

GOING FORWARD WITH A...

Customary Care Agreement (CCA)

1. Child(ren) who are deemed in need of protection by CAS. Requiring an out of home placement.
2. Referral Letter from the Band Representative or Chief to coordinate an agreement, identifying the child, parents and placement.
3. Chief & Council endorse the placement with a Band Council Resolution (BCR).
4. Placement can occur with the customary care provider immediately, with the homestudy to be completed within 60 days.

The Customary Care Agreement is a voluntary program for short and long term placement in the best interest of the Child(ren) and Family.

WHAT IS CUSTOMARY CARE?

In Summary:

The Customary Care Program is based on our Anishinaabe cultural belief system. It is a program that recognizes and respects inherent rights of the Anishinaabek. This current model of customary care will be implemented only if a child is deemed in need of protection, as identified through a Child Welfare Authority or the Courts and the respective First Nation community declares that the child(ren) be cared for under a Customary Care Agreement, through a Band Council Resolution.

Our historical practices are the foundation to customary care in the 21st Century.

Anishinaabeg naagdo-wendiwag

Our People, looking after our own



CUSTOMARY CARE PROGRAM



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HISTORY

Customary Care is the traditional practice that has always existed among the First Nations. The informal practice is also alive, whereby communities care for and protect the children without the intervention of child welfare authorities.

1984: The Child & Family Services Act (CFSA) recognized the unique rights of First Nations. Inclusion and acknowledgement of Customary Care practices.

Definition

208. In this Part, “customary care” means the care and supervision of an Indian or native child by a person who is not the child’s parent, according to the custom of the child’s band or native community. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.11, s. 208. Child and Family Services Act

2006: Bill 210, Legislative amendments to the CFSA and the Provincial Child Welfare Transformation Agenda, place focus on alternative initiatives which include Customary Care.

June 2007: The Chiefs of UCCMM and WUIR issue a Resolution to develop a formal Customary Care Service Model.

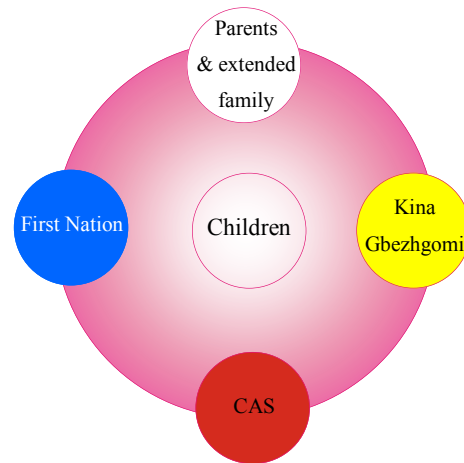
September 26, 2007: The Chiefs of UCCMM and WUIR issue a Resolution to approve the Formal Customary Care Service Model.

January 2008: Customary Care is an available option to all families of Mnídoo Mnísing and Wikwemikong UIR (registered or entitled to be registered).

January 2012: Customary Care is a service available with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services.

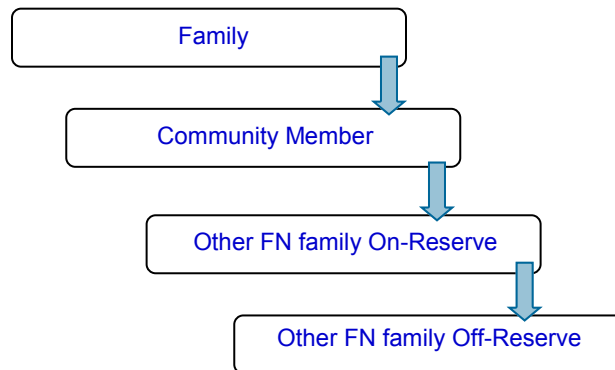
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Together, the Parents, Band Representative and Kina Gbezhgomi decide on a suitable family to help raise the child.



SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for a customary care family/home.



SUPPORT

- ◆ A collaborative approach to providing services to the family, child and selected caregiver by the service providers of the community.
- ◆ Support and Subsidy for Customary Care placements with the endorsed Customary Care Agreement...
 - * Childcare Standards apply.
 - * Foster Care Licensing Standards apply.
- ◆ A Customary Care home will be paid a regular or specialized “Foster Care rate” in accordance to child’s needs
- ◆ A Customary Care home is entitled to the training, reimbursements and support provided by Alternative Care

OUTCOME

- ◆ Parental Rights are maintained, connection and the relationship with the child are preserved.
- ◆ Court proceedings are not required.
- ◆ Child Focused: Child(ren) remain with their extended family and within their community.
- ◆ Family Based: The relationship between the child(ren), parent and community is valued and respected.
- ◆ Community based decision making.