



Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, August 3, 2023 @ 10:00am

Naicatchewenin First Nation





Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

In Memory Of

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services would like to recognize the late Brian Major for his dedicated service offering his passion, voice and wisdom on our Board of Directors representing Mishkosiminiziibiing (Big Grassy F.N.)

Brian had a huge heart and as an Elder and Caregiver he was a passionate supporter of Anishinaabe Child Welfare and Weechi-it-te-win Family Services as envisioned by our founding Fathers, Moses Tom and Joseph Big George. Brian carried forward their original vision and strongly believed in the fundamental importance for Anishinaabe children to be raised and cared for in a customary manner by their own community.

Brian and his wife Diane were one of our first Caregivers and had kept their home open for over 35 years. He also served in our region as a Police Officer for 32 years.

He was a true hero to many.



WITH HONOUR AND GRATITUDE

Brian Major
Waapishkasing

Chi-Miigwech for your dedication to Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and your community.

You will be greatly missed and honourably remembered.



Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

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Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

Board of Directors, Member Representatives & Chiefs

COMMUNITY	BOARD OF DIRECTOR	MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE	CHIEF
Mishkosimiziibiing	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	Lynn Indian
Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing	Wes Big George	Virginia Handorgan	Wes Big George
Couchiching	Lucille Morriseau	Dave Bruyere	Brian Perrault
Lac La Croix	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian Board President	<i>Vacant</i>	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian
Mitaanjiigamiing	Chris Henderson Board Vice President	Alex Cochrane	Janice Henderson
Naicatchewenin	Adrian Snowball	Rhonda Smith	Wayne Smith
Nigigoonsiminikaaning	Garry Windigo Secretary Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>	Terry Allan
Rainy River	Marcel Horton	Karen Oster-Bombay	Marcel Horton
Seine River	Tom Johnson	Janet Johnson	John Kabatay



Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

Elders Council

Elder	Community
Bessie Tom	Mishkosiminiziibiing
Lucille Eldridge	Rainy River
Louis Councillor/ Doris Caribou	Naicatchewenin
Agnes Kabatay	Mitaanjigamiing
Rosie Boshkaykin	Seine River
Margaret Ottertail	Lac La Croix
Patrick Handorgan	Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing
Val Norris	Couchiching
Don Jones/Nancy Jones	Nigigoonsiminikaaning





Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

Maango'inini

Charles Friday	Drummer
Elton Bruyere	Drummer
Freeman Trottier	Drummer
Kyle Councillor	Drummer
Louis Councillor	Drummer/Elder
Gilbert Smith	Shkaabez
Rosie Boshkaykin	Stick Holder





Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

Cultural Coordinator Annual Report



Boozhoo, WFS Board Members, Chief & Council Members,

Since starting work in February, my work involves me in different cultural aspects such as daily tobacco offerings, pipe ceremonies/prayers (board, staff meetings) and teaching children & families about our sacred items.

I have also attended WFS Events, Spring Ceremonies, Welcoming Babies Ceremony, School Powwows, Rainy crest Cultural Showcase, and our own Children's Day Powwow.

I want to take this time to Acknowledge our Elders who have shared their Knowledge and Guidance and Our Staff at WFS for the great support they have shown me it truly is a great place to work.

I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in my role within Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and continue to support the staff and CPP teams throughout the year to come.

Miigweech,

Don Smith



Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

Message from the Board President, Carrie Atatise-Norwegian and Executive Director, Laurie Rose

Boozhoo, Aanin Indinaawemaaginidok

On behalf of the Board of Directors we welcome all of you to our 2023 AGM.

The Board of Directors is a policy board that has provided oversight and input related to WFS programs, operations, and communications. Our Board of Directors are pleased with the success of Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and has seen a gradual transition to a prevention and intervention focus.

As a result of innovative resourcing within the First Nations and our organization We have seen a significant decrease in the number of children coming into care.

The Agency continues to develop additional support to meet the needs of children and families. Issues impacting all nine of our First Nations related to poverty, mental health, special needs, and addiction have us all working collaboratively to try and find solutions before we have more children and youth in crisis.

Given constant changes with regulations and legislation, from MCCSS and ISC related to our children and youth, it has been an incredibly busy time. The Naanigaan Abinoojii team has been vigilantly updating and developing programs to reflect the changes for communities and Agency manuals.

Our Abinoojii Inaakinogaowin Project which has been a primary focus of WFS beginning with community engagements back in 2021. The compilation of numerous gatherings and engagement has resulted in templates (which belongs to our nine First Nations) that each First Nation can use to create independent agencies within their respective First Nations.

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services has never lost its focus with the original vision of our founding fathers Moses Tom and Joseph Big George. We continue to work towards being the Resource Bank for our communities and are hoping that Independence for our First Nations transpires expediently.

Miigwich

Laurie Rose

Executive Director

Carrie Atatise-Norwegian

Board President



Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

Agenda

1. Traditional Opening Ceremony and Prayer
2. Call Meeting to Order: *Carrie Atatise-Norwegian, Board President*
3. Welcoming Address:

Chief Wayne Smith, Laurie Rose and Carrie Atatise-Norwegian

4. Roll Call – President
5. MNP Presents Audit of March 31, 2023
6. Approval of Band Council Resolutions
7. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes
8. Service Reports
9. Traditional Selection Process
10. Other
11. Closing

Annual General Meeting

Date | time August 8, 2022 at Couchiching Multi Use Facility | Meeting called to order by Candice Kelly, Chair

Attendance

FIRST NATION	NAME	TITLE	ATTENDANCE
Nigigoonsminikaaning	Garry Windigo	Secretary Treasurer	
		Chief	
		Member Representative	
Mitaanjigamiing	Chris Henderson	Vice President	
	Alex Cochrane	Member Representative	
	Janice Henderson	Chief	
Couchiching	Lucille Morriseau	Board of Director	
	Dave Bruyere	Member Representative	
	Brian Perrault	Chief	
Rainy River	Marcel Horton	Chief/Board of Director	
	Karen Oster-Bombay	Member Representative	
Naicatchewenin	Adrian Snowball	Board of Director	
	Rhonda Smith	Member Representative	
	Wayne Smith	Chief	
Onigaming	N/A	Board of Director	
	N/A	Member Representative	
	N/A	Chief	
Lac La Croix	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian	Board President/ Chief/Member Representative	
Seine River	Tom Johnson Jr.	Board of Director	
	Janice Spoon	Member Representative	
	John Kabatay	Board of Director/Chief	
Big Grassy	Vacant	Board of Director/Member Representative	
	Lynn Indian	Chief	
Naongashiing	Wes Big George	Board of Director/Chief	
	Virginia Handorgan	Member Representative	
OTHERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION	TITLE	ATTENDANCE
Laurie Rose	WFS	Executive Director	Present

Dean Wilson	WFS	Director of Administration	Present
Shannon Blight	WFS	Director of Nanaandawewenin	Present
Arlene Bruyere-Parker	WFS	Director of Naaniigaan Abinoojii	Present
Samantha Heyens	WFS	Executive Assistant	Present
Don Smith	WFS	Cultural Coordinator	Present
Don Jones	Nigigoonsiminikaaning	MC	
Val Norris	Couchiching	Elder	
Nancy Jones	Nigigoonsiminikaaniing	Elder	
Margaret Ottertail	Lac La Croix	Elder	
Agnes Kabatay	Couchiching	Elder	
Bev Wilson	Rainy River	Elder	
Freeman Trottier	Maango'inini	Drummer	
Charles Friday	Maango'inini	Drummer	
Shawn Brown	MNP Auditor	MNP Auditor	
Laura Bruyere	Couchiching	Community Member	
Florence Chartrand	WFS	Staff	
Sarah Windigo	WFS	Staff	
Trish Mainville	WFS	Staff	
Danielle Bruyere	WFS	Staff	
Aaron McIntosh	WFS	Staff	
Bill Morrison Jr.	WFS	Staff	
Sandra Stevens	WFS	Staff	
Jackie DeBenedet	WFS	Staff	
	WFS	Staff	
Sandy Bruyere	Maango'inini	Drummer	
Elton Bruyere	Maango'inini	Drummer	
Gilbert Smith	Maango'inini	Shkaabez	
Rhonda Smith	Naicatchewenin	Councillor	
Arlene Tucker	WFS		
Iline Yerxa	WFS		
Armand Jourdain Sr.	Naicatchewenin		

Opening Prayer/ Roll Call/ Meeting called to order

The meeting commenced at 10:30 am. Don Jones introduced himself and did an overview of the agenda. Chief Brian Perrault did a welcoming speech. Couchiching is always happy to host Treaty #3 events and he welcomed everyone. Proud of the work the Agency has done with all the community teams. WFS has been in

existence for a long time and moving into the future we need to look at how we are all going to fall under AI. Today the traditional selection process will be done for the Agency Executive. We have several private organizations in the area and we are pleased to say that WFS is the one that most all staff are from our First Nations. It is our people working for our people.

Maango'inini sang the four drum songs. Agnes Kabatay did an opening and water prayer. Stacey Boshey offered tobacco for all in attendance.

Gilbert Smith did the opening invocation. We must never forget we are here for Abinoojiug. We are searching for all children who are supposed to be home. We must also as workers remember to set good examples for our children. The children are smart. When we do something wrong in the communities they catch that. We do not want them to learn the negative things happening in our community but rather to learn the positive teachings. Our leadership have tough jobs.

Don Jones reminds us of the teachings given this morning. When we go to a community it is usually the chief that speaks first to welcome the community. Chief Perrault was asked to welcome everyone.

Candice Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:25 am. Thanked the elders for the opening, thanked singers and acknowledged the sacred items. Welcomed everyone.

Roll Call:

	Board of Director	✓	Member Representative	✓	Chief	✓
Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing	Wes Big George	Y	Virginia Handorgan	Y	Wes Big George	Y
Big Grassy	Brian Major	X	Brian Major	N	Lynn Indian	N
Couchiching	Lucille Morrissette	X	David Bruyere	Y	Brian Perrault	Y
Lac La Croix	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian	Y	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian	Y	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian	Y
Mitaanjigamiing	Chris Henderson	Y	Roy Morrison	Y	Janice Henderson	Y
Naicatchewenin	Adrian Snowball	Y	Darlene Smith	N	Wayne Smith	Y
Nigoonsiminikaaning			Clayton Windego	Y	Sue Boshey, proxy	Y
Ojibways of Onigaming	Candice Kelly	Y	Dorothy Copenace	N	Jeffrey Copenace	Y
Rainy River	Robin McGinnis	Y	Karen Oster-Bombay	N	Robin McGinnis	Y
Seine River	John Kabatay	Y	Tom Johnson Jr	Y	John Kabatay	Y

Laurie Rose gave her opening remarks. Proud of the work the agency and communities have done and continue to do. We know where all our children are, none have been adopted out. We lost two elders, Gladys DeBungie and Bessie Mainville. It is always difficult to lose the elders and their guidance and support. Candice Kelly read the opening remarks in the report.

Shawn Brown, MNP auditor, presented the audit report. Clean opinion. Processes in accordance with GAAP. Statement of Financial opinion is a statement in time and states what assets the Agency has on that date.

