

Manitoba
Advocate

STAND UP for children & youth

2018-2019
Annual Report



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Advocate's Message

The 30th anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*

Do you know your rights?

Across the globe, every child and youth under the age of 18 has inherent rights that have been promised to them by their governments. These inherent rights were first enshrined when the United Nations created the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC). The UNCRC is an agreement between nearly every country in the world that recognizes and honours young people and the support they need to help them experience happy, healthy, and safe childhoods. In signing the UNCRC, each country made an important promise to its children. Since Canada is one of the countries that signed the UNCRC, it applies to all children and youth under age 18 in Canada. If you are under the age of 18, this means you too!

This fall marks the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC. As such, this is a good opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about the UNCRC, to think about how rights are important to young people in our country, and understand in what ways these rights are recognized – or not recognized – in the lives of all children and youth here in Manitoba and across Canada.

The UNCRC describes more than 40 specific human rights for young people. These include rights about the things young people need to have a good life, what dangers young people must be protected from, and how the voices, ideas, and opinions of children and youth must be heard when decisions are being made that affect them. Adults in our communities have the responsibility to learn about your rights, to talk to you about them, and to support you in ways that acknowledge and protect your rights to special care and protection.

Throughout the pages of this annual report, you will see how children's rights and the UNCRC influence and guide the work of the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) office. Not only are the staff who work here knowledgeable about children's rights, we also use the UNCRC when we are advocating for young people. This is true in all areas of our work: advocacy services, investigations and child death reviews, quality assurance, research, and youth engagement activities.

The MACY office produces a number of resources, reports, and other information informed by the UNCRC that we share publicly. For example, we released four special reports this past year. Three of the four reports were about the deaths of Circling Star, Angel, and Tina Fontaine. The fourth report was about the uses of solitary confinement and pepper spray in Manitoba youth custody facilities. Each of these reports, like all of the work we do, includes information about whether the rights of children and youth were protected while receiving public services.

For example, in the story of Circling Star, we spoke about how his right to be protected from harm and his right to access high-quality health care were not protected, which are Articles 24 and 33 in the UNCRC. We also spoke about UNCRC Articles 28 and 29, which describe the right of all children to quality education and to education opportunities that help develop the talents and abilities of children and youth, while also respecting the young person's identity, language, and values.

Our special reports about a girl named Angel (released December 2018) and Tina Fontaine (released March 2019) also used a rights-based lens to examine the services they received. Angel, who died of an accidental overdose, was not adequately protected from illegal and harmful drugs (Article 33), from the sexual exploitation she experienced (Articles 34, 35, and 36), nor did the decisions made by adults consistently reflect Angel's opinions, preferences, or best interests (Articles 3 and 12). Similarly, Tina's rights were also not safeguarded during her life. For instance, her right to quality education to help her develop her talents (Articles 28 and 29) was not consistently upheld and she was eventually suspended from school and not reengaged. Like Angel, Tina too had been sexually exploited by adults and was not adequately protected from that trauma (Articles 34, 35, and 36).

All aspects of our work are guided by the voices of children and youth. Whenever possible, we speak directly with young people through our outreach, youth engagement, and advocacy services. In our report, *Learning from Nelson Mandela*, we spoke about the rights that are protected for youth involved in the justice system. These rights include Article 37 of the UNCRC, which protects a youth's right to fair and dignified treatment while being served by the justice system. In that report, we were especially concerned to hear that two youth in segregation were denied their right to contact our office for advocacy support, which is a right protected not only in the UNCRC, but also in both federal and provincial laws. If you know of a youth who is in custody, be sure to let them know they have the right to contact us for support and assistance.

This has been an important year on so many levels. As a result of the expansion of our office's mandate, we were empowered by law to offer additional services to young people across Manitoba. This led to the launch of exciting new programs and initiatives, detailed in this report. For example, we created an Elders Council, we were able to hire a Knowledge Keeper, we launched a whole new program for youth outreach and engagement, and we established a research hub. In addition, our longstanding dream of opening an office in the North became a reality when we opened a new outlet office in Thompson (come see us in City Centre Mall!). We also began work towards an office-wide plan for activities related to ReconciliAction. By this, we mean that we are engaging all MACY staff in examining how a public office

like ours can use our positionality to deepen our advocacy practices from a de-colonized approach. One of the most exciting new projects underway is our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad, whose members also call themselves: YAAS! Continue reading this report to learn more about the members of this squad of amazing youth who are helping to inform and guide our work.

Usually when I write this message for my annual report each year, it is a message to the adults in Manitoba: the people who hold legal, moral, and ethical responsibilities to make sure children and youth in Manitoba are supported to live to their full potential. This year, my message is directly for all young people in our province. I want you to know that your voices are important and that your opinions and ideas are welcome in the work of MACY. If you are a young person involved with public systems such as child welfare, adoption, disabilities, education, mental health, addiction, victim supports, or justice, we are here to help and support you. If you have any questions or concerns about the services you are – or are not – receiving, I invite you to call or drop into our offices so we can meet. You have the right to stand up, speak your mind, and be heard!



Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW
Manitoba Advocate for
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Manitoba
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STAND UP for children & youth



Wiji'iwed Owiindamaagewin

Nisimidana dasowaki jinaakomindwaa United Nations Convention giigidootamawaawaad Abinoojiya' ogashki'ewiziwiniwaan

Gigikendaanan ina gigashki'ewiziwinan?

Miziwekamig, gakina jibwaa ashi-nishwaaswi dasobiboonewaad ogii-miinigoowaa' gichi-ogimaawining gashki'ewiziwinan. Gii-onachigaadewan ono gashki'ewiziwinan apii igi United Nations gaa-inindwaa gii-ozhitoowaad ini *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) gaa-inindwaa. Miiwag igi UNCRC ogii-onatonaawaa' miziwekamig endasowakiiwangin gaa-nanaakomaawaad oshki-aya'aa, ji-wijiwindwaa mino-bimaadiziwin, mino-ayaawin zhigwa mino-ombigiwin. Apii gaa-jakibii'amowaad iwe UNCRC onashowewin, gakina ini akiin ogii-ashodamawaawaa' onijaanisiwaa.' Gewiin Canada aki ogii-jakibii'aan iwe onashowewin UNCRC, wiji'igonaawaa' gakina oshki-aya'aag jibwaa ashi-nishwaaswi endasobiboonewaad. Giishin iwe 18 apiitizisiwan, gewiin gidagwii iwe!

Owe ge-dagwaagig, nisimidana dasowaki nanaakomaawag igi UNCRC. Mii dash, oga-gashkitoonaawaa' gakina Canada onji ji-gikenimaawaad ini UNCRC, aaniin ezhi-gitendaagwaking ini oshki-aya'aag ji-gashki'ewiziwaad omaa gidakiinaang, aaniin ge-inaabanjigaadegin – gemaa gikenjigaadesinogin – obimaadiziwiniwaang oshki-aya'aag, abinoojiiyag gaye omaa Manitoba zhigwa miziwe Canada akiing.

Niimidana dasinowan UNCRC gashki'ewiziwinan odayaanaawaa' oshki-aya'aa onji. Mii ono ji-wiji'igowaad oshki-aya'aag ji-mino-bimaadiziwaad, ji-naagajiwindwaa gegoon ji-doodawisiwindwaa, aaniin gaye oshki-ayaa'g, abinoojiiyag gaye ji-izhi-noondawindwaa aaniin enendamowaad gegoo izhi-onashowaanindwaa. Gichi-aya'aag ningoji eyaawaad ji-gikendamowaad awegonenan ini gashki'ewiziwinan, ji-dibaajimotookwaa ini, ji-wiji'ikwaa gaye biminizha'igaadegin ini gashki'ewiziwinan ji-naagaji'ikwaa ono onji.

Miziwe omaa zagakibii'igewining, giga-waabandaan aaniin ogashki'ewiziwiniwaan abinoojiiyag zhigwa UNCRC ezhi-wiji'aawaad ini Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) gaa-giigidootamawaad abinoojiya'. Anokii'aaganag gaa-wiji'aawaad abinoojiya' ogikendaanaawaan ini gashki'ewiziwinan, nindaabajitoomin gaye UNCRC apii giigidootamawangwaa oshki-aya'aag. Mii gaye ezhi-wijiweseg nindanokiiwininaang, andooshkamaang aaniin gaa-izhi-nibod abinooji, gwayak izhichigewin, andooshkigewin aaniin gaye ji-wiidookaagewaad oshki-aya'aag.

Imaa MACY anokiiwining, bebakaan zagakibii'igewinan odoozhitoonaawaa' zhigwa imaa onji UNCRC gaa-inindwaa, daa-waabanjigaadewan. Daabishkoo, niwin zagakibii'igewinan ningii-giizhitoomin ningowaki apan. Niswi ini zagabii'igewinan gii-dazhinjigaadewan Circling Star, Angel, zhigwa Tina Fontaine. Zhigwa ishkwaaach iwe gii-dazhinjigaade nishike-giba'odiwin, wiisagaak zisiisonjigan aabadak oshki-aya'aag onji. Endasingin ono zagakibii'igewinan ninitaa-wiindamaagemin aaniin ayizhiwebiziwaad abinoojiiyag apii waawijiwindwaa ganawenimindwaa.

Daabishkoo gaye Circling Star dibaajimowin aaniin ji-gii-izhi-naagajiwindiban zhigwa aaniin aakoziwining ji-izhi-naagajiwind ezhisingin imaa Articles 24 zhigwa 33 UNCRC onashowewin. Ningii-dazhindaamin gaye imaa UNCRC Articles 28 zhigwa 29 onashowewin, ezhisingin abinoojiiyag zhigwa oshki-aya'aag gashki'ewiziwag ji-gikino'amawindwaaban ji-wiji'igowaapan ji-ani-gikenjigewaapan, eshkwa gaye

gikenjigaadeg oshki-aya'aa aweneniwid, odinwewin zhidgwa gechi-inendaagwakin gegoon.

Gaa-gii-ozhibii'amaang awe Angel izhinikaazod ikwezens (miigiweng December 2018) zhidgwa Tina Fontaine (miigiweng March 2019) gii-ganawaabanjigaade aaniin gaa-izhi-naagajiwindwaa. Oyii-onzaamandaan mashkikiin Angel, gaawiin dash gii-naagaji'aasii mashkikiin wedaapinang ezhising imaa (Article 33), gaa-gii-nishibaapinind gaye ezhisingin imaa (Articles 34, 35, dago 36), gaawiin gaye gichi-aya'aag gwayak ogii-onji-naagaji'aasiwaawaan wegonen ge-gii-izhi-mino-ayaapan ezhisingin (Articles 3 dago 12). Gaawiin gaye gii-aabadasinon ezhi-gashki'ewizid megwaa bimaadizid. Daabishkoo gaawiin gii-onji-mino-gikino'amawaasii ji-anigikenjiged ezhisingin imaa (Articles 28 dago 29), gii-zaagijiwebinigaazo gikino'amawind, gaawiin gaye gii-azhegiwesii. Daabishkoo Angel, gewiin Tina gii-nishibaapinodawaa, gaawiin gii-onji-maamiinochigesim iwe ezhisingin imaa (Articles 34, 35, dago 36).

Gakina enanokiiyaang nimbizindawaanaanig abinoojiyag zhidgwa oshki-aya'aag. Giishpin izhiseg, gwayak igo ningaganooaanig oshki-aya'aag, ezhigaabawiyaang aaniin ji-izhi-waawiji'angwaa. Gaa-gii-ozhibii'amaang Learning from Nelson Mandela, ningii-dazhindaamin aaniin ezhi-gashki'ewiziwaad oshki-aya'aag onaakonigewining. Mii ini onashowewinan imaa UNCRC Article 37, gwayak ji-izhichigaanindwaa onaakonigewining oshki-aya'aag. Gaa-gii-ozhibii'amaang, niizh oshki-ayaag gaawiin gii-bagidinaasiwag ji-izhi-giigidowaad endananokiiyaang, mii iwe gashki'ewiziwin imaa UNCRC onashowewining, endaso-akiikaanan zhidgwa miziwekamig Canada. Giishin gikenimad oshki-aya'aa giba'ond, wiindamaw izhigaabawiwag ji-ganoonigoowaang endananokiiyaang onjida ji-wiji'angidwaa.

Gii-gichi-izhise owe ningowaki apan. Awashime ningii-izhigaabawimin ji-wiji-angwaa oshki-ayaag onaakonigewining omaa Manitoba akiikaaning. Mii-sa iwe onji, awashime ningii-giikinaamin bebakaan ge-izhi-wiji'iweyaangiban, ezhising imaa gaa-gii-zagakibii'amaang. Daabishkoo, ningii-onatoomin gichi-anishinaabeg ji-wiji'iweyaad, mazina'ige'angid gekendaasod, bakaan gaye ji-izhi-gaganooanangwaa oshki-aya'aag, ningii-onatoomin ji-andooshkigeng. Zhidgwa miinawaa, ningii-bagosendaamin ji-onasigooyaang giuwedinong Thompson (bi-izhaag City Centre Mall). Ningii-maajitoomin gaye izhichigewinan imaa ReconciliAtion gaa-ijigaadeg. Mii dash owe gakina imaa MACY enokiwaad bakaan ji-izhi-dazhiikamaang nindanokiiwinaang

gaawiin daabishkoo gaa-bi-izhichigeng. Bezhiig oshki-maajitooyaang iwe Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad YAAS! izhinikaanidiwag. Bizaanigo ani-anamitoon owe mazina'igan ji-gikendaman aaniin oshki-aya'aag ezhi-wijiyangidwaa nindanokiiwinaang.

Dasing ozhibii'amaan owe zagakibii'igewin, ningagwe-gaganooaanag gichi-ayaag omaa gaa-ayaawaad Manitoba akiikaaning. Mii igiwe gaa-niigaanishkamowaad onaakonigewin zhidgwa gwayakwaadiziwin ji-maamiinosaawaad oshki-aya'aa. Noongom dash owe gaa-akiwang, ningaganooaanag oshki-aya'aag omaa Manitoba ji-gikendamowaad gichi-inendaagwad aaniin ekidowin omaa nindanokiiwinaang. Giishin oshki-ayaa gii-odaapinind, bakaan ji-dazhi-ombigid, maakizid, gikino'amaagewin, mino-ayaawin, adisigod gegoon, waawijiwind gegoon gii-maanzhised, gemaa onaakonigewining izhi, nindayaamin omaa ji-wiji'igooyan. Giishpin gegoon noonde-gagwedweyan aaniin ge-izhi-wiji'igooyamban gemaa gegoo izhi-wiji'igoosiwan, bizaanigo bi-izhaan endananokiiyaang ji-gaganooanzhiyaang. Gidizhigaabaw gegoo ji-ikidoyan, ji-noondaagooyan gaye!



Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW
Wiji'aad Abinoojiya' zhidgwa Oshki-aya'aa.

O Manitoba
giigidootamaage
NIIBAWIN ABINOOJIYAG zhidgwa oshki-ayaag onji



Otayamihistamákéw otácimowin

Ékwáni óma 30 askíya aspin káki mácitániwak anima *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* ká itakik.

Kikiskénitén ná anihi kitasotamákowina?

Óté misiwéskamik, kakinaw awásis éko oskátis éka céskwa 18 ká tatwáskínét ayáw asotamákéwina anihi káki asotamákot kici wanasowéwinik oci. Ékwáni ohi kici okimáwin asotamákéwina nistom káki masinahikátéki ispík anikik misiwéskamik oci ká māmahokakik kékwána United Nations ká iticik káki ositácik anima *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) ká itakik. Anima UNCRC wici isicikémitowin anima ókik wésám piko kakinaw wítaskémákanak ita ká isi wá wíkcik ká nisitawinakik éko ká kisténimácik oskátisa éko ká nátamawácik óma ta wíciyácik ta minénitaminít, kita mino ayánit éko kita péyatakénimot óma ká ati opikit awa awásis. Ispík éki masinahakik ta sókakiték anima UNCRC ká itakik, kakinaw anihi wítaskémákanak kí kistapiy asotamawéwak kékwána anihik awásisak. Éko awa Canada wístawáw ékota éki masinahosocik anima UNCRC, ékwáni piko kakinaw awásisak éko oskátisak éka céskwa 18 ká tatwáskínécik ékosi kita isi kinawápamicik. Kisáspin mwác céskwa 18 ki tatwáskínán, kína óma ká itikawian.

Anoch ké ati takwákik ékwáni 30 askíya ta itámaka anima UNCRC ká itakik. Éko ékwánima, ékota óma mitoni nahipaniw kakinaw ókik Canadians kita kiskénitakik awasimé kékwána anima oci UNCRC ká itakik, éko kita nánákatawénitakik tánisi anihi asotamákéwina ési kisténitákoki anikik oskátisak oci óta kitaskínák, éko kita nisitotakik tánisi óhi asotamákéwina ési nisitawinikátéki- wéka mwác-inikok kita pakamiskákocik ékwani anikik awásisak éko oskátisak óta Manitoba éko óté misiwéskamik Canada.

Anima UNCRC nisitawi átotam awasimé 40 asotamákéwina ká pakamiskákocik oskátisak. Ékota óki itowa asotamákéwina ká natawénitakik oskátisak kita mino pimácihocik, kéko nánísánénitamowina kita oci nákcáhicik éka ékosi kita ispanihicocik, éko mína tánisi kita isi natotácik, iténimonik éko ké itwécik ókik awásisak éko oskátisak óma ká tasitamákániwaki kékwána ta ati pakamiskakocik óté níkanik. Anikik ásay káki kisi opikicik ká ayácik itáwinik wínowáw kita nípowistakik kita kiskénitakik anihi asotamákéwina, ta oci ayamitotawácik, éko ta sítoskamáwacik ité ké isi nókoki éko kinawénitákoki anihi asotamákéwina kawisk ta itápataki éko ta kinawénicikátéki.

Óta óma ohi ká ati masinahikátéki tanto askíy ácimowina, kika wápatén tánisi anihi anikik awásisak otasotamákowina éko anikik UNCRC ési pakamiskakik éko kiskinahotahéwécik anima ká itatoskécik anté Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) atoskékikamikosik. Móna piko anikik óta ká atoskécik ká kiskénitakik anihi awásis otasotamákowina, máka mína nitápaciyanánik anikik UNCRC ispík mána ká ayamihistamawayákok oskátisak. Ékwani óma wésám piko tápitaw éspanik piko kékwán anima ké atoskátamák: ká ayamihistamákéyák, ká natawikiskénitamák kékwána éko awásis káki nisiwanacihit kítwám ékinawápatamák kawisk kita itasowániwak, nato kiskénitamowina éko oskátisat nanátok ká isi otamihicik kita nóccikécik.

Anta MACY atoskékikamikosik nitósitánán miscét kitakí ápataki, kékwána, ácimowina, éko kotaka kiskénitamowina kápé mínikoyakok anikik UNCRC éko nitati anisko mékinán piko ita ité isi. Tápisokó ohi, níki pakitinénán néyo kistácimowina óma anohc kákipé askíwak. Nisto anihi ácimowina óma kákipé póni pimátisick anikik iskwéwak Circling Star, Angel éko Tina Fontaine. Anima kotak ácimowin ékota ká wítakik óma ká péyako kipahocik ékinawénimicik oskátisak éko ésisopáticik kékwániw éwísakaninik oci anté anima Manitoba oskátisak ká tasi kinawénimicik ékapahocik. Ékwani ohi pápéyak ácimowina, tápisokó anihi atoskéwina ká itótamák, ékota takonwa anihi kiskénitamowina máti tápwé anihi otasotamákowina awásis éko oskátis éki ápataki éko takí kinawénicikátéki ékwani éskwá wá wícihit ana oskátis óma mékwác ká paminit.

Tápisokó óma, anima ácimowin Circling Star oci, kí ayamitoténán anihi otasotamákowina éka nántaw kita isi wísakáspinatit éko anima kawisk kitakí isi nákatawénimít éka éki oci ápataki, éko ékwáni anihi asotamákéwina Articles 24 éko 33 ká itakik anta anima kici wanasowéwina oci. Éko mína níki ayamitoténán anihi kici wanasowéwina UNCRC Article 28 éko 29 ká itakik, anihi ká wítakik otasotamákowina ana awásis kawisk kiskinawámákéwina kita ayát éko mína ta takoki kawisk kiskinawámátowina inikok táti kiskinawámásocik éko ta nókotácik anihi kékwána ká kaskitácik ókik awásisak éko oskátisat, máka mína péyakwan ékospík kita kisténimicik awina wínowáw, ká isi pikiskwécik éko omino mamitonénitamowina ká kisténitamihicocik.

