

2018-2019

85th Annual Report

2018-2019

Board of Directors

Ken Reimer, President

Anne Malyon, Vice-President

Tracey Bercier, Secretary-Treasurer

Directors:

Carol Braun

John Peters

Deborah Russell

Peter Veldhuis

Bruce Wood

...Healthy children, healthy families, healthy communities...

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba, Inc. was established in May, 1934 as the Children's Aid Society of Central Manitoba. The Agency is a charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that provides services under the Child and Family Services Act, the CFS Authorities Act and the Adoption Act of Manitoba.

Today there are four Child Welfare Authorities struck with responsibility for concurrent service in the Province of Manitoba – the Southern First Nations Network of Care, the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Authority, the Métis Authority and the General Authority. Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba is mandated by and provides services on behalf of the General Authority in the off-reserve geographic area of the Central Region of Manitoba.

Together with Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba and Jewish Child and Family Services, Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc. are the only private agencies in the

General Authority. This has allowed our Agency to maintain a private community board and maintain a Foundation that raises money to provide enhanced services for the residents of the Central Region.

The Central Region is a rather large geographical area located West of the City of Winnipeg. It is bound by the City of Winnipeg and the Red River on its eastern limit, by the International Boundary on the southern limits, by a line approximately half way between the City of Portage la Prairie and the City of Brandon on its western limit and, just north of the Town of Alonsa on its northern limit. Primarily agricultural in its economic base, the total population of this catchment area is over 104,000. The head office of the organization is located in Portage la Prairie and a sub office is located in Winkler. The Family Resource Centre is also located in Portage la Prairie and we continue to share space with several community partners at this location.



Our Mission

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba is dedicated to working in partnership with the community to provide a range of services focused on the well being of children and families.

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba is committed to supporting and building on family strengths through education, advocacy and intervention.

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba works in partnership with community to support and strengthen families to ensure the well-being of children and youth. We commit to these values to guide our decisions and our behaviours:

Safe and Secure Children & Youth

We believe that all children and youth have a right to safe, secure and nurturing environments. Our decisions, planning and priorities are guided by this fundamental belief.

Family/Child Centered

We are focused on family and child centred services that respect autonomy and support parent empowerment and self-determination.

Transparent & Accountable

We value integrity and are honest, fair and respectful in our interactions.

Inclusive & Accessible

We are community oriented; honouring the diversity of the people and the communities we serve.

Innovative

We are committed to innovation and creativity that will optimize our financial, physical and human resources to support knowledge regarding best practice and to maintain a high standard of service.

Fiscally Responsible

We are fiscally responsible and transparent and accept the challenge of reconciling funding received with program needs.



Message from the President and Executive Director

Welcome to the 85th Annual General Meeting of Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc.. We are pleased to have you join us and look forward to an evening of information about the Agency.

First I want to thank all of our staff for their continued hard work in making our Agency the success that it is. It is evident that you have a deep rooted interest in the community, its children, and their families. Your continued efforts to better the lives of everyone you come in contact with is evident in the reports that we as a Board receive on a monthly basis. THANK YOU!

This year has been a year full of learning for us as a Board. We continue to take strides to make ourselves better by taking training and having reports and seminars on how we can operate better as a unit.

I have the privilege to work with an extremely talented group of people that come prepared to tackle the tasks that we need to accomplish at every meeting. They are prepared to put in extra time and attend extra meetings to help keep moving forward in an ever changing world.

We have tackled things like Block funding, changing staff needs, all the way to building maintenance issues. One of the favorite things the Board looks forward to is staff presentations. It is always a pleasure and very informative to have staff members' attend Board meetings and report on their struggles and their success. We as a Board are always interested in how our staff are doing and how they are bettering the work place every day.

In closing I would like to thank every Board member for their continued time and commitment to CFSCM, and look forward to our next year of growth with the Agency.

Respectfully Submitted by: Ken Reimer, Board President

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2018-2019 annual report.

The child welfare system continues to be one of ongoing change. As a private, government funded agency, we have been asked to participate in this change by examining how we provide service to everyone involved with our agency for the best possible outcomes. These changes include the families we work with and foster parents to the children in our care who are becoming young adults. Change can be difficult but thanks to the dedication of our staff and foster parents we have been able to accomplish movement towards this goal.

In this past year we have continued to work towards engaging with families and their support community in order to increase safety of children within their families. Our focus has become helping families and their supports to protect their children instead of protecting children from their families. Due to this focus I am happy to report that again for the 5th year in a row have decreased the number of children required to be in care of our agency. In order to accomplish this we have worked further to imbed our safety organized practice model, offered our support network process to more families than the year before, and have continued to participate in the community wrap around programs in our region (three exist at this time in Altona, Winkler and Portage).

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year our agency continued to participate in the governments block funding "pilot". This has led us to begin to examine our practices of funding children in care and recognizing that there was some opportunity to make fair and equitable changes. We have made some of these changes, which has allowed us to fund more preventative programming that will allow us to provide increased services to children who remain in their homes. As we move forward in more difficult financial times we will continue to examine where further opportunities exist.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board members, who continue to be a huge support to me in delivering the best service we can. To the General Authority, who continue to encourage and support us towards best practice. Our amazing staff, whose commitment to providing quality service never ceases to amaze me even when they are asked to do more with less. To our foster parents, whom we could not do our job without. I have been blessed with continuing to lead our organization for another year and could not have asked for a better team than what I have had. I look forward to the year to come knowing that it will have its challenges but that we, together, have the skill and determination to meet them.

Respectfully submitted, Tracey Bercier, Executive Director



Rod Sveistrup

In a few short days, Rod will be celebrating 20 years with CFSCM. Rod started his career as a social worker on June 21, 1999. 20 years is a long very long commitment in the stressful world of child welfare. Rod has pledged his working life to Central. That is, until he retires in 82 months less a day, not that he is counting. There have been some significant changes in Rod's role at the Agency since the AGM publication of his 15-year anniversary. On October 14, 2014, Rod was the successful candidate for the position of Supervisor for Family Enhancement (FE), In Home Support and Adoption. When fully staffed, Rod directly supervises 8.5 staff members. Rod's main office is located at the Family Resource Centre where 2 of the Agency's In Home Support workers as well as the North FE worker are located. Rod can be found regularly at the Portage Office

where he has one adoption worker and in Winkler where he has 3 In Home Support Workers, the South FE worker and a half time Adoption worker. Supervising at all three offices affords him the opportunity to get to know the staff Agency wide on a more personal level.

In addition to Supervising, Rod has been a member of the Agency's Policy and Visioning Committees for the past 10 years. In the last year, Rod has become a member of the Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation Board of Directors as well as the Family Resource Centre Board. Sitting on both Board's requires him to volunteer his time in the evenings. As Rod spent many of his early years as a Child Abuse Investigator, he did not hesitate to volunteer to become the co-trainer for a new mandatory training on "Child Abuse Interviewing and Investigation". Rod has shown himself to be a skilled and knowledgeable trainer. Rod does not shy away from public speaking and he will always offer to provide collaterals with presentations related to the work we do. Most recently, Rod has taken on the Leadership role at the Hub table. Hub is a new initiative that started in Portage la Prairie, which looks to mobilize services for those in our community who find themselves at risk of crisis. Rod has also been an active member of both the CUPE and MGEU Union for the past 18 years. He is currently serving as the President of the MGEU Union representing Supervisors.

Rod is highly engaged with the workers at Central, particularly those who he directly supervises. His strengths shine with respect to the value he places on ensuring that his staff feel encouraged, listened to, and supported. His philosophy is that if the employee's sense of well being is solid, then they will be able to push through all the challenges and struggles that naturally occur when one works in the child welfare field. Rod's staff definitely appreciate his guidance and supervision. They regularly give kudos to him at staff meetings and via e-mail. In return, Rod is not afraid to ask his staff what they require of him in order to enhance their work experience.

When not at work, volunteerism in all aspects of local and regional Minor Hockey is a passion for Rod. His love of hockey has been life long. Rod played high-level hockey as both a child and teenager. As a parent, Rod has been fortunate to watch his son play AAA hockey for many years. He spent 10 years as member of the Portage Minor Hockey Board. For the past 5 years he has been the Director of Hockey Development as a board member with the Central Plains Hockey Board. And if that isn't enough, he has been a referee for the past 6 years. He has referee experience up to the Bantam and Midget AAA level. It is not unusual to hear that Rod has refereed up to a dozen games in any given weekend during the hockey season.

Rod and his wife, Michelle, reside in Portage la Prairie. Michelle is also a Supervisor for Central. Their son Riley will be relocating to Winnipeg over the summer to attend the University of Winnipeg's Faculty of Education. Rod and Michelle will not be complete empty nesters as they still have their two adorable fur babies, Miloh and Lexi to care for and love.

**Congratulations on 20 years of service, Rod.
Thanks for all you do!**



Intake and After Hours

22% of opened Intakes were received by the After Hours Team

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba serves as the Designated Intake Agency (DIA) for an area of central Manitoba that encompasses twenty municipalities and one local government district, excluding First Nation communities. As the DIA we provide this service on behalf of the four Child & Family Service Authorities – Southern First Nations Network of Care, First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child & Family Services Authority, Métis Child & Family Services Authority and the General Child & Family Services Authority. We function as a single point of entry for referrals to the child welfare system. A DIA Steering Committee, made up of representatives of agencies who provide service within the central region, meet on four times a year to share information and to discuss how best to work together to deliver quality services.

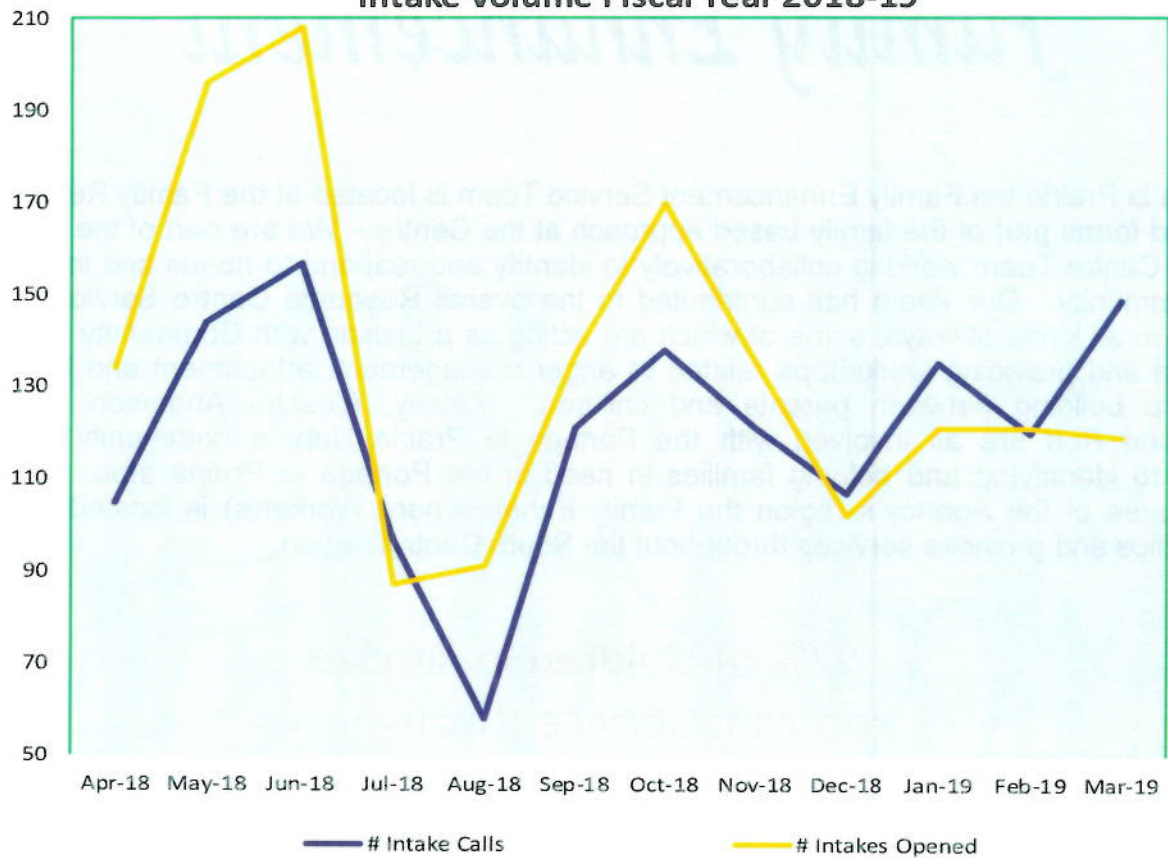
The process of intake involves the gathering and recording of information relating to a referral or request for services, responding based on assessment of the situation, and determining a need for ongoing service. If ongoing services are necessary, the family then completes the Authority Determination Protocol (ADP). The ADP determines which from Authority the family will receive services.

The 2018/2019 year again saw a rise in the number of intakes that the intake team received. There was a 35% increase in 2016-2017, a 12% increase in the 2017-2018 and a 16% increase in the 2018-2019 year. Our After Hours Team received 22% of the intakes recorded during the year. Over the past 5 years, the volume of intakes has increased by 65%. Staff on the dayside intake team increased by one full time employee approximately five years ago. One intake position moved from the Portage office to the Winkler office in the 2017/2018 year to accommodate the volume of reports coming in for that area.

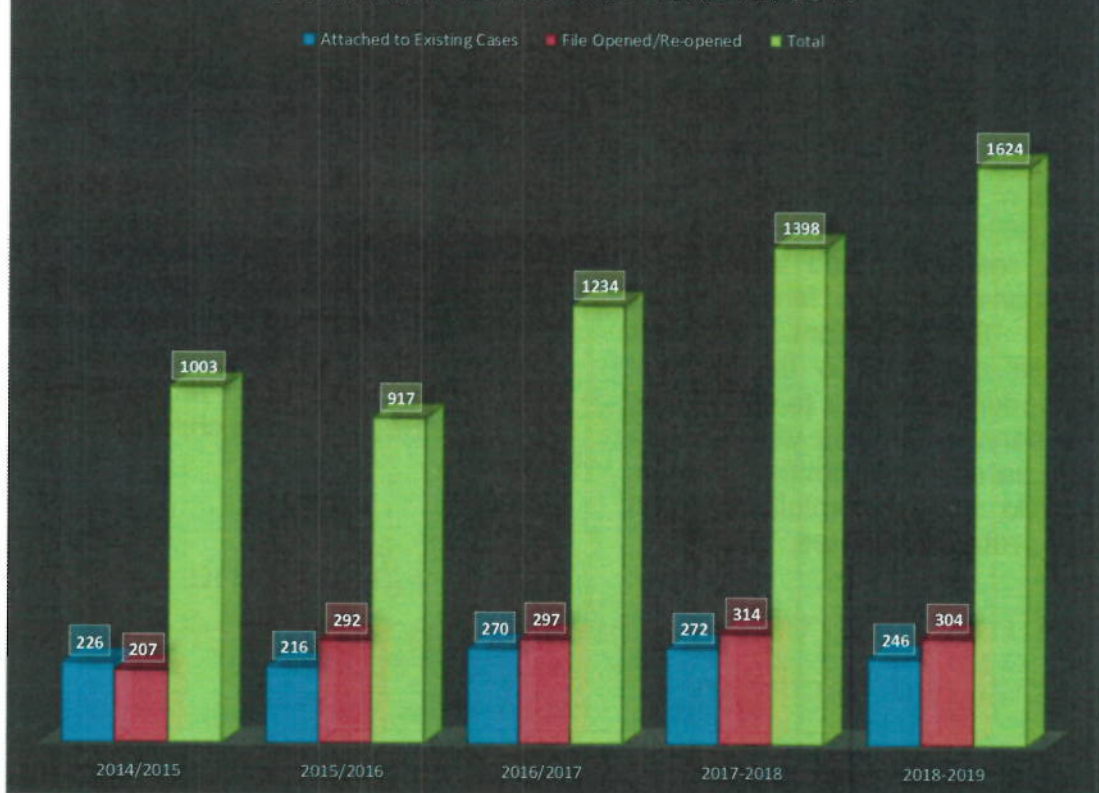
We have two new employees on the intake team in Portage, Lauren Gilmore and Alescha Anderson, who both joined our Agency in late fall of 2018. Dana Penner joined the intake team in Winkler in the past year.

Intake volumes increased 16% from the previous year and 62% over the past 5 years.

Intake Volume Fiscal Year 2018-19



5-YEAR INTAKE VOLUME COMPARISON



Family Enhancement

In Portage la Prairie the Family Enhancement Service Team is located at the Family Resource Centre and forms part of the family based approach at the Centre. We are part of the overall Resource Centre Team working collaboratively to identify and respond to needs and interests of the community. Our Team has contributed to the overall Resource Centre Services and Programs in all kinds of ways, some of which are acting as a Liaison with Community Justice Committee and providing workshops related to anger management, attachment and healthy relationship building between parents and children. Kelsey, Alescha Anderson (Intake Worker) and Rod are all involved with the Portage la Prairie Hub, a community based approach to identifying and helping families in need in the Portage la Prairie area. In the southern area of the Agency's region the Family Enhancement Worker(s) is located at the Winkler office and provides services throughout the South Central region.

97% of children in families
receiving service through the
Family Enhancement Program
live at home

The Family Enhancement Program provides services to children and families where our focus is to address safety worries for children, strengthen family relationships and connect to supportive services within the community. Our approach is strength based and values collaborative, respectful and transparent working relationships with families. All our Family Enhancement Workers emulate these qualities to the highest level when working with our families. We are able to service families with diverse issues from parent-teen conflict, respite needs to child sexual exploitation and serious child protection issues.

1.5% of the children are
in Specialized Facilities

The 2018-2019 Family Enhancement Team consisted of: Kelsey Bereza and Jamie Watson as case managers in Portage; Shelley Steedsman as the case manager in Winkler. Supervisor is Rod Sveistrup and Administrative Support is Jutta Maier. In 2018-2019 the Family Enhancement Program provided services to 61 families in the Central Region and 5 children in care.

1.5% of the children are
in foster care placements

In-Home Support

The In Home Support Program is to provide intensive support and education to children and families who are experiencing coping difficulties, parenting concerns, and other family related issues. The primary objective for intervention is to alleviate the conditions that place children at risk, and to assist the family in maintaining a safe and nurturing environment without the need for continued service. This year our staff worked with 68 families. The 2018-2019 In-Home Support workers are Jenifer Link, Sharon Dueck, Jayme MacKinnon, Tamara Waldner, Vicki Sawatzky and Lindsay Loewen based out of Portage and Winkler offices. Supervisor is Rod Sveistrup and Administrative Support is Jutta Maier and Shea Kopen.

In-Home Support workers continue to organize a yearly retreat for isolated women in the region and had 19 women attend a 3 day long retreat at Camp Arnes in Gimli. This is our 11th year holding this retreat. The retreat is a good time to connect with our mom's and to build on their positive relationships with our agency. Communities of support are built between the ladies who attend and the event is always very well received by those that attend.

Our monthly day retreats in Carman, is now entering its fourth year. The In-Home Support team host one day a month of activities with a goal to: increase cooking skills with the mom's; help build relationships; teach healthy food options; teach budgeting and how to make the dollar stretch; learn how to utilize the food cupboard food; work on organizing daily routine and structure for children and promoting a healthier family. The team continues to add different topics throughout the year to these 1-day retreats such as financial planning and budgeting and presentation on mental health care. We have anywhere to from 10-12 people attend the cooking sessions and the monthly ones around 20 people attend. We had approximately 20 ladies attend the full day Christmas workshop in November.

The Caring Dad's Program continues to grow in Winkler and Portage la Prairie. Caring Dad's is a 17-week program for dads to work on their relationships with their children and spouses. We currently are in our 3rd course in Winkler and starting our second round in Portage la Prairie this fall. Our agency facilitators are Sharon and Don Dueck in Winkler and Jenifer Link, Jayme MacKinnon and Paul Caslor in Portage la Prairie, with the agency Program Director, Heather Unfried, supervising the program.





Family Services

The Family Services Program is serviced out of two offices, one in Portage la Prairie, MB and one in Winkler, MB. The Family Services Program has seen a number of worker changes over the past year. On the one hand, as always, we are sad to see when workers leave; however, we wish them well in their new endeavors. On the other hand, we are fortunate to have welcomed some new workers to the team and we look forward to their time in Family Services. Both offices have also been fortunate to have had a number of Social Work students complete their BSW practicum with the Agency. All the best to the students as they embark on their Social Work careers!

What is the role of the Family Services Program? After it has been determined by Intake that a family will require ongoing services, a Voluntary Family Services file, Protection file or a Child-in-Care file is opened under the Family Services Program. Family Services continues to be the largest component of our Agency service continuum with two program units (North and South) providing services to families and their children, permanent wards, temporary wards and voluntary placements. Workers also provide services to expectant mothers who need assistance in making support plans for their baby and themselves. The Agency takes seriously its commitment to the children it supports and strives hard in making a difference in the lives of the children and families we work with. The Agency is committed to work with families to either support their involvement with their children and/or to work towards returning children to their birth family. However, in cases in which families are unable or unwilling to support their children, the Agency works to find the child or children permanent homes. We are very fortunate in that we have some excellent placement resources in the Central Region, with committed and caring foster parents and care providers.

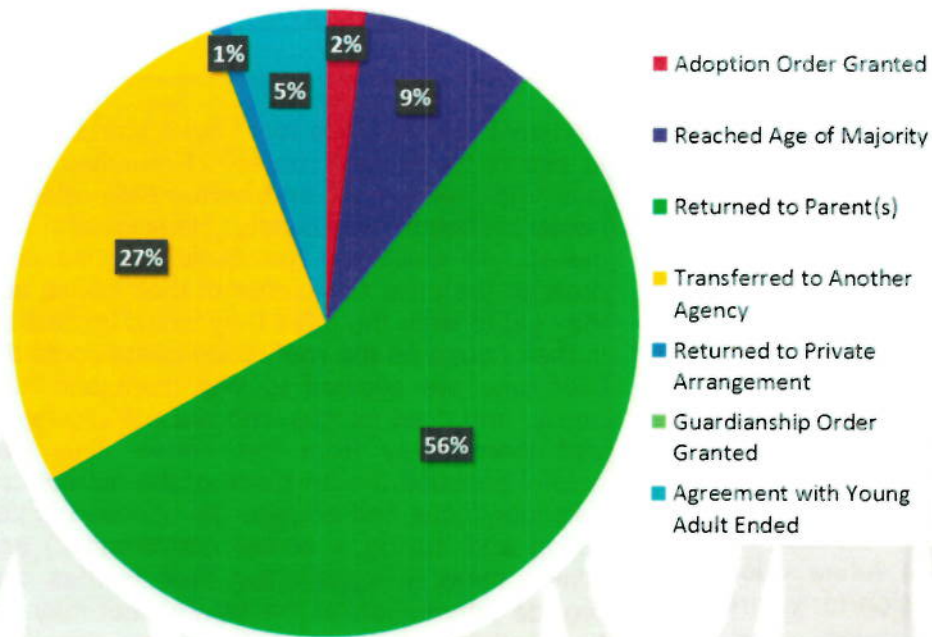
The General Authority Practice Model is well integrated in the way that work is carried out. Structured Decision Making (SDM) and the Practice Model tools, help workers to engage with parents/caregivers around their children's safety and well-being. The Practice Model incorporates a number of tools and strategies (such as the Three Houses tool and scaling questions) to help parents/caregivers understand the Agency worries (Harm and Danger) and then work towards developing a safety plan/case plan to address the worries. Workers are also using the 3-5-7 Model which is a strengths-based approach to engage with families and children in the work of grieving their losses and re-building relationships towards the goals of well-being, safety, and permanency.

In our continuous efforts to improve our service to families and children, we created the Support Network Facilitator position. Families are almost always a part of formal and informal networks. People are often pushed into services that don't directly contribute to reducing danger or enhancing safety. Networks can play a much more direct role. Once networks are working with CFS, it is important that they know what the Agency is worried about and that they are willing to play some role in trying to reach the safety goal. Networks play an essential role in developing good safety plans. Many families who have participated in the network process started off by having their children in the care of the Agency. Since the inception of the position in September of 2017, our facilitator has worked with 26 families with 65 children in total. Of those, 43 children were in care at the start of the process. By the end of the process, 24 children were returned to the care of their parents and have remained at home since their return. Of the 24 children that left agency care during the network process it is our belief that 14 of these children would have remained in agency care permanently if not for the participation of the family in the network process.

Of the open family files at the end of the year, 29% were Voluntary Family Services

Workers strive very hard to work transparently with families to develop case plans. The case plan looks at what the worries are, what is working well and what the next steps in planning are in working towards successfully meeting the objectives of the case plan.

Reasons Children Exited Care



In working with families affected by domestic violence, workers continue to utilize concepts from the Safe and Together Model and strategies that are solution focused and safety organized. Safe and Together is a specific domestic abuse model that is based on a "perpetrator pattern, child-centred, survivor-strengths approach" to partnering with families (partnering with the non-offending parent) affected by domestic violence. Goals of using the model are to improve family functioning and to ensure

children are safe by reducing risk and harm to children.

A service that the Agency has been able to offer to fathers is the Caring Dads Program. This is a 17 session program that focuses on helping dads to develop skills to cope in healthy ways with frustrating situations, helping dads to understand how different fathering strategies and choices affect children, helping dads to increase their awareness of controlling abusive, and neglectful attitudes and behaviours and helping dads by providing strategies to strengthen the father-child relationship.

Along with our work with children in care and protection work, the Agency also provides additional preventative supports to families to ensure that children do not have to come into care. Over the past year, we have supported approximately **248 children in their homes**. Preventative supports range from the provision of respite support, counselling, daycare, and other services. We also work closely with the Chance 2 Programs (Chance 2 Camp, Arron's Chance 2 Play Hockey, Chance 2 Grow and Chance 2 Learn) to ensure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to attend summer camp, participate in various recreational events and access educational grants.

Services are provided to emerging young adults through Agreements with Young Adults - AYA (formerly called Extensions of Care) to support them during transitioning to adulthood, as well as former youth in care through the Tuition Waiver Program (for current and former youth in care). Over

The number of children in our care has decreased 13% over the past year and decreased 38% over the last 5 years.

the past year, **14** youth have been supported through an AYA. The Agency's Youth Engagement Worker, Judie Mann continues to work with youth one on one, building relationships with the youth, mentoring the youth and offering supports, including supports to a number of youth who are attending university/college/post-secondary education programs with a Tuition Waiver in place. The Youth Engagement Worker has engaged in many different activities with youth across the Central Region. This is a great opportunity for youth in care and former youth in care to connect and stay connected.

Words from the Front Line - What's Working Well?

Denise Selinger - I have found that using the definitions under SDM as a guideline is a very helpful tool when completing Assessment and Reassessment of Probability of Future Harm and Narratives. I have also found that by incorporating the Safe and Together model components when working with domestic violence victims/offenders has given me an opportunity to create a safer work environment, and an opportunity for a better working relationship with couples, based on appropriate questions directed towards relationships and impact with the children that witness harmful/tumultuous relationships between the caregivers in their lives. Another tool that I use is solution-focused interviewing. By asking preferred future questions, this helps my clients develop a vision for where they

In reflecting back over the past year, workers have indicated that they are very proud of the work that they are doing with children and families. By consistently using the Practice Model, SDM risk assessment tools, using Safe and Together Model components and working with families and their support networks, this lends itself to best practice including safety and wellbeing for children.

Jodi Patterson - I have been working with a family for the past year that consists of young parents whose children are in care due to the parent's severe drug use. Initially the parents were reluctant to work with the Agency and were not engaging in case planning. By working openly and honestly with the parents, over time they have developed trust in the Agency and have become more receptive to supports and services. Both parents attended residential addictions treatment, have stopped using drugs and are committed to attending regular visits with their children. They have been following through with every aspect of the case plan and it is anticipated that the children will be returned to their parent's care in the next few months. Family Support Networking has also been utilized for this young couple and it is going really well. There is a solid support system surrounding this family to step in and help if issues should arise in the future.

Lindsay Loewen - One tool I have found helpful to use is the Safety House. I reunified three kids with their parent and before they returned home, I completed Safety Houses with the oldest two children. The Safety House is a drawing the child completes of their house and they get to write the rules they would implement in their house on the roof, draw people onto the lawn who are allowed to visit them and their family, and draw people who are not allowed to visit them away from the house. This was helpful because the art piece of the activity can help kids focus and engage (as opposed to just sitting and having a verbal conversation) and allows them to voice/draw their worries and provide information to the worker that may not have otherwise come out. It was also very interesting to then show the Safety House to the parent so they could see exactly what their child needed to feel safe.

Jen Just - I have been at Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba since September 2018 where I started as a Family Service Practicum Student and then became employed in December, 2018. During that time, I had several families that I was building relationships with. As a new worker, I often felt overwhelmed by all the dynamics and layers within a family unit. I often approached families with a solution-focused mindset and quickly aimed to enhance their quality of life through problem solving all of their problems. I had the pleasure of attending the Module Training in March, 2019, and through that training, I realized that there are complicating factors within each family unit that do not necessarily contribute to the immediate safety of the children. Through that training, I was able to differentiate complicating factors from immediate harm and dangers, and that has been a key learning moment in my new career. Since the training, I have been able to focus on the harm and dangers and have been able to work towards mitigating those without focusing on complicating factors. Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba is an Agency that empowers new workers to learn and ask questions.

The Adoption Program provides adoption services to families in Central Region. Gord Zacharias, located in the Portage la Prairie office, is a full time worker and carries cases throughout the Agency's area. Audrey Armstrong (recