



Métis Nation–Saskatchewan

Ministry of Child and Family Services

COMMUNITY REPORT 2025-26

COMMUNITY REPORT

BUILDING OUR MÉTIS- DISTINCT MODEL OF CARE



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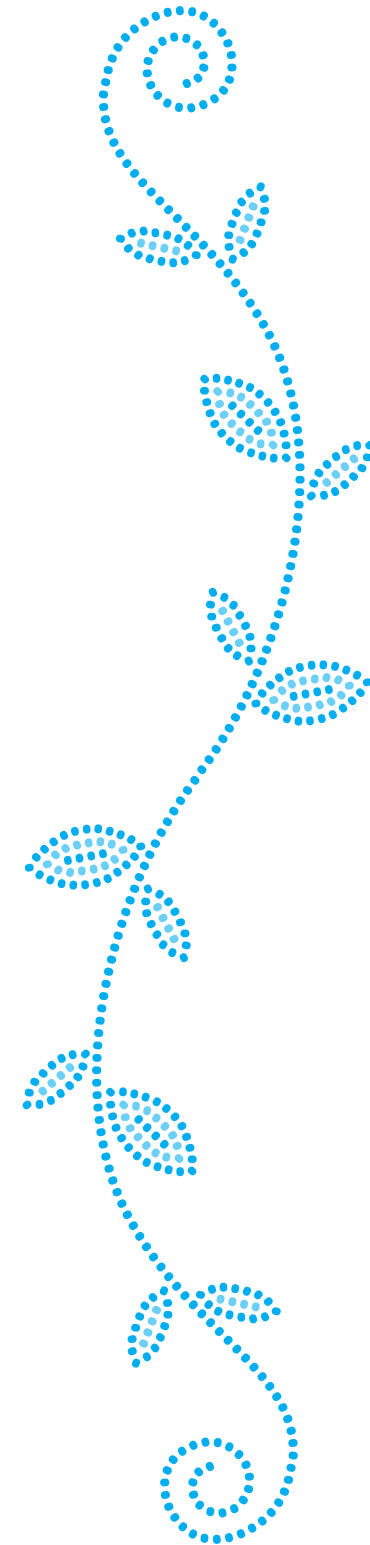
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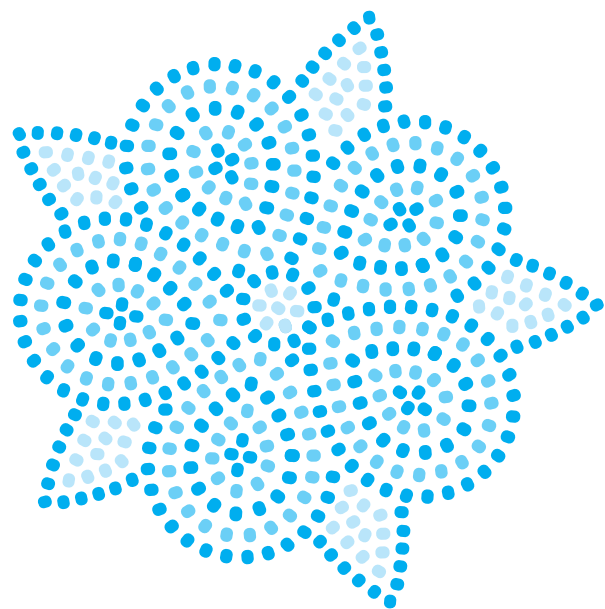


Bringing Our Children Home: Asserting Jurisdiction Under the Act

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has the inherent right to design and deliver child and family services (CFS) that reflect Métis culture, values, and ways of life. Assuming jurisdiction over these services represents an important step toward building a stronger and healthier future for Métis children, youth, and families.

In 2020, the federal government passed *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Act), previously known as Bill C-92. This legislation recognizes the right of Indigenous governments to exercise jurisdiction over CFS and creates a pathway for Indigenous communities to develop systems that reflect their unique priorities, cultures, and governance structures to care for their children, youth and families.

Under this legislation, MN–S is recognized as the Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) for Métis people in Saskatchewan, representing 30,791 registered citizens living in 571 municipalities across the province. As part of our journey to assume jurisdiction and bring our children home, MN–S is engaging with Métis citizens across Saskatchewan to help design a distinction-based Métis Model of Care that is Métis-led, community-driven, and grounded in the needs, strengths, and voices of our citizens.



Supporting Métis Children in Care

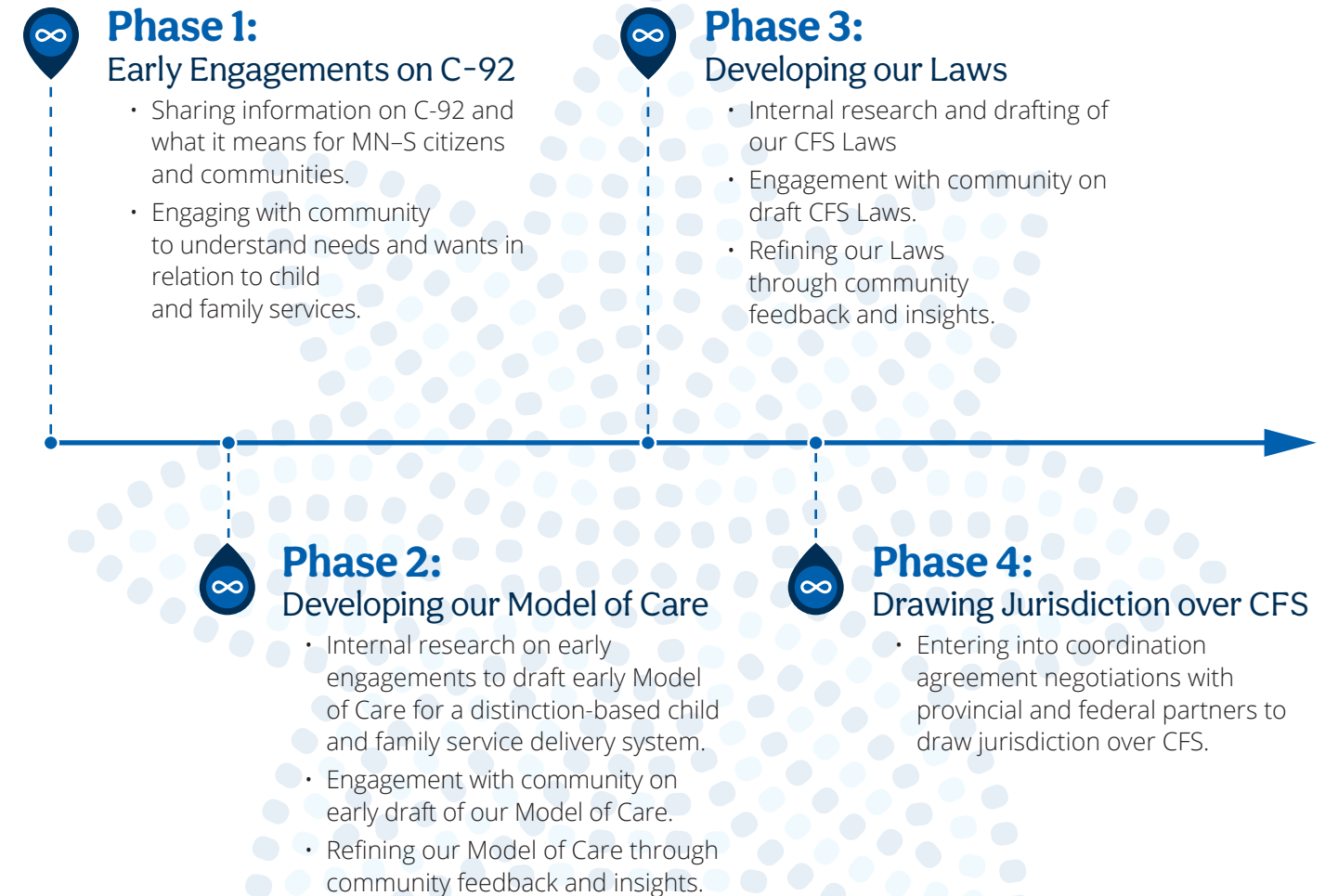
As MN–S works toward asserting jurisdiction over CFS, we recognize the importance of supporting Métis children, youth, and families who are currently involved in the provincial child welfare system. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Services, MN–S is supporting cultural planning for Métis-identified children in care under provincial legislation, helping ensure that children maintain meaningful connections to their Métis identity, culture, and community. MN–S is currently supporting cultural planning for 68 Métis children in care.



Where We Are in Our Pathway to Jurisdiction

MN–S recognizes that assuming jurisdiction over CFS is a significant and complex responsibility.

Through our engagements, citizens emphasized that this work must be carried out thoughtfully, collaboratively, and in ways that reflect Métis culture and values. As a result, MN–S's pathway to jurisdiction will take time and will include several key steps outlined below. We are currently finalizing Phase 3 and entering Phase 4.





Section 1

BACKGROUND

Why This? Why Now?

Over the past three years, MN-S has been working with citizens to envision a Métis-distinct CFS system that supports and empowers families to thrive, together. In 2024-2025, MN-S conducted engagement with citizens to understand communities' needs and priorities to support the initial design of programs and services that would comprise our Métis-distinct Model of Care.

Using citizens insights and voice, MN-S Ministry of Child and Family Services developed a catalogue of programs and services that could support a Métis-distinct CFS system. While many programs and services were seen as desirable, there was recognition that not everything identified could be implemented due to limited resources. To ensure that community needs could be met in a sustainable and citizen-centered manner, MN-S re-engaged citizens to prioritize programs and services developed to support the finalization of a Model of Care.

