

MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

2024-2025 Annual Report



MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.

Who we are

VISION

The Métis family and community is the cornerstone of our Nation and is built upon love, respect, honour, strength and heritage.

MISSION

Métis families and communities have the right and responsibility to care for children. Métis Child, Family and Community Services will work to strengthen the capacity of families to care for children through culturally relevant community-based programs. We believe in the inherent strength of our families and in the need to build on the capacity of our community to care for and nurture Métis children.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Métis families and communities are the cornerstone of the Métis Nation and the service delivery system must reflect this vision.

Responsibility for decision-making regarding Métis children and families lies with the family, extended family and community whenever possible.

The organizational structure promotes and supports community governance at all levels.

The service delivery system will encompass both formal and informal elements.

The service delivery system must be operated in an efficient and effective manner.

The service delivery system will be outcome based and will reflect the core guiding principles of MCFCFS.

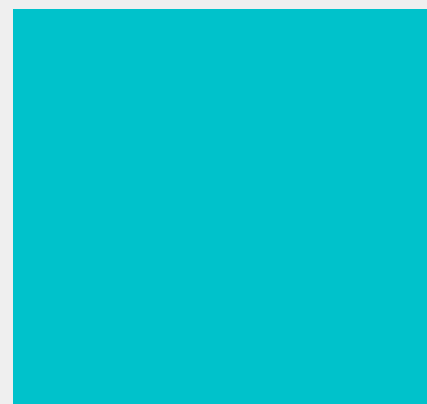
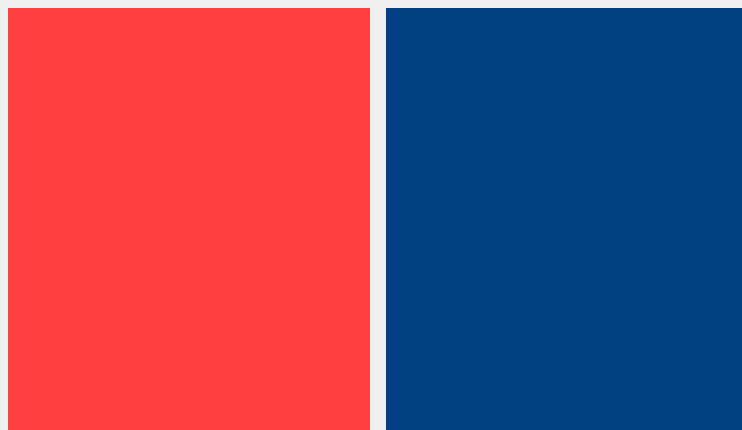


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David Chartrand

**President of the
Manitoba Métis Federation**

The Red River Métis have always emphasized the needs of our children, young adults, and their families. Our Agencies are among the world leaders in child and family services thanks to the vision of our Elders and the values they passed along to us and the dedicated employees who implement this vision every day.

In September 2024, Manitoba settled the Children's Special Allowance for \$84.8 million. The settlement is an incredible achievement for children in care of our Agencies. To date, millions of dollars have been returned to the children in care of our agencies prior to 2019. As I committed since the beginning of this court case, I look forward to every penny being returned to our former children in care.

Also this past year, after over 154 years of fighting, we signed our Treaty, the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty. This Treaty further enshrines our right to Self-Government in Canada's Constitution and entrenches the recognition of the MMF as the National Government of the Red River Métis. This new arrangement will create new avenues for growth for our Nation, including to further our jurisdiction over child and family services. It has been a long-time dream of our Nation and it is finally coming true.

For our Elders, Youth, Veterans, Local leaders, and all Citizens – I wish to thank you for the guidance, wisdom, and the inspiration you give us every day. It is with you in mind that your Government fights every day to ensure that we are not forgotten and that our rights are recognized.

I would like to thank Minister Mona Buors for the insight and expertise that she brings to the portfolio and the advocacy she brings around the Cabinet table.

Meeqwetch,

David Chartrand



Mona Buors

Minister Responsible of Métis Child and Family Services

It is my privilege to serve as the Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services for the Manitoba Métis Federation and to walk alongside Métis Child and Family Services as we continue our collective journey toward full jurisdiction over our child welfare system.

This past year has presented its share of challenges. Negotiations regarding our Coordination Agreement with the Government of Canada were paused, and jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments over funding have persisted. Even so, we remain firmly rooted in our commitment to advancing jurisdiction for the Red River Métis. Our Nation has always stood strong in the face of adversity, and our efforts to reclaim our inherent rights will continue.

Through it all, Métis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCFS) has remained steadfast in its support for our children, youth, and families. Your work upholds the strength of our communities and the values of our Nation. As our large agency, your vast creativity is met with an even higher commitment to the work you do. You continue to build vital partnerships with MMF Departments and Affiliates, helping to ensure that wraparound supports are available to those we serve.

I am incredibly proud to acknowledge a historic milestone reached this year—the conclusion of the Children’s Special Allowance Class Action Lawsuit. The work being done by the Authority and supported by your agency to distribute these funds is life changing. Each day, you are helping to fulfill President David Chartrand’s promise to return every cent wrongfully taken from our children in care, while also connecting individuals with services that support their healing.

To every staff member at MCFCFS—thank you. Your strength, compassion, and dedication do not go unnoticed. I also extend my gratitude to MCFCFS Executive Director Scott Maksymyk, MCFCFS Chairperson Brenda Zak, and the Board of Directors for their continued leadership.

A special thank you as well to President David Chartrand and the Cabinet of the Manitoba Métis Federation for their continued investment in collaboration across MMF Departments and Affiliates with our Métis CFS System, all for the betterment of the families we serve. Merci,

Mona Buors

Minister Responsible for Métis Child and Family Services

MMF – National Government of the Red River Métis



Karla Hildebrand-Eden

**Chief Executive Officer
Métis Child and Family Services Authority**

On behalf of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority and our Board of Directors, I am pleased to recognize Métis Child, Family and Community Services for their remarkable dedication and enduring commitment throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

MCFCFS continues to lead with strength and vision, delivering culturally rooted, compassionate, and community-centered services to Red River Métis children, youth, and families. Over the past year, your resilience, innovation, and heart have been evident in every facet of your work.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Executive Director, Scott Maksymyk, the MCFCFS Board, the executive management team, and all frontline and support staff. Your efforts—anchored in empathy, integrity, and Métis cultural pride—have uplifted youth and fortified the communities you serve.