Chief Jeff Copenace addressed the Assembly. He felt disrespected and was hurt. His community remains in a state of emergency. His family has suffered 9 losses since he has been in leadership. He spoke of some of the crisis events that have taken place recently in his community. This morning as he continues to meet with Federal Ministry to fund a youth recreation center, he does not want to hold funerals in the gym. He has 6-9 staff that are healthy enough to show up for work every day. This is a reason why they are leaving. He feels welcomed at AAFS meeting. The addictions in his community are out of control. Acknowledges the support from WFS for on-call and crisis support. With the upcoming payout he is worried about losing more people. The community invites everyone to his community August 18, 2022 especially the chiefs. It will be a meeting to talk about supports. Laurie responded. At the time Jeff got elected he announced he was leaving the Agency and moving to AAFS because he felt WFS was not cultural enough. We provided services for months along with a second councilor to work with the children. The agency did what they could. She apologized for him being offended. The community has been in crisis for a number of years. The concern about losses is one that sits with all our communities and leadership struggles with finding a way to help our parents and families. Including her own family. It is heartbreaking to watch someone in addiction deteriorate. WFS gave all services to all communities with the addition of 6-7 positions within the last several years. The new staff in the communities were meant to make a change in the community. It comes down to the leadership having the expectation that the community teams are doing their job. The Agency has provided good supports.

All leadership needs to ensure workers provide the services to their children and families.

MOTION: That the Board appoints MNP for audit 2022/2023.

MOVED: John Kabatay Jr.

SECONDED: David Bruyere

Motion accepted.

Acknowledgement of Appointments/Acceptance of BCRs

No BCRs provided.

Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes

Board reviewed minutes as provided in report.

MOTION: That the Board approves the minutes from AGM July 26, 2021.

MOVED: Chris Henderson

SECONDED: Adrian Snowball

Motion accepted.

Service Reports

Stacey Boshey gave his annual report. Acknowledged loss of elders. He directs staff to elders for guidance. It is important to support our communities' cultural coordinators on passing the teachings to the children in the communities. Elders say we have to get the children's attention when they are young.

Sasha Galbraith – second year for JP. Brought in 1.5 million for programming.

Dean Wilson:

Shannon Blight:

Highlights:

1. Nanaandawewenin operations manual
2. Updated crisis response policy
3. Developed Independent living
4. MOU
5. 3rd Family Counsellor
6. Support Indigenous Family Service System Development for transition to Abinoojii Inakonigewin
7. Relocated to First Street
8. Redesigned and rebranded referral and program information materials
9. 15 staff certified in Crisis and Trauma Response
10. Behavioural Intervention Services proposal submitted to ISC through JP and was approved

Arlene Bruyere-Parker: What WFS does is what the Ministry is copying. The Ministry never looked at family models the way we always have. CCSY contracts with the blessing of the Board and the ED and hardworking of the Naaniigan youth we provide more to our youth than provided by the Ministry. The Ministry is now increasing supports to their youth.

MOTION: That the Board accepts and approves the service reports as presented.

MOVED: David Bruyere

SECONDED: John Kabatay

Motion accepted.

Traditional Selection Process – Executive Council

Nominations for Executive Council:

President:

- Carrie Atatise-Norwegian, Chris Henderson

Vice-President: Chris Henderson

Secretary/Treasurer: Robin McGinnis

New Executive: Carrie Atatise-Norwegian

Vice-President: Chris Henderson

Secretary/Treasurer: Robin McGinnis

Meeting adjourned at: Approximately 2:00pm

Approved



WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN FAMILY SERVICES

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

April 2022

Anxiety in Children and Youth-April 28,2022

07/18/2022

CONTACT:

Danielle Bruyere
Special Projects Coordinator
1455 Idylwild Drive
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3M3
807-274-3201 EXT. 4052
Danielle.bruyere@weechi.ca

Couchiching First Nation	1
Naicatchewenin First Nation	1
Mitaanjigamiing First Nation	1
Mishkosiminiziibiing First Nation	1
Rainy River First Nations	1
Lac La Croix	0
Nigigoonsiminikanning First Nation	0
Seine River First Nation	0
Ojibways of Onigaming	0

May 2022

Children's Day Meeting- May 16, 2022. Planning and tentative dates to be set.

June 2022

Special Projects-Sick Leave

July 2022

Special Projects- Sick Leave

August 2022

Children' Day Events- August 30-31,2022.

Partnering Communities : Couchiching, Lac La Croix,

Naicatchewenin, Seine River First Nation

Over 300 children and families attended the event for both days.

150 Backpacks were distributed to 9 First Nations Family Preservation Workers.

September 2022

Truth and Reconciliation Walk- September 30,2022

WFS partnered with surrounding agencies to create awareness for Truth and Reconciliation. This included a walk from Sorting Gap Marina to Nanicost Grounds located on Agency One land. Lunch was provided, along with speakers who attended Residential School. Weechi-it-te-win had a booth which gave out; T-shirts, and Orange Shirt Kits and information on services provided by Weechi-it-te-win.

October 2022

Family Well-Being Network Meeting -October 25,2022

Couchiching	1
Mitanjigaming	1
Naicatchewenin	1
Lac La Croix	1
Seine River First Nation	0
Rainy River First Nations	0
Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing	0
Nigigoonsiminikanning	0

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services McTavish Haunted Woods- October 28,2022

Over 1,000 people attended McTavish Haunted Woods. Supper and candy bags were provided. Along with a Halloween photobooth and pumpkins that families could take home.

November 2022

Dialectical Behavior Therapy – November 7, 2022

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services	8
Mishkosiminiziibiing	1
Couchiching	0
Lac La Croix	0
Nigigoonsiminikanning	0
Rainy River First Nations	0
Seine River	0
Mitaanjigamiing	0
Anishinaabeg of Naongashing	0

Family Preservation Network Meeting-November 10,2022

Couchiching	1
Anishinaabeg of Naongashing	1
Naicatchewenin	1
Couchiching	0
Lac La Croix	0
Mishkosiminiziibiing	0
Nigigoonsiminikanning	0
WFS	3
Seine River	0

December 2022

CCP Team Building Workshop- December 5, 2022

Binisewag Centre for Wellness hosted a "Team Building Workshop" for Community Care Teams. This created relationships between each community care team.

Rainy River First Nations	6
Naicatchewenin	7
Mishkosiminiziibiing	7
Lac La Croix	2
WFS	1

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services Christmas Trail of Lights

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services hosted two nights of "Christmas Trail of Lights" . December 9-10,2023

December 9 was dedicated to our Children in Care. Over 30 children attended. Food was made available, candy bags and pictures with Santa.

December 10, 2022- Public Event was held and over 1,300 families attended Weechi-it-te-win Family Services Christmas Trail of Lights. Supper, hot chocolate and pictures with Santa .

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services, Family Well-Being Program Contributed to Healthy Living Food box , which added an extra item each month. from the months of December 2022-March 2023. Over 2,243 members accessed the Food Box .

January 2023

“Preserving Families” training for Family Preservation with Sherry Copenace and Lillian Cook- January 19,2023

Mishkosiminiziibiing	1
Mitaanjigamiing	1
Anishinaabeg Of Naongashiing	1
Weechi-it-te-win Family Services	1
Lac La Croix	1
Couchiching	1
Nigigoonsiminikanning	0
Rainy River First Nation	0
Seine River	0
Naicatchewenin	0

February 2023

ISC-Language Revitalization Funding- Language Resources were purchased for Children in Care and Caregivers. Smudge bowls and Copper cups were also made available.

Family Day- February 20,2023

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services; Family Well-Being Programed sponsored a Family Swim, Family Skate and Shiny skates at Memorial Sports Centre. Drinks and a snack were provided to families. This event serviced over 100 families.

March 2023

March Break Activities- March 15-16, 2023

March Break activities were held on Agency One land- Nanicost Grounds.

Activities includes:

Snow shoe races, tug-o-war, snow painting, beading station, Anishinaabemowin bingo, popped wild rice and Bannock on a stick. Two of Weechi-it-te-win Family Service's Elders- Margaret Ottertail and Agnes Kabatay were present for both days. This event seen over 100 families for both days.

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services Family Well-Being Program sponsored a week of Family Swims, Family Skates, and Shinny at Memorial Sports Plex. Over 1,000 families attended.



WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN FAMILY SERVICES

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

19/07/2023

CONTACT:

Sasha Galbraith
Jordan's Principle Coordinator
1455 Idylwild Drive
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3M3
807-274-3201 EXT. 4011

The Jordan's Principle Program at WFS has shown success in being awarded approval on each Individual and Group Request that was submitted in 2022.

GROUP REQUESTS:

- Jordan's Principle Service Coordination – Approved - **\$102,606.00.**
- Aftercare Clinician – Family Healing Program – Approved - **\$110,250.00, \$66,748.00 re-profiled from previous fiscal year.**
- Developmental Support Services – Speech & Language Therapy – Approved - **\$433,094.00.**
- Developmental Support Services – Behavioral Intervention Services – Approved - **\$870,664.00, \$72,038.00 Sent to National Review Committee.**
- Land Based Coordinator – Approved - **\$216,637.00**
- Land Based Recreation & Elder Engagement (Pontoon boat) – Approved - **\$180,070.00.**
- Food Security Program – Approved - **\$962,115.00.**
- Developmental Support Services – Cultural Development Therapy – Denied - **\$300,428.42.** We are in the process of appealing this request.

Total: \$ 2,875,436.00 Approved

\$ 300,428.42 Denied/Appealed

\$ 72,038.00 National Review

INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS:

- LBG – Educational Support **\$62,328.00**
- PF – 1:1 Support Worker (out of school) **\$8,320.00**

- GT – 1:1 Support Worker \$688.00
- FM – Educational Assistant \$12,600.00
- AS – Orthodontics – \$6,000.00
- HM – Medical Educational Assistant - \$5842.00
- CF – Educational Assistant \$47,789.00
- PF – 1:1 Educational Support \$47,789.70
- IJ – 1:1 Support - \$13,573.04 Out of school
- FK – Educational Assistant \$ 27,607.30
- First and Last Month's Rent - \$8,300
- Tutoring ay Scholars Learning - \$1,800.00
- Sports Camp Registration & Travel - \$8,727.08

Total: \$ 251,364.12 Approved

Number of fulltime employees funded through Jordan's Principle:
10

We had an extremely successful fiscal year in 2022 with only one application being denied due to "substantive equality", which we are in the process of appealing at the federal court level.

I believe that this program will continue to grow each year. Since the startup of Jordan's Principle at Weechi-it-te-win in 2020, our programs and funding amounts have more than tripled. This fiscal year brought in an additional 3,126,800.10 of funding.

Since the beginning of the new fiscal year, I have been tasked with starting a new Educational Support Program which will onboard an additional 6 EA/1:1 Worker positions to work with our identified CIC's who require additional support in the classroom.

My goal is to get out to each community to help with education on Jordan's Principle and help to get a Jordan's Principle worker in each community.

Miigwech,

Sasha Galbraith



WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN FAMILY SERVICES

2023 AGM

COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT-2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

CONTACT:

Bill Morrison
Community
Relations

- In the past year I have been working on increasing our Social Media(Facebook and Instagram) presence with positive posts on events and activities we have been promoting and organizing.
- The events that we have been hosting have been very well received with thousands of families attending our Family Day, Children's Days, Haunted and Holiday Trails at McTavish Road, March Break activities, Fishing Derby, Fish Fry and Pow Wow.
- We have been using Social Media to successfully promote our career opportunities and we have been getting numerous qualified applicants with each job posting. We are one of the few agencies or businesses in the area that has not had a shortage of workers.
- The last two jobs I posted have averaged 40 000 social media impressions(people that saw the post) with 1000 people clicking on each job posting to learn more information. We had 20 applications for the two posted positions last month with only \$300 spent. Prior to changing our employment ads to social media in April 2022, we were spending thousands of dollars on newspaper print ads and receiving very few applicants and sometimes no applicants at all. Our cost per applicant has been reduced from thousands of dollars to consistently under \$50/applicant in the past year.
- We have had many press releases printed in the Fort Frances Times newspaper promoting our big public events as well as follow-up articles after the events with pictures of happy children and families enjoying time spent together often on the front page of the paper.
- Our Social media presence has been growing every month with close to 1500 followers on our Facebook page.
- Our Children's Days, Pow Wow, McTavish trails and contest posts often receive thousands of views per day. I live streamed our 2023

Pow Wow and we had 4300 video and picture views in one day. Our Children's Days pictures and videos also had thousands of views.

