to identify whether programs and services that were provided, or which should have been provided, can be improved to enhance the safety and wellbeing of all children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba, and to make recommendations which will reduce the likelihood of a future death in similar circumstances.

The investigative process includes opportunities for feedback and dialogue with various groups and individuals, including professionals who provide services to children and families. When we are investigating, we examine public service delivery through the eyes of the child and we invite and encourage family and community participation. Whenever possible, our investigators travel to the home community of the child, youth, or young

adult, to speak with people who knew and loved the child, in order to gain a better understanding of who that child was and how services are delivered within a local community context.

The Manitoba Advocate is empowered to publish a special report on any matter for which the Advocate has responsibility. For example, if the Manitoba Advocate determines it to be in the public's best interest, the Advocate may choose to release results of any review or investigation through a public special report as described in Section 31 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. The Manitoba Advocate shares additional information about issues and concerns through the Advocate's annual reports and on our website: [www.manitobaadvocate.ca](http://www.manitobaadvocate.ca).

## HONOURING THE VOICE OF A FAMILY

Though it is difficult work, as Investigators our foundation is to examine service delivery through the eyes of the child. These investigations can take months to complete and we invite and encourage family participation as the child's story is being investigated. In February 2020, we published the story of a youth who died by suicide, *The Slow Disappearance of Matthew: A Family's Fight for Youth Mental Health Care in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness*. Matthew's mother chose to be an active participant throughout the entire investigation process. She invited us

into her home on numerous occasions, shared openly and honestly, and helped us understand Matthew and their family's struggle beyond the service files and interviews to which we had access. Matthew's mother was always clear that she wanted to honour the memory of Matthew and have his legacy be the catalyst for change that is needed within the youth mental health system. Her voice strengthened our work. We are thankful for her courage, and we were honoured to work with her to tell the story of her child.

## COMPLETION OF 71 REVIEWS AND 26 INVESTIGATIONS

In the 2019-20 fiscal year, the Advocate's Investigations and Child Death Review Program completed 71 reviews into provincial public services provided to children, youth, and young adults who had died between the years 2013 and 2019. This accomplishment was significant because it not only indicates how busy our Investigations Program was during the year, but it also means we are now able to work on in-year reviews. By "in-year," we mean that our formal review of a child's death occurs within a year of the death and often sooner, ensuring any issues or concerns we may identify can be communicated to the responsible systems in a timely way to improve services for other children, youth, and young adults in the province and to reduce the likelihood of deaths occurring in similar circumstances in the future.

At the completion of a child death review, the Manitoba Advocate determines whether our involvement will conclude following the review or if concerns about the services provided to the child or family should proceed to a full investigation. If the Advocate launches an investigation, a broader scope of examination occurs, additional services may be reviewed, and a more extensive report may be written. This year, in addition to 71 child death reviews, the Advocate's team completed 26 child death investigations.

# DEATHS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN MANITOBA

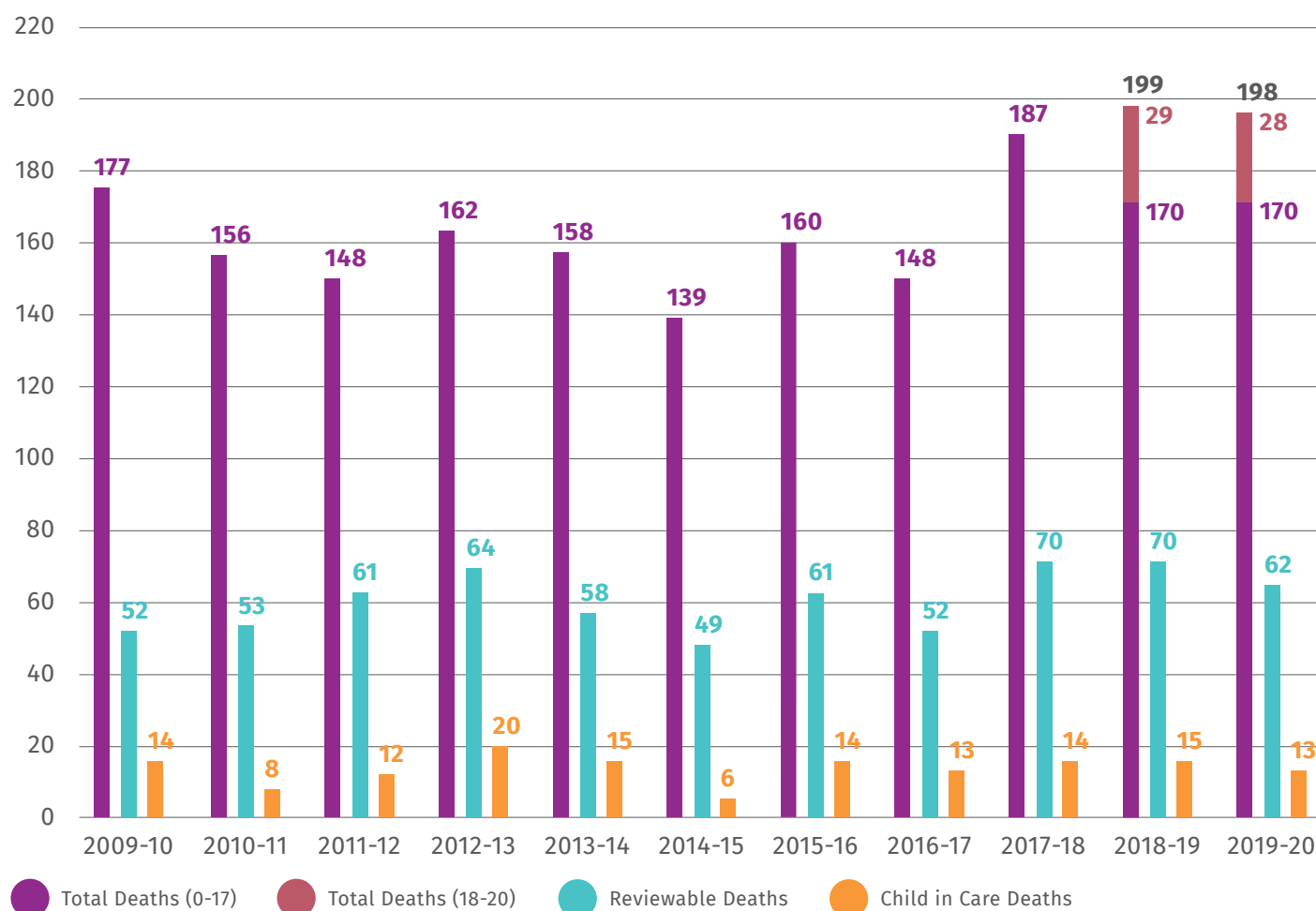
## PROGRAM STATISTICS CHILD DEATH NOTIFICATIONS

The office received a total of 198 official Manitoba child death notifications from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

198 child death notifications were received for Manitoba residents.

- 198 notifications for children/youth aged 0-17.
- 28 notifications for young adults aged 18-20.
- 62 notifications were in scope for a review (receiving service from CFS at time of death or in the year prior to the death)
  - Of those 62 deaths reviewable by the Advocate, 13 notifications were for a child in care.

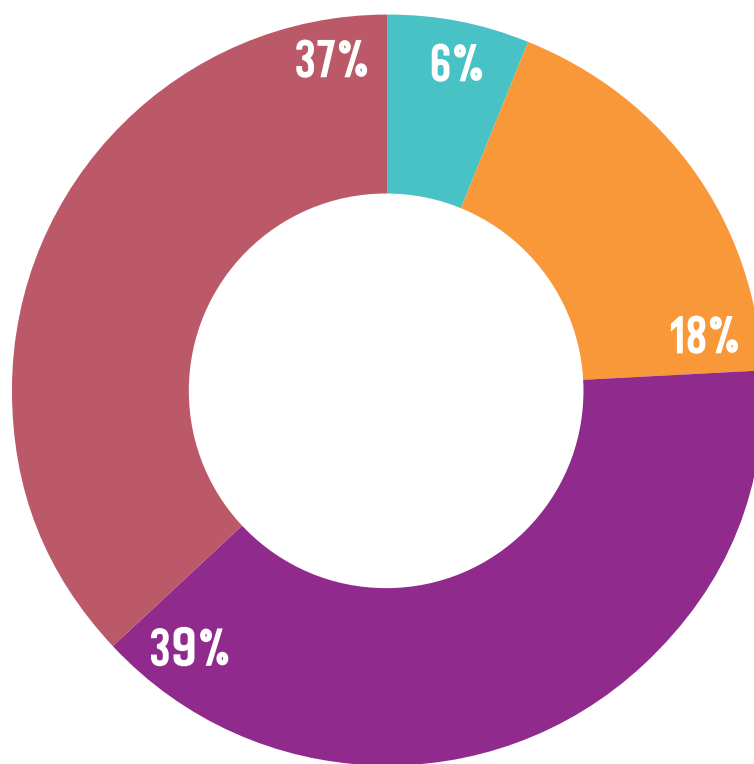
## ANNUAL MANITOBA CHILD DEATHS



## REVIEWABLE DEATHS BY AUTHORITY

- General Authority
- Metis Authority
- Southern Authority
- Northern Authority

\*Child and Family Services remained the only reviewable service that brought a child death notification in scope for a review in 2019-20.