From advancing culturally safe programming to responding with agility in times of challenge, and offering daily care that nurtures healing and hope, your contributions are both profound and enduring. Your work continues to shape a stronger future for Métis families.

Thank you for your inspiring leadership. We are proud to walk beside you in this shared mission.

Sincerely,
Karla Hildebrand-Eden
Chief Executive Officer



Brenda Zak

Board Chair Métis Child, Family and Community Services

I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible work and dedication demonstrated by our entire team. Our staff's tireless efforts have made a meaningful impact on the lives of the children and families we walk alongside, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering commitment.

I would like to begin by expressing my deepest appreciation to Shirley Langan, who has served as Board Chair for many years and has been a passionate and steadfast advocate for Métis children and families. Shirley's leadership and dedication have left a lasting legacy, and I am honoured to carry forward the important work she helped shape.

This year has also been deeply challenging due to funding constraints that forced us to make difficult decisions impacting not only vital programs but also the jobs and livelihoods of valued staff members. These were not just services lost; they were relationships, commitments, and the hard work of individuals who have made a real difference in the lives of families and children. I want to acknowledge the pain and frustration this has caused across our community, while affirming our ongoing dedication to advocate for the resources needed to rebuild and move forward together.

Despite these obstacles, I remain confident in the strength and resilience of our board, leadership team, staff, and partners. Together, we continue to advance our mission to support Métis families with compassion and cultural respect. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our Executive Director, Scott Maksymyk, and the entire management team for their relentless dedication and leadership during these challenging times.

I also want to recognize the ongoing support of the Manitoba Métis Federation, including President Chartrand and the cabinet members, whose partnership is vital to our journey. Special thanks go to Minister Buors for her commitment and advocacy on behalf of Métis children and families. I appreciate the collaboration and support from the Métis Child and Family Services Authority and its Board, led by Madame Chairperson Barbara Bruce, which continues to strengthen our ability to serve our community effectively.

As we look ahead, I am hopeful that with continued dedication, collaboration, and advocacy, we will overcome the current challenges and achieve new milestones. Thank you all for your steadfast support and commitment to our shared mission.

Meegwiitch,
Brenda Zak
Chairperson of the Board



Scott Maksymyk

**Executive Director
Métis Child, Family and
Community Services**

It is my honour to present the 2024/2025 annual report for our organization. This year has been marked by both resilience and challenge as we continued to walk alongside families and children in our community.

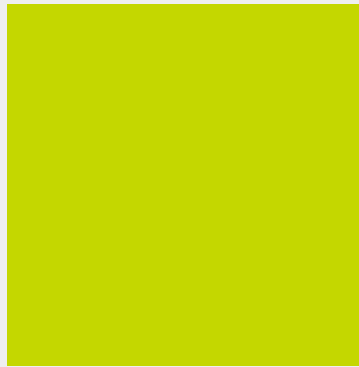
First, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, management, and executive team. Your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and compassion remain the foundation of everything we do. Despite facing difficult circumstances, your tireless efforts to support families have been nothing short of inspiring. It is your strength and dedication that allow us to continue making a meaningful difference.

This year brought significant challenges. Negotiations around Bill C-92 funding with federal and provincial governments stalled, delaying critical resources and implementation. This created an uncertain and difficult environment for both our agency and the families we walk alongside. More than just programs were impacted—these were real people’s jobs and livelihoods: our colleagues, their families, and the close-knit community we’ve built together. Facing the painful reality of staff reductions and scaling back essential services—programs that had made a profound difference in the lives of children, youth, young adults and families—was heartbreaking for all of us. I want to acknowledge the pain and frustration these challenges have brought, not only to our staff but to those who depend on our support. Yet, even in the face of these setbacks, we remain committed to our vision of empowering Métis families.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors, our partners at the Manitoba Métis Federation, and leaders including President Chartrand and Minister Buors. Your continued support and advocacy are vital as we navigate these complex times together.

Looking forward, I am hopeful that renewed collaboration and investment will enable us to build on our successes and expand our reach. Together, grounded in respect, resilience, and partnership, we will continue to walk alongside families toward a stronger future. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and support.

With sincere appreciation,
Scott Maksymyk
Executive Director



Our Board and Executive Management

Chair – Brenda Zak

Vice-Chair – Bev Webb

Secretary – Andrea Clarke

Treasurer – Karen Beaudin

Elder – Marcella Vezina

Member – Edith Desrosiers

Member – Clint Webb

Member – Lucille Lavoie

Member – Lydia Gork

Ex-Officio – Barb Lavallee

Executive Director – Scott Maksymyk

Associate Executive Director – Tracey Bercier

Executive Assistant – Amanda Glassock

Director of Resources – Jason Orchyk

Director of Practice and Innovation – Cathie Hamm

Director of Prevention and Community Support – Ashley Brown

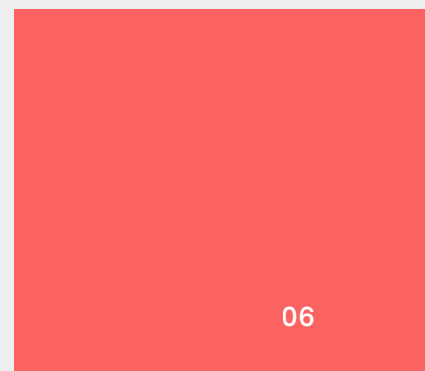
Director of Services (Family Services) – Sarah Fingas

Acting Director of Services (Ongoing Care) – Stacy Jerema

Acting Director of Services (Eastman and Interlake) – Cory Donald

Human Resources Manager – Ashley Catcheway-Harrison

Director of Finance – Joyce Luyun



Advancing Métis Jurisdiction Through Bill C-92: *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.*

While Bill C-92: An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families represents a historic opportunity to transform the child and family services system, we have experienced delays in its implementation over the past year. The lack of forward movement has been disappointing, especially given the potential this legislation holds for Métis families and communities.

Despite these challenges, we remain hopeful that meaningful progress will resume in the year ahead. In the meantime, our agency continues to work in the spirit of Bill C-92, honouring its intent by advancing our partnership with the Manitoba Métis Federation and supporting community-led, culturally appropriate approaches to care.





Children's Special Allowance

This year, we've been proud to witness the long-awaited distribution of Children's Special Allowance (CSA) funds to youth and young adults. These payments — designed to support children in care with essentials like clothing, school supplies, and transitional supports — are finally reaching the hands of those who need them most.