Anihi péyakwá káki kistáci ácimostamák ispík ana iskwéw káki wanisik Angel káki itit (káki ácimoyák éki masinayamák December 2018) éko ana kotak Tina Fontaine (káki ácimoyák éki masinayamák March 2019) níki ápacitánán anihi asotamákowina

ékoté kita isi kinawápatamák óma tánisi kákí isi wá wícihicik óma ispík kákí paminičik émwés nántaw ká ispanihikocik. Angel, kákí nisiwánácihikot éki pisci misiwépanitát maci maskikiya éká kawisk éki oci nákcacihičot éká ta wanitótát ta mínit éko ta otinac anihí ékotowa maskikiya (Article 33), éko mína anima kákí maci nócihit tápitaw (Articles 34, 35 éko 36). Éko mína anikik kákí nákcacihičot mwác tápitaw oci wítamwak tánisi anima Angel kákí itikocik kákí isi natawénitak kékwána, ká isi pakosénimot, éko anima wina kita isi nahipanihikot otíténitamowina (Articles 3 éko 12). Ékwániw mína péyakwan, Tina anihí otasotamákowina mwác oci kawisk nákatawénicikátéwa kitakí isi wícihikot éskwá pimátisit awa iskwéw. Tápiškóc anima, otasotamákowin kawisk kitakí wícihit kitakí ati nakacitát tá itótak ká kiskénitak (Articles 28 éko 29) mwác oci ápatanwa tápitaw éko kákí ati wanawítisayot kiskinawátowikamikok oci éko mwác awiyak éki oci kakwé nátát kítwám ékoté ta pítokayát. Mwéci ana Angel, Tina awa mwác oci nátamáko awiniwa éká ta macitótát mékwác kákípe opikit éko mwác mitoni kawisk oci pamiyáw ta nátamát éká takí wanitótát ká itastéki anihí kici wanasowéwina (Articles 34, 35, 36).

Akinaw kékwán ká isi nóciyák óma nitatoskéwininán oci tápitaw ninatotawánánik anikok awásisak éko oskátisak. Ispík ké ispanihikoyák, nina tawikakitótánánik mána anikik oskátisak óma ká isi atoskátamák ékwéniw, ká wícičikémáyákok oskátisak, éko óma ká ayamihistamawáyákok anikik oskátisak. Anima nitáćimowininán, Learning from Nelson Mandela, ékota nitátoténán anihí asotamákéwina ká nákcacičikátéki oskátisak oci ké isi paminičik wanasowéwinak ité. Ékota anihí óma asotamákéwin Article 37 kici wanasowéwinik UNCRC, ká nátamát oskátis kawisk kita pamihit éko ta wanasowátit éskwá kinawénimít éka ká nákcacihit anté oci kici okimáwinak wanasowéwina. Ékota anima nitáćimowininán, mitoni kí mikoskáténitamikoskákónán ókik níso oskátisak éki pápéyako kinawénimicik é kipahocik éko éká éki oci pakítinicič óma tapé ayimihikoyákok ta natawí ayamihistamawáyákok, ká isi ápataki anihí asotamákéwina ká nákcacitát móna piko anikik UNCRC, máka mína anté ká isi tipénitákoki misiwéskamik wéka nanátok picí tipáskánik kici okimáwin wanasowéwina. Kisáspin kikiskénimáw oskátis óma ékinawénimít kipahotowikamikok natawác piko kécináho óma ta wítamawat é ayát anihí asotamákéwina óma ta natotamát tapé ayamihikoyák ta natawí wíciyáyák ta ayamihistamawáyák piko nántaw éko kékwániw oci.

Kí kici iténitákon óma anohc kákípe askiwak wina inikok nanátok kékwána ékipé nahipanihikoyák óma oci nitatoskéwininán. Éko ékwánima oci kákí ati itapiyak awasimé nántaw kita isi wá wíciyáyákok anikik oskátisak, ékota kákí oci máci wíciyáyákok kakinaw oskátisak nanátok isi ké ati isi natotamácik ta wícihicik óta misiwéskamik Manitoba. Ékota kákí ati máci ispanik kita pasikónamák éko ta máciyáyák oski isicikéwina éko mino nákatawénitamowina, kita péyatak masinahikátéwa óta kita nisitotamonániwaki. Tápiškóc óhi, níki máciťánán kayitáyátisak kita mámawipihistakoyákok, éko mína kí miskawánáw Ininiwi kiskénitamowina ká isi kiskinahótayiwét, níki máciťánán nanátok isicikéwina ta nátáyákok oskátisak ta wíciyáyákok, éko mína ité péyakoyik

kékípe isi ayamicik piko ispík wí natawénitakwáki nántaw kita isi wícihicik. Éko mína, kayásk kákí oci nákatawénitamák éki akáwátamák kita páskiténamák atoskéwikamikos óté kíwétinok kita oci wícihicik oskátisak éko pákacyi kákí ispanik ékosi óté Thompson (kikakípe natawápaminám óte City Centre Mall) ká itakik. Éko mína níki mátatoskáténán óma kakinaw kékwán káwí ati nóciťayák óta atoskéwikamikosik kita ati kinawápatamák anima mino kakécihitowin. Óma káwí ati isicikéyák, ayíw anima ká itamák kakinaw anikik atoskénának anté MACY kitakí isi minwápaciťacik anima ité ká itakisocik kita wíciťacik anima kita ayamihistamáwacik wéka pakwanta awiniwa kita kitimahikocik wéka ta sakitamás kitasotamókwina. Péyak mína kékwán náspic éki minénitákot ta máciťániwák óta isa anikik oskátisak éki mámawicik kita ayamihistamásocik Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad éki ositácik, éko isinikátisowak anohc: YAAS! Kísi ayamítá óma áćimowí masinahikan awasimé kita ati kiskénitaman tánisi étotakik ókik oskátisak óma ta wítamákoyákok éko kita kiskinahótinikayákok ta itótamák óma káwí isicikéyák wínawáw oci.

Wésám piko mána tanto askíy óma ká masinahaman áćimowin masinahikan, ká wítamawakik anikik óta Manitoba: ká níkanakisocik kici okimáwinik wanasowéwinik, mino nákatawénitamowin éko mino opikihiwéwin ká isi pakamiskákot ta kécináhocik ókik awásisak éko oskátisak óta Manitoba kawisk kita wícihicik éko kita nátamácik inikok ta kaskitácik kita péyako opikihisocik. Éko anohc, oskátisak ókik káwí kakítotakik. Kinatawénimítináwáw kita kiskénitamék óma é kisténitákosiyék óma ká itwéyék éko papéyatak kawisk kika natotákawináwáw óma káwí itwéyék wéka ké iténitaman anté nitatoskéwikanikosik. Kisáspin kína óma ká oskátisiyan ká oci pamihikawiyán ókik óté oci wéka ká nákcacitamáskik kékwána, awasisa ká paminičik, ká otináčik kita opikihisamásocik, ká máskisinit, okiskinawámákawiniwáw, mino mamitonénicikan, mácičkwapisákona, ká máciťotát awina, wéka ká itotayit wanasowéwinik, nitayánán óta ta oci wícihiták éko kita sitoskamáták óma ké ati ispanihikoyan. Kisáspin kitayán kakwécikémona wéka kékwán ki kinomáciskákon óma ká isi paminičikawiyán-wéka mwác- ki wísámitinán kitapé ayamihiyák wéka pé natawápaminán nété nitatoskéwikamikosinák ita kita nakiskáták ta ayamihitoyak. Kititapin anima kitasotamákowinik oci kita nípawistamásowan, kita wítaman anihí kékwána ká mamitonénitaman, éko mína kita pétákawiyán ta natotákawiyán.



Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW
Manitoba Advocate for
Children and Youth

Manitoba
Natatwéstamákéw
NIPAWISTAWISTÁK ókik awásisak éko oskátisak



Okanoocikehtamaake otipaacimoowin

Nihsomitanawi yahki kaa tipihsenik Minsiwe Ahkiink Okimaak kaakii nahkomitiwaac Omashkawisiwininiin Apinoonciishihshan.

Kikihkentaan ina ki mashkawisiwin?

Minsiwe ahkiink, kahkina apinoonciishihsh miina oshkaatis ekaa mashi nishwaahsashaap kaa tahso pipoonec otayaan omanitoowi miinikoowin kaakii ahshotamaakoowaac otookimaamiwaan. Ohowe niwan man itoowi miinikoowinan nishtam kii mashkawi minciminikaate minsiwe ahkiink okimaak kaakii oshihtoo waac Minsiwe Ahkiink Okimaak kaakii Nahkomitiwaac Omashkawisiwininiin Apinoonciishihsh shiniin (UNCRC). Wahawe tash UNCRC onahkomitiwiniwaa kekaat kahkina Ahkiin misuwe ahkiink kaa nihsitawi namiwaac miina kihtenimaac oshkaatisan miina wiicikaapawihtaakewinini kaa antawenta miwaac ciwiichikoowaac ci kihkentamiwaac minwentamoowin, mino ayaawin, miina peyhtaki apinoonciishihshi pimaatsiwin. Kaa masinahotisiwaac UNCRC, kahkina Ahkiin okii kici ashotamawaa waan otapinoonciishihshimiwaan. Ekwa tash Canada kewiin peshik kaakii masinahotisoc UNCRC, kahkina apinoonciishihsh mii na oshkaatis ekaa mahshi nishwaahsashaap ohomaa Canada. Kiishpin ekaa mashi nishwaahsashaap ipipooneyan, kekiin kaa ikooyan!

Nonkom kaa takwaakink nihsomitana wiyahkiwan UNCRC. Ekwa tash, mino tawihse kahkina Canadians ci kihkentamiwaac kekoneniwahk UNCRC, ci maamitonencikaatek epiici kihtentaakwaninik omashkawi siiwiniwaa oshkaatisak kitahkiiminaanank, miina cinihsitohcikaatek aanti ohoweniwan mashkawisiwinan eshi nihsitawinikaatekin – naanta ekaa enihsitawinikaatenik – opimaatsiwinawaank kahkina apinoonci shihshak miina oshkaatisak ohomaa Manitoba miina minsiwe Canada.

Ohowe UNCRC wiincikaatewan awashime niimitana Anishiniiniwi mashkawisiwinan ehayaawaac oshkaatisak. Kikinikaatewan kaye mashkawisiwinan ke antawentamiwaac oshkaatisak ci mino pimaatsiwaac, miina kekonenan machihsewinan oshkaatisak ke winci kanawenimintwaa, miina aaniinihi okitoowiniwaa, otinentamoowiniwaa, miina otihkitoowiniwaa apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak ci nooncikaatenik kaa onahcikaatenik kekononini naanta ke isihshahikoowaac. Kaa kiishikiwaac awiyak kitapiwiniwaanank otaa papaamisiikhantaanaawaa cikakwe kihkentamiwaac ki mashkawisiwinini, ci tashintamawihkwaa, miina ci wiichikooyek ewitaahpinamiwaac miina kanawentamiwaac ki mashkawisiwininiin.

Kaaniishi paahpaahkiinikaatek ohowe tipaacimoowin, kika waapantaan aanti apinoonciishihsh omash kawisiwin miina UNCRC kaashi wiichiweec miina eshi pimi kaahkwayahkohshimaac Manitoba kaa Kanoo ciketamawaac Apinoonciishihshan miina Oshkaatisan (MACY) otanokiwininiinik. Kaawin ehta otanokiik ohomaa kaa anokiiwaac okihkentsiinaawaa apinoonciishihshan omashkawisiwininiin, UNCRC kaye nin taapachtoomin kaa kanoo ciketamawankic oshkaatisak. Tepwe ohowe nintootaamin minsiwe nintanokii wininaank: kaa kanoo ciketamawaakeyaank, kaa naanakatawentamaank isihhsewinan miina kaa naakaci hankic apinoonciishihsh kaa pooni pimaatsisic, ci minohsenik owiichikoowin, machihsewin nanaantawi kihkencikewin, miina oshkaatis kaa wiitanokiiminc isihhcikewinan.

MACY otooshihtonon naanta aapachtaakanan, tipaacimoowinan, miina kotakiyan wiintamaakewinan kaa wiintamaakoc UNCRC kaa pakitinamaank. Kewinci aawehtaman, ninkii pakitinaamin niwini kici tipaacimoowinan otaanaank kaa ahkiwahk. Nihsin ihwiniwan niwini tipaacimoowinan ahaweniwak kaa kii nipowaac Circling Star, Angel, miina Tina Fontaine. Niwini tash ihwe tipaacimoowin okii tashintaan kaa aapatahk papeshikoo kipahowewin miina mashkihkiwi sihpwaacikan kaa aapatahk Manitoba Oshkaatisiwi Kipahotiiwikamikoon. Tahsin tash tipaacimoowinan, taapishkoo kahkina anokiiwin kaa tootamaank, kikinikaate wiintamaakewin kiishpin omashkawisiwininiwaa apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak kii kanawencikaatenikwen mekwaac kaa wiichintwaa.

Kewinci aawehtaman, otinaacimikoowinink Circling Star, ninkii kanootaamin aaniinihi omashkawisiwin kwayahk ci kanaweniminc ekaa ci machihsec miina omashkawisiwin kewintinank maawac kwayahk aahko siwi wiichiwewinini kaawin kiwinci kanawencikaatehsinini, ihimaa kaa inahtek Articles 24 miina 33 ihimaa UNCRC. Ninkii tashintaamin kaye UNCRC Articles 28 miina 29, kaa ihkitoomakahk omashkawisiwini waa kahkina apinoonciishihshak kwayahk ci ishkoonihihintwaa miina ci tepinank ishkooniwiniini kewiichi koc ci ani okihkentamaawinic miina ci ani wiichitisowaac apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaatisak,

mek waac kaye kihtencikaatenik awaneniwic, otishi kiishwewin, miina kaa kihtentamiwaac.

Kici aacimoowinan kaakii tipaacimank ihkwe Angel kaa ishinihkaasoc (kii pakitinikaate December 2018) miina Tina Fontaine (kii pakitinikaate March 2019) mashkawisiwinink ninkii winci kanawaapantaamin kaakii ishi wiicihintwaa. Angel, kii pooni pimaatisii ekii pihci kici minsiwe panihcikec, kaawin kwayahk kii winci kanawenimaahsiin ekaa ci ayaac maci mashkihkiini (Articles 33), miina kaakii ishi pishikwaacihinc (Articles 34, 35 miina 36) kaawin kaye kaakii ishi onahtamawaawaac anokiinaakanak kape naakwahsinini Angel otinentamoowin, kaashi antawentank, naanta keshi minohsahikoc (Articles 3 miina 12). Kekaate pe shikwan, Tina omashkawisiwinan kaawin kwayahk kii winci kanawencikaatehsinoonan mekwaac kaa pi maatisic. Aatika, omashkawisiwin kwayahk ci ishkoonihiinc ci wiicihikoc ci ani kahshkihoc (Articles 28 miina 29) kaawin moonshak kii winci wiicahaasiin miina ahpin kii ani pakitinaa ishkooniwikamikoonk mii na ekii pakiteniminc. Taapishkooc Angel, Tina kewiin okii ani pishikwaacihikoon naapewan miina kaa win kwayahk kii winci kanawenimaahsiin ihimaa okihciinaahpinanikoowinink (Articles 34, 35 miina 36).

Kape nintanokiwininaan ninkwayahkoshimikoomin othkitoowiniwaa apinoonciishihshak miina oshkaati sak. Pikwahpii kaa ishiksek, maayaam ninkanooaamin oshkaatisak enaasihkawankitwaa, oshkaatis wiita nokiimiwewin, miina kaa kanooCKETAMAWANKIC. Ni tipaacimoowininaank, Okihkinwahamaakewin Nelson Mandela, nitashintaamin omashkawisiwiniwaa kaa kanawencikehtamawintwaa oshkaatisak kaa kanawenimintwaa onaahkonike pimiwicikewinink. Ohoweniwan mashkawisiwinan kikihsin Article 37 ihi

Maa UNCRIC, kaa kanawenimikoc oshkaatis kwayahk miina ci mino tootawinc mekwaac kaa kanawentaa kosc onaahkonike pimiwicikewinink. Ihimaa tipaacimoowinink, maawac ninkii kihciinentaamin kaakii noontamaank niishin oshkaatisak pihkish ekii kanawenimintwaa ekaa ekii onci pakitinintwaa ci pi kanoo nikooyaank ci wiicihankic, mashkawisiwin kaa kanawencikaatek kaawin ehta ihimaa UNCRIC, kaye tash kici okimaa miina ahkiwikimaa otoonaahkonikewiniwaank. Kiishpin kihkenimac oshkaatis ehkipahikani wic, kehciinaac wiintamaw ci pikanoonishiyaank aahsohshkawankic miina ci wiicihankic.

Ohowe kaakii pimi ahkiwahk maawac kii kihciinentaawak aahpic mishiinwayek aakwehtawe ahii. Kaakii nankinikaatek nintanokiwininaan, onaahkonikewinink ninkii winci mashkawasikoomin awashime ci wiici hankitwaa oshkaatisak minsiwe Manitoba. Mii ohomaa kaakii onciisekin oshki kihkinwahamaakewin miina maacihcikewinan, kaa tashincikaatekin ohowinink. Aatika, ninkii onahsaamin kici ahaak ke apiwaac, ninkii ontinaamin Kihkentamaawinini kaa Kanawentank, ninkii onahtoomin oshki kih kinwahamaakewin oshkaatis kewinci naasihkawinc miina ci wiitanokiiminc, miina ninkii onahtoomin ke tashi naanaakatawencikec kekoonini. Kaye, weshkac kaawinci akaawaatamaank ci kii paahkinamaank

kii wetinoonk anokiwikamik ahpin kii ishikse ekii paahkinamaank oshki anokiwikamik weti Thompson (pi antawi waapamishinaan piinci City Centre Mall!) Ninkii maatanokaataamin kaye minsiwe kaa tananokii yaank kaa maamiinwahcikaatek wiitaatisiimitiwin tootamoowin. Ohowe kaa tootamaank, nintaapaci haamin kahkina MACY anokiinaakanak enaanaakatawaapantamaank aantii kekii ishi wiicitooyaank nin kanooCKETAMAKEWININAAN ci ani niikatenikaatek okimaahkantaakewin. Peshik ihiwe maawac kaa ciik kentamaank anokiwin kaa maacihitooyaank ihiwe Oshkaatis KanooCKETAMAKEWIN Owiicihiwec, mii kaye eshi nihkaanitisowaac: YAAS! Kiyaapic ayamihtoon ohowe tipaacimoowin kiyaapic wii kihkentaman wa haweniwak eshihcikewaac maamahkaac oshkaatisak kaa wiicihikooyaank ewiintamaakooyaank miina kaa kwayahkohshimikooyaank nintanokiwininaank.

Mii ahko ohowe kaa masinahamaan tahso ahki nintipaacimoowin, kaa kiishikiwaac awiyak kaa masinaha mawakwaa ihimaa Manitoba: ahaweniwak kaa mincimamiwaac onaahkonikewinink, kwayahk ishikcike winink, miina mino tootamoowinini kaa papaamisiikhkantamiwaac kehciinaac apinoonciishihsh miina osh kaatis ohomaa Manitoba ciwiicihinc maawac ci minohsenik opimaatisiwin. Noonkom kaa ahkiwahk, ni ti paacimoowin maayam iko oshkaatisak kaa kanoonakwaa ohomaa piinci ahkiink. Ehantawentamaan ci ki hkentamek kikanoniwewiniwaa ekihciinencikaatek miina kaa ishi kanootamek miina kaa inentamek ci otaahpinikaatek kaa tananokiyaan. Kiishpin oshkaatisiyan okimaa owin ekanawenimihk taapishkooc api noonciishihshikimaahkaank, kanawenimaawahson, maahkisiwin, ishkooniwin, maamitonencikan wiicihiwewin, aapacihcikewaahpinewin, miikaanikoowin wiicihiwewin, naanta mino tootaakewin, ohomaa nin tayaamin ci wiicihikooyan miina aahsohshkaakooyan. Kiishpin kekon kakwetwewin ayaayan, naanta eka minwentaman ki wiicihikoowin – naanta ekaa – wiicihikooyan, ki kakwecimin ci pi kanoonishiyan naanta ci piishaayan kaa tananokiyaan ci nakishkaatiyahk. Mashkawisiwin kitayaan ci niipawiyen, ci kanooCKETAMAWITISOYAN, miina ci noontaakooyan!



Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW
Manitoba kaa KanooCKETAMAWAAC
Apinoonciishihshan miina Oshkaatisan

Manitoba
kanooCKETAMAAKE
ONIIPAWIHTAMAWAAN APINOONCIISHIHSHAN MIINA OSHKAATISAN



Message de la protectrice

Le 30e anniversaire de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant

Connaissez-vous vos droits?

Partout dans le monde, tout enfant et jeune de moins de 18 ans possède des droits inhérents que son gouvernement lui a promis. Ces droits inhérents ont pour la première fois été consacrés quand l'organisation internationale des Nations Unies a établi la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant (CNUDE). La CNUDE est une entente conclue par presque tous les pays du monde qui honore les jeunes et reconnaît le soutien dont ils ont besoin pour vivre une enfance heureuse, saine et protégée. En signant la Convention, chaque pays a promis quelque chose d'important à ses enfants. Comme le Canada est l'un des pays signataires, la Convention s'applique à tous les enfants et jeunes du Canada qui ont moins de 18 ans. Par conséquent, si tu as moins de 18 ans, cette Convention s'applique à toi aussi!

Cet automne marque le 30e anniversaire de la CNUDE. C'est donc une excellente occasion pour tous les Canadiens d'en apprendre plus sur la Convention, de réfléchir en quoi les droits sont importants pour les

jeunes de notre pays et de comprendre comment ces droits sont reconnus – ou pas – dans la vie des enfants et des jeunes au Manitoba et dans le reste du Canada.

La CNUDE énonce plus de 40 droits humains spécifiques aux jeunes. Il s'agit notamment de droits portant sur ce dont les jeunes ont besoin pour avoir une bonne vie, sur les dangers contre lesquels ils doivent être protégés et sur les façons dont il faut écouter leurs idées et opinions lorsque des décisions sont prises à leur égard. Les adultes de nos collectivités se doivent de s'informer sur vos droits, de vous en parler et de vous soutenir en reconnaissant et en protégeant votre droit à une protection et à des soins spéciaux.

Tout au long de ce rapport annuel, vous verrez de quelle façon les droits des enfants et la CNUDE influencent et guident le travail du Protecteur des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba (PEJM). Non seulement notre personnel est bien informé sur les droits des enfants mais nous nous servons de la CNUDE pour défendre les droits des jeunes. Cela s'applique à tous nos domaines d'activité : nos services de défense des droits, =enquêtes et examens sur les décès d'enfants ainsi que nos activités d'assurance de la qualité, de recherche et de mobilisation des jeunes.

Le bureau du PEJM produit un certain nombre de ressources, de rapports et autres documents d'information qui tiennent compte de la CNUDE et que nous partageons avec le public. Ainsi, nous avons publié quatre rapports spéciaux l'an dernier, dont trois sur les décès de Circling Star, Angel, et Tina Fontaine. Le quatrième portait sur le recours à l'isolement et au gaz poivré dans les établissements de détention pour jeunes au Manitoba. Dans chacun de ces rapports, comme dans tout le travail que nous effectuons, nous incluons des renseignements indiquant si les droits des enfants et des jeunes étaient protégés quand ceux-ci recevaient des services publics.

Ainsi, dans l'histoire de Circling Star, nous expliquons comment son droit de protection contre tout préjudice et son droit d'accès à des soins de santé de première qualité n'ont pas été protégés, contrairement à ce que prévoient les articles 24 et 33 de la Convention. Nous expliquons également les articles 28 et 29, qui font état du droit de tout enfant à une éducation de qualité et à des occasions d'apprentissage qui l'aident à développer ses talents et habiletés tout en respectant son identité, sa langue et ses valeurs.

Dans nos rapports spéciaux sur la jeune Angel et la jeune Tina Fontaine (publiés respectivement en décembre 2018 et en mars 2019), nous nous sommes également fondés

sur les droits de la personne pour examiner les services que ces deux jeunes filles ont reçus. Angel, qui est morte d'une overdose accidentelle, n'a pas été suffisamment protégée contre l'usage de drogues illicites et nocives (article 33) ni contre l'exploitation sexuelle qu'elle a subie (articles 34, 35 et 36), et les décisions prises par les adultes à son égard n'ont pas toujours reflété ses opinions, ses préférences ou son intérêt supérieur (articles 3 et 12). De même, les droits de Tina n'ont pas été protégés au cours de sa vie. Ainsi, son droit à une éducation de qualité pour l'aider à développer ses talents (article 28 et 29) n'a pas toujours été respecté et elle a fini par être suspendue de l'école et par ne plus être impliquée dans la vie scolaire. Comme Angel, Tina avait été exploitée sexuellement par des adultes et n'était pas suffisamment protégée à cet égard (articles 34, 35, 36).

Dans tous les aspects de notre travail, nous tenons compte de ce que disent les enfants et les jeunes. Chaque fois que c'est possible, nous nous adressons directement à eux dans le cadre de nos services d'action communautaire, de mobilisation des jeunes et de défense des droits. Dans notre rapport intitulé Learning from Nelson Mandela, nous avons parlé de la protection des droits des jeunes impliqués dans le système judiciaire. Ces droits sont notamment ceux de l'article 37 de la CNUDE, qui protège le droit des jeunes à être traités de manière digne et équitable par le système de justice. Dans ce rapport, nous nous sommes particulièrement inquiétés d'apprendre que deux jeunes placés en isolement n'avaient pas eu le droit de contacter notre bureau pour obtenir un soutien, droit qui est protégé non seulement par la CNUDE mais aussi par les lois fédérales et provinciales. Si vous connaissez un jeune qui est placé en détention, assurez-vous de l'informer qu'il a le droit de nous contacter pour obtenir de l'assistance.

Cette année a été importante à bien des points de vue. En raison de l'élargissement de notre mandat, nous avons été habilités par la loi à offrir d'autres services aux jeunes partout dans la province. Cela a donné lieu au lancement d'initiatives et de programmes nouveaux et particulièrement intéressants que nous présentons en détail dans ce rapport. Ainsi, nous avons créé un Conseil des aînés, nous avons pu engager une gardienne du savoir, nous avons lancé un tout nouveau programme axé sur la sensibilisation et la mobilisation des jeunes, et nous avons établi un pôle de recherche. De plus, notre rêve de longue date d'ouvrir un bureau dans le Nord est devenu réalité lors de l'inauguration d'un nouveau comptoir à Thompson (venez donc nous voir au centre commercial City Centre!). Nous avons également entamé la planification, à l'échelle du bureau, d'activités liées à la réconciliation. Autrement dit, nous demandons à

l'ensemble du personnel du PEJM d'examiner comment un bureau public comme le nôtre peut approfondir ses pratiques de plaidoyer selon une approche décolonisée. Notre groupe consultatif de jeunes ambassadeurs, aussi appelé YAAS!, est l'un de nos nouveaux projets en cours les plus passionnants. Poursuivez donc la lecture du rapport pour en apprendre davantage sur ces jeunes extraordinaires qui contribuent à éclairer et à guider nos travaux.

Généralement, lorsque je compose ce message chaque année pour notre rapport annuel, je m'adresse aux adultes du Manitoba, c'est-à-dire aux personnes qui sont juridiquement, moralement et éthiquement chargées de veiller à ce que les enfants et les jeunes de la province soient soutenus pour réaliser leur plein potentiel. Cette année, mon message s'adresse directement à tous les jeunes de notre province. Je tiens à ce que vous sachiez qu'il est important que vous soyez entendus et que nous accueillons vos opinions et vos idées. Si tu es un jeune qui traite avec les systèmes publics, notamment dans les domaines de la protection des enfants, de l'adoption, des services aux enfants handicapés, de l'éducation, de la santé mentale, de la lutte contre la toxicomanie, de l'aide aux victimes ou de la justice, nous sommes là pour te prêter assistance. Si tu as des questions ou des préoccupations sur les services que tu reçois, ou que tu ne reçois pas, je t'invite à nous téléphoner ou à te présenter dans nos bureaux pour que nous fassions connaissance. Tu as le droit de réclamer, de t'exprimer et d'être entendu!



La protectrice des enfants et des
jeunes du Manitoba,

Daphne Penrose, MSW, RSW

le **Défenseur**
au Manitoba

DE LA CAUSE des enfants et des jeunes

Executive Summary

The theme of this year's annual report is the 30th anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The artwork, poetry, and creative writing contributions were submitted by youth who sit on the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad: YAAS!

This report highlights the results achieved by our office between April 2018 and March 2019. It provides an overview of our activities and initiatives, including:

- the launch of YAAS!;
- the opening of our Thompson office;
- the creation of our Elders Council;
- the work of our in-house Knowledge Keeper;
- the launch of our ReconciliAction committee;
- where we traveled to meet with children, youth, their families, communities, and other organizations;
- our participation in outreach, delivering presentations, and attending events;
- the special reports we released based on child death investigations and research on systemic child advocacy issues; and
- the formal recommendations we issued to improve provincial child-serving systems, which also includes a public reporting and accountability process we launched on behalf of children, youth, and young adults up to age 21 who are involved with, or entitled to receive services from: child welfare, adoption, disabilities, addiction, mental health, education, victim supports, and youth justice.

This report also contains a financial report, outlines our 2019-2020 service plan, lists our team members, shares success stories, and details the activities implemented across our five service program areas:

- Youth Engagement
- Advocacy
- Investigations and Child Death Reviews
- Research
- Quality Assurance

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

- 3,012** >> requests for Advocacy services
- 635** >> service requests opened at intake for ongoing advocacy cases involving
- 794** >> individual children, youth, and young adults resulting in
- 870** >> ongoing Advocacy cases
- 199** >> Manitoba child death notifications:
170 children **0-17** years old,
29 young adults **18-20** years old
- 70** >> child deaths determined to be in scope and opened for review
- 57** >> child death reviews completed with:
39 cases resolved and concluded following a formal review
18 cases progressing to more in-depth investigations
- 23** >> formal recommendations issued based on concerns arising from child death investigations
- 4** >> special reports released to the public
3 based on child death investigations
1 systemic research report
- 304** >> points of contact with children, youth, and young adults by the Youth Engagement program

Niigaan Zagakibii'igewin

Noongom owe gaa-akiiwang, nimoojigendaamin 30th dasowaki iwe *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* izhichigewin. Mazinichiganan, ozhibii'iganan ogii-ozhitoonaawaan oshki-aya'aag imaa eyaawaad Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth enindwaa Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad: YAAS!

Owe zagakibii'igewin izhisin wegonen gaa-giizhitooyaang April 2018 akoo March 2019. Ozhibii'igaadewan aaniin gaa-ayizhichigeyaang, daabishkoo:

- Maajitooyaang YAAS!;
- Baakinamaang nindanokiiwinaan Thompson;
- Onasangwaa Gichi-anishinaabeg;
- Onasangid awiya gekendaasod;
- Maajitooyaang iwe ReconciliAction izhichigewin;
- Aandi gaa-izhaayaang ji-nagishkawaangidwaa abinoojiiyag, oshki-ayaag, enawemaawaad, ishkongiganan zhigwa bebakaan anokiiwinan;
- Wiji'iweyaang gaganonangidwaa awiyag, gikino'amaageyaang, wiji'iweyaang gegoo inakamiga;
- Zagakibii'igewinan aaniin gaa-izhiseg abinoojii gii-nibod, andooshkamaang aaniin ji-izhi-giigidootamawangidwaa abinoojiiyag; zhigwa
- Aaniin ekidoyaang nawach ge-izhi-minosegiban abinoojiiyag naagajiwindwaa, dago ini wiindamaagewinan ji-zagakibii'igaadegin aaniin ayizhiwebiziwaad abinoojiiyag, oshki-aya'aag, jibwaa 21 dasobibooneawaad megwaa bakaan ganawenimindwaa (ji-wijiwindwaaban): abinoojiiyag odaapinindwaa, maakiziwaad, adisigowaad gegoo, mino-ayaawin, gikino'amaagewin, wijiwindwaa gegoo gii-maanzhisewaad, zhigwa onaakonigewining izhiwebiziwaad.

Owe ozhibii'igan zagakibiiwaa zhooniyaa, enwaazoyaang 2019-2020 ji-wiji'iweyaang, awenenag wiidanokiimangwaa, ezhi-minosewaad gaa-wiijiyangidwaa, aaniin memindage naananiwangin izhichigewinan.

- Wijiichigemangwaa Oshki-ayaag
- Giigidootamaagewin
- Andooshkigeng Abinoojii Nibowin
- Andooshkigewin
- Gwayak ji-ayizhichigeng

Zagakibii'igewinan ningowaki apan, awashime gidaa-anamitoon omaa ezhisin, daabishkoo:

3,012 >> minik ji-wiji'iweyaang

635 >> gaa-gagwedweng iwe

794 >> endashiwaad abinoojiiyag, oshki-ayaansag gegaa gaa-giizhigiwaad, mii iwe

870 >> eyaamagakin ji-naadamaading

199 >> Manitoba gii-nibowaad abinoojiiyag gii-ozhisegin

70 >> Abinoojiiyag gii-nibowaad ji-ganawaabanjigaadegin

57 >> Gii-giizhichigaadegin abinoojii nibowinan

39 gegoon gii-giizhaakonigaadewan
18 awashime ji-andooshkigaadegin

23 >> gegoon ji-aabadakin aaniin wenji-nibowaad abinoojiiyag

zagakibii'igewinan wiindamaageng

4 >> **3** nibowaad abinoojiiyag

1 zagakibii'igewin ayizhiseg

304 >> minika abinoojiiyag, oshki-ayaag, gaa-wijiwindwaa imaa onji Youth Engagement Program gaa-ijigaadeg

Kici paminikéw ká paminak wanisowéwina ácimowimasinahikan

Ayíw óma óta káwí tasitamák anohc ká askíwak nitácimowi masinahikan anima ásay 30 askíya ékí takok ta wá wícihiwét *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* ká itakik. Aniki ká wápatamék táspasinahikéwina éko anihí ká ayamitáyék wínowáw anikik oskátisak anta ká isi akisocik Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad: YAAS! ékí pá pakitinakik ékwéniw.

Óma ácimowi masinahikan wésám piko ékota masinahikátéwa anihí kákípe nócitáyák ékí kaskitáyák ispík ókik písímwak kákí akisót April 2018 isko March 2019. Ékwani óhi ká ácimónániwaki óma kákípe isi nócicikéyák éko kékwána kákípe mácitáyák, éko ékota ohi;

- kákí mácitániwak YAAS!;
- kákí páskiténamák atoskéwikamikos oté Thompson;
- kayitáyátisak kákí natomáyákok kitapé wícihihikoyákok;
- ká isi wíatoskémikoyak ana óta ká ayát Ininiwí Kiskénitamowina;
- kákí mácitáyák anima mino kakécihitowin mámawatoskéwák ká apicik;
- ité kákí itotéyák ta natawí wítapimáyákok oskátisak, owícisaniwáwa, itáwina éko kotakak awiniwak ká mámawi nócitácik kékwána oskátisak oci;
- ká wícihiwéyák óma éwíciyáyákok oskátisak, épapámi átotamák tánisi oskátis ésikápawit éko é itotéyák ité ká níkanistakik ká isi nócicikániwak awa oskátis; éko
- anihí kákí átotamák éko kákí ati masinayamák anikik oci awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik éko tánisi ká isi pamínikátéki ispík kákí kakwé natonikániwak ta kécináho kiskénikátéké tánisi ká ispanihikocik anikik awásisak éko mína ékí nókotáyák tánisi oté kici okimáwinik awásis wanasowéwin ká isi kinawápacikátéki; éko
- anihí kákí masinayamák pískiskwéwina kita ati mino pamínit awa oskátis, éko mína ta tápitawí wícihikátéké kita nókotániwak tánisi kákí isi mácitáyák kawisk kita kinawápacicik éko pamínicik awásisak éko oskátisak éko anikik éká céskwa 21 ká tatwáskínécik éko anihí ká wícihikocik (wéká anima kitaki wícihikic anté oci) awásisa ká paminácik, ká otinácik kita opikítamásocik, ká máskisínit, okiskinawámákawiniwáw, mino namitonénicikan, mácikwapiskákona, ká mácitotát awina, wéká ká itotayit wanasowéwinik, nitayánán óta ta oci wícihiták éko kita sítoskamáták óma ké ati ispanihikoyan.

Óma ácimowi masinahikan ékota mína masinhikáso sóniyáw tánté wécipanit, éko tánisi ká itápaciáyák, tánisi kákí wí itápaciáyák óma ati askíwaki 2019-2020, awina ké wíatoskémikoyák, kékwána kákí kaskitániwaki isicikéwina acinokéwina éko tánisi mwéci kákí isi paminikátéki óhi niyánan kékwána:

- Oskátis ta wíci itócikémit
- Natotéstamákéwin
- Natokiskénitamowin natonikéwina éko awásisak kákí pónipimátisicik kítwámi kinawápatamowina
- Natonikéwina
- Kawisk kékwána kécinác kita itócikámiwaki

Inikok kékwán kákípe nócitáyák ana sóniyáw ká isi akimit ékípe itápaciáyák éko mitoni kawisk wá wícihikátéwa ékwani anté anima ácimowi masinhikan éko ékota ohi:

- 3,012 >> éki natawénimikawiyák kita natotéstamákéyák
- 635 >> anihí mámaw kákí natotamákániwaki ispík kákí páskiténikátéké kita itótamácik anima natotwéstamákéwin anikik oci
- 794 >> awásisak, oskátisak éko anikik káti kisi opikicik éko kiyápic
- 870 >> takonwa anihí ékotowa natotwéstamakéwina nócitáwina
- 199 >> óta Manitoba awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik níki otitikonán
- 70 >> anikik awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik ékí iténitákok kítwám kawisk éko papéyatak kita kinawápacikátéki
- 57 >> anikik awásisak kákí póni pimátisicik ká kisi kinawápacikátéwa éko oki kákí miskikániwaki
- 39 >> anihí kákí kinawápacikátéki ká kawisk itócikániwana éko ékosi pitamá ési nakacikátéki ta itócikániwak
- 18 >> anihí awasimé papéyatak nawac kita kinawápacikátéki
- 23 >> kákí masinahikátéki pískiskwéstamákéwina, anihí oci kákí póni pimátisicik anikik awásisak natokiskénitamowina
- kistácimona ékí wítamák kakinaw awiyak kita petak
- 4 >> 3 >> anihí kákí póni pimátisicik anikik awásisak natonikéwi kiskénitamowina
- 1 >> kákí isi paminikátéké kici okimáwin wanasowéwinik isi
- 304 >> tantwa ékí wápmáyákok kita wíciyáyákok awásisak, oskátisak éko anikik káti kisi opikicik anté oci anima Oskátis Wícihikéwin isicikéwin ká itakik

Kaa Tahkwaak Tipaacimoowin

Mii eshinhkaatek noonkom kaa ahkiiwahk tipaacimoowin Nihsomitanawi yahki kaa tipihsenik Minsiwe Ahkiink Okimaak kaakii nahkomitiwaac Omashkawisiwininiin Apinoonciishihshan. Ma sinipiihkanan, kaa tahkwaak masinahikewin, mamansi masinahikewin okii pakitinaanaawaa oshkaatisak kaa apihtamiwaac Manitoba kaa Kanoociketamawaawaac Apinoonciishihshan Oshkaatis Kanoociketa makewin Owiicihiwek: YAAS!

Ohowe tipaacimoowin onci waawiincikaate nintanokiiwininaan onci April 2018 miina March 2019. Minsi we onci tipaatote kaakii ishihckikeyaank miina maacihcikewinan, kaye:

- Kaakii maacihckaatek YAAS!;
- Thompson anokiiwikamik kaakii paahkinikaatek;
- Kaakii onahsintwaa Kici Ahaak;
- Kaakii piinanokiic ohomaa kaa kapeshic Kihkentamaawinini kaa Kanawentank;
- Kaakii onahsintwaa Wiitaatisiimitiwin kaa Maamiinwahcikaatek anokiinaakanak;
- Kaakii ishaayaank ehantawi waapamintwaa apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, otipencikewiniwaa, otapiwiniwaank, miina kotakiyan onahcikewinank;
- Kaakii wiichtooyaank naasihkaakewin, pakitinamaank tipaacimoowinan, miina ishihcikewinink ehishaayaank;
- Kici tipaacimoowinan kaakii pakitinamaank kaakii naanaakatawencikaatenik apinoonciishihsh ekaa kaa pimaatisic miina kici nanaantawencikewin kaa macihsenik apinoonciishihsh okanooci kehtamaakoowin ishihsewinan; miina
- Ninkanoochikewininaan kaakii pakitinamaank ci winci minohsenik ahkii okimaa otapinoonciishi hsh pimiwicikewinan, kaye kikihsin tipaacimoowin kaa pakitinikaatek miina papaamisiikancike win ke toocikaatek kaakii onahamawankic apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, miina oshkaatisak minkohk niishitana peshik kaa tahso pipoonewaac kaa aapacihtoowaac (naanta kaa ishihsewaac ci wiicihikoowaac): apinoonciishihshikimaan, kanawenimaawahson, maahkisiwin, ishkooniwin, maamitonencikan wiicihiwewin, aapacihcikewaahpinewin, miikaanikoowin wiicihiwewin, miina oshkaatis onahkonikewin mino tootaakewin.