## MANNER OF DEATH BY AGE

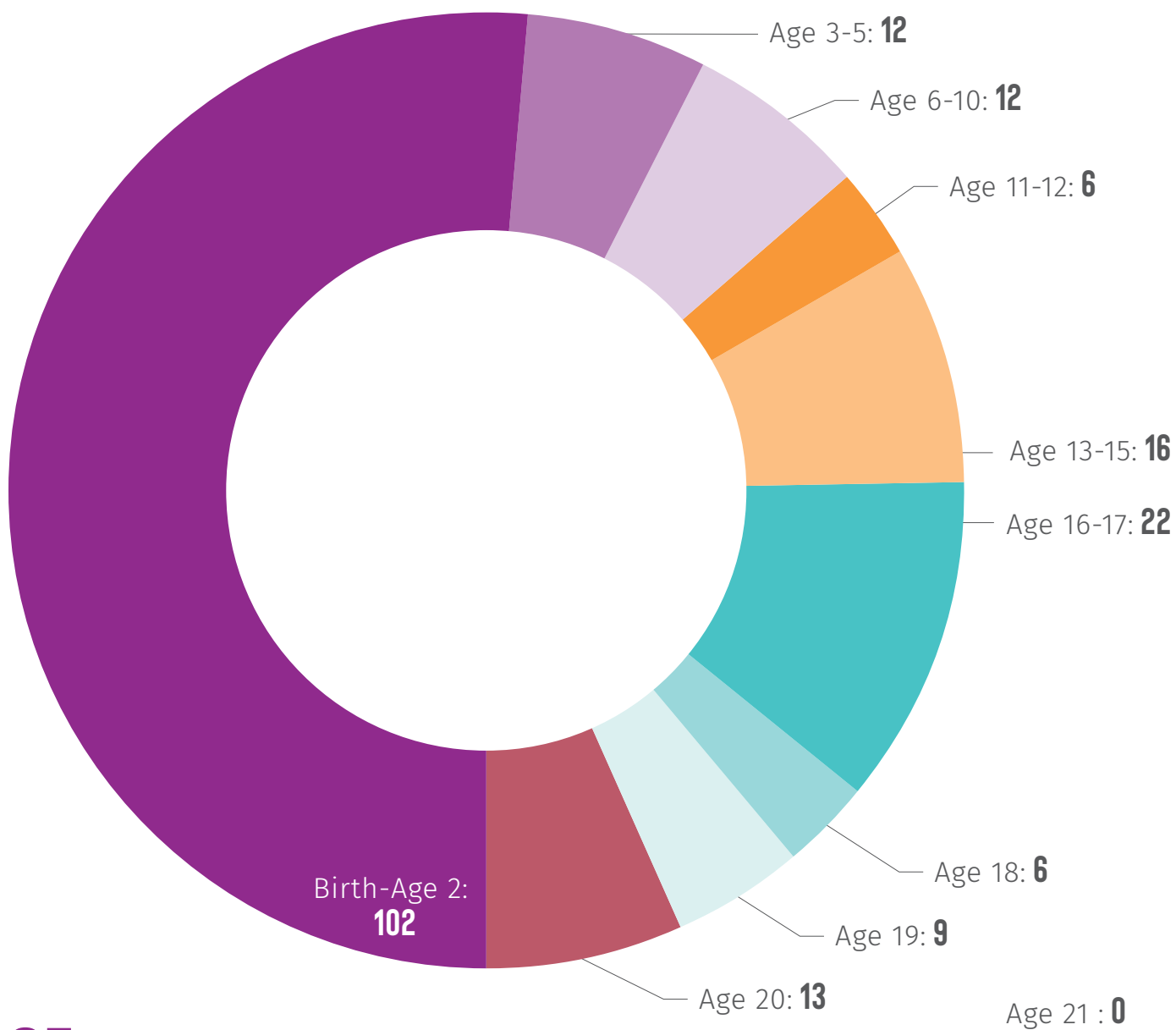
The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reports child death notifications to the Manitoba Advocate within hours or days of a child's or youth's death. Manners of death can change once the Advocate receives final autopsies and medical examiners' reports. Hence, some of the information in this table remains preliminary.

PRELIMINARY MANNER OF DEATH (As assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner)	TOTAL MANITOBA DEATHS	TOTAL PERCENTAGE	REVIEWABLE DEATHS ** (In scope for review by the Advocate)				NON-REVIEWABLE DEATHS (Out of scope for review)	
			Not in Care Deaths		Child in Care Deaths		Birth to 17	18 to 20
			Birth to 17	18 to 20	Birth to 17	18 to 20		
<b>Natural</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>
Premature	40		9	-	-	-	31	-
Disease	32		4	-	2	-	25	1
Medically Fragile	19		6	-	1	-	12	-
Other	4		-	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Accidental</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
Motor Vehicle	15		3	-	-	-	6	6
Drowning	4		-	-	2	-	1	1
In Home	4		1	-	-	-	3	-
Other	4		3	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Suicide</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Undetermined *</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>21</b>

\* Undetermined is the label the chief medical examiner gives when they cannot conclusively determine how the death occurred, even if the physical cause may be known. This category includes sudden unexplained infant death (SUID) and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

\*\* Child and youth deaths can be reviewed by the Manitoba Advocate if there was an open child and family services file within twelve months of the date of death.

## MANITOBA DEATHS BY AGE OF CHILD/YOUTH



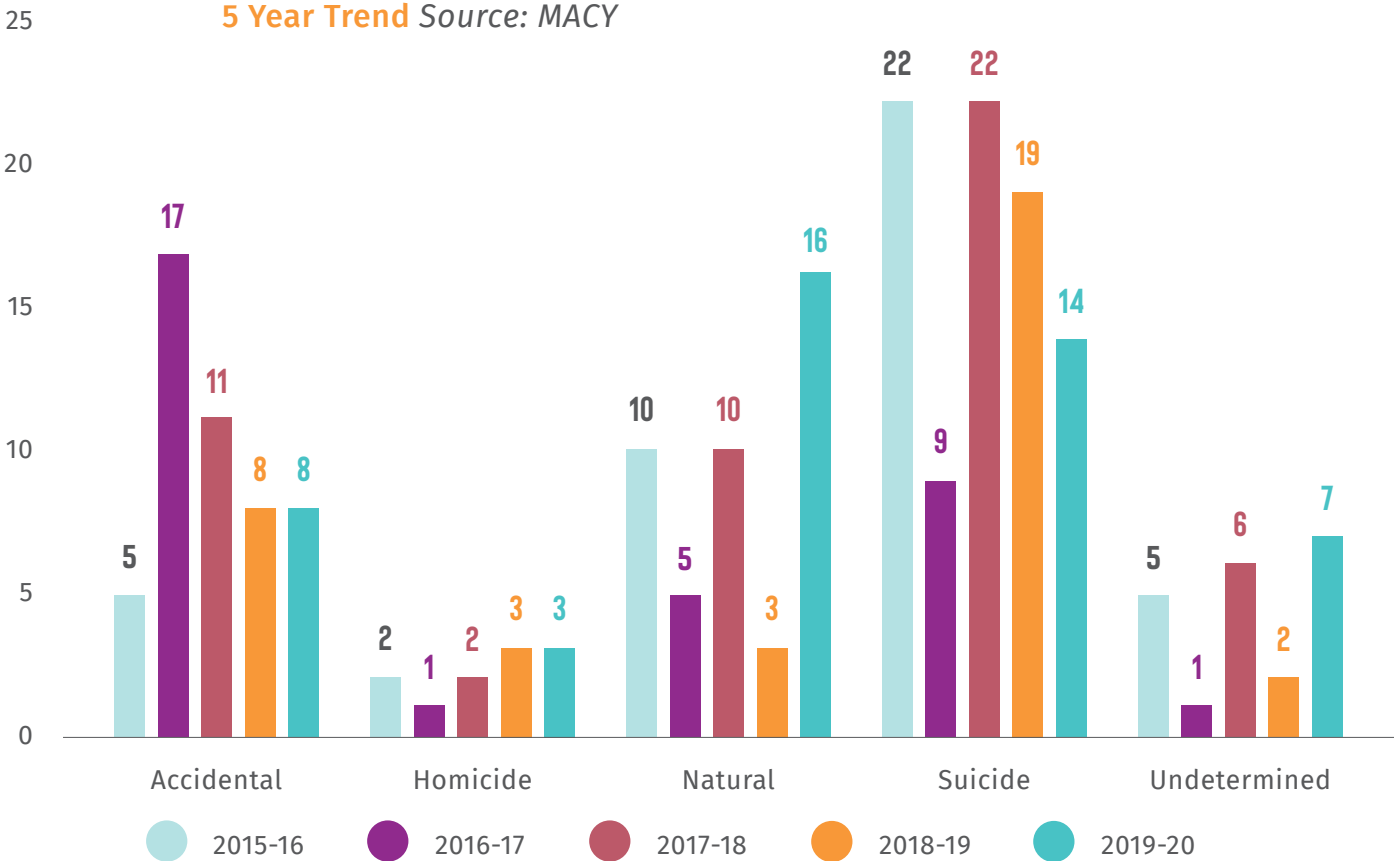
# YOUTH SUICIDES

We are also responsible for advocating on behalf of children and youth who have died in Manitoba, with an objective of making recommendations that improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated public services. Over the past year, we have continued our ongoing examination into the issue of youth suicide and carefully reviewed the services and supports available to youth at risk of suicide. What we found should be seen as a wake-up call to all Manitobans.