Already, we are seeing incredible impacts: young people are using these funds to stabilize their housing, return to school, access healthcare, and plan for their futures. The CSA is more than a payment — it's a recognition of their rights and a tangible investment in their well-being.

Family Services

LI SERVICES DI FAMILLES

EASTMAN/INTERLAKE

In the Interlake and Eastman regions, our Beausejour and Winnipeg offices remain committed to providing families with caring, relationship-driven support. Over the years, we've built bonds of trust that reflect and honour each family's cultural identity, life experiences, and community roots.

Our approach is one of walking alongside families rather than directing from ahead. By centering collaboration, listening with intention, and recognizing each family's voice, we co-create solutions that are grounded in their realities and aspirations. This strength-based way of working reimagines service as partnership — built on respect, trust, and shared responsibility.

Every day, the courage and wisdom of families inspire us. Their resilience shapes the path we take, and we are honoured to continue this journey together, side by side.



Good News Story from Interlake

When I first began working with this mom and her family a few years ago, the circumstances were very difficult. Her youngest child had been apprehended from the hospital, and her older children had not had contact with family for several years.

Since that time, Mom has shown incredible strength and determination. She has maintained over two years of sobriety, worked hard to secure second-stage housing, and is now preparing to reunify with her 4½-year-old daughter. She is also co-parenting her older son, who lives with his grandmother, and has been working collaboratively with her daughter's kinship care provider (her paternal uncle) to support a smooth transition.

I am immensely proud of this Mom and all the progress she and her family have made together.

Métis Connect

The Métis Connect Program continues to support a fundamental shift in practice across our agency — one that places family and community at the centre of planning, decision-making, and support for Métis children.

At the heart of this work is the Métis Connect Mentor, who provides ongoing guidance and coaching to staff. Through mentorship, workers are supported in embracing a Family Seeing approach — one that encourages us to actively welcome and engage family and community as key partners in each child's journey.

This practice is grounded in respectful relationships, meaningful collaboration, and a commitment to cultural connection. With Métis Connect, we're not just changing how we work — we're deepening how we relate to families, and how we honour their vital role in shaping the future for their children.



Success Story



This past year, our Agency walked alongside a family with two children who were in need of support and care. Within just two days of our first contact, the children's relatives — two uncles, an aunt, and their grandmother — travelled from their communities to Winnipeg. Together, they gathered with the Agency to make a plan that ensured the children would remain surrounded by the love and strength of their family. Their commitment to come together so quickly showed the power of family connection and the importance of supporting families to care for their own.

Métis CART

(Creating Authentic Relationships Together)

The Métis CART Program continued to provide early, relationship-based intervention for families impacted by intergenerational trauma, substance use, and mental health challenges. Recognizing the deep and lasting effects of trauma on parenting, the program offered wraparound supports that are trauma-informed and grounded in harm reduction.

At the core of CART's model is a collaborative team approach: each family was supported by a Family Services Worker, and a Peer Mentor with lived experience. This team walked alongside families to create safe, respectful, and culturally meaningful plans for healing and care. Peer Mentors also extended their support beyond the program, connecting with other families across the agency and demonstrating the power of shared experience.

Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, the CART Program will not be continuing into 2025. While this marks a difficult transition, the lessons, connections, and successes of CART will continue to influence the way we support families across our agency.

Family Story



A young family came to the CART team when the mother was struggling with mental health challenges. At first, she was reluctant to engage due to past experiences with the system.

Through consistent outreach and care, the team gradually built trust, supported her in accessing counselling, and helped strengthen her family's support network. By spring 2025, this family had rallied 10–12 relatives and friends for monthly gatherings, creating calendars and plans to support both parents.

Most inspiring was the transformation in this mom—from hesitant and unsure to becoming a strong advocate for the CART program, eager to share its positive impact with others.

Winnipeg Family Services Teams

This past year, our Winnipeg-based Family Services teams have walked closely with nearly 400 families, working to keep children safely connected to parents or extended family through private arrangements and kinship-based care. These efforts have reduced the need for agency care, and when children did enter care, our focus remained firmly on reunification. We are proud that 50 children were able to return to their families' care over the year.

At the heart of this work is relationship-building. Our staff partner with families to create plans rooted in their values and aspirations, standing alongside them in times of challenge and celebrating their achievements.

It has been a privilege to witness families move forward — ending their involvement with the Agency, reuniting with their children, and finding renewed stability. Their journeys remind us daily of the strength and resilience within our communities.

Walking alongside 400 Families



Reunifying 50 Children



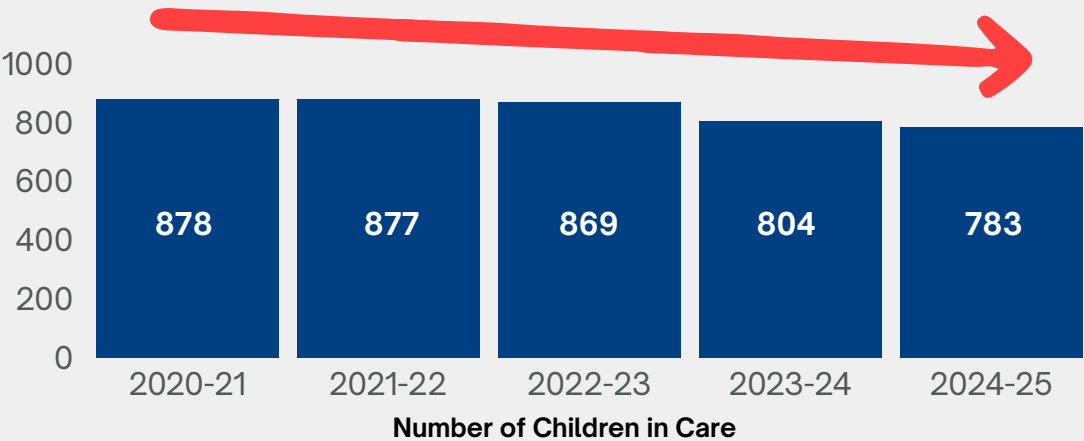
Ongoing Care

Our staff focus on building trusting, respectful relationships with caregivers and families. We walk alongside them to explore ways that caregiving responsibilities can be safely and meaningfully returned to family whenever possible. This work includes personalized support plans, ongoing communication, and regular check-ins to ensure that children and caregivers alike are well supported.