- I have been building relationships with CCP teams, communities, our Elders, journalists, schools, local politicians and other local Agencies(GHAC, Tribal Health/Giishkaandago'ikwe, Agency One, Seven Gens, Treaty 3 Police, GCT3, OPP, etc...)

I feel the relationships we are building in our communities and the positive reputation we have earned are important as other Agencies, schools and Rainy Crest Long Term Care have reached out to us recently to partner up for events. They have indicated that they are very impressed with the events we have hosted and look forward to working with us.

We recently partnered with Rainycrest, Fort Frances High School, Mine Centre and Robert Moore schools to plan and coordinate Pow Wows with them. We have been asked to partner-up in various future Cultural events with other Agencies. We also took part in the multi-agency event on Sept. 30th, 2022 for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and I am on the planning committee for 2023 events.

- Our new website at www.weechi.ca went online earlier this year and it is easier to search and has been beneficial in advertising events and career opportunities. It is also easier to find in the search engines(Google).
- In April we hosted Candice Butler visiting from Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Child Protection Peak in Australia. Candice chose WFS to visit as part of her Churchill Fellowship as we share similar visions, values and goals for Indigenous child welfare and First Nation autonomy. Candice was particularly keen on seeing how our Devolution process worked with area CCP teams and she was also curious about the other programs we offer beyond Child Protection. We brought her to see all the programs we offer where she had a chance to engage with most of our staff and ask questions. We brought Candice to two communities where she got to speak with Elders, learn some Anishinaabemowin, listen to the drum and singers as well as watch some dancers.
- Please see next page for the blog post Candice made about her week spent with Weechi-it-te-win Family Services.

A week immersed in culture

Apologies for the late post – it's been a big couple of days travelling from Fort Frances to Winnipeg to my current destination of Ottawa.

The week in Fort Frances with the Weechi-it-te-win Family Services team was a great opportunity to deep dive into the organisation and hear from a majority of the team. Thank you so much Bill Morrison, Don Smith and Danielle Bruyere for the week and to Laurie Rose for allowing me the opportunity to visit your organisation. You all went above and beyond for me and I sincerely appreciate the work that you did to make the week a success.

I learnt about the programs that they have across the organisation which includes but is not limited to: child protection, community care programs, a clinical team, developmental support services, the capacity building team and programs for young people who are transitioning out of care.

What I was blown away by most was the opportunity to experience and immerse myself for the week in Anishinaabe culture. I got to go to a drumming circle with Don, visited two amazing communities, watched Don's sister and niece perform, learnt about the offerings of tobacco and burning of sage, as well as being gifted with items that I will treasure which include a beautiful medallion, earrings, a bag that you keep all that is precious to you and a ribbon skirt. I even had the opportunity to go to language class.

A special mention goes to the team at the healing program. The team told me about how they use their traditional healing practices to help people overcome problems that they may be experiencing but also they extend this invitation to anyone who feels they need to attend. I think we can all do with a bit of healing in this world and what better way to do it whilst connected to our ancestors and Mother Earth.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to take a step back, breathe and reconnect with myself. There were times I found myself getting emotional. I know that this was my spirits way of connecting with the spirits of those who I was with on that occasion.

I think what this week taught me was how much culture and tradition needs to be at the forefront of all that we do and not just as an add on. I am proud to say that I come from the oldest living culture in the world and it has been an absolute privilege this week to share my culture and hear and experience Anishinaabe culture with the people throughout the Fort Frances region. Have a great week everyone, Candice



WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN FAMILY SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES- JACKIE DEBENEDET - APR 2022 TO MAR 31, 2023, BOARD REPORT

- We have hired 18 new staff since September 2021. 5 Lateral Transfers, 1 Retirement, 1 Maternity Leave
- Bamboo HR
- Working collaboratively with Life Inc. to administer pension and benefit plan. Initiated 3 short term disability applications and approved. Attended Life Inc Conference in Banff Alberta.
- CBA ratified.
- Day to day duties
- Lateral Violence training in May 2023 was successful and attended by all staff.

Positions	Lateral Transfers
Early Intervention Worker	Behavioral Intervention Worker to Developmental Therapist
Behavioral Intervention Worker (3)	Receptionist to Community Support Technician
Developmental Therapist	Community support Technician to Case Management Coordinator
Youth Resource Lead	Community Support Technician to Privacy Officer Assistant.
Receptionist	
Community Support Technician	
IT Assistant	
Cultural Coordinator	
Executive Assistant	
Aftercare Treatment Specialist (Mat Leave)	
Land Based Coordinator	
Case Management Coordinator	

Behaviorial Intervention Intake Worker	
Community Relations Specialist	
Aftercare Clinician	
Intake Coordinator/Family Navigator	
Staff Trainer	

****In my report I included all new hires and transfers**

Jackie DeBenedet



ANNUAL REPORT

Nanaandawewenin Services 2022-2023

Culturally Based and Community Oriented



WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN
Family Services Inc.



Nanaandawewenin Team

Boozhoo Board of Directors and Corporate members. Here are some general descriptions on current services offered through Nanaandawewenin's healing and support programs. We offer a wide array of voluntary (non-mandated) programs and services to all members of the 9 First Nations and residents of Rainy River district.

- **Youth in Transition Worker:** *life skills programming, one on one support for goal attainment.*
- **Youth in Transition Housing Support Coordinator:** *support in accessing and maintaining housing, service coordination, advocacy.*
- **Semi Independent Living Home:** *2 bedrooms for YIT. Live-in caregiver service model. Prepares youth for independent living.*
- **Clinical Team Leader:** *provides supervision, support, and clinical consultation for mental health service providers.*
- **Family Counselling Unit:** *3 Family Counsellors offering bi-cultural counselling approaches to children, youth, and their families.*
- **Telemental Health:** *offering quick access to specialized mental health services via videoconference.*
- **Clinical Assessment:** *offers psychological or psychoeducational assessment to assist with case planning for Children in Care. This position also serves as crisis response coordinator.*
- **Developmental Support Services (DSS) Manager** *provides supervision, support and consultation for workers that serve gifted children with specialized needs.*
- **DSS Intake and Navigation:** *single point of access for all WFS developmental programs. This position helps families find the appropriate service in a timely manner.*
- **DSS Developmental Therapy:** *offers occupational therapy and assessment, and developmental therapy to children up to the age of 17.*
- **DSS Cultural Development/Therapy:** *one on one cultural development and group-based programming that enhances cultural knowledge and land connection.*
- **DSS Speech and Language:** *offers speech and language assessment and therapy up to the age of 17.*
- **DSS Behavioral Intervention Services:** *offers intensive behavioral therapy and assessment for children and youth up to age 17, and up to 20 hours per week/child.*
- **DSS Early Intervention (Behavioral Intervention):** *prevention and early intervention consultation, programming for children and youth, and parenting support.*
- **Education Liaison:** *support, liaison, and advocacy for children in care attending schools within the Rainy River District.*
- **Family Healing Program (FHP) Manager and Assistant:** *provides oversight of staff and management of program operations, including clinical supervision.*
- **FHP Pretreatment, Intake and Outreach:** *Referral and treatment preparation including assessment and treatment planning prior to intake.*



- **FHP 15-Day Outpatient Treatment Cycle:** provision of culturally based treatment for trauma and/or second stage recovery.
- **FHP Aftercare Services:** clinical counselling and after care support for families that have completed the 15-day outpatient program.
- **FHP Land-Based Therapy:** culturally based programming on the land during Family Healing Program treatment cycles and during aftercare phase.
- **Training and Capacity Development:** 1 Agency trainer that provides child welfare protection worker certification series called pathways to authorization. Coordination of other training specific to case supervision, or specialized issues that child welfare workers are dealing with. Clinical Services Coordinator provides clinical or mental health-based trainings for helpers within the First Nations and at WFS.

2022-2023 Highlights

Abinoojii Inakonigewin Project engaged with six (6) First Nations, Elders (2X), WFS Staff (3X), CCP Supervisors and the Board of Directors. A Relationship Protocol was developed to guide the work that WFS did with the First Nations as it related to Abinoojii Inakonigewin. This protocol was signed by 7 First Nations on June 30, 2022, at the Naicatchewenin Round House.



Abinoojii Inakonigewin Relationship Protocol Signing – June 30, 2022



The following Templates were developed through this ISC Capacity Building funding to assist communities as they assume inherent jurisdiction for Family Services

1. *National Standards*
2. *Template to Develop Terms of Reference for Governance*
3. *Financial Negotiation Toolkit with Excel Spreadsheet*
4. *Template for Service Model Development*
5. *Interjurisdictional Matters Template*
6. *Template for Management of Service Complaints, Disputes and Appeals*
7. *Caregiver Certification Template*
8. *Training and Capacity Development Template*

These Templates were provided to the WFS First Nation Chiefs, Board Members and CCP Supervisors via hard copy and electronic version.

The WFS Crisis Response Policy was updated and approved by the Board in April 2022.

This was the first operational year for the Ninzigos-Nimishomeh endaad (Auntie/Uncle’s House) Semi Independent Living Program. The program is still being evaluated by senior management but to date the program has shown positive results and feedback from residents.

Annual teambuilding baseball game: every year Nanaandawewenin organizes a baseball game between wfs staff (all programs) and a First Nation to get to know each other and build stronger relationships. In 2022, we played Couchiching First Nation. We have continued to do this event based on positive feedback from community workers.





Clinical Services

Family Counselling Unit- This was the first year WFS had three (3) Family Counsellors. They provide ongoing mental health counselling in the family's community and schools. Their guiding principle has been focused on "identity", connecting the youth with their communities, the land, their culture, and themselves. This process starts with asemaa and an introduction to Maango-Inini (the children's drum).

Youth in Transition Program- The Youth in Transition Worker spent time this past year reaching out and attending CCP team offices to promote her program. The program continues to provide services to youth aging out of care through regular one on one contact and weekly group programming. The Youth in Transition Worker will assist in supporting the Ministry's expanded "Ready, Set Go" program in the coming year by providing programming that helps to prepare youth for independent living.

Clinical Coordinator/Clinical Assessment- The Clinical Coordinator facilitated nine different training opportunities for Community Family Counsellors and Prevention Workers. The Clinical Coordinator also provided quarterly networking meetings for community family counsellors to share their experiences and learn about different therapeutic tools. Each of the counsellors were provided with extensive packages of counselling resource materials including books, play-therapy tools, and self-regulation tools. The Clinical Coordinator also offered funding for community Family Counsellors to order some small furniture items to create safe, comfortable, and welcoming spaces to meet with their clients.



