

Michif Child and Family Services **ANNUAL REPORT** **2024-2025**



WHO WE ARE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Métis families and communities are cornerstones of the Métis Nation and the service delivery system must reflect the vision.
- The family is the center of Inuit culture and cooperation and sharing is a basic principle in Inuit society.
- Responsibility for decision-making regarding Métis and Inuit children 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 founding principles of Michif Child and Family Services.



VISION

Métis and Inuit families and communities are nurtured through love, respect, honour, strength and heritage within their distinctive cultures.

MISSION

Métis and Inuit families and communities have the right and responsibility to care for children within their cultures. Michif Child and Family 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 our children.



DAVID CHARTRAND

PRESIDENT OF THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

For generations, our Elders have guided us to ensure that our children and youth are at the forefront of everything we do. This wisdom is one of the many reasons that our Agencies are among the best in the world at what they do – thanks to the dedicated staff who implement this vision every day.

We took this approach even when negotiating and ultimately settling the Children's Special Allowance class action against Manitoba for \$84.8 million. Since we began this fight, the MMF's goal was to return every penny taken from our children in care back to those it was wrongfully taken from. This Settlement is a historic achievement and we are so proud of what it will do for our current and former children in care prior to 2019.

Also this past year, after over 154 years of fighting, the Red River Métis signed our long awaited 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 give our Nation more tools in our toolbox, and even opens new possibilities for us taking back our jurisdiction over child and family services. This long-time dream for many of our grassroots leaders is finally becoming a reality.

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 to ensure that we are not forgotten and that our rights are recognized.

I would also 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 FOR 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 Michif Child and Family Services as we continue our collective journey toward full jurisdiction over our child welfare system. This past year has not been without its trials.

Negotiations regarding our Coordination Agreement with the Government of Canada were paused, and jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments over funding have continued. Despite this, we remain steadfast in our commitment to securing 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, Michif Child and Family Services (MCFS) has remained committed in its support for our children, youth, and families. Despite being a small agency in size, you are mighty in your devotion to the work you do. Your efforts support our communities and the values of our Nation. Your ongoing dedication to ensuring partnerships with MMF Departments and Affiliates is commendable, helping to ensure that wraparound supports are available in the regions you service.

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 MCFS—thank you. Your strength, consideration, and devotion do not go unnoticed. I also extend my gratitude to MCFS Executive Director Maggie Marin, Acting Executive Director Quinton Sanderson, MCFS Chairperson Echo Finlay, 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 Michif Child and Family Services for their remarkable dedication and enduring commitment throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

Michif CFS 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 Margret Marin, the Michif CFS 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
Métis Child and Family Services Authority



ECHO FINLAY

BOARD CHAIR

MICHIF CHILD AND FAMILY
SERVICES BOARD

Greetings,

It is with deep gratitude and great warmth that I welcome you on behalf of the Board of Directors. Whether you are a dedicated staff member, a tireless Red River Metis Government official, a supportive partner, or one of the many families we walk alongside, please know that your presence and participation mean the world to us.

Over the past year, we have witnessed both challenge and triumph. Through it all, what has remained constant is the unwavering commitment of our leadership —to protect, support, and uplift children and families in need. Your resilience inspires us daily. Your compassion lights the way forward. I would like to give special acknowledgement to Maggie Marin, our Executive Director, Quinton Sanderson, as he rose to the challenge as Acting Executive Director in Maggie's absence, and Kisty Argue in her supportive management role.

As we continue our work, we do so with renewed hope. Hope that every child will grow up feeling safe, seen, and supported. Hope that every family will have the resources and encouragement they need to thrive. And hope that, together, we can create a future where dignity, opportunity, and care are not the exception, but the norm.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Thank you for believing in the power of the Manitoba Métis Federation and the promise of tomorrow.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Echo Finlay
Chair, Board of Directors
Michif Child and Family Services



MARGARET MARIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHIF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

This fiscal year, we navigated significant budget constraints while remaining committed in our mission to support families and communities. Despite financial challenges, our commitment to leveraging the strength of our partnerships, the efficiency of our programs, and the dedication of our staff allowed us to achieve meaningful progress in serving those who need us most. As we look ahead, we remain focused on securing sustainable funding, enhancing key programs, and further expanding our community partnerships.

Key Highlights:

- **Children's Special Allowance (CSA):** We entered the next phase of CSA with Authority, focusing on active engagement with youth and young adults to set up settlements and ensure timely payments.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Our collaborations with the Red River governments, Regional, local entities, and other organizations have been integral to our success. We are proud to have supported thirty events with over 180 children, youth and families, including back-to-land programs, the Shell River Camp through the Northwest Métis Council, and various outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking, and fishing. These initiatives have promoted Métis culture, community engagement, and well-being, directly benefiting families and children.
- **Annual Youth Celebration:** This year's Annual Youth Celebration was filled with impactful activities, culminating in a heartfelt evening ceremony. Youth shared messages of resilience, care, compassion, and determination. We celebrated the growth and accomplishments of our young individuals and look forward to the bright futures they will continue to build.
- **Building Connections:** Our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to reconnect youth with their families, fostering stronger, more meaningful relationships. We have celebrated numerous successes in re-establishing family bonds and are proud to witness the lasting, positive impact these connections will have on everyone involved through reconciliation.

As we continue our work toward the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) jurisdiction, we are confident that our thorough preparation will position us to navigate any potential changes. We extend our deepest gratitude to President David Chartrand, Minister Mona Buors, the MMF Government, the Métis Child and Family Services Authority staff, Karla Hildebrand-Eden and Desiree Gillespie for their ongoing support. We also appreciate the leadership of our Board of Directors, led by Chair Echo Finlay.

In conclusion, my heartfelt thanks go to the staff, management, and executive team for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their commitment has been foundational to our success and has made a lasting impact on the lives of those we walk alongside.

OUR BOARD

Echo Finlay – Chairperson
Jeanette Brown-Porter – Vice Chairperson
Vicki Campbell – Vice Chairperson
Mackenzie Legault – Treasurer
Lesley Sembaluk – Secretary
Ethel Mckay – Director
Camille Bertholet – Director
Eldon Campbell – Elder
Marguerite (Marg) Bagley - Elder
Cathy Fidlerchuk - Ex Officio

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Margaret Marin - Executive Director
Quinton Sanderson - Director of Service
Kisty Argue - Director of Service
Jared Folkerts - Director of Service
Dina Bone - Executive Assistant
Heather Crammond - HR Manager
Samer Barahmeh - Finance Manager

SUPERVISORS

Angie Kuzyk - Dauphin Family Service
Nina Crawford - Resource
Echo Harkiss - Swan River Family Service
Denise Tomkins - Intake
Melanie Rey-Clark - Portage Family Service
Troy Caruk - Dauphin Family Service
Harold Delaronde - Program
Jolene Reimer - Brandon Family Service
Maurae Carnegie - Program
Sharon Stieben - Program
Kaitlen Epp - Admin
Margaret Bartlett - The Pas/Thompson - Family Service





Dauphin

505 Main St. S Dauphin, MB,
204-638-7896

202 Main St. S Dauphin, MB,
204-638-7896

611 Main St. N Dauphin, MB,
204-622-3520

The Pas

Box 1288; 456 Fischer Ave.
The Pas, MB,
204-627-2060

Thompson

102 - 83 Churchill Dr. Thompson MB
204-677-0120

Swan River

1328 Main Street, Swan River MB
204-734-3927

Brandon

141 Rosser Ave. Brandon, MB,
204-727-8540

Portage La Prairie

27 Royal Rd. S Portage La Prairie, MB,
204-239-8720

Email: Info@michifcfs.com

Website: Michifcfs.com

Toll Free: (877) 676-7921

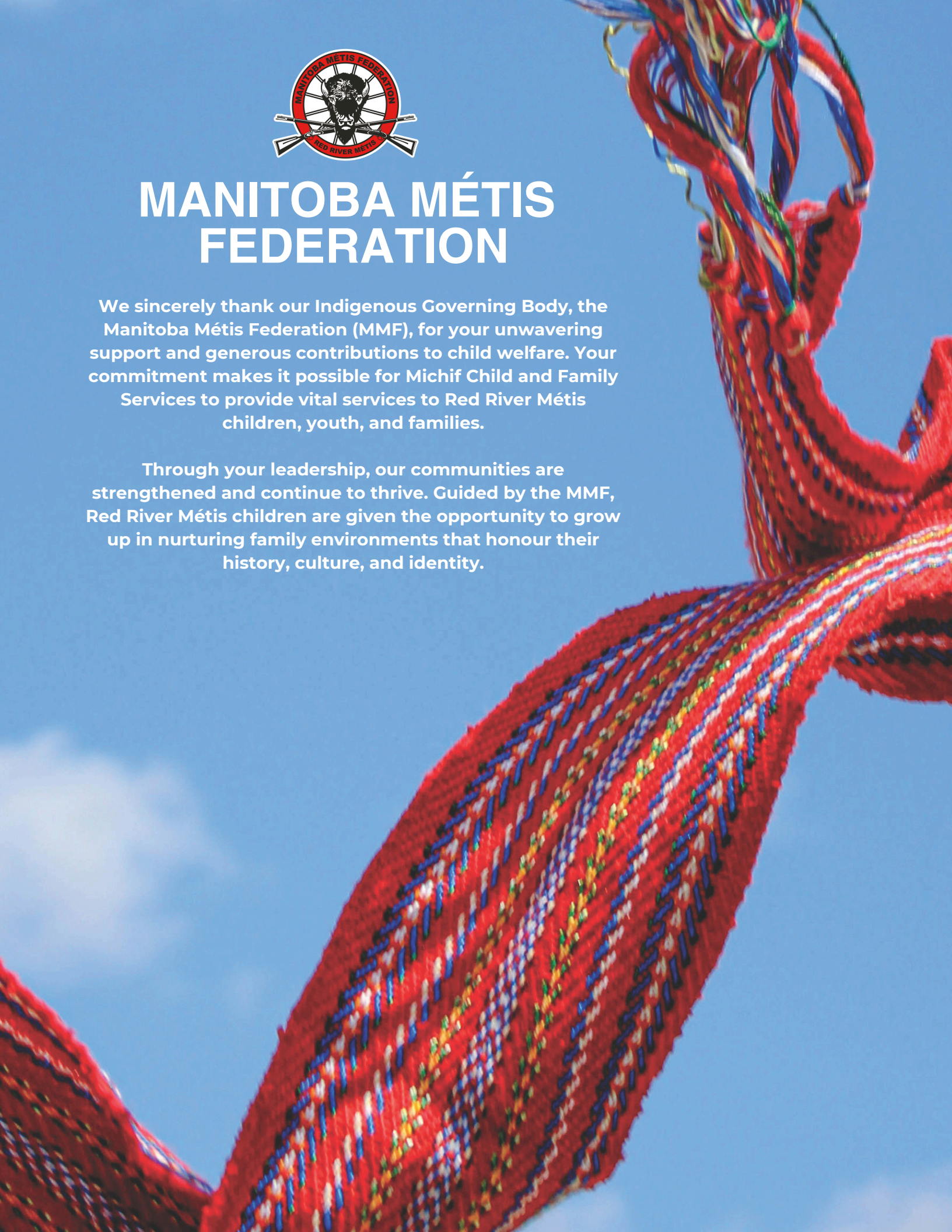




MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

We sincerely thank our Indigenous Governing Body, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), for your unwavering support and generous contributions to child welfare. Your commitment makes it possible for Michif Child and Family Services to provide vital services to Red River Métis children, youth, and families.

Through your leadership, our communities are strengthened and continue to thrive. Guided by the MMF, Red River Métis children are given the opportunity to grow up in nurturing family environments that honour their history, culture, and identity.



PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTAKE

During the 2024–2025 year, the Intake Unit continued to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect, while providing vital support and advocacy to families throughout the Parkland area. A significant change this year was the transition of Designated Intake Agency (DIA) responsibilities from Michif Child and Family Services to the Province of Manitoba, effective July 1, 2024.

This transition represented a major shift in service delivery across the region. The Intake Unit played a key role in managing the change effectively and ensuring continuity of care for families affected by the shift. Staff provided guidance, support, and reassurance to families during this period, helping them navigate the transition between agencies with minimal disruption.

Many Intake Workers chose to remain with Michif Child and Family Services, transitioning into new roles within the agency. Their continued commitment and experience have helped maintain a strong foundation of service and ensure that families continue to receive timely, compassionate support.



FAMILY ENHANCEMENT

The Family Enhancement unit aims to empower families and enhance family functioning to ensure the long-term wellbeing of children. The goal is to work with care providers to support growth and facilitate change through advocacy, connecting families with supportive relationships and through the provision of programming and educational materials to create strong and resilient families and communities. The team is committed to providing support to families through voluntary services and bridging the gaps in community-based resources and services in rural settings through agency-based supportive programming by walking alongside families offering strength-based, solution-focused, culturally sensitive supports through a trauma-informed lens.

The Family Enhancement program ran the Circle of Security Parenting program over eight sessions in Dauphin throughout the months of November 2024 to January 2025 with five participants receiving a certificate after completing the program. The Family Enhancement program also was supported by a University of Manitoba Practicum Student who completed their Social Work Practicum by working with and walking alongside the families that the program supported.



Our Family Services team continues to demonstrate resilience and dedication to the children's and families they walk alongside. Despite these pressures, staff have remained committed to providing consistent, child-centered services. Regular case reviews in collaboration with the Permanency Planning Committee (PPC) have allowed for thoughtful planning, networking, and implementation of best practices for all children within our agency.

A major focus this year has been supporting children in obtaining their Métis citizenship through MMF applications. Case aides played an essential role in this process, providing direct 1:1 support to children and families, further reinforcing our commitment to culturally rooted practice and identity development. These efforts not only affirm each child's cultural identity but also open doors to additional resources and community belonging.

Our team has also made significant strides in confirming paternity and ensuring both parents are added to birth certificates, supporting legal and relational clarity for children. These steps are critical in helping children maintain and strengthen lifelong connections with family, which remains central to our service approach.

Our approach continues to be grounded in intentional family engagement. By walking alongside families with purpose and compassion, we have fostered meaningful relationships and networks that support long-term safety, stability, and wellness for children. This year, we have seen how a coordinated, inclusive, and culturally attuned approach to family services not only builds stronger families but strengthens our agency's overall impact.

COMMUNITY ADDICTIONS RESPONSE TEAM (CART)

The Community Addictions Response Team (CART) continues to play a vital role in supporting families involved with Michif Child and Family Services who are experiencing challenges related to substance use. The program's integrated approach—combining the support of a Case Manager, a Peer Family Mentor, and a Mental Health and Addictions Worker—ensures families receive timely, coordinated care focused on both immediate safety and long-term healing.