We walk alongside them to explore ways that caregiving responsibilities can be safely and meaningfully returned to family whenever possible. This work includes personalized support plans, ongoing communication, and regular check-ins to ensure that children and caregivers alike are well supported.

The Ongoing Care team approaches each family’s situation with care, flexibility, and cultural sensitivity. By centering family strengths and promoting connection, the program helps build stability and opens the door to reunification or long-term caregiving within the child’s circle of belonging. (fix spacing and recheck)

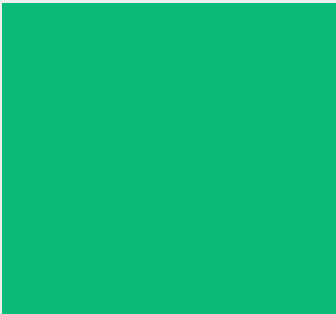
Five Year Decrease of Children in Care



Family Story



A 16 year old youth that we were walking alongside faced the heartbreaking loss of his grandmother — the person who had raised him since birth. In his time of grief, something remarkable happened: his adult siblings and cousins, though relationships had been distant, came together to surround him with love and care. With their support, the youth was able to remain connected to family. At the same time, we reached out to extended maternal relatives in Alberta, whom he had never met. For the first time, he was able to learn new pieces of his family’s story and begin building connections to relatives he hadn’t known before.

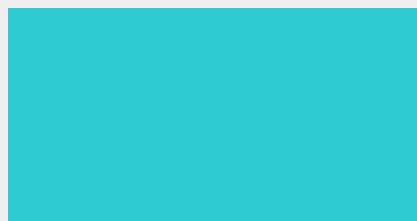
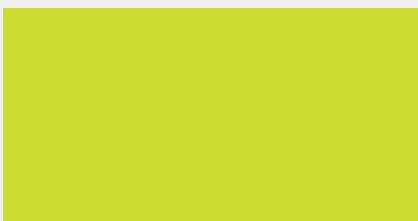
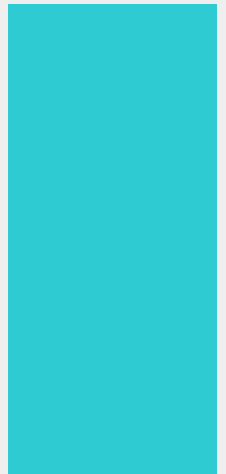
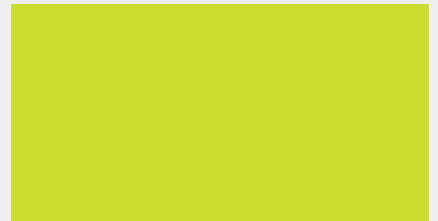
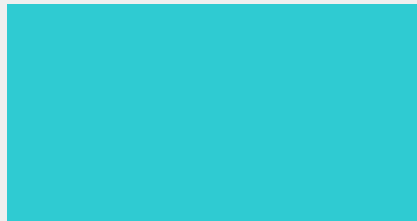
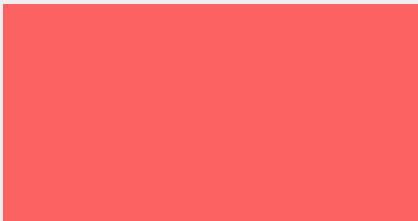


Family Support Program

The Family Support Program is grounded in the belief that strong relationships are the foundation of safe, healthy families. Our work focuses on nurturing connections and strengthening attachment between children and their families — especially when they are not currently living together.

To support this, we offer supported family time, creating opportunities for meaningful visits that help maintain bonds and continued connection. We also provide individualized parenting support, including the Circle of Security program, which offers a trauma-informed, attachment-based approach to parenting.

Beyond direct support, we help families connect with community-based resources so they have the tools and supports they need to move forward confidently — even after our involvement has ended. Every step of the way, we walk alongside families with respect, encouragement, and a belief in their capacity to grow.





Family Enhancement

Our Family Enhancement (FE) team continues to support families navigating parenting challenges by strengthening their capacity to keep children safely at home. Guided by a trauma-informed, strengths-based approach, the team partners with families to explore meaningful pathways to healing while honoring their resilience, wisdom, and existing networks of support.

Over the past year, the team has faced an increase in urgent and complex safety situations, leading to more children requiring temporary out-of-home care. Whenever possible, these children have been placed with kin caregivers, ensuring that vital family and cultural ties remain intact.

Through every challenge, the Family Enhancement team remains committed to restoring safety, fostering healing, and empowering families. Their goal is always to support reunification and help families move forward with greater strength and stability.

Infinity Resources

PROGRAMME D'ENFANTS PI LI JEUNES

Métis Spirit Program

The Métis Spirit Program is a meaningful partnership between our Agency and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), offering individualized support to young adults aged 18 to 25 as they navigate adulthood and increasing independence. Many of the youth we walk alongside face challenges as they transition out of care and work to find stability in areas like housing, education, employment, and community life.

While the program's capacity for financial assistance is limited, the strength of Métis Spirit lies in advocacy, connection and relational support. Métis Spirit Workers help young adults set and pursue personal goals, accessing community resources and overcome systemic barriers. Importantly, this program is available not only to those who aged out of care at 21, but also to those who continue to need guidance and support in the years that follow.



Cultural Craft Night

Each week, the Infinity Circle of Life and Skills for Life teams came together to host Cultural Craft Night at our McGregor location — a vibrant space where children and youth could create, connect, and learn.

These sessions blended hands-on crafting with cultural teachings, offering young people the chance to explore Métis traditions in a welcoming, interactive environment. Projects have included beading (earrings, keychains, moccasins, and mitts), rock and canvas painting, drum and dreamcatcher making, and the creation of talking sticks.

Beyond the crafts themselves, youth also participated in lessons about the sash, the Michif language, and other aspects of Métis culture, often followed by a shared meal that further builds community.

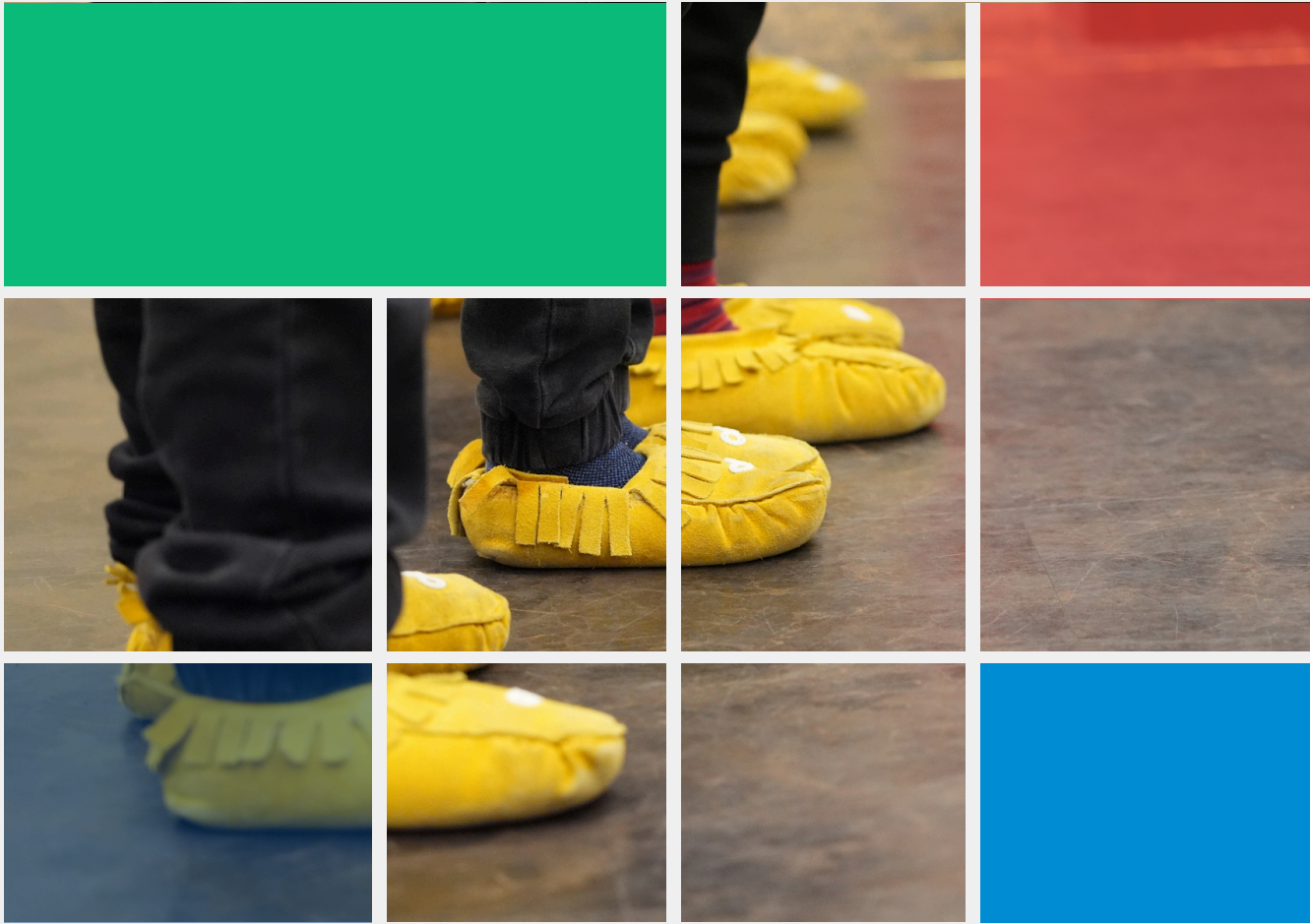
Youth Celebration

The Youth and Young Adults Team played central role in one of our agency's most meaningful annual events — the Youth Celebration. This gathering, held on May 30th, 2024, honoured youth as they reach the age of majority, offering them a chance to celebrate with family, friends, and the many people who have supported them throughout their journey in care.

The event is always a heartfelt occasion, filled with gratitude, connection, and pride. It highlights the strong relationships that have been built over time and reminds each young person that they are part of a wider community that continues to walk alongside them.

Every youth celebrated receives a custom gift package, which includes a candle, a Métis sash with a written reflection, a lanyard, a custom Infinity hoodie, and a \$100 gift card. We also shared information about the Métis Spirit Program to ensure youth know where to turn for continued support as they move forward into adulthood.





Spirit Helpers Committee

The Spirit Helpers Committee is made up of staff from across the agency who are passionate about supporting cultural connection and learning. With the guidance and support of our Children, Youth, and Young Adults Programming team, the committee continues to organize a wide range of cultural activities — from sweat lodges and medicine picking to seasonal ceremonies — offering youth, families, and staff the opportunity to engage with Métis teachings in meaningful ways.

Throughout the year, the committee also hosted Wellness Workshops for staff, focused on cultural crafts, traditional cooking, and land-based teachings. These sessions not only enriched our staff's personal knowledge, but also enhanced their ability to bring culturally grounded practices into their work with families.

Our Cultural Worker continues to lead the development of cultural planning bundles for children and youth, ensuring that culture remains a central part of every family plan — especially when children are placed in settings where their Métis heritage may not be reflected. This work is a vital part of our commitment to identity, belonging, and well-being.

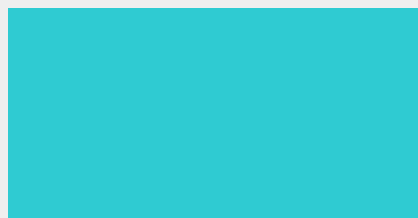
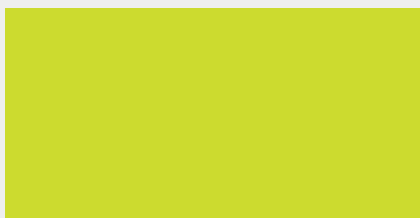
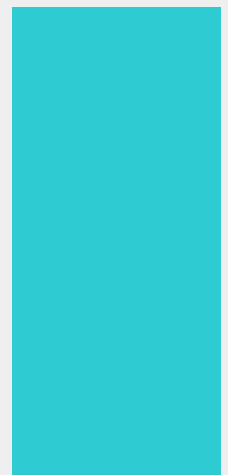
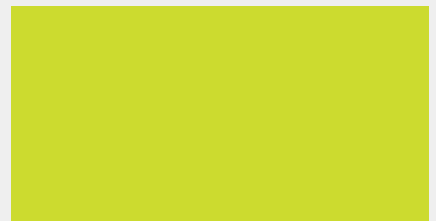
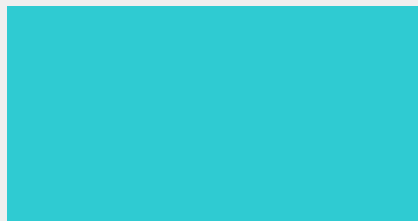
Alternative Care

