

Manitoba Advocate
for Children and Youth

Annual Report

AND SERVICE PLAN

2025-26

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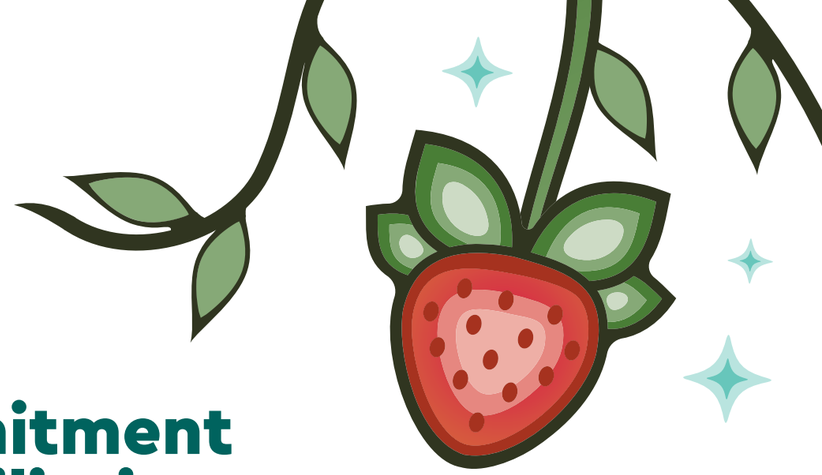
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Our Commitment to Reconciliation

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth operates throughout the province of Manitoba.

We acknowledge that our work extends throughout Treaty areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anisininewuk, Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples.

We acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge that northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We further acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, located on Treaty 3 territory in Ontario. We extend our gratitude to the People of Shoal Lake who work tirelessly to protect our water systems. We are grateful as well for the water sourced from the Burntwood River, which supports life in and around Thompson.

We recognize the historical and ongoing injustices Indigenous Peoples face, including the loss of land, culture, and identity through colonization and the residential school system.

We respect the spirit and intent of the treaties made and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit People in the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration.

With a steadfast commitment to social justice and equity, our office operates through a human rights-based lens, weaving the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) *Calls to Action*, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry's *Calls for Justice* into our daily practice. Our hope is that by doing so, we can amplify the voices of those who have been historically silenced and marginalized and foster tangible improvements in the lives and experiences of children, youth, young adults, and their families. We believe that by working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and centring their knowledge and expertise, we can create meaningful and lasting change.

In expressing our reconciliation statement, we commit to honouring and supporting movements led by Indigenous leaders, stewards, and protectors of the land. This responsibility includes integrating Indigenous knowledge systems and amplifying the voices of Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba in our work. We recognize reconciliation is a journey, and we are committed to walking this path with humility, respect, and openness.

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About Our Office

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is an independent and non-partisan office of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. Empowered and governed by *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA), our role is to represent the rights, and amplify the voices and opinions of all children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Advocate receives its mandate through the ACYA. The mandate includes:

Advocacy Services – to support, assist, inform, and advise children, youth, young adults, and their families on designated services.

Serious Injury and Child Death Reviews and Investigations – to review, investigate, and report on the serious injuries and deaths of children, youth, and young adults.

Research – to conduct research on designated services to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of those services.

Quality Assurance – to monitor the implementation of recommendations made in investigations or special reports and to review and enhance internal policy and procedures.

Public Education and Youth Engagement – to raise awareness and understanding of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC). To assist and inform children, youth, young adults, and their families in accessing designated services, and to promote the best interests of young people in Manitoba.

Advice to Ministers – to advise the ministers who are responsible for designated services in Manitoba on system issues and opportunities for improvement. Designated services are the child and youth-serving systems that the Manitoba Advocate has a responsibility to monitor. These include the provincial systems of child welfare, adoption, disabilities, education, youth mental health, youth addictions, victim supports, and youth justice.

OUR VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Vision

A Manitoba where child- and youth-serving systems work collaboratively to ensure children and youth's rights are honoured, respected, protected, and fulfilled.

Mission

We work to improve the lives of young people by supporting, advocating, and empowering them so their rights are upheld and their voices are heard.

Values

Child-centred Advocacy
Collaboration
Accountability
Relationality
Integrity
Social Justice



Message from the Manitoba Advocate

Manitoba Advocate Sherry Gott

Throughout my term as the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, MACY has worked tirelessly to challenge colonial and inequitable systems, structures, and practices.

Organization-wide, we've been on a journey of deep listening, learning, growing, and adapting through thoughtful consultations and a sincere commitment to getting it right. Through this process, we recognized that to be an effective agent of transformational, anti-colonial change, we need to fundamentally shift to ensure we are not causing harm. These foundational changes require our commitment to continuous learning, relational accountability, and growth.

Growth, therefore, seems to be a fitting theme for the 2025–26 fiscal year.

One of the most significant representations of growth is the changes to how we develop and monitor recommendations. Our original compliance-oriented recommendation model 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. We can now acknowledge that the old model perpetuated power imbalances and overlooked Indigenous perspectives, knowledges, and values – unintentionally causing harm.

Our new approach is outlined in *The Promise of Seeds: Nurturing Relationships and Transformative Change Through the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth's Recommendation Development and Monitoring*. It offers a dynamic and transformative tool for collective healing and systemic changes with large-scale impacts for Manitoba's children, youth, young adults, their families, and communities.

Growth was also evident in our internal report, *Decolonization and Reconciliation at the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth: Report on the Findings from a Staff Survey of Perspectives and Commitment to Agency Decolonization and Reconciliation*. Although staff are strongly committed to decolonization and reconciliation practices, the report found an important gap in implementation, with many staff unclear on how to apply reconciliation practices in their day-to-day roles. The results suggest that to address inequities and to move forward in the spirit of reconciliation, we must prioritize change within our office to better support the children and youth we serve.

This year, we also made foundational changes to our child death review and investigations process. The old process that my office conducted missed opportunities to examine the on-the-ground impacts of reviewable service policies and practices, and ultimately, to build relationships with service providers. The process lacked purposeful engagement and led to a one-sided account of the child's, family's, community's, and service providers' experiences.

Our new *Honouring Our Children* process shares outcomes of the review with service providers. Sharing these insights supports a mutual understanding of the holistic experience of the child who died, their circumstances, and realities. It also offers opportunities for learning and growth. This new approach honours the child's life by reflecting the voices and experiences of that child, their family, community, and the service providers who worked to support them.

Staff continued to lead a multi-year intersystem initiative that helps strengthen how youth-serving systems in Manitoba work together to support mental health and substance use needs. The initiative, called *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Towards the Good Life)*, was shaped by contributions from 38 different partners across the province. It also included youth perspectives from four engagement sessions in Winnipeg and in northern Manitoba, where youth called for changes to how systems respond to youth with substance use needs.

While the above are just a few examples of growth at MACY, I am proud to say that the push to evolve is occurring across all program areas. Advocacy Officers began regularly visiting Huddle locations in Winnipeg, Selkirk, and Brandon to provide support to youth. Serious Injury Investigators expanded their program and found new ways to increase outreach. And for the first time, the Youth Engagement team went beyond the perimeter to celebrate National Child Day with rural youth.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to continual growth. We're starting with strategic planning and mapping our special report process, which helps us deliver evidence-informed, credible, and impactful reports. We look forward to collaborating with community partners, Indigenous Governing Bodies, governments, service providers, and most importantly, the children, youth, and young adults we serve.

Lastly, it's my sincere hope that by owning our mistakes, changing our ways, and prioritizing relationships, MACY's commitment to growth inspires others to make changes and evolve together, providing meaningful and impactful support to young people in Manitoba.

Ekosi.



Sherry Gott, BSW, MSW, RSW
MANITOBA ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Message de la protectrice

Tout au long de mon mandat à titre de protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba, le Bureau du protecteur des enfants et des jeunes s'est employé sans relâche à remettre en question les structures, les pratiques et les systèmes coloniaux et inéquitables.

L'organisation entière a entrepris un parcours d'écoute approfondie, d'apprentissage, de croissance et d'adaptation au moyen de consultations réfléchies et d'un engagement sincère à viser juste. Au cours de ce processus, nous avons constaté que, pour être un agent efficace du changement transformationnel et anticolonial, nous devons nous transformer profondément pour éviter de causer des préjudices. Ces changements fondamentaux nécessitent que nous nous engagions à l'égard de l'apprentissage continu, de la responsabilité relationnelle et de la croissance.

La croissance semble donc un thème approprié pour l'exercice 2025–2026.

L'une des plus importantes représentations de la croissance se manifeste dans le changement de notre façon de formuler et de surveiller les recommandations. Notre modèle de recommandations initial, axé sur la conformité, a été élaboré avec des intentions louables, a été mis en œuvre avec soin et diligence et a produit certains résultats intéressants. Cependant, le personnel du Bureau et les organismes publics étaient insatisfaits du processus. Nous pouvons maintenant reconnaître que l'ancien modèle perpétuait des déséquilibres du pouvoir et ignorait les points de vue, les connaissances et les valeurs autochtones, occasionnant involontairement des préjudices.

Notre nouvelle approche s'intitule *La promesse des graines – Cultiver les relations et les changements profonds par la conception et le suivi des recommandations du Bureau du protecteur des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba*. Il s'agit d'un outil dynamique et transformateur aux fins de la guérison collective et des changements systémiques ayant des répercussions à grande échelle pour les enfants, les adolescents, les jeunes adultes et leur famille, et les collectivités du Manitoba.

La croissance était aussi manifeste dans notre rapport interne, *Decolonization and Reconciliation at the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth: Report on the Findings from a Staff Survey of Perspectives and Commitment to Agency Decolonization and Reconciliation*. Bien que le personnel se soit solidement engagé à l'égard des pratiques de décolonisation et de réconciliation, le rapport a constaté une lacune importante sur le plan de la mise en œuvre, de nombreux membres du personnel ne sachant pas exactement comment appliquer les pratiques de réconciliation dans leurs fonctions quotidiennes. Les résultats montrent que, pour traiter des iniquités et aller de l'avant dans un esprit de collaboration, nous devons privilégier le changement au sein de notre bureau afin de mieux soutenir les enfants et les jeunes que nous servons.

Cette année, nous avons aussi apporté des changements fondamentaux à notre processus d'examen et d'enquête de décès d'enfants. L'ancien processus utilisé par mon bureau ne permettait pas de saisir toutes les possibilités d'examiner les incidences sur le terrain des politiques et des pratiques de services pouvant être analysées et, en fin de compte, de tisser des liens avec les fournisseurs de services. Le processus était dénué de sens et donnait lieu à une représentation unilatérale de l'expérience de l'enfant, de la famille, de la communauté et des fournisseurs de services.

Notre nouveau processus *Honouring Our Children* transmet les résultats de l'examen aux fournisseurs de services. La communication de ces observations soutient une compréhension partagée de l'expérience holistique de l'enfant décédé, de ses circonstances et des réalités. Elle permet aussi de trouver des occasions d'apprentissage et de croissance. Cette nouvelle approche rend hommage à la vie de l'enfant en reflétant les voix et les expériences de cet enfant, de sa famille, de la collectivité et des fournisseurs de services qui les appuyaient.

Le personnel a continué de mener une initiative intersystème pluriannuelle qui aide à renforcer la collaboration entre les systèmes servant les jeunes au Manitoba pour soutenir ensemble la santé mentale et répondre aux besoins liés à l'usage de substances. L'initiative, intitulée *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Vers une bonne vie)*, a été façonnée par les contributions de 38 partenaires différents d'un peu partout dans la province. Elle comprend aussi les perspectives des jeunes recueillies dans le cadre de quatre séances de consultation à Winnipeg et dans le nord du Manitoba, où les jeunes ont appelé à des changements de la façon dont les systèmes interviennent auprès des jeunes ayant des besoins liés à l'usage de substances.