Ohowe tipaacimoowin kikihsin shoonyaa aacimoowin, wiincikaate kaawii tootamaank 2019-2020, akine piihikaasowak anokiinaakanak, kaye kaa minosek anokiiwin tipaacimoowinan, kaye tipaatotewan kaakii tootamaank niyaananwayek niwiicihiwewininaan kaashi pimiwitooyaank:

- Oshkaatis wiitanokiimiwewin
- Kanoocikehtamaakewin
- Nanaanta mihkikewinan miina Apinoonciishihsh kaa Pooni pimaatisic naanaakatawapaancikewin
- Macihsewin kaa naanaakatawencikaatek
- Ci minohsenik owiicihikoowin

Ishihcikewinan otaanaank shoonyawaahkiink ke waapantaman ci tashincikaatek tipaacimoowinink:

- 3,012 >> kekwetwewinan ci kanoociketamaakeyaank
- 635 >> kii kakwetwewak ci wiicihintwaa kaa otaahpinintwaa ci kanoociketamawintwaa
- 794 >> apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, miina kaa kiishi nihtaawikiwaac awiyak maa maw
- 870 >> kiyaapic kanoociketamawaawak
- 199 >> apinoonciishihsh Manitoba opoonipimaatisiwi pepan kaakii pitakohsenik
- 70 >> apinoonciishihsh poonipimaatisiwin kaa piincihsek miina ke kanawaapancikaatek
- 57 >> apinoonciishihsh kaa nipoc onanaantawenimikoowin
39 apinoonciishihsh nipoowin kaakii nanaakatawenimintwaa
18 awashime nanaakatawencikaatewan
- 23 >> ihkitoowinan kaakii pakitinikaatekin, kaa maamitonentamihiwemakahk apinoonciishihsh onipoowin
kici tipaacimoowinan kaakii pakitinikaatekin
- 4 >> 3 apinoonciishihsh nipoowin naanaakatawencikewin
1 minsiwe aapacihtaakan kaa macihsek naanaakatawencikewin
kaakii waapamintwaa apinoonciishihshak, oshkaatisak, miina kaani kiishikiwaac kaakii waapamikoowaac oshkaatis owiitanokiimiwen
- 304 >>

Sommaire

Cette année, c'est le 30^e anniversaire de la *Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant* qui est le thème de notre rapport annuel. Les illustrations, les poèmes et les créations littéraires sont des contributions de jeunes qui siègent au YAAS! (groupe consultatif de jeunes ambassadeurs) du Protecteur des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba.

Le présent rapport souligne les résultats enregistrés par notre bureau entre avril 2018 et mars 2019. Il présente un aperçu de nos activités et initiatives, notamment les suivantes :

- la mise sur pied de YAAS!;
- l'ouverture de notre bureau à Thompson;
- la création de notre Conseil des aînés;
- le travail de notre gardienne du savoir;
- la mise sur pied de notre Comité de réconciliation;
- les endroits où nous nous sommes déplacés pour rencontrer des enfants, des jeunes, leurs familles, des communautés et d'autres organisations;
- notre action communautaire, la présentation d'exposés et notre présence à certains événements;
- les rapports spéciaux que nous avons publiés à partir d'enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants et de recherches sur les questions systémiques touchant la défense des droits des enfants;
- les recommandations officielles que nous avons formulées pour améliorer les systèmes provinciaux qui offrent des services aux enfants, notamment la mise en place d'un processus de production de rapports et de responsabilisation que nous avons adopté au nom des enfants, des adolescents et des jeunes adultes d'au plus 21 ans qui traitent avec les secteurs suivants (ou qui sont en droit de recevoir des services dans ces domaines) : protection des enfants, adoption, services aux enfants handicapés, lutte contre la toxicomanie, santé mentale, éducation, aide aux victimes et justice pour adolescents.

Le présent rapport renferme également un rapport financier, énonce notre plan de services pour 2019-2020, énumère les membres de notre équipe, raconte des cas de réussite et explique en détail les activités qui ont été mises en œuvre dans nos cinq secteurs de services :

- Mobilisation des jeunes
- Défense des droits
- Enquêtes et examens sur les décès d'enfants
- Recherche
- Assurance de la qualité

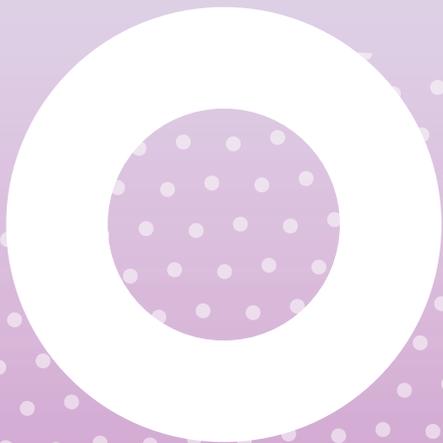
Exemples de statistiques importantes de la dernière année financière qui sont expliqués plus en détail dans ce rapport :

- 3,012** » demandes de services de défense des droits
- 635** » dossiers ouverts à l'étape initiale en vue de services continus de défense des droits concernant
- 794** » enfants, adolescents et jeunes adultes et se traduisant par
- 870** » dossiers de services continus de défense des droits
- 199** » avis officiels de décès d'enfants au Manitoba (**170** enfants de **0 à 17** ans; **29** jeunes adultes de **18 à 20** ans)
- 70** » décès d'enfants jugés être de notre compétence et soumis à un examen
- 57** » examens de décès d'enfants effectués
39 dossiers réglés et clos à l'issue d'un examen officiel
18 dossiers nécessitant des enquêtes plus approfondies
- 23** » recommandations officielles découlant d'enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants
- 4** » rapports spéciaux rendus publics
3 issus d'enquêtes sur les décès d'enfants
1 rapport de recherche systémique
- 304** » points de contact établis avec des enfants, des adolescents et de jeunes adultes grâce au programme de mobilisation des jeunes



Annual Report Theme:

The 30th Anniversary of the
*United Nations Convention
on the Rights of the Child*



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Given this year is the 30th Anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, this year's annual report reflects upon the importance of recognizing that all children have special rights.

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS?

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization. The goal of the UN is **to promote peace and human rights**. Canada and 193 nations are members.

WHAT IS THE UNCRC?

The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) is a **legally-binding** international treaty that sets out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of all children. Children are defined as any person under the age of 18.

HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

For much of history, children were considered the property of adults, usually their fathers. Children were sometimes thought to have lower status in society compared to adults. In the 1900s, children began to be seen as worthy of unique rights and protections. As a result, universal public education and child labour laws were introduced in different countries.

The notion of **universal** standards for the treatment of children began with the *Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, adopted by the League of Nations in 1924. Later, in 1959, a longer version of that declaration was adopted by the UN.

THE UNCRC BY NUMBERS

- 1989 Year adopted by the General Assembly
- 54 Articles
- 4 Core principles
- 3 Optional protocols
- 196 State parties (all members except the USA)

In 1979, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights established a working group to develop a human rights treaty for children. The UNCRC was drafted after 10 years of consultations with governments, nongovernmental organizations, and children.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The UNCRC marks the **first time children were recognized as having rights**. It is the most widely ratified treaty in the history of international law.

Countries that ratified the convention, including Canada, are **bound by international law** to implement it. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child monitors the implementation. Governments are required to submit ongoing reports to the committee on their progress.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

About the Rights of Children

- All rights are linked; these rights work together.
- Rights are the same for everyone regardless of race, sex, religion, politics, country of origin, etc.
- All children have rights by virtue of being human and those rights cannot be taken away.
- Children's rights are unconditional. Children do not have to behave a certain way to have them.

Key Rights of Children under the UNCRC

- *Provision rights*: Rights to the resources and skills needed for survival and full development.
- *Protection rights*: Protection from all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.
- *Participation Rights*: Entitled to express their opinions and to have a say when matters affect them.



"ARTICLE 6 OF THE UNCRC SAYS THAT WE WANT CHILDREN TO DO MUCH MORE THAN MERELY SURVIVE THEIR CHILDHOODS: WE WANT THEM TO THRIVE! AS ADULTS WE ALL HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO MAKE THAT TRUE FOR ALL CHILDREN, EVERYWHERE." - Daphne Penrose, Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, on Article 6 of the UNCRC

What are the Optional Protocols?

Optional Protocols were created to complement the UNCRC.

The UNCRC has three optional protocols:

- (1) **Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict:** Protects the rights of children who are in situations of armed conflict.
- (2) **Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Sexual Exploitation, and Child Sexual Abuse Images:** Protects children who are victims of different forms of sale and sexual exploitation.
- (3) **Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure:** Protects the rights of children to communicate and file complaints directly to the United Nations when their rights are violated. However, Canada has not ratified this protocol.

The UNCRC and the Manitoba Advocate

The Manitoba Advocate views the UNCRC as a guiding document in its work in Manitoba. According to *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*:

- The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* offers guidance for the design and delivery of services for children and youth (see formal preamble of the ACYA).
- The Manitoba Advocate may also take steps to raise awareness and understanding of the UNCRC (see Section 12 of the ACYA).

CHALLENGES AHEAD

The wide acceptance of the UNCRC might give people the impression that children's rights are being respected. While great progress has been made, much more needs to be done.

Some children in Manitoba continue to be unable to access health care and education. Too many young people in our province experience violence and exploitation. Indigenous children are impacted by systemic barriers at disproportionate rates when compared to their non-Indigenous peers; for example, too many First Nations children continue to not have access to clean water, suitable housing, and basic services such as equitable access to mental health care. All of us have a role in speaking up to ensure all children and youth, regardless of where they live, have equal access to the opportunities that will help them develop to their full potential as adults. If you want to know more about the UNCRC, connect with us online, explore our website, or ask us for a presentation!



CO-HOSTING THE CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVOCATE'S 2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Manitoba Advocate and the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth co-hosted a conference in Winnipeg from September 16-18th, 2019 with all advocacy offices in Canada.

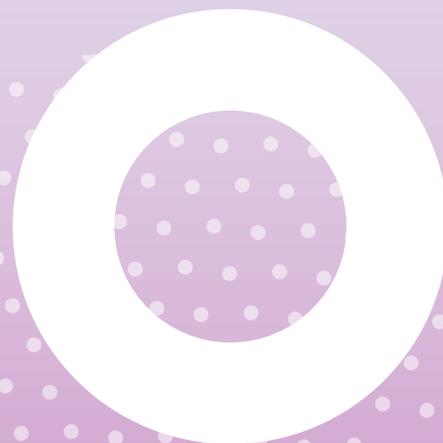
The conference theme was the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC and focused on provincial, territorial, and national advocacy for children's rights.

Nearly 100 delegates from our counterpart provincial and territorial advocacy offices came to Winnipeg to share their experiences and stories and to collaborate on strategies for best practices.

We heard from Dr. Niigaan Sinclair of the University of Manitoba on the importance of implementing the TRC's recommendations with respect to child welfare and from youth keynote speaker Shania Pruden about youth mental health and empowerment.



Overview of Initiatives and Activities





“ADULTS SHOULD DO WHAT’S BEST FOR ME” SEEMS OBVIOUS, BUT FOR SOME CHILDREN, THIS ISN’T THEIR EXPERIENCE. I’M GLAD THE UNCRC INCLUDES THE PROVISION ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD SO CHILDREN KNOW THEY DESERVE TO BE AT THE CENTRE OF DECISIONS.”

- Dr. Matthew Maher, Researcher, on Article 3 of the UNCRC

Overview of Initiatives and Activities

INTRODUCING YAAS!



MACY’s Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) is a group of youth representatives lending their voices and lived experiences to drive changes for better services to youth across Manitoba. Their mission is to be role models who offer their lived experiences and their voices to stand up for and walk with young people of Manitoba. Their vision is a community that recognizes the importance of empowering young people to lead change.



YAAS! is informed by the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*, the *Seven Sacred Teachings*, and the core values of the code of conduct developed by the youth.

YAAS! provides valuable input, advice, and feedback to help amplify the voices of young people through regular meetings and participation in special events such as skills training, awareness presentations, and advocacy opportunities across the province.

To date, YAAS! has worked to:

- Identify areas of concern and/or gaps and challenges in child serving systems;
- Develop projects, action plans, and recommendations related to services and resources that directly impact children, youth, and young adults;
- Create and develop training and presentations for community and other youth to bring awareness to children’s rights;
- Provide support and mentorship to new members of YAAS!; and
- Participate in other activities of the office, including providing feedback and collaborating related to planning and decision-making.



Our new office is centrally-located in the mall!

A warm reception from the local community.



The Manitoba Advocate and Ombudsman cut the ribbon to open the shared office.



Our friendly Thompson staff: Ila and Milan!



Staff getting ready to draw some prizes!

LAUNCH OF THOMPSON OFFICE

For years, we have recognized the need for an office in the North to improve our accessibility to Northern children, youth, and families. On April 16, 2019, our dream became a reality with the opening of our office in Thompson at the City Centre Mall. This office is a joint venture with the Manitoba Ombudsman, and currently part of a two-year pilot project. Here, the public can access services from both the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth and the Manitoba Ombudsman. The office is open Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. City Centre Mall is located in Thompson at 300 Mystery Lake Road, and the phone number is 204-677-7270. Stop in to say hi - we would love to meet you!



Elder Ed Azure helped us open the office in a good way

ELDERS COUNCIL FEATURE

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth is committed to creating meaningful dialogue with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Manitoba. The Advocate seeks to consult and collaborate with Elders/ Knowledge Keepers to guide the office’s work with Indigenous children and youth.

When we are advocating for children and youth, we know that having knowledge of the young person’s culture is an important element of being effective in our advocacy for that child. In addition, we know that it is important for our staff to have awareness of the history of cultures because that context can be important in understanding service equity and the barriers that may exist which prevent families from having equal access to supports and opportunities.

The Elders Council provides both spiritual and cultural guidance related to the ongoing work of the MACY office. The Elders provide support to the Manitoba Advocate and the two Deputy Manitoba Advocates in developing relationships with First Nations government structures and their communities. MACY relies on the Elders Council to provide ongoing support and advice in the areas of advocacy, youth engagement, research, special reports, investigations, quality assurance, and public education.

Elders provide invaluable knowledge and wisdom that has been shaped through lived experience. They are respected by their community and hold the knowledge that is needed to ensure services are provided in a respectful manner. Elders/Knowledge Keepers are



guided by the Seven Teachings, which include Love, Respect, Truth, Courage, Wisdom, Honesty, and Humility.

The Elders Council/Knowledge Keepers consists of male and female members from Indigenous communities that are representative of the children we serve.

We currently have six Elder Council members that have two-year terms from January 2019 to January 2021.

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



KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

MACY's Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Cheryl Alexander, brings a vast history of traditional ceremonies and customary practices to our office. The Knowledge Keeper's responsibilities include ensuring an Indigenous presence by providing advice and guidance to our program areas, supporting youth and families in our advocacy program when additional cultural supports would be beneficial, opening and closing meetings with prayers, attending program team meetings, providing guidance on special reports, being present at relevant community events on behalf of MACY, often alongside other MACY members, and hosting staff learning sessions on a range of topics and issues. In addition to assisting MACY in the implementation of cultural protocols, the Knowledge Keeper also played an important role in helping to establish the MACY Northern Office in Thompson this year by providing support and meeting with various agencies in Manitoba's northern communities.

Cheryl is a blessing to our entire office and fills a special role with the families and youth we support in our work. She assists in the search and selection of youth ambassadors for YAAS! as well as Elders for the Elders Council. Working closely with the YAAS! Coordinators, attending and facilitating planning meetings and visits, Cheryl spends time to build positive relationships with the youth ambassadors in ceremony and during community outings. A skilled crafter, Cheryl has helped YAAS! sew ribbon shirts and skirts to participate in ceremonies. Through her encouragement and positive energy, she teaches and shares the rich history of Indigenous peoples. Cheryl has also led our staff and YAAS! members in medicine picking, sweat lodges, and more, and has introduced beading and sewing with her Anishinabek language. She makes time for everyone that comes to see her.

MACY's Knowledge Keeper provides important cultural and emotional support to each of the families and staff that are involved with the public reports that our office releases every year. While the public may only see the final version of a months-long process, the path to a final report involves many important activities to ensure children and families are at the centre. In 2018/19, Cheryl spent endless hours with grieving family members, with communities, and with our staff, supporting them through the processes, even after the reports were released.



"IT IS ILLEGAL FOR CHILDREN TO BE BOUGHT, SOLD, TRADED, OR EXPLOITED. THERE ARE LAWS TO HELP PROTECT CHILDREN - AND IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S JOB TO MAKE SURE THOSE LAWS ARE ENFORCED."

- Kelsey VanOsch, Investigator on Article 35 of the UNCRC

STRIVING FOR RECONCILIATION

As an organization serving Manitoba's children and youth, we see the ongoing impacts of the intergenerational trauma of colonization and we actively engage in a commitment to reconciliation. Our practice within each program and as an office overall strives to reflect that we are committed to:

- continual education on issues affecting Indigenous communities in Manitoba,
- advocating for culturally appropriate services for children and youth across Manitoba,
- implementing the relevant TRC Calls to Action and the MMIWG Calls for Justice, and
- using our knowledge to promote reconciliation with collateral organizations.

We recognize our positionality within the provincial public service and our responsibility to all Manitoba children and youth, but especially to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and youth living here in our province. We are committed to doing what we can to move towards reconciliation and we understand that being meaningful allies to all Indigenous peoples goes beyond land acknowledgements or the completion of activities; indeed, it is a continual process requiring humility, learning, and ongoing self-reflection.

A COMMITMENT TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In every aspect of our work, we are guided by five key principles:



Child-centredness: We ensure that we promote the rights and best interests of children and youth and that our work is led by the views of children and youth whenever possible.



Equity: We take into account that children and youth who have experienced disadvantages because of race, class, gender, disability, or any other social factor may need an advocate to help them ascertain their rights.



Respect: We work with children, youth, and their families in a way that is respectful of their voice and experience.



Accessibility: We help ensure that children and youth are provided the designated services they are entitled to receive, regardless of where they live.



Independence: We maintain respectful independence from government and other political structures so that we can provide critical reviews of publicly-funded services that prioritize the best interests of children and youth.



ARTICLE 6 OF THE UNCRC SAY YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO NOT ONLY LIVE, BUT THRIVE!

As many Manitobans have heard, our office forged an exciting collaboration in 2016 with the Canadian Mental Health Association (Manitoba and Winnipeg) to co-create Thrival Kits™. Thrival Kits™ are shoebox-sized kits that students assemble in the classroom and then fill with small, meaningful items as they complete classroom challenges and activities throughout the school year. Thrival Kits™ activities are focused on mental health promotion: Daily practices that build mental health awareness and promote our mental wellness. This year, we completed our second full year inside grade 4-6 classrooms across ten school divisions in Manitoba. In the two years since they were introduced to Manitoba classrooms, 2,700 children between the ages of 8 and 12 have experienced this year-long program which has been co-developed with Manitoba educators. We are excited for the upcoming school year when several expansions to Thrival Kits™ are planned:

- Welcoming additional schools across the province into the program
- Partnering with schools and communities to explore tailored activities for First Nations, Métis, and French classrooms
- Working with a child-centred international research team to conduct a formal evaluation of Thrival Kits™

If you are a classroom educator in grades 4-6 and would like to know more about how this made-in-Manitoba program is changing classrooms and changing lives, please contact us or our friends at CMHA for more information!

