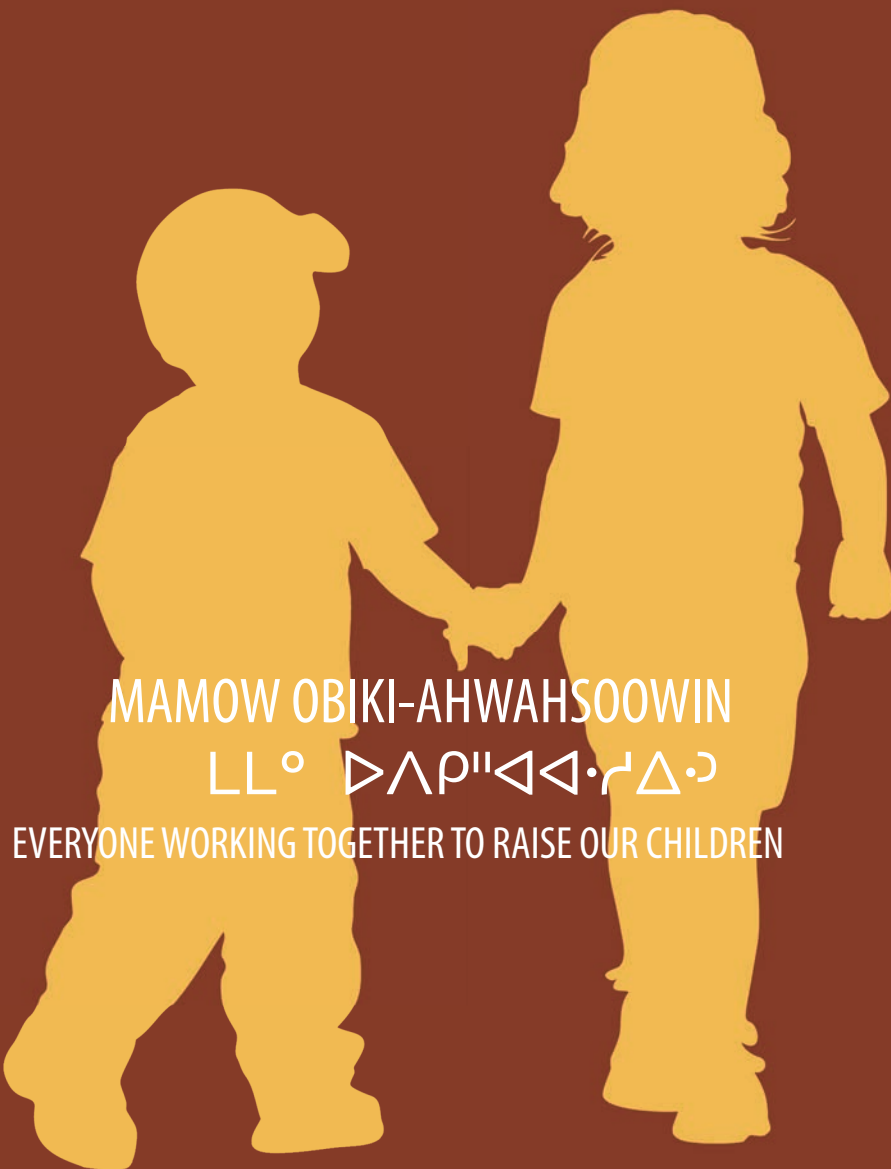
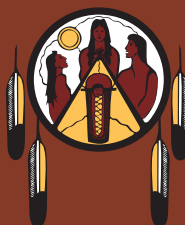


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EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN

Tikinagan Child & Family Services



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Lorraine Crane, Chairperson
Archie Meekis, Co-Chair
Russell Kakepetum, Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Bottle, Board Member
Sonny Gagnon, Board Member
Donald Dean Ross, Board Member
Stephen Turtle, Board Member

Georgina Neshinapaise

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Lorraine Crane
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

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And that communal approach is clearly visible in how Tikinagan is managed. I have nothing but praise for the strong working relationship between Executive Director Ernest Beck and the management team. Their leadership creates a positive environment where staff flourishes and are motivated to do their best. It's an energy that Harvey Kakegamic carried in his role as the board chairperson. He taught us a lot.

As a board, Mr. Kakegamic taught us to stay strong and not fall apart during times of difficulty. And as members of his team, we stood by him. And while we appreciate his reasons for stepping down from the board, we're going to miss his humour and his heart. I learned a lot from him as his co-chair, a role I carried for the past five years.

So in the act of now chairing the board, I will continue to be a strong advocate for women and children. I always seek to give voice to their concerns and their strengths. They're going to continue to drive me to work hard and stay committed to Tikinagan. Some of our families are being challenged and there are many causes. Modern social issues are bigger, more complicated and families need as much support as we can offer as leaders, community members and service providers.

The Tikinagan board will remain consistent and we will continue to use our combined knowledge to help guide the agency. The next five years will be important. We've endorsed a strategic plan formed after a comprehensive planning and consultation process that involved community members, foster parents, youth who had transitioned out of care, leaders, management and staff. It's a plan that shows how Tikinagan Child and Family Services

can best serve families and communities.

I want to thank the board for selecting me as Chairperson. I appreciate the support of my fellow board members as well as the Tikinagan Elder's Council. It is a great honour and privilege – one that I will not take lightly.

And let's continue to remember Elder Moses Fidler, who we lost this year. Moses dedicated himself to ensuring the agency's birth by navigating a time-consuming network of bush plane service and airline flights. He was a band councillor for Muskrat Dam at the time and the small village didn't have an airstrip. So any meetings he attended meant taking float or ski planes to nearby Kitchenuhmaykoosib to catch connecting flights to meeting locations. He was motivated by Tikinagan's founding principles.

So in that spirit, let's move forward to build a better future for our children.

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Ernest Beck
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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lished a solid management team. We're stable and we have ownership over our duties and obligations. We face challenges head on.

For example, historically, addiction continues to be a major challenge for our communities. It's a social issue that's created a large group of children in need of specialized care. And it's costly for the agency. Foster parents face incredible challenges when caring for children with special needs. But the tide is turning. We've partnered with a lot of communities. We support through donations of food for example. We have small prevention units in many communities, helping to reduce the number of children going into care.

There will always be challenges for working in remote communities. We've successfully established offices in nearly all the communities we serve. And it's an accomplishment that we continually strive to improve by making sure our community-based workers receive specialized training in areas like adictions awareness.

I have to acknowledge the exceptional work our staff displays each day. They are dedicated and committed to helping families become stronger. It's the work of our staff that needs to be commended at all times. Our staff are staying longer. This year we have more than 120 staff who have been employed by the agency for five years or more. In January, David Kanakeesic retired after spending 19 years with the Tikinagan. What a wonderful contribution to the agency. Tikinagan also celebrated Diane Hoey's 25 year anniversary. She is the second employee to reach this important milestone. We are very grateful for the staff who have committed so many years to Tikinagan. We honour you.

INNOVATION and VISION

Tikinagan is only as effective as it's allowed to be. And it's our communities that motivate us through their innovative approaches to strengthening families and protecting children. Communities such as Sandy Lake and Pikangikum are leaders in developing culturally appropriate, community-driven models.

Mamow Weecheewaywin (Working Together) is Pikangikum's answer to taking ownership for healing families. The local coordinator and the Mamow Weecheewaywin Committee have the unique role of bridging families and Tikinagan workers. They

help build understanding about Tikinagan's role with the help and advice of community Elders. It's an approach that's proving remarkably effective for keeping children in the community. It's the kind of inventive approach that inspires us to keep working.

The Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy is another innovative approach that Tikinagan is proud to be a part of along with Nishnawbe Aski Nation. It's an Ontario-wide strategy that involves all three NAN child welfare agencies, including Kunuwani-mano and Payukotayno, as well as the Sioux Look-out First Nations Health Authority. It's a service that could empower communities to coordinate their own services either as individual communities or as collectives. It could give communities power over service delivery. And it's a process that goes beyond child welfare. It speaks to justice and mental health – strengthening community systems in a wholistic way.

ROOTED in STRENGTH

After dedicating a decade to Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Harvey Kakegamic is leaving the board to spend more time with his family and friends. He spent much of that time as chair of the board. He was instrumental in all our advances during that time. He dedicated his time and energy beyond mere operation. His greatest strength was his belief in continually communicating and connecting to communities. Thank you Harvey for your time, energy and strength.

Newly appointed Chair of the Board, Lorraine Crane brings a wealth of political experience. She has always been a strong advocate for the work we do. She's well known and vocal. Her experience will benefit the organization in many ways.

MOVING FORWARD

In the beginning, Tikinagan held exciting possibilities because it was one of the first child welfare agencies in Canada that beckoned self-government in a tangible way. In 1986, the agency was in the early stages of designing programs and developing policies for its governance. We were taking ownership for our children's welfare. And we were charged with bringing our children back. We've done that and so much more. We've accomplished more than we could have imagined then. So I challenge all of us to keep going forward. Let's continue to be guided by the spirit of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin.

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Our staff has to be commended for adhering to our service model, which has helped to reduce the number of children coming into care and increased the number of children leaving Tikinagan care.

This has been a remarkable year for Tiki-
nagan Child and Family Services for the simple
reason there are less children in care than
in recent years. Our communities and our
families are working really hard to address
the underlying social issues that have con-
tributed to children going into care. And our
staff has to be commended for adhering to
our service model, which has helped to reduce
the number of children coming into care and
increased the number of children leaving
Tikinagan care.

Over the past few years, the number of children coming into care soared. There are many reasons why, not the least of which was the issue of addiction. Communities have risen to the challenge though by increasing opportunities for treatment. All over Nishnawbe Aski Nation, communities are creating treatment programs to combat the darkness of addiction.

It's one of issues that spur us to work even harder.

CHILDREN IN CARE

In just one short year, the number of children needing support and care through Tikinagan declined from 668 (in April 2013) to 546 (as of June 30 2014) – almost a 20 percent decrease in the number of children in care. And our first decrease of children in care in many years.

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We're also proud to report that the vast majority of children (more than 134,000 days) are in Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin care foster placements. While we've experienced a slight increase of 2.5 percent in the number of days of outside foster care, this is due in part to children coming into care with specialized needs who require focused care not currently available in our region.

INTAKE AND FAMILY SERVICES

Significant structural changes to the Service Manager level have encouraged the Intake Units and Branch Office Units to work collaboratively. Their strong team approach to working with families is even more closely fitted to the Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Service Model. Each Service Manager supports their own Intake Unit along with Family Services and Child Care within the communities they are responsible for.

Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services is a Manitoba-based agency with similar values to our own. Their core value is ensuring children, families and communities have a right to be involved in any decisions affecting them. It's a value we respect. Our relationship with the agency has been an easy one and we're grateful we've been able to work cooperatively with them when it comes to having ongoing dialogue regarding Ontario children in care in Manitoba. It's the kind of partnership we will continue to advocate for with other agencies.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Tikinagan oversees 373 foster homes, 13 agency homes and two youth healing centres located in Kitchenuhmaykoosib and Cat Lake. These agency operated placements give us the opportunity to ensure culturally appropriate residential options in a First Nations environment so children in Tikinagan care can stay in their home community or as close as possible.

The Residential Services team works hard to provide direct support to and advocacy for Foster Parents. The agency provided Foster Parent training within the communities served by Tikinagan Child and Family Services. Topics included an in-depth understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Child Nutrition, and the Effects on Development due to Attachment and Loss. The Residential Services team also implemented Foster Parent Support Groups where Foster Parents were invited to get together to meet and greet. This provided Foster Parents the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas.

As part of the ongoing development of Specialized and Treatment Foster Care, Tikinagan has an agreement with the Children's Centre of Thunder Bay to provide psychological assessments and consultations for children in Tikinagan care. The name developed for this initiative is Ahwahshish Mah-Mii-Neh-Moo-Weh-Win. The agreement means children requiring immediate services will be assessed and the Foster Parent provided with tools for care.

STATISTICS

444 Inquiries (448 five-year avg)

1,433 Reports Received
Not Investigated (1,424 five-year avg)

151 Child Protection Investigations Open at the Beginning of the Year (162 five-year avg)

679 Child Protection Investigations Opened During the Year (690 five-year avg)

109 Child Protection Investigations Reopened During the Year (103 five-year avg)

939 Child Protection Investigations Served During the Year (955 five-year avg)

Tikinagan is also partnering with the Children’s Centre of Thunder Bay to develop a two-bed, 90-day Assessment and Stabilization home for children in care. The name provided for this home is the Wabizii Home.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Tikinagan continues to ensure all staff are trained in child welfare and our culturally-based service model. Each staff member who helps support children, families and communities are required to take Foundations of Child Welfare Practice Professional Training (CPWT) and Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Training. CPWT is an eight-module program that staff must complete to become authorized protection workers. To do this, Tikinagan employs a full-time trainer who is certified through the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies (OACAS).

In addition to both of our foundation courses, staff also took courses that included: An Introduction to Trauma Informed Relationships, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005, Leadership Development, First Aid with Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and Working with High Risk Infants and their Families.

Thanks to funding from the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology will be providing onsite delivery of an accredited post-secondary program about chemical addictions. Twenty staff will take part in 10 courses that will include Introduction to Aboriginal Family and Counseling Systems, Addiction and Recovery, Introduction to Mental Health, Psychology, and Understanding Human Behaviour.

We also continued to help our youth transitioning out of care through Financial Literacy Seminars. Youth learn how to budget their income and are given hands on assistance through the opening of a bank account. This year, 17 youth graduated from financial literacy training, which took place in Lac Seul, Red Lake and Mishkeegogamang.

STATISTICS

- 667** Child Protection New Investigation in Ongoing Cases (855 five-year avg)
- 784** Child Protection Number of Investigations Completed (780 five-year avg)
- 671** Total Children in Care at Beginning of Year (603 five-year avg)

- 193** Total Children in Care Admitted During the Year (261 five-year avg)
- 228** Total Children in Care Readmitted During the Year (268 five-year avg)
- 486** Total Children in Care Discharged During the Year (515 five-year avg)

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606 Total Children in Care at the End of the Year
(617 five-year avg)

15,314 Days of Regular Foster Care
(16,625 days five-year avg)

13,122 Days of Specialized Foster Care
(13,402 days five-year avg)

2,811 Days in Treatment Care
(5,864 days five-year avg)

134,484 Days in Customary Care
(144,387 days five-year avg)

18,527 Days in Outside Purchased Foster Care
(12,739 days five-year avg)



Statement of Child Welfare Fund Operations 2013/14

Operating revenue	2013/14	2012/13
Child Welfare	47,111,147	48,657,574
Other	2,928,802	2,839,289
Total	50,039,949	51,496,863

Operating expenses	2013/14	2012/13
Salaries and benefits	15,531,521	14,905,589
Boarding and client services	31,762,254	31,333,646
Administration	5,852,525	5,508,549
Total	53,146,300	51,747,784

Fund balances, beginning of year	(341,510)	(90,589)
(Deficit)/ Surplus for the year	(3,106,351)	(250,921)
Fund balances, end of year	(3,447,861)	(341,510)

*A summary from 'Schedule 1 - Statement of Revenue and Expenses - Child Welfare' audited by
Meyers Norris Penny LLP, Chartered Accountants*

608

avg children in care during year

210,174

days in care

406

avg foster homes during year



STAFF RECOGNITION

Tikinagan Child and Family Services would like to recognize employees who have reached their 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th anniversary of employment with the agency. Our thanks and congratulations go to the following employees for their many years of dedicated service to the families and children of this region.

(Years of service at March 31, 2014)

10 years

Jim Cook
Marcella Fiddler
Brian Rae
Nora Vincent
Fred Sky
Tom Shawinimash
Lillianna Barkman

15 years

Karla Stanley
Roseanne McKay
Linda Chikane

Tikinagan would also like to give special recognition to Intake Investigation Worker Diane Hoey for 25 years of dedicated employment.



Diane Hoey celebrated a milestone Jan. 6, 2014. She was honoured for 25 years of service during a luncheon held in Sioux Lookout. She began her career at Tikinagan as a secretary, but moved through a series of positions building her experience and expertise. She eventually moved up to an Intake/Investigation Worker position. As part of the recognition for her achievement here, she was presented with a handmade quilt.

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(Γσδ\ bΔδρCL9Δ\ Δdα\ ΓΡΗΔ\ΛΗC 31, 2014)

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154"ρ

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