Bien que les exemples ci-dessus ne soient que quelques représentations de la croissance du Bureau du protecteur des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba, je suis fière de dire que cette volonté d'évolution s'étend à tous les domaines des programmes. Des agents de protection des droits ont commencé à visiter des carrefours jeunesse Rassembler (Huddle) à Winnipeg, à Selkirk et à Brandon pour fournir du soutien aux jeunes. Les enquêteurs sur les cas de blessures graves ont élargi leur programme et trouvé de nouvelles façons d'en accroître la portée. Et, pour la première fois, l'équipe de mobilisation des jeunes est allée au-delà de son périmètre pour célébrer la Journée nationale de l'enfant avec les jeunes des régions rurales.

Nous demeurons engagés à l'égard de la croissance continue dans l'avenir. Nous commençons par la planification et la cartographie stratégiques de notre processus d'élaboration de rapports spéciaux, qui nous aide à présenter des rapports crédibles, percutants et fondés sur les données probantes. Nous sommes impatients de collaborer avec les partenaires communautaires, les corps dirigeants autochtones, les gouvernements, les fournisseurs de services et, surtout, les enfants, les adolescents et les jeunes adultes que nous servons.

Pour conclure, j'espère sincèrement qu'en assumant ses erreurs, en modifiant ses processus, en privilégiant les relations et en s'engageant à l'égard de la croissance, le Bureau du protecteur des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba inspire d'autres personnes à apporter des changements et à évoluer ensemble pour fournir un soutien pertinent et concret aux jeunes de la province.

Ekosi.



Sherry Gott, B.S.Soc., M.Serv.Soc.,
TRAVAILLEUSE SOCIALE AUTORISÉE PROTECTRICE DES ENFANTS ET DES JEUNES DU MANITOBA

Gaa-naadamaaged ikidowin

Apane igo mewinzha aazha ni-bi-naadamaawaag abinoonjii'ag (MACY izhinikaagowag), ginwezh aazha MACY o'bi'anokii'daanaawaa ji-gibitinimowaad maaji-doodamowin.

Miziiwe omaa anokiiwin, ningii bi-minozhaamin owe miikanaa ji-ako-bizindamaang, ji-gikendammang, ji-gwayaksidowaang, ji-aabajitoowaang owe gaa-dibaajimotaagowaang, ji-izhi-mino-doodamaang gakina gegoo.

Apane igo, ni-niside'inaamin jibwaa anokaadamaang gegoo, owe mooniyaa odis'chigewin, -ji-megojitoowaang gakina gegoo, ji-booni-wiisagendamotaageyaang. Owe onaakonigewinan ji-aabajichigaadegin, ji-aanji-gikendaasoowaang, ji-mino-doodamaangid, ji-mino-izhiigisemagag.

Izhiigise, gechinaa, izhinikaade owe gakina-izhichigewin, omaa aazha apane bezhigo aki.

Bezhig gichi-gegoon gii-izhisemagan dazhinjigaade omaa, ningii ozhitoomin gegoon gaa aginjigemagag dago ashawabande'igaadeg owe onaakonigewinan. Ji-bwaa owe apii, aazha oshki-onaakonigewin izhichigewin gegoo, ningii bi-aabajitoomin. Geget, ngii gagwe-mino-chigemin, gwayak ji-dootamaang, ji-gwayaksijigeyaang gaye, zhigo ji-aandi-wiidookaazoyaang ji-ayaamaang niibawa mino-izhichigewinan dibaajimowinan.

Dibaajimomagad owe oshki-onaakonigewin omaa oshki-mazine'iganing, Ashodamaawaa izhiginiganensan: ishpinidi'aang inawemaaganeyaang zhigo aanjichigewin onji Manidoo'abi gaa'naadaamaaged onji abinoonji'aa dago oshkiniigiig gaa-onaakonige-tamaagowaad zhigo gaa-ashawaabandaawaa. Izhibii'igaade omaa gaa-gashkitoowaad ji-oko-naanaande'igaazowad zhigo ji-aanjichigewaad ji-mino-sidoowaad niibawaa-gichi-izhichigewin-gegoon onji abinoonjii'aa, oshkiniigiig, gichi-Anishinaabeg, Inawemaaganag, dago Anishinaabenaang.

Ningii niside'inaamin mino-izhichigewin omaa mazine'iganing, Azheshkowin zhigo Mino-inawendi'ing omaa Manidoo'abi gaa-naadamaaged onji Abinoonji'aa zhigo Oshkiniigiig: Mazine'igan owe' onji ikidoowinan onji gagwedechige-bii'igan ji-aanji-onaakonigeyaang ji-waabandaamaang-ji-izhisemagag zhigo ji-onaakonigeyaang ji-maachi-azhekamiiyaang dago ji-oshki-mino-inawendi'yaang. Geget maawiin, gakina awiya o'noonde gwayaksijigaadaan gakina gegoo, gii-dazhinjigaade iinsan, gaawiin o'gikendasiindaanaawaa aandi ji-oshki-maach'twaad, omaa gaa-anokiiwaad omaa wakaa'iganiing. Izhibii'gaade iinsan, giishpin wii—oshki-onaakonigeyaang miinawaa ji-mino-inawendi'yaang, ji-gagwe-gikendamaang wegonen maawaanj onishishiing, jibwaa gagwe wiidookaageyaang onji abinoonji'aa zhigo oshkiniigiig gaa-naadamaagechigeyaang.

Omaa noongom gaa-inangizod, aazha ningii aanjitoomin aanaand-onaakonigewinan onji abinoonji'aa nibomowin mazine'igan zhigo gaa-waa-izhichigewaad mazine'igan. Nitam igo, ningii gagwe gikendaamin aandi imaa e'bishigobidoowaang gakina gegoon, ji-oshki-gikendamaang aandi-imaa e'bi-maaji-onaakonigaadeg gegoon miinawaa gaye aaniin-gaa-izhichigewind, ako-minik, ji-aanji-mino-dootamowaang, ji-mino-inwendiyaang mengwaa dizhi-wiidanokiindiyaang.

Owe oshki mazine'igan, Apiitenim giinawind gi-d'abinoonjii'minaan, izhibii'igaade aanand dibaajimowinan, gaa-bi-onaakonigeyaang. Ndibaajimomin owe aaniish ji-mechi-gikendamowaang, gakina gegoo gaa-bi-izhi-nibod awe abinoonjii, aaniin gaa-inaadizid, aaniin gaa-izhi-ganawenimind. Izhibi'igaade gaye, aanaand gegoon gaa-gii-onishishing, gikensdaasowinan, zhigo mino-izhichigewin. Owe gaa oshki-onaakonigeyaang, dazhinjigaade o'dinaadiziiwin shigo aaniin gaa-bii-izhichigewaad awe abinoonjii-o-maadiziiwin, onji o'niigiigoo, o'dinawemaa, o'mamawaanjii'idiwaang, zhigo gakina gaa-anokiiwaad ji-minochigetamaawaad abinooji'aa.

Anokiig o'gii-aanji-dazhiikaanaawaa, ji-onaakonigewaad, ginwezh gegoo gwayaksijigebii'igan, ji-wiidookaagemagag aaniin oshkiniigi ji-izhi-wiijii'ind, omaa Manidoo'abi, shigo omaa-gaa-gichi-onaakonigeyaang, ji-mino-wiidookaage-tamaageyaang onji awiya gaa-gwaashkesed gema gaa-zagaswaajiged, anokiiwin. Ayii izhinikaaade owe, Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin oshki-onaakonigewin, niinbawa be-bakaan awiya, niswi-midana izhi nishwaaswi awiyag onji omaa Manidoo'abi akiing, o'gii'wiidookobii'aanaawaa. Omaa gaye miinawaa aanand daabishko niiwin megoshkowindiingan, gii-dazhiikigaadeyoon omaa gichi-oodenaang, zhigo miinawaa giiwedinoong Manidoo'abi, mi-omaa oshkiniigiwag gii-ikidowag ji-aanji-chigewaad awiya-gaa-anokiind owe giishpin wii-wiidookagewaad onji awiya gaa-kwashkwesed gema gaa zagaswaajiged.

Apane igo aazha ni-bi-minochigemin niibawa gegoo gaa bii-dazhinjigaaded omaa MACY, Nin gichi-inendam owe ga bi-maach'twaang omaa zhigo miziiwe igo. Naadamaage Odaapine'ininiwag o'gii-oshki-maach'toonaawaa ji-aandi-megoshkowidaageyod imaa anokii-waakaa'iganensiing owedi gichi-oodenaang, aazhowinaaniing, dago ningaabii'anoong, ji-wiidookaage'aad oshkiniigiig. Miinawaa gaye, Aakwe-Wiisagendamowin Odaapine'ininiwag gii-aandji-onaakonigewag ji-mikamowaad aaniin ji-izhi-wiijiinaagwaa oshkiniigiig.

Mi-owe-nitam-iinsan, Oshkiniigii Gaa-Megoshkowindwaa aginjiganag, gii-oshki-zaagijibizowag onji gichi-oodenaang, ji-aandi oshki-niside'inaamowaad Gichi-aki Abinoonjii giizhigad, onji bagoji'aa oshkiniigiwag.

Niigaan-inaabeyaang, ni-mashwii-inendamomin ji-aanji-anokiiyaang. Ni-maach'toomin aazha owe oshki-maamakaadendamowi-onaakonigewin zhigo ji-agindamaang aaniin izhi nibwaakaandabii'amaang gegoo, ji-wiijiigowaang ji-bagakibii'aamaang mazine'iganen, ji-debwemagag, ji-aakwe-dazhindamomagag. Niigaan d'inaabimin, ji-wiidanokiindagook gakina awiya, Anishinaabe Okimaag Onaakinigewiyag, Mooniyaa Onaakonigewin, Aginjiganag gaa-wiidokaagewaad, zhigo mawaanj inge gaa-wiijii-indwaa; abinoonjii'ag, oshkiniigiig, zhigo gichi-Anishinaabensag gaa-wiidokaagewindwaa.

Zhigo ishkawaatch, aapiji ni-bagosendaan giishpin' ji-gwayaksidoowaang owe gaa-gii-maji-toodangwaa abinoonjii'aa, ji-aanjitoowaang gi-dizichigewinaan, ji-mashkwiitoowaang-inwendeyaang gaye, maagizhaa MACY gaa inaadiziwaad oga ombii'aanaawaa awiyan ji-mamawi-aanjichigewaad gaye, zhigo ji-ozhitoowaad gegoo gaa-nitaa-wiijii'aagwaad' oshkiniigiinsag omaa Manidoo'abi akiing.

Ekosi. Miigwech.

Sherry Gott BSW, MSW, RSW
MANITOBA OTAYAMIHÍSTAMÁKÉW

Executive Summary

This annual report highlights the work by our office between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. It provides an overview of our activities and initiatives, including:

Program updates from all teams, including: Advocacy Services, Serious Injury and Child Death Reviews and Investigations, Quality Assurance, Research, Youth Engagement, Public Education, and Finance and Administration

***The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* review**

The release of the special reports, *Natawihisowin Oci Maskikiya (Healing with Medicines): Findings from the First 18-Months of the Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations Program* and *Niigan nakeyaa Oshkinawe The Truth of the Youth: Centring Youth Voices and Solutions for Thriving Futures in and beyond Government Care*

Additionally, we share some key outcomes from the work of our office over the past year:

2,637
requests for advocacy services

643
youth provided with advocacy services

60
child death reviews completed

135
serious injury reviews completed

29
recommendation implementation submissions analyzed under the new *Promise of Seeds* monitoring model

1,500+
youth reached through engagement workshops

300+
students reached via a National Child Day event

1,500+
children reached through I Love to Read Month

French

Résumé

Le présent rapport annuel fait état des travaux réalisés par notre bureau entre le 1er avril 2025 et le 31 mars 2026. Il présente un aperçu de nos activités et de nos initiatives, notamment :

les dernières nouvelles sur les programmes, présentées par chacune des équipes : services de défense des droits, examens et enquêtes portant sur les cas de blessures graves et les décès d'enfants, assurance de la qualité, recherche, mobilisation des jeunes, éducation du public, et finances et administration

l'examen de *la Loi sur le protecteur des enfants et des jeunes*

la publication du rapports spécial, *Natawihisowin Oci Maskikiya (Guérir grâce aux médecines) : Constats tirés des 18 premiers mois du Programme des examens et des enquêtes portant sur les cas de blessures graves* et *La vérité des jeunes — Mettre l'accent sur les voix et les solutions des jeunes pour leur permettre de s'épanouir dans le cadre des services du gouvernement et au-delà, pour un avenir prospère*

En outre, nous présentons certains des résultats clés obtenus dans le cadre des travaux menés par notre bureau au cours de l'année écoulée :

2 637
demandes de services de protection des enfants et des jeunes;

643
jeunes bénéficiaires de services de protection des enfants et des jeunes;

60
examens réalisés sur des décès d'enfants;

135
rapports préparés sur les cas de blessures graves;

29
soumissions de mise en œuvre des recommandations analysées en vertu du nouveau modèle de surveillance *La promesse des graines*;

plus de 1 500
jeunes rejoints au moyen des ateliers de mobilisation;

plus de 300
élèves rejoints dans le cadre d'un événement de la Journée nationale de l'enfant;

plus de 1 500
enfants rejoints dans le cadre du Mois de la lecture.