How We Engaged

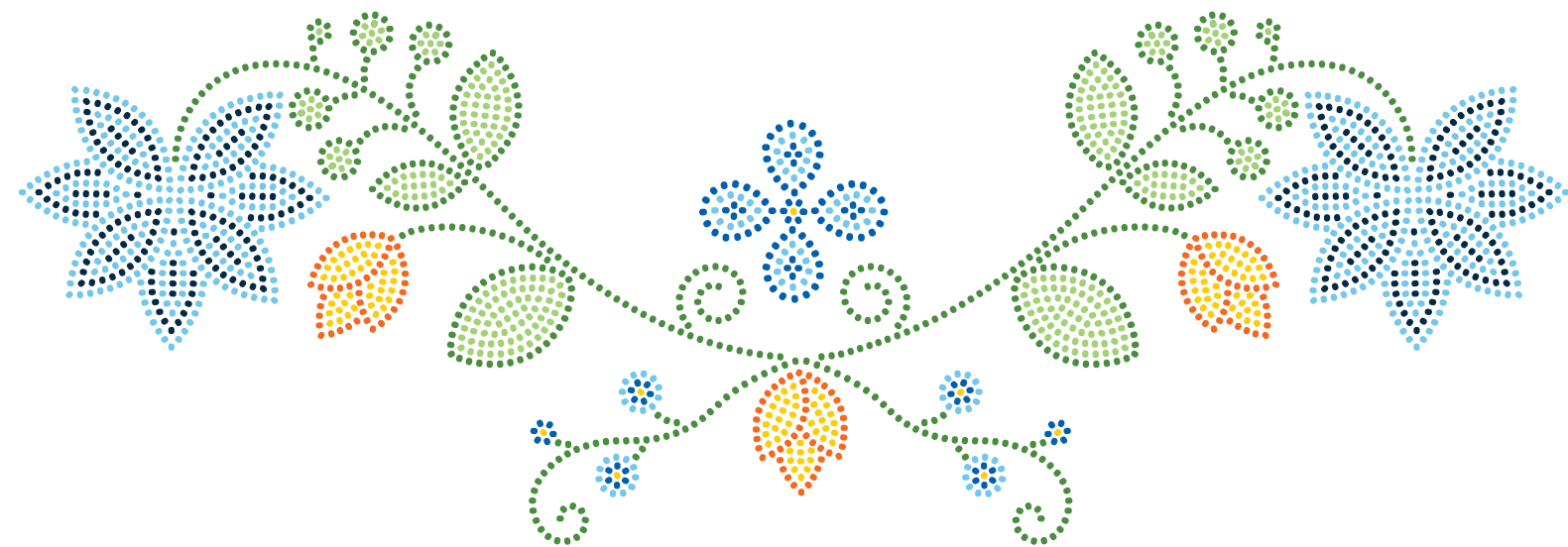
As in previous years, from October 2025 – January 2026, MN-S' Ministry of Child and Family Services hosted a series of citizen engagement opportunities. To capture a range of citizen voices, we provided the following engagement opportunities:

- 25 in-person engagement sessions hosted in community (see *Appendix A* for a list of communities visited)
- 3 virtual engagement sessions hosted on Zoom
- 1 online survey

A total of **330 citizens** shared their insights and thoughts on the refinement of our Métis-distinct Model of Care and initial drafting of dispute resolution mechanisms (DRM) that will support our overarching child and family services system in Saskatchewan.

In this engagement process, we focused on prioritizing the programs and services identified by communities during the 2024-25 engagements and further refining our distinctions-based Model of Care for Métis children, youth, and families. At the same time, we began important conversations about what dispute resolution mechanisms could look like to support future CFS legislation, which will be further developed through Phase 3 engagements taking place in the spring and summer of 2026.

The following sections of this report highlight what we heard from communities regarding the programs and services they see as the highest priorities (Section 2), as well as their insights on how dispute resolution mechanisms should be designed (Section 3).





In 2024–25, MN–S engaged with citizens across the province to better understand unique community needs and priorities to begin developing our Model of Care for a distinction-based child and family service system.

Section 2

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN THE MODEL OF CARE



Our Model of Care will take a holistic approach to supporting the wellbeing of Métis children, youth, and families, through distinction-based prevention and intervention services that will meet families where they are, ensuring their voices are heard, their needs are addressed, and their connections to community, culture, and kinship are preserved.

Building on what we heard, MN–S staff collaboratively developed 32 programs and services organized across five core focus areas representing our Model of Care (see *Appendix B*), forming a continuum of care to support Métis children, youth and families across Saskatchewan.

What We Asked

Citizens were asked to help prioritize the programs and services included in the proposed Model of Care, recognizing that while all programs and supports identified in earlier engagements are important, it may not be possible to implement everything.

Additionally, citizens have noted that needs and priorities of Métis communities vary across the province, and what is needed in one region may differ from another. Understanding community priorities will help guide decision-making as MN-S continues to design and implement distinction-based programs and services as it moves toward asserting jurisdiction over CFS.

What We Heard

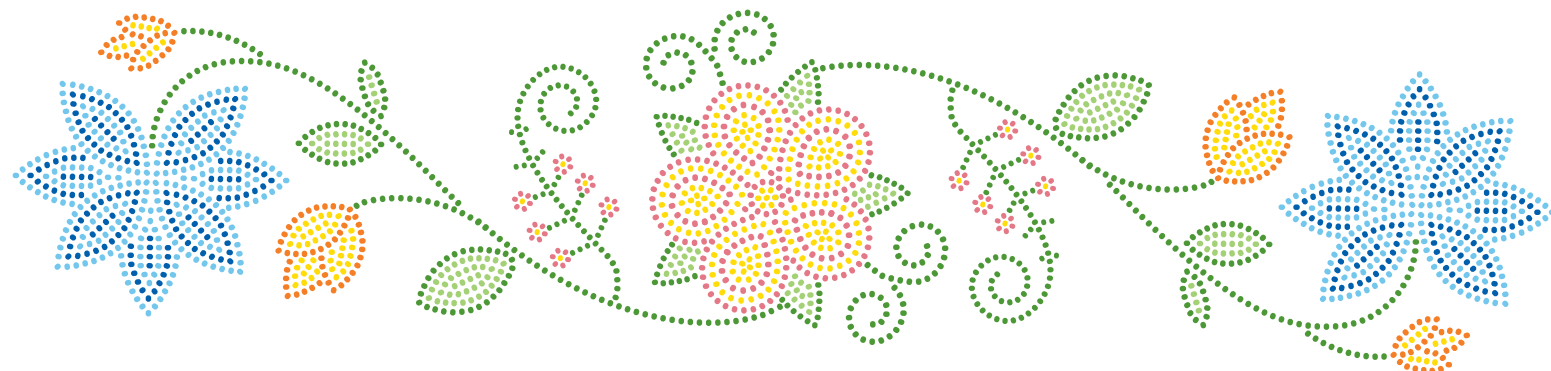
The following sections outline how programs and services were prioritized both provincially and across distinct regions within the MN-S.

Province Wide Top Programs and Services Identified by Citizens

Citizens' feedback was compiled to identify the top programs and services most strongly prioritized across the province.

Métis citizens identified the following five (5) programs and services as the most important priorities to support children, youth and families in our CFS system:

- **Counselling Services (71%)**
- **Emergency and Protective Placement (67%)**
- **Land-Based Treatment and Detox (66%)**
- **Food Sovereignty (64%)**
- **Youth Sports and Culture Grants (64%)**



We also analyzed the data using distinct CFS service delivery areas (i.e., North, Central and South). These service delivery areas differ from the current MN-S regional boundaries (i.e., Northern Region, Western Region, and Eastern Region) and are designed to better reflect geographic factors and how services are accessed across the province.

Northern Service Delivery Areas include:

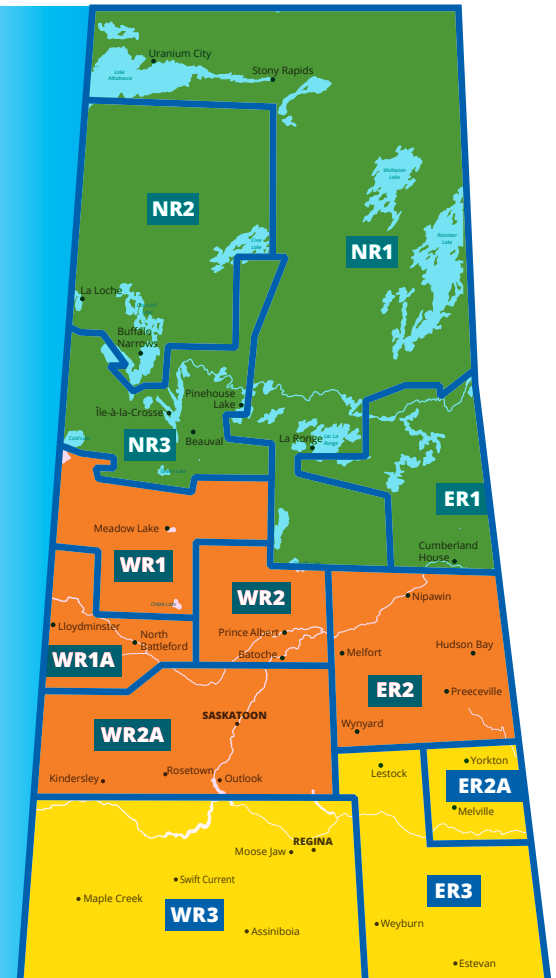
- Northern Region 1
- Northern Region 2
- Northern Region 3
- Eastern Region 1

Southern Service Delivery Areas include:

- Western Region 3
- Eastern Region 2A
- Eastern Region 3

Central Service Delivery Areas include:

- Western Region 1
- Western Region 1A
- Western Region 2
- Western Region 2A
- Eastern Region 2

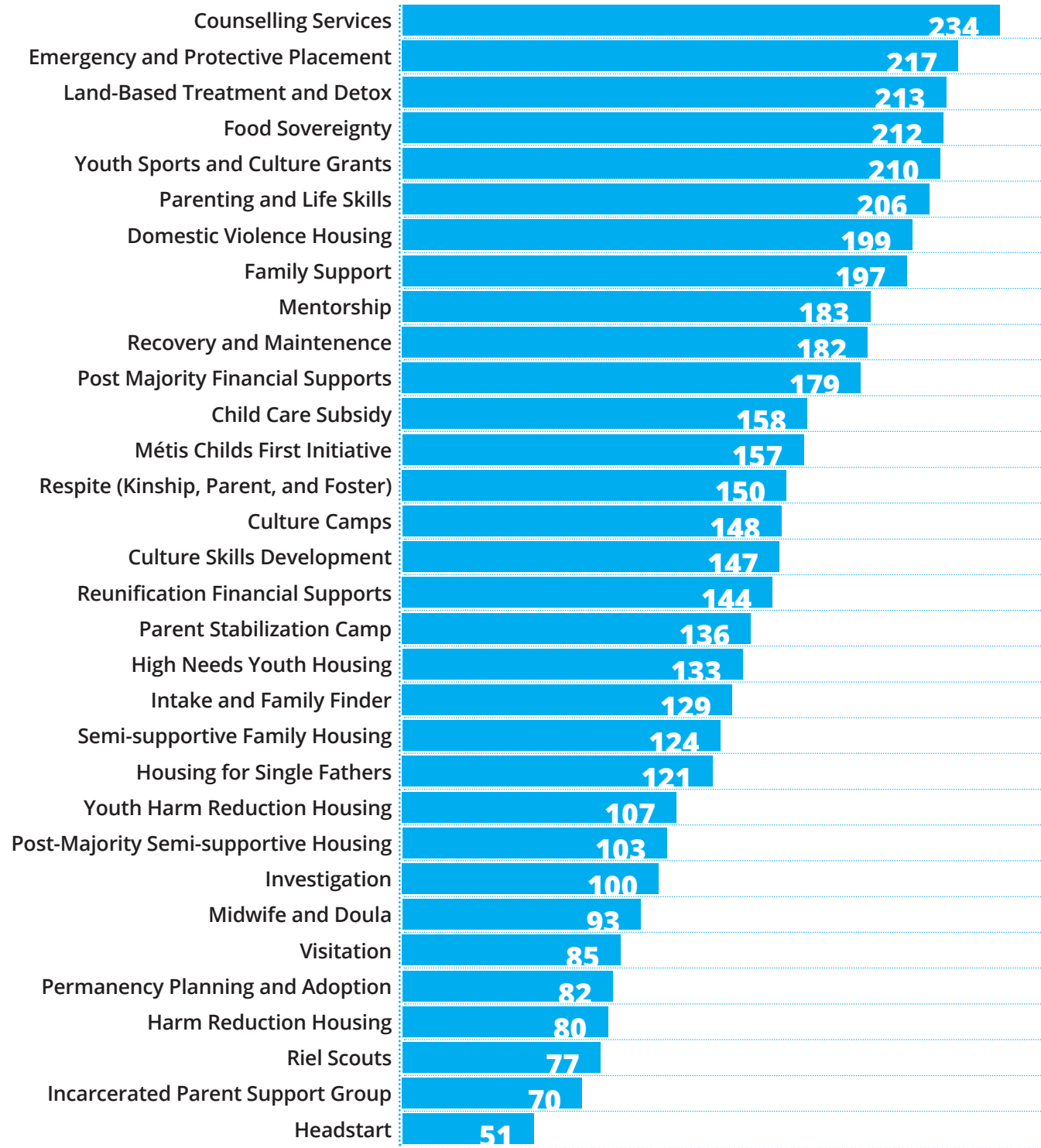


Based on this analysis, distinction-based differences in service delivery areas began to emerge, including the top five (5) programs and services for each service delivery area:

NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-Based Treatment and Detox (78%) • Parenting and Life Skills (68%) • Recovery and Maintenance Program (67%) • Mentorship Program (65%) • Family Support (65%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Sports and Culture Grant (72%) • Counselling Services Program (70%) • Emergency and Protective Placement (63%) • Domestic Violence Housing Program (62%) • Food Sovereignty (61%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services Program (82%) • Emergency and Protective Placement (80%) • Food Sovereignty (75%) • Land-Based Treatment and Detox (73%) • Domestic Violence Housing (69%)

Below is a depiction of how programs and services comprising our Model of Care were prioritized by Métis citizens.

Provincial Engagement Reporting List



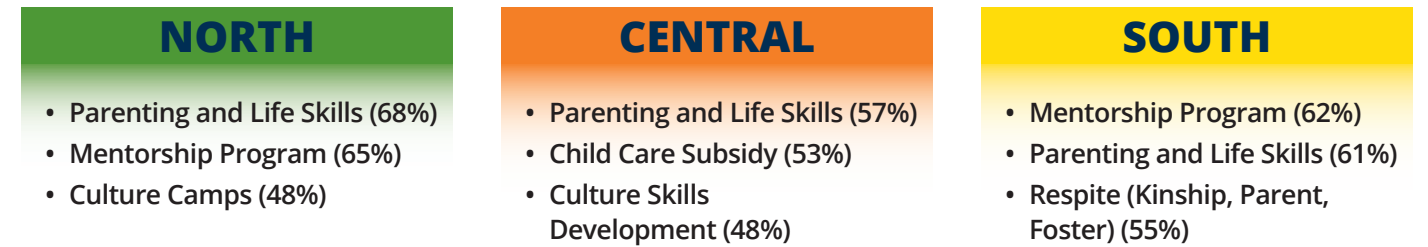
Distinction-Based Priorities Across Model of Care Focus Areas

In addition to identifying the top programs and services prioritized by citizens, we analyzed how programs were prioritized within each focus area of our proposed Model of Care. The findings below highlight the programs and services most strongly prioritized by citizens both provincially and through a distinction-based service delivery area lens, while recognizing the need for a balanced continuum of services to support the wellbeing of Métis children, youth, and families.

CONNECTIONS & SUPPORTS

In the Connections & Supports focus area, citizens identified **Skill Development (63%)** as the top program priority across the province. The next top two community priorities identified included the **Mentorship Program (55%)**, and **Child Care Subsidy (48%)**.

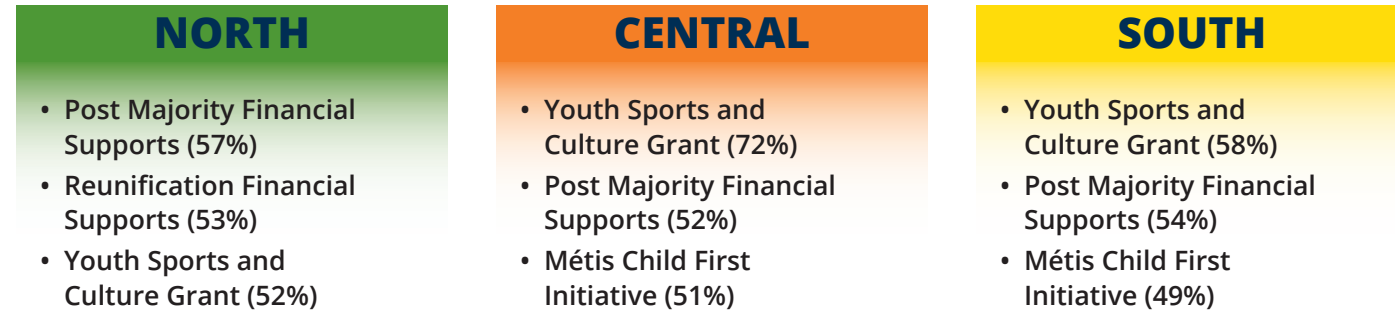
Analyzing citizen insights by distinct CFS service delivery areas revealed distinction-based differences in priorities within the Connections & Supports focus area of the Model of Care.



EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

Across the province, participating citizens prioritized **Youth Sports and Culture Grants (64%)** within this focus area as the top priority. The next top two community priorities identified included **Post Majority Financial Supports (54%)**, and **Métis Child First Initiative (48%)**.

Analyzing citizen insights by distinct CFS service delivery areas revealed distinction-based differences in priorities within the Emergency Financial Supports focus area of the Model of Care.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Across the province, citizens identified the **Counselling Services Program (71%)** within the Health & Wellbeing focus area as the top community priority. This was followed by **Land-Based Treatment and Detox (65%)** and **Food Sovereignty (64%)**.

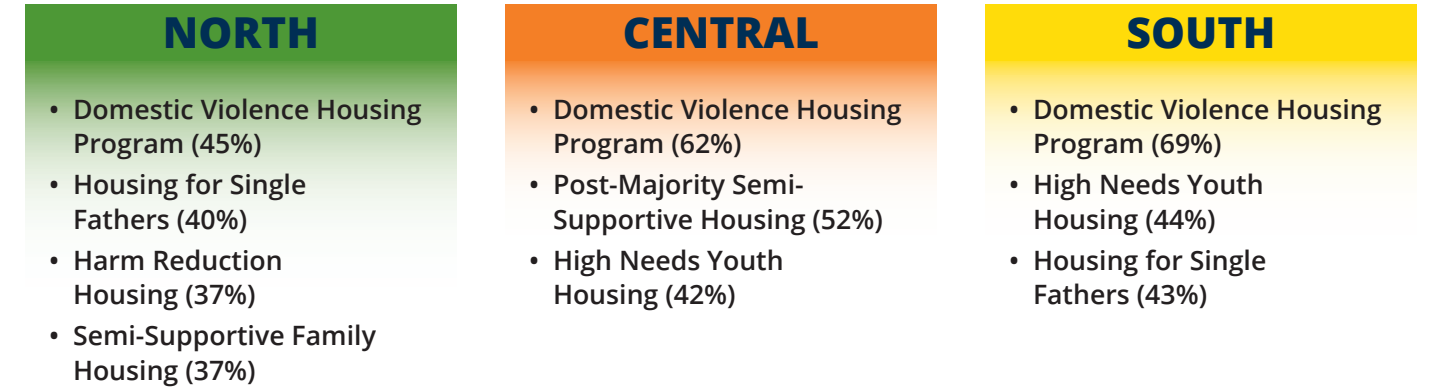
Analyzing citizen insights by distinct CFS service delivery areas revealed distinction-based differences in priorities within the Health & Wellbeing focus area of the Model of Care.



HOUSING & STABILITY

Housing was regularly identified as a key priority. Citizens identified the **Domestic Violence Housing Program (60%)** as the most prioritized community need. This was followed by **High Needs Youth Housing (40%)** and **Semi-Supportive Family Housing (38%)**.

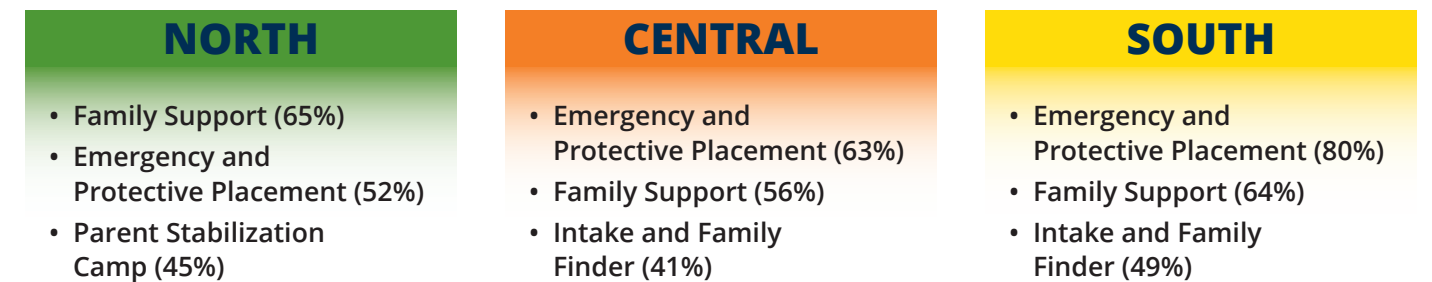
Analyzing citizen insights by distinct CFS service delivery areas revealed distinction-based differences in priorities within the Housing & Stability focus area of the Model of Care.



