2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

24th Annual General Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015

10:00 a.m. @ Whitefish River First Nation Community Centre
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

7 Member First Nations

Executive Directors

7 Board of Directors

Elders Advisory Council

Executive Director

Health and Safety Committee

Senior Management Committee

Cultural Wellness Committee

Manager of Resources

Manager of Alternative Care

Manager of Administration

Board of Directors

Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
M’Chigeeng First Nation
Sheguiandah First Nation
Sheshegwaning First Nation
Whitefish River First Nation
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve
Zhiibaahaasing First Nation

Diane Abotossaway
Director
Sharon Debassige
Secretary-Treasurer
Janice Cada
Director
Leona Nahwegahbow
Director
Margaret Manitowabi
Vice-President
Kevin Mossip
Chairperson / President

Vacancy
MESSAGE from the Board Chairperson

Aanii, Boozhoo!

On behalf of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services, I welcome you to our 24th Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Directors to report upon agency activities from a governance perspective.

Within the past year, we had remained steadfast in our goal to achieve the agency’s original vision to achieve the protection mandate to allow Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services to provide child welfare services to our children and their families.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services consistently provided commitment and stated that our agency was next to receive designation at the provincial level last year. However, tremendous amount of work was required that required equal collaboration involving The Children’s Aid Society within the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin in varied operational areas.

Contribution from the Board of Directors required approvals to allow management to progress in many operational areas. This included review and approval of agency policies, specialized consultant(s), infrastructure requirements which included approval of lease agreements, approval of general liability and insurance, information and technology requirements and recruitment.

Within the broader spectrum, involvement through Joint Meetings occurred on an on-going basis with our member First Nations Leadership and Board of Directors to assure on-going communications at this level. A Terms of Reference was approved in September 2014 which established guidelines for meetings at this forum. As a result, Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services continues to advocate for enhanced prevention funding on behalf of First Nation Community-Based Models and received approval of amendments to the agency’s Corporate By-Law in preparation for designation.

Board of Directors also participate on the Union of Ontario Indians’ Child Welfare Working Group to contribute to the development of a Child Well-Being Law which forms part of the agency’s long term strategic goal to assist as technicians in the exclusive jurisdiction over child welfare services.

Another key area in preparation for designation was the opening of an urban office located at 866 Newgate Avenue within the City of Greater Sudbury which was later celebrated through an official opening ceremony in January 2015. Invitations to this event included service collaterals, First Nations leadership, Board of Directors and staff. The opening of the urban office will now allow us to provide service to band members who reside within this service area.

In February 2015, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services completed their final assessment of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services to determine the agency’s readiness to assume the protection mandate. I am now extremely pleased to report that ‘together’ we have achieved this historical goal.

Miigwetch, Kevin Mossip, Board Chairperson
From the Executive Director

AGENCY STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board of Directors and Management team completed a number of Strategic Planning Sessions within the past recent years. To assure input was received, invitation were sent by the Board of Directors to the agency’s corporate partners to include individual UCCMM (United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising) and the WUIR (Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve) Chief and Council members, UCCMM Elders Council, agency management and staff and First Nations Community Prevention Teams.

The engagement of corporate stakeholders is crucial. Collectively we have built upon a common mission and vision for Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services to focus on immediate, mid-term and long objectives that must unilaterally strive to enhance existing prevention services while we now provide child welfare services.

As a result of the collective feedback and guidance, the Board of Directors developed and approved a 5 Year Strategic Plan for the period of 2013-2018. This plan was approved through Board of Directors resolution on September 25, 2013.

Listed below are the strategic priorities, goals and objectives of this Plan. Each goal will guide Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services in realigning its resources to achieve its vision and mission in this respect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>1. HISTORICAL SCAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>Agency History / First Nations History / Knowledge of Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVES</td>
<td>We, KGCFS will empower the spirit of our Anishinabe organization by giving the people back their own history one of which they can be proud of.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrate pride in their historical investments into KGCFS from birth to witness continual maturity, growth and development of their Anishinabe organization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>2. CULTURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>Our services ensure children are protected and stay connected with their culture, language and community while strengthening family and community relationships utilizing Elder supports and resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVES</td>
<td>We, KGCFS will ensure opportunities are provided to children to know their cultural identity and Community history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We, KGCFS will empower our spirit as an Anishinabe organization by ensuring we have our spiritual helpers that will empower us to work in a good way with our people.

That the Executive Director will ensure the responsibility of spiritual / sacred bundle and items are appropriately assigned on behalf of our Anishinabe organization.

Advocate for Cultural Resources as required.

Bi-Cultural Practice.

**PRIORITY 3. STAFFING**

**GOAL**
Invest in employees to assure they are capable, motivated and healthy role models while representing KGCFS in serving our people in their varied capacities.

**OBJECTIVES**
We, KGCFS want to have healthy staff that have the tools they need to do their job, and are given opportunities for further education, professional development and cultural learning.

**PRIORITY 4. SERVICES**

**GOAL**
Our services will be based upon the belief in providing a high quality of service provisions and financial accountability.

**OBJECTIVES**
We, KGCFS will assure that the provision of services is coordinated in a collaborative effort involving community-prevention teams (Community-Based Models) based upon the best interests of the child.

**PRIORITY 5. BAND REPRESENTATIVE ROLE**

**GOAL**
Assure collaborative processes and mutual agreeable plans are in place for children between member First Nations and KGCFS at time of designation.

**OBJECTIVES**
Ensure the new protection role of KGCFS is clear and fully understood upon designation

Band Representative role will change.

Assure that no child in KGCFS jurisdiction will ever be lost.
### PRIORITY 6. LEADERSHIP ROLE

**GOAL**
Assure continual involvement of corporate stakeholders (Chiefs and Councils) as required to receive guidance, direction and support in areas of advocacy to enhance the well-being of children and families.

**OBJECTIVES**
- Clarify understanding of Role and Responsibilities/ Relationship with organization and care of the child.
- Receive leadership input into the future direction of the agency.

### PRIORITY 7. DESIGNATION

**GOAL**
KGCFS became an “incorporated body” to function as a Child and Family Service Authority on behalf of its member First Nation communities within The Child and Family Services Act Part X whereby the original intent of KGCFS is to achieve the protection mandate. CFSA/Status

**OBJECTIVES**
KGCFS continues to plan within the Capacity Development Framework in preparation for designation requirements to achieve designation.

### PRIORITY 8. CAPACITY BUILDING / INFRASTRUCTURE / DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

**GOAL**
A conceptual approach involving the Board of Directors and Senior Management that focuses on on-going capacity development analysis including developmental goals while enhancing abilities to achieve measurable and sustainable results and outcomes.

**OBJECTIVES**
To continually progress and develop other needs as identified and required.

### PRIORITY 9. DEVOLUTION / STAND ALONE

**GOAL**
To restore jurisdiction and express affirmation of the inherent aboriginal right of First Nations to care, nurture and sustain the development of their children and youth.

**OBJECTIVES**
Tenets of why First Nations believe in devolution:
- Community Based (on First Nation)
- Community Developed (answers to First Nation needs)
- Community Guided (member oversight)
- Community Partnered (involvement of other community groups)
- Community Controlled (answerable to Chief & Council)
- Community Funded (funds to First Nation)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY 10. UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS CHILD WELFARE LAW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board of Directors continue to assess and monitor this 5 Year Strategic Plan on an annual basis based upon review of feedback, progress and achievements. We are placed to announce that PRIORITY 7 DESIGNATION is completed effective April 1, 2015.

PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services has been honoured to join other community partners within the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin in 2014/2015 in the development of Child Welfare protocols in the areas of policing, health services, violence against women services and education. We have also finalized many of the protocols and have a few remaining to finalize within the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Protocols serve many purposes and functions including but not limited to the following: serving as a collaboration tool, clarifying mutual expectations, delineating roles and responsibilities, establishing credibility and accountability, building capacity and strengthening relationships. In addition, protocols serve as a roadmap and assist in staff orientation and promote accountability, mutual respect and cooperation.

We have also finalized the First Nation - KGCFS Child Welfare protocols with our member First Nations with two awaiting final First Nation approval. The First Nation - KGCFS Child Welfare protocols serve as the framework for Child Welfare service delivery with all services within the member First Nation administration and governance structure. The Child Welfare protocols reflect the services in accordance with the First Nation community model service flows. The UCCMM and WUIR leadership and Board of Directors continue to advocate for enhanced prevention funding to fully implement the community models submitted to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in 2012.
## Protocol Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Nation Members and Partners</th>
<th>Other Children’s Aid Societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation</td>
<td>• The Children’s Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• M’Chigeeng First Nation</td>
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<td>• Sheguiandah First Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sheshegwaning First Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Whitefish River First Nation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve</td>
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<td>• Zhiibaahaasing First Nation</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police Partners</th>
<th>Health Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Greater Sudbury Police Service</td>
<td>• Health Sciences North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Espanola Police Service</td>
<td>• Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wikwemikong Tribal Police</td>
<td>• Manitoulin Health Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• UCCM Tribal Police</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence Against Women Sector</th>
<th>Healthy Babies / Health Children Programs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• YMCA Genevra House</td>
<td>• Sudbury &amp; District Health Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Victim Crisis Assistant and Referral Services</td>
<td>• N’Swakamok Native Friendship Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sudbury Women’s Centre</td>
<td>• Mnaamodzawin Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VCARS (Victim Crisis Assistant and Referral Services)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Manitoulin Family Resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ministry of Attorney General</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Education</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Rainbow District School Board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sudbury Catholic Schools</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Photo – Community Stakeholders Session, Sudbury 2014
In addition to numerous agency community committee representation, our agency has been honoured to join additional First Nation community based partnerships through the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising and Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve.

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFS) is a member of the UCCMM Maamwi Naadamadaa team and is honoured to be part of the development of the Gchi Mino Naadmaadwin Teg: Mobilization of Services. The focus of this integration strategy and model is to strengthen the connection between sector services specifically when offering services to those members whom continue to demonstrate negative intergenerational effects such as drug abuse, violence and parenting challenges. The Vision of the mobilization of services is to support the Anishinaabek of Mnidoo Mnising residing within the UCCMM First Nations in Mino-Bimaadzwin. As part of the UCCMM Maamwi Naadamadaa team ongoing implementation of the strategic plan is occurring in addition to accountability in relation to reporting to the UCCMM Leadership.

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services is also a member of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve Interagency Community Collaboration team. This team consists of WUIR programs and services and organizations providing services within Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. The team is implementing a Community Wellness Work Plan and the partnership serves as a mechanism to collaborate in training, planning and services delivery.