TRAVEL IN 2018-2019

CENTRAL 24% (47)

Southport
Winkler
Portage la Prairie
Morris
Long Plain First Nation
Headingley
Fannystelle

EASTMAN 22% (42)

Steinbach
Ste. Anne
St. Pierre
Sagkeeng First Nation
Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
Powerview
Pine Falls Niverville
Mitchell
Lorette
Lac du Bonnet
Kleefeld
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Beausejour

INTERLAKE 12% (22)

Arnes
Ashern
Gimli
Hecla
Riverton
Selkirk
St. Laurent
Stonewall

NORTHERN 14% (27)

Wellman Lake
Thompson
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (Nelson House)
Churchill

PARKLAND 3% (6)

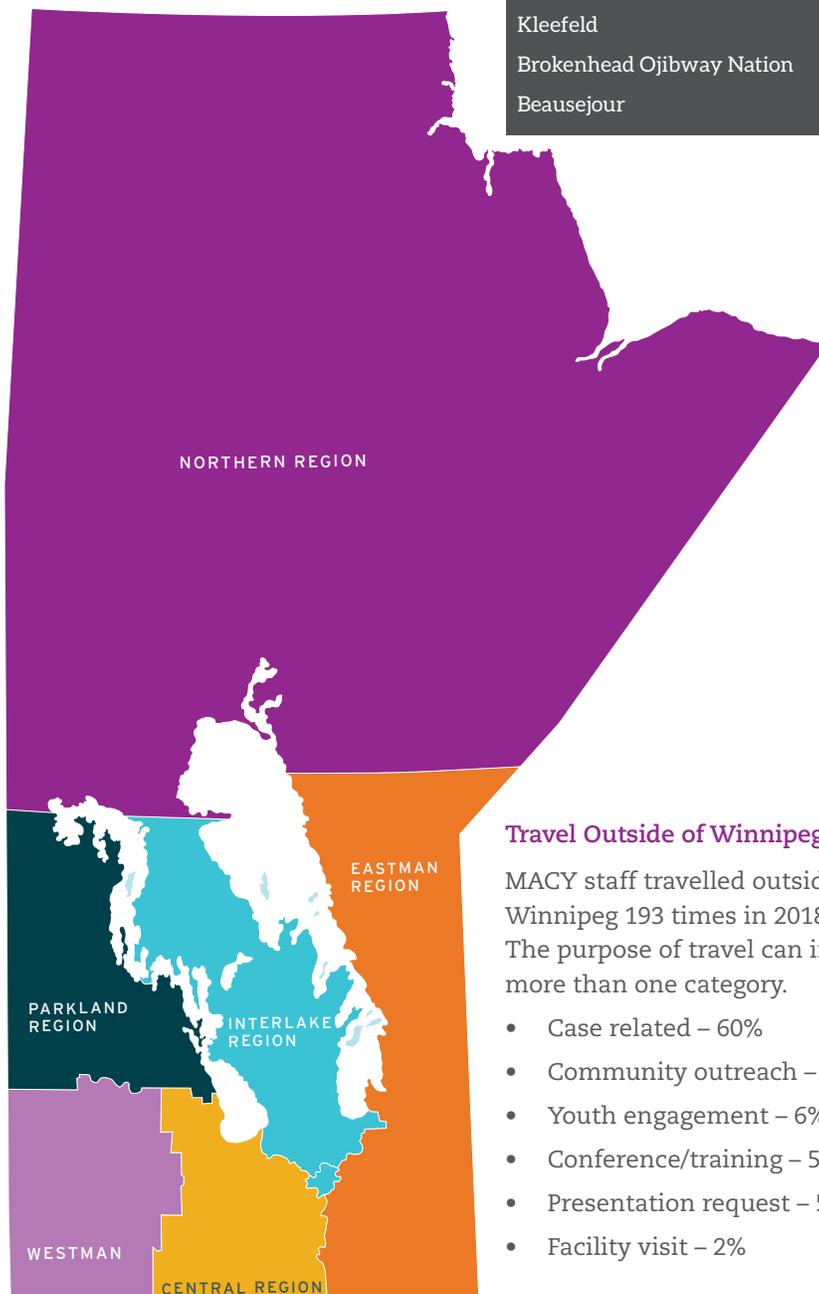
Birch River
Crane River
Dauphin
Pine Creek

WESTMAN 20% (39)

Rapid City
Virden
Souris
Minnedosa
York Factory First Nation
Brandon

OUT OF PROVINCE 5% (10)

Calgary, AB
Fredericton, NB
Iqaluit, NU
Moncton, NB
Montreal, QC
Ottawa, ON
Vancouver, BC
Victoria, BC



Travel Outside of Winnipeg

MACY staff travelled outside of Winnipeg 193 times in 2018-2019. The purpose of travel can include more than one category.

- Case related – 60%
- Community outreach – 22%
- Youth engagement – 6%
- Conference/training – 5%
- Presentation request – 5%
- Facility visit – 2%



Community Outreach Across Manitoba



Outreach: Presentations and Events



Wavy at the KIK Picnic



Paula at Voices Manitoba Youth in Care Network retreat



Walking with Mama Bear Clan



YAAS! members at MMIWG event



Jon, Cathy, and Cheryl on a plane to Thompson



Walking with Bear Clan and Alberta Advocate



Ceremony in Nunavut to open CCCYA meeting



Churchill drum making



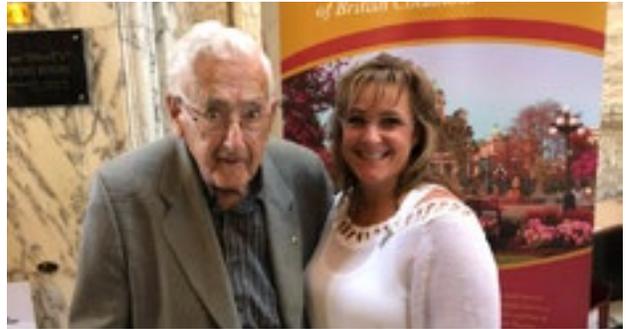
Staff sweat



Staff go medicine picking



Daphne and the Timbits



Daphne meets commissioner Hughes who was instrumental in expanding our office legislation



Wavy plays tag



Executive team at the Keeping The Fires Burning event



YAAS! members speak on a national panel for youth engagement



In 2018-19, MACY delivered 55 public education presentations to service providers and youth-serving organizations, and attended 77 outreach events. If you would like us to present or attend an event, please contact us at (204) 988-7440, toll free at 1-800-263-7146, or info@manitobaadvocate.ca.

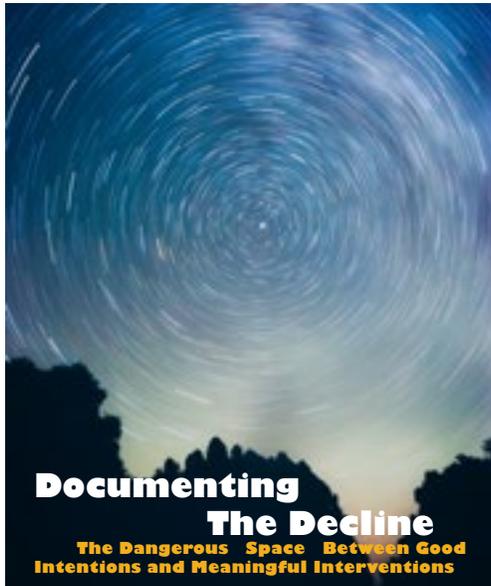


Special Reports and
Recommendations for
Change



SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space Between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions (October 2018)



This investigative special report, describing the life of Circling Star, a young First Nations boy from rural Manitoba who died in a tragic car accident, is a collection of missed opportunities. Although many public services became involved during Circling Star's life, they were ill-coordinated, worked in isolation from each other, and sometimes even worked at cross purposes. As a result, the services were unable to provide the meaningful interventions he needed and countless opportunities were missed that might have helped him change the course of his life. Compounding the issue was the fact that there was little investment by Circling Star's high school to encourage his academic success, with the troubling chain of events that he experienced beginning as a result of his first suspension from school. Research overwhelmingly suggests that expulsions and suspensions can be harmful for students, and jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere are moving away from these practices. The Manitoba Advocate's report makes six formal recommendations for changes to public systems, including that the Department of Education and Training conduct an urgent

review of the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, and develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff. This review and strategy should provide evidence-informed disciplinary alternatives that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right of children and youth to education (as enshrined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 28*).

What has happened since the report release?

- The Manitoba Advocate has received a formal response to each recommendation. [See our website for details and analysis.](#)
- The Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education invited the Manitoba Advocate to present and submit recommendations on improvements to education based on research and findings from the public special reports.

The picture represents the human brain "when we nurture the minds of youth, they can do and be such amazing things..."

The symbolism behind the flowers and their meanings are all important in the development of children and youth:

Chamomile - patience Lemon Balm - sympathy Bittersweet - truth
Hollyhock - sympathy Crocus - youthfulness Anjelica - inspiration

-Artwork and description submitted by Emily, YAAS! member



2. In Need of Protection: Angel's Story (December 2018)

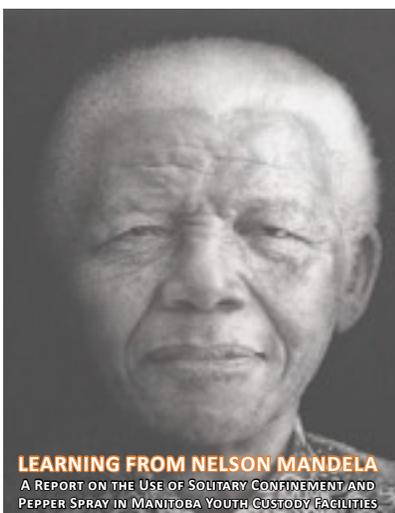


This investigative special report describes the life of Angel, a First Nations girl in care of CFS who died following an accidental overdose at the age of 17. From the time she was an infant, Angel was exposed to persistent abuse, neglect, and violence. Over the course of many years, multiple services were involved in, or held legal responsibility for her care and protection. Despite extreme and unwavering signs that her family was in crisis, Angel never received the support and protection to which she was entitled and which she desperately needed. This special report outlines the systemic themes of Adverse Childhood Experiences, sexual exploitation of children and youth, and the urgent need for a continuum of care including safe and secure addiction treatment for youth. In addition to calling on the provincial government to implement a robust youth mental health strategy, the Manitoba Advocate also recommends that government and community partners conduct ongoing public education via awareness campaigns denouncing the sexual exploitation of children and youth in Manitoba (in compliance with UNCRC Articles 24 and 19, respectively).

What has happened since the report release?

- The Manitoba Advocate has received a formal response to each recommendation. [See our website for details and analysis.](#)
- As a result of this special report, the Deputy Minister for Manitoba Families and the Executive Director of the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba requested a meeting with members of the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) to discuss the state of youth addiction services in the province. The Manitoba Advocate facilitated a forum where youth spoke about the barriers they experience in accessing addictions treatment and provided officials with a wish list of changes to improve the system. We were thrilled to learn that some of the changes suggested by our YAAS! were implemented by those systems right after the forum. [#youthvoice](#)

3. Learning from Nelson Mandela: A Report on the Use of Solitary Confinement and Pepper Spray in Manitoba Youth Custody Facilities (February 2019)



Following concerns brought to the attention of the Advocate by members of the public about the uses of solitary confinement and pepper spray in Manitoba youth custody facilities, the Manitoba Advocate partnered with the Manitoba Ombudsman to investigate. Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, youth custody facilities have the responsibility to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth, while respecting their human rights as enshrined in both the UNCRC and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Manitoba Advocate found that solitary confinement over 24 consecutive hours was used 498 times on 167 youth over a period of one year. This runs contrary to the principles of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and the *United Nations International Minimum Standards for the Treatment of Prisoners* (The Nelson Mandela Rules) which state that no child should be subjected to solitary confinement. The report also found that pepper spray use was high during the period of investigation. This number, however, has decreased significantly, likely due to the the hard work of corrections staff and the introduction of de-escalation training. The Manitoba Advocate

therefore recommends that the Manitoba government and Manitoba Justice amend *The Correctional Services Act* to prohibit the solitary confinement of youth for a period exceeding 24 consecutive hours; to restrict the use of any form of segregation under 24 hours in youth custody facilities; and to immediately prohibit the use of pepper spray in youth custody facilities except in situations of immediate risk to life to other youth in custody or correctional staff.

What has happened since the report release?

- The Manitoba Advocate has received a formal response to each recommendation. [See our website for details and analysis.](#)
- In addition, since the report was first shared with Manitoba Justice, a review of youth justice services was announced as part of the provincial Criminal Justice Modernization Strategy.

4. A Place Where it Feels Like Home: The Story of Tina Fontaine (March 2019)



This investigative special report follows the life story of Tina Fontaine. Throughout her life, Tina needed an array of services from child welfare, education, victim support, law enforcement, health, and mental health systems. At times, particularly in the final months of her life, some of these services were unavailable, not easily accessible, ill-coordinated, or they did not provide the supports and interventions she needed. The event that changed Tina's life was the violent and sudden death of her father. Tina was 12 years old when he died, which is a critical time of discovery and development for all children, and the impact of his death was profound. What Tina might have benefitted from was access to the full continuum of services for children at imminent danger that are therapeutic, culturally-informed, and effective – or, as Tina described to her CFS agency, “a place where it feels like home.” Accordingly, among the Manitoba Advocate's five formal recommendations issued in this special report is a call to the Manitoba government to develop a plan to ensure the continuum of services for children and youth includes safe, secure, home-like settings for treatment and programming when children and youth are at imminent risk of harm or death (in accordance with UNCRC Articles 6, 20.1, and 24.1).

What has happened since the report release?

- The Manitoba Advocate has received a formal response to each recommendation. [See our website for details and analysis.](#)
- This special report and its findings and recommendations has been cited by local, national, and international groups.

SUCCESS STORIES

The Manitoba Advocate's report *A Place Where it Feels Like Home: The Story of Tina Fontaine* had international reach. It has received local media attention as well as coverage across Canada and also internationally in various ways. Our report was cited by *The New York Times* on May 30, 2019. News coverage and public interest in the report has raised awareness and resulted in large public engagement on the issues described in the report, most specifically the sexual exploitation of children.

RECOMMENDATION TRACKING AND PUBLIC REPORTING

With the proclamation of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, MACY inherited the responsibility from the Manitoba Ombudsman to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by our office. According to the ACYA:

Transitional — Ombudsman's duties

41(5) The Ombudsman's duty to monitor and report on the implementation of the children's advocate's recommendations under section 16.1 of **The Ombudsman Act** ceases on the coming into force of this Act.

Transfer of records

41(6) Any records maintained by the Ombudsman for the last year in which the Ombudsman had a monitoring and reporting duty under section 16.1 of **The Ombudsman Act** must be transferred to the Advocate.

On March 15, 2018, the Manitoba Ombudsman transferred 73 open recommendations to MACY for ongoing monitoring. These recommendations have not been shared with the public, as they were made under previous legislation, which designated them as confidential and prevented the recommendations from being shared publicly.

How Recommendations Were Transferred to the Ongoing Responsibility of the Manitoba Advocate:

From April 2018, until June 2018, a staff member of the Manitoba Ombudsman's office aided in transitioning the monitoring of open recommendations from the Manitoba Ombudsman's office to MACY. To facilitate successful transition of this work, we undertook the following activities:

- Transfer of all physical files for all open recommendations and recommendations that had been closed the last year
- Analysis of all open recommendations to better understand the work completed by public bodies to implement the recommendation
- Development of a process to monitor open recommendations
- Correspondence with external public bodies for the purpose of communicating the new monitoring structure developed by MACY
- The creation of templates, tools, documents, and processes to support this work

As this annual report period ended in March 2019, during the time CFS Authorities were providing updates to our office about their progress with these open recommendations, this annual report includes only preliminary information; additional updates will be reflected in future reporting.

AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBLE BODY	NUMBER OF OPEN RECOMMENDATIONS AT END OF FISCAL 2017/18	% OF RESPONSE UPDATES RECEIVED AT END OF FISCAL 2018/19	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS REMAINING OPEN AS OF OCT. 16, 2019
Northern Authority	32	68% ⁱ	27
Southern Authority	21	100%	7 ⁱⁱ
General Authority	5	100%	0
Métis Authority	1	100%	0
Child and Family Services Division	5	100%	4 ⁱⁱⁱ
Multiples Working Group	3	100%	1

In accordance with Section 11(1)(d) of the ACYA, MACY will be monitoring the implementation of recommendations included in reports made as provided under Section 27 (**Investigation**) and Section 31 (**Special Reports**). The Manitoba Advocate will be sharing this information with the public through the website for our office. manitobaadvocate.ca/publications/recommendation-tracking

In addition, Sections 30(2) (**Contents**) and 30(4) (**Compliance information may be included**) of the ACYA require that the Manitoba Advocate must include in the Annual Report a summary of recommendations made in Special Reports, and may include information on the level of compliance being demonstrated by public services with recommendations made by the Advocate.

Additional Recommendations Being Monitored By MACY

With the Manitoba Advocate’s publication of four Special Reports between October 2018 and March 2019, an additional 23 recommendations were issued. All 23 recommendations in these reports were released to the public. The content of these recommendations, as well as information related to the government’s implementation of those recommendations can be found on the [MACY website](#) under **Recommendation Tracking**.

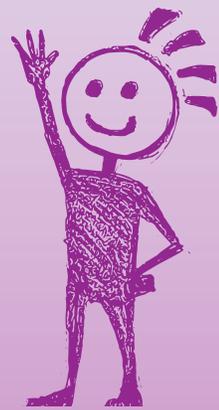
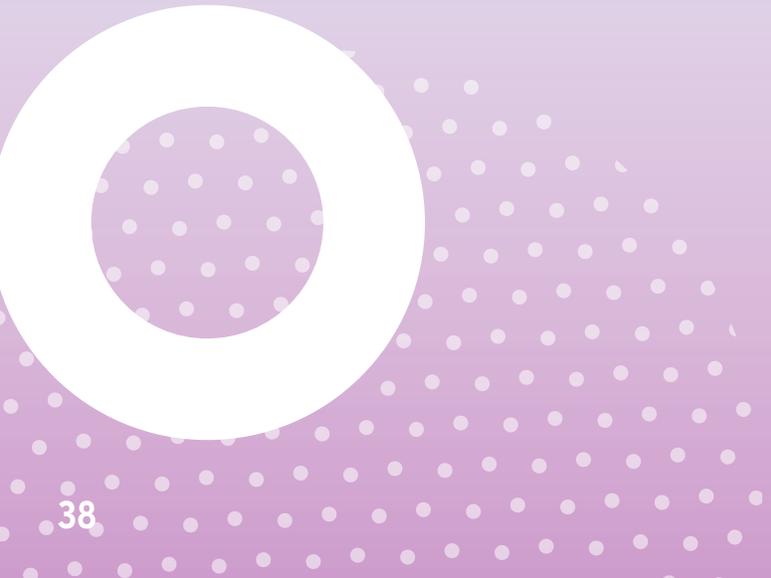
ⁱ We received an additional six response updates in June 2019. As of October 16, 2019, we have still not received responses for four recommendations.

ⁱⁱ Five of these recommendations are in final stages of the closure process.

ⁱⁱⁱ MACY is analyzing one of these recommendations for next steps.



Advocacy Services Program



MACY Program Areas:

Advocacy Services

The Advocacy Services program was created in 1993 and has continued to develop and evolve over the course of 25 years. Program activities include:

- Listening to concerns reported by sources of referral (SOR) through daily intake service and determining appropriate follow-up which may involve:
 - » Talking with children, youth, and young adults to understand their views, needs, and best interests and supporting them in expressing themselves to the systems working with them;
 - » Establishing contact with the applicable organization;
 - » Providing direct advocacy support for a child, youth, or young adult by representing their rights, interests, and viewpoints to ensure that systems are providing the best possible services to them;
 - » Providing information and advice to children, youth, young adults, and their families about how to effectively access designated services and how to become effective self-advocates with respect to those services.
- Reviewing the involvement of “designated services” (as described in the ACYA) and ensuring the child, youth, or young adult’s rights, interests, and needs are being met.
- Supporting and promoting children’s rights for children, youth, young adults, and their families with respect to designated services through public education and outreach to others in the community who serve children, youth, young adults, and families.

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

Self-advocacy support refers to cases opened at intake where staff respond to a source of referral’s request for service by providing them with support to empower the individual to become an effective self-advocate.

Advocacy support involves situations where the individual requires a member of our team to walk alongside them as they work to have the identified issue addressed. Sometimes this involves longer-term and more complex interventions. Our role can include speaking with service providers, gathering and analyzing file materials or previous actions taken by a service provider, brokering meetings to address complex issues, and more. Our goals are always to take time to understand the issues and the opinions of the young person, identify any barriers to effective services, and advocate assertively to ensure the best interests of the child or youth are reflected in any service decisions.

Systemic advocacy refers to cases arising from concerns regarding a facility that provides service to multiple children, youth, or young adults, or when more than one individual is impacted by an issue, and where broader, system-level advocacy work would benefit a group.



“HEALTH CARE, FOOD, CLEAN WATER...THESE ARE BASIC THINGS CHILDREN NEED AND DESERVE, AND UNDER THE UNCRC, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED THEM EQUAL ACCESS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE IN CANADA.”