PROTECTING & REUNIFYING FAMILIES

When citizen insights from all service delivery areas were analyzed together, **Emergency and Protective Placement (66%)** emerged as the most frequently prioritized program in this focus area. **The Family Support (60%)** program and **Parent Stabilization Camp (41%)** were also identified as important community priorities.

Analyzing citizen insights by distinct CFS service delivery areas revealed distinction-based differences in priorities within the Protecting & Reunifying Families focus area of the Model of Care.





Our Finalized Model of Care

In the following pages you will find our refined Model of Care, which includes the unique programs and services identified by MN-S citizens required to support our Métis-distinct Child and Family Service system.

SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY PROVIDERS

Our Model of Care will be implemented across the province and includes a range of programs and services designed to support families at different stages of need, from early prevention through to more intensive intervention. To support delivery, MN-S will use a mix of service pathways, including delivery through Regions and Locals, and where it makes sense, partnerships with third-party organizations.

LOCALS

Recognized MN-S Métis Local's in Saskatchewan that are in good standing.

REGIONS

Regional CFS programming is delivered through the Regional Council resolutions.

MN-S PUBLIC SERVICE

The MN-S public service is the administrative operations of the government.



CONNECTIONS & SUPPORTS

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Culture Camps	Prevention	Regional
<p>Culture Camps will provide land-based learning opportunities for Métis families to strengthen their cultural knowledge, identity and kinship connections, supporting their overall wellbeing. Culture Camps will include activities grounded in regional Métis traditions, customs and teachings, such as food harvesting, trapping, fishing, storytelling, language learning and other land-based skills.</p> <p>People this Program Supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis children, youth and families involved or at-risk of being involved with CFS (prioritized) • Non-Métis families who are fostering Métis children (prioritized) • Métis children, youth and families who are registered citizens (if space available) <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, identity, and community among children, youth and families 		

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Head Start Program	Prevention	MN-S Public Service
<p>The Head Start program aims to support the growth, development and early-learning achievements of Métis children from birth to age six. The program offers drop-in and home outreach programming grounded in Métis culture, language, and teachings, alongside leading early childhood development practices that support lifelong learning outcomes for both children and their parents or caregivers. Activities may include parent-tot play, reading, singing, storytelling, language, and cultural and land-based teachings.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis children age 0-6 • Métis parents or caregivers with children age 0-6 <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved school readiness and educational outcomes for Métis children • Improved parent and caregiver engagement in children’s learning and development • Strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity among children, youth and families 		



PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Cultural Skills Development	Prevention	Local
<p>The Cultural Skills Development program will provide Métis children and families with opportunities to strengthen their cultural knowledge and skills through hands-on learning and intergenerational knowledge sharing. Programming may include culturally grounded workshops, activities, clubs, and community events that support cultural connection and identity within participants local communities.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis children, youth and families involved or at-risk of being involved with CFS (prioritized) • Non-Métis families who are fostering Métis children (prioritized) • Métis children, youth and families who are registered citizens (if space available) <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity among children, youth and families • Increased self-esteem for Métis children, youth and families 		
Incarcerated Parents Support Program	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service
<p>Incarcerated Parents Support program provides Métis parents with opportunities to develop and improve parenting and life skills. It will be delivered through hands-on learning, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and culturally relevant workshops, activities, and events. The goal of the program is to provide Métis parents with skills necessary to enhance parenting capacity, promote healthy family relationships, and equip them with essential life skills to navigate everyday challenges while fostering long-term well-being for their family. Parents and caregivers will have access to parenting workshops, one-on-one coaching, and stress management support.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/caregivers of Métis children involved or at-risk of being involved with CFS <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis parents and caregivers strengthen their parenting and life skills • Improved outcomes in safe, stable, and sustained family preservation or reunification 		
Respite Program	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service
<p>The Respite program provides planned respite services to Métis caregivers who are at-risk or involved with the MN-S Child and Family Service System as a preventative approach to support caregiver wellness and reduce burnout. The program aims to strengthen family support systems, promote self-care, ensure the safety of children, and enhance overall family wellbeing. Respite services are coordinated between the caregiver and an assigned worker, determining the level of support based on the unique needs of each family. Flexible options include in-home and out-of-home respite (in one of three dedicated homes within the province). Caregivers may access trained providers through the program, or work with staff to approve a private provider if resources do not exist in their community. Caregivers accessing this program are required to meet semi-annually with their assigned worker to review services, assess ongoing/changing needs, and support continuity of care.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/caregivers of Métis children involved or at risk of being involved with CFS <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved outcomes in safe, stable, and sustained family preservation or reunification 		

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Mentorship Program	Prevention	MN-S Public Service/Locals

The Mentorship program provides opportunities for Métis children, youth and parents to build meaningful relationships through shared knowledge, guidance and experiences. The program supports a range of mentorship pairings between children, youth, adults, and/or Elders, helping to strengthen cultural identity, build skills, and foster positive relationships that support the wellbeing of Métis children, youth, families and communities.

People this program supports:

- Métis children, youth and families involved or at-risk of being involved with CFS (prioritized)
- Métis children, youth and families

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity among children, youth and families
- Increased positive intergenerational connections for Métis youth, children and parents/caregivers

Riel Scouts	Prevention	Locals
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The Riel Scouts program is a youth program delivered through Métis Locals for MN-S citizens aged 5-16. It brings young people together in Scout Parties, drawing inspiration from the traditional Buffalo Hunt, where they take part in cultural activities, spend time on the land, and learn from Elders, Knowledge Carriers, and community members. Scouts complete activities through these community-centred experiences and earn badges that reflect the knowledge and skills they have gained. As a youth graduate of the program, there is opportunity to build on the skills they have learned through the Junior Captain program for citizens aged 17-18. The program supports youth as they come to understand who they are as Métis people through culture, values, language, and identity exercises, strengthening their connection to community while encouraging responsibility, cooperation, and care for the people and places around them.

People this program supports:

- Métis youth aged 5-18

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity among children, youth and families



EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Child Care Subsidy	Prevention	MN-S Public Service

The Childcare Subsidy program will provide a stipend to cover partial or full cost of childcare for parents of caregivers of Métis children with involvement or at-risk of involvement with MN-S CFS. Eligibility will be dependent on the parents or caregivers being employed, seeking employment or attending school/training.

People this program supports:

- Métis families involved or at-risk of being involved with CFS (low-income prioritized)

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Families have improved access to financial supports to increase financial stability and reduce poverty-related risks

Post-Majority Financial Support Program	Intervention	MN-S Public Service
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The Post-Majority Financial Support program assists Métis youth aged 18-25 who are or were under the care of the MN-S CFS with financial supports. These supports can be linked to education, training, employment or basic needs. The goal is to support post-majority Métis youth transition to successful independent living in their adult life.

People this program supports:

- Métis youth aged 18-25 transitioning out of the MN-S CFS system

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis youth exiting care have improved rates of stable housing, education and employment

Reunification Financial Support Program	Intervention	MN-S Public Service
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The Reunification Financial Support program supports eligible caregivers who are reunifying with their children by reducing financial barriers during a critical transition period. Caregivers work with program staff to identify appropriate requests based on assessed needs, with funding parameters related to basic needs and a safe home environment. While the assistance offers immediate relief, it is designed as a temporary bridge rather than a long-term solution. Caregivers receiving financial support are required to engage in programming focused on building financial literacy and budgeting skills. These supports aim to strengthen caregiver capacity for long-term financial stability and reinforce the program's emphasis on sustainable reunification. By easing financial stress during a highly vulnerable period, the program allows families to focus on healing, strengthening bonds, and creating safe, stable home environments that support lasting reunification.

People this program supports:

- Métis families involved or at-risk of being involved with CFS (low-income prioritized)

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Families have improved access to financial supports to meet basic needs
- Improved outcomes in safe, stable, and sustained family reunification

Youth Sports and Culture Grant **Prevention** **MN-S Public Service**

The Youth Sports and Culture Grant program provides registered Métis children and youth 3-18 with financial funding to support participation in extracurricular sports and cultural activities. Funding for this program is intended to cover registration fees, equipment, camps, supplies, and travel costs, ensuring barriers to participation are reduced. Families can access funding for children and youth through a MN-S provincially managed application process that is open and available year-round (April 1-March 31). The program provides reimbursements to families, providing letter of guarantees if application is approved and a letter is required. Program will also directly pay service providers and purchase items from vendors, avoiding upfront costs to families.

People this program supports:

- Métis children and youth (ages 3-18) who are registered citizens of MN-S

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children have increased access to and participation in extracurricular sports and cultural activities

Métis Child First Initiative **Prevention** **MN-S Public Service**

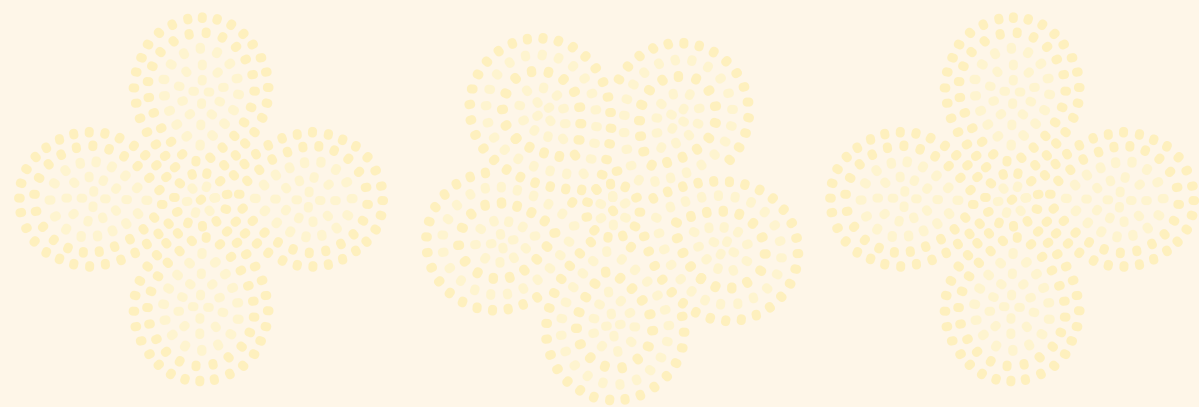
The Métis Child First Initiative (MCFI) will help ensure Métis children can access the health, social, and education supports they need to thrive. When existing federal or provincial programs cannot meet a child's needs, the initiative will help fill those gaps so children and their families can get the services and support they require. The goal is to make sure Métis children have fair and timely access to supports that promote their wellbeing and development.

People this program supports:

- Métis children and youth registered citizens of MN-S

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children and youth have increased access to social, education and health supports and services to improve their wellbeing



HEALTH & WELLBEING

PROGRAM NAME: **STAGE OF SUPPORT:** **SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:**
Midwife and Doula Program **Prevention** **MN-S Public Service**

The Midwife and Doula program provides Métis women and families across Saskatchewan with free culturally safe, compassionate, and accessible maternal supports from pre-pregnancy through pregnancy and the postpartum period. It centers Métis cultural traditions, values, and practices within all supports and services, ensuring care is culturally grounded and responsive to each family's unique needs and circumstances. Through a holistic model that includes midwifery care, doula support, and mentorship, the program delivers comprehensive maternal care that honors Métis ways of knowing and being. By bringing services directly into communities, the program reduces the need for travel to urban centers and increases access to maternal healthcare for Métis women and families and reducing the risk of apprehension.

People this program supports:

- Birthing families where one or more parent(s) is a registered MN-S citizen

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis families experience improved maternal health outcomes

Food Sovereignty **Prevention** **Local**

The Food Sovereignty program provides financial funding to Locals to support the delivery of year-round, culturally grounded activities that focus on increasing food sovereignty for low-income Métis families. Beyond following set program guidelines developed by MN-S, Locals have the ability to tailor their program delivery to ensure it meets their unique needs and Métis distinct cultural values of the citizens in their area.

People this program supports:

- Low-income Métis families

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis communities have increased capacity to address food insecurity
- Métis children, youth and families have improved access to local, culturally appropriate and nutritious food
- Métis families have decreased risk of apprehensions due to food insecurity



PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Land-Based Treatment and Detox	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service
<p>The Land-Based Treatment and Detox program provides a trauma-informed, safe, structured, and culturally grounded environment for Métis individuals looking to access support with substance abuse, detox, and early recovery. Individuals accessing the program reside on-site and participate in daily activities that focus on evidence-informed clinical detox, therapeutic programming, mental health supports and land-based activities. By utilizing a combination of traditional Métis practices with modern detox and treatment strategies, the program reconnects participants to the land, fosters mental and emotional well-being, and builds resilience, supporting them on their journey to long-term stability and well-being. To maintain family connection, visitation with children will be prioritized when deemed safe to do so throughout the duration of the program. Participants will also be supported in developing a transition plan for after program completion. Focusing on cultural, practical, and therapeutic teachings and support, the program aims to stabilize participants, promote healing, build skills and resilience, and provide support for Métis citizens to take meaningful steps toward personal growth, long-term well-being, and family reunification.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN-S registered-Métis citizens living with active addictions with children who are involved or at risk of being involved in CFS (prioritized) • MN-S registered youth who are involved or have been involved in CFS (prioritized) • MN-S registered citizens with former involvement in CFS <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis individuals achieve safe detox completion through culturally grounded, supportive care • Métis individuals experience strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity • Métis individuals achieve and sustain long-term recovery and wellness 		

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Recovery and Maintenance Program	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service
<p>The Recovery and Maintenance program provides Métis citizens with an early and long-term recovery and maintenance wraparound support system rooted in trauma-informed and culturally grounded practices. Providing structured, ongoing and strength-based support, the program focuses on strengthening coping skills, maintaining recovery goals, reducing the risk of relapse and sustaining positive life changes. This outpatient program offers personalized individual support plans that combine different components of individual and group counselling, peer and Elder mentorship, cultural teachings, skill development and overall support in accessing and navigating other supports and services needed for long-term sobriety. Focusing on accountability, trust, and long-term stability, the aim of the Recovery and Maintenance Program is to reduce CFS interventions, increase family reunification and provide Métis individuals with appropriate resources to achieve long-term individual and family well-being.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis parents/caregivers in active recovery with children who are involved or at risk of being involved in CFS (prioritized) • Métis youth who are involved with or have been involved in CFS (prioritized) • Métis individuals with former involvement in CFS as children <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis individuals achieve and sustain long-term recovery and wellness • Strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity among children, youth and families 		



PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Counselling Services Program	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service
<p>The Counselling Services program provides counselling to MN-S citizens who are children, youth, parents and caregivers. Funding will also be available for family counseling. Those accessing this program will choose their own counsellor in their preferred setting and location which will be reimbursed at set rates by MN-S, with a yearly financial cap for citizens. This resource establishes access to mental health supports that are Métis distinct while also increasing links to psychological assessments. This program is for individuals who are experiencing behavioral, mental, or emotional challenges and require counselling support. Métis parents and caregivers will be able to access counselling and psychological services, along with mental health assessments, to build the tools and skills needed to navigate challenges and foster safe, stable, and nurturing environments for their children. In addition, by addressing challenges before they escalate, the program has the potential to prevent family breakdown and CFS involvement.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN-S registered citizens with children who are involved or at risk of being involved in CFS (prioritized) • MN-S registered children or youth who are involved or have been involved in CFS (prioritized) • MN-S registered citizens with former involvement in CFS <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis children, youth and families have improved mental health • Métis families have decreased apprehension risks due to mental health concerns 		

HOUSING & STABILITY

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Post-Majority Semi-Supportive Housing Program	Prevention	MN-S Public Service/Local
<p>The Post-Majority Semi-Supportive Housing program provides housing options for Métis youth aged 18-25 transitioning out of MN-S CFS care. The program integrates Métis culture with life-skills development to create safe, inclusive living environments that support independence and cultural connection. Youth live in semi-supportive homes where staff provide mentorship, guidance, and practical life-skills coaching to help build the confidence and abilities needed for independent living in their adult life.</p> <p>People this program supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis youth aged 18-25 transitioning out of the MN-S CFS system <p>Anticipated Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Métis youth exiting care have improved rates of stable housing, education and employment as they transition to adulthood 		

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Housing for Single Fathers	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service / Local

The Housing for Single Fathers program will provide single low-income Métis fathers with safe and affordable rental housing. Priority will be given to fathers who have active involvement with MN-S CFS and are either in the process of reuniting with their children, at-risk of having children apprehended or have recently gained custody of their children. By providing stable housing, the program aims to reduce barriers to family reunification and preservation, promote long-term stability, and ensure single fathers can create a supportive, nurturing environment for their children.

People this program supports:

- Single Métis fathers with children who are involved or at risk of being involved in CFS

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis single-father families have access to safe, stable, and supportive housing that supports family preservation or reunification

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Semi-Supportive Family Housing	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service/Local

The Semi-Supportive Family Housing program provides at-risk Métis families in Saskatchewan with safe, temporary, rent-scaled-to-income semi-supportive housing in apartment style complexes. Families in this program will have access to on-site support services, where support workers will help families set goals, monitor progress, and navigate and access appropriate services, ensuring families receive tailored support and are connected to services that meet their unique needs. This program aims to prepare families for a smooth transition to independent living within one year of entering the program, which they will then continue to have access to in the form of support workers.

People this program supports:

- Métis families who are involved or at risk of being involved in CFS

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis families have access to safe, stable, and supportive housing that supports family preservation and reunification

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
High Needs Housing	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service / Local / Contracted Service Provider

The High Needs Housing program provides support to Métis youth with complex support needs that exceed the capacity of kinship/foster care placements, or who require a period of stabilization before moving into more permanent living arrangements, by providing a safe, nurturing, and culturally rich home environment. Programming will focus on holistic care that fosters physical and emotional well-being, personal growth and skill development, and a strong sense of belonging. Through tailored support plans, therapies, and meaningful cultural connections, this program will empower young people to build resilience and thrive within their community, while ensuring their current needs are met in a safe environment.

People this program supports:

- Métis children and youth under MN-S CFS care with complex needs

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children and youth with complex needs have stable and sustained housing placements that support their wellbeing while in CFS care



PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Domestic Violence Housing	Prevention	MN-S Public Service / Local

The Domestic Violence Housing program offers safe, temporary, and culturally grounded emergency housing for Métis women and children at risk or victims of domestic violence. Homes are fully supportive, and staffed 24/7 to ensure immediate safety, stability, and confidentiality. Those accessing the Domestic Violence Housing Program will be provided with basic living essentials and will receive trauma-informed and culturally grounded support and system navigation in safety planning for their future including access to counseling, legal, medical and housing services. The program offers transportation, referrals to community services, employment, and education resources. Individuals can access the Domestic Violence Housing Program through self or agency referral.

People this program supports:

- Métis women with children who are fleeing domestic violence

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis families impacted by intimate partner violence have increased access to safe, stable, and supportive housing that strengthens family stability
- Reduce instances of child apprehension due to domestic violence

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Harm Reduction Housing	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service/Local

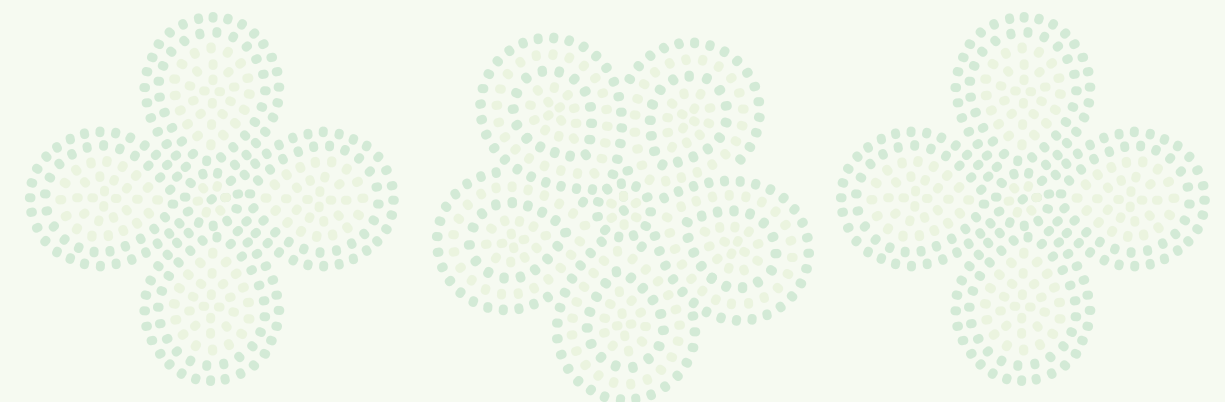
Harm Reduction Housing program provides Métis parents in Saskatchewan who are actively facing substance use challenges and are at risk of or currently experiencing family separation with access to housing grounded in harm reduction principles. Homes are fully supportive and staffed 24/7, ensuring safety, stability and confidentiality. The program focuses on reducing the risks associated with substance use, strengthening parenting capacity and empowering Métis parents on their path toward long-term stability and family reunification and/or preservation. Those residing in the homes will receive trauma-informed, culturally grounded support and system navigation in safety planning for their future, as well as access to community support and services. To maintain family connection, safe and appropriate visitation with children will be prioritized and supported on an ongoing basis throughout the program.