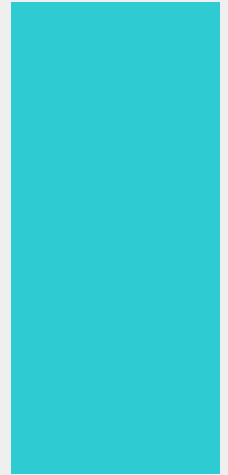
Kinship Care

Kinship care offers children the chance to live with relatives or trusted community members when staying with their parents is not possible. This approach helps lessen the trauma of separation, protect cultural identity, and maintain the relationships and daily routines that are most meaningful to children and families.

Grounded in the understanding that Métis families and communities are the heart of the Métis Nation, our Kinship Care Program supports roughly 300 kinship homes. Caregivers are provided with training, advocacy, and resources designed to strengthen their natural caregiving abilities and draw on the wisdom already present in their family networks.

At its core, kinship care is about honoring the connections that already exist. It affirms that, whenever possible, the best place for a child is with the people who know them best and love them most.





Foster Care and Specialized Foster Care Program

While our focus remains on keeping children connected to their families and communities, there is still a pressing need for both general and specialized foster caregivers—particularly within the Métis community. Too often, Métis children continue to grow up away from their cultural and familial roots.

Through our General and Specialized Foster Care programs, we recruit, screen, train, license, and support foster parents who provide care for children of all ages and with a wide range of needs.

Over the past year, the General Foster Care Program has strengthened its emergency placement services, allowing us to respond swiftly when children require immediate and safe care. Ongoing recruitment efforts continue to build the pool of emergency, short-term, and long-term foster homes.

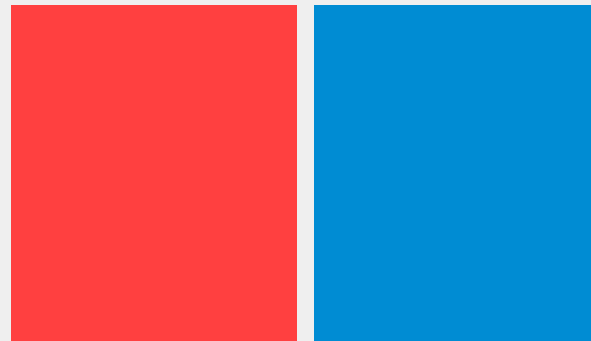
For young people with more complex needs, the Specialized Foster Care Program offers individualized placements in homes supported by highly skilled foster parents and experienced staff. These tailored environments ensure that children receive the specialized care, stability, and encouragement they need to flourish.

LIFE (Live In Family Enhancement) Program

The LIFE Program offered a unique opportunity to preserve family unity while children were in care. Each family was matched with a trained LIFE Mentor who served as a role model, supporter, advocate, and guide—helping to strengthen the overall health and well-being of all family members.

Families typically resided in a LIFE home for at least eight months, with the option to extend if additional support was needed. During this time, LIFE Mentors worked closely with parents to build parenting skills, strengthen life competencies, and ensure the safety and well-being of children in their care.

While this program was invaluable and demonstrated great success, it was not able to continue due to the ongoing need for additional caregivers to support it. We are deeply grateful to the LIFE Mentors, families, and caregivers who made this program possible and helped strengthen the lives of so many families.



Eagles Nest and Gladys Cook

Eagles Nest and Gladys Cook were agency-operated care facilities providing both short- and long-term placements for youth. Our dedicated staff focus on building strong, trusting relationships and creating a stable, supportive environment where youth feel a sense of belonging and commitment.

Youth Care Workers organize a variety of cultural and recreational activities, including community centre visits, YMCA outings, fishing trips, MCFCS programs, and Cultural Camp experiences. Youth are encouraged to take an active role in their care planning, with their voices shaping the goals and decisions that affect them.

Life skills development remained a priority, with training in shopping, cooking, meal planning, cleaning, and budgeting to prepare youth for entering into an Agreement with Young Adults. Family connections were supported through regular visits and involvement in planning, ensuring loved ones remain an integral part of the care experience.



RAILS (Rosedale Adolescent Inter-Dependent Living Services)

The RAILS Program offered an inter-dependent living environment designed for youth ages 16–21, with seven units and nine beds available. Youth live semi-independently while benefiting from 24-hour on-site staff who provide guidance, mentorship, and practical life skills training. Areas of focus included budgeting, nutrition, smart shopping, academic support, personal health, hygiene, and other essential independent living skills.

In addition to one-on-one support, staff coordinated educational, employment, recreational, and cultural activities in the shared Common Area. Youth also participate in the Métis in Motion workshop series, delivered by our Infinity Youth and Young Adult Program staff. Throughout this year, RAILS and the Young Adult program became more and more integrated and coordinated together to provide supports.

When youth transition from RAILS into full independence, they continued to receive outreach support for up to three months to help ensure a smooth adjustment.

A two-bedroom apartment within RAILS was repurposed into a welcoming family suite, providing a comfortable and private space for visiting families. Families can stay overnight, cook and share meals, and spend quality time together in a home-like setting. They also had access to the building's open main floor, which featured entertainment systems and a variety of activities.

Our RAILS staff were available day and evening, ensuring the well-being of both youth and families, while our Family Support team was on standby to provide additional assistance when needed.

Mazoun Infiniti Pakoshayimoohk – Infinity House of Hope

In October 2023, we celebrated the groundbreaking of Mazoun Infiniti Pakoshayimoohk (House of Hope). Today, we are proud to share that construction is complete, thanks to the amazing partnership with the MMF and the Housing Department, the buildings are ready to welcome Red River Métis youth into this transformative new space.

Mazoun is designed as a culturally safe urban transition home for Red River Métis youth who are aging out of care or have already transitioned to independence. It will offer life skills education, therapeutic supports, and culturally enriching programming. Emergency suites will be available for youth formerly involved with Métis Child and Family Services, ensuring they always have a safe and supportive place to return to.

The facility will also extend its resources to young mothers striving to keep their children out of care, and provide temporary housing options for families working toward reunification—strengthening stability and preserving family bonds.