First Nation Family Counsellor – Counselling Resource Kits (year end 2022/23)



Family Counsellor Networking and Clinical Support Meetings

Telemental Health Program- As the Telemental Health Program Coordinating agency for “Area 6” which includes most of northern Ontario, the Telemental Health Program staff are required to do outreach and in 2022 travelled to Moosonee, Moose Factory, Fort Albany, Kashechewan and Attawapiskat. During the year the program served **114** youth from our local First Nations. **The use of TMH in our area has increased significantly in the last fiscal year.**

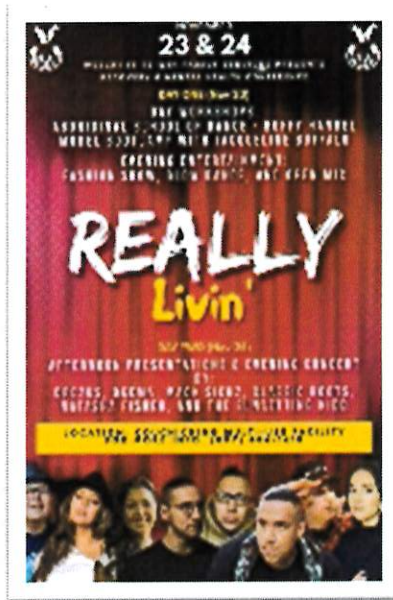
A portion of MOH - Mental Health Trauma Supports Funding was carried over from the previous fiscal year. Funding was provided to several First Nations through a proposal/application process. All proposals received were approved.

- ✓ *Onigaming - \$36,000*
- ✓ *Naicatchewenin - \$8000*
- ✓ *Mitaanjigamiing - \$8,000*
- ✓ *Couchiching - \$16,000*
- ✓ *Nigigoonsiminikaaning - \$8000*
- ✓ *Seine River - \$8,000*

A portion of the MOH – Mental Health Trauma Supports funding was used to host the **“Really Livin’ Conference.”** In November of 2022, the Nanaandawewenin team worked together to host a Wellness Conference to support individuals in their recovery and healing journeys. The Family Healing Program led this initiative with much support from all other departments at Weechi-it-te-win.



This conference utilized the arts to provide participants with unique experiences in the area of fashion, music and dance to broaden their recovery experience. This conference was well received by the First Nations resulting in **67** registered participants, and a total of **212** people attended various activities throughout the 2 days.



A **Christmas Hamper** fundraiser was held as part of the “Really Livin” event and \$2,200.00 was raised which provided 7 hampers for FHP client families. Hampers included personalized gifts for children, turkey, and a generous supply of assorted foods for the Holidays.



Other Family Healing Program Activities:

Capital Projects – Parking lot paving was completed in the summer of 2022. Our maintenance department continues to expand our walking trails. These trails also host Weechi-it-te-win activities such as the Halloween Haunted Trails and Christmas Trail of Lights.

Trauma Training for Professionals – the FHP provided a 5-day trauma training session beginning July 20, 2022. This session was specifically requested by one of our First Nations. The intent of this session was to build capacity at the community level to respond to FHP clients in need of support. 8 FN service providers completed this program.

Traditional Parenting - FHP staff acquired the services of Elder Howard Copenace to conduct a 2-day information session on December 2, 2022 for WFS and First Nation staff on traditional parenting and the creation story. A total of 15 participated.

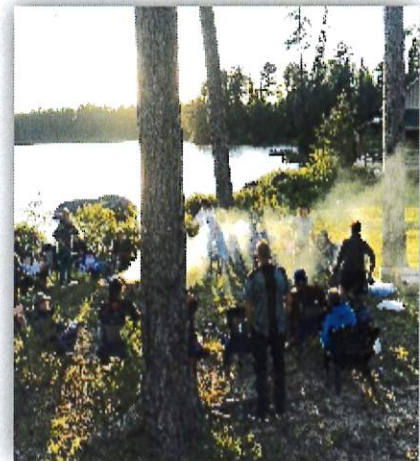
Grief Sessions – FHP staff acquired the services of Mr. Joe Hunter to conduct a 5-day workshop (Feb 6-9, 2023) for clients in need of support to process unresolved grief; there was a total of 16 participants.

Big Grassy Men’s Group – In March 2023, Big Grassy Community Care Program staff requested assistance in facilitating and starting a men’s group for community members to engage and experience healthy, traditional learning opportunities.

The FHP staff conducted and presented psychoeducational materials in a traditional setting utilizing Ancestral and land-based approaches. The men’s group will continue into the next fiscal year, until Big Grassy Service Providers are ready to facilitate without our support.

Family Wellness Camps - In August 2022, our Family Wellness camps were held at Hyatt’s Manion Lake Camp and attended by a total 40 participants from 11 families.

These camps allowed families to gather and participate in healthy activities as a family unit. Activities included ceremony, sharing circles, land-based teachings, traditional games and Anishinaabemowin programming. Families worked on parenting, (structure, discipline, and routine) and healthy bonding through narrative and land-based activities.



Developmental Support Services (DSS): Continue to offer occupational therapy assessment and therapy through a contractual agreement with a licensed Occupational Therapist. This same format is applied to DSS Speech and Language services, a licensed speech pathologist is contracted to provide assessment and clinical supervision to WFS Communication Assistants as it relates to carrying out speech therapy with children. Once again, this service method is followed for Behavioral Intervention Services, the day-to-day behavioral therapy, assessment, and re-assessment is overseen through a contracted, Board-Certified, Behavioral Analyst. These contracts allow for our staff to deliver “therapy” on a regular and consistent basis rather than waiting for monthly visits by registered professionals.

2022-23 was the first operational year for the Behavioral Intervention Services.

The Behavioral Intervention Lead and the 2 Behavioral Intervention Workers completed 40 hours of online Registered Behavioral Technician training and then completed the certification process. All 3 are now Registered Behavioral Technicians working under the clinical supervision of a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst. Additionally, funding was secured through the Ontario Autism Program to hire 2 additional Behavioral Intervention Workers. Recruitment commenced in April of 2023. Early intervention programming included healthy meal kits and early intervention resource kits were also provided during 2022-23.

DSS hosted a Parents/Elder Gathering on February 10, 2023, with funding provided through Cultural Development Therapy (ISC). It also included a Cree style round dance which brought together over 200 people.



In 2022-23, the WFS Cultural Development program funded 4 community based cultural camp proposals during 22-23. 1 at Nigigoonsiminikaaning, 1 at Mitaanjigamiing, and 2 at Seine River. Other programming coordinated through the Cultural Development Therapist (Dylan Mainville) were private/individual ceremonies, fishing, shelter building, wild rice harvesting and finishing, sage picking, birch bark harvesting/crafting, storytelling, regalia making, ribbon skirt program, and the annual sliding event. **This ISC funding was discontinued for 2023-24; however, an application for this funding was made to Jordan’s Principle and was denied, it was then appealed, and the decision to deny the WFS application has since been upheld.**

DSS and WFS will continue to seek out ways and means during 23/24 to maintain these very important services.

Our Developmental Services and the Family Healing Program were both invited to present at the ANCFSAO Provincial Conference in November 2022. Both presentations were highly successful and well attended.

The Family Healing Program was invited to provide a keynote address and a workshop at the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) annual conference. Their keynote and workshop were designed to share and teach on the culturally based trauma treatment model provided by the WFS Family Healing Program.

2022-23 Service Stats by First Nation

WFS SERVICE	AON	BGFN	RRFNS	NFN	MFN	CFN	NiFN	SRFN	LLCFN	OTHER	TOTAL
Family Healing Program											
Pretreatment-Intake	4	7	5	11	0	4	4	5	7	12	59
Treatment Cycle	10	7	10	27	0	10	7	14	8	22	115
Relapse Prevention	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	7	2	4	19
After Care Program (coordinator and clinician)	1	5	3	16	2	8	13	11	8	7	74
Clinical Services											
Telemental Health	6	6	9	11	1	29	7	14	13	18	114
Family Counselling Unit	8	3	7	6	6	10	2	4	4	0	50
Youth in Transition	4	1	0	0	1	3	2	6	3	1	21
Psychological Service Coordination	1	3	0	0	5	3	1	0	0	0	13
Crisis Response	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Developmental Support Services											
Navigation and Intake	9	12	14	14	23	38	21	21	1	13	166
Developmental Therapy	3	4	4	3	3	6	4	4	1	2	34
Speech and Language	0	3	3	6	7	5	1	4		2	31
Cultural Development/Therapy	2	5	8	4	4	39	6	7	8	18	101
Education Liaison	6	1	2	0	9	4	2	5	0	1	30
Early Intervention	0	4	4	5	4	21	13	5	0	8	63
Behavioral Intervention			1			2	1	1			5
NNE SEMI IND LIVING - Intake and Admissions						2	1				3
HOUSING SUPPORT COORDINATOR	2					3	1	4	2		12

2022-23 Training and Capacity Development



DATE OF TRAINING	TITLE OF TRAINING	AON	BGFN	RRFNS	NFN	CFN	MFN	Nigig	SRFN	LLC	WFS	Other	Individuals Trained
Agency Trainer													
June 7-9 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP7 Observation										1		1
June 22-23 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP4 Co-Training										1		1
July 12-14 2022	Train the Trainer										1		1
July 27-28 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP1								2				2
August 24-25 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP2								2				2
September 14-15 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP3								2				2
September 28-29 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP4								2				2
October 12-13 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP5								2				2
August 9-11 2022	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP7		2										2
September 7 2022	ACE Exam		2										2
October 3-5 2022	Indigenous Authorized Worker										1		1
January 4-5 2023	RCW Pathway to Authorization CWP1			2		1							3
January 10-11 2023	Forensic Interviewing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	7		17

RCW= Reimagined Child Welfare

Clinical Services Coordinator													
Apr/22-June/22	Capacity bldg/mentoring	2	2	6	0	4	3	1	0	0	5		23
Jul/22-Sep/22	Capacity bldg/mentoring	4	3	5	0	3	5	3	0	0	7		30
Oct/22-Dec/22	Capacity bldg/mentoring	2	1	5	0	6	3	1	0	0	4		22
Jan1/23-Mar31/23	Capacity bldg/mentoring	3	5	7	0	7	2	0	0	1	9		34
May 6/22	Networking Mtg	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3		7
Aug 17/22	Networking Mtg	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3		8
Feb 16/23	Networking Mtg	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3		8
Mental Health Certification Courses (below)													
Sept. 13-14, 2022	Brief Focused Counselling	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	3		11
Sept. 15, 2022	Attachment	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3		10
Sept. 19, 2022	Motivational Interviewing	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3		10
Sept. 20, 2022	Vicarious Trauma	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3		10
Sept. 21, 2022	Addictions in Youth	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3		10
Oct. 17, 2022	FASD	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3		8
Oct. 24, 2022	Harm Reduction	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3		8
Oct. 31, 2022	Anxiety	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3		8
Nov. 1, 2022	Depression	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3		8



2022/23 First Nation Funding Support – Nanaandawewenin Programs

FUNDING INITIATIVES	DSS - MCCSS -	DSS - ISC	CMH 0-18	CMH 0-18	CMH 0-18	CMH 0-18
	Day Cares and Schools	Cultural Development Camps	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
AON				\$1,460.90		
Big Grassy	\$ 15,000.00		\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90
RRFNS			\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90
Naicatchewenin						
Mitaanjigamiing		\$ 10,000.00		\$1,460.90		
Couchiching	\$ 15,000.00		\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90	\$1,460.90
Nigoonsiminikaaning	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00				
Seine River		\$ 20,000.00				
Lac La Croix	\$ 15,000.00					
Other						



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Naaniigaan Abinoojii

NAANIIGAAAN ABINOOJII

Provides Resource Support to our 9 area First Nations under our devolved model of services.