Over the 2024–2025 year, CART supported 27 families across the region. The team worked closely with caregivers to address substance use concerns while promoting child safety, family preservation, and holistic wellness.

Several families successfully transitioned out of the CART program after creating safe and stable environments for their children, often through private family arrangements. Others moved on to receive continued support through other units within the agency, as their needs shifted beyond the scope of CART's intensive supports.

Notably, three families completed residential or community-based treatment programs this year—a testament to their hard work and the consistent encouragement provided by CART staff. These successes highlight the program's ability to walk alongside families through challenging times, helping reduce barriers to treatment and strengthen natural support networks.

CART remained committed to reducing stigma, increasing access to culturally safe services, and helping families build the capacity and confidence needed to care for their children in a safe and nurturing environment.

MICHIF SPIRIT

The Michif Spirit Program continues to support young adults from the ages of 18 – 26 who may still be connected to the Agency through an Agreement with Young Adults or have fully transitioned out of care. Once connected to the program, Youth continue to access support past the age of 26 as well as young adults prove to still require assistance. Referrals to the program continue to come in with 73 youth currently being supported. The Michif Spirit Worker provides supportive services such as navigating services and resources, connecting young adults with community programs, advocating for young adults to reduce barriers in accessing programs, assisting youth in applying for Tuition Waiver funding or accessing funding through the MMF Métis Education and Training Department. A large number of young adults struggle to find affordable and safe housing; the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit has been the most sourced resource for youth this past year as it provides extra funds for youth in and from care who need help to pay for rent.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Resource Development Department is responsible for the recruitment, licensing and support of Places of Safety, Emergency homes, Kinship and General Foster homes. Each year looks different as new homes are added and closed regularly due to various reasons such as reunification, aging out, transfer of guardianship or transfer to other agencies. This year has seen a continued trend of having more Places of Safety and Kinship homes than general homes, which is exciting as it means that as an Agency, we are successfully keeping our children in care with caregivers who are related or known to them, preserving the family unit and their culture.



The Resource team currently consists of four full time workers who cover a large part of the province. We were down one worker due to a variety of reasons but we continued to visit all of our current homes, do Places of Safety, conduct home studies, and manage new placements; but they are dedicated to supporting our families as they care for our children. Resource staff are privileged to share in the good and tough times with our families, supporting them through their caregiving journey. There is nothing more encouraging for them than celebrating a youth's high school graduation, a family being reunited or seeing a family gain guardianship. We are thankful for our current homes, but it is still a struggle to find enough placements for our children, both kinship and general especially for those more challenging children/youth. We would be pleased to welcome you to the caregiving family.

This past year as with the past several years, through a grant from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, the Resource team provided comfort kits to children and youth to improve their experience when coming into the care of the child welfare system. This kit includes a backpack and suitcase filled with items that aid in bettering their well-being, safety, and sense of security.



DIRECT SERVICE WORKERS

Direct Service Workers (DSWs) play an integral role in the Agency. The work that they do is often challenging and frequently involves long hours on the road. They provide one-to-one support to the families we walk alongside with as well as supporting family visits and providing transportation across all regions. MCFS currently has DSWs based out of Winnipeg, Brandon, Dauphin, Swan River, and Thompson. DSW's also got together for an in-person meeting in June of 2024 in Dauphin which was a great opportunity for team-building and to sharpen their skills with relevant training. In the fiscal year, DSW's completed 636 contracts, which cover a range of one off requests or ongoing work across multiple dates and activities. A breakdown of individual activities completed within those contracts include: 660 Transports, 604 Family Visit Transports, 292 Family Support contracts, 197 transports to Therapy, 171 of a various nature (parenting programming support, support with cultural events, school and day camp support, etc), 95 one to one support contracts, and 20 involving medical support or transporting to medical appointments. Michif has also provided support to Metis Child and Family Services Agency by accepting support requests for service within our regions and assigning them to our DSW's to complete.

TRAINING AND PRACTICE

The Training and Practice Lead position is responsible for training and mentoring Michif CFS staff as well as creating an orientation manual and operations guide.

Over the past year there have been 18 training sessions offered between in person and via zoom. Between these sessions there were 225 staff who were trained in the. 6 of the subjects being offered were new courses. These new sessions included topics such as; The Why training for Shelter staff; Workplace Culture Training with Supervisors; Proactive Case Planning and From the Family Perspective: Working from Resistance to Resilience.

During the year the Training and Practice Lead also offered 54 mentoring, support, and group sessions. These sessions included fielding with family service workers to assist them with strengthening interviewing skills as well as teaching them new skills to utilize in the field. Group mapping sessions were held in order to assist workers enhance their Signs of Safety skills. For additional support workers were encouraged to send their case documents to the Training and Practice Lead. Their documents were reviewed and feedback was provided to assist them with their future documents and further enhance the skills they were learning.

YOUTH CELEBRATION

Michif CFS held their annual Youth Celebration in Brandon on September 21st, 2024. It was a beautiful event that celebrated five young adults as they transitioned from Agency care into adulthood. This past years celebration provided an afternoon activity for the youth, where they had the opportunity to go bowling and share some food. Youth, accompanied by their family members, friends, and supporters arrived to the beautiful venue, The Dome which provided a unique setting for the celebration. The evening featured a performance by the amazingly talented United Thunder Dancers with music being provided by Brad Moggie & Co.

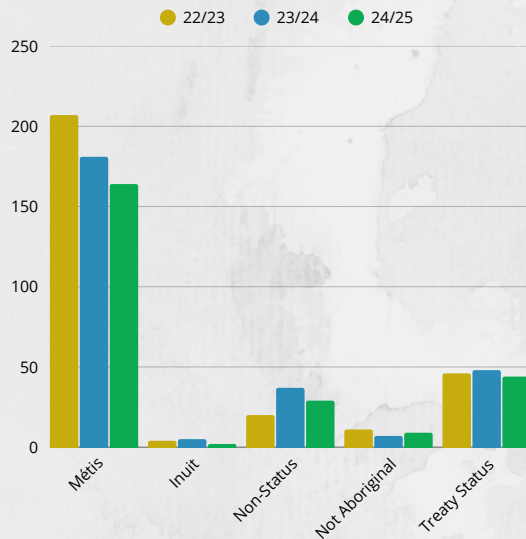


GROUP CARE

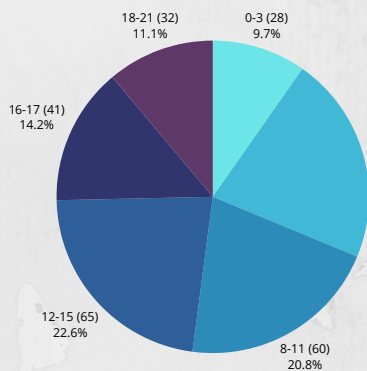
Between Four Winds in Dauphin and Sunrise House in Brandon, the Agency had 8 emergency bed spaces available for children and youth who needed a safe and welcoming home environment in the past fiscal year. Both facilities consistently ran at capacity which provided opportunities for workers to be creative in their planning with the families they walked alongside with as open spaces are not always available when needed. The Northern Lights Shelter in Dauphin was transitioned to the province to operate as they took over as the Direct Intake Agency for the Parkland Area in July of 2024. Sunrise House continues to work to create a home-like environment for children and youth by offering regular recreational and cultural opportunities. Group care facilities continue to be at the forefront of a general lack of placement resources for children and youth across the Provincial child welfare system. Due to a lack of kinship foster homes and bed spaces in specialized programs, children and youth have had to stay in our facilities for longer periods than we would like. The Agency continues to examine internal practices to return children and youth to their families or to try and facilitate a timely transition into longer-term placements.

AGENCY STATISTICS

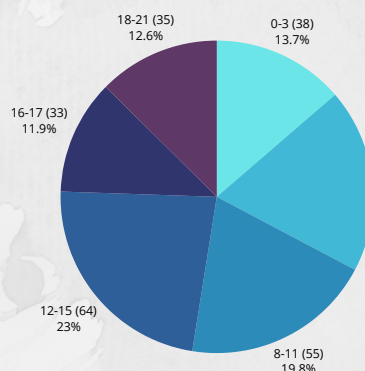
ABORIGINAL STATUS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE



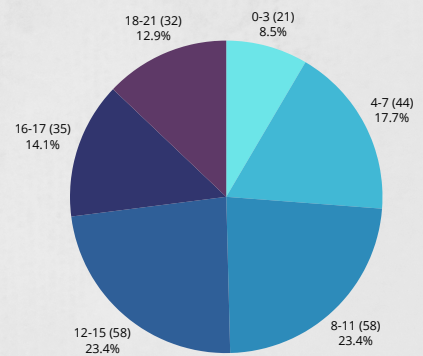
AGE OF OUR CHILDREN IN CARE



2022-2023

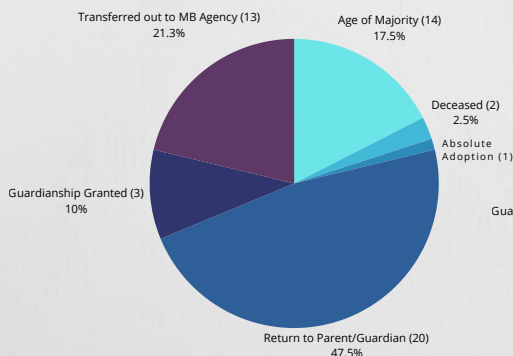


2023-2024

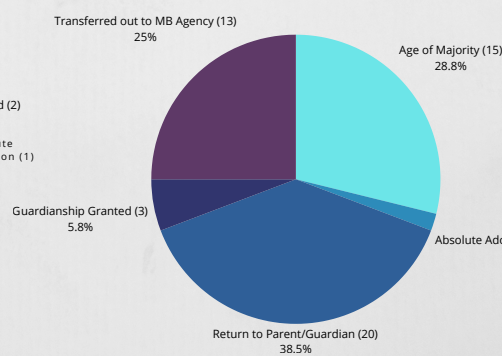


2024-2025

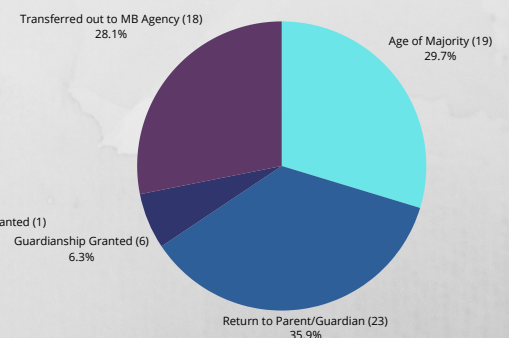
REASONS FOR CHILD FILE CLOSURE



2022-2023



2023-2024



2024-2025

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 MICHIF CFS NO LONGER IS THE DIA FOR THE PARKLAND AREA.

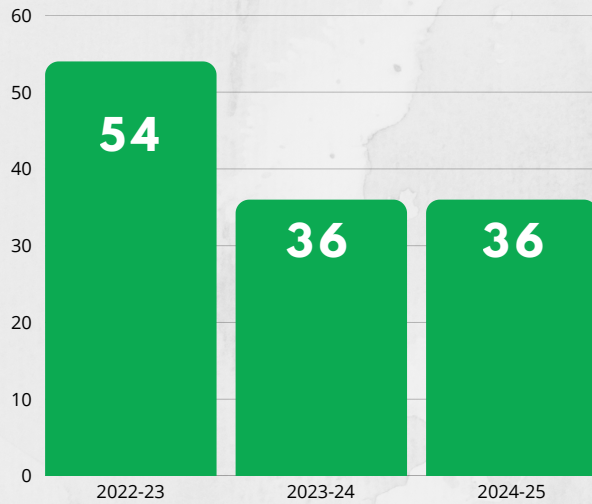
CASE COUNTS BY REGION OVER THREE YEARS

2022-2023	<i>Voluntary Family Services</i>	<i>Family Enhancement</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>AYA</i>	<i>Child in Care</i>	<i>Child in Care - Supervision</i>
Portage La Praire	1	0	13	5	46	3
Brandon	6	0	32	9	43	4
Dauphin	20	4	79	3	106	0
Swan River	2	0	17	9	34	0
The Pas	0	0	3	0	8	0
Thompson	0	0	9	2	23	0

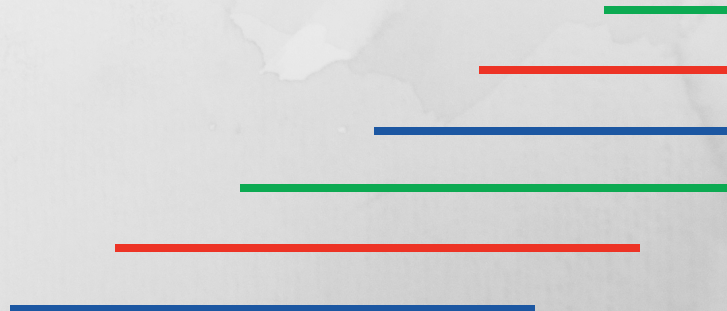
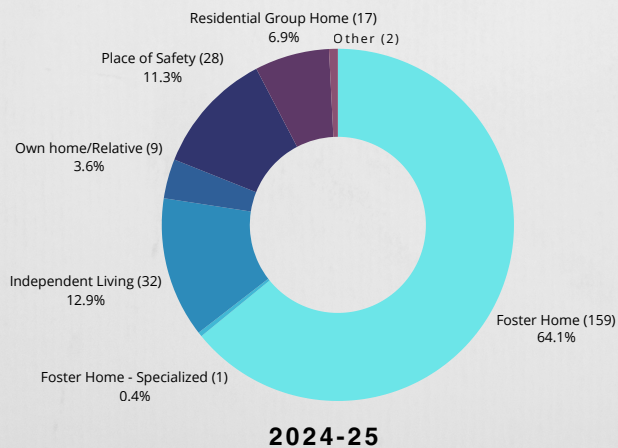
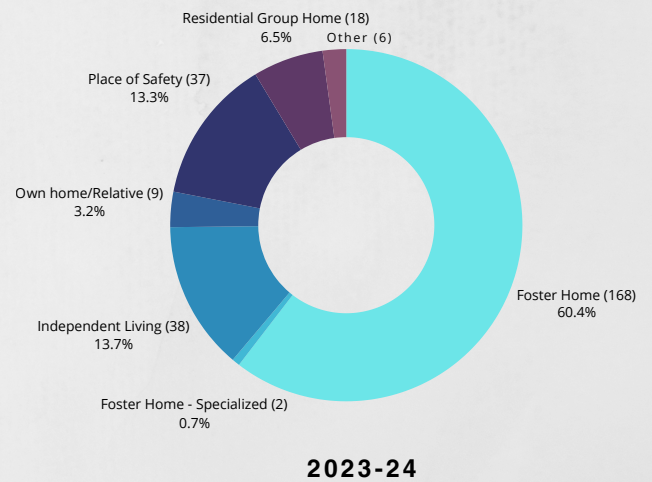
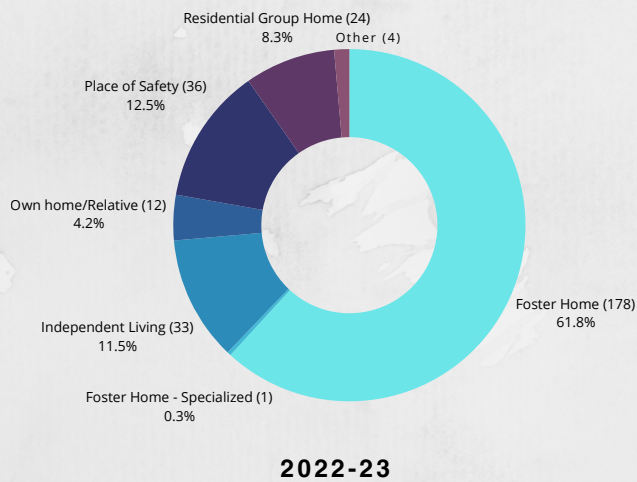
2023-2024	<i>Voluntary Family Services</i>	<i>Family Enhancement</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>AYA</i>	<i>Child in Care</i>	<i>Child in Care - Supervision</i>
Portage La Praire	8	2	15	8	55	3
Brandon	11	4	23	11	36	1
Dauphin	10	1	71	4	101	0
Swan River	0	0	10	7	30	0
The Pas	0	0	3	1	12	0
Thompson	1	0	2	4	9	0

2024-2025	<i>Voluntary Family Services</i>	<i>Family Enhancement</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>AYA</i>	<i>Child in Care</i>	<i>Child in Care - Supervision</i>
Portage La Praire	5	0	12	9	48	2
Brandon	6	3	19	9	33	1
Dauphin	15	3	65	6	92	0
Swan River	0	0	6	3	29	2
The Pas	0	0	1	1	10	4
Thompson	0	0	3	4	4	1

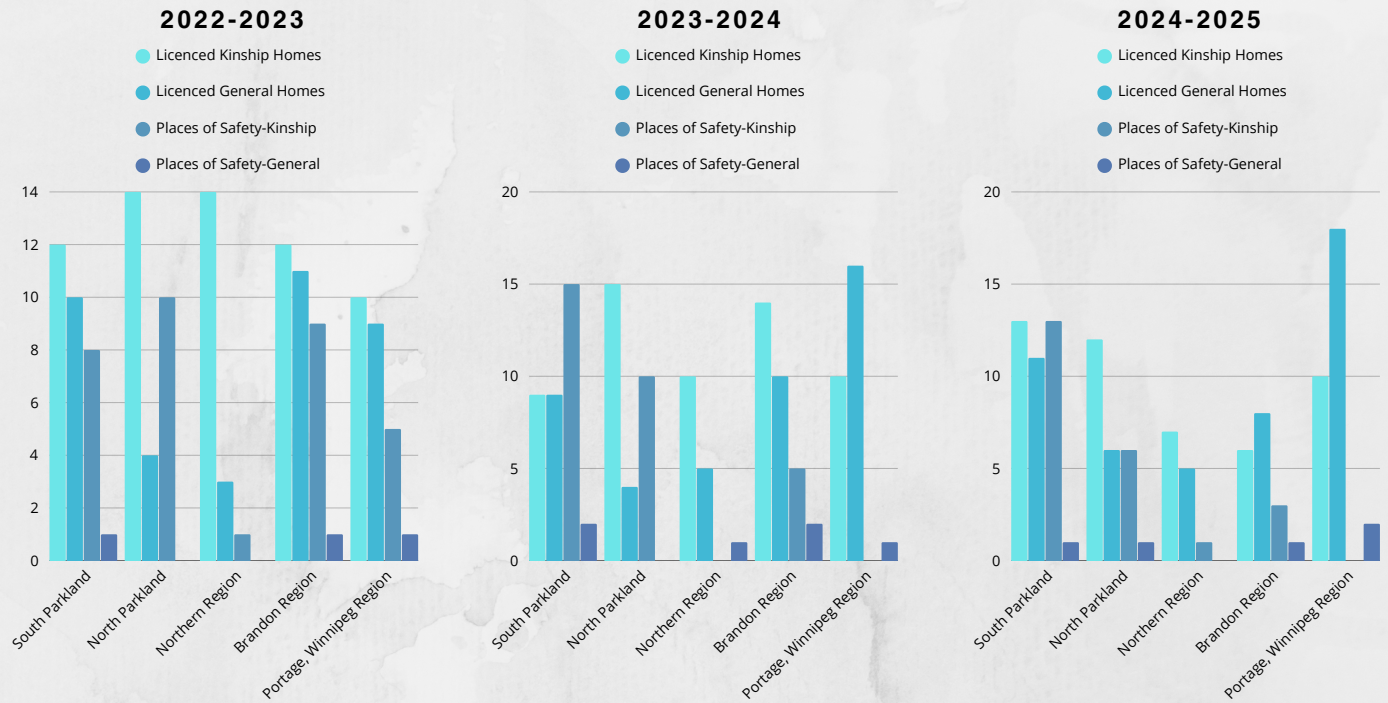
NUMBER OF APPREHENSIONS OVER THREE YEARS