While the buildings are ready, we are currently working through the federal funding process needed to operate this incredible resource. Our hope is that we will soon be able to operate Mazoun and have it stand as a beacon of hope, support, and cultural pride for the young people and families it will serve.





Circle of Security

The Circle of Security (COS) program was a vital resource our agency offered to help parents and caregivers strengthen parent–child attachment relationships, run by our amazing Family Support team. This evidence-based approach guided parents and caregivers in recognizing and responding to their child’s emotional needs, fostering secure attachment and emotional well-being from infancy through adolescence.

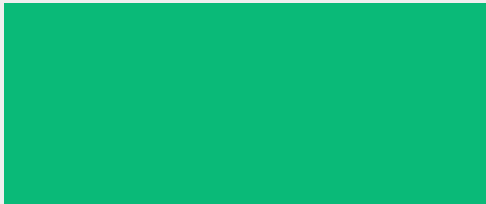
Over the past year, we continued with training sessions for our staff. By equipping our team with a deeper understanding of attachment theory, we are better able to support the children, youth, and families we walk alongside. Integrating COS principles into daily practice reinforces our commitment to nurturing healthy connections and promoting positive developmental outcomes.

Through COS, parents, caregivers and staff gain powerful insights into the dynamics of attachment—creating environments where children feel safe, valued, and supported as they grow.

Summer Celebration

Our annual Summer Celebration was a fantastic success, welcoming families, children, and caregivers for a day packed with fun and connection. Held on July 3, 2024, the event featured bounce castles, a free Slurpee truck, games, face painting, a photo booth, creative crafts, and a delicious complimentary lunch for everyone.

Filled with laughter, community spirit, and unforgettable moments, we were delighted to host over 400 families and children. The Summer Celebration perfectly reflected our commitment to fostering inclusive, joyful experiences that bring families together and celebrate our shared journey.



National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

On September 30, 2024, our Spirit Helpers Committee led a moving ceremony to honour survivors of the Indian Residential Schools and remember the children who never returned home. Staff gathered along the Assiniboine River, where tobacco was offered, and prayers were shared.

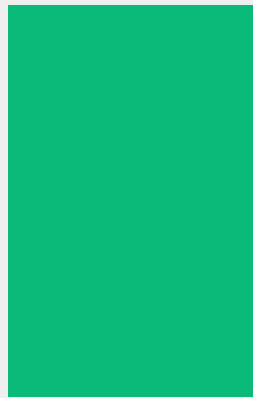
In a unified show of solidarity and reflection, staff wore orange shirts and ribbon skirts, reaffirming our commitment to truth, reconciliation, and ongoing support for Indigenous communities.



Children and Youth Programs Christmas Celebration

On December 18, 2024, our child and youth programs brought the spirit of the season to life with a joyful Youth Christmas Celebration. Guests enjoyed a warm holiday meal and festive activities, creating the perfect backdrop for a day filled with cheer. The talented Little Métis Toe Tappers lit up the stage with their lively performance, and the excitement reached its peak when Santa arrived to hand out gifts and share in the magic of the season.

The event was filled with smiles, laughter, and connection—reminding us how powerful it is to come together as a community to celebrate and create lasting memories for our youth.



Métis Child and Family Services Family Christmas Party

This past year, we were honoured to host our 2nd annual Métis Child and Family Services Family Christmas Party, in partnership with Michif Child and Family Services and the Métis CFS Authority. The event brought together families we support for a day filled with joy, laughter, and connection, with nearly 1,000 people joining in the celebration.

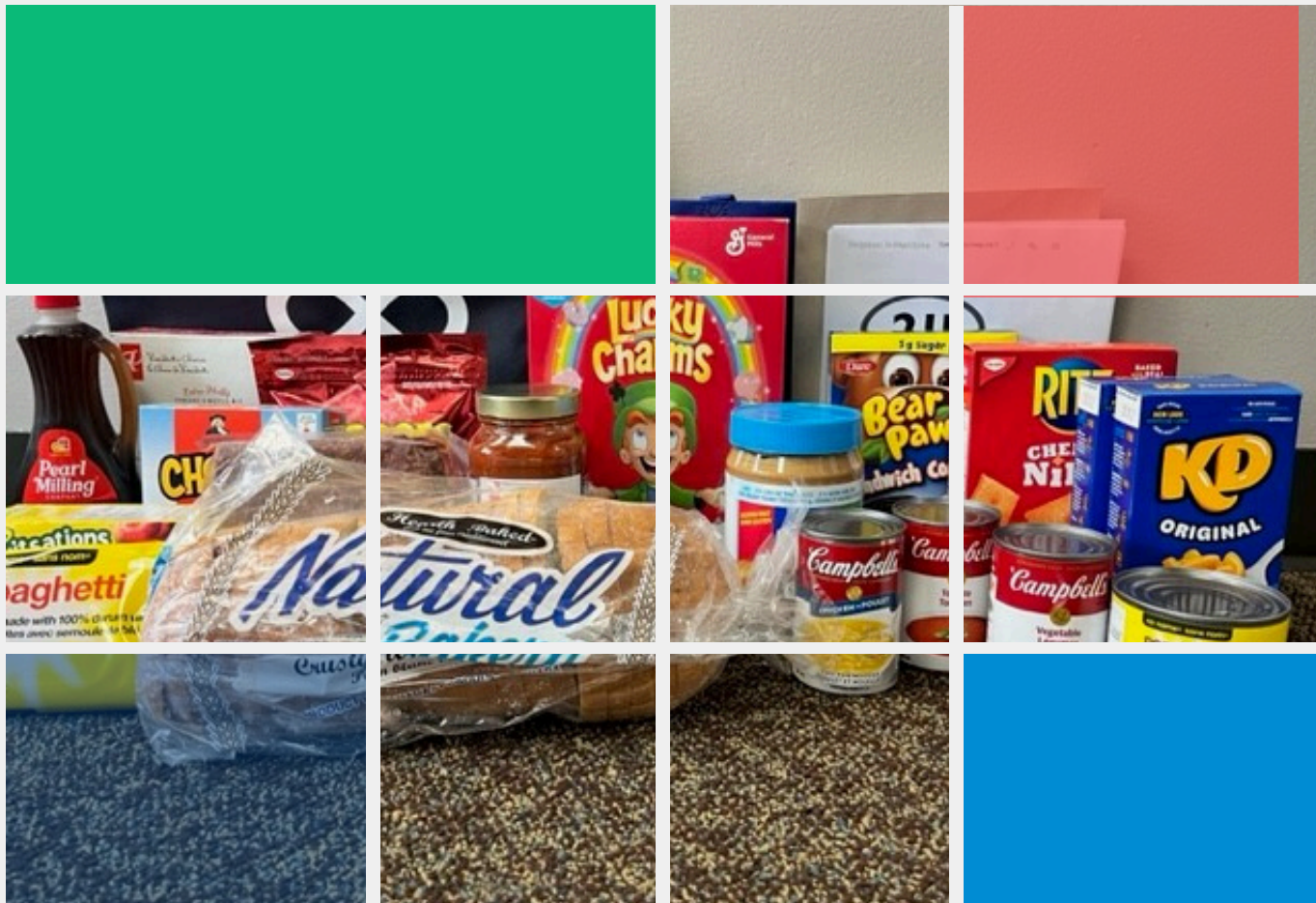
The gathering offered something for everyone—rides, crafts, face painting, and treats like hot dogs, snow cones, and mini donuts. The highlight, of course, was Santa Claus, who brought excitement and wonder as children eagerly lined up to meet him.

Now a beloved tradition, this celebration continues to strengthen community ties while creating lasting memories. It was a heartwarming day that reflected the spirit of togetherness, culture, and the joy of the holiday season.

Christmas Hampers

Our Family Support Program proudly continued its tradition of delivering holiday cheer through our annual Christmas hampers, in partnership with the MMF President's Office. This year, 44 families we walk alongside received hampers filled with all the essentials for a festive Christmas dinner, along with gifts for every child in the home.

We are deeply grateful to the MMF President's Office for their generous funding, which made this initiative possible. Teams within the agency also put together hampers to hand out to families. The holiday season can bring added pressures for many families, and through programs like the Christmas hampers, we strive to ease those burdens—helping ensure families can focus on what matters most: sharing joy, connection, and celebration together.



Little Bears

Little Bears was held every two weeks as part of the Circle of Life program, offering children and youth a safe and welcoming space to come together. The group introduced participants to Métis culture through games, music, dance, and storytelling, while also teaching traditional skills such as spoon playing and jigging. Each gathering included a shared meal, creating both comfort and community around the table.

Beyond the activities themselves, Little Bears gave children the chance to form friendships, strengthen their cultural identity, and experience the stability of consistent connection. These meaningful relationships fostered trust and belonging—essential foundations for their growth, confidence, and well-being.



Cultural Craft Night

Each week, we joined together to host hands-on cultural craft sessions at our McGregor location. These evenings blended creativity with learning, as children and youth explored both artistic expression and traditional teachings. Participants worked on a variety of projects, from beadwork (earrings, keychains, moccasins, and mitts) to painting, drum-making, talking sticks, dream catchers, and more. Alongside the crafting, youth were introduced to the history and meaning of cultural symbols such as the sash, and engaged in Michif language lessons in an interactive way. Every session concluded with a shared meal, reinforcing community and connection.

Bell Let's Talk Community Fund

We are pleased to report that we have received a \$20,000 donation from the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund. This generous contribution supports our "Ready to safeTALK...about suicide" project.

The funding covers one round of SafeTALK "training for trainers," establishing a pool of 10 certified SafeTALK trainers. Additionally, it includes the purchase of participant toolkits, enabling these trainers to provide suicide prevention training within communities and organizations moving forward. Some trainer candidates will come from our internal staff, while others will be valuable partners supporting Métis families alongside our agency.



Key Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Assets	\$7,908,938
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	\$8,842,920
Net assets	(\$933,982)
Total	\$7,908,938

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

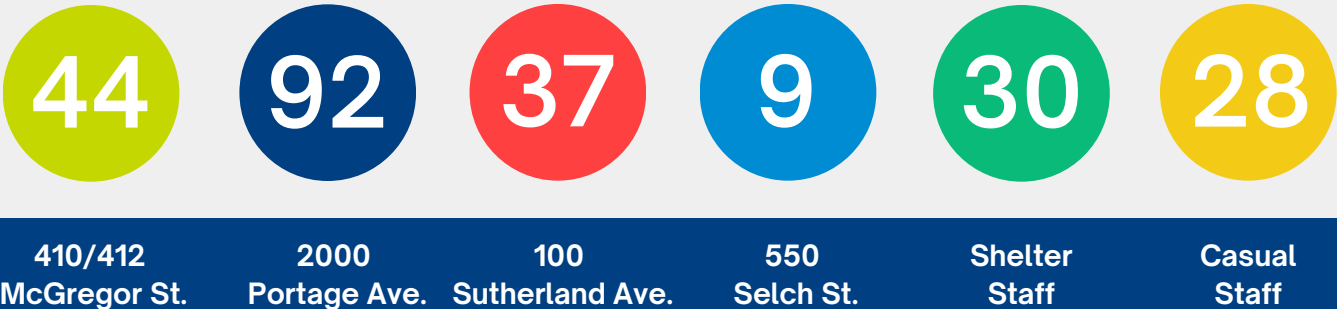
Revenue	\$51,814,526
Expenses	
Operations	\$17,999,163
Child Maintenance	\$31,592,865
RAILS	\$803,767
LIFE	\$133,717
Shelters	\$1,517,598
CART	\$510,266
Total	\$52,557,376
Net Deficit	(\$742,850)

Human Resources

Over the past year, our Human Resources team has worked hard to make our organization run more smoothly and support our staff in the best way possible. We’ve improved how we do things by updating policies, simplifying processes, and introducing tools that make everyday tasks easier. We refreshed our workplace guidelines to keep up with changing standards, added more user-friendly HR systems, and strengthened our approach to supporting staff and managing performance. These changes have helped create a more connected, supportive workplace and ensured HR is an active partner in helping our whole organization succeed.



Total Staff Information



Offices



412 McGregor St
Winnipeg, MB R2W 4X5
Tel: 204-927-6525
Fax: 204-927-6544



2000 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0K1
Tel: 204-927-6960
Fax: 204-927-6943



100 Sutherland Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 3C7
Tel: 204-697-1118
Fax: 204-927-7278



550 Selch Street
Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0
Tel: 204-268-6460
Fax: 204-268-6490

**METIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

2024-2025 Annual Report



**METIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.**