30

## MANNER OF DEATH, YOUTH AGED 10-17

5 Year Trend Source: MACY



Over the past five years, suicide has become the leading manner of death for Manitoba youth ages 10-17. We laid out that finding and many more systemic issues uncovered in two special reports this year: *The Slow Death of Matthew: A Family’s Fight for Youth Mental Health Care in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness* (released in February) and *“Stop Giving Me a Number and Start Giving Me a Person”: How 22 Girls Illuminate the Cracks in the Manitoba Youth Mental Health and Addiction System* (an aggregate report on 22 youth suicides, completed in March and released in May). You can read more about those reports on p. 71.

The Manitoba Advocate is also responsible for tracking progress and the levels of compliance the government and other public bodies demonstrate on the recommendations issued in the Advocate’s investigations and special reports. This information is available to all Manitobans on our website: <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/recommendation-tracking/>



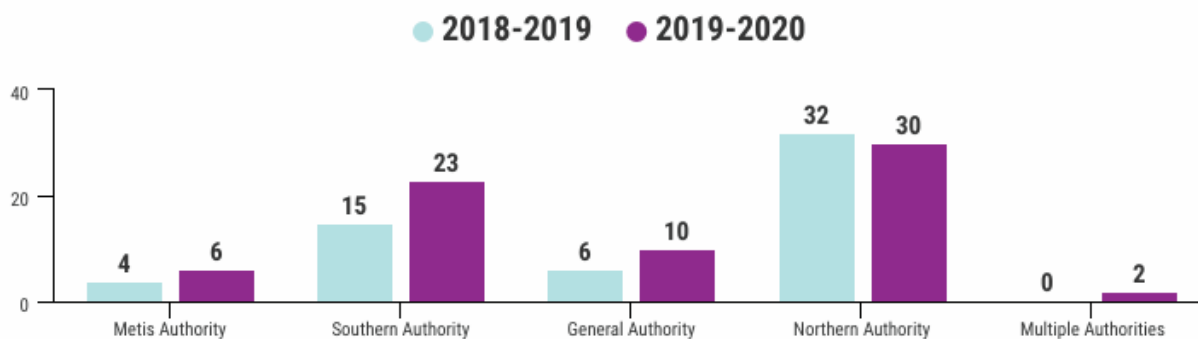
**A TOTAL OF 68 FILES WERE CARRIED FORWARD INTO THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR. OF THEM, 43 FILES MOVED TO THE REVIEW PHASE AND 25 FILES PROCEEDED TO THE INVESTIGATION PHASE.**

# Child Death Review Summary 2019-20

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth is notified of all deaths of Manitoba children and youth until age 21. The Advocate assesses each death, determines whether it requires further review, and later, whether it requires a more comprehensive investigation. Some investigations are publicly released as special reports.

**During the reporting year, the Advocate completed 71 individual child death reviews for children who died between 2013 and 2020.**

Child's Involvement, by CFS Authority



Age at Death, by CFS Authority

Age Group	Metis Authority	Southern Authority	General Authority	Northern Authority	Multiple Authorities	Total
Birth-2	2	11	4	8	-	25
3-5	1	1	1	2	-	5
6-12	-	1	3	6	-	10
13-17	3	8	2	14	2	29
18-20	-	2	-	-	-	2
Totals	6	23	10	30	2	71

Source: Data from the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth



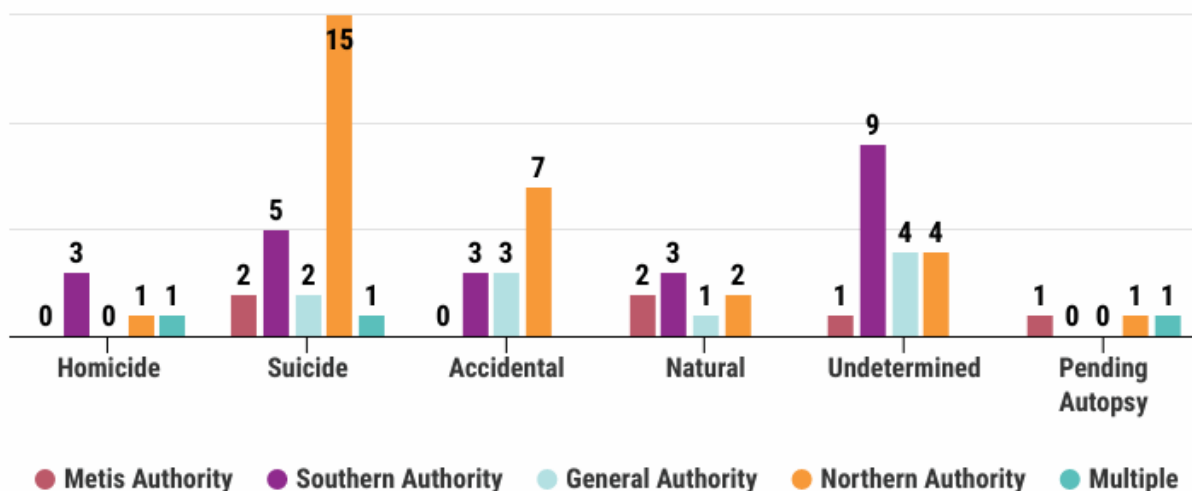
## Manners of Death

When a child, youth, or young adult has died, the chief medical examiner classifies their manner of death into one of five categories:



\*Undetermined is the label the chief medical examiner gives when they cannot conclusively determine how the death occurred, even if the physical cause may be known. This category includes sudden unexplained infant death (SUID) and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

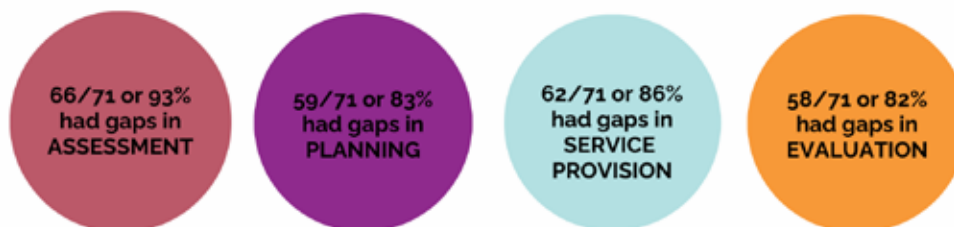
## Manners of death for the 71 reviews completed this year (deaths occurred between 2013 and 2020):



Source: Data from the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth

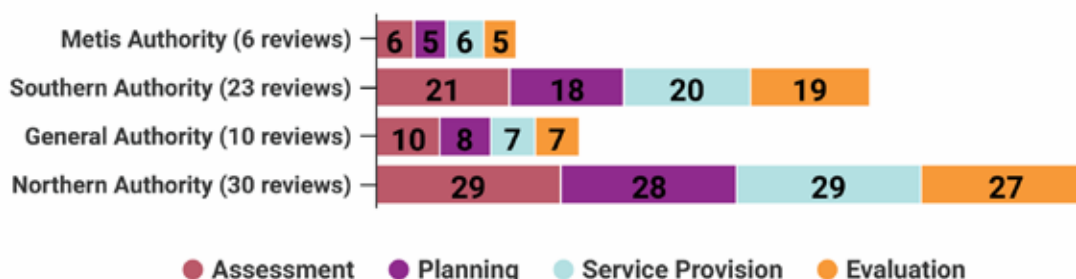
## Where the Service Gaps Were

When our investigators are reviewing the death of a child, we use the provincial minimum CFS service standards manual as one source to compare what services were provided to a family to what services ought to have been provided. The standards can broadly be organized into four categories: assessment, planning, service provision, and the evaluation of those services.



The chart below reflects the number of times our office observed gaps in services, based on the evidence analyzed for the child death review.

## Number of Gaps Found in Services, by Authority



**Note:** As noted previously, two reviews involved 2 different authorities at the time of the child's death and are therefore not included in the chart above.

## After a Child Death Review...What Happens Next?

After a child death review is completed, the Manitoba Advocate determines if our involvement will end or if a more comprehensive investigation is warranted. The Advocate may open an investigation if a reviewable service might have contributed to the death, and if the death was related to a child protection issue, if the death occurred in unusual or suspicious circumstances, or if the death was self-inflicted or inflicted by another person.



# CHILD DEATH SPECIAL REPORTS

## THE SLOW DISAPPEARANCE OF MATTHEW: A FAMILY'S FIGHT FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE WAKE OF BULLYING AND MENTAL ILLNESS

This special report described the life of Matthew, a teenager from Winnipeg who died by suicide when he was 16. Matthew was a smart and kind boy who was close to his family and loved animals. The Advocate's investigation found Matthew had been severely bullied when he was in junior high school, which led to significant mental illnesses and eventually, to his complete withdrawal from all activities outside his house, including school. Matthew had many contacts with community services, including school-based and community-based psychologists, public and private therapists, occupational therapists, doctors, police officers, paramedics, and child welfare workers. Despite their best efforts, Matthew's family was unable to secure long-term supports for him. The Advocate's report on Matthew's death exposed serious gaps in the mental health system for youth in Manitoba and the Advocate made eight recommendations to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of services. Read the full report at <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/MACY-Special-Report-The-Slow-Disappearance-of-Matthew-Feb2020.pdf>



## "STOP GIVING ME A NUMBER AND START GIVING ME A PERSON": HOW 22 GIRLS ILLUMINATE THE CRACKS IN THE MANITOBA YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SYSTEM

This special report dives into lessons learned from the suicide deaths of 22 Manitoba girls. The girls, ages 11-17, were primarily from rural and northern Manitoba communities and died between 2013 and 2019. Their struggles point to glaring cracks in provincial mental health and addiction services for youth. The Advocate made seven recommendations to the provincial government about how to fix these systems and therefore improve the wellbeing of Manitoba children and youth. Read the full report at <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/MACY-Special-Report-Suicide-Aggregate-2020.pdf>



# STILL WAITING:

## CHILD DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES SLIPPING THROUGH THE CRACKS

At the time of writing, two important areas of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA) remain not proclaimed and therefore not in force. One area is related to the requirement for government departments and service providers to report incidents of serious injury of children to the Manitoba Advocate. While the Advocate can currently review and investigate serious injuries if those incidents come to the attention of the office, the requirement for service providers to report injuries has not yet been proclaimed. Because of this delay, there is currently no centralized tracking system in Manitoba for serious injuries to children and youth.