**CHILD WELFARE DESIGNATION**

A key focus in 2014/2015 was the delivery of Child Welfare Services required to be assessed by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in relation to achieving designation as a Children’s Aid Society.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services team attended the agency from February 9-13, 2015 to complete file reviews, interviews and final assessment in relation to readiness for designation. The MCYS Capacity Assessment Review – Final Designation Report March 2015 report indicated the following key areas (excerpts from the report):

- KGCFS service delivery model is a unique holistic approach for serving Aboriginal children, youth and families whereby each community has developed its own model that defines how the community will work with Kina to keep children safe and families together. Each First Nations community takes on a leadership role in caring for their children. The foundation of the model encompasses both child welfare prevention and child protection services to serve the best interests of the First Nations children and families in each community. Protocols have been developed with each First Nation community to govern relationships and ensure cooperation, communication and coordination of services. KGCFS has developed a creative service delivery model that complies with legislation and ministry requirements and meets the cultural needs of each First Nations community.

- The importance of culture is embedded in the way structures its service delivery. KGCFS’s service delivery philosophy is about rebuilding families and strengthening culture. The agency strives to make the best, safest world for a child, drawing on the strengths of the family and...
First Nations communities while working within the parameters of the CFSA. First Nations communities will be consulted at every step of the child protection service delivery process.

- Community case conferencing (family circles) is a central component of KGCFS service delivery model. Family circles bring together the family experiencing difficulties, extended family members, Elders and First Nations community members to work on the identified child protection concerns and find solution that will work best for the family. This work then informs the development of service plans for families and plans of care for children in care.

- Operational Areas were reviewed inclusive of Governance, Financial Management, Human Resources, Information and Information Technology, Legal Services and Service Delivery. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services through an extensive review of the operational areas concluded that the agency has demonstrated capacity to operationalize all areas as a Children’s Aid Society. There are areas that the agency will continue to strengthen and no areas presented risk or posed barriers to designation.

- MCYS indicated that the leadership provided through the Board, its Executive Director and management team is clearly evident in all of the work that is being carried out by KGCFS. There was evidence of solid team teamwork and communication that flowed from senior management to frontline staff. The Board and staff have an appropriate level of skills and knowledge. KGCFS has a qualified workforce to carry out the functions of a CAS.

- KGCFS has also built supportive, collaborative and positive relationships with Chiefs and Elders, First Nations communities, community partners and service providers, including the CAS of Sudbury. There was strong evidence of support for KGCFS from the Chiefs, Elders, First Nations communities and community partners. They have waited a long time for KGCFS to realize the goal of designation and they look forward to working in partnership with KGCFS to provide culturally-based protection services to the children and families in their communities. KGCFS understands the importance of continuing to engage and educate their First Nation communities on their role as a CAS. Open and ongoing communication with staff, Chiefs and Elders, First Nations communities and community partners is integral to KGCFS’s success as a CAS.

- **Capacity Assessment Review Recommendation**
  Based on the findings of the review, the ministry capacity assessment review team recommends that the Minister of Children and Youth Services designate Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services as a CAS effective April 1, 2015.
DESIGNATION CELEBRATION

- Effective April 1, 2015 Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services became designated as an approved agency pursuant to subsection 8(1) of the Child and Family Services Act. Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services celebrated this historical milestone with its member First Nations leadership, community stakeholders, MCYS, Board of Directors, Management and staff on April 14, 2015.

- This designation allows Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services to offer services that honour and support the inherent authority of member First Nations to provide care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs.

- The mission of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services is to provide services that protect children and strengthen family and community relationships while keeping children connected with their culture, language and community.

- Prior to the birth of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services, we acknowledge and honour the original visionaries of community members who voiced their concerns on behalf of our children in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s to our First Nations Leadership. As a result, a steering committee were developed and a proposal entitled, ‘Our Children, Our Responsibility’ was submitted in 1984 which began the journey for the establishment of a Native Child and Family Services (agency) to assure the protection of our children and the preservation of their culture and family system.

- Subsequent developmental work was completed an on January 15, 1991, Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services became an ‘incorporated body’ to function as a Child and Family Service Authority on behalf of our member First Nation communities within The Child and Family Services Act Part X. The objectives for which Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services became incorporated are:
  - To establish an Indian-directed and controlled child and family care organization to plan, design, implement and deliver culturally appropriate services to children and their families in First Nation communities, and to Indian children and their families in other parts of the corporations service area; and,
  - To provide an organization which member Indian Bands or First Nations may designate as a Band Representative for the purpose of child and family services legislation in Ontario, and as an authority for the purpose of negotiating with governments for the provision of services.
• We now celebrate in the achievement of this long-term goal through the contributions and support of many others including other community resources such as Elders, knowledge keepers, traditional advisors, Board of Directors, agency staff and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Children’s Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin, the Association of Native Child and Family Services of Ontario, other mandated Native sister agencies, and many others who devoted their expertise in helping us to achieve this original vision.

• We appreciate and honour each of you as you shared in the belief that one day we will have our own designated Anishinaabe child welfare agency servicing our own Anishinaabe people. G’chi-miigwech!
ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statement Highlights
For the year ended March 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
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<td>Ministry of Children and Youth Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's Aid Societies</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DISBURSEMENTS</strong></td>
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<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>3,525,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Expenditures</td>
<td>3,293,965</td>
<td>2,775,170</td>
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<td>Transfer to First Nations - Prevention</td>
<td>718,460</td>
<td>609,753</td>
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<td><strong>Total Disbursements</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,537,631</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,341,671</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET SURPLUS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$152,748</strong></td>
<td><strong>$406,221</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a summary of the details within the 2014-15 Financial Statements audited by KPMG

Human Resources Highlights

- Job Growth:
  - 38 new employees hired in 2014-15
  - 122% employee growth over the year

- Policy, Procedures, Processes
  - New Personnel Policy implemented
  - New timesheet tracking system (Replicon)
Training – Capacity Development Initiatives

Training Sessions completed over the year:

- Clinical Supervision
- PRIDE
- OnLac
- Ending Lateral Violence
- Child Welfare Management Training
- Culturally Restorative Practices
- Child Welfare Professional Training
- Frontline – Resources, In Care and Financial Modules
- Accelerated Risk Child Welfare Training
- Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training
- Policy Training – Foster Care and Child in Care
- Community Case Conferencing
- Traditional Ojibwe Values and Child Welfare
- The Transfer of Learning – The Supervisor’s Role as an Adult Educator

TRAINING DATA

February 2015

Ending Lateral Violence Training in WUIR
Facilitated by: The Institute for Culturally Restorative Practices, Estelle Simard
### TRAINING DELIVERED

#### Classification of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Training Hours</th>
<th>Participants Total</th>
<th>KGCFS</th>
<th>Community Prevention</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KGCFS Staff, Community Prevention Teams &amp; Community Members</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIDE</td>
<td>May 21, June 1, 7 &amp; 8 2014</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct 18, 19, Nov 1, 2 2014</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
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<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neyaap Ji-Nsastaming, Edming Bimaadzawin</td>
<td>Sep 27 2014</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>156</td>
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<td>Ending Lateral Violence</td>
<td>Feb 23, 24 2015</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 25, 26 2015</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>94</strong></td>
<td><strong>269</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| <strong>KGCFS Staff &amp; Community Prevention Teams</strong> | | | | | | |
| Child Welfare Professional Training (CWPT) | | | | | | |
| Module 1 Collaborations in Child Welfare: Past, Present and Future | May 7, 8 2014 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | |
| Module 2 Protecting Children and Strengthening Families – Part 1 | May 13-15 2014 | 18 | 7 | 5 | 2 | |
| Module 3 Protecting Children and Strengthening Families – Part 2 | May 21, 22 2014 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 2 | |
| Module 4 Understanding and Responding to Children’s Needs | May 27-29 2014 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Module 5 Engaging Families | June 3-5 2014 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Module 6 Permanency and Continuity of Care | June 9-11 2014 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 1 | |
| Module 7 Legal and Court Processes | June 18, 19 2014 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 1 | |
| Module 8 Wellness and Self Care | June 25, 26 2014 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| Module 2 Protecting Children and Strengthening Families – Part 1 | July 29-31 2014 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| Module 3 Protecting Children and Strengthening Families – Part 2 | Aug 13, 14 2014 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Module 4 Understanding and Responding to Children’s Needs | Aug 26-28 2014 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 5 Engaging Families</td>
<td>Sep 9-11 2014</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6 Permanency and Continuity of Care</td>
<td>Sep 16, 18, 19 2014</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Module 7 Legal and Court Processes</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Module 8 Wellness and Self Care</td>
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<td>Module 8 Wellness and Self Care</td>
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<td>Traditional Ojibwe Values &amp; Child Welfare</td>
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<td>Community Case Conferencing</td>
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<td>Sep 26 2014</td>
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<td>Sep 22, 23 2014</td>
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<td>Mar 23, 24 2015</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mar 10-12 2015</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Management, Leadership and Administration</td>
<td>Oct 28, 29 2014</td>
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<td>Jan 20-22 2015</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>The Transfer of Learning: The Supervisors’</td>
<td>Feb 24-26 2015</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Role as an Adult Educator</td>
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<td>Jan 27 2015</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sep 29, 30 2014</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frontline- Family Services</td>
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<tr>
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CULTURE

The Cultural Coordinator is a new position within the structure of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services that commenced in July 2014. The purpose is to ensure the development and enhancement of bi-cultural service practices of the agency. The responsibility of the Cultural Coordinator is to assist the Cultural Wellness Committee and Senior Management in the coordination of culturally appropriate services, cultural events, activities, teachings, ceremonies and healing practices that may assist in the preservation of cultural identity of service users and agency staff well-being. Thus far, this service is enhancing and strengthening of the cultural foundation of the agency.

As a guide, a number of areas were identified within the 2014-2015 Annual Cultural Work Plan including: governance structure, cultural foundations, staff wellness, cultural training for staff, delivery of cultural events, agency spiritual guidance and direction, networking, policy and procedures, Anishinaabemowin language initiatives, coordination of cultural services and cultural supports for service users.

2014 - 2015 Highlights:

a) Delivery of a Cultural Day Event in September 2014 hosted within the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. In accordance to the agency’s 5 Year Strategic Plan, bi-annual Cultural Day Events are to be delivered in the spring and fall of each year. The Board of Directors noted that historically, First Nation communities hosted Indian Days (Anishinabe Maajidiwin) within their communities whereby gatherings were held to allow for teachings, feasting and celebrations. The Cultural Wellness Committee identified that a number of traditional teachings geared to the direct needs of youth, women, men, foster children, foster parents and agency clientele would be delivered with inclusion to highlight our local Anishinaabe history and language while focusing on wellness and prevention. We look forward to delivering future Cultural Day Events.

b) Contribution in the Maamwi Naadamadaa Historical Ad-Hoc Committee (Mino–Goondawin) in developing an Orientation Manual for all UCCMM organizations;

c) Purchase of resources for cultural requirements, i.e. – sound system, tipi’s and canvas, sweat lodge equipment, drum making material, Native Language resources for staff and families including tablets and Anishinabemowin app for children in care, camping gear, beadwork supplies and including smudge kits for children in care.