Ojibwe

Ekidowaad omaa

Owe mazine'igan odaazhindaan anokiiwin gaa maaji-dazhiikamaang oshki-niiwi-zoong, bezhigo akiing apii, zhigo ako-minik-niso-giizhigoong owe noongom gaa enangizod. Dazhinjigaade gakina gegoo gaa bi-izhichigeyaang, daabishko:

Odazhindaanaawaa niibawa awiya anokiiwag, daabishko: Nanaandawin bigo-gegoo, Wiisagendamowin zhigo oshkiyiyaang nibowinozhibi-iganan dago gikenjigewin, Mino-anokiiwin, Gagwe-gikendamowin, Oshkinii'igi biindaajimowin, Bigo-awiya Gikendaasowin, zhigo Zhoonia-igamig dago Onaakonigewin Anokiiwin

Aanji dazhinjigaade "Gaa-anokiid onji Oshkiniigiiyag zhigo Oshkiniigiiya onaakinigewin; zhigo

Aanji dazhinijigaade gaye' *Natawihisowin Oci Maskikiya (Healing with Medicines)*: Gikendaasowinan onji ako-bezhigo aki izhi aabita akiinan, onji owe Ako-Wiisagengendamawa ozhibii'iganan zhigo Gagwe-Gikenjigewin Onaakonige-nanokiiwin

Zhigo miinawaa, gi-mamawijitoon niibawa gegoo, omaa, gaa-ishkwaa izhiseg bezhigo-aki:

2 637

Niizhwa-miswaak ningodaaswaak-niswi-midana-niizhwaaswi gagwedewinan onji nanaadawinan izhichigewinan

643

Ningodaaswi-niiwi-midana-niswi oshkiniigiig wiijiigaazowag onji Gaa-anokiid izhichigewinan

60

Ningodaaswi-midana biibiiyensag nibowinan giizhibii-igaadewan

135

Ningodwaak-niswi-midana-naanan aako-wiisagendamowin ozhibii-iganan giizhibii-igaadewan

29

Niizhtana zhaangaswi gagwe-biinjibii-igaadewinan gii-ganawaabanjigaade onji owe oshki-ashodamaagewin onji gaa-nitaawigewag ganawaabandiwin-ganawaabi-onaakonigaade-chige-win.

plus de 1 500

Miswaak naanwaak awashime oshkiniig megoshkowigaazowag onji megoshkoo-winanokiing

plus de 300

Niswaak awashime gikinoo'amaawaaganag megoshkoowigaazowag onji Gakina Awiya Abinoonjii'yag Giizhigad izhichigewin

plus de 1 500

Miswaak naanwaak awashime oshkiniigiig megoshkowigaazowag onji Ni-zaagitoon ji-animichigeyaan giizisoons.



The Executive team at MACY



The Cultural team at MACY

Elders Council, Elder, and Indigenous Cultural Worker

The Manitoba Advocate is guided by a highly respected Elders Council comprised of knowledgeable Elders from diverse Indigenous communities and Nations. The Council provides invaluable guidance, cultural knowledge, and wisdom. The Council helps to ensure the work at MACY is grounded in Indigenous teachings, conducted with respect, and reflective of the voices and experiences of children, youth and families.

The Executive team meets regularly with the Elders Council to seek direction and support in carrying out the office's mandate in a good way. These gatherings may include cultural teachings, ceremonies, and perspectives from the various Nations represented on the Council, all of which help inform the office's work and decision-making.

The Elders Council meets with the Executive team quarterly and is also available to provide guidance on specific projects, emerging issues, and questions as they arise. During these meetings, Council members receive updates on ongoing investigations, research initiatives, systemic advocacy work, and upcoming reports, and they offer their insights and recommendations to strengthen the office's approach.

NAME	COMMUNITY
Elder Albert McLeod	Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Norway House
Elder Belinda Vandenbroeck	Opaskwayak First Nation
Elder Bill Ballantyne	Brokenhead First Nation
Elder Don Robinson	Bunibonibee (Oxford House) First Nation
Elder Gertrude Ballantyne	Brokenhead First Nation
Elder Louise Lavallee	St. Laurent
Elder Yvonne Pompana	Dakota First Nation

Elder

Dean Smith, a member of Sagkeeng First Nation, joined MACY in January 2026 and has led weekly smudges since that time. Additionally, Dean has led several sweat ceremonies for the Executive team and staff alike. He provides guidance to the Executive team and works alongside the Indigenous Cultural Worker on a daily basis. Dean also participates in team meetings and report launches in support of MACY's efforts.

Indigenous Cultural Worker

Lauren Prince joined MACY in October 2025 as the Indigenous Cultural Worker. She is Ojibwe and Cree from Long Plain First Nation and brings a strong commitment to community, culture, and youth empowerment. Growing up, Lauren volunteered with the prevention program in Long Plain, where she built meaningful relationships, gained valuable knowledge, and was inspired to continue supporting her community and its youth.

In her role at MACY, Lauren provides cultural knowledge, teachings, ceremonies, and guidance that help ensure programs and services are culturally grounded and respectful. She supports staff through cultural teachings and contributes to reports by offering guidance to ensure they reflect Indigenous perspectives and are culturally appropriate.

A significant part of Lauren's work involves supporting the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS). She provides ceremonies, teachings, mentorship, and cultural guidance while building strong relationships with youth to offer meaningful support based on their individual needs. Lauren also shares her cultural knowledge through traditional arts, including beading and ribbon skirt making with staff, YAAS members, and community.

This fiscal, Lauren traveled to Thompson to support the *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin* project. During the visit, she met with youth from communities throughout the Thompson area to share teachings on the Medicine Wheel and facilitate discussions about their hopes, priorities, and vision for supporting other youth in Thompson.

Offices and Program Areas

The Manitoba Advocate has one office in Winnipeg and one in Thompson. In total, we have eight program areas: Advocacy Services, Child Death Reviews and Investigations, Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations, Youth Engagement, Public Education, Research, Quality Assurance, and Finance and Administration. All program areas work collaboratively to respond to individual and systemic issues that create barriers to the rights of children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. This includes the work, insight, and inspiration of the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad at MACY.

Thompson Office

We are happy to have a permanent office in Thompson, alongside the Manitoba Ombudsman. This allows us to connect with young people in the north and provides us with a home base for our outreach efforts. We are hopeful that updated office signage, as detailed in the Public Education section of this report, will help make more clear that there are two offices sharing one space, and provide guidance as to our distinct roles.

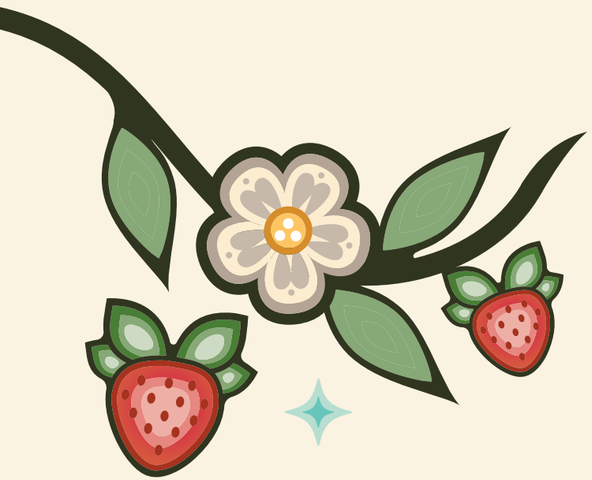


The Finance and Administration team

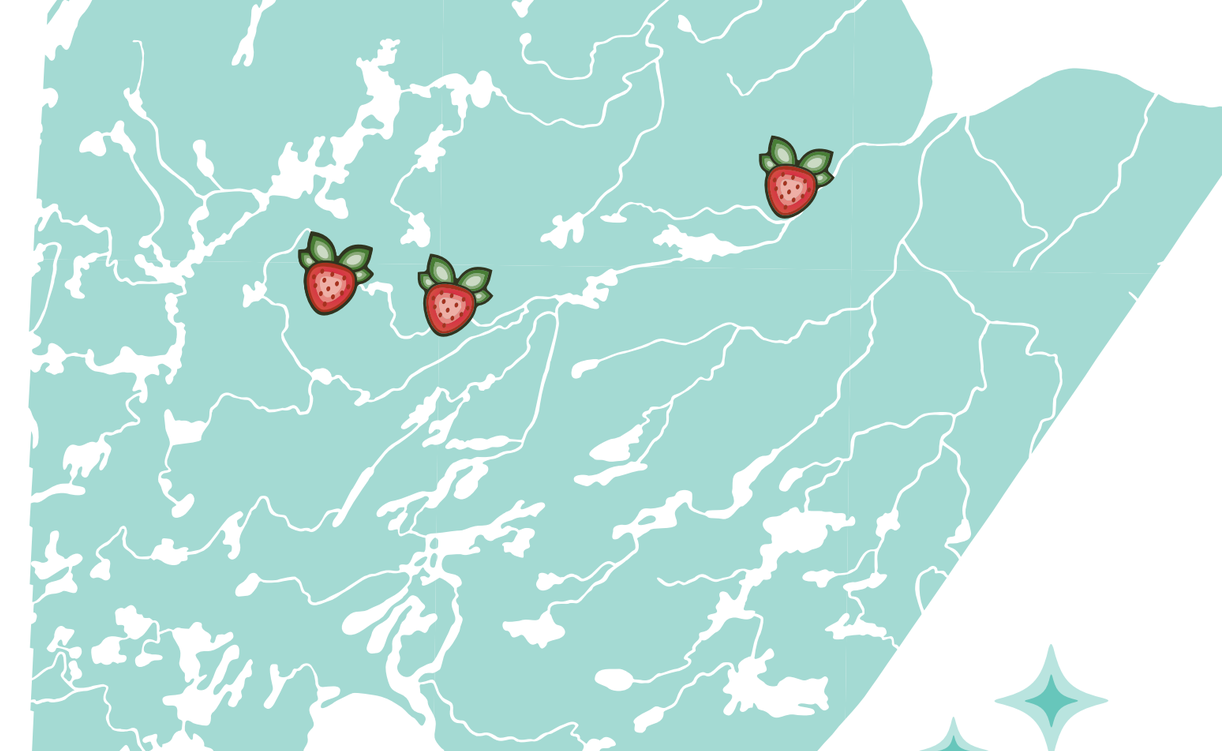
Finance and Administration

When anyone reaches out to MACY – in-person, via phone, or by email – the Finance and Administration team is the first point of contact. They gather information to direct the inquiry to the most appropriate program within MACY. They also liaise with different vendors, ensuring that MACY's operations carry out uninterrupted. Their support spans the entirety of the organization, which helps all programs to run smoothly and efficiently.

This fiscal year, the team prepared SWAG items for hundreds of community events and engagement opportunities. They were also integral in the move to our new office at 320 Donald Street, helping to unpack and set up the office prior to staff moving in.







MACY around Manitoba

Check out where we've been this past year!

- Benito
- Brandon
- Carman
- Dauphin
- Domain
- East Selkirk
- Gillam
- Hartney
- Morden
- Nelson House
- Oak River
- Pierson
- Portage la Prairie
- Rivers
- Sandy Bay
- Selkirk
- Steinbach
- Teulon
- Thompson
- Waskada
- Winnipeg
- Winnipegosis

Advocacy Services

The Advocacy Services program continuously adapts to meet the evolving needs of young people in Manitoba. The team's primary objective is to provide direct assistance to children, youth, young adults, and families in Manitoba. Advocacy Officers listen to, and work alongside, children, youth, parents, service providers, and other community members, to address issues related to the provision of public services and advance children's rights.



The Advocacy Services team at MACY

The Advocacy Process

Requests for Service: a source of referral (SOR) contacts or visits our office with an inquiry

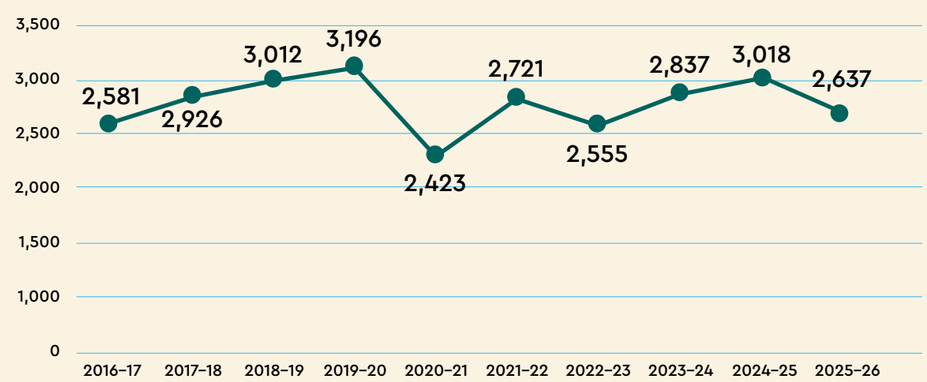
General Inquiries: general information is requested and provided

Intake Service: the SOR speaks to an Advocacy Officer

Requests for Advocacy Services

At 75%, most requests for Advocacy Services are received by phone, email accounts for 15% of requests, in-person interactions make up 5% of requests, and the other 5% are split between Huddle engagements, website, fax, and mail inquiries.

Advocacy Services Requests 2025–26



If you have any concerns regarding services offered to children and youth, please contact our office. Our dedicated team is here to help. We advocate for children, youth, young adults, and their families in the areas of child welfare, adoption, disability, education, youth mental health, youth addictions, victim supports (including sexual exploitation and domestic violence), and youth justice services.

The Children and Youth Served through Advocacy Services

We opened 330 ongoing advocacy cases in 2025–26 where the source of referral's inquiry required long-term supports or more complex interventions. Cases often represent more than one youth, and 643 youth were provided with advocacy services.

Who Calls Us?

Professional
42%

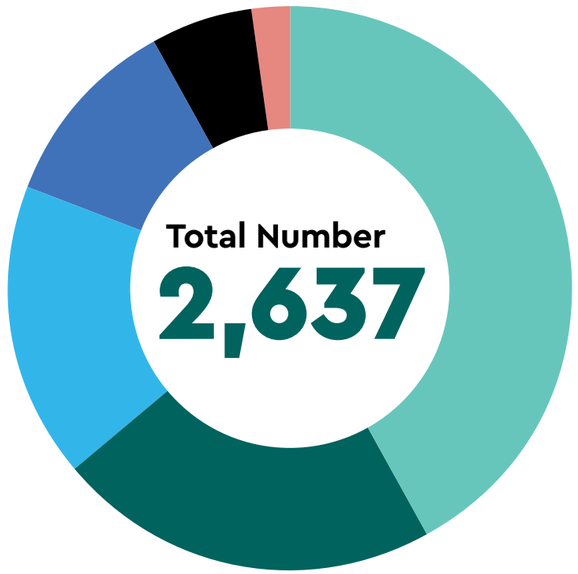
Child/Youth
22%

Parent (Birth/ Adoptive)
17%

Extended Family Member
11%

Foster Parent/ Legal Guardian
6%

Community Member
2%

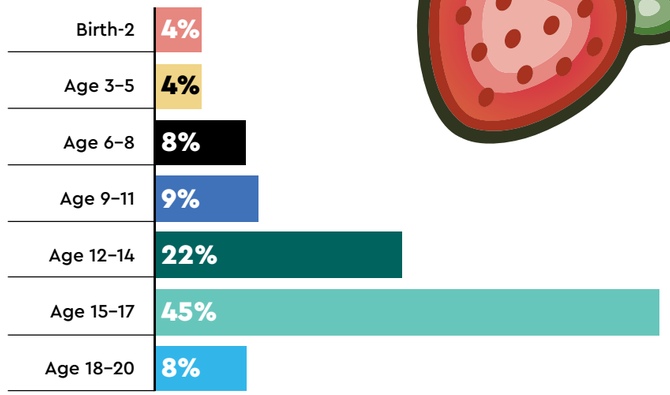


Indigenous Identity

Indigenous
79%

Non-Indigenous/ Unknown
21%

Ages



Top Affected Rights

For ongoing advocacy files, concerns relating to the following UNCRC rights were most commonly identified*

Article 25 (review of placement)
42%

Article 6 (life, survival, and development)
41%

Article 12 (respecting children's views)
39%

Article 27 (food, clothing, and a safe home)
30%

Article 24 (right to access health services)
24%

Article 9 (keeping families together)
23%

** Percentages do not total 100% as children, youth, and young adults were often impacted by more than one rights concern.*

Advocacy Case Examples



Advocacy Officers Krista Rey and Stacy Moore attend a community event at Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

As highlighted in previous fiscal years, the complexity of advocacy cases continues to be on the rise, as children, youth, and young adults often need services from multiple systems. This underscores the intricate nature of the case work undertaken by Advocacy Officers. Co-occurring challenges young people face also reveal the critical need to ensure the services provided to children, youth, and young adults are working together to effectively address their needs.

On average this past year, advocacy cases remained open to an Advocacy Officer for approximately 177 days, equivalent to roughly six months in duration. The following stories involving children and youth (pseudonyms provided), illustrate some of the challenges they face when interacting with provincial services as well as the work of Advocacy Services to ensure their rights are protected.

1 CHILD WELFARE AND MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY: Tianna's Story

A junior high guidance counsellor called MACY to request Advocacy Services for a 14-year-old student, Tianna. Tianna was a child in care who was struggling with her mental health. She spoke with school staff about experiencing ongoing feelings of sadness and stress in her foster home and told her guidance counsellor that she wanted to speak with MACY. While the school was doing its best to support her, there were concerns about the response from her Child and Family Services Agency.

When an Advocacy Officer met Tianna, we learned that she was having a very difficult time in her placement. She had also been recently assessed for her mental health concerns at the hospital. Tianna explained that her social worker was very kind but was very busy and that she did not get to speak to her very often.

As such, the Advocacy Officer met with Tianna and everyone involved in her care to understand what services were being offered to her. During this process, we learned that Tianna was connected with many caring professionals, but there were still gaps in her care plan. MACY facilitated a Circle of Care meeting for Tianna. The meeting provided an opportunity for everyone involved with Tianna to discuss concerns, clarify roles and responsibilities, and work together to address the ongoing issues affecting Tianna's well-being.

As a result of the meeting, a comprehensive safety plan and an ongoing care plan for Tianna was developed. Most importantly, Tianna recognized all the supports around her and left feeling more secure. This helped Tianna in her academic pursuits and enabled her to deal with the other challenges she faced.

MACY's advocacy involvement highlights UNCRC Articles 3, 12, and 25.

2 CHILD WELFARE ADVOCACY: Zoe & Ryder's Story

MACY was contacted about two foster children, Zoe and Ryder, who were about to reunite with their family, but felt like the process was moving faster than they were ready for.

An Advocacy Officer met with the children, their caregivers, and the agency to understand the children's views and the agency's plan. Everyone was committed to reunification and wanted it to be successful, but it was clear that Zoe and Ryder needed a slower process.

The Advocacy Officer ensured that Zoe and Ryder's views and best interests were the top priority throughout the planning process. The agency social worker worked very closely with the two children, their prospective caregivers, and the foster parents to ensure that everyone prioritized Zoe and Ryder's needs and readjusted the plan as required.

The agency did a tremendous job supporting everyone throughout the process and acknowledged that the Advocacy Officer helped everyone remember that children's readiness is an important factor in successful reunification.

This example highlights UNCRC Article 3, 12, and 25.

3 YOUTH JUSTICE ADVOCACY: Jana's Story

A lawyer representing 17-year-old Jana, who was awaiting release from the Manitoba Youth Centre, contacted MACY for advocacy support.

Prior to being held in custody, Jana lived with extended family in a northern First Nations community. When Jana completed her sentence and was ready to be discharged, there were no placements available to her in Winnipeg or her home community.

An Advocacy Officer met with Jana and learned that she had extended family elsewhere in Manitoba who might be able to provide her care. The Advocacy Officer followed up with Jana's social worker and the other collaterals involved in Jana's discharge plan, and everyone agreed that her familial placement option should be explored.

The Advocacy Officer helped coordinate communication between the prospective caregiver and the agency with jurisdiction to hopefully expedite the process and facilitate Jana's release. During this process, all parties worked closely to ensure that Jana was kept informed and that all tasks were completed as quickly as possible.

Jana was released to the care of her extended family and continues to do well in this placement.

MACY's advocacy involvement highlights UNCRC Articles 3, 12, and 27.

Systemic Advocacy

MACY's Systemic Advocacy Specialist plays a vital role in identifying and addressing systemic issues affecting children, youth, young adults, and their families.

Working collaboratively across sectors, the program seeks to address systemic barriers and promote conditions that support the rights, well-being, and best interests of young people. Throughout the year, Systemic Advocacy worked closely with MACY programs, community partners, service providers, and government representatives to identify emerging issues and advance coordinated responses to complex challenges facing Manitoba's children and youth.

During the fiscal year, priority areas included youth substance-use services, youth homelessness prevention, mental health supports for neurodivergent children and youth, access to education, newcomer youth experiences, and youth justice.



Systemic Advocacy Specialist Alexandra Guemili

Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Towards the Good Life):

A major focus and achievement of the year was the completion of the *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Toward the Good Life)* working groups – a province-wide initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration among systems that support youth who use substances.

Stemming from MACY's 2024 Special Report, *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Toward the Good Life)*, the initiative brought together government representatives, community organizations, health service providers, Indigenous organizations, and youth-serving agencies from across Manitoba. In January 2026, the project team travelled to Thompson, with the support of Keewatin Tribal Council and northern working group members, to engage youth and ensure northern perspectives were reflected in the final work. Using an action-learning approach, participants reviewed, refined, and prioritized recommendations identified through youth engagement activities and provincial roundtable discussions. Through this collaborative process, recommendations were consolidated into a focused set of priorities that evolved into three interconnected pathways for system change.



Read the report on our website:
ManitobaAdvocate.ca

Thanks to youth from the following communities:

- Thompson
- Fox Lake Cree Nation
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation
- Pimicikamak Cree Nation
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation
- Shamattawa First Nation
- God's Lake Narrows
- Oxford House
- Bunibonibee Cree Nation
- War Lake First Nation

The initiative culminated in the development and release of the Collaborator Bundle – a collection of resources intended to strengthen collaboration, support practice alignment across systems, address structural barriers, and advance more responsive approaches to youth well-being. The bundle includes:

- The summary report of the working group process and key learnings: *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Towards the Good Life): Strengthening Conditions for Relational System Change*
- **Pathway I:** *Restoring Balance: An Intersystem Practice Resource for Service Providers across Systems Working with Youth Who Use Substances*
- **Pathway II:** *More Than a Mandate: Building Relationally Accountable Systems for Youth Who Use Substances in Manitoba* (legislative review)
- **Pathway III:** *Intersystem Youth Well-Being Circle: A Working Group Vision for Sustained Collaboration and System Alignment* (proposal for ongoing collaboration)

The Collaborator Bundle was formally released during a closing pipe ceremony and feast attended by youth, Elders, community partners, service providers, and government representatives. The event honoured the contributions of participating youth and recognized the collective effort invested in advancing system change across Manitoba. Together, these resources are intended to support service providers, organizations, and decision-makers in strengthening collaboration, aligning practice across systems, and improving responses to youth who use substances.

Strengthening Connections Lunch and Learn Series

An additional outcome of the *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin* initiative was the coordination of the *Strengthening Connections Lunch and Learn Series*. Running from November 2025 through March 2026, the series featured presentations from 16 Manitoba organizations that support youth who use substances.

The series created opportunities for knowledge sharing, relationship building, and cross-sector learning. Presentations highlighted innovative practices, culturally-grounded approaches, and emerging strategies while increasing awareness of services available to youth and strengthening connections among organizations working to improve outcomes for young people. Recordings of the series are available through the new Systemic Advocacy page on the MACY website.

Vist the Systemic Advocacy page on our website: ManitobaAdvocate.ca

Additional Systemic Advocacy Efforts

Throughout the fiscal year, the Systemic Advocacy Specialist responded to a range of emerging issues identified through individual advocacy cases, community engagement, and collaboration with partners across Manitoba.

Key areas of focus included immigration-related barriers affecting access to education and services for newcomer children and youth, concerns related to educational inclusion and access to appropriate supports, and advancing evidence-informed responses to the needs of sexually exploited youth. This work was informed by advocacy trends, community engagement, and the lived experiences shared by children, youth, and families.

Systemic Advocacy and Community Collaborations

Collaboration remains central to MACY's systemic advocacy work. During the fiscal year, the Systemic Advocacy Specialist participated in a range of initiatives aimed at addressing systemic issues affecting Manitoba's children and youth.

Housing and Youth Well-Being

- **Right to Home (End Homelessness Winnipeg)** – Contributed as a core partner to a cross-sector initiative toward homelessness prevention for Indigenous youth transitioning from care.
- **Wellstream Agenda Gap Initiative** – Began planning for a collaborative project to support the development of a youth-led Northern Youth Advisory group focused on issues affecting young people in northern Manitoba communities.

Youth Justice

- **Manitoba Youth Centre** – Continued quarterly meetings to proactively identify and discuss systemic concerns affecting youth in custody and advocate for improvements that uphold young people's rights, safety, and well-being.

Disability Rights, Inclusion, and Education

- **Children's Coalition** – Participated in collaborative advocacy efforts with leadership of community organizations to advance the rights and inclusion of children and youth with disabilities.
- **Manitoba Association of Community Care Providers (MACCP) Education Subcommittee** – Contributed to discussions regarding inclusion, access, and emerging issues within Manitoba's education system.
- **Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO)** – Engaged with newcomer-serving organizations to better understand barriers affecting newcomer children and youth, including access to education and services.

Community Safety and Prevention

- **Community Voices (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre)** – Contributed to cross-sector discussions focused on preventing the sexual exploitation of children and youth in Manitoba.

Research, Evaluation, and System Improvement

- **SPECTRUM (Social Policy Evaluation Collaborative Team at the University of Manitoba)** – Participated in a community-academic-government partnership focused on addressing complex social policy challenges through research and evaluation.
- **Childhood Adversity and Resilience Research Team Platform (CARe RTP)** – Participated in research exploring decolonization and reconciliation practices at MACY.
- **Manitoba's Access to Justice (A2J) Hub, University of Manitoba Faculty of Law** – Collaborated on a legislative review supporting the *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin* working groups and informing Pathway II of the Collaborator Bundle.
- **Certificate in Applied Psychology Program (CiAP), University of Winnipeg** – Partnered with post-secondary students who conducted an analysis of survey findings that informed the presentation, *Intersectoral Insights: Linking Sectors to Help Youth with Problematic Substance Use*.
- **Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba** – Hosted an Advanced Social Work Placement for a Master's-level social work student who worked on issues related to access to mental health services for neurodivergent youth as well as contributed to the Right to Home community project.

Child Death Reviews and Investigations

When a child, youth, or young adult under the age of 21 dies in Manitoba, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) informs the Manitoba Advocate's office of the death. If the child, youth, young adult, or their family had any contact with child welfare services, youth mental health, youth addiction services, or the youth justice system in the year prior to the death, the Manitoba Advocate may review and investigate public services that were delivered to the child, youth, young adult, or their family. The objective of these reviews and investigations is to provide recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of child-serving services in Manitoba.



The Child Death Reviews and Investigations team at MACY

Program by the Numbers

60 comprehensive child death reviews completed

Program Statistics:

MACY received a total of 238 official child death notifications from the OCME in 2025–26.

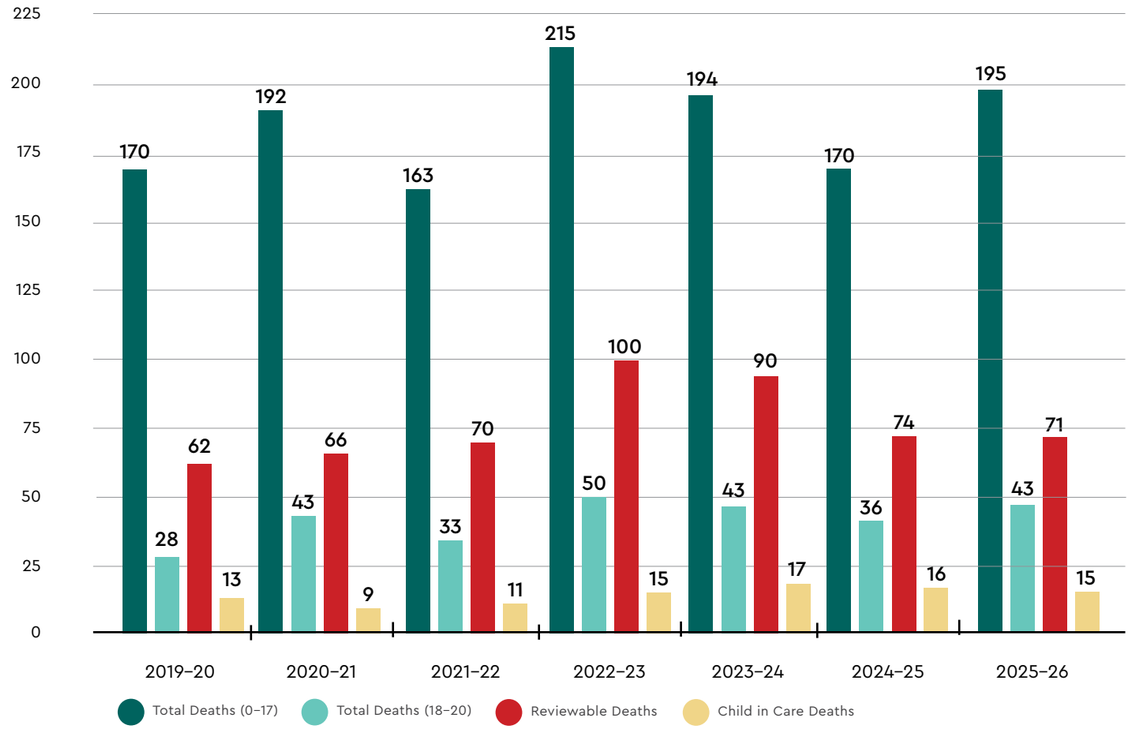
195 notifications for children/youth aged 0–17

43 notifications for young adults aged 18–20

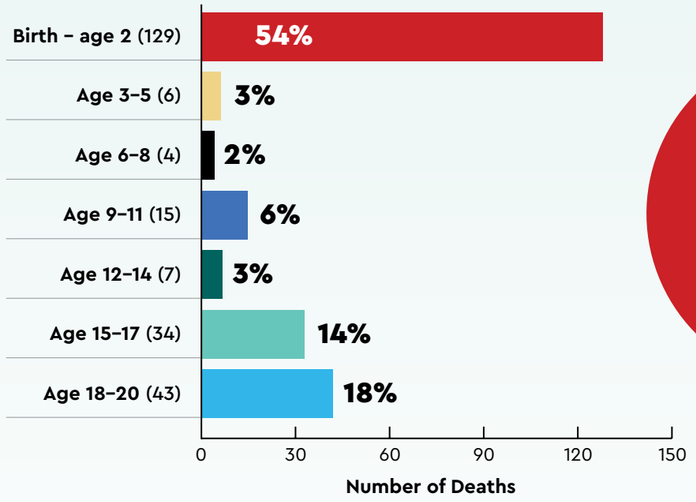
71 notifications were in scope for a review*

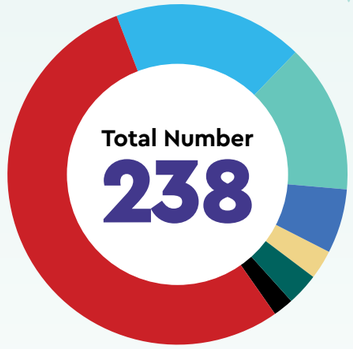
* The 71 children, youth, and young adults were in scope for MACY because they were receiving a reviewable service per *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* at the time of death or in the year prior to the death. Of the 71 deaths reviewable by the Manitoba Advocate, 15 notifications were for a child in care under the age of 18, and three notifications were for young adults aged 18–20 who had entered into an agreement with a young adult through child and family services.

Annual Manitoba Child, Youth, or Young Adult Deaths by Fiscal Year



Manitoba Deaths by Age of Children, Youth, or Young Adults from 2025–26





Manner of Death

The OCME reports child deaths to the Manitoba Advocate within hours or days of a child, youth, or young adult's death. It is the responsibility of the Chief Medical Examiner to assign a manner of death. Manners of death include natural, accidental, suicide, homicide, and undetermined. These can change once final autopsies and the Medical Examiner's reports are completed. As such, some of the information in this table remains preliminary.

Preliminary Manner of Death	Total Manitoba Deaths	Total Percentage	Reviewable Deaths	Non-Reviewable Deaths
Natural	105	44%	22	83
Accidental	24	10%	6	18
Suicide	16	7%	9	7
Homicide	7	3%	2	5
Undetermined*	86	36%	32	54
TOTALS	238	100%	71	167

** Undetermined is the manner of death assigned when the Chief Medical Examiner cannot conclusively determine how the death occurred, even if the physical cause may be known. This category includes sleep-related infant deaths and may include suspected overdose deaths.*

Trends in Child Death Reviews

60 child death reviews completed

68% (41/60) of completed reviews were for an Indigenous child, youth, or young adult

Reviewable services in completed reviews:*

- **98%** Child and Family Services
- **7%** Justice
- **7%** Mental Health
- **0%** Addictions

** Percentages do not total 100% as children and youth were often involved in more than one reviewable service.*

One of the purposes of child death reviews is to identify and analyze recurring circumstances and trends in order to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of reviewable services. When completing reviews, we identify factors which impact the young person, their family, or community. These factors can impact or complicate the ways in which services are delivered to young people and their families. Many of these issues have a cumulative and enduring impact on the health and functioning of young people, families, and communities.

Top Issues Impacting the Child

- **23%** Adverse Childhood Experiences
- **16%** Chronic Medical Condition
- **15%** Substance Misuse
- **13%** Physical Disability
- **12%** Mental Health Concern
- **12%** Domestic Violence
- **12%** School Absenteeism

Top 3 Issues Impacting the Family

- **38%** Historical/ Cultural Trauma
- **35%** Household Safety Challenges
- **28%** Poverty/ Economic Stress

Top 3 Issues Impacting the Community

- **20%** Inconsistent Access to Health/Social Services
- **15%** Ongoing Impacts of Colonization
- **13%** Geographic Isolation

Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations

Stemming from a recommendation in the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry, the Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations program marks a significant milestone as the first of its kind in our province, providing a centralized tracking system to inform advocacy, reviews, and the investigations of serious injuries sustained by children, youth, and young adults receiving publicly-funded reviewable services.

Service providers who provide a reviewable service and become aware of a child or youth who sustains an injury that meets the legislated definition of serious injury are responsible for reporting the injury to MACY. From there, MACY ensures that the injury meets the definition and conducts checks to determine if the injured child, youth, or in some cases young adult, was receiving a reviewable service at the time of, or year prior to the injury.



The Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations team at MACY



When we released Natawihisowin Oci Maskikiya (Healing with Medicines): Findings from the First 18-Months of the Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations Program in May 2025, we identified outreach efforts that increase awareness, support, and training as a top priority. Since the completion of the special report, we've prioritized outreach to ensure service providers are aware of their reporting requirements. **The number of referrals we have received from service providers increased by 85 per cent compared to the previous fiscal year.**

Program Highlights

We also completed numerous trainings, connected with multiple domains, trained school divisions, and recorded a webinar for all of Manitoba's CFS agencies. We look forward to connecting with and increasing awareness among service providers, specifically focusing on domains that continue to under-report serious injuries experienced by children.

This fiscal year, Investigators completed 42 per cent more reports than last year. We attribute the increase in the number of reports Investigators completed to the staggering increase in our workload. However, without an increase in program resources, we expect to fall behind on the average time to complete a report. Our ability to provide meaningful information and support to service providers working with injured children, youth, and their families will also be impacted. Our team continues to re-examine and creatively adapt our processes to ensure efficiency and meaningful advocacy on behalf of the children.

Troubling trends continue to be prevalent in Manitoba, while other concerning trends are beginning to emerge across the province. **Over half of our reviews and assessments remain related to a child who has been sexually assaulted and/or sexually exploited.** Often, service providers respond as best as they can. However, Manitoba's outdated strategy to prevent sexual exploitation and human trafficking has glaring systemic gaps and barriers – leaving children unprotected from harm. We are once again highlighting sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children in Manitoba as a crisis that requires an urgent and systemic response from government.

Our team is also analyzing an emerging and troubling trend in which a child's serious injury occurs while in the care of a paid caregiver. This includes, but is not limited to, foster parents, educators, placement staff, and others.

We remain open and willing to developing resources and sharing data and risk factors with the government to help mitigate risks to young people in our province.

Program by the Numbers

135
serious injury reports completed

99
assessments

36
reviews

1
review was approved to move to an investigation

Note: Response to referrals is based on legislation, and determination of response by Investigators is based on a number of factors, including, but not limited to: injury type and circumstances, response of reviewable services, and level of involvement from reviewable services. Each referral has either an assessment or review completed; the Manitoba Advocate can approve an investigation as needed.

Program Statistics

Consistent and reliable reporting from all service providers is crucial to accurately understand the risk factors associated with serious injuries, and how we can work together to ensure the safety and well-being of young people in Manitoba. **Unfortunately, MACY continues to see service providers under-reporting injuries to children, youth, and young adults.**

Between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, we received 506 serious injury referrals. Of those, 300 referrals were in scope for a review, while 206 referrals were out of scope for a variety of reasons (based on service provision or the legal definition of a serious injury). Five referrals were closed to the Serious Injury program upon receiving a child death notification.

Annual Serious Injury Program Reports Completed by Fiscal Year

Year	Total Referrals Received	Total Referrals in Scope	Total Reports Completed (age 0–17)	Total Reports Completed (age 18–20)
2023–24	184	111	57*	16
2024–25	273	160**	86*	9
2025–26	506	305**	121*	14

* *One review is proceeding to an investigation which is ongoing at the time of this report.*
** *Five of the 305 referrals were closed to Serious Injury upon receiving a child death notification.*

Serious Injury Trends and Themes

71% of completed reviews were for an Indigenous child, youth, or young adult

Injuries are classified by primary injury, which refers to the part of the legislated definition the serious injury meets. From there, they are classified with a secondary injury, which gives us more information about the types of injuries. One reported injury can have more than one primary and secondary injury classification.

Primary injury classifications for completed reports:*

53%
were the result of a sexual assault (71/135)

40%
required hospital/ health-care facility admission (54/135)

35%
were deemed life-threatening (47/135)

Secondary injury classifications for completed reports:*

55%
Sexual assault (unknown offender) (74/135)

25%
Drug/alcohol related (34/135)

22%
Self-harm/suicide attempt (30/135)

20%
Bodily injury (broken, fractured, dislocated bone or internal injuries) (27/135)

19%
Penetrating wounds (gunshot wounds, stab wounds, wounds requiring stitches) (25/135)

15%
Head injury/loss of consciousness (20/135)

4%
Accidental (6/135)

4%
Severe neglect (5/135)

* *Total percentage does not equal 100% because a reported injury can have more than one primary and secondary injury classification. The secondary injury classification list represents the top eight injuries and is not an exhaustive list of all the types of injuries children experienced.*

Risk Factors Present in Those Being Injured

Below is a figure which captures the top 15 risk factors that the reported injured person had present in their life at some point prior to their serious injury.

Year-to-year, the same risk factors are present in the lives of young people who are being seriously injured. Once service providers and families start noticing any of these risk factors, there must be preventative services available – including targeted interventions, services, and programs – and a targeted plan ready to respond and support that young person and their family.

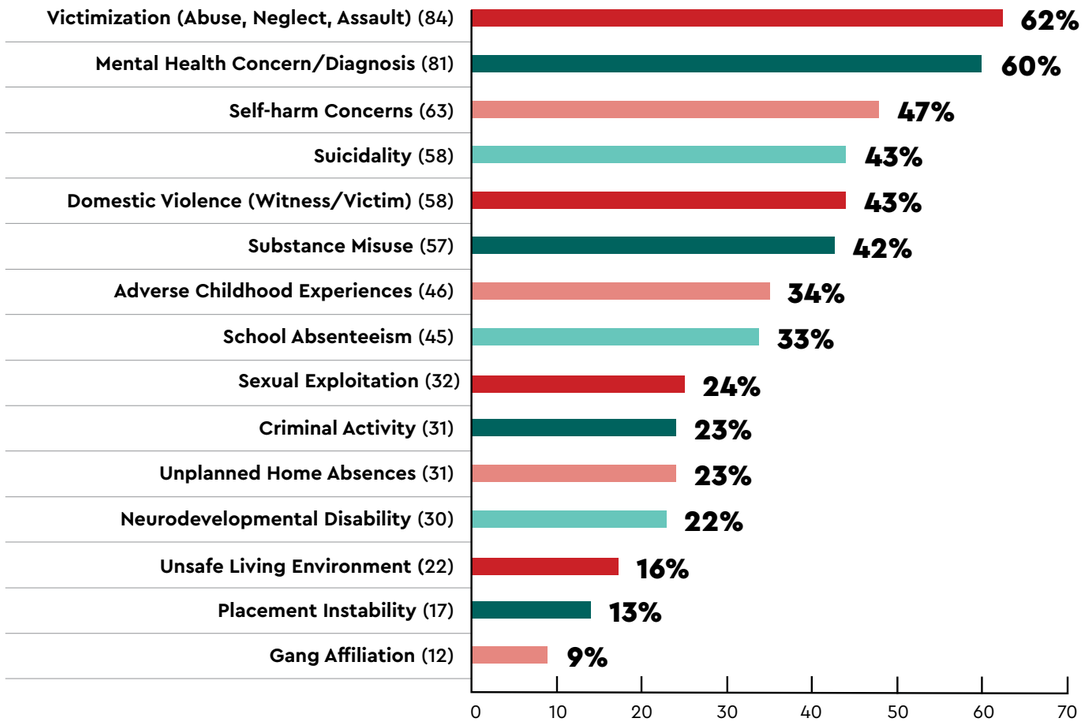
When looking at these risk factors from a macro lens we can see:

62%

Of children seriously injured experienced victimization in their lives. This fact alone highlights the importance of a targeted response and intervention by social services following any form of child victimization.

60%

Experienced mental health concerns that were co-occurring, or combined with, substance use and suicidality.



** Percentages do not total 100% as children and youth experienced more than one risk factor.*

Youth Engagement

Inspired by the articles in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC), the Youth Engagement program advocates for children's rights and strives to empower every young person to participate in decisions that directly affect their lives. The 2025–26 fiscal year marked the eighth year for the Youth Engagement program and the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS).

This past year, the Youth Engagement Coordinators and YAAS, supported by an Elder, Indigenous Cultural Worker, and Elders Council, carried out a diverse range of public education, engagement, outreach initiatives, and cultural opportunities throughout the province.



The Youth Engagement team at MACY



MACY team members at the National Child Day event at East Selkirk Middle School

Program by the Numbers

51

child- and youth-serving organizations connected with through presentations, meetings, and other engagements

1,575+

youth reached through engagement workshops

22

outreach activities where the primary audience was youth

Highlights from 2025–26

National Child Day – A Day to Celebrate Children and Youth

Every year on November 20, we recognize National Child Day. It is a day that we celebrate young people across the province and recognize them as valued members of our communities. We do this to honour and show the importance of children and youth both in their own lives and in larger society.

The Youth Engagement team, joined by representatives from across the MACY programs, held an event celebrating young people in Manitoba. This was the first time the event was held outside Winnipeg. It took place at East Selkirk Middle School, where we were joined by over 325 youth attendees throughout the day. The day included a UNCRC learning exercise, art workshop, interactive breakdance workshop, and musical performances by youth.

We were once again joined in celebration and partnership with other youth-serving organizations who empower young people, including Broadway Neighbourhood Centre and Just TV, as well as Graffiti Gallery and Studio 393.

Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad

The Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS) at MACY is one of the key initiatives of the office's Youth Engagement program. The squad consists of a dozen members between the ages of 15 and 24 from across the province. YAAS members meet regularly and are engaged in activities at the Manitoba Advocate office, including but not limited to providing consultation on special reports, and leading and collaborating on internal and external projects to engage youth with their human rights, as noted in the UNCRC.



YAAS, MACY team members, and special guests Marie Christian and Michelle Kowalchuck at their special report launch

YAAS MEMBERS ARE FROM THESE COMMUNITIES ACROSS MANITOBA

- Lake Manitoba First Nation
- Pine Falls
- Winnipeg
- Winkler
- Peguis First Nation
- Little Black River First Nation
- Winnipeg via Zipaquirá, Colombia
- Steinbach

Program by the Numbers

34 YAAS-attended events throughout the year:

20 YAAS program planning and preparation meetings

7 YAAS events, where members participated in cultural outings or attended community events

5 research consultations provided by YAAS, including internal MACY consultations as well as collaborations with external research partners

2 YAAS training opportunities and skill building on leadership and advocacy



YAAS members with Premier Wab Kinew at the One Manitoba Youth Summit

Highlights from 2025–26

Re-Right Project Mural

In 2020, the idea for the Re-Right Project was born out of YAAS. It developed into a community action plan where the UNCRC articles/rights would be displayed through painted murals throughout the province.

Building on the existing murals throughout Manitoba, MACY approached YAAS to develop a mural for the office in collaboration with and leadership from local artist Charlie Johnston. The right chosen by the youth to be represented in the mural was Article 12 "Youth have the right to be heard and taken seriously by adults."

The process for the mural was completed over the course of three months, starting in May 2025 with the planning and design process and the final painting being completed in early July.



Niigan Nakeyaa Oshkinawe The Truth of the Youth: Centring Youth Voices and Solutions for Thriving Futures in and Beyond Government Care

This report/project first began in 2023 and was officially released in March 2026. It is the first-ever youth-led report released by YAAS at MACY. What started as a shared concern for the well-being of young people in care in Manitoba, turned into an innovative peer-led project designed to listen to young people with lived experience, validate and learn from their experiences, amplify their voices, and advocate for meaningful change within Manitoba's child welfare system.

The Truth of the Youth amplifies the voices of 17 young people, most of them Indigenous, who have lived through Manitoba's child welfare system. Told largely in their own words, their stories illuminate six youth-identified themes:

1. Treatment and Care
2. Culturally-Safe Care and Services
3. Learning, Education, and Life Skills
4. Transitioning Out of Care
5. What is a Home?
6. Listen to the Kids!

Youth led the work throughout the entirety of the project, including drafting interview questions, interviewing other youth with lived experience, analyzing and collating data, writing portions of the report, contributing to its design, and more.

One Manitoba Youth Summit

As part of the Public Safety Strategy with Manitoba Justice, the provincial government hosted its first youth summit at the RBC Convention Centre with 300+ students in attendance from 37 different schools across the province. The youth attended breakout sessions throughout the day geared toward creating safe, healthy, and creative paths.