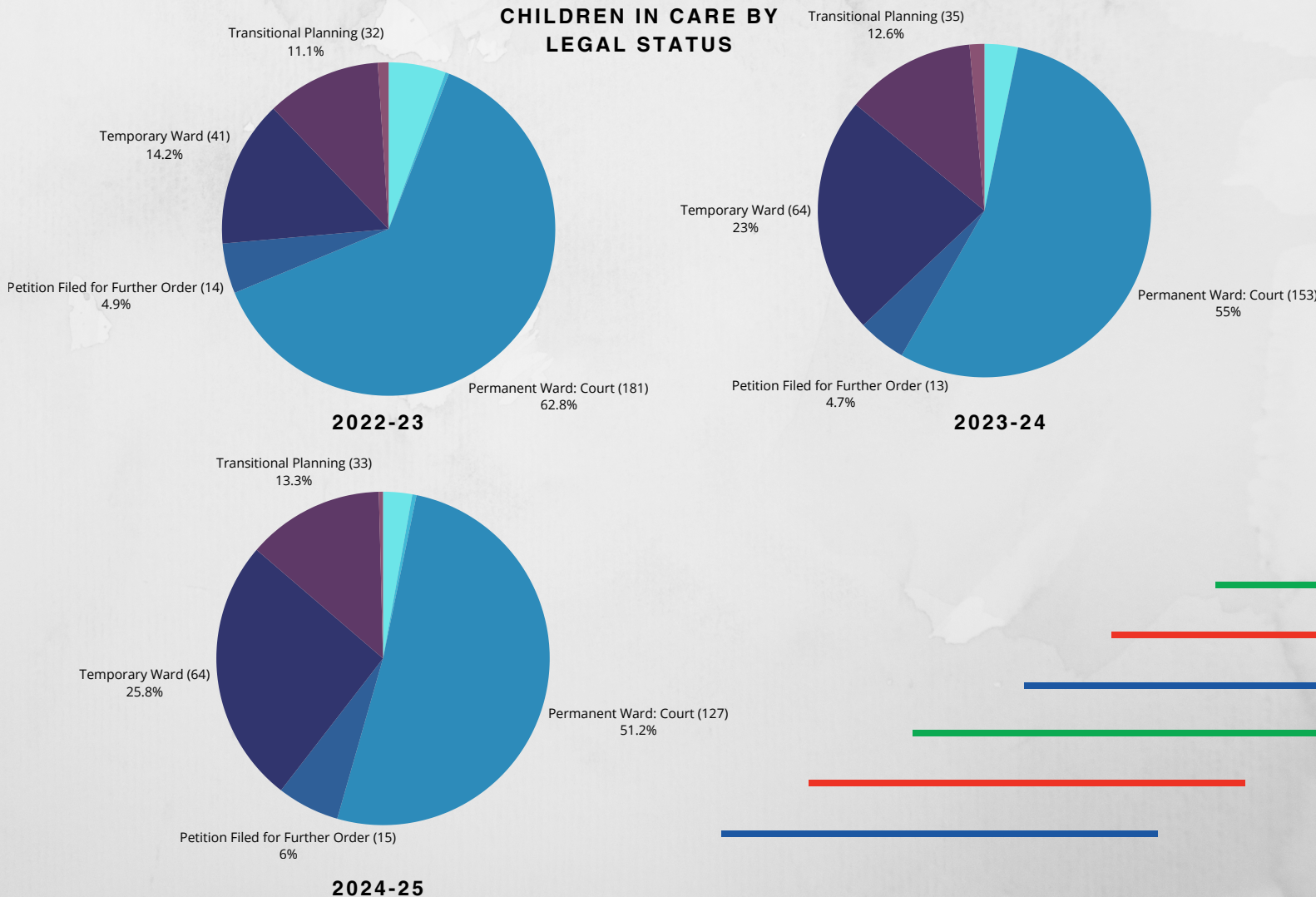
CHILD IN CARE BY PLACEMENT CATEGORY



FOSTER CARE HOMES BY REGION



CHILDREN IN CARE BY LEGAL STATUS



YEAR IN REVIEW



YEAR IN REVIEW



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THANK YOU,

On behalf of Michif Child and Family Services and our Board of Directors, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the businesses and organizations who continue to support our agency. Your contributions—whether through partnerships, donations, services, or collaborative efforts—are deeply valued and play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission. Your ongoing support does not go unnoticed. It strengthens our capacity to serve children, youth, and families with care, respect, and commitment. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you who stand with us in creating positive outcomes and a brighter future for our community.