d) Traditional medicines and storage secured to assure safety and security of items;

e) Cultural Competency Survey and Anishinaabemowin Language Survey completed with agency staff;

f) Welcoming Ceremonies for new agency staff held at quarterly General Staff Meetings;
g) Coordinated and / or delivery of traditional teachings to agency staff on a quarterly basis at training sessions or General Staff Meetings, i.e. – welcoming ceremony, feasting of bundles, sacredness of bundles, sweet grass teachings, tobacco offerings, protocol teachings, Creation Story and teachings, water teachings, sweat lodge teachings, songs and drumming;

h) Coordinate involvement of Elders in participating in agency training sessions, i.e. – Culturally Restorative Practices, Lateral Violence, etc.

i) Coordinated inclusion of cultural resource people at the agency Foster Care Conference in September 2014;

j) Cultural Coordinator fasting on an individual basis on behalf of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services in October 2014;

k) Coordinated and / or facilitation of Community Case Conferences both within Manitoulin Island and in the Sudbury areas including family circles within the WUIR health centre medicine lodge;

l) Coordination of cultural aspects delivered during the Grand Opening Event of the new urban office in January 2015 in Sudbury, Ontario;

m) Coordinated traditional teachings within Wikwemikong during the Ministry of Children and Youth Services On-Site Review Team with inclusion of a sweat of which 22 people were in attendance;

n) On-going development of networking with member First Nation and service providers;

o) Attend and participation with the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Elders Advisory Council on a monthly basis;

p) On-going interview process with potential traditional resources to form an agency Traditional Resource Listing;

q) Facilitation of Traditional Staff Circles and traditional teachings for both island and urban staff to assist in staff well-being;

r) Coordination of 12 sweats that were delivered with a total of 84 people in attendance. Sweats are available to agency staff and community members to assist in individual healing and wellness;

s) Completion of the Traditional Services Manual (March 2015) which serves as an administrative document for the delivery of cultural services.
PREVENTION SERVICES

Our prevention services within the seven communities have participated in agency based Child Protection and agency based specialized training to enhance understanding of Child welfare services and planning in relation to implementation of the community based models of service delivery.

The Child Welfare model developed is to assure a least intrusive integrated approach of service delivery within the child welfare system including community based conferencing and integration with community based services.

The First Nation prevention teams have key important roles including but not limited to:

- Key central role in the service framework including the role of the prevention workers and utilization of community based resources
- Promotion of the collaborative approach to service delivery including family support and community support with protection services
- Delivery of programming for families and children
- Facilitation of planning and ongoing family support
- Participation in community planning of workshops, community events and educational programming
- Advocacy and community case conferencing
- Cultural Safety and programming
- Delivery of community based programming including but not limited to parenting education, life skills, traditional ceremonies, teen programs and children’s programming.

The Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services Board of Directors continue to work with the UCCMM and WUIR leadership in advocating for enhanced prevention funding to fully implement the community based prevention models submitted to MCYS in July 2012. Achieving the full funding as requested by the member First Nations will assist in achieving the full vision that prevention services will be first and foremost and prevent family challenges from becoming child welfare matters.

Prevention Framework - Levels of Prevention Services
Community Engagement Sessions

A number of First Nation community engagement sessions occurred to gather input, provide communication and to develop partnerships with each of the communities on an ongoing basis.

The importance of establishing and maintaining the relationships with all the prevention workers and resources within our communities is essential.

Areas of community engagement include:

- Service Planning, Community Case Conferencing, Family Circles
- Prevention Service Evaluation
- ADR/Family Circle program feedback
- Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies, KGCFS and cultural training
- Team Development
- Community Barbecues
- Culture Day
- Family Fun Day
- Community Updates on KGCFS developments-prevention teams, general community session, First Nation committee updates and Chief and Council updates
Service Delivery

All of the seven communities provide Annual Work Plans, Annual Budgets and Monthly Statistical Data for the total number of children served and total number of direct service hours.

We have contribution agreements with each First Nation of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising with finalization in process with Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. The contribution agreements outline the roles and responsibilities of the agency and member First Nation in relation to the delivery of community based prevention services. The funding flows through KGCFS to the member First Nation with ongoing management support provided to each First Nation and reporting back through the agency to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Collaboration and Communication

In our model of service delivery Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services works closely with all existing resources to ensure we provide the necessary supports to families and children through a holistic approach.

Prevention is key and foremost in addition to following Customary Care and ensuring the least intrusive service is provided inclusive of the First Nation provisions with Part X of the Child and Family Services Act.
Family Support Program

Community Support Program

Protection Services

In October 2014 KGCFS implemented service delivery through the Transitional Phase and developed a Secondment Agreement in partnership with the Children’s Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. This allowed an opportunity for job shadowing, mentoring and service delivery as required for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to assess readiness for designation.

It has been an exciting year for Kina Gbezhgomii Child and Family Services with respect to moving forward to receiving designation as a child protection agency effective April 1, 2015. Through the successful planning and implementation of the designation framework, Kina Gbezhgomii has raised the bar in relation to meeting all the standards and developing a best practice model.

Through the review completed by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, our audit demonstrated a strong emphasis the great work of utilizing community case conferencing in a holistic approach to providing services to our families and children.
The Child Welfare model includes working voluntarily with families through the community case conferencing model and utilizing the legal system and the court process as a last resort. Our families have experienced trauma through the historical Child Welfare legacy of legal systems that created an adversarial relationship with families and prevented healing.
There are a number of legal files that transferred to KGCFS from the local Children’s Aid Society and the agency continues to review all legal matters in relation to a transition to voluntary agreements.