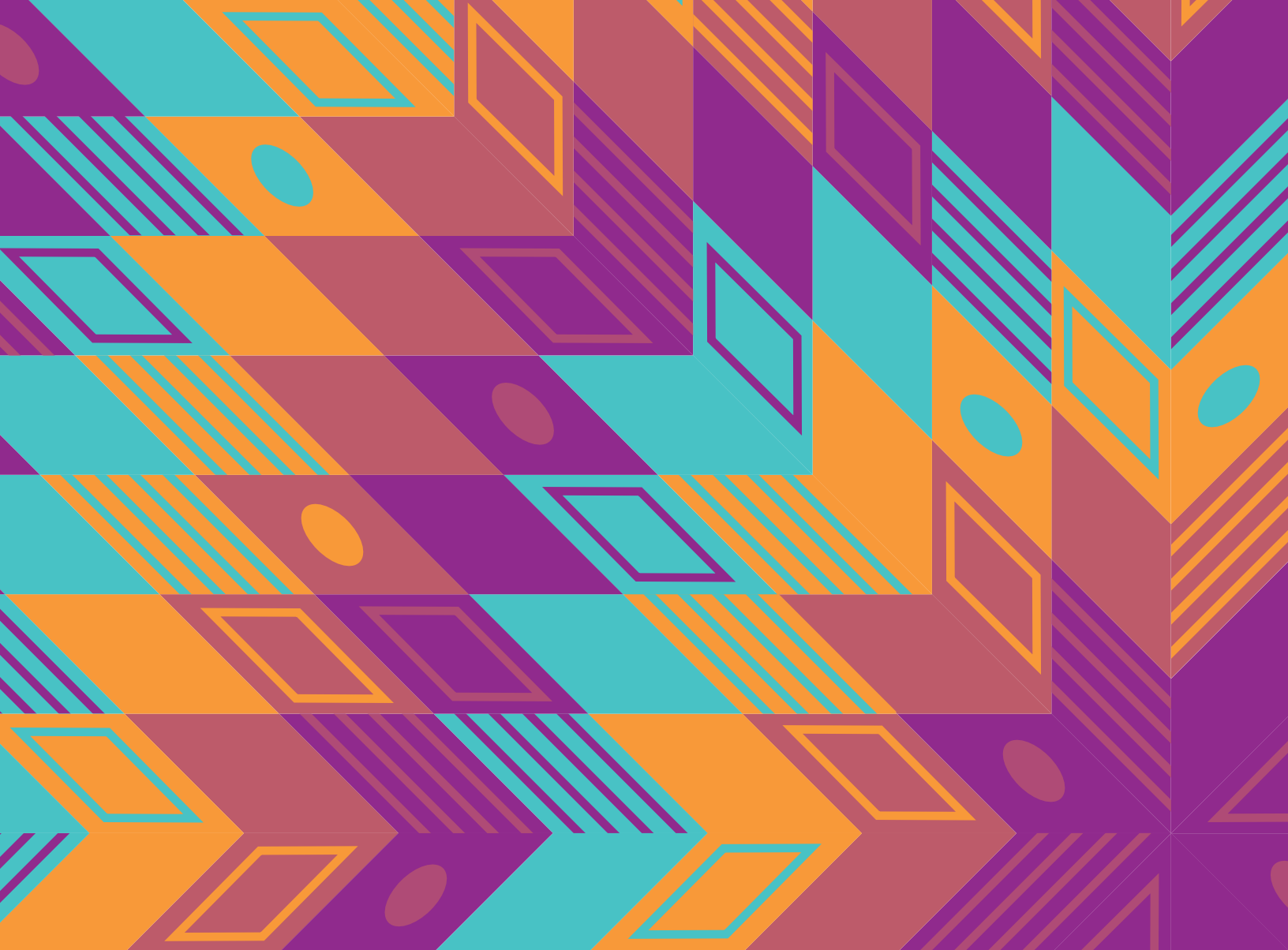
The second outstanding area of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* is related to our child death reviews. Currently, deaths are only in scope for review by our office if there has been any CFS involvement in the one year before the child's death. When the full scope of the Advocate's mandate is finally brought into

force, the Manitoba Advocate will be able to review and investigate deaths where there has been involvement of addictions, mental health, or justice services within one year of the young person's death, even if CFS was not involved.

This section of the legislation is important to proclaim because we continue to be notified of many deaths where valuable lessons could likely be learned, but where our mandate is being held back and the Advocate is not yet empowered to review or investigate. For example, of the 22 suicides that occurred during this reporting year, only 10 were in scope for a formal review. Twelve of those deaths fell outside of the sections of the ACYA that have been proclaimed because those 12 youth had not received CFS support in the year leading up to their deaths.

The Manitoba Advocate has been ready and waiting for Phases 2 and 3 of the ACYA to come into force since the legislation became law in March 2018.

**With every passing day we wait for the legislation to be proclaimed in full, more children and youth's lives are in jeopardy.**



# RESEARCH HUB





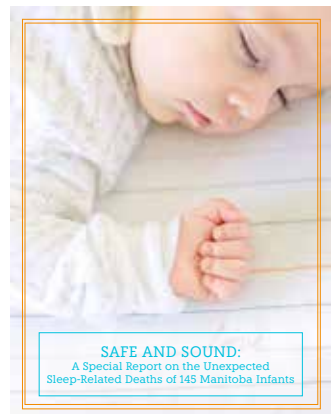
The Research Hub conducts research and develops projects such as reports, briefings, submissions, and statements of concern to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated provincial services provided to children and youth in Manitoba.

## PROGRAM BY NUMBERS

- 1 special report on sleep-related infant deaths
- 1 submission to the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education
- 6 knowledge translation initiatives
- 13 recommendations to improve services for children and youth in Manitoba

## SAFE AND SOUND: A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS OF 145 MANITOBA INFANTS

Sleep-related infant deaths are preventable. This comprehensive review of infant deaths – the first study of its kind in Manitoba – identified 145 sleep-related infant deaths in the last ten years and their associated risk factors. Our data indicate that over the past ten years, Manitoba lost an average of 15 infants each year in cases where sleep-related risks may have contributed to deaths. The highest number of sleep-related infant deaths occurred in 2018, with 25 deaths that year. In response to these concerns, the Manitoba Advocate initiated a public education special report about sleep-related infant deaths in Manitoba and the associated risk factors. In the Safe and Sound report, the Manitoba Advocate made 13 recommendations to the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to increase infant safety and to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of services for infants and their families. **Read the full report here.** <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/SafeSleep-Report.pdf>



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE REPORT RELEASE?

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) endorsed recommendations in the report and planned to improve data collection during infant death investigations. The First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba also endorsed the recommendations in the report, some of which addressed Indigenous Peoples' health concerns specifically.

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS

### MANITOBA ADVOCATE'S SUBMISSION TO THE K-12 EDUCATION COMMISSION

On June 20, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth was pleased to make a formal submission to the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education ("the Commission") with the purpose of improving education services and educational outcomes for all children and youth in Manitoba. The submission highlights five key areas of concern the Manitoba Advocate observed in Child Death Investigations and through Advocacy Services. The concerns include:

1. The negative effects of chronic and severe absenteeism.
2. The relationship between suspensions and school drop-out rates.
3. Barriers to educational access for children with disabilities.
4. Administrative barriers to school enrollment.
5. Lack of consultation with youth.

In the submission, the Manitoba Advocate made six recommendations to the Commission to address these key issues:

1. Develop a plan to reduce chronic absenteeism by improving measurement, assessment, and early responses to school absenteeism.
2. Review the use of out-of-school suspensions and develop a strategy to reduce and phase-out exclusionary practices.
3. Seek the advice and expertise of teachers to promote system-wide best practices to work with children who exhibit violent

and challenging behaviours in schools with the purpose of ensuring no child in Manitoba, regardless of disability, mental health status, or behaviour is denied the right to an education, as per Article 2 and Article 28 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

4. Amend *The Public Schools Act* and relevant regulations to explicitly provide direction ensuring education is not unduly delayed due to any administrative requirements of enrollment.
5. Amend *The Public Schools Act* and relevant regulations to ensure continuity of education is prioritized over catchment area determinations for all children, including children in care and, in the meantime, that the protocol known as the *Education and Child and Family Services Protocol for Children and Youth in Care*<sup>1</sup> be better promoted among school administrators.
6. Develop a meaningful consultation strategy to ensure the voices of children and youth in Manitoba are considered as part of the Commission's review of Kindergarten to Grade 12 education.