- 124 Mishkosiminizziibiing First Nation (Big Grassy River)
- 125 Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation (Big Island)
- 126 Couchiching First Nation
- 127 Lac La Croix First Nation
- 128 Naicatchwenin First Nation (North West Bay)
- 129 Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
- 130 Rainy River First Nation (Manitou)
- 132 Seine River First Nation
- 133 Mitaanjigamiing First Nation

Through Service Agreements with our First Nations we all share the vision that created Weechi it te win Family Services giving us the mandate in 1987. Here we are 36 year later, our First Nation are building on Abinoojii Inakonigwewin seeking independence and we share and support our communities in their endeavours.

Our vision has not changed since Weechi it te win Family Services was established:

- To preserve Anishinaabe culture and identity.
- To strengthen and maintain Anishinaabe families and communities.
- To assure the growth, support, and development of all our children within our families and communities.

While Weechi it te win is mandated by the Ministry and we carry the license, we have always adhered to Anishinaabe practices, traditional law, and the inherent rights of our First Nations to care for their children. We continue to harmonize and/or modify those sections of the act that are colonial in nature or disrespectful of our customs, traditions, and values. There has been a shift within the child welfare sector- First Nations voices are to some degree being heard and our youth have a voice and speak confidently on what they need and how we can change services to better meet their needs. Weechi it te win's evolution towards a true Anishinaabe Child Wellbeing Agency model is incomparable to any other agencies. Our First Nations CCP teams have taken initiatives in prevention and support and as a result we have almost 25% less children in care.

Prevention Services

In 2018 through the voices of youth and ongoing networking with our First Nations WFS ensure that Children and families who may be at risk of entering protection services have had greater access to First Nation home-based Prevention Services and Preservation/Support Services which are now directly funded through ISC as of March 31, 2022. This model gave quicker access to First Nations to support their families and most positively prevented any further intrusive intervention services.

First Nation families have access to wrap around services consisting of Counselling, Family Wellbeing, Cultural, Addiction and Family Preservations Support Services in their home Community.

With the CHRT ruling our First Nation members have greater access to health care and meeting of any special needs children and youth. Which has provided less of a barrier and strain on family living within remote communities.

TRANSITION YOUTH SERVICES

Since 2019's youth conference WFS has enhanced the youth transition program based on the asks of the youth. Today we maintain a higher level of support to transitioning youth that better meets their real needs in all areas of their lives.

WFS and our First Nation must ensure youth transitioning are directed to appropriate after care. Youth identified of meeting the criteria may transition to ODSP with the youth's consent to ensure there is a link up with their lifelong adult supports system while having access to their First Nation. Youth fully independent are joyfully transition out of all required involvement. Young adults who are eligible for their Continued Care Youth Services are done so in a way that promotes healthy lifestyle choices. Should a youth wander into an unhealthy life, treatment services are available -with consent. However, the agency maintains that we will not fund any unhealthy lifestyles but are ready should the young person require non-financial support and can reach out independently to their Community Care Team while seeking out treatment to better the life chances.

REUNIFICATION PROGRAM

Traditional teachings, Anishinaabe way of life, and concept of family, were key in establishing the Family Reunification Program.

Naaniigaan Team with blessing of the board of Directors and Executive Director committed to support families that were identified as preparing for reintegration of children back into the familial home. Reunification is planned with the parents once they have completed their service goals.

We piloted this program pre-Covid-19 and is now a regular program that may be accessed. Preparations for family home may contain barriers for full family reunification. Particularly when children have been under In-Care status for 3+ years. These needs may include a minor item such as bedding for children to fixing a broken window, to larger needs such as financial support to obtain a larger dwelling to reunify with their children. The overall vision of this program is to ensure the family home is welcoming to all and provides food security and safe food storage. Key areas for family gatherings include dining and family activity environments such as living rooms. This program was designed from a place of love and honor in respect that families closure from all Child Welfare programs have provided a beautiful launching ground to validate the hard work parents put in to overcoming personal trauma and issues that prompted intervention. This program focuses on all members within the family. Family preparations are done as a team to assist in the tasks all families would partake in to reestablish their safe and permanent home. Families under reunification are provided with 3 months of food security and support while they strengthen family bond and home environment for their children. These supports allows the family to reconnect without financial pressures since it takes weeks for their Child Tax Credit to be reissued. A collaborative approach between Naanigaan Abinoojii and First Nations staff, work to support the parents in addressing barriers to alleviate stressors as the family adjusts to the changes. Families who agree to engage in this program provide confidential feedback to better enhance supports to families.

Some Feedback:

"this has been beyond helpful"

This should have always been a part of all agencies"

"my kids and I had such a blast picking out their rooms décor and they really look cool and love being home"

I can't thank you enough, it's a bit overwhelming but thank you"

"maybe this program could be a bit longer than 3 months"

Trainings by Naaniigaan team

On Call Training 5 sessions of On-call was provided this last year.

Duty to Report Training 3 session were provided this past year

Networking's: 4 Events took place for FN CCP teams

Special meeting: 1 held for CCP teams with ANCFSAO

Supervisor Networking: 5 meetings occurred.

ACC meetings: 8 mtgs were held

CIC support: 3 sessions were held.

MINISTRY Reviews and Licensing

Our Extended Care Review is slated for July 2023 for our Extended Society Care Children and Youth.

Foster Care Licensing review is slated for September 2023.

Tech tables on impacts of future regulation changes are fielded by Naaniigaan Abinoojii team.

Anticipated changes to multiple sections of the CYFSA are forth coming with changes to CCSY contracts expiring for Covid- 19 Ministry Policy as well as youth exiting care to their appropriate services.

Annual Investigation and Assessment Statistics April 1,2022- March 31,2023

ELIGIBILITY BY REFERRAL

ANNUAL STATISTICS

INTAKES /REFERRALS/ information on Open files **963**

INVESTIGATIONS ASSIGNED **67**

INVESTIGATIONS EARLY CLOSURE **19**

TOTAL NUMBER NEW CHILDREN IN CARE **16**

RE-ADMITTANCE TO CARE **27**

Investigation Assist Requests from other Agencies **5**

WFS/Police Joint Investigations **17**

Protocols: CAS/Police Protocol with Tikinagan, KRRCSF, AAFS and WFS were updated in May 2022 and copies signed by all Executive Directors in July of 2022.

Protocol between WFS, Treaty Three police and OPP was completed in January 2023.

Prevention Services continue to be the primary focus of the I&A Unit when dealing with our vulnerable families. Most Recommendations for Response to Referrals was to put prevention services in place through family healing, family support, family Preservation or Cultural Services. Children Being Removed from Families and brought to an out of home placement was prevented at every possible outcome. Where possible a safety plan was conducted with the family to ensure safety of children and that they can remain in the home with parents.

Eligibility Code:

- 1 Code Physical/Sexual Harm by Commission 55 Referrals**
- 2 Code Harm by Omission (failure to adequately care) 44 Referrals**
- 3 Code Emotional Harm 103 Referrals**
- 4 Code Abandonment & Separation 10 Referrals**
- 5 Code Caregiver Capacity 95 Referrals**
- 6 Code Request for Counselling. Consultation 22 Referrals**
- 10 Code Request for Assistance/Consultation/Information 244 Referrals**

NOTE * REFERRALS AND INVESTIGATION DECREASED BY 2 COMPARED TO LAST YEAR

Referrals in 2022-23 = 963 Investigations in 2022-23 = 67

OVERVIEW OF THE 9 FIRST NATIONS SERVICES TO THEIR MEMBERS UNDER CHILD WELLBEING SERVICES

Child in Care= Customary Care, Care by Agreement, and out transitioning youth under CCSY

In Care at Start Date (April 1, 2022) 185

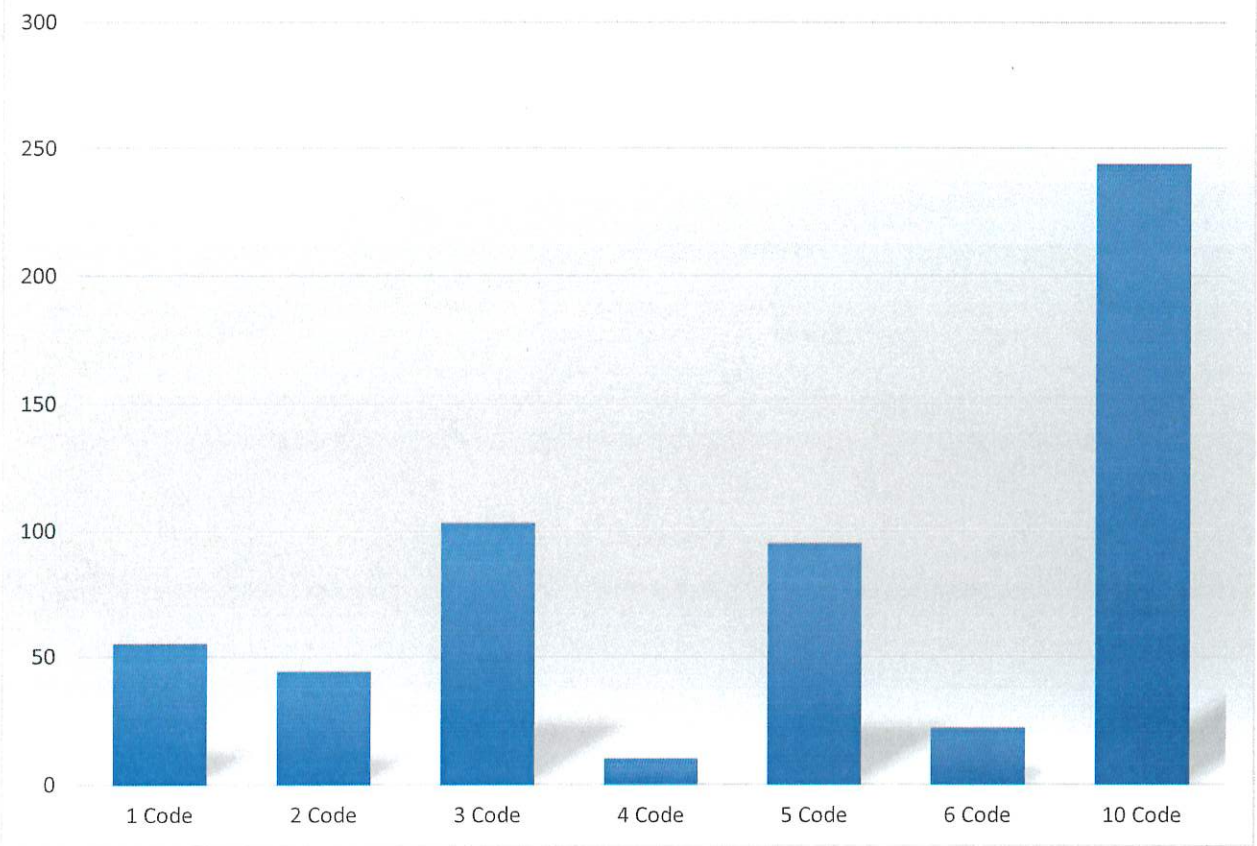
First Admissions: 16

Re-Admissions: 27

Discharges: 60

In Care at End Date (March 31, 2023): 168

2022-2023 Eligibility Codes by referral



Eligibility Code:

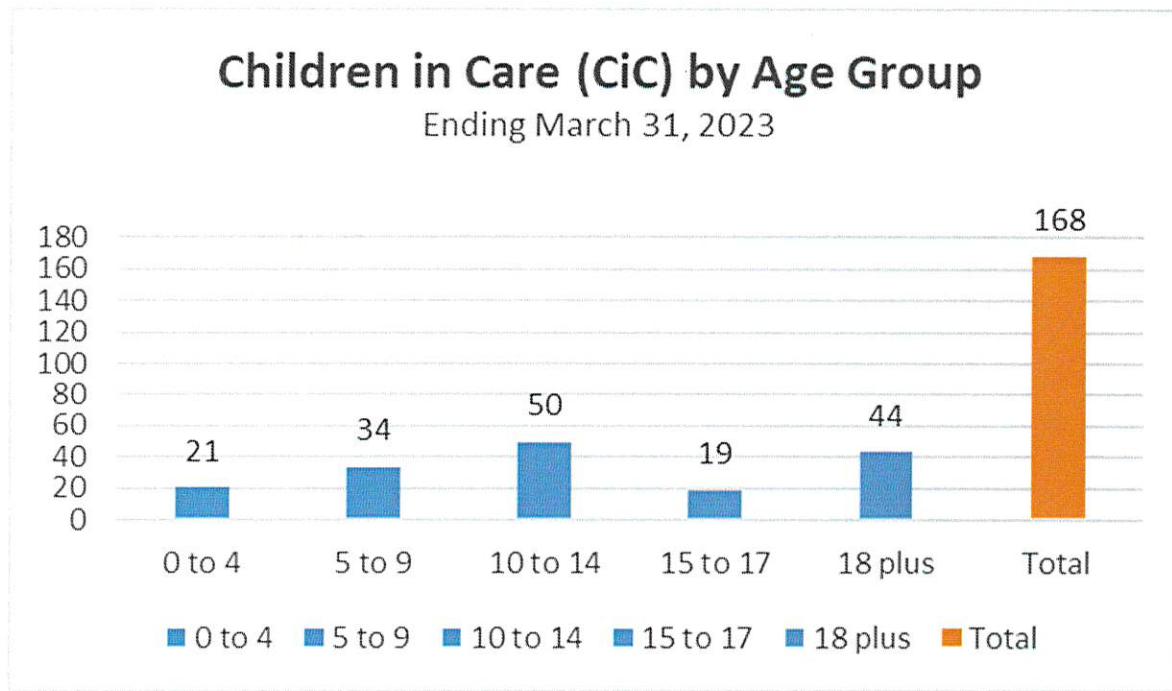
1 Code	Physical/Sexual Harm by Commission	55 Referrals
2 Code	Harm by Omission (failure to adequately care)	44 Referrals
3 Code	Emotional Harm	103 Referrals
4 Code	Abandonment & Separation	10 Referrals
5 Code	Caregiver Capacity	95 Referrals
6 Code	Request for Counselling. Consultation	22Referrals
10 Code	Request for Assistance/Consultation/Information	244 Referrals

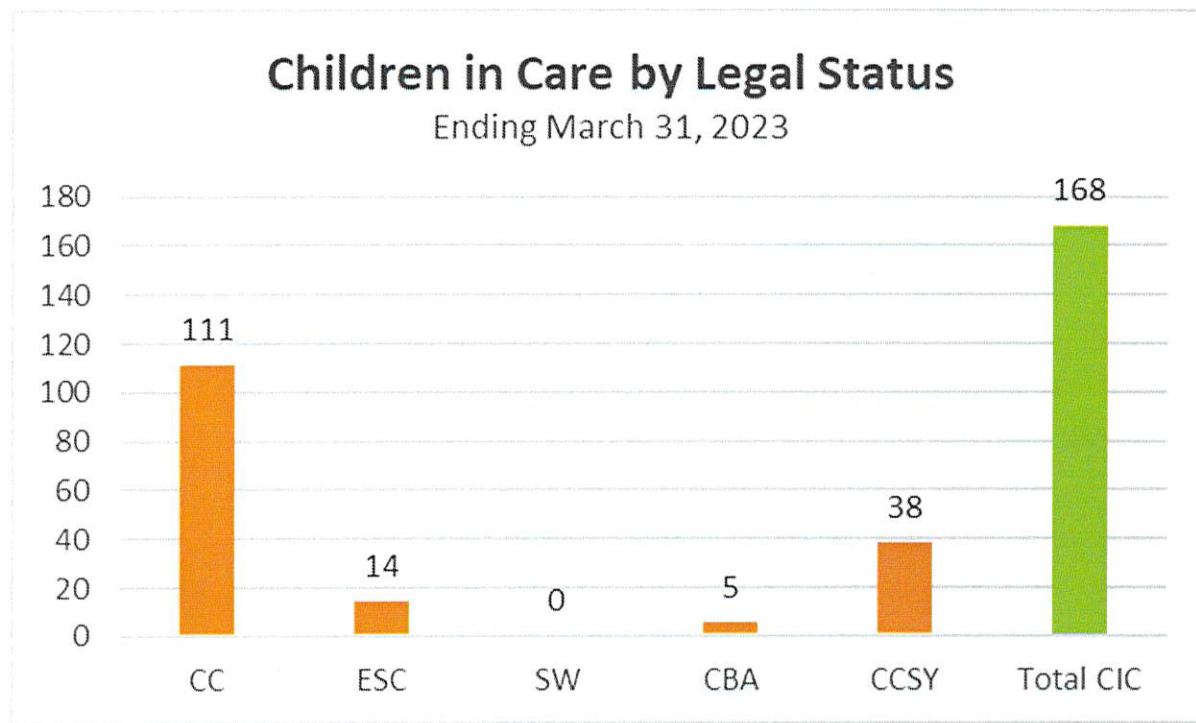
NOTE * REFERRALS AND INVESTIGATION DECREASED BY 2 COMPARED TO LAST YEAR
Referrals in 2022-23 = 963 Investigations in 2022-23 =67

OVERVIEW OF THE 9 FIRST NATIONS SERVICES TO THEIR MEMBERS UNDER CHILD WELLBEING SERVICES

Child in Care= Customary Care, Care by Agreement, and out transitioning youth under CCSY

In Care at Start Date (April 1, 2022)	185
First Admissions:	16
Re-Admissions:	27
Discharges:	60
In Care at End Date (March 31, 2023):	168





WFS Audits and Grading System

Audits are completed quarterly and provided to Chief and Council, CCP Supervisors so that oversight of their expected responsibilities to your children in care via the CCP team Workers

Grading system was created to provide Chief and Council and Supervisors a familiar reference of where their teams currently are function as far as file compliancy. This is not always reflective of face to face services provided, however if an ongoing reflection of file readiness.

Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale
A+	90-100	A	80-89	B	70-79	C	60-69	D	50-59	F	0-49

Alternative Care

WFS END OF YEAR CAREGIVER LISTING			
INQUIRY	HOMESTUDY	APPROVED	TOTAL
11	8	89	108

The total number of 23 caregiver homes were closed. The Alternative Care Workers have a higher number of closed caregivers who have either been stagnant in services or CIC was discharged and caregivers chose to close their home after the service was no longer required for specific children.

FOSTER CARE LICENSING REVIEW 2022 RESULTS

A Licensing and Compliance remote review was conducted during the period of August 8th to 18th, 2022. The review was conducted by Jared Olsen and Rikki Wallace, Licensors with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This year the ministry auditors increased the review size across Ontario from 10 % to 20% of the files and interviews for both Children in Care and Caregivers.

FOSTER CARE LICENSING REVIEW DATA:

CHILDREN IN CARE	#	NOTES
Total number of children/youth in care.	148	
Number of children/youths interviewed	30	
Number of open children/youth files reviewed	30	
Number of Children in Care returning home	36	
Number of closed Child in Care files reviewed	2	

CAREGIVERS	#	NOTES
Total number of approved alternative care homes	100	
Number of caregivers interviewed.	21	
Number of open files reviewed.	21	
Number of caregiver homes closed since last review.	14	
Number of closed files reviewed	2	

RESOURCE STAFF	#	NOTES
Total number of foster workers.	20	9 Alternative Care Workers 11 Child in Care Workers
Number of foster workers interviewed	4	2 Alternative Care Workers 2 Child in Care Workers
Licensee Interview	1	



NAANIIGAAN TEAM SUMMARY

The First Nations and Weechi it te win continue to operate in a prevention, preservation, and reunification model that our founding fathers envisioned. Historical intergenerational trauma, oppression, systemic racism all have impacted our families. We all strive to improve the lives of our children, families, and communities. We embrace our ways and persevere to stand up for change and leave behind a prescriptive paradigm. Focusing on our own way of helping, rather than the rigidity of a colonial model is why we see positive changes happening for our children and families.

*“Naaniigaan team wish everyone a safe and healthy 2023-
2024
Miigwech”*



August 8, 2022
Annual General Meeting
Couchiching FN



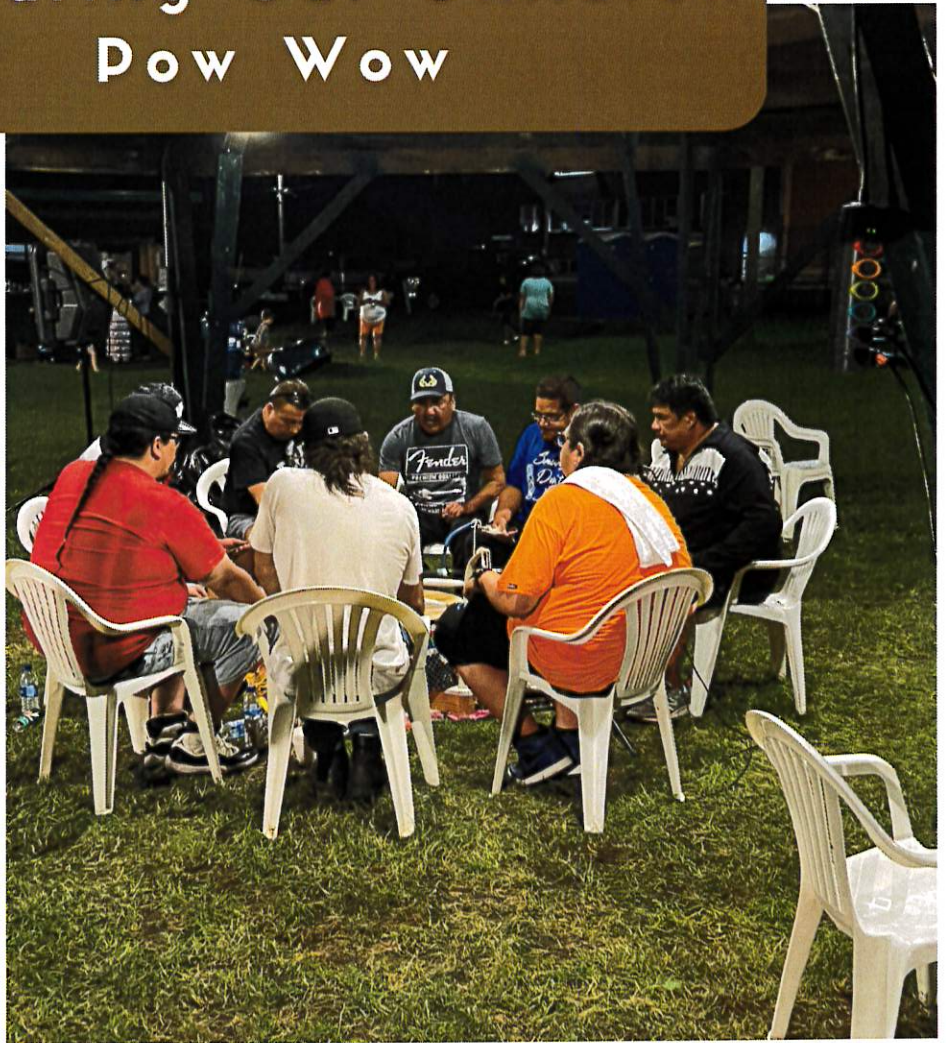


2022 McTavish
Winter Wonderland
Trail of Lights



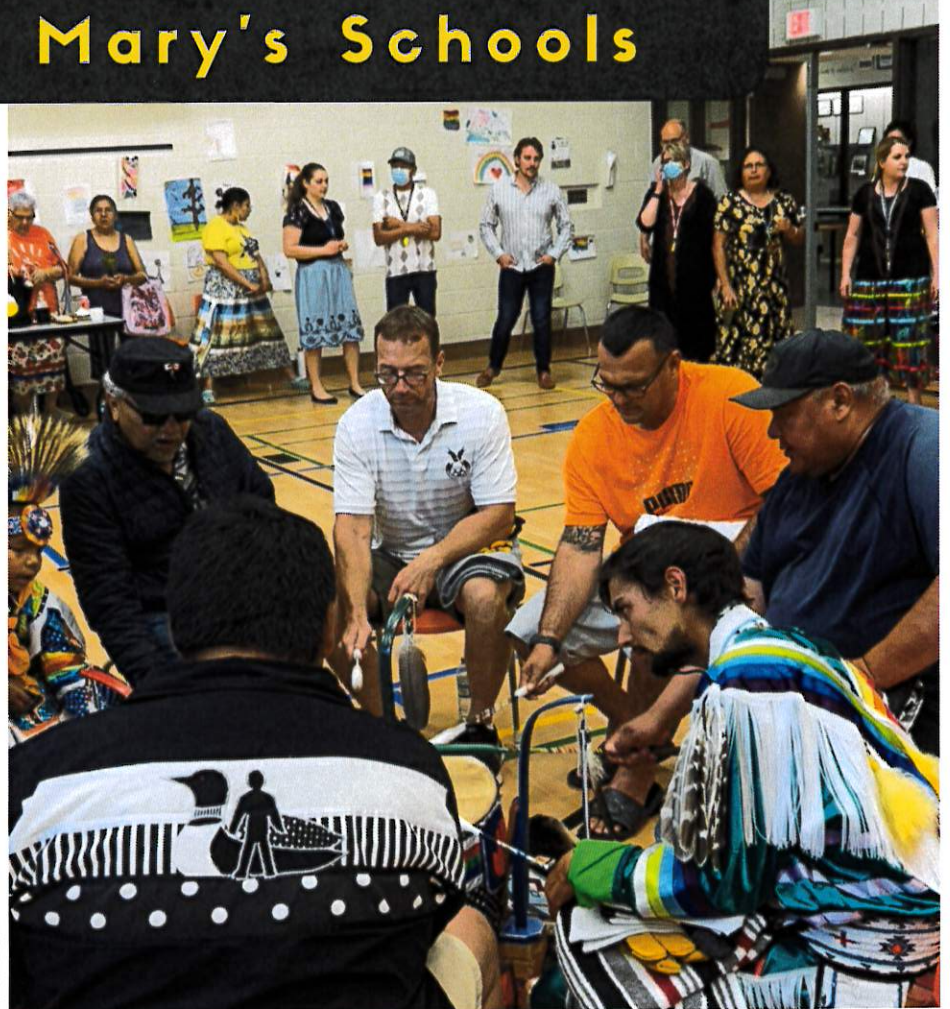


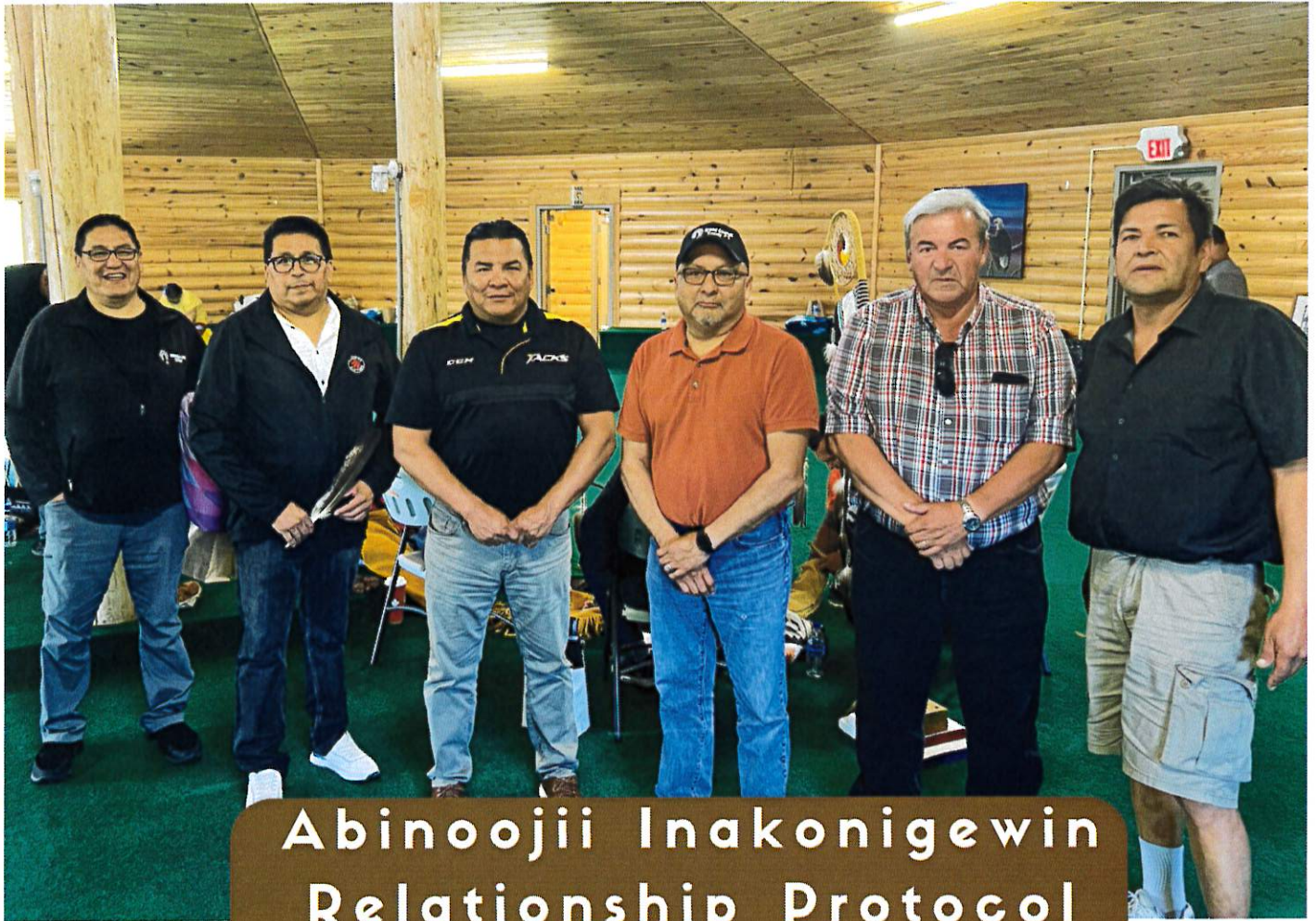
2022
Honouring Our Children
Pow Wow





School Pow Wows Mine Centre and St. Mary's Schools





**Abinoojii Inakonigewin
Relationship Protocol
Signing Ceremony in
Naicatchewenin FN**





2022 Children's Days



CHILDREN'S DAYS

100%

100%

DATES & TIMES
AUG 30 & 31
10:30 - 2:30

BOUNCY CASTLES
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
LIVE PERFORMANCES
SNACKS & LUNCH PROVIDED BOTH DAYS



FAMILY DAY
February 20, 2023

WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN FAMILY SERVICES

FAMILY DAY FUN

SKATE & SWIM
 FEB 20TH

MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTRE	THE DUKE ARENA
10:15am - 11:30am SWIM	11am - 5pm SKATE
11am - 3:30pm SKATE	Light meal will be provided.
1:15pm - 2:45pm SWIM	Contact Danielle Bruyere
Snacks & Drinks will be provided.	at 274-3201 ext: 4052 for more information.

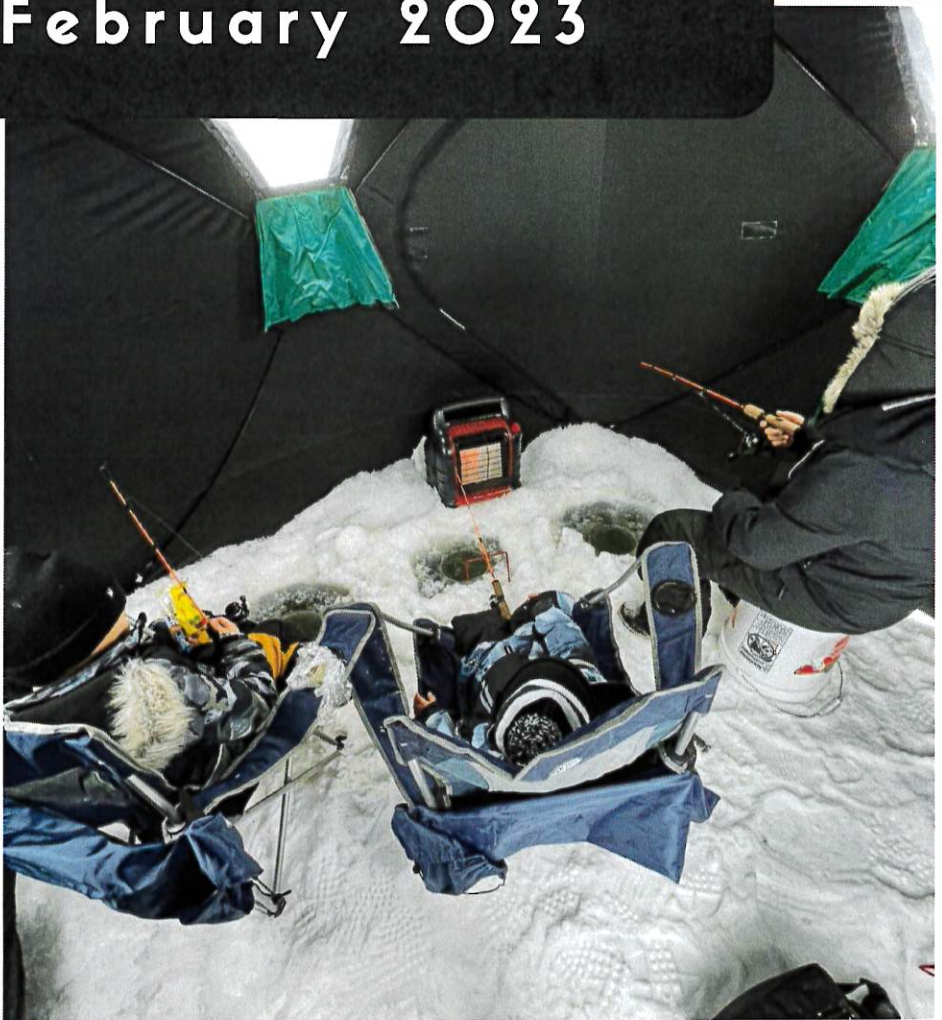
FREE ADMISSION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Parents/Caregivers are responsible for supervising their own children. Weechi-it-te-win Family Services is not responsible for any injuries that may occur while...





Family Fishing Day
February 2023



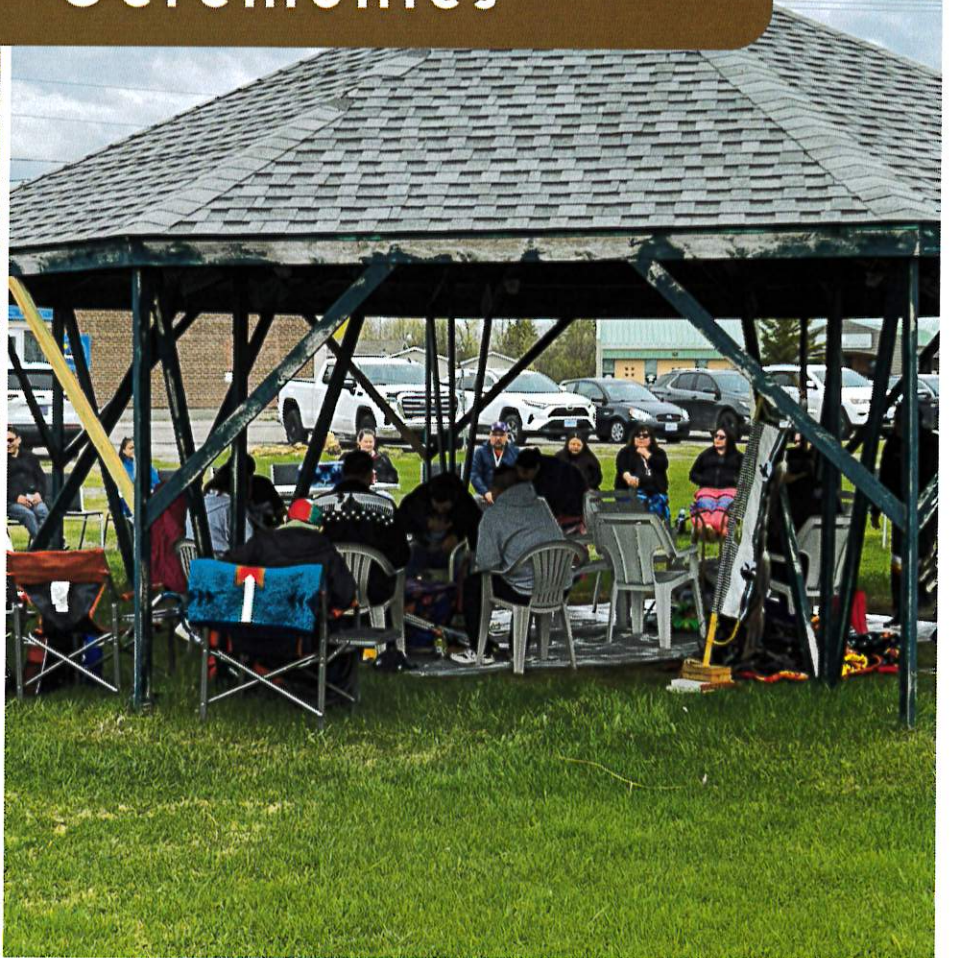


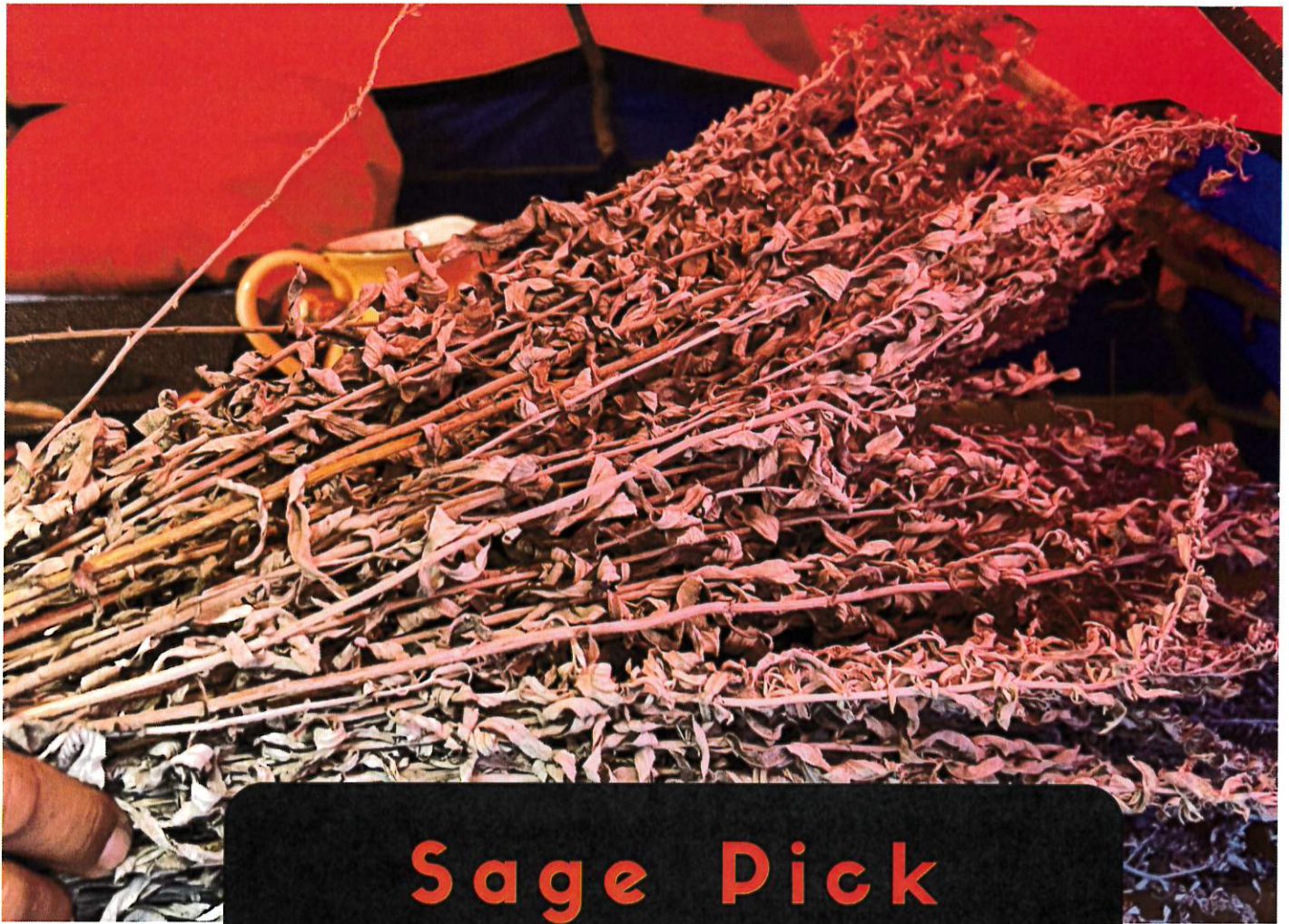
**2023
MARCH BREAK
ACTIVITIES**





2022
Spring and Fall
Ceremonies

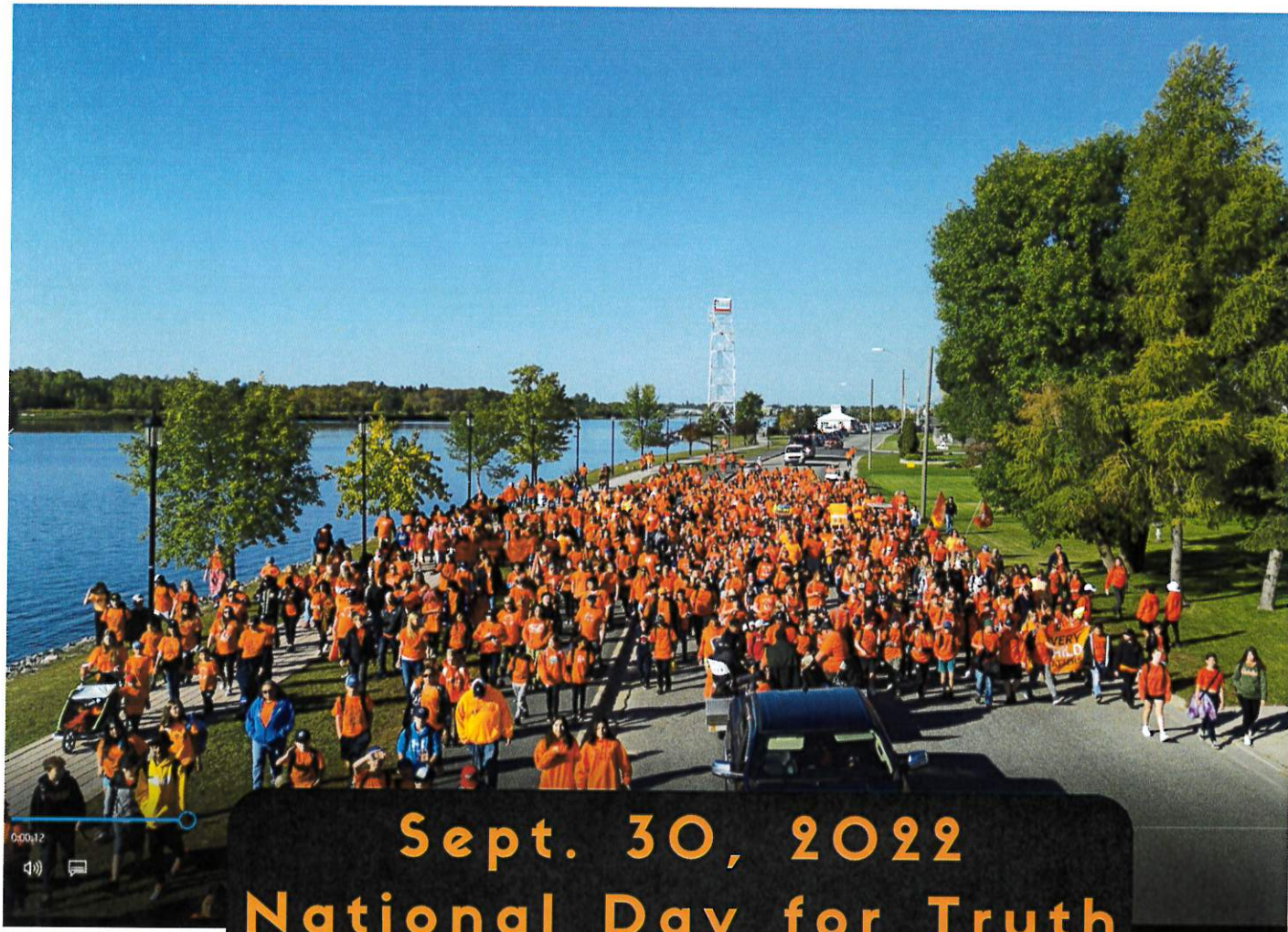




Sage Pick

August 2022





**Sept. 30, 2022
National Day for Truth
and Reconciliation**