- Michelle Kowalchuk, Program Manager of Advocacy Services, on Article 24 of the UNCRC

In March 2018, with the passing of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, our Advocacy Services program expanded significantly. Now, in addition to supporting young people involved in child and family services, we also provide support and advocacy within several additional provincial service systems. Advocacy officers support, assist, inform, and advise children, youth, young adults, and their families in relation to the following designated services:

Child Welfare	All services from birth-17, plus young adults 18-21 who were former permanent wards
Adoption	All services from birth-17
Disabilities	All services from birth-17 provided by or funded by the government within health, education, justice, & community services, plus services to 18-21 if CFS had been involved prior to individual turning 18
Education	All educational programming for children to age 17 with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), plus 18-21 if eligible for an IEP and the young adult had received child welfare services as a child
Mental Health	All services from birth-17 provided by or on behalf of a public body
Addictions	All services from birth-17 provided by or on behalf of a public body
Victim Supports	All services provided to children birth-17 or their families as victims of crime, witnesses in criminal proceedings, those impacted by domestic violence, those who are sexually exploited or at risk of sexual exploitation
Justice	All services for youth to age 17 including custody, community supervision, & probation

If you are under the age of 21, Manitoba law says that you have the right to contact our office to ask for support if you need help in any of the designated service areas listed. In *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, the law also says that if you live in a facility like a group home or if you are in custody, you can tell the staff you want to contact the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) and the facility must help you to reach out and contact our office. All children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba also have the right to speak with us in private, without staff or other adults being part of those conversations.

Advocacy Services – (April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019)

3,012 >> Total requests for Advocacy Services
*Service requests can involve multiple children and/or youth, including sibling groups and families.

2,030 >> Self-advocacy supports
(Requests resolved through supporting a caller to be a self-advocate.)

635 >> Requests opened for ongoing advocacy supports
(Requests requiring ongoing intervention by an Advocacy Officer.)

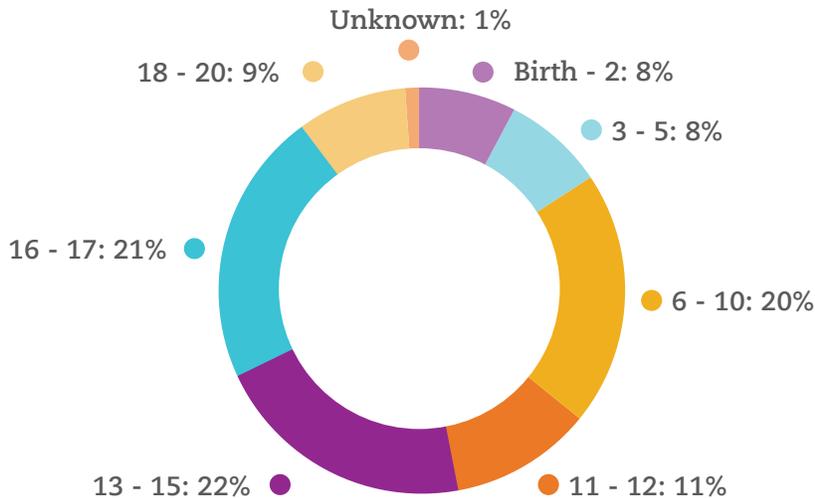
25% increase in open advocacy cases compared to the previous year

347 >> **Information requests**
(Includes general information provided on the office of the Manitoba Advocate as well as referrals to external services.)

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WE SERVE

In 2018-2019, we received **3,012** requests for advocacy services. This included our office providing advocacy supports to **794** individual children, youth, and young adults.

AGE OF CHILD OR YOUTH



85% of the children, youth, and young adults we supported are Indigenous

96% had an open file with CFS during the time we provided advocacy servicesⁱ

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

April 2018- March 2019 was the first full year during which Advocacy Services provided support in new designated service areas as The Advocate for Children and Youth Act is in effect. We have begun to see service themes emerge in each of the new service areas where we hold advocacy responsibilities. The top service needs per domain are listed below.

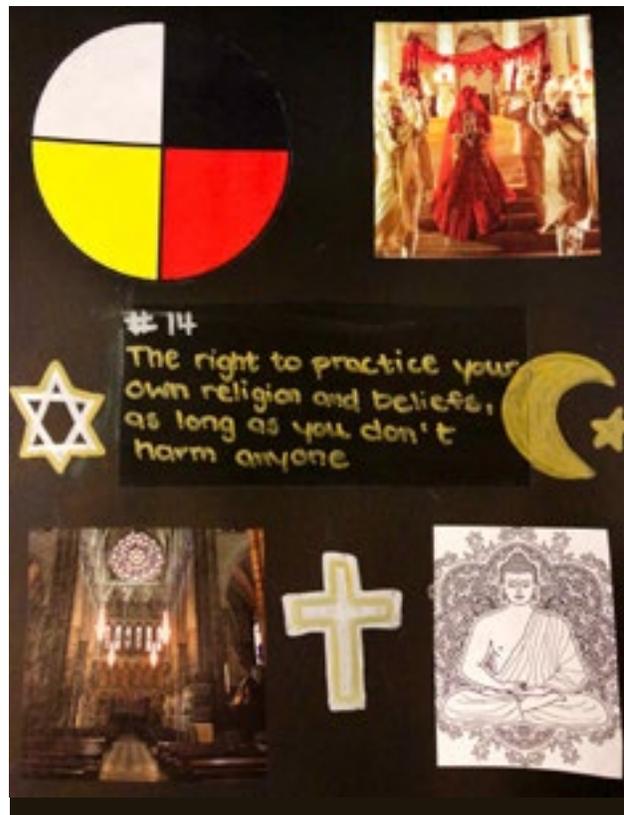
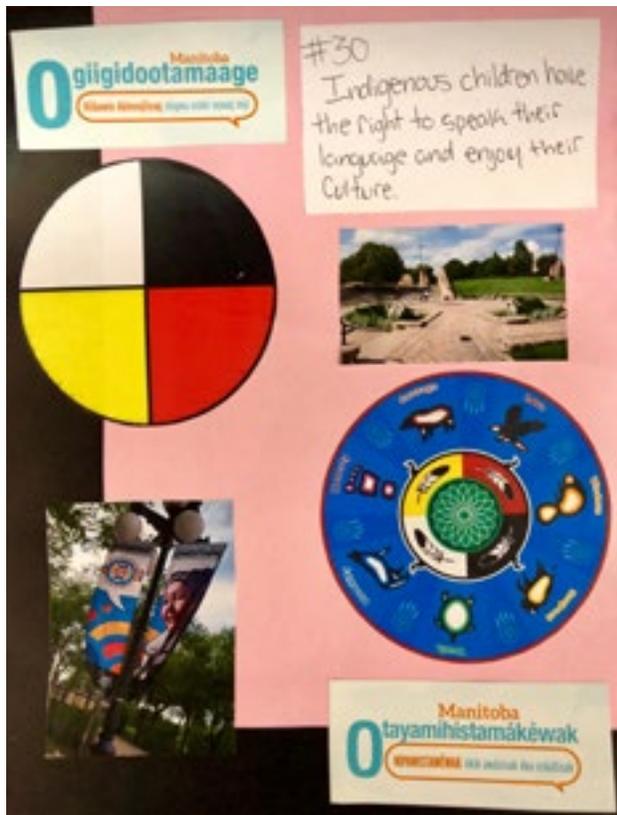
94% OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WITH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Top Service Needs:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long-term placement planning 2. Unresponsive social worker or agency 3. Response to safety concerns at home or in a CFS placement 4. Access to/planning related to mental health and addictions treatment 5. Transition planning for youth aging out of care
53% OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SYSTEM*
Top Service Needs:
<p>Top Service Needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to addiction treatment 2. Access to supports to address self-harm and suicidality <p><i>*Mental health and addictions service challenges were a common theme across all service areas</i></p>
31% OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WITH THE DISABILITY SYSTEM
Top Service Needs:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cognitive disability supports 2. Physical disability supports
29% OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WITH VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES
Top Service Needs:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impacted by domestic violence or needing witness support care 2. Supports for youth who are sexually exploited
20% OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WITH THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM
Top Service Needs:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental health and addiction treatment planning and service access while in custody 2. Transition planning and placement out of custody
18% OF YOUNG PEOPLE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE WITH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM
Top Service Needs:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School absenteeism 2. School exclusion through suspension or expulsion

COMPLEX CASES

The majority of the children, youth, and young adults supported with on-going advocacy at MACY face co-occurring challenges. Although a request for service may focus on a need in one designated service area, our on-going advocacy work requires understanding and coordination among many or all of our designated service areas.

55% >> of children/youth in our Advocacy Services program struggle with more than one service need

15% >> of children/youth struggle with more than five service needs



Jayde and Tasha, YAAS! members



"IN A WORLD WHERE DANGEROUS DRUGS ARE TOO EASILY AVAILABLE, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED AND ALSO LET THEM KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND - LIKE THE ONES AT OUR OFFICE - WHO WILL HELP THEM."

- Carly Lewadniuk, Advocacy Officer, on Article 33 of the UNCRC

TOP AREAS OF CONCERN ADDRESSED WITH DESIGNATED SERVICE PROVIDERS

The top areas of concern we addressed with service providers, leading to resolution of matters brought to our attention included:

Service Delivery	46%
Concerns or observations related to general service delivery. Issues identified as service delivery will relate to the standards and policies that an agency or service provider is required to follow (or should be following) when interacting with a young person and serving a young person in that system.	
Quality of Care	20%
Concerns or observations related to the quality of care given to a child/youth/young adult by their service provider. Concerns can relate to a child, youth, or young adult's wellbeing, sense of acceptance, belonging, or identity.	
Safety	6%
Concerns or observations related to the safety of a child, youth, or young adult, including situations where their safety has been put at risk by another party or themselves.	
Accessibility	6%
Concerns or observations related to the ability of a child, youth, young adult, or their family to access services or information regarding services.	
Transitional Planning	6%
Concerns or observations related to the way in which a child, youth, or young adult transitions between systems or through a system.	
Placements-Facilities	6%
Concerns or observations related to conditions or issues regarding placements or facilities a child, youth, or young adult may reside in.	
Coordination	4%
Concerns or observations related to the coordination of services within a system, between systems, and across jurisdictions (interprovincial).	
Accountability	3%
Concerns or observations related to the processes or policies that keep service providers or government departments accountable.	
Other	3%
Not able to be placed in other categories.	

*"I am so grateful to have someone so understanding and thoughtful ... because it brings comfort to know I have someone who really cares. Be gentle with yourself."
-Brooklyn, YAAS! member (age 19)*



By the YAAS! team

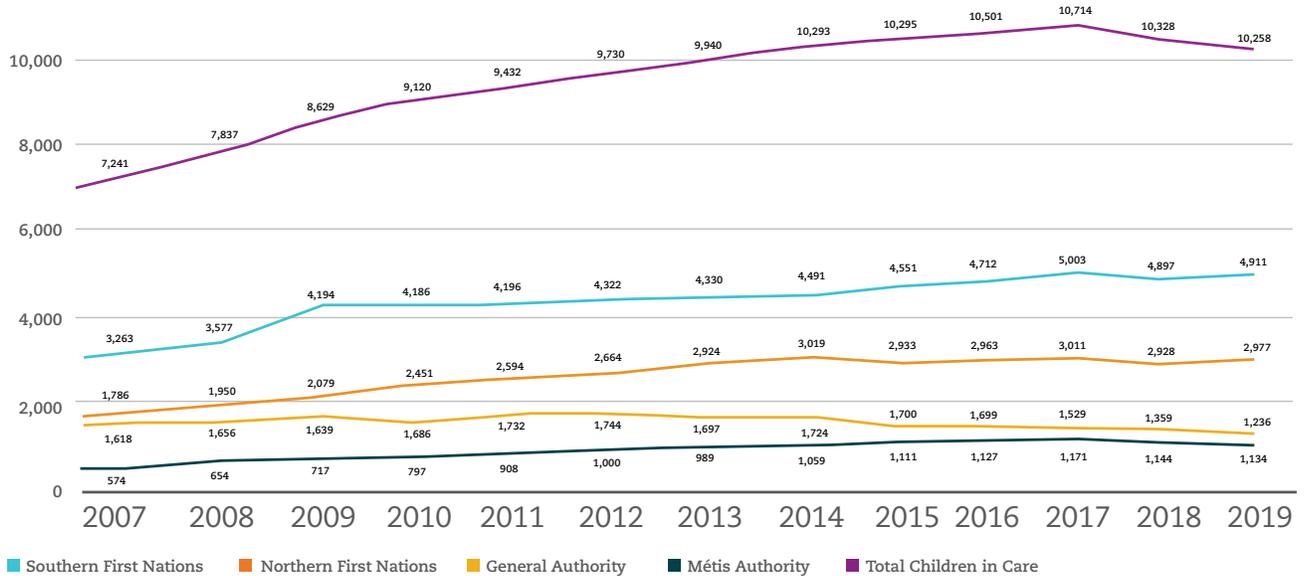
ALEX

MACY was contacted to assist with 19-year old Alex. In Alex's early childhood, they were exposed to neglect, family violence, physical abuse, substance misuse, mental illness, and lived with multiple caregivers. Alex grew up both in the care of child welfare as well as with a supportive adoptive family. During Alex's teenage years, there were no placements in the province that could safely accommodate Alex's specialized needs, and so Alex had been placed in a different province. Unfortunately, these out-of-province placements were also unable to appropriately support Alex's unique needs that stemmed from early trauma. Formal assessments indicated that Alex would require intensive support as an adult to keep Alex safe and also to minimize the risk to the community. While Alex's CFS agency provided brief support after Alex turned 18, those supports were terminated and shortly thereafter, Alex became involved in the justice system and was incarcerated. Since the CFS agency had closed their file, Alex was left with no formal supports from any system upon release from custody. A community agency contacted our office and asked us to assist in getting Alex accepted into the appropriate adult support services. MACY was able to bring together several different government programs, family, and community resources to get Alex the assessments which were required to qualify for the appropriate services. In the end, Alex was accepted into the appropriate program and is receiving supports that are meeting Alex's needs while also supporting Alex to thrive to their full potential.

ASH

MACY received a call from Manitoba Justice requesting we attend a bail conference for 17-year-old Ash, who lives with disabilities and had no placement. Ash was formally diagnosed with a severe neurodevelopmental disability, and determined to function at the level of a very young child. In the past, Ash has acted out violently, which resulted in criminal charges. In the initial bail conference, no appropriate placements had been identified that would meet Ash's specialized needs. The Manitoba Advocate and MACY team met with the Deputy Ministers from Manitoba Justice, Manitoba Families, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living to advocate for an appropriate placement that would not criminalize Ash's disability, would maintain public safety, and provide Ash with an opportunity to thrive in an appropriate setting. A placement was identified as the most appropriate for Ash. MACY collaboratively advocated with multiple service providers and government departments as all agreed that new processes were required in this unique situation. Ultimately, a plan was successfully developed to place Ash in a location that is able to meet Ash's needs. Today, Ash is flourishing in the new placement and is being offered the level of supports needed to stabilize and look to the future.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE



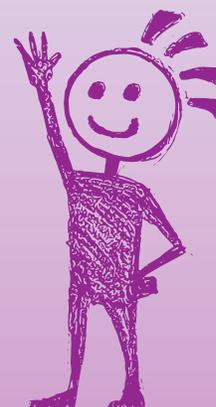
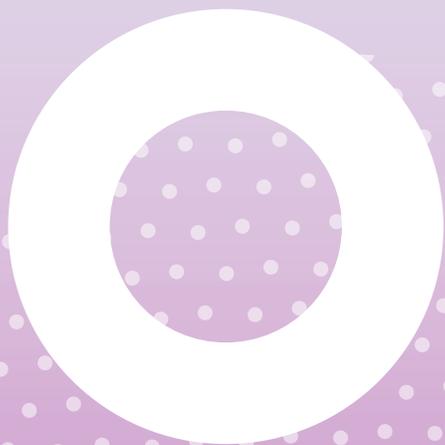
*Numbers supplied by the Department of Families.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES:

“A child is considered in care when placed by a child and family services agency in substitute care; whose legal status is defined as a permanent ward, temporary ward, under a voluntary surrender of guardianship, under a voluntary placement agreement or under apprehension; who is under the age of 18, and whose care needs are financially supported by government.”

(Manitoba Families, email communication, September 27, 2019)

Investigations and Child Death Reviews



MACY Program Areas:

Investigations and Child Death Reviews

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

When any child, youth, or young adult up to age 21 dies in Manitoba, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) officially notifies the Manitoba Advocate.

If the child or their family had received any reviewable service within one year of the death of the child, the Manitoba Advocate may review and investigate the public services that were delivered to the child and their family. The purpose of the reviews and investigations is to examine the effectiveness and responsiveness of the services provided to the child and their family.

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

In addition, we may collect information from other relevant sources such as police reports, fire commissioner reports, medical records, and more. Our legislation allows the Manitoba Advocate to require a public body or other person to provide any information in its custody or under its control – including personal health information – necessary to enable the Manitoba Advocate to carry out a review or investigation.

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

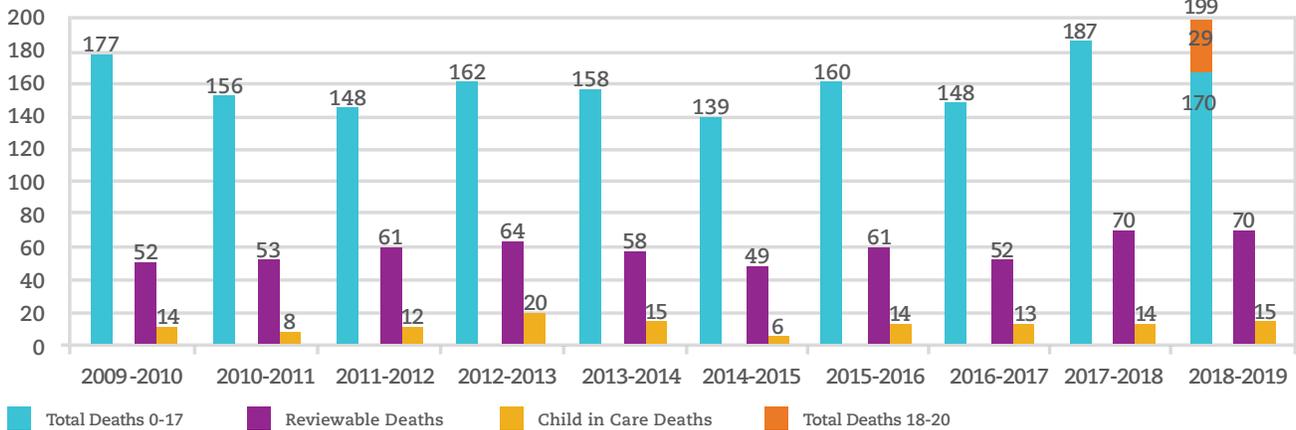
The investigative process includes opportunities for feedback and dialogue with various groups and individuals, including professionals who provide services to children and families. When we are conducting an investigation, we examine public service delivery **through the eyes of the child** and we invite and encourage family and community participation. Whenever possible, our investigators travel to the home community of the child, youth, or young adult to speak with people who knew and loved the child, in order to gain a better understanding of how services are delivered within a local community context.

If the Manitoba Advocate determines it to be in the public's best interest, the Advocate may choose to release results of any review or investigation through a public Special Report as described in Section 31 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. The Manitoba Advocate shares additional information about what issues and concerns we are seeing through our annual reports and on our website: www.manitobaadvocate.ca.

COMMENDATION TO MANITOBA EDUCATION REGARDING ANGEL'S REPORT

Under our new mandate, we are empowered to share our investigations more broadly, and the Manitoba Advocate may choose to release investigations in the form of Special Reports to the public. In one such investigation, *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story* (released December 2018), we noted outstanding educational services were provided by staff within one of the school divisions where Angel attended school. Great lengths were taken by the school staff to ensure Angel had supports and ample opportunities to reach her individual learning potential. The school staff were committed to creating a sense of belonging and safety for Angel within the school, and they advocated for ongoing collaboration with other systems to find positive solutions to meet her needs. The Manitoba Advocate acknowledges and honours the perseverance, commitment, and compassion that these educators cultivated to ensure that this child had the opportunities she deserved.

ANNUAL MANITOBA CHILD DEATHS



*2018-2019 includes young adults ages 18-20 as young adults are now included in our legislated mandate.