Two YAAS members were chosen to be youth keynote speakers to open the event in a good way. They courageously shared their own personal stories of struggle and triumph. Along with them, other summit speakers included Premier Wab Kinew and Justice Minister Matt Wiebe.

Cultural Activities

YAAS actively participated in Indigenous cultural activities that align with MACY's commitment to reconciliation. These experiences included a sweat lodge ceremony, pipe ceremonies, medicine picking, ribbon skirt making, and drum making, fostering a heartfelt connection to Indigenous traditions and values.

Engaging in these activities not only strengthened their bond with each other but also offered profound insights and a sense of belonging, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to reconciliation efforts. By embracing these cultural practices, YAAS reaffirmed their dedication to healing, mutual respect, and the uplifting of Indigenous knowledge systems.

Consultations

One of the roles of YAAS is to speak for all young people in the province, helping to provide a voice for those who are not being heard. Throughout the year, YAAS was approached for consultation by various youth-serving organizations on a variety of topics directly affecting children and youth. This past year, YAAS held in-person consultations with the Winnipeg Police Board, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (Shared Health), Family Resolution Service (Manitoba Justice), MACY's Research team, EmpowerMen (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc.), and the Child Protection Branch. All of these consultations resulted in meaningful dialogue with the ultimate goal of improving services for children and youth in Manitoba.

Public Education

Increasing awareness of the rights and experiences of children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba is the main objective of the Public Education team at MACY. This is accomplished in a variety of ways, including: presentations and engagement opportunities in community, via our social media platforms, and through relationship-building with service providers, the media, communities, and via special report launches.



The Public Education team at MACY

Program by the Numbers

1,500+
children reached through I Love to Read Month

42
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child articles translated to three Indigenous languages (Cree, Ojibwe, and Michif)

17
webinars to service providers and the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates

59
presentations to service providers and the community

4
project collaborations with other MACY teams

2
special report launches coordinated

1
colouring book created for children and youth visiting MACY's offices



Youth at East Selkirk Middle School participated in rights-based activities for National Child Day

Collaboration Key to MACY Projects

The Public Education team is fortunate to work alongside all teams at MACY, and collaboration is key to carrying out our work in a good way. This year some of the significant projects we worked on included:

- The *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin* project, which involved lunch 'n learns, document creation and editing, event support, and more;
- *The Truth of the Youth* project, which involved copy editing and proofreading, overseeing design work, event collaboration and support; and
- National Child Day, which involved support in planning and executing the event alongside the Youth Engagement team, as well as capturing photos that spoke to the energy of the event.

Collaboration also extended to the creation of two statements of concern, various presentations, and other day-to-day tasks, as needed.

Reading Increases Knowledge of Children's Rights

For the past several years, our team has offered reading sessions to students across Manitoba for I Love to Read Month. While connection is a huge part of this initiative, our main goal is to educate young people about their rights under the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. We do this by offering a wide selection of rights-based books, connecting stories to children's rights, and engaging with students through discussion and games.

In February and March 2026, we were able to visit 34 schools across Manitoba and connect with nearly 1,600 students! Our outreach took us across Winnipeg, Oak River, Rivers, Pierson, Waskada, Benito, Winnipegosis, Teulon, and Hartney! Thank you to the wonderful educators who welcomed us into their schools.

Did you know that our UNCRC posters are available in English, French, Cree, Ojibwe, Michif, and Braille?
Contact us for UNCRC posters:
ManitobaAdvocate.ca



Advocacy Officer Sonia Babyak read to students at Wellington School for I Love to Read Month

New Signage Brings Clarity to Thompson Office

With confirmation of a permanent office space in Thompson, this was the perfect year to update our signage for the storefront in the City Centre Mall. This office is shared with the Office of the Manitoba Ombudsman, so our communications teams worked together to create signage that reflects updated branding for both offices, and more clarity that two offices are operating in the same space.



New signage at the Thompson office

Editorial Committee Sheds Light on Rights Infractions

This year, the Public Education team took the lead in creating an editorial committee at MACY. The purpose of this committee is to identify current issues facing young people and their families in Manitoba, and bring those issues to the public's attention via written editorial pieces. The committee is made up of team members from across the office with a variety of backgrounds that span the scope of our office.

Do you want to hear more from us?

Please contact us through the links below for a MACY or UNCRC-focused presentation. We also offer youth engagement workshops.

info@manitobaadvocate.ca

ManitobaAdvocate.ca

Follow MACY on social media

Facebook.com/ManitobaAdvocate

TikTok.com/@manitoba_advocate

Instagram.com/manitobaadvocate

YouTube.com/@ManitobaAdvocate

LinkedIn.com/company/mbadvocate

Research and Quality Assurance

Research

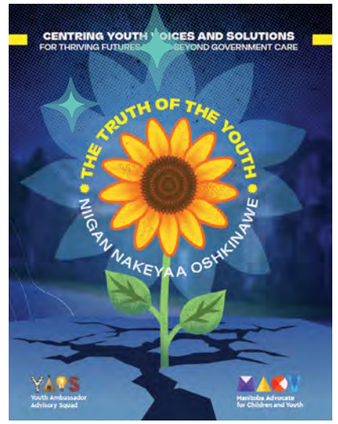
The Research program drives evidence-informed change by leading and supporting high-quality research initiatives, including policy briefings, comprehensive special reports, formal submissions, and statements of concern. This work is designed to help shape effective policy and ensure that provincial services for Manitoba's children, youth, and young adults remain responsive, accessible, and grounded in children's rights. By identifying systemic gaps, the Research team uncovers broader institutional issues that frequently guide the office's investigative priorities and special reports. Depending on the evidence gathered, the Manitoba Advocate directs research findings and targeted recommendations to essential stakeholders, which can include provincial ministers, government departments, Indigenous Governing Bodies, or any individual or public entity responsible for delivering designated services to young people in Manitoba.



The Research and Quality Assurance teams at MACY







Research Program Highlights

Over the course of the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Research team:

- Partnered with Quality Assurance (QA) to develop and approve a comprehensive handbook for planning, developing, and releasing special reports.
- Participated in Phase 2 of the Childhood Adversity and Resilience Research Training Platform (CARe RTP) project.
- Continued collaborating with community partners on an Indigenous- and community-led initiative to reduce sleep-related infant deaths, including co-authoring an op-ed published in March 2026.
- Supported the Youth Engagement program and YAAS in developing plans for youth-led publication.
- Conducted quantitative and thematic analyses for the *Natawihisowin Oci Maskikiya (Healing with Medicines)* special report.
- Engaged with the Winnipeg Police Services Board and supported YAAS in providing youth-informed recommendations for the Board's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan.
- Prepared a Statement of Concern calling for youth rights and needs to be prioritized in wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.
- Actively served as member of the *Innagakeyaa Bimadizewin (Towards the Good Life)* project team, working with working groups, supporting the *Strengthening Connections Lunch and Learn Series*, and participating in the development of the Collaborator Bundle.
- Provided ongoing research support to the Advocacy, Youth Engagement, Child Death Reviews and Investigations, and Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations programs.

Special Report: *Niigan nakeyaa Oshkinawe The Truth of the Youth: Centring Youth Voices and Solutions for Thriving Futures in and beyond Government Care*

With support from the Research program, in March 2026, the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS) released MACY's first-ever youth-led report, *The Truth of the Youth: Centring Youth Voices and Solutions for Thriving Futures in and beyond Government Care*. The Research team provided guidance and support to YAAS throughout the project, including with preparations for the launch of the report.

Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance (QA) program focuses on evaluating, structuring, and strengthening MACY's internal operations, policies, and practices to improve organizational integrity and service effectiveness. The QA team tracks regional, national, and federal legislative developments to analyze their impact on the well-being and rights of Manitoba's youth. A core pillar of the QA mandate involves systematically monitoring how government stakeholders respond to and implement the recommendations issued in the Manitoba Advocate's special reports and investigations. Additionally, the team manages MACY's data architecture, evaluating internal data sets to respond to internal and external information requests and ensure data-driven accountability across the organization.

QA Program Highlights

Some highlights from the QA team over the 2025–26 year include:

- Supported the Executive team with data analysis and briefing materials on issues affecting children, youth, and young adults.
- Collaborated with Research to finalize and launch *The Promise of Seeds*, MACY's new recommendation monitoring model.
- Continued reviewing and strengthening internal policies and procedures.
- Delivered information management training and support across the organization.
- Contributed to office-wide initiatives, including statements of concern and special reports.
- Led the ongoing legislative review of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA).
- Analyzed 29 recommendation implementation submissions using the new *Promise of Seeds* monitoring model.
- Collected, validated, and analyzed internal data to support annual reporting and program operations.
- Partnered with Research to develop a new process for reviewing recommendations issued more than five years ago.

ACYA Legislative Review

Since January 2025, MACY has been meeting with government representatives to explore proposed amendments to the ACYA as part of its mandated five-year review. During the fall, MACY started receiving correspondence that the legislative proposal had been drafted, and the work was commencing for a Bill to be prepared and presented in the Spring 2026 Legislative Session. Bill 23, *The Advocate for Children and Youth Amendment Act*, was presented to MACY in February 2026 near the end of the legislative process and subsequently passed all remaining stages – from first reading on March 10 to Royal Assent in the 2026–27 fiscal year. *The Advocate for Children and Youth Amendment Act:*

- Expands the ACYA's preamble to explicitly recognize the rights and dignity of children and youth of all gender identities, including two-spirit, transgender, and non-binary youth.
- Adds references to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as guiding principles for services to children and youth.
- Gives the Manitoba Advocate authority to enter into agreements with government departments and service providers to help carry out advocacy and oversight responsibilities.
- Explicitly authorizes the Advocate to promote and advocate for the principles of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- Requires a formal legislative review of the ACYA every seven years.

Updated Office-Wide Policies and Procedures

In July 2025, MACY released an updated and comprehensive office-wide policies and procedures document, aimed at strengthening and clarifying practices across several key areas. This update reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and aligns with emerging priorities, legal obligations, and feedback from staff.

The Promise of Seeds – MACY Recommendation Development and Monitoring

MACY became responsible for monitoring the implementation of recommendations issued by our office with the proclamation of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* in March 2018. Since that time, we have engaged in the monitoring process with honourable intentions and the objective of transforming services for children and youth in Manitoba. The passage of time has revealed the need for a shift; the need to engage in a journey of listening, reflecting, and learning, in order to develop a transformational process for achieving transformational outcomes.

Accordingly, in February 2026, MACY officially launched an updated model for the development and monitoring of recommendations, *The Promise of Seeds: Nurturing Relationships and Transformative Change through the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth's Recommendation Development and Monitoring*. This model fundamentally shifts how we advocate for and advance the rights and well-being of young people across the province.

The Promise of Seeds model helps drive the transformational changes needed for achieving the full and equitable realization of children's rights across Manitoba. It is intended to help MACY centre and deepen relationships, foster mutual learning and benefit, and develop practices, systems, and structures that disrupt inequitable power dynamics and move us closer to social justice, equity, self-determination, and collective well-being.

Cycle 1

Throughout the 2025–26 fiscal year, MACY has been actively engaged in putting *The Promise of Seeds* into practice. This began by providing our government partners (MACY-RAP) with implementation guides for 29 of MACY's previous recommendations found in our special reports.

Submissions from government were received in October 2025. While responding to recommendations, our government partners were accountable to provide information in the following four areas:

1. **Identify the actions taken toward fulfilling this recommendation.**
2. **Identify the tangible impacts these have had (or are expected to have) for children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.**
3. **Identify any factor(s) that have helped or hindered the implementation of this recommendation, including capacity, institutional, systemic, procedural, policy, financial, or any other.**
4. **Identify opportunities for collaboration with MACY on moving this recommendation forward.**

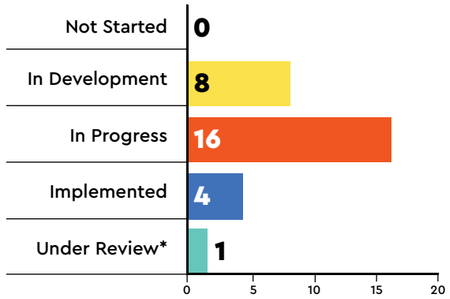
This format aligns with the principles guiding *The Promise of Seeds* and provides opportunities for MACY to understand how a recommendation may be progressing, and what factors, if any, are hindering a recommendation from reaching its potential.