#### Read the full submission on our website.

[https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019-06-18-\\_MACY-Submission\\_to\\_K-12\\_MB\\_Education\\_Commission.pdf](https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019-06-18-_MACY-Submission_to_K-12_MB_Education_Commission.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> Healthy Child Manitoba. (2013). Education and Child and Family Services protocol for children and youth in care. Government of Manitoba. Online: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/publications/protocol\\_youthcare.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/publications/protocol_youthcare.pdf)

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- The Manitoba Advocate facilitated a meeting between the Commission and members of our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) to amplify the voices of youth and ensure the Commission had an opportunity to speak to diverse youth.
- The Commission's report was originally scheduled for public release before the end of March 2020. While the Commission's final report was delivered

to the Manitoba government, as of late spring 2020, the government has not yet made the report public. The Minister of Education has said the province is waiting to release the report due to ongoing focus on the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Manitoba Advocate continues to monitor access to education and other education-related concerns through the Advocacy Program and through its investigations.



MACY's research team at a domain meeting for the Safe and Sound report. (February 2019)

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Knowledge translation activities move research into action, which means communicating research findings to the public, children, youth, and key stakeholders. These activities include offering presentations, infographics, webinars, and more. In the past year, we:

- Presented data and lessons from our 2019 report, *Learning from Nelson Mandela: A report on the use of solitary confinement and pepper spray in Manitoba's youth custody facilities*, to the province-wide Psychiatry Grand Rounds at Health Sciences Centre.
- Organized and presented findings from *Learning from Nelson Mandela* at a panel on solitary confinement in Canadian youth custody facilities at the 2019 CCCYA National Conference.
- Presented on the use of segregation and solitary confinement for the Criminal Defense Lawyers Association of Manitoba.
- Presented on segregation and solitary confinement for Osgoode Hall at York University's continuing education sessions.
- Presented preliminary findings of the *Safe and Sound* report to stakeholders in health, justice, child welfare and more.
- Launched the *Safe and Sound* report including a public conversation [streamed online](#), involving the RCMP and the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba.
- Created an [infographic](#) and [pamphlet](#) with information from the *Safe and Sound* report.



## RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

The Manitoba Advocate's Research Hub collaborates with experts and researchers in Manitoba working on children's rights issues, including:

- First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba
- Institute for Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg
- Centre for Human Rights Research, University of Manitoba
- Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, University of Manitoba
- Dr. Kendra Nixon, University of Manitoba – studies children involved in the court system
- Dr. Roberta Woodgate, University of Manitoba – studies mental health and children aging out of child welfare

Michael Redhead Champagne hangs out with MACY at the Santa Claus Parade. (November 2019)



The image features a vibrant, abstract background composed of various geometric shapes and patterns. The color palette is dominated by orange, teal, and purple. In the upper left, there are several parallel lines and rectangular outlines in orange and purple. The right side of the image is filled with a complex, overlapping pattern of rectangles, lines, and circles in the same color scheme. The text 'QUALITY ASSURANCE' is positioned in the upper left quadrant, set against a white background.

# QUALITY ASSURANCE



The Manitoba Advocate's Quality Assurance (QA) Program focuses on continuous improvement within MACY and monitors the levels of compliance demonstrated by the government with recommendations made by the Manitoba Advocate in investigations or special reports. The QA Program works to ensure effective and efficient service delivery of public systems serving children and youth in Manitoba, including at MACY.

## PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- **62** recommendations from special reports and investigations reviewed and analyzed for compliance.
- **1** Advocacy Services Program satisfaction survey developed and piloted.
- **5** MACY program logic models developed and implemented.

## INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Finalized the Policy and Procedure Manual for Advocacy Services and worked towards completing final drafts for the following programs: Investigations and Child Death Reviews, Research, and Youth Engagement. These manuals reflect program processes and identify standards for performance measurement.
- Developed the MACY service plan to ensure program areas and the office as a whole have clearly identified standards for performance measurement.
- Finalized logic models for Advocacy Services, Investigations and Child Death Reviews, Research, Youth Engagement, and Quality Assurance Programs and one for MACY as a whole.

## DATA COLLECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND ANALYSIS

- Transitioned MACY to a new browser-based database for record-keeping that is representative of the broadly expanded legislative mandate.
- Developed user guides about the new database to support staff in accurate data entry and collection.
- Conducted monthly data audits to ensure accurate data entry.
- Continually modified data entry processes and data collection fields to address gaps in data.
- Evaluated and refined processes for tracking recommendations being monitored by MACY.

# RECOMMENDATION COMPLIANCE

In accordance with Section 11(1)(d) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA), the Manitoba Advocate has the legal responsibility to monitor the implementation of recommendations released by the Advocate in investigations or special reports. The Advocate may include information on the levels of compliance with previous recommendations made by the Advocate, per Section 30(4) of the ACYA.

## INVESTIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2019-20, MACY continued to monitor the implementation of 39 recommendations stemming from individual child death investigations completed prior to the proclamation of the ACYA in 2018. Individual recommendations relate to Child and Family Services. Of the 39 that remained open as of the beginning of the fiscal year, 24 recommendations have since been assessed as complete and closed.

AUTHORITY/ RESPONSIBLE BODY	RECOMMENDATIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NEW RECOMMENDATIONS 2019-20	% OF RESPONSE UPDATES AT END OF FISCAL 2019/20	NUMBER OF OPEN RECOMMENDATIONS REMAINING AS OF MAR. 31, 2020	% COMPLETED AS OF MAR. 31, 2020
NORTHERN CFS AUTHORITY	27	1	100%	10	64%
SOUTHERN CFS AUTHORITY	7	0	100%	2	71%
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION	4	0	100%	3	25%
CFS "MULTIPLES WORKING GROUP"	1	0	100%	1	0%
GENERAL CFS AUTHORITY	0	0	100%	0	N/A
METIS CFS AUTHORITY	0	0	100%	0	N/A
SUMMARY	39	1	100%	16	60%



MACY staff participated in Orange Shirt Day to promote awareness about the residential school system.

## SPECIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

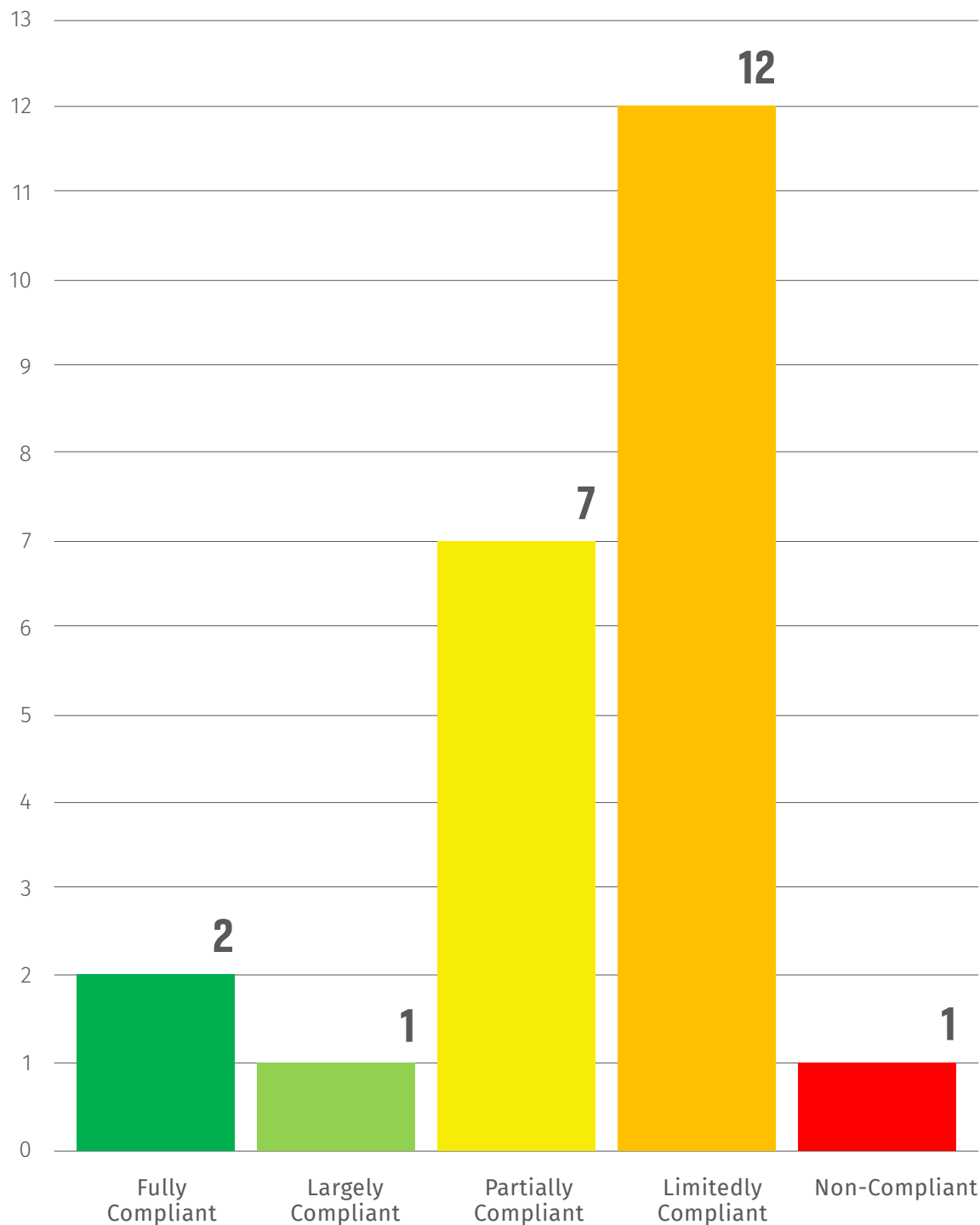
Since the enactment of the ACYA the Manitoba Advocate has issued a total of 51 recommendations to public bodies in special reports. Of those, 23 were made in four reports published in 2018-19. An additional 28 recommendations were issued in 2019-20. This section will first detail compliance assessments of the 2018-19 recommendations, and provide a summary of the 2019-20 recommendations. Assessments include documentation provided up until Oct. 2, 2020.

## COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY: 2018-19 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section presents a summary of compliance with 23 recommendations made in the 2018-19 fiscal year. MACY developed and introduced a new and comprehensive procedure for compliance assessments of recommendations. The new compliance assessment procedure applies to recommendations made by MACY in public special reports and reports made after an investigation of a serious injury or death. The goal of the new process is to ensure accountability, transparency, consistency, and comparability of the compliance assessments.

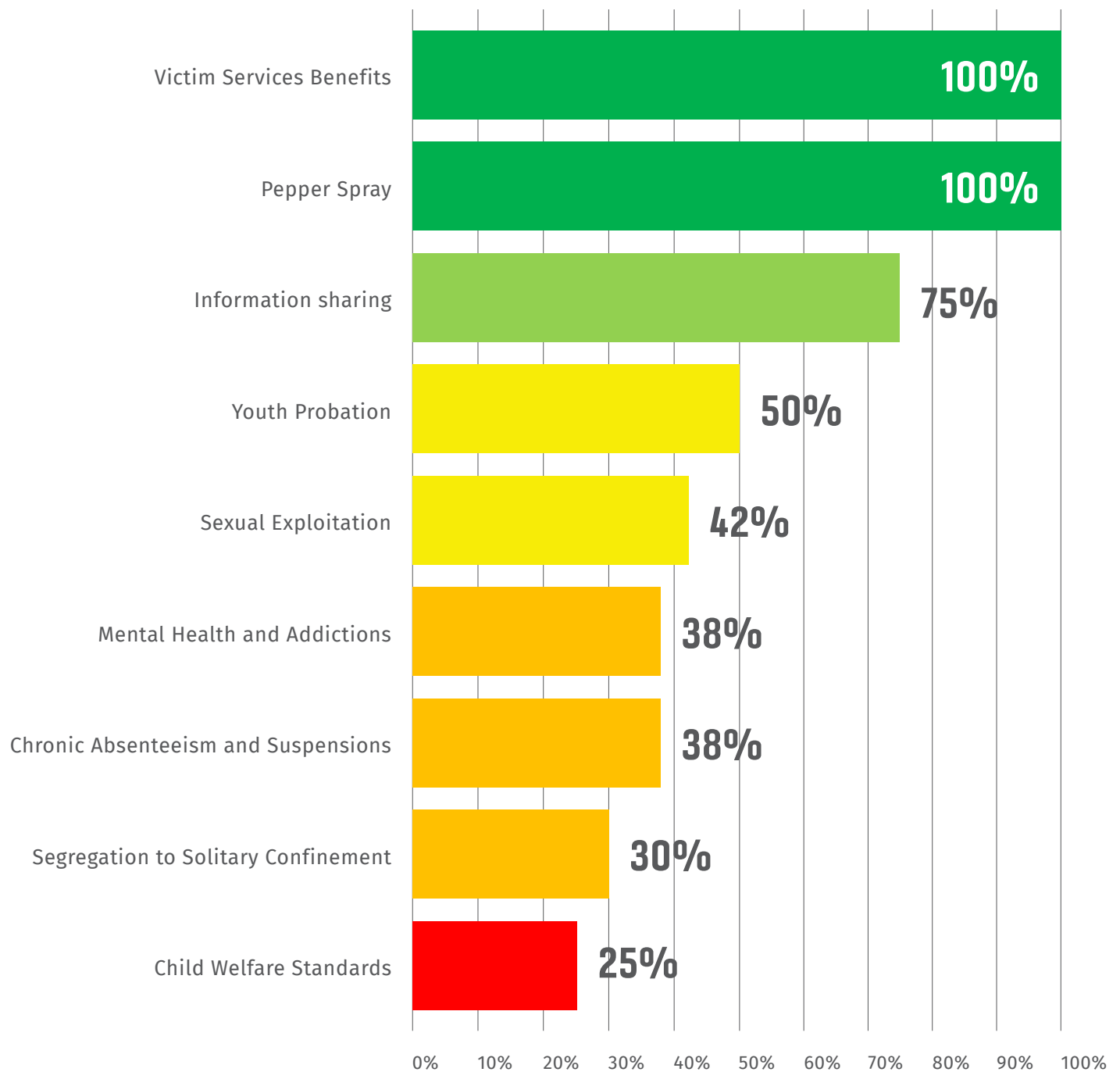
The content of these recommendations, as well as information related to public body implementation of the recommendations, can be found on the MACY website under Recommendation Tracking : [manitobaadvocate.ca/publications/recommendation-tracking](https://manitobaadvocate.ca/publications/recommendation-tracking)

## 2018-19 RECOMMENDATIONS BY COMPLIANCE LEVEL



Compliance with recommendations is relatively low with only 43% of recommendations receiving positive assessments of partially compliant and above. Ten recommendations are limitedly compliant, this means that early steps have been taken to address the recommendation but none of the requirements have been met. Lastly, one recommendation is non-compliant, meaning that actions to meet the requirements of the recommendation were not demonstrated.

## 2018-19 COMPLIANCE BY SYSTEMIC ISSUE



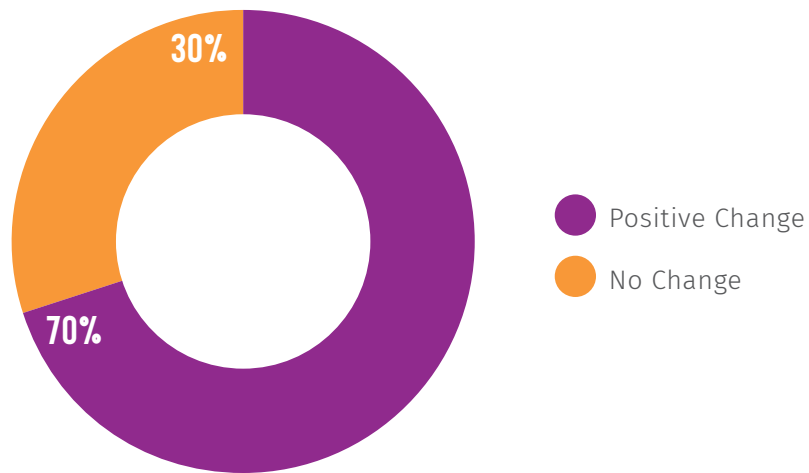
The new compliance model allows MACY to measure progress on the systemic issues that recommendations address. The chart above shows that recommendations addressing improvements to the oversight of pepper spray use in youth custody facilities and access to victim services benefits have been implemented fully. On the other hand, recommendations made to improve mental health services, address school absenteeism and suspensions, and reduce solitary confinement, have low compliance ratings. Of note, recommendations made to improve child welfare standards and quality assurance processes have the lowest compliance ratings.



## PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2018-19

Progress with compliance determinations was measured by comparing assessments following responses in June 2019, to assessments following responses in June 2020. These were coded into three categories: positive change, no change, and negative change.

Of the 23 recommendations assessed, 16 (70%) showed improvements in their compliance assessment since the last report. Seven (30%) show that progress has stalled with no change since the last report.



## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED IN 2019-20

According to Section 30(2) of the ACYA, the Advocate's annual report must include a summary of recommendations included in any special report made under Section 31 during the year.

### YEARLY RECOMMENDATIONS BY NUMBERS

- **28** recommendations included in special reports made to six different government departments
- **46%** of recommendations focus on improving the effectiveness and responsiveness of **mental health and addiction services** for children and youth in Manitoba
- **57%** of the recommendations were to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

### THE SLOW DISAPPEARANCE OF MATTHEW: A FAMILY'S FIGHT FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE WAKE OF BULLYING AND MENTAL ILLNESS (FEBRUARY 2020)

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY	DEPARTMENT
1. Promote mental health in all Kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms.	Manitoba Education and Training
2. Develop a province-wide policy to limit, reduce and phase-out suspensions.	Manitoba Education and Training
3. Promote the implementation of tools that ensure safe and caring schools in Manitoba.	Manitoba Education and Training
4. Evaluate existing mental health access points and implement a child and youth-centred specialized access point that meets the needs of children and youth.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
5. Create mental health system Navigators to help children and youth.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
6. Create a long-term residential mental health treatment for youth.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
7. Publicly release a framework for child and youth mental health and addictions health system transformation.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
8. Proclaim the outstanding sections of <i>The Advocate for Children and Youth Act</i> .	Government of Manitoba

## SAFE AND SOUND: A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE UNEXPECTED SLEEP-RELATED DEATHS OF 145 MANITOBA INFANTS (MARCH 2020)

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY	DEPARTMENT
1. Develop an action plan to ensure every infant in Manitoba has a safe sleep surface (crib, bassinet, or culturally appropriate safe alternative).	Government of Manitoba
2. Develop and implement a plan to ensure that no infant living in a Manitoba First Nations community is without a safe sleeping surface.	Government of Canada
3. Develop, implement, and evaluate a new public education campaign to raise awareness of the risk factors of sleep-related infant deaths.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
4. The new public education campaign must be informed by data and evidence on effective risk communication and behaviour modification.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
5. Any public education materials must be written in accessible language and available in the prominent Indigenous languages.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
6. Develop an accredited online training module on safe infant sleep practices.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
7. Develop a smoking cessation resource for expectant mothers.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
8. Resource an implementation strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs in all of Manitoba's First Nations communities.	Government of Canada
9. Develop and implement a new data collection form to investigate the scene of an infant death.	Manitoba Justice
10. Resource the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to develop an electronic database to collect information on suspected sleep-related infant deaths.	Manitoba Justice
11. Reinstate the Collaborative Inter-Departmental Working Group on Infant Mortality.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
12. Assess the infant sleep environment in every safety plan for expectant mothers and provide caregivers with the safe sleep surfaces and information needed to ensure safety.	Manitoba Families
13. Develop a provincial standard that requires all Child and Family Service providers to assess infant sleep environments.	Manitoba Families



MACY staff show off their new Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) clothing.