Our service delivery model is a unique holistic approach for serving children, youth and families whereby each community has developed its own community-based model that defines how the community will work with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services to keep children safe and families together. We continue to work in collaboration with the First Nation prevention teams and First Nation band representatives to improve the lives of children and families.

CUSTOMARY CARE

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 Court AND the respective First Nation community declares that the child(ren) are 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.

Proposed targets and services objectives for 2014-2015 are:

- Complete Annual Reviews of all Customary Care Agreements.
- Continue to work on culturally related systems of care and coordination of services for child welfare involved children, youth, and families regardless of where or how they enter the system.
- Continue to work with the Cultural Committee to request cultural related items for children i.e. language, smudge kits, naming ceremonies, regalia and service delivery approaches that work strategically in partnership with families and other formal and informal supports to address the children’s cultural and unique needs.
- Develop a shared infrastructure to coordinate efforts toward the common goals of safety, permanency and wellbeing.
- Prepare for Ministry of Children and Youth Services visits i.e. interviews with Customary Care Coordinators during the MCYS capacity assessment review.

Milestones:
- Ongoing training with OACAS Training, Cultural Restorative Practices
- Professional Development, i.e. college and initiation ceremonies
- Continued members of Health and Safety Committee and Cultural Wellness Committee
- Government officials from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services interviewed Customary Care Coordinators on behalf of the Customary Care Program
- Child Protection Designation of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services for April 1st 2015
Customary Care Statistics - 2014 – 2015

Number of Children in Customary Care vs. Number of Children in Care
April 2014

- 34% Children in Customary Care
- 66% Children in Care

March 31, 2015

- 33% Children in Customary Care
- 67% Children in Care

Customary Care Homes On Reserve/Off Reserve
April 2014

- 55% Anishnabek Homes On Reserve
- 45% Anishnabek Homes Off Reserve

March 31, 2015

- 32% Anishnabek Homes On Reserve
- 68% Anishnabek Homes Off Reserve
Challenges:

- The Customary Care Coordinators are in constant dialogue with all parties involved to ensure our children are in close proximity with their family due to the lack of funds for parent(s) to maintain access visits. At times we will go out of jurisdiction to accommodate family requests. To date we have supported and repatriated children home to extended family and/or parents are residing in the city or vice versa.

- The 1985 amendment of the Indian Act, came into effect in regards to the legislation which varies and knowing which programs and policies apply to you may be difficult to determine as rules for deciding who is eligible for registration. We are still dealing with families whom are not registering their children i.e. Birth Registration and Band Membership. Please contact your local Band Membership Clerk whom is well versed in the AANDC guidelines and the recent Bills and to ensure your child is registered. They will inform and direct where to access services.

- Families are not identifying the father’s name on the child’s birth certificate. The 1985 amendment of the Indian Act provide that a person’s entitlement to registration is determined on the basis of his or her parents’ respective entitlement to registration and evidence of parentage is a key determination. The Office of the Indian Registrar has identified which documents are acceptable to support an application for Indian Status. Please contact your local membership office or go to the AANDC website.

- Our catchment area for customary care is servicing on and off reserve Seven First Nation’s membership and our goal is to repatriate children home to their families. If this is not the case, we will ensure that we work with the family and parties involved to find a good resolution to meet the needs of the child.
In the coming fiscal year we continue with our plans to create cultural inclusiveness through ceremony with our Annual Reviews for Customary Care. We continue to work with our partners that are signatory to our Agreements by supporting and coordinating specific services to address the protection concerns to meet the individualized needs of children and families which is key to achieving family reunification and ensuring children’s safety. In this fiscal year we completed all the Annual Reviews for each Customary Care Agreement with our agency. Most families have been involved in the process and have provided their feedback and ongoing dialogue with community partnerships i.e. Band Prevention Programming and Band Representatives for identifying barriers in services for family reunification and plans for aftercare services is usually discussed. In the upcoming 2015/2016 year we are anticipating family engagement with our transitional plans of care for children to be reunited with their families.

On September 22, 2014, our agency hired a second Customary Care Coordinator. We are very privileged to have Forry Hare as a welcoming addition to our team. Prior to coming to Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services, Forry worked with M’Chigeeng First Nation as their Band Representative and he comes to our agency with a wealth of knowledge. Forry will be responsible for six (6) First Nations namely: M’Chigeeng, Zhiibaahaasing, Sheshegwaning, Sheguiandah, Whitefish River and Aundeck Omi Kaning, while Customary Care Coordinator, Maureen Trudeau responsible for the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve.

2015-2016 priorities involving cultural components of the Customary Care Program, Cultural Coordinator, Youth-in Transition Worker and the Cultural Wellness Committee:

- Computer Tablets were purchased for all children in care (foster care and customary care) to enhance language reutilization
- Ojibway Language Apps were purchased and installed in the tablets purchased for our children in care
- Smudge kits were purchased for all children in care for the component of spirituality
- Annual Cultural Days
- Reunification Ceremony
- Waus-saeyaubindumowin (Vision Quests) for youth in care
- Wauweendaussowin (Naming Ceremony)
On January 6 and 7, 2015 KGCFS agency policies and procedures training occurred in preparation for the review for pending designation.

From February 9 to 13, 2015 the MCYS on-site transitional phase review occurred. Departmental staff were interviewed regarding their knowledge and abilities to complete designated child welfare work, along the completion of service file reviews by MCYS. A selection of Foster Parents were also interviewed and all interviews were successful.

Under the secondment model the agency also monitored compliance in relation to children in care standards and the agency demonstrated high rates of compliance with these standards.

Extensive planning and a number of operational meetings occurred throughout the year with the local Society in preparation for file transfers from a service perspective as well as an operational level in terms of information technology and finance linkages to services.
FOSTER CARE INVOLVEMENT / EVENTS

The agency also joined a multi-agency youth committee in the Sudbury area. The committee was developed as the agencies servicing First Nation youth in the Sudbury area identified a need for enhanced youth support for high risk youth. Committee members include the Greater Sudbury Police Service, N’Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, Summit Human Services, Youth Initiatives Group Home, Sudbury Probation Services and White Buffalo Road Healing Lodge. The youth group held Sweats, Pipe Ceremonies, Circles and Traditional Drum Making and special presentations.

The annual foster care licensing review occurred from November 26 - 28, 2014. The agency received a regular license from November 26, 2014 to November 25, 2015.

In December 2014 the Foster Parent Christmas Dinner was a great success and well received by all. This event was fully organized and managed by the foster care department. The goal was to ensure Foster Parents felt appreciated and that the children had an opportunity to visit Santa and receive gifts. Family photos were also completed for the children and foster families. There were approximately 64 foster parents, 49 foster children, 41 staff and others whom attended. Our cultural and traditional people ensured this event was spiritually connected through song and prayer. The event ended with a music performance from Crystal Shawanda.

A Foster Family Trip to Toronto occurred on March 6-8, 2015 with 38 foster families attending and a total of 136 participants including KGCFS foster care staff members. The families and children had the opportunity to visit 3 attractions including Ripley’s Aquarium of Canada, the CN Tower and Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament. For many children in care this is the first time that they have had an opportunity to visit these locations.


Maamwi Ngodweyaabizwin: Foster Parent Conference

The agency also hosted a Foster Parent Conference on September 13, 2014 at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre in Little Current. In attendance were KGCFS staff, foster parents, community members and partnering organizations. The conference had 92 confirmed registrants and additional members whom attended. Key note speakers were Estelle Simard whom presented Culturally Restorative Practices and Landy Anderson whom presented a workshop entitled Under Spotlight and In the Public Eye.

Other workshops included:

- Laughter Yoga with Barbara Hancock
- Customary Care with Maureen Trudeau
- Life Books with Rachel St George/Natalie Flamand
- Cultural Attachment with Estelle Simard
- Gifts of a Child with Leona Nahwegahbow
- FASD Presentation with Holly Johnson
- Investigations in Foster Homes with Landy Anderson
- Life Stages with Estelle Simard
Summary of Recommendations from the Conference (from Foster Parents)

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<tr>
<th>Child Development</th>
<th>Cultural Knowledge</th>
<th>Nutrition, Diet &amp; Well-Being</th>
<th>Service Related</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. FASD (6)</td>
<td>1. Various teachings, women's teachings, elders, story-telling, ceremonies, cedar baths, traditional family skills</td>
<td>1. Yoga (Laughter) and Meditation (4)</td>
<td>1. Customary Care ranked highest (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Behaviors and Behavioral management</td>
<td>2. Diet and body and brain (2)</td>
<td>2. Support Groups/Circles (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Autism, Developmental delays, info on Ritalin and children.</td>
<td>4. Targeted subsidy/custody</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Games, crafts, arts etc…</td>
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FOSTER CARE STATISTICS- 2014-2015

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<thead>
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<th>Number of Approved Homes</th>
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<td>Regular Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinship Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customary Care</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Care</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Approved Homes</th>
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<td>Kinship Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customary Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Care</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Approved Homes</th>
<th>Third Quarter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Care</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinship Care</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customary Care</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Care</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Approved Homes</th>
<th>Fourth Quarter</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Regular Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinship Care</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customary Care</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic Care</td>
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</table>
The foster care departments primary functions are to recruit and screen foster parent applicants, approve foster homes, provide supervision and ongoing support to foster parents and provide the necessary link between a parent agency and collaterals to ensure needs are met by all parties while child/youth is in foster care.

The Foster Care Department currently services foster homes within the following classifications: regular care, kinship care, customary care and therapeutic care under the license of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

**FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT**

Total # of 101 First Nations children

Our Shining Stars!

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services has a complement of foster homes throughout the Manitoulin Island and Sudbury area; on and off reserve.

As of March 31, 2015 there are **46 Homes** open with **52 support people/homes**.

As of March 31, 2015, **62 Children in Care** are placed in KGCFS homes.

GROWTH in Number of Foster Homes


Report prepared by: FC Recruitment Coordinator
SUMMARY OF RECRUITMENT ACTIVITY

Recruitment activities occurred throughout the fiscal year. The first level of recruitment engagement involved the coordination of information sessions with presentations on foster care and the need for additional foster homes to ensure that all UCCMM and WUIR children are placed within First Nation foster homes.

The community presentations identified the number of foster homes required to meet the agency and children’s needs. The agency Mission and Vision were shared along with program information outlining reasons children require foster homes, the application process and supports available to the children in care and the families who open their homes for children.

Community requests for further details were made available to the communities at their request including the age categories of children in care to assist with successful planning and recruiting of foster homes. A “community profile” of children in care, legal status, age group etc. was provided throughout the recruitment strategy for the year.

Furthermore, Foster Parent Support Circles were initiated in the Winter of 2014 which included activities such as Regalia Making, Drum Making, beading etc.