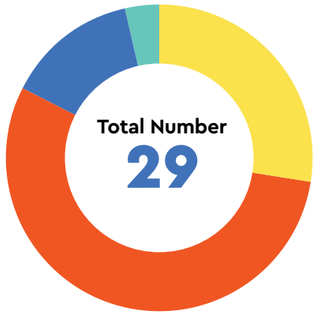
In this first cycle, the Manitoba Advocate found responses to recommendations to be generally favourable, providing detailed explanations of how recommendations are moving forward, and how children and youth may come to feel the impact of government actions. There are certainly still recommendation implementation responses where the Advocate was not in agreement with the progress reported or had concerns about the lack of reported actions toward implementing a recommendation. Discussions were held with government partners on solutions for ensuring future positive progress.

Recommendation progress is analyzed in two ways: first by determining whether **actions** toward implementing the recommendation have **not started**, are **in development**, are **in progress**, or are **implemented**. Secondly, **progress** is assessed as having **regressed**, **improved**, or made **no progress**.

There is significant work left to do with recommendations, including internally at MACY. Recommendations that are exceeding five years since their release date will undergo a review process to ensure the continued relevance and viability of the recommendation. The *Promise of Seeds* prides itself on ensuring the voices of those impacted by a recommendation are heard in both their development and continued necessity for improving the lives of Manitoba's children and youth.

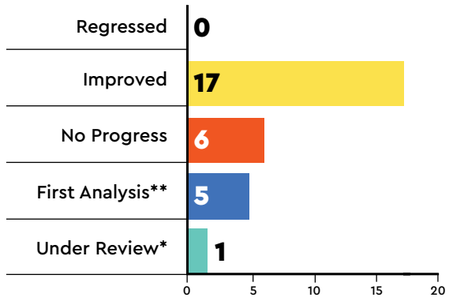
Actions

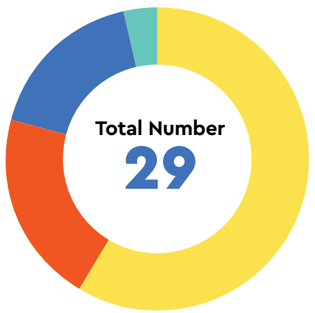




** Under Review refers to a recommendation seeking closure without implementation, and will undergo a thorough review process.*

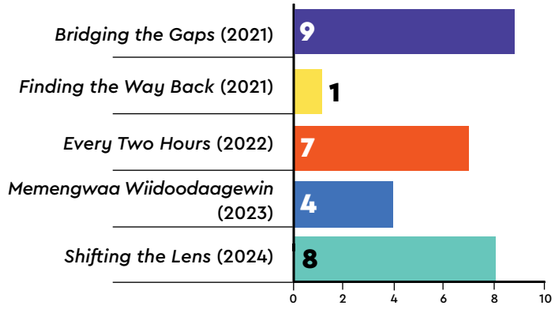
Progress

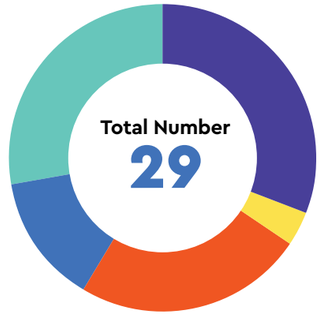




***Refers to recommendations undergoing their first analysis, therefore have no benchmark against which to measure progress.*

Reports with Recommendations Analyzed



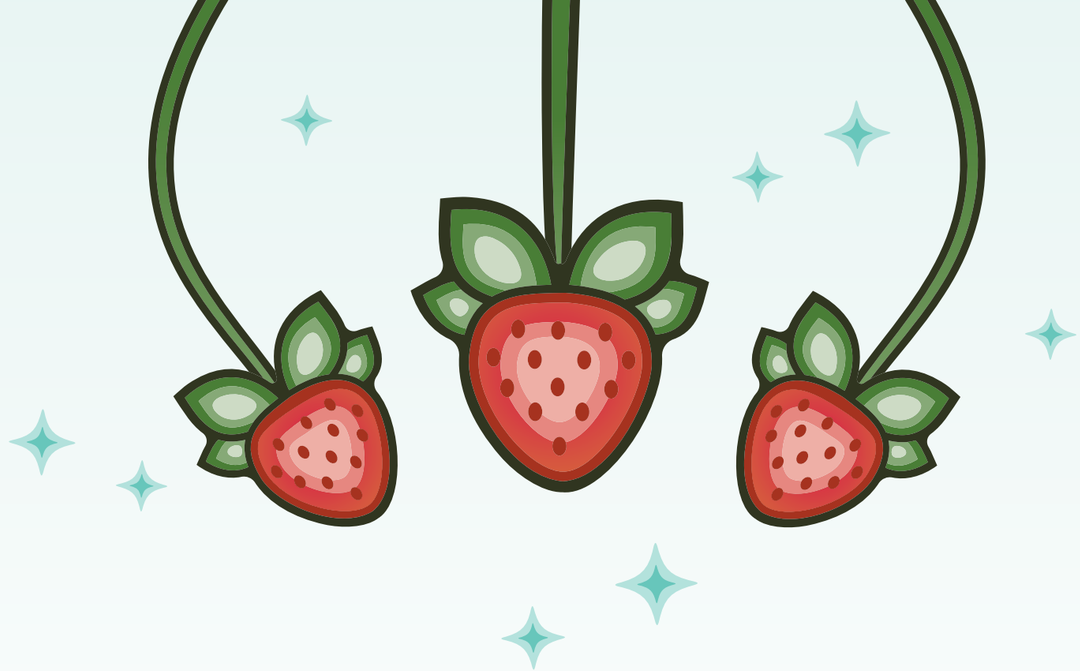


A thorough description of the actions taken and progress for each recommendation will be available online on MACY's recommendation tracker.

Service Plan and Strategic Priorities

In accordance with sections 29 and 30 of ACYA, the Advocate is required to develop a service plan containing defined objectives and performance measures in the office's annual report.

The following section outlines the key performance indicators that monitored the office's advancements for each strategic direction this past fiscal year.



Pillar 1: Strengthening Relationships, Awareness, and Accountability

A key priority for the Manitoba Advocate is to strengthen: relationships, awareness of our mandate through strategic outreach, and accountability of child- and youth-serving systems through special reports, statements of concern, and evidence-based recommendations.

OBJECTIVE	25/26 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Public education outreach strategy	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Y
Youth engagement strategy	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Y
Release special reports	2	2
Issue statements of concern	2	2
Monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations	1	1*
Annual report	(Y/N)	Y

** This fiscal we received monitoring reports from domains/collaterals; however, as this was the first cycle under the new* Promise of Seeds *model, we needed more time to review those submissions and ask for further clarification. A brief summary of progress made is included in this report.*

Pillar 2: Service Excellence

We are committed to service excellence and responsiveness through goal setting, continuous improvement, and timely, consistent, and effective interventions that are guided by best practices.

OBJECTIVE	25/26 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Update internal standards for consistency in service delivery:	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Y
• Percentage of new advocacy service intakes that receive a response within one business day	90%	84%
• Percentage of child death reviews completed within 12 months of the child death	90%	95%
• Percentage of serious injury reviews completed within 12 months of the serious injury	80%	96%
• Percentage of children and youth who report knowing more about children's rights following a presentation	80%	N/A*
Update recommendation monitoring model	Phase 2 (Y/N)	Y

** We are reviewing how we measure the impact of our in-person outreach efforts. As a result, the data were not consistently collected over the 2025–26 fiscal year.*

Pillar 3: Trauma-Informed and Culturally-Inclusive Work

There are ongoing opportunities to ensure our work is trauma-informed, anti-oppressive, and culturally-inclusive. In doing so, we seek to provide safe services and spaces for all children and youth.

OBJECTIVE	25/26 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Review, adapt, and update policies and procedures and position descriptions for all programs	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Partially fulfilled*
Increase collaboration and consultation with child- and youth-serving systems and stakeholders	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Y
Adapt services and spaces to ensure they are trauma-informed, culturally-inclusive, aware, sensitive, and safe for clients and staff	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Y

**Work continues on revisions to position descriptions for all programs.*

Pillar 4: Reconciliation and Restorative Practices

We acknowledge our role in truth, reconciliation, and restorative practices to decolonize our services. In doing so, we commit to honouring Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and working.

OBJECTIVE	25/26 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Update reconciliation framework, and work in collaboration with young people, their families, communities, service providers, and Indigenous Governing Bodies	Phase 3 (Y/N)	N
Integrate Knowledge Keeper/Elder services across all programs and service areas	Phase 3 (Y/N)	Y
Hold regular Elders Council meetings	4	4
Hold staff trainings in cultural competency and awareness, learning events, and land-based activities	8	10
Include preference for hiring Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) in all new employment postings	100%	100%

2025–26 Financial Report

$2,673,000 Operating*

$5,875,000 Salaries and Benefits

$8,548,000 Total

** In this fiscal year, MACY received approval for one-time operational costs related to the building move for $1,329,000.*

OUR TEAM

as at September 1, 2026



EXECUTIVE TEAM

Sherry Gott
Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth

Rachel Charette
Deputy Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, responsible for Investigations, Research, Quality Assurance, and Public Education

Kelly Gossfeld
Indigenous Deputy Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, responsible for Advocacy Services, Youth Engagement, and Finance and Administration

Ebu Onyelechie
Executive Coordinator

MANAGEMENT

Cyndi Menke
Manager, Finance and Administration

Dr. Matthew Maher
Manager, Research and Quality Assurance

Jamie Robinson
Manager, Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations

Joanne Lysak
Manager, Advocacy Services

Kirstin Magnusson
Manager, Advocacy Services and Youth Engagement

Lindsay Ridgley
Manager, Public Education

Tanis Hudson
Manager, Child Death Reviews and Investigations Program

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL WORKER

Lauren Prince

ADMINISTRATION

Joan Machendagoos
Administrative Assistant

Angela Kolaski
Senior Clerk

Lisa Robinson
Senior Clerk

Taylor Fileccia
Senior Clerk

ADVOCACY SERVICES

Brittney Mikolayanko
Advocacy Officer

Chelsea Small
Advocacy Officer

Debra De Silva
Advocacy Officer

Jogrett Senesie
Advocacy Officer

Krista Rey
Advocacy Officer

Mae Choo-Mah
Advocacy Officer

Margherita Gagliardi
Advocacy Officer

Marya Bryn-Bear
Advocacy Officer

Melissa Richardson
Advocacy Officer (on leave)

Mia Faircloth
Advocacy Officer

Rachel Simpson
Advocacy Officer

Sonia Babyak
Advocacy Officer

Stacy Moore
Advocacy Officer

Darlene Spence
Intake Assessment Officer

Alexandra Guemili
Systemic Advocacy Specialist

CHILD DEATH REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Anna Los
Investigator

Kayla Marcq
Investigator

Leigh Enns
Investigator

Sarah Benson
Investigator

Whitney Moore
Investigator

SERIOUS INJURY REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Benji Greenberg
Serious Injury Investigator

Claudette Reid
Serious Injury Investigator

Erin O'Driscoll-Martens
Serious Injury Investigator

Jennifer Weger
Serious Injury Investigator (on leave)

Kate Kelly
Serious Injury Investigator

Katherine Turner
Serious Injury Investigator

Kelsey Williams
Serious Injury Investigator

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Karlee Campbell
Public Education Coordinator

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Alison Carrey Bilous
Senior Policy Analyst

Julie Olivier
Senior Policy Analyst (on leave)

RESEARCH

Gen Sander
Researcher

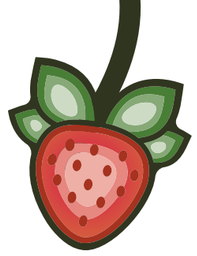
Gloria Olisenekwu
Researcher

Samantha Hanson
Researcher

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Jon Skrypnyk
Youth Engagement Coordinator

Justin Hogue
Youth Engagement Coordinator



Notes:

Notes:





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