



**Manitoba Advocate
for Children and Youth**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANITOBA ADVOCATE RELEASES NEW RECOMMENDATION MONITORING MODEL

*New model puts young people at the forefront;
challenges colonial structures previously in place*

**FEBRUARY 2026 - TREATY 1 TERRITORY AND NATIONAL HOMELAND OF THE RED RIVER MÉTIS,
Winnipeg, Man.**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is proud to launch our new recommendation development and monitoring model, *The Promise of Seeds*, fundamentally shifting how we advocate for and advance the rights and well-being of young people across Manitoba. "Our new recommendation development and monitoring model helps drive the kind of transformational changes needed to enable the full and equitable realization of children's rights across Manitoba, and ensure that no child is left behind," said Manitoba Advocate Sherry Gott. "It is intended to help us do this by centring and deepening relationships, fostering mutual learning and benefit, and developing practices, systems, and structures that move us closer to social justice, equity, self-determination, and collective well-being."

Each recommendation released by this office is a seed planted with care and intention. It represents not only our collective hopes for Manitoba's young people, but also our shared responsibilities and potential to fulfill their rights. Each seed has its own unique needs and purposes, requiring particular environments and distinct kinds of care to thrive. What each seed eventually grows into and produces depends so much on how it is nurtured and cared for. When we come together with many hands and diverse gifts to support the seed, we increase its chances of growing and flourishing.

The Desire for Change

MACY is mandated to advocate for and advance the rights and well-being of children, youth, young adults, and their families in Manitoba, with a specific focus on those who are receiving government services. This sacred duty encompasses a broad range of responsibilities which are legislated within *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*. One of these responsibilities includes issuing recommendations to public bodies to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of "designated" services for young people, and monitoring the progress of their implementation. The original compliance-oriented model MACY used to guide our recommendation monitoring process was



developed with honourable intentions, implemented with care and diligence, and generated some valuable outcomes. MACY staff and public bodies, however, were dissatisfied with the process, and MACY can now acknowledge that it may have unintentionally caused harm and undermined the goals of equity and self-determination by perpetuating power imbalances and overlooking Indigenous perspectives, knowledges, and values. It is now clear that we were hoping for transformational outcomes, but had not developed a transformational process.

Meaningful community engagement and consultation, internal processes of deep critical reflexivity, and extensive research over the last few years have helped us to understand the critical moment and context in which we collectively find ourselves. The office now grasps the urgent need to fundamentally shift how we do things to ensure that we are not causing harm, but are rather an effective agent of transformational, anti-colonial change.

MACY is approaching this journey of change with a deep sense of accountability and unrestrained humility. We acknowledge that the office is embedded within the colonial systems, structures, and practices that hold many of the complex problems faced by the young people and communities that it serves in place. We recognize that challenging and dismantling these oppressive and inequitable systems, structures, and practices will be a challenging and long-term process, but we are ready to sow seeds of change to help ensure the rights and well-being of our precious children and the seven generations that will come after them.

Our New Commitment: From Compliance to Connection

Moving forward, MACY commits to ensuring that its recommendation development and monitoring process closely align to the needs, rights, and priorities of the young people and communities that it serves. Our new approach is built on:

- **Centring Indigenous Paradigms:** Prioritizing Indigenous knowledges, values, and guiding principles to help us navigate every part of the journey.
- **Collective Action and Mutual Care:** Shifting from a focus on government "compliance" toward deepening relationships, cultivating shared learning and benefit, making space for all voices to be heard, and fostering collective responsibility and accountability.
- **Relational Accountability:** Setting the foundation for a respectful and ethical partnership that aligns with Indigenous and decolonial principles of collaboration and collective care.
- **Disrupting Colonial Dominance:** Actively identifying and challenging inequitable power dynamics and colonial structures, systems, and processes.



It is MACY's most sincere hope that this new model will be a dynamic and transformative tool for collective healing from past harms, as well as for deep, systemic, sustainable changes with large-scale impacts for Manitoba's children, youth, young adults, their families and communities, and the seven generations to follow.

"This is just the start of MACY's new journey of change," said Gott "We are sowing the seeds and are eager to see what blooms as a result of this new model and the collective action we are inviting."

Thank You

The launch of this model is the culmination of many years of hard work by the Quality Assurance and Research teams at MACY, along with the immense contributions of collaborators and community partners. Special thanks are given to Dr. Gladys Rowe, Dr. Marlyn Bennet, Elder Louise Lavallee, members of the Elders Council at MACY, including Elders Yvonne Pompana, Albert McLeod, and Don Robinson, the members of the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad at MACY, and our partners in government from the MACY Recommendation Action Planning Committee.

Find *The Promise of Seeds* [on our website](#).

For more information about this new model, contact:

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About the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is an independent, non-partisan office of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. The office represents the rights, interests, and viewpoints of children, youth, and young adults throughout Manitoba who are receiving, or should be receiving, provincial public services. MACY does this by providing direct advocacy support to young people and their families, by reviewing public service delivery after the death or serious injury of a child, and by conducting child-centred research regarding the effectiveness of public services in Manitoba. The Manitoba Advocate is empowered by legislation to make recommendations to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of services provided to children, youth, and young adults. MACY is mandated through *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, guided by the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and acts according to the best interests of children and youth.