## “STOP GIVING ME A NUMBER AND START GIVING ME A PERSON”: HOW 22 GIRLS ILLUMINATE THE CRACKS IN THE MANITOBA YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SYSTEM (COMPLETED MARCH 2020, RELEASED MAY 2020)

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY	DEPARTMENT
1. Conduct a gap analysis of the youth mental health and addictions system.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
2. Demonstrate equitable access to mental health and addiction systems for youth in rural and remote communities.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
3. Train government workers on trauma and its effects.	Government of Manitoba
4. Create and maintain an inventory of trauma-informed mental health resources for the public.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
5. Create youth hubs across Manitoba.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
6. Create interdisciplinary mental health focal points outside of Winnipeg.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
7. Create long-term treatment for youth with the highest needs.	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

# SERVICE PLAN

## 2020-21 AND 2021-22



# SERVICE PLAN REPORT

In accordance with *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA), the Advocate must prepare a service plan with specific objectives and performance measures and report on the actual results as compared with expected results of the service plan (Sections 29 and 30 of the ACYA).

## SERVICE PLAN REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

- **95%** of Key Performance Indicators for the 2019-20 have been successfully completed



### MISSION

We amplify the voices and champion the rights of children, youth, and young adults.



### VISION

A safe and healthy society that hears, includes, values, and protects all children, youth, and young adults

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Advocate measures performance of its mission and vision based on six key strategic directions; each is assigned Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Strategic directions were selected following a strategic planning process and are informed by the values of MACY.

**1. ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING  
YOUTH VOICES**

**2. ACCELERATING RESPONSIVENESS  
TO ADVOCACY SERVICES**

**3. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY  
AND SYSTEM CHANGE THROUGH  
INVESTIGATIONS**

**4. ADVANCING RESEARCH AND  
PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**5. STRENGTHENING CULTURAL  
PROFICIENCY IN PRACTICE**

**6. PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN  
CHILD-SERVING SYSTEMS**



# STRATEGIC PLAN AND OUTCOMES

The following section outlines the KPIs, or expected results, associated with each strategic direction, their related activities, and status.

## 1. ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES

With child-centredness as a guiding value, we seek out the voices and opinions of young people so we can amplify their voices and ensure our services meet their changing needs.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 2019-20	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Complete Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad! (YAAS!) framework and guiding principles	A framework and guiding principles document for all of youth engagement, including YAAS!, was completed and approved.	Completed
Conduct outreach to youth and youth organizations in the community	2,085 contacts with youth and young adults To review key outcomes of youth outreach activities please go to page 52.	Completed
Embark on a province-wide Listening Tour to ensure the voices of young people are being heard	The Listening Tour was launched in January 2020.	Completed & Ongoing
Provide rights-based education training to young people	33 rights-based workshops on children's rights and the UNCRC were delivered.	Completed

## ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES 2020-21 AND 2021-22

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2020-21 TARGET	2021-22 TARGET
Number of outreach events where the primary audience is youth	20	30
Number of online or in-person presentations on children's rights for youth and youth organizations in the community	20	30
Percentage of children and youth who report knowing more about children's rights following a presentation	80%	85%

## 2. ACCELERATING RESPONSIVENESS TO ADVOCACY SERVICES

We deliver advocacy supports to children, youth, young adults, and their families across multiple service systems and ensure our activities reflect our commitment to child-centred service. Responsiveness of advocacy services requires timeliness and effectiveness and is measured by the following indicators.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Enhance advocacy service model to align with expanded mandate and national advocacy standards.	An analysis report of the advocacy service model and comparison with national advocacy standards was completed.	Completed
Update policies and procedures manual.	The Advocacy Program Policies and Procedures Manual was approved on February 4, 2020.	Completed
Track and analyze data and trends in each designated domain area.	Data analysis reporting was changed in the 2019-20 annual report to reflect trends in each designated domain.	Completed

### ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES 2020-21 AND 2021-22

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2020-21 TARGET	2021-22 TARGET
Percentage of new intakes requesting advocacy services that receive a callback/response on the same day**	80%	85%
Percentage of children and youth who indicate that they received respectful services from MACY***	85%	90%
Percentage of children and/or youth that felt heard during the advocacy process***	85%	90%
Percentage of children and/or youth that would recommend MACY to a friend***	85%	90%

\*\* All walk-in intakes are responded to immediately.

\*\*\*We are always seeking to learn and grow. While we know that sometimes the options people may desire might not be possible in a particular situation, we always strive to ensure people feel respected and heard by our team. If you were unhappy with any interaction you had with our office, we invite you to give us the opportunity to improve by telling us about it. Email us at [info@manitobaadvocate.ca](mailto:info@manitobaadvocate.ca).

### 3. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND SYSTEM CHANGE THROUGH INVESTIGATIONS

We review public services through the eyes of the child with the goal of identifying gaps and making recommendations to improve services for children, youth, and young people.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Publish a year-in-review analysis of child deaths.	The 2018-2019 <i>Child Death Review Roll-Up</i> was published in November 2019.	Completed
Publish special reports on systemic issues, including mental health, addictions, and suicide.	<p>In February 2020, the Investigations Program published <i>The Slow Disappearance of Matthew: A Family's Fight for Youth Mental Health Care in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness</i>. See page 71 for more</p> <p>In March 2020, the Investigations Program completed <i>"Stop Giving me a Number and Start Giving me a Person": How 22 Girls Illuminate the Cracks in the Manitoba Youth Mental Health and Addiction System</i>. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic delayed publication of this report to May 2020. See page 71 for more.</p>	Completed
Increase timeliness to ensure reviews of child deaths are occurring within 12 months of the child's death.	<p>Timeliness for reviews of child deaths has increased significantly. In the 2018-19 fiscal year we had a backlog of cases and reviews took an average of 22.5 months. In the 2019-20 fiscal year, the average length of a review was 14.4 months — that is a decrease in the average length of time to completion of a child death reviews of 36%. Further, in 2018-19 13% of reviews took 12 months or less in length, 64% of reviews in 2019-20 were 12 months or less.</p> <p>Reviewing all child deaths within 12 months – so the Advocate can determine whether a child death review will proceed to a full investigation – continues to be a goal of the Investigations Program.</p>	Completed & Ongoing

#### INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND SYSTEM CHANGE THROUGH INVESTIGATIONS 2020-21 AND 2021-22

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2020-21 TARGET	2021-22 TARGET
Percentage of child death reviews completed within 12 months of the child death.	70%	80%
Publish a year-end review analysis of reviews that identifies systemic trends in the reviewable deaths of children, youth, and young adults.	1	1
Publish special reports following an investigation that make recommendations to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated services.	2	2

## 4. ADVANCING RESEARCH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

We examine provincial service systems and emerging best practices from a child's-rights lens so we can advocate for what young people need to live to their best potential.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Create a comprehensive public education and outreach strategy focusing on under-represented communities and domains.	A public education strategy was completed. The strategy is a working document, flexible to circumstantial changes such as the COVID-19 pandemic.	Completed
Complete the new MACY website.	MACY's new website was live in November 2019.	Completed
Complete a special report on safe sleep for infants.	In March 2020, <i>Safe and Sound: A special report on the unexpected sleep-related deaths of 145 Manitoba infants</i> was released. In addition to the public report, the Manitoba Advocate published a pamphlet summarizing the report and an infographic for parents.	Completed

### ADVANCING RESEARCH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION 2020-21 AND 2021-22

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2020-21 TARGET	2021-22 TARGET
Number of public education activities, presentations, and events both in-person and online (Thrival Kits™ Videos, webinars).	50	60
Publish special reports with original research and respective public education materials that make recommendations to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated services.	2	2
Increase in social media engagement (live videos, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) through social media indicators.	20%	30%

## 5. STRENGTHENING CULTURAL PROFICIENCY IN PRACTICE

Acknowledging our positionality as a publicly-funded independent organization, we strive towards Indigenous allyship through our ongoing commitment to achieve equity and social justice for all children, youth, and young adults.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Develop and implement the ReconciliAction Framework and plan	A ReconciliAction Framework was completed, including a work plan with KPIs for the 2020-21 fiscal year.	Completed
Continue quarterly meetings with the Elder's Council	There were three meetings with the Elder's Council in this fiscal year. Our March meeting with the Elders Council was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Partial Completion
Continue integration of Knowledge Keeper's spiritual and cultural education into all program areas at MACY	A narrative summary of the Knowledge Keeper's activities in the 2019-20 fiscal year can be found on page 23 of the Annual Report. The Knowledge Keeper activities and goals for the 2020-21 fiscal year are detailed in the ReconciliAction Work plan.	Completed

### STRENGTHENING CULTURAL PROFICIENCY IN PRACTICE 2020-21 AND 2021-22

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2020-21 TARGET	2021-22 TARGET
Number of yearly ceremonies for children, youth, young adults and families funded and resourced.	3	4
Number of one-on-one cultural supports and resources to children youth, young adults and their families.	50	75
Include a preference for hiring Indigenous Peoples in all new employment postings.	100%	100%

## 6. PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN CHILD-SERVING SYSTEMS

To ensure child-serving systems are responding to the changing needs of young people, we promote accountability by listening to and amplifying the voices and experiences of children, youth, and young adults. We also recommend evidence-informed system changes, monitor government compliance with recommendations, and speak publicly and honestly about provincial services.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Monitor the implementation of recommendations.	MACY received response updates from the CFS authorities on January 1, 2019 for recommendations in child death investigations.  MACY received response updates from the MACY-RAP committee of government on systemic recommendations in June and December. Responses were analyzed and our analysis of government actions was published on the MACY website.	Completed
Report on the levels of compliance of recommendations.	MACY began reporting publicly on the levels of compliance with recommendations on the MACY website in November 2019.	Completed
Complete program logic models for each program area and for the office as a whole.	Program logic models for five program areas have been completed. A logic model for our newest program, Public Education, will be completed in the next fiscal year.	Completed and Ongoing
Develop a feedback survey for service utilization.	A feedback survey for Advocacy Services was developed and piloted in February 2020. A report will inform the implementation of an ongoing feedback survey.	Completed

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2020-21 TARGET	2021-22 TARGET
Report publicly on compliance with recommendations made by the Manitoba Advocate publicly annually.	1	1
Reviews of policies, procedures, and logic models for each program annually.	1	1

### PROJECT GOALS 2020-21

**PUBLISH A COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS DOCUMENT OF RECOMMENDATION RESPONSES**

**IMPLEMENT AN ONGOING CHILD AND YOUTH SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR THE ADVOCACY PROGRAM**



# 2019-20 FINANCIAL REPORT

All numbers below are reported in thousands and include the Thompson office.

**\$1,128  
OPERATING**

**\$4,434  
SALARIES**

**\$5,562 TOTAL**



Wavy Guy at the  
Santa Claus Parade.  
(November 2019)

# OUR TEAM

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

<b>Daphne Penrose</b>	Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth
<b>Ainsley Krone</b>	Deputy Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, Responsible for Investigations, Research, Quality Assurance, and Public Education
<b>Sherry Gott</b>	Deputy Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, Responsible for Advocacy Services and Youth Engagement (until April 2020)
<b>Cyndi Menke</b>	Executive Coordinator

## MANAGEMENT

<b>Carolyn Burton</b>	Manager, Finance and Administration
<b>Denise Wadsworth</b>	Manager, Investigations and Child Death Reviews Program
<b>Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans</b>	Manager, Research and Quality Assurance Programs (until February 2020)
<b>Jessica Botelho-Urbanski</b>	Manager, Public Education (from February 2020)
<b>Kirstin Magnusson</b>	Manager, Advocacy Services Program
<b>Maria Godoy</b>	A/Manager, Research and Quality Assurance Programs (from February 2020)
<b>Michelle Kowalchuk</b>	Manager, Advocacy Services and Youth Engagement Programs (addition of Youth Program from September 2019)

## ADMINISTRATION

**Reji Thomas**, Senior Clerk; **Laurie Freund**, Senior Clerk; **Erin Ryan**, Administrative Secretary; **Ila Miles**, Administrative Assistant; **Carolyn Burton**, Manager, Finance and Administration.

## KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

**Cheryl Alexander**, Knowledge Keeper

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**Jonathan Skrypnyk**, Youth Engagement Coordinator; **Cheryl Alexander**, Knowledge Keeper; **Cathy Cook**, Youth Engagement Coordinator; **Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans**, Program Manager (until September 2019); **Michelle Kowalchuk**, Program Manager (from September 2019).

## RESEARCH

**Dr. Matthew Maher**, Researcher; **Charlene Muzyka**, Researcher; **Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans**, Program Manager (until February 2020); **Maria Godoy**, Researcher and A/Program Manager (from February 2020).

## INVESTIGATIONS AND CHILD DEATH REVIEWS

**Jamie Robinson**, Investigator; **Kayla Marcq**, Investigator; **Leigh Enns**, Investigator; **Lynda Schellenberg**, Investigator; **Kelsey VanOsch**, Investigator; **Ada Uddoh**, Investigator (until February 2020); **Tanis Hudson**, Investigator; **Anna Los**, Investigator; **Denise Wadsworth**, Program Manager.

## ADVOCACY SERVICES

**Dawn Gair**, Advocacy Officer; **Jennifer Meixner**, Advocacy Officer; **Naomi Evans**, Advocacy Officer; **Carly Lewadniuk**, Advocacy Officer; **Mae Choo-Mah**, Advocacy Officer; **Gerald Krosney**, Advocacy Officer; **Sarah Arnal**, Advocacy Officer; **Debra De Silva**, Advocacy Officer; **Doug Ingram**, Advocacy Officer; **Paula Zimrose**, Advocacy Officer; **Krista Rey**, Advocacy Officer; **Joanne Lysak**, Advocacy Officer; **Milan Patel**, Intake Assessment Officer; **Michelle Kowalchuk**, Program Manager; **Kirstin Magnusson**, Program Manager.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

**Janine Bramadat**, Policy Analyst; **Johsa Manzanilla**, Policy Analyst; **Alison Carrey**, Policy Analyst; **Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans**, Program Manager (until February 2020); **Maria Godoy**, A/Program Manager (from February 2020).

## LEGAL COUNSEL

**Issie Frost**, Q.C., General Counsel



# WE WERE THERE!

## PHOTOS FROM 2019-20 EVENTS

Our team is always excited to travel throughout our beautiful province to attend events, offer presentations, and promote the voices of children and youth. If you would like to invite us to an event or invite us to present to an organization, please contact us! And if you have an event where you would like to invite Wavy Guy, the friendliest mascot in Manitoba, please let us know. Wavy loves to travel!



- 1: MACY participates in Bear Witness Day to raise awareness of #JordansPrinciple
- 2: MACY staff participating at Meet Me at the Bell Tower on Selkirk Ave.
- 3: System Kidz radio show hosts interview Daphne Penrose, the Manitoba Advocate, for their show on CKUW.

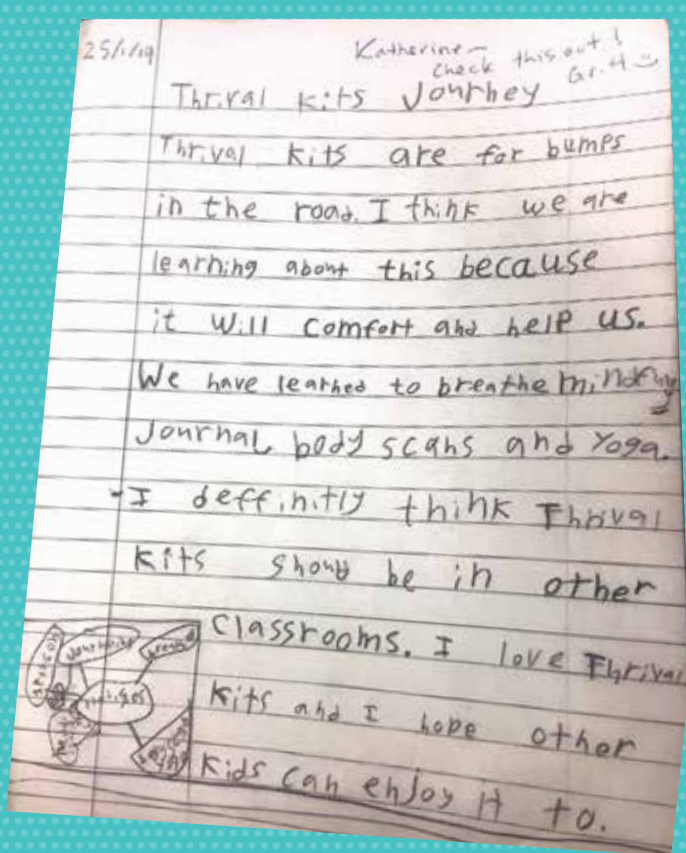


1: Youth Engagement Coordinator, Cathy, hands out MACY swag at the YAAS! open house in November.

2: The Frontier Fiddlers performed at the CCCYA national conference in Winnipeg. (September 2019)

3: MACY staff attend a sweat lodge ceremony.





1: A Grade 4 student expressed what they like about Thrival Kits in their journal.

2: A youth shows off new MACY rainbow sunglasses at a summer pow wow.

3: MACY staff walk with the Mama Bear Clan patrol.

4: Policy Analyst Alison Carrey shows off her handiwork at a staff planting party.



- 1: MACY staff meet with representatives from Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. in July 2019.
- 2: MACY staff purchase bannock dogs for a fundraiser at North Point Douglas Women's Centre in May.
- 3: Manitoba Advocate Daphne Penrose releases her special report on the life of Tina Fontaine in Tina's home community, Sagkeeng First Nation.