Investigations and Child Death Reviews – Program Statistics for 2018-2019

Notifications

The office received a total of **199** official Manitoba child death notifications from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner:

199 >>
Child death notifications

170 notifications were for children and youth ages 0-17
29 notifications were for young adults ages 18-20
70 deaths determined to be in scope for Review
15 were of a child in care of CFS

57 >>
Service reviews completed

39 closed following Review
18 progressed to Investigation

4 >>
In-depth investigations completed

3 public Special Reports
1 internal Investigation

Carry forward >>

66 files move into 2019-2020 in the Review Phase
18 files move into 2019-2020 in the Investigation Phase

COMPLETION OF 57 REVIEWS - ENDING THE BACKLOG

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Investigations and Child Death Review team completed 57 reviews into provincial public services provided to children, youth, and young adults who had died between the years 2014 and 2018. This accomplishment was significant because it not only indicates how busy our investigations team was during the year, but it also means that we are now able to work on in-year reviews. By “in-year,” we mean that our formal review of a child’s death occurs within a year of the death or sooner, ensuring that any issues or concerns we may identify can be communicated to the responsible systems in a timely way to improve services for other children, youth, and young adults in the province and to reduce the likelihood of deaths occurring in similar circumstances in the future.

“CONNECTING WITH OTHERS TO EXPLORE IDEAS AND PEACEFULLY DEMONSTRATE IS SOMETHING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO. WANT TO MAKE YOUR WORLD BETTER? FIND A CAUSE AND GET INVOLVED!”

- Ainsley Krone, Deputy Manitoba Advocate, on Article 15 of the UNCRC



OUT OF SCOPE SERIOUS INJURIES AND CHILD DEATHS

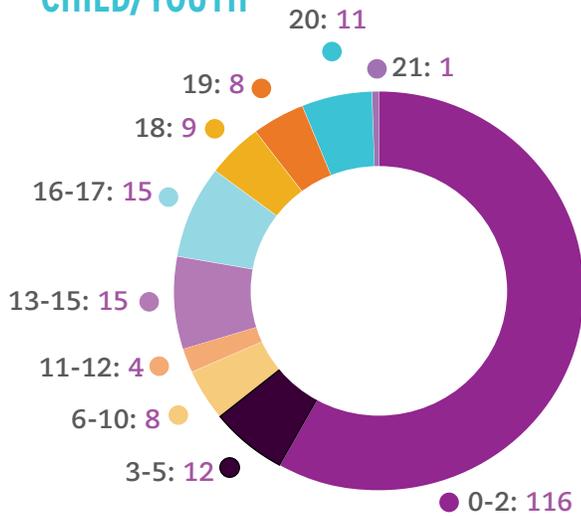
At the time of writing, two important areas of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA) remain not proclaimed and therefore not in force. One area is related to the requirement for government departments and service providers to report incidents of serious injury of children to the Manitoba Advocate. While the Advocate can currently review and investigate serious injuries if those incidents come to the attention of the office, the requirement for service providers to report injuries has not yet been proclaimed.

The second outstanding area of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* is related to our child death reviews. Currently, deaths are only in scope for review by our office if there has been any CFS involvement in the one year before the child's death. When this part of our mandate is brought in through government proclamation, the Manitoba Advocate will be able to review and investigate deaths where there has been involvement of addictions, mental health, or justice services within one year of the death, even if CFS was not involved. This section of the legislation is important to proclaim because we continue to be notified of many deaths where valuable lessons likely exist but where our mandate does not yet empower us to review or investigate. For example, of the 32 suicides that occurred during the year, only 13 of those suicides were in scope for a formal review. Nineteen (19) of those of those deaths fell outside of the sections of the ACYA that have been proclaimed because those 19 youth had not received CFS support in the year leading up to their deaths.

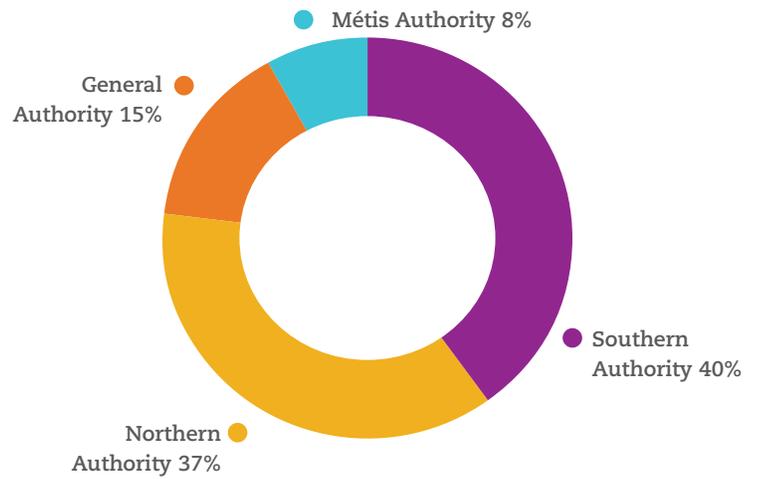
CHRIS

Chris was a youth who died by suicide and had been receiving child welfare services at the time of their death. Through our investigation, we came to understand that Chris was struggling with issues of loss and grief as they transitioned toward adulthood. Our investigation revealed that the agency responsible for Chris' care had not effectively engaged Chris in the transition process, as they are required to do in Manitoba, and that the agency did not appropriately document their actions and decisions that impacted the life of this youth. Minimum provincial service standards for CFS require that all children in care have a formal care plan that is regularly updated. The care plan must include how the agency will maintain the parent-child relationship, how siblings and extended family will be included, how continuity of care will be ensured, and the ways in which cultural, linguistic, community, and other connections will be reflected in the care plan. In addition, children, youth, and their families have the right to participate in the development of their care plans. In this case, the CFS agency has now implemented measures to ensure that the voices of children and youth are reflected in the care plans being developed.

MANITOBA DEATHS BY AGE OF CHILD/YOUTH

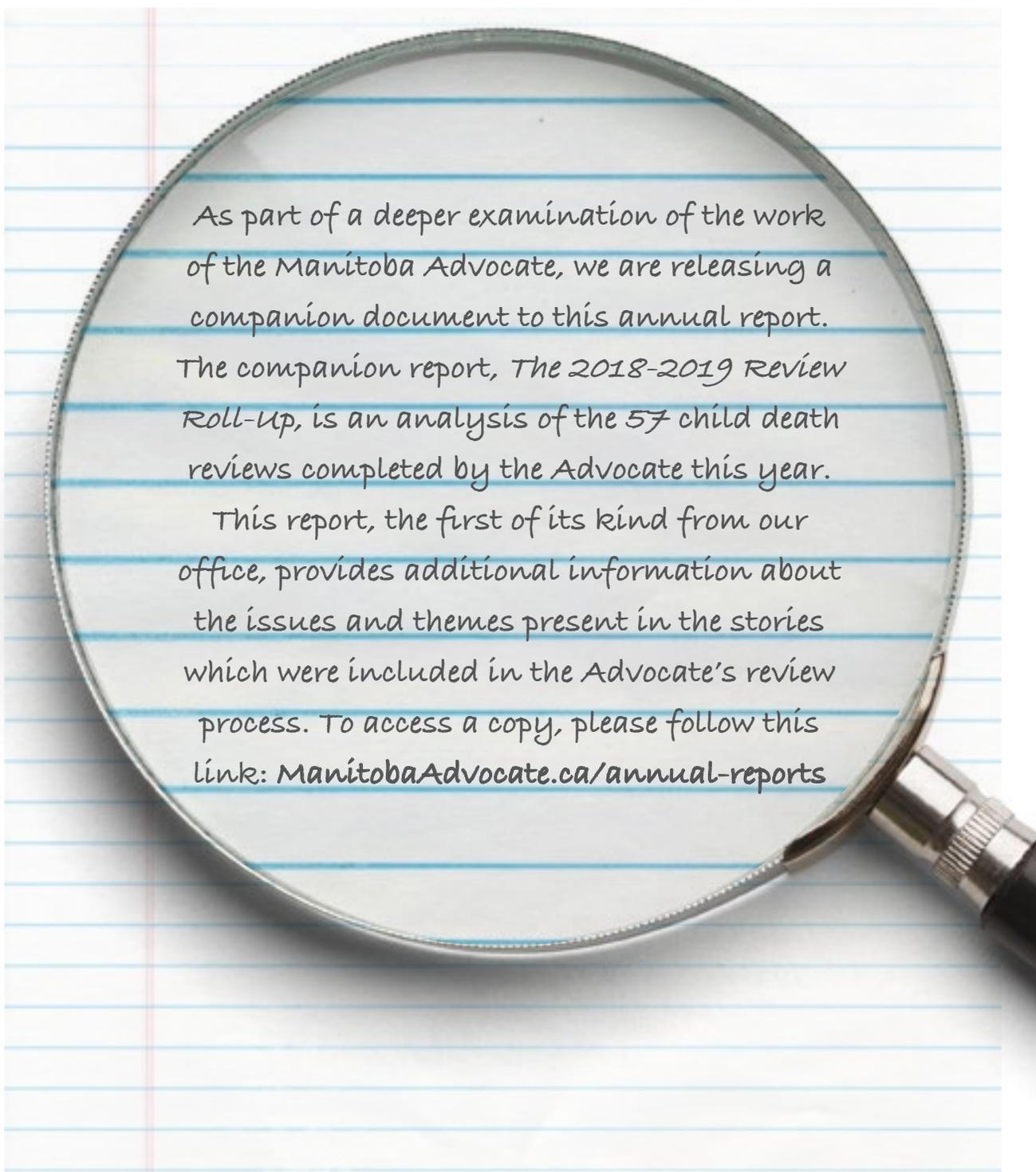


REVIEWABLE DEATHS BY AUTHORITY



-	MANITOBA DEATHS				REVIEWABLE DEATHS				CHILD IN CARE DEATHS			
	AGE 0-17		AGE 18-20		AGE 0-17		AGE 18-20		AGE 0-17		AGE 18-20	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Natural	87	55%	3	10%	22	33%	-	-	2	14%	-	-
Medically Fragile	35	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prematurity	31	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disease	16	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Other	5	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accidental	23	13%	3	10%	7	10%	-	-	2	14%	-	-
Motor Vehicle	14	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Drowning	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
In the Home	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	19	10%	13	43%	13	19%	-	-	5	35%	-	-
Homicide	3	1%	3	10%	2	3%	1	50%	2	14%	1	100%
Undetermined	38	23%	7	27%	24	35%	1	50%	3	21%	-	-
TOTAL DEATHS	170	-	29	-	68	-	2	-	14	-	1	-
199 TOTAL MANITOBA DEATHS				70 REVIEWABLE DEATHS				15 CHILD IN CARE DEATHS				

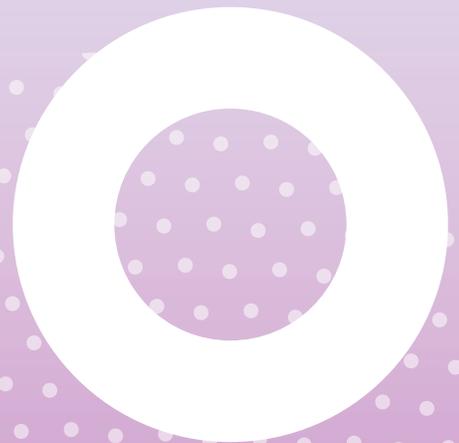
TOP AREAS OF CONCERN REVIEWS (ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN 57 COMPLETED REVIEWS)

A magnifying glass is positioned over a piece of white lined paper. The lens of the magnifying glass is centered over the text, which is written in a black, cursive-style font. The handle of the magnifying glass is visible in the bottom right corner, extending out of the frame. The background of the page is white with a decorative pattern of blue and purple dots in the top left and bottom left corners, and colorful brush strokes in the bottom left corner.

As part of a deeper examination of the work of the Manitoba Advocate, we are releasing a companion document to this annual report. The companion report, *The 2018-2019 Review Roll-up*, is an analysis of the 57 child death reviews completed by the Advocate this year.

This report, the first of its kind from our office, provides additional information about the issues and themes present in the stories which were included in the Advocate's review process. To access a copy, please follow this link: ManitobaAdvocate.ca/annual-reports

Quality Assurance



Quality Assurance

MACY's Quality Assurance (QA) program encourages a culture of continuous improvement with the purpose of ensuring effective and efficient service delivery both internally in our own office, and externally in the public systems serving children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. Policy analysts within QA gather information through data and analysis, collaborate with MACY program managers and staff, and look to best practice models in order to develop processes, policies, and tools that best support our internal service delivery. The program additionally monitors and evaluates the implementation of recommendations made by MACY to external public systems.

As the QA program grows and develops under the new mandate of the Manitoba Advocate, its work continues to focus on four key areas:

- Continuous improvement;
- Data collection, maintenance, and analysis;
- Monitoring and compliance; and
- Internal support to MACY activities and programs.

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the following achievements occurred:

Continuous improvement

- Began creating updated policy and procedure manuals for the following programs: Advocacy Services, Investigations and Child Death Reviews, Research, and Youth Engagement. These manuals reflect program processes and identify standards for performance measurement.
- Initiated the development of the MACY service plan to ensure program areas and the office as a whole have clearly identified standards for performance measurement.
- Ensured all QA team members were members of the Canadian Evaluation Society to ensure the highest standards of excellence in our evaluative work.

Data collection, maintenance, and analysis

- Launched a new database for MACY record-keeping that is representative of the broadly expanded legislative mandate.
- Developed a user guide about the new database to support staff in accurate data entry and collection.
- Conducted monthly data audits to ensure accurate data entry.
- Continually modified data entry processes and data collection fields to address gaps in data.
- Created a tracking tool to look at trends and observations regarding deaths where the manner of death was Natural.
- Developed processes for tracking recommendations being monitored by MACY.

Monitoring and compliance

- Developed processes for monitoring recommendations made by the office, both under the previous mandate and under *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*.
- Conducted meetings with the four CFS authorities to discuss the monitoring of recommendations still in progress.
- Analyzed recommendation responses provided by departments and organizations to MACY.

MACY activities and programs

- Compiled data and ensured accurate reporting of data.
- Responded to information requests from staff and managers to support program activities such as the development of Special Report recommendations.
- Drafted briefing notes on areas of concern for the Advocate.
- Developed logic models for the Advocacy Services and Investigations and Child Death Reviews programs, and initiated the development of logic models for the remaining programs: Research, Youth Engagement, Quality Assurance, Finance and Administration, and for the overall office.



"NO ONE - ABSOLUTELY NO ONE - IS ALLOWED TO HURT YOU, TO LET OTHERS HURT YOU OR TO LEAVE YOU BY YOURSELF. THERE ARE PEOPLE YOU CAN CALL FOR HELP. THAT INCLUDES US."

- Sherry Gott, Deputy Manitoba Advocate, on Article 19 of the UNCRC

Research Hub



Research

In accordance with *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, MACY's Research Hub conducts research and develops Special Reports to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated provincial services provided to children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.

In 2018-2019, the Manitoba Advocate publicly released four Special Reports on which the Research Hub collaborated. These reports led to 23 recommendations being issued by the Advocate to improve services for children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. Three of the reports were coordinated with the Investigations and Child Death Review team.

The fourth report was led by the Advocate's Research Hub in partnership with the Manitoba Ombudsman. Titled, *Learning from Nelson Mandela: A Report on the Use of Solitary Confinement and Pepper Spray in Manitoba Youth Custody Facilities*, it found that solitary confinement over 24 consecutive hours was used 498 times on 167 youth over a period of one year in Manitoba. Other key findings included:

KEY FACTS ABOUT PEPPER SPRAY

IN MANITOBA YOUTH CUSTODY FACILITIES 2015-2016

WHAT IS PEPPER SPRAY?



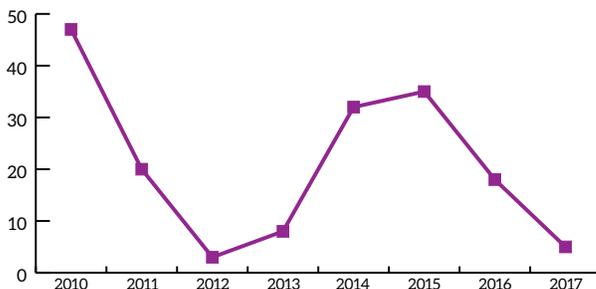
Pepper spray, or oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, is a chemical weapon that is illegal for civilian use in Canada.

Pepper spray used on youth in custody is **1,000** times the potency of jalapeno peppers

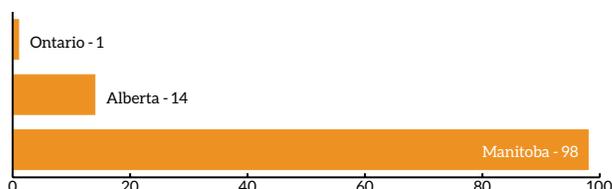
70% of youth facilities in the United States prohibit the use of pepper spray

HOW OFTEN IS PEPPER SPRAY USED?

PEPPER SPRAY INCIDENTS - AYC AND MYC (2010-2017)



PEPPER SPRAY INCIDENTS - COMPARISON OF SELECTED PROVINCES (2012-2017)



IS PEPPER SPRAY SAFE?

PEPPER SPRAY CAN BE LETHAL*

Factors that increase the likelihood of complications are:



Heart conditions



Asthma, Lung conditions



Drug interactions

*In 2015, Matthew Ryan Hines died of asphyxia while in custody after being pepper sprayed in New Brunswick

Pepper spray incidents decreased in Manitoba by

89%

between 2010 and 2017

In 2017 there were only

2 incidents

This trend suggests that **de-escalation** can be an effective tool and **pepper spray is only required in rare cases**

KEY FACTS ABOUT SEGREGATION AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

IN MANITOBA YOUTH CUSTODY FACILITIES IN 2015-2016

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SEGREGATION AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT?



Segregation: Any restriction of meaningful human contact (less than 24 hours)



Solitary confinement: Segregation for 24 hours a day and up to 14 days



Prolonged solitary confinement: Solitary confinement for 15 days or longer

HOW MANY YOUTH WERE IN SEGREGATION AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT?

Out of 1,028 youth in custody,

1 in 3

EXPERIENCED SEGREGATION

1 in 6

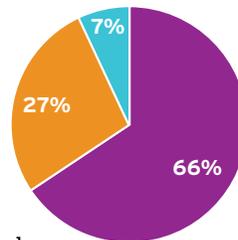
EXPERIENCED SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

1 in 20

EXPERIENCE PROLONGED SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

HOW MANY INCIDENTS WERE THERE OF SEGREGATION AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT?

LENGTH OF SEGREGATION INCIDENTS BETWEEN 2015-2016 (N=1,455)



Segregation: (Less than 1 day) n=957

Solitary confinement: (1 day and 14 days) n=399

Prolonged solitary confinement: (more than 15 days) n=99

There was an average of 4 incidents of segregation per day.

90% of people experience psychological effects¹

People with mental illness are four times more likely to be in solitary confinement than their peers²

¹ Istanbul Statement, 2007; Hayes, 2009; Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada, 2014 | ² Lovell, Johnson & Cain, 2007

WHAT WAS THE LONGEST INCIDENT OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT? **400** CONSECUTIVE DAYS

In April 2019, the Manitoba Advocate, Deputy Manitoba Advocate, and Research team were invited to present on the results of *Learning from Learning from Nelson Mandela: A Report on the Use of Solitary Confinement and Pepper Spray in Manitoba Youth Custody Facilities* to health care professionals across the province at Grand Rounds, a lecture learning series at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba. The presentation focused on the mental health needs and rights of youth in custody, and the child-centred alternatives presented in the report. Similar invitations to speak on our research and recommendations for change have come from additional groups such as the Criminal Defense Lawyers Association of Manitoba and Osgoode Hall at York University.



“IF YOU ARE IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW, YOUR AGE DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO FAIR TREATMENT AND LEGAL HELP. JUSTICE IS FOR EVERYONE.”

- Issie Frost, Q.C., Legal Counsel on Article 40 of the UNCRC

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

The Advocate's Research Hub collaborates with researchers in Manitoba working on children's rights issues. Current partnerships include:

- Centre for Human Rights Research, University of Manitoba
- Dr. Hygiea Casiano – youth justice and mental health
- Dr. Kendra Nixon – children involved in the court system
- Dr. Roberta Woodgate – mental health and children aging out of child welfare



I'm safest when I'm sleeping

ALONE,
on my **BACK,**
in a **CRIB**

LOOKING AHEAD

Safe Sleep Project

The death of an infant is one of the most profound losses that parents, families, and communities can experience. Our data indicate that Manitoba loses an average of 17 infants each year where sleep-related risks are identified which may have contributed to the death. Further concerning is that these numbers appear to be increasing as last year 26 Manitoba infants died where unsafe sleep may have been a factor. In response to these concerns, the Manitoba Advocate has initiated a public education special report about sleep-related infant deaths in Manitoba and unsafe sleep risk factors. The goals of this work are to explore caregiver understandings of safe sleep, educate the public about the issues, and ultimately, make recommendations to improve infant safety in our province.

Research – Program Stats for April 2018-March 2019

- 1 Special Report in partnership with the Manitoba Ombudsman
 - » *Learning from Nelson Mandela: A Report on the Use of Solitary Confinement and Pepper Spray in Manitoba Youth Custody Facilities* (February 2019)
- 3 Special Reports in collaboration with the Investigations and Child Death Reviews program
 - » *Documenting The Decline: The Dangerous Space Between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions* (October 2018)
 - » *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story* (December 2018)
 - » *A Place Where it Feels Like Home: The Story of Tina Fontaine* (March 2019)
- 36 research meetings with externals regarding several projects underway

“CHILDREN SHOULD NEVER FEEL LIKE THEIR VOICE DOESN'T MATTER. IT DOES AND ADULTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LISTEN TO WHAT CHILDREN ARE SAYING.”

- Cyndi Menke, Executive Coordinator, on Article 12 of the UNCRC



Youth Engagement





Youth Engagement

MACY's Youth Engagement Program recognizes the unique gifts, strengths, and talents of young people and understands the importance of creating and facilitating opportunities for youth to lead change and strengthen communities through engagement that is meaningful for youth. Guided by the rights described in the *United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC), we strive to protect these rights and believe that every child should have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

KEY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Engaging young people from across Manitoba to provide input, advice, and feedback to create change and improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of services provided to children and youth in Manitoba;
- Ensuring that youth have a voice throughout our office and our work across Manitoba via our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) and the YAAS! Support Squad;
- Connecting with other organizations, including community and school-based self-advocacy groups that focus on youth;
- Attending youth-focused and youth-led events to support young people and hear what youth have to say;
- Offering presentations about our work and children's rights to increase children's and youth's understandings of the rights they hold;
- Focusing on topics and concerns that matter to children and youth; and
- Ensuring that MACY's activities and reports reflect the truth of how children and youth view and experience the world.

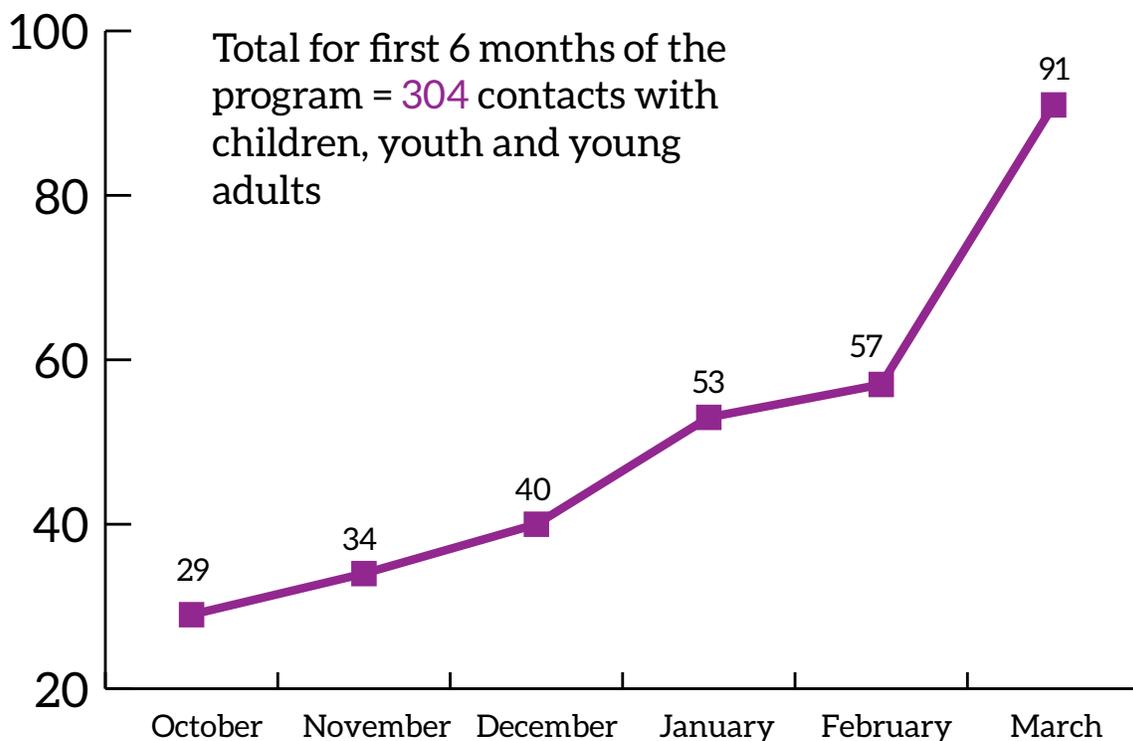


#KidsTakeOver for the UNCRC anniversary

Youth Engagement Program Stats for 2018/2019

*Note: As the Youth Engagement program is a newly formalized area of the office, data collection processes were under development and numbers may not accurately reflect the total work completed.

NUMBER OF CONTACTS WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS:



*MACY's Youth Engagement Coordinators track the number, type, correspondence method, and purpose of each point of contact they make with individuals. This includes whether contact was made with a youth or an adult, the name of the organization that the person represents, the method used to make contact with that person (in-person, email, phone call, text), and what the contact was about.



"WHEN KIDS ARE IN CARE, THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THEIR WORKER AND YOUTH ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE WHEN PLANS ARE BEING MADE THAT WILL AFFECT THEM."

- Jon Skrypnyk, Youth Engagement Coordinator, on Article 25 of the UNCRC

- **612** points of contact in total (adults/service providers as well as children, youth, and young adults)
 - » **304** points of contact specifically with children, youth, and young adults under 21
 - » **396** points of contact (65%) were with Indigenous organizations (216 or 35% with non-Indigenous organizations)
 - » **92** unique/distinct organizations
 - » **15** communities represented in our Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) membership:
 - » Fox Lake
 - » Gods Lake Narrows
 - » Grand Rapids
 - » Nelson House
 - » Pauingassi
 - » Pine Falls
 - » Portage la Prairie
 - » Pukatawagan
 - » Sagkeeng
 - » Sandy Bay
 - » Shamattawa
 - » Steinbach
 - » The Pas
 - » Thompson
 - » Winnipeg

- Program activities, by purpose:
 - » **235** Youth engagement
 - » **224** Relationship building/Info sharing
 - » **91** YAAS! meeting contacts
 - » **25** Staff trainings
 - » **16** Referrals
 - » **14** General outreach
 - » **7** MACY Presentations

DESIGNATED SERVICES CONTACTS:

Education	160	22%
Mental Health	118	16%
Addictions	111	15%
Victim Services	106	15%
Child Welfare	90	13%
Disability	78	11%
Justice	60	8%
Adoption	0	0
TOTAL	723	100%

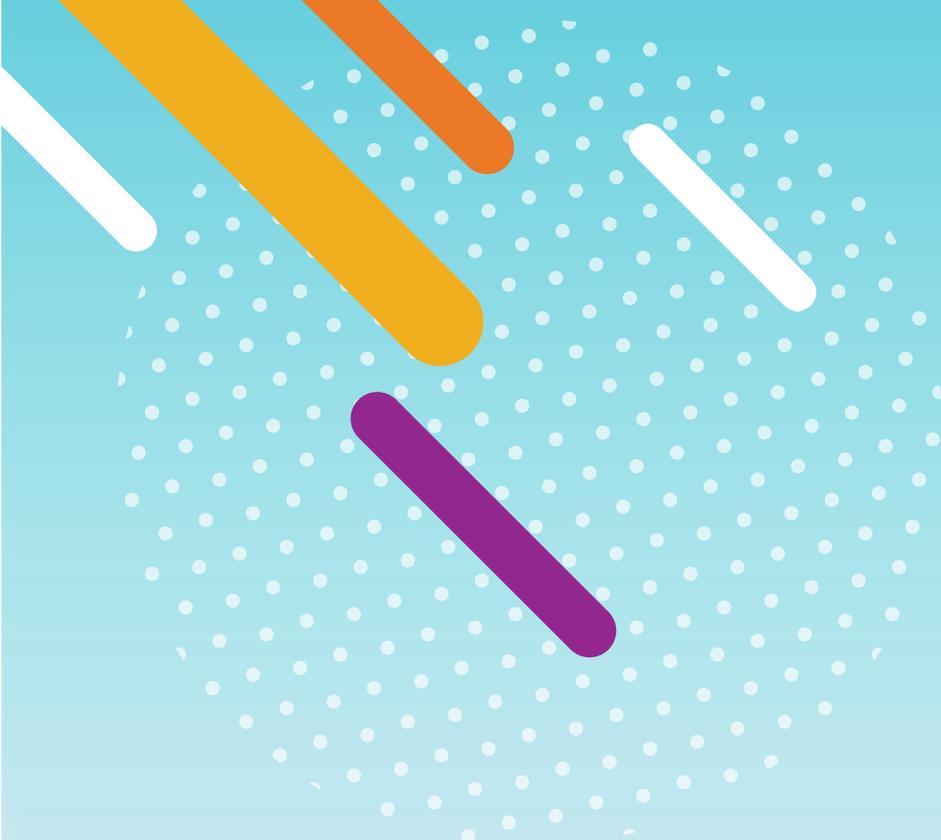


YAAS! and MACY

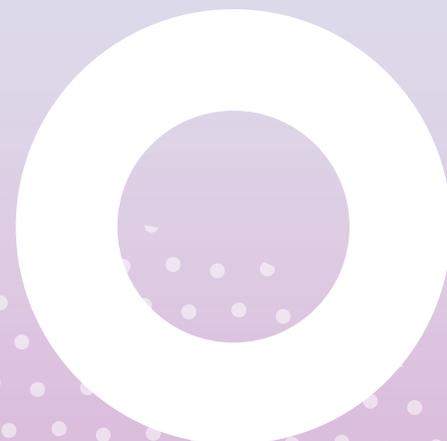
MACY's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS!) was able to put into action its objective to "be role models who offer their lived experiences and their voices to stand up for and walk with young people of Manitoba." Members of MACY's YAAS! facilitated a face-to-face meeting with the Deputy Minister of Families and the Chief Executive Officer of the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and their staff in the spring of 2019. The youth shared their knowledge, lived experiences, and recommendations surrounding the youth detox and addiction treatment available in Manitoba. The youth spoke openly

and honestly about how tough it is to access addiction services that support youth to recover from addiction. As a result of this meeting, changes to policies and some procedures were implemented and service providers followed up with our YAAS! to request additional insight for service improvement. We are so proud of the courage these youth displayed to share some of their difficult experiences and call on service providers and department leaders to modify services to meet the needs of youth.

MACY's YAAS! team also organized and hosted delegates for the National Child Day event (November 20, 2018) who provided the audience with information and awareness on the impacts to children and youth who do not know that they have rights under the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Our youth ambassadors provided raw insight into their own personal stories, showcasing their strength and resilience in overcoming the challenges and barriers they faced attempting to access services designed to support and protect young people. The YAAS! team members offered a youth perspective and shared their lived experience to bring attention to the importance of children's rights for all people in Manitoba.



2019-2020 Service Plan



2019-2020 Service Plan

VISION

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

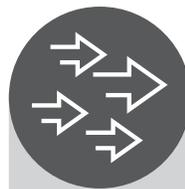
MISSION

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

Strategic Directions



Engaging and empowering youth voices



Accelerating responsiveness to advocacy services



Increasing transparency and system change through investigations



Advancing research and public education



Strengthening cultural proficiency in practice



Promoting accountability in child serving systems

Achieving...

Impact • Responsiveness • Accountability

Through our shared VALUES of...

Child-centredness

Equity

Respect

Accountability

Independence

VISION	MISSION	VALUES
<p>A safe and healthy society that hears, includes, values, and protects all children, youth, and young adults.</p>	<p>We amplify the voices and champion the rights of children, youth, and young adults.</p>	<p>Child-centred • Equity • Respect • Accountability Independence</p>
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p> ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING YOUTH VOICES</p> <p>With child-centredness as a guiding value, we seek out the voices and opinions of young people so we can amplify their voices and ensure our services meet their changing needs.</p>	<p>IMPROVING IMPACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering services that respond directly to the needs of children, youth, and young adults • Ensuring services for Indigenous children, youth, and young adults reflect cultural proficiency • Sharing the stories of young people with the public • Ensuring the voices of youth are reflected and amplified throughout all of MACY's work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad! (YAAS!) framework and guiding principles • Conduct outreach to youth and youth organizations in the community • Embark on a province-wide listening tour to ensure the voices of young people are being heard • Provide rights-based education training to young people
<p> ACCELERATING RESPONSIVENESS TO ADVOCACY SERVICES</p> <p>We deliver advocacy supports to children, youth, young adults, and their families across multiple service systems and ensure our activities reflect our commitment to child-centered service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving public understanding of the importance of children's rights and the <i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> (UNCRC) and the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> (UNDRIP) • Providing professional development opportunities for MACY staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance advocacy service model to align with expanded mandate and national advocacy standards • Update policies and procedures manual • Track and analyze data and trends in each designated domain areas
<p> INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND SYSTEM CHANGE THROUGH INVESTIGATIONS</p> <p>We review public services <i>through the eyes of the child</i> with the goal of identifying gaps and making recommendations to improve services for young people.</p>	<p>ADDRESSING RESPONSIVENESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring services and processes mobilize quickly in response to requests to advocacy or when notified of child deaths • Ensuring that designated services are mobilized in a manner that is consistent with the rights of children, youth, and young adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a year-in-review analysis of child deaths • Publish special reports on systemic issues, including mental health, addictions, and suicide • Increase timeliness to ensure reviews of child deaths are occurring within 12 months of the child's death



"FAMILY CAN TAKE MANY DIFFERENT FORMS, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN TO KNOW THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW THEIR FAMILIES AND TO SPEND TIME WITH THEM, IF IT IS SAFE."

- Wavy Guy, Mascot, on Article 9 of the UNCRC



ADVANCING RESEARCH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

- Ensuring MACY activities reflect an understanding of the needs of young people within a local context
- Promoting equity of our services throughout the province and across designated service domains

MAINTAINING ACCOUNTABILITY

- Promoting access to MACY services for all children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba
- Taking concrete actions on our organizational commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and communities
- Consistently improving our public transparency through public reporting on child deaths, recommendation compliance, special reports, annual reports, and measureable service plans.

- Create a comprehensive public education and outreach strategy focusing on under-represented communities and domains
- Complete the new MACY website
- Complete a special report on safe sleep for infants



STRENGTHENING CULTURAL PROFICIENCY IN PRACTICE

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

- Develop and implement the ReconciliAction framework and plan
- Continue quarterly meetings with the Elder's Council
- Continue integration of Knowledge Keeper's spiritual and cultural education into all program areas at MACY



PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY IN CHILD-SERVING SYSTEMS

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

- Monitor the implementation of recommendations
- Report on the levels of compliance of recommendations
- Complete program logic models for each program area and for the office as a whole
- Develop feedback survey for service utilization

"INFORMATION HELPS PEOPLE MAKE BETTER DECISIONS. THAT'S WHY ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND THE ABILITY TO SHARE IT IS SO VITAL FOR CHILDREN AS THEY GROW AND LEARN."

- Johsa Manzanilla, Policy Analyst, on Article 13 of the UNCRC



2018-2019 Financial Report

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

\$1,044 >> Operating
\$4,325 >> Salaries
\$5,369 >> Total



Emily, YAAS! member

Excerpt from a spoken word piece Written by Trevor, YAAS! member

My biggest fear in life is losing the closest things
that only matter

I couldn't bear to feel any better

Waking up in the morning to receive a letter

From the hospital telling me I'm gonna lose my
mother

I lost everything! My Love, Respect and Peace

The most hardest thing to do was continue to breathe

Now who's gonna be there when I fall to my knees?

Staying up late because I can hardly get any sleep

Getting woken up past three to people just having a
beef

What a relief

That soon enough I get to leave

But after that I'll always have this pain stuck to me

Now I can never be happy with the fact

My real parents never gave a damn about (me)

But it's all G!

Nothing is stopping me from telling my story

And if you got a problem with it then please ignore
me

And let me be.

To suffer up on my knees,

'cause nobody's gone through half the same [shit] as
me.

So bow your heads and go straight back to sleep



"FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING... THESE ARE THINGS NO CHILD SHOULD BE WITHOUT. THESE ARE VITAL."

- Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans, Program Manager of Research and Quality Assurance on Article 27 of the UNCRC

Our Team

Executive Team



Daphne Penrose

Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth



Ainsley Krone

Deputy Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, Responsible for Investigations, Research, and Quality Assurance



Sherry Gott

Deputy Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, Responsible for Advocacy Services and Youth Engagement



Cyndi Menke

Executive Coordinator

Management



Carolyn Burton

Manager, Finance and Administration



Denise Wadsworth

Manager, Investigations and Child Death Reviews Program



Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans
Manager, Research and Quality Assurance Programs



Kirstin Magnusson

Manager, Advocacy Services Program



Michelle Kowalchuk

Manager, Advocacy Services and Youth Engagement Programs

Administration



Carolyn Burton, Manager, Finance and Administration; **Reji Thomas**, Senior Clerk; **Laurie Freund**, Senior Clerk. Not pictured: **Erin Ryan**, Administrative Secretary; **Ila Miles**, Administrative Assistant.

Knowledge Keeper



Cheryl Alexander, Knowledge Keeper

Youth Engagement



Jonathan Skrypnyk, Youth Engagement Coordinator; Ainsley Krone, Deputy Manitoba Advocate; Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans, Program Manager, Youth Engagement (until September 2019); Cheryl Alexander, Knowledge Keeper; Cathy Cook, Youth Engagement Coordinator.

Research



Ainsley Krone, Deputy Manitoba Advocate; Dr. Matthew Maher, Researcher; Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans, Program Manager; Maria Godoy, Researcher.

Investigations and Child Death Reviews



Jamie Robinson, Investigator; Denise Wadsworth, Program Manager; Kayla Marcq, Investigator; Leigh Enns, Investigator; Lynda Schellenberg, Investigator; Ainsley Krone, Deputy Manitoba Advocate; Reji Thomas, Senior Clerk; Kelsey VanOsch, Investigator; Ada Uddoh, Investigator; Tanis Hudson, Investigator. Not pictured: Anna Los, Investigator.

Advocacy



Dawn Gair, Advocacy Officer; Jennifer Meixner, Advocacy Officer; Laurie Freund, Senior Clerk; Naomi Evans, Advocacy Officer; Carly Lewadniuk, Advocacy Officer; Mae Choo-Mah, Advocacy Officer; Gerald Krosney, Advocacy Officer; Sherry Gott, Deputy Manitoba Advocate; Debra De Silva, Advocacy Officer; Doug Ingram, Advocacy Officer; Paula Zimrose, Advocacy Officer; Krista Rey, Advocacy Officer; Joanne Lysak, Advocacy Officer; Michelle Kowalchuk, Program Manager; Kirstin Magnusson, Program Manager; Patti Wawyn, Casual staff. Not pictured: Erin Leonzio, Advocacy Officer; Milan Patel, Intake Assessment Officer.

Quality Assurance



Janine Bramadat, Policy Analyst; Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans, Program Manager; Johsa Manzanilla, Policy Analyst; Ainsley Krone, Deputy Manitoba Advocate; Alison Carrey, Policy Analyst.

Legal Counsel



Issie Frost, Q.C., General Counsel

We Were There!

PHOTOS FROM 2018-2019 EVENTS

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



Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates in Ottawa



Wavy and his Handler



Wavy dancing with kids



Staff participate in #EveryChildMatters



At Sagkeeng First Nation



Wavy at the parade



Santa Claus Parade - Staff and volunteers



Staff at the Santa parade

Manitoba
Advocate
STAND UP for children & youth

le **D**éfenseur
au Manitoba
DE LA CAUSE des enfants et des jeunes

Manitoba
Natatwéstamákéw
NIPAWISTAWISTÁK ókik awásisak éko oskátisak

Manitoba
Okanoocikehtamaake
ONIPAWIHTAMAWAAN APINONCHISHSHAN MINA OSHKAATISAN

Manitoba
Ogiigidootamaage
NIIBAWIN ABINOOJIIYAG zhiqwa oshki-ayaag onji