NEW INITIATIVES

WUIR Specialized Agency Operated Home

The high number of children from WUIR placed in care outside the community resulted in the agency responding with development of an agency operated specialized resource home in partnership with Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. Planning for an agency operated home began in March 2015 with renovations to the home beginning as well as the development of a service model to support the vision.

VISION

1) Connecting children to their roots;
2) Creating opportunities for WUIR children to develop strong connections with their elders, their families and their community.

MODEL OVERVIEW

- The community based specialized home includes 4 beds, 2 concurrent planning beds and 2 community access beds
- Two (2) placements are not viewed as crisis nor long-term/permanent placements
- All placements will have concurrent planning where alternate plans are being/will be explored.
- The focus is on repatriation, family reunification and community reintegration for these two placements and will need to meet criteria for such.
- The placements are meant to be short term with the focus on a return to extended family or parents.
- Two (2) access beds are for child(ren) placed outside the community to be connected to the community with identified significant adult(s) for child(ren) – to bridge access and/or placement bridge with the identified adult(s).
- The goal is to return the access to the community or family system and bridge a return of children to their families.
- During the week, the home can be used for other access, teaching of life skills, parenting programs, cultural programs.
- Should the model have successful measurable outcomes further homes would be developed in other communities.

The agency is also working with the UCCMM First Nations to open additional regular agency operated foster homes within each community to support the need for additional foster homes within each First Nation as many children remain within foster homes with the Children’s Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES TEAM

The Specialized Services Team came from a need to restructure in order to give needed attention to the goals and objectives of the agency regarding repatriation, reunification, and children remaining in their own homes with intensive supports when risks are identified.

Some positions were realigned from other areas of the organization to support this philosophy.

Family Counselling – Child Welfare Intervention Program

- This program was developed to assist with reunification of children in care to their families and to ensure children at high risk of coming into care receive immediate intensive supports. The immediate Child Welfare support is provided to enhance the families coping mechanisms and ensure children remain in the care of their family.
- The Family Counseling Program is a Child Welfare intervention program that offers families with children 0-18 intensive short-term crisis intervention and family education services in their home.
- Using the Families First Model this Family Preservation Program is family focused, ecological, strengths based and action focused.
- The Family Counselors will help families learn new skills and problem solving techniques needed to allow children/youth to remain in their own homes and prevent potential family breakdown, along with support with the repatriation of children to their family of origin.
- The Family Counselors will assist families in meeting goals by making an individual family plan that includes their goals, teaching, modeling, and reinforcing positive, responsive parenting in a culturally inclusive way.
- Concrete services and service connections to local community services, prevention family supports and cultural supports will also be provided.
CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Senior Management

Executive Director

Manager of Resources

Three (3) Service Supervisors

Family Services
  Intake Services
  Child in Care Services (Sudbury)
  Legal Counsel
  Management Support to First Nation Prevention Services

Manager of Alternative Care

Three (3) Service Supervisors

Specialized Services
  After Hour Services
  Phone Screening
  Foster Care Services
  Customary Care Services
  Child in Care Services (Island)

Manager of Administration

Two (2) Service Supervisors

Finance
  Training
  Human Resource
  Information and Technology
KINA GBEZHGOMI CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Designation as a Children’s Aid Society
Under Section 15(2) of the Child and Family Services Act

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I would like to recognize the dedication and commitment of Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services to providing child well-being, protection and prevention services to the First Nation communities of the Whitefish River First Nation, Zhiibaahaasing First Nation, Sheshegwaning First Nation, M’Chigeeng First Nation, Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation, Sheguiandah First Nation, and Wikwemikong Uceded Indian Reserve, and the First Nations members of the communities specified who are off-reserve but within the District of Sudbury and the District of Manitoulin and any other Aboriginal persons within these Districts.

This designation, effective April 1, 2015 is another positive step in our shared priority of empowering Aboriginal communities in Ontario to provide services that are responsive to their customs and traditions, and that build a better future for Aboriginal children, youth and families.

This designation marks an important milestone for Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services. It demonstrates that you are well prepared to move forward in ensuring the best possible outcome for every child and youth in your care.

As Minister of Children and Youth Services, I share your commitment to supporting Aboriginal children and youth in their transition to adulthood as they embrace a life of full participation in the rich culture and traditions of your First Nation communities.

My very best wishes for the future.

Miigwetch

Tracy MacCharles
Minister of Children and Youth Services
May 8, 2015
Pursuant to subsection 15(2) of the Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 11, I designate the

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services

as a children's aid society for:

(a) the areas of land in Ontario set aside as:

Whitefish River First Nation (Reserve No. 4), Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
(Reserve No. 19 and 19A), Sheshegwaning First Nation (Reserve No. 20),
M'Chigeeng First Nation (Reserve No. 22), Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
(Reserve No. 23), Sheguiandah First Nation (Reserve No. 24), and
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and,

(b) the members of the bands of the reserves specified in part (a) who are off-
reserve but within the District of Sudbury and the District of Manitoulin and any
other Aboriginal persons within these Districts.

This designation is effective as of April 1, 2015.

Dated at Toronto this 24th day of March, 2015.

Tracy MacCharles
Minister of Children and Youth Services
The First Hill

My eldest son was in the hospital during wild-ricing season. I had been ricing on the lake for several days to help make ends meet, but on the day of my son’s birth I drove his mother to the hospital in the early morning hours. I was present in the birthing room when he entered the world.

I listened as he announced himself and began his struggle with life. His voice was at once so strong and clear. It entered me and found its way to my heart. He sang his first song for his mother and me.

The seasons have come and gone.
And I still dance to his song.

Thomas Peacock