People this program supports:

- Métis families or parents/caregivers involved or at risk of involvement with CFS due to addictions

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis parents in active addictions have access to safe, stable, and supportive housing that supports family preservation and reunification



PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Visitation Program	Intervention	MN-S Public Service/Local

The Visitation program ensures Métis families experiencing separation due to CFS involvement can maintain meaningful family connection by providing consistent and supported visitation opportunities. The program provides flexible visits in various safe environments and community-based settings between children, parents, siblings, and extended family. The Visitation Program ensures visits are adaptable to each family's unique circumstances, accommodates transportation needs of both children and family members, and offers flexible hours to meet children and family needs. By facilitating consistent and meaningful visits, the Visitation Program aims to maintain family bonds, support reunification efforts and promote the emotional and cultural well-being of Métis children and families through their MN-S CFS involvement. This program will require dedicated locations to allow for visitations, both in MN-S CFS offices and dedicated suites in CFS housing complexes. Home visits will also be available when safety allows.

People this program supports:

- Métis children, youth and families involved with CFS

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children, youth and families maintain strong, meaningful connections during periods of separation

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Youth Harm Reduction Housing	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service/Local

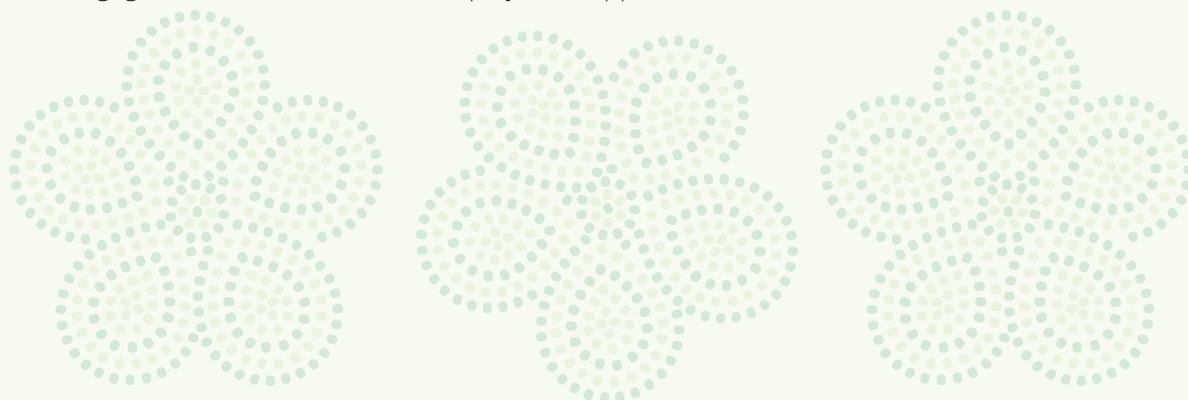
Youth Harm Reduction Housing program provides Métis youth in Saskatchewan experiencing active substance use challenges and who are unable to live with family or within community placements with safe, stable and secure housing grounded in harm-reduction principles. Homes are fully supportive and staffed 24/7, providing wraparound support, that supports safety, stability and confidentiality. Métis youth involved in the program will receive trauma-informed and culturally grounded support focused on developing practical life skills, strengthening coping strategies and increasing confidence in navigating life challenges. While the program focuses on reducing the risks associated with substance use, its aim is to also promote resilience, healthy decision making, and positive development, empowering Métis youth on their healing journey toward long-term well-being and stability. Youth will be enrolled in school and connected to part-time employment to help develop life skills and independence.

People this program supports:

- Métis youth ages 15-18 in active addiction

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis youth experiencing substance use challenges experience increased housing stability, safety, and engagement in education and employment opportunities



PROTECTING & REUNIFYING FAMILIES

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Family Support Program	Prevention/Intervention	MN-S Public Service

The Family Support program is a voluntary program that focuses on preventing involvement with MN-S CFS by supporting families with Métis children who are at-risk of involvement, as well as families that have had involvement, but who are not currently involved. Support offered includes service navigation, advocacy, transportation to and from appointments, wellness checks and other supports as needed.

People this program supports:

- Métis families at-risk of involvement or who have recently been involved with CFS

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis families at-risk of apprehension have increased stability and reduced risk of child and family services involvement

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Permanency Planning and Adoption	Intervention	MN-S Public Service

The Permanency Planning and Adoption program focuses on securing stable, long-term, and culturally appropriate homes for Métis children when reunification with their parents is no longer possible, ensuring decisions reflect the child's best interests while supporting their cultural identity and connections. Pathways to permanency may include long-term kinship care, customary/community care, or adoption. The dispute resolution mechanism will be actively involved in determining permanency planning.

People this program supports:

- Métis children in the care of MN-S who cannot be reunified with their parents/caregivers

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children are placed in safe, culturally appropriate homes that prioritize kinship connections and support their Métis identity and wellbeing

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Intake and Family Finder	Intervention	MN-S Public Service

The Intake and Family Finder program is a two-branch initiative designed to support Métis families in Saskatchewan. The Intake branch acts as an initial point of contact to screen child safety concerns, assess urgency of situations, and determine appropriate actions or referrals, ensuring families receive timely and culturally relevant support. The Family Finder branch works to locate, recruit and engage extended family, kin, or community members who are willing and able to provide safe, culturally appropriate care and support for Métis children who have been apprehended due to safety concerns. By proactively building connections and relationships, this branch helps children stay in community and connected to family. This program will ensure both timely responses and proactive safety planning.

People this program supports:

- Métis children, youth and families involved with CFS

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children remain connected to family, kin, and community when separated from their parents or caregivers

PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Investigation Program	Intervention	MN-S Public Service

The Investigation program conducts thorough investigations to assess potential risk, gather essential information, and determine the best course of action, prioritizing child safety. When possible, the investigation team will work with the parent(s) and children to support measures to address the safety concerns, including internal and external referrals for support. Families would be referred to a Support Worker who would work with them throughout the process and post investigation. The goal of the program is to ensure Métis children are protected while supporting family unity and preservation when possible.

People this program supports:

- Métis children, youth and families where safety risks have been identified

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children and youth are kept safe and protected from harm while families are supported to address safety concerns

Emergency and Protective Placements	Intervention	MN-S Public Service
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The Emergency and Protective Placement program provides short and long-term safety through a Métis-specific, distinction-based approach when family separation is necessary. There are two streams: emergency placement and protective placement. Emergency placement provides immediate, short-term safety when protective intervention is needed to address immediate risks and concerns to a child’s safety or wellbeing. Protective placements provide long-term, ongoing safety and stability when continued protective intervention remains necessary. Placements within the Emergency and Protective Placement Program emphasize family and kinship (immediate, extended or Métis community) placements whenever possible. Other placements within the program include foster or MN-S Receiving Home for short-term temporary safety. While the goal of the program is to ensure the safety and well-being of Métis children and to support family reunification, efforts will be made to keep siblings together during placements. Caregivers responsible for Métis children during an emergency or protective placement will receive financial assistance for basic needs and may be eligible for additional funds for children with significant emotional or medical needs. Métis parents, children, and temporary caregivers will be connected with a dedicated CFS worker to assist with navigating the CFS system including accessing supports and services, coordinating family visitations, and supporting overall and ongoing family case planning with the goal of reunification when possible. CFS workers will support families from program intake until family reunification. In the case reunification is not possible, CFS workers will continue to support the children through long-term permanency planning or until their transition to post-majority services. There will be a multi-year (2 year) recruitment and training period prior to implementing Emergency and Protective Placement Program.

People this program supports:

- Métis children, youth and families involved with CFS

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis children remain connected to family, kin, and community when separated from their parents or caregivers
- Métis children and youth are kept safe and protected from harm while families are supported to address safety concerns
- Métis families achieve reunification and maintain long-term wellbeing



PROGRAM NAME:	STAGE OF SUPPORT:	SERVICE DELIVERY PATHWAY:
Parent Stabilization Camp	Intervention	MN-S Public Service

The Parent Stabilization Camp provides Métis parents with the opportunity to participate in a time limited, land-based, culturally immersive camp immediately following a child’s apprehension. The purpose of the camp is to provide an early intervention response, supporting parents during a critical and vulnerable time by offering safe, structured and culturally grounded healing, reflection, and skill building. The camp provides mentorship, land-based skills, traditional practices, Elder support, parenting and life skills workshops as well as access to health care providers and mental health and addiction counsellors. To maintain family connection, visitation with children will be prioritized throughout the duration of the program. Parents will also be supported in developing a transition plan for after program completion. Focusing on cultural, educational and practical support, the camp’s goal is to stabilize parents, promote healing, build skills and resilience, and provide support for parents to take meaningful steps toward family reunification and long-term well-being.

People this program supports:

- Métis parents involved with CFS who have recently been separated from their children

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Métis parents stabilize, strengthen their wellbeing, and take meaningful steps toward family reunification
- Métis parents have strengthened connection to Métis culture, language, and identity that supports their wellbeing
- Métis parents and caregivers strengthen their parenting and life skills
- Decrease in apprehension of children for participants
- Increase instances of family reunification





Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Under *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families* (the Act), Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGB) have the inherent right to develop, implement, and enforce their own CFS laws. This authority includes the ability to establish and use alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (DRMs) to address disagreements, concerns, or decisions arising within CFS systems.

DRMs are collaborative processes that support individuals, families, and communities in resolving conflicts outside of formal court proceedings. DRMs create space for dialogue, relationship repair, and the identification of underlying issues that contribute to family conflict and instability. By bringing together those closest to both the challenges and the solutions, these approaches prioritize shared understanding, accountability, and collective wellbeing.

The Act creates an important opportunity to design a Métis-distinct CFS system grounded in Métis values, traditions, and kinship-based approaches to healing. Through culturally rooted dispute resolution processes, Métis communities can support families in ways that strengthen relationships, promote balance, and uphold the wellbeing of children within their families and communities.

What We Asked

During engagement sessions, citizens were provided with examples of how DRMs are currently used within CFS systems. Participants were then invited to share their perspectives on how these approaches should be shaped within a Métis-distinct system. Specifically, citizens were asked:

- *How should decisions in CFS be made to reflect Métis culture and values while upholding the best interests of children, youth, and families?*
- *What should dispute resolution processes look like in practice?*
- *Who should be involved in these processes?*

Conversations were hosted in small, kitchen-table-style groups to encourage open and comfortable discussion.

What We Heard

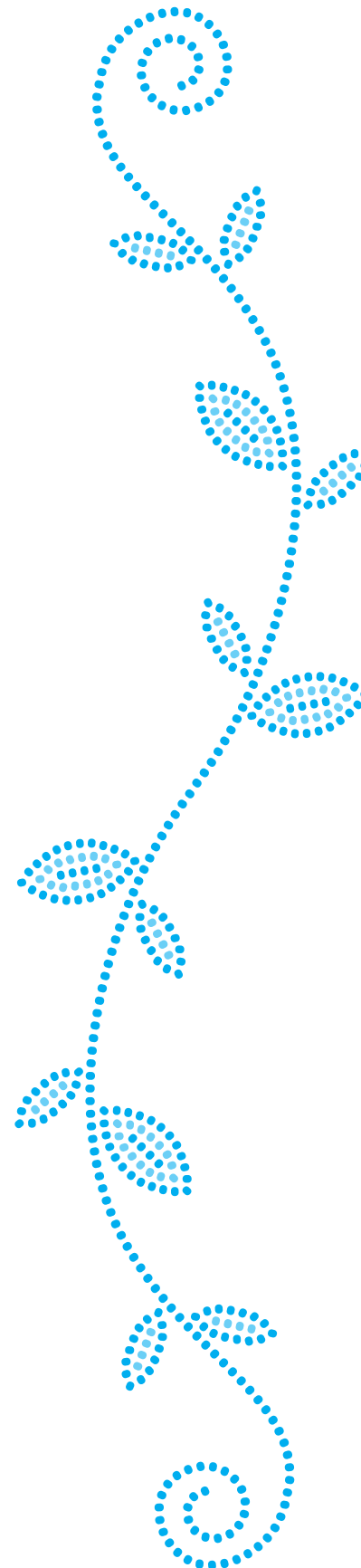
Across engagement sessions, citizens consistently described dispute resolution within a Métis CFS system as needing to move away from adversarial or punitive models toward approaches grounded in relationships, understanding, and collective responsibility. Participants envisioned DRM as processes that support healing, strengthen families, and help communities work together to reach safe outcomes for children. Below are some of the key themes that emerged through our engagements.

DISTINCTION-BASED APPROACHES AND GUIDED BY COMMUNITY

Participants called for DRM approaches to be distinctly Métis, grounded in Métis teachings and relational practices such as circle processes and kitchen-table discussions. There was also recognition that regional difference and distinction in Métis culture must be represented in approaches. Overall, participants noted a desire

Section 3

DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS



to see community Elders/Knowledge Keepers, kinship relations, and those already caring for children be meaningfully involved in DRM approaches, with Métis Locals and community partners (e.g., schools divisions, nonprofits, etc.) playing an active role in supporting families and identifying supports, services and solutions to support the wellbeing of families.

CENTERING CHILDREN'S VOICES, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

Citizens consistently reinforced that children must remain at the centre of dispute resolution. Participants wanted children's voices heard in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate, supported by dedicated advocates or trusted adults (e.g., educators, aunts/uncles, coaches, etc.). Ensuring children feel safe, heard, and emotionally supported throughout the process was seen as essential to achieving greater wellbeing outcomes for children, youth and families.

KINSHIP-CENTRED AND WRAP-AROUND APPROACHES THAT MEET FAMILIES WHERE THEY'RE AT

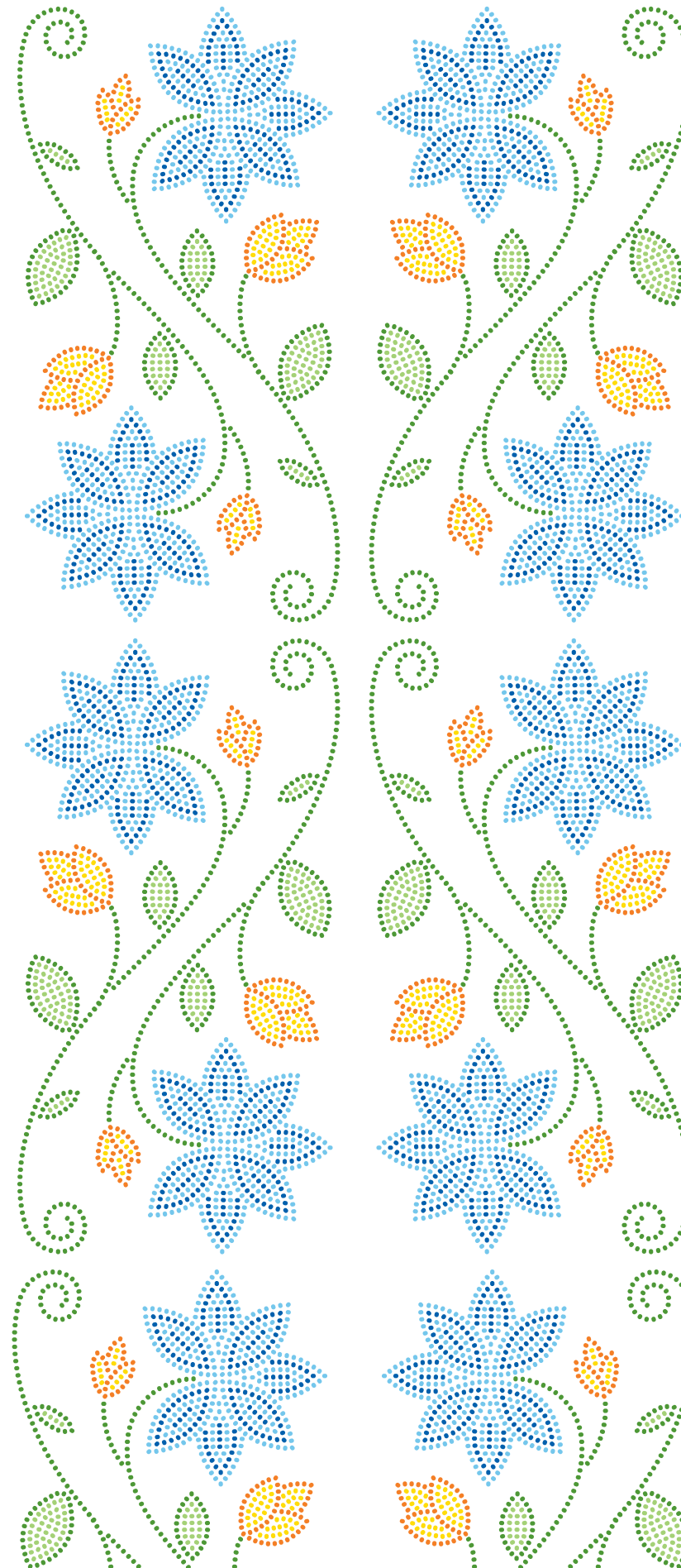
Engagement participants strongly supported kinship-centred and wrap-around approaches that meet families where they are at. DRM processes were described as gatherings that should feel safe, respectful, and supportive rather than formal or intimidating proceedings. Families should be actively involved in shaping solutions and connected to ongoing supports such as counselling, parenting programs, peer mentors, and advocates throughout and after the process. Participants noted that trusted advocates and individuals with lived experience can help families understand proceedings and participate with confidence.

Finally, participants emphasized that dispute resolution must be flexible, accessible, and ongoing rather than a one-time event. Processes should begin early, occur within communities, and take place in safe, culturally welcoming spaces rather than cold, institutional environments. Many stressed that families involved in these processes require time, follow-up, and continued connection to supports. While compassion and flexibility were emphasized, citizens also noted the importance of clear steps, accountability, and follow-through to ensure children's safety and to support reunification wherever possible.

BUILDING UNDERSTANDING SO FAMILIES AND WORKERS CAN MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

A central message heard throughout engagement was the importance of knowledge-building to ensure everyone understands the process and the role they play within it. Citizens emphasized that families often enter CFS processes feeling intimidated and unsure about their rights and responsibilities. Participants stressed that parents, children, extended family members, and service providers must clearly understand how decisions are made, who is involved, and what is expected of them in the DRM approaches.

Education and ongoing guidance were seen as essential to creating meaningful participation in these processes. Participants noted that families need clear information and support to feel prepared and confident in taking part, while workers must receive proper training and ongoing professional development to support families in respectful, culturally safe, and trauma-informed ways. This includes training grounded in Métis



culture and values, strong communication skills, and the use of plain, non-legalistic language that helps people feel safe and empowered rather than judged.

BUILDING A SKILLED AND COMMUNITY-ROOTED SUPPORT TEAM

Citizens also highlighted the need for a professional, skilled, and community-rooted team to support dispute resolution. Participants described the importance of involving Elders, Métis counsellors, mediators, and multidisciplinary professionals with expertise across mental health, education, addictions, and child welfare. Beyond qualifications, participants emphasized personal qualities such as compassion, patience, neutrality, and strong listening skills. While many expressed a preference for Métis staff, trust, cultural understanding, and strong community relationships were viewed as equally critical.

CONFIDENTIAL APPROACHES THAT BALANCE PRIVACY, NEUTRALITY AND TRUST

At the same time, citizens emphasized the importance of privacy, neutrality, and trust, particularly in smaller communities where relationships are closely connected. While there is a desire to see approaches guided by communities, there is recognition that processes must protect confidentiality and privacy. Many noted that facilitators or staff in these approaches must remain impartial and focused on the best interests of the child.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Recognition that these approaches might need a tiered approach with varying decision-making authority points in the events conflict cannot be addressed.
- A need for ongoing evaluation and community feedback to continuously improve how DRMs are delivered.
- Ensure that language used to describe DRM approaches reflects Métis culture.

Overall, citizens envisioned dispute resolution within a Métis CFS system as a transparent, safe, welcoming, and culturally grounded process where everyone understands their role, families feel supported and respected, children remain central, and communities work together to restore relationships and promote long-term wellbeing.

Our Proposed Dispute Resolution Approach

At times, individuals or families may have concerns or disagreements about decisions or services provided through our Métis CFS system. Areas in which a concern may arise could include:

- Circumstances leading up to apprehension
- Care plan development
- Placement or case plan reviews
- Long-term placement considerations
- Family reunification efforts

There may be times when individuals disagree with decisions made in CFS matters.

When this occurs, a formal internal resolution process will be available to help address and resolve concerns.

While most concerns that arise will likely be addressed directly between individuals and CFS workers, there may be situations where a more formal, external dispute resolution complaint pathway may be required.

MÉTIS CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE OFFICE

Throughout our engagements, MN-S citizens emphasized the importance of ensuring that children's voices are heard and centred within a Métis CFS system. Participants also highlighted the need for decisions affecting children and families to be fair, transparent, and supported by independent oversight.

In response, MN-S recognizes the importance of establishing an independent **Métis Children's Advocate Office** (the Office) to help uphold the rights and best interests of Métis children and youth by providing a formal process for individuals to raise concerns and have CFS matters reviewed through independent oversight.

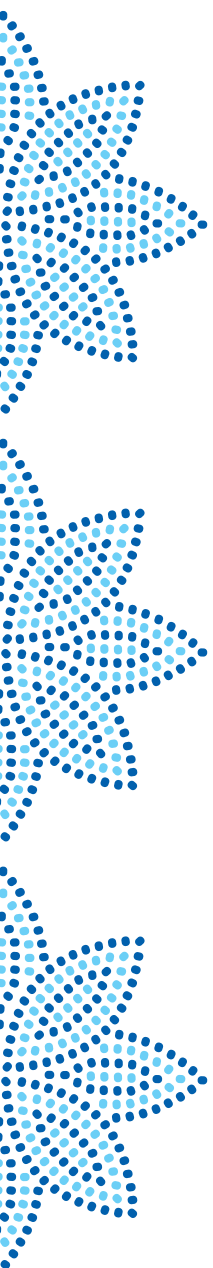
The Office would support children, youth, and families involved with MN-S CFS by:

- Receiving and reviewing concerns related to CFS matters
- Recommending appropriate dispute resolution pathways for concerns submitted
- Reviewing unresolved concerns and recommending appeal pathways
- Providing advocacy support for children and families
- Conducting annual independent reviews of MN-S' CFS agency with suggested service improvements

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PATHWAYS

Following an initial assessment and investigation of the concern submitted to the Métis Children's Advocate Office, staff will recommend an appropriate dispute resolution approach to address the concern, where required. Dispute Resolution pathways may include one of the following:

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PATHWAYS	HOW IT WORKS	BEST SUITED FOR
Internal Resolution Process	An individual (parent, caregiver, youth, or family member) raises concern with a designated CFS staff member. The concern is reviewed by CFS leadership (e.g., Supervisor or Director), who conducts an initial assessment of the concern to understand the issue, gathers relevant information from parties involved, and provides a decision on the concern brought forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying misunderstandings about decisions or services • Concerns about case planning or service coordination • Communication or working challenges between families and workers



DISPUTE RESOLUTION PATHWAYS	HOW IT WORKS	BEST SUITED FOR
Facilitated Dialogue (Mediation, Family Case Conferencing or Circle Process)	A designated facilitator supports a structured conversation between parties involved in the concern. Depending on the circumstances and preferences of the participants, the process may take the form of either a mediation-style discussion or a circle process guided by a trained facilitator. Participants will be provided with safe, supportive, and culturally grounded spaces, along with appropriate supports (e.g., counselling services, cultural supports, or advocacy assistance), to share their perspectives, listen to one another, and work collaboratively toward solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disagreements between families and CFS workers • Concerns about case plans, visitation schedules, or other service decisions • Miscommunication or relationship breakdowns between families, caregivers, and service providers • Situations where collaborative problem-solving may support reunification efforts
Resolution Panel (Tribunal or Advisory Panel)	<p>The Resolution Panel will be composed of individuals with relevant expertise who review concerns related to CFS. It serves two functions: as a formal dispute resolution mechanism to resolve concerns, and as the final decision-making body for appeals when resolutions have not been achieved through previous DRM approaches.</p> <p>The panel may include professionals with expertise in CFS, mental health and addictions, education, law, and Métis cultural knowledge holders (e.g., Elders or Knowledge Keepers), ensuring decisions are informed by both professional and Métis-distinct cultural perspectives. Individuals involved in the Panel must be appointed in the absence of any real or perceived conflict of interest to ensure decisions are fair and transparent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex or serious concerns that cannot be resolved through facilitated dialogue • Disagreements regarding significant decisions affecting a child's care or placement, where parties are unable or unwilling to complete a facilitated dialogue session • Situations requiring professional or cultural expertise to review the matter • Complaints related to fairness or the appropriateness of decisions made in a case • Final appeal process for unresolved concerns

STEP 1: INTERNAL RESOLUTION REVIEW PROCESS

An individual may bring forward a formal concern regarding a CFS matter to their assigned CFS worker, who will submit a formal complaint to be reviewed by CFS leadership (e.g., Director, Supervisor). CFS leadership will review the complaint and issue a decision to resolve the concern brought forward. If an individual disagrees with the decision(s) issued by CFS leadership on the concern raised, they may submit a formal complaint to the Office.

STEP 2: MÉTIS CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE OFFICE CONCERN SUBMISSION AND INITIAL REVIEW

An individual may submit a formal concern to the Office. The Office will review the concern and conduct an initial assessment, which may include speaking with the individual, family members, CFS workers, and other relevant parties. If the concern is determined to be valid, the Office will work with the individual to identify the most appropriate dispute resolution approach, refer the matter to the designated pathway (e.g., facilitated dialogue or Resolution Panel).

STEP 3: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Once referred, relevant parties will be brought together to discuss the concern, explore solutions, and work toward a resolution that prioritizes the best interests of Métis children. The Office may appoint advocates to support children, youth and families throughout the process. If a resolution is not achieved, the individual who submitted the concern may apply to the Office for an appeal.

STEP 4: APPEAL PROCESS PANEL

The Office will review the appeal application to determine if it is eligible to proceed. If accepted, the concern will be referred to the Resolution Panel for review and decision. Decisions made through the appeal process are considered final.

STEP 5: EXTERNAL RESOLUTION METHODS

Individuals wishing to further challenge DRM decisions outside of our proposed DRM approach may apply to have their concern addressed by the provincial court system. The provincial court system's role will eventually be replaced by the Métis Kwayaskastasowin Judiciary. Both the provincial and Métis Kwayaskastasowin Judiciary court systems will operate outside of our proposed DRM approach.



Section 4

NEXT STEPS

During this engagement process, we worked with Métis citizens to better understand the program and service priorities of communities across Saskatchewan as they relate to our proposed Model of Care. We also began identifying key foundations for how dispute resolution processes could be designed within a Métis CFS system.

The next step in this work is to begin drafting MN-S CFS legislation. Pursuant to the act will establish a Métis-distinct legal framework for the delivery and governance of a Métis - distinct CFS in Saskatchewan.

Once a draft is developed, MN-S will engage with citizens in the spring and summer of 2026 to gather feedback on the proposed legislation and identify areas for refinement. The goal is to ratify Métis CFS legislation by early 2027. Following ratification, MN-S will enter coordination negotiations with the Government of Canada to formally assert jurisdiction over CFS.





Appendix A 2025-2026 CFS Engagement Schedule

Engagement Type	Location	Date
In-person	Pinehouse	Oct 2, 2025
In-person	Prince Albert	Oct 3, 2025
In-person	La Loche	Oct 4, 2025
In-person	Candle Lake	Oct 4, 2025
In-person	Buffalo Narrows	Oct 5, 2025
In-person	Moosomin	Oct 18, 2025
In-person	La Ronge	Oct 5, 2025
In-person	Meadow Lake	Oct 18, 2025
In-person	Indian Head	Oct 19, 2025
In-person	Chitek Lake	Oct 19, 2025
Cancelled	Cumberland House	Oct 25, 2025
In-person	Creighton	Oct 26, 2025
In-person	Big River	Oct 26, 2025
In-person	Biggar	Nov 1, 2025
In-person	Lloydminster	Nov 1, 2025
In-person	Saskatoon	Nov 2, 2025
In-person	North Battleford	Nov 2, 2025
In-person	Île-à-la-Crosse	Nov 15, 2025
In-person	Melfort	Nov 15, 2025
In-person	Nipawin	Nov 16, 2025
In-person	Esterhazy	Nov 29, 2025
In-person	Moose Jaw	Nov 29, 2025
In-person	Yorkton	Nov 30, 2025
In-person	Buffalo Narrows	Dec 2, 2025
In-person	Regina	Dec 13, 2025
In-person	Saskatoon	Jan 25, 2026
Online	Zoom	Nov 5, 2025
Online	Zoom	Nov 10, 2025
Online	Zoom	Nov 19, 2025



Model of Care Program and Service List

CONNECTIONS & SUPPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill Development • Mentorship Program • Child Care Subsidy • Respite (Kinship, Parent, and Foster) • Culture Camps • Culture Skills Development • Riel Scouts • Incarcerated Parent Support Group • Headstart
EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Sports and Culture Grants • Reunification Financial Supports • Post Majority Financial Supports • Métis Child First Initiative
HEALTH & WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services Program • Land-Based Treatment and Detox • Food Sovereignty • Recovery and Maintenance Program • Midwife and Doula Program
HOUSING & STABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm Reduction Housing • Visitation Program • Post-Majority Semi-supportive Housing • Youth Harm Reduction Housing • Housing for Single Fathers • Semi-supportive Family Housing • High Needs Youth Housing • Domestic Violence Housing Program
PROTECTING & REUNIFYING FAMILIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation Program • Emergency and Protective Placement • Intake and Family Finder • Family Support • Parent Stabilization Camp • Permanency Planning and Adoption





310-20th Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada S7K 0A7

mns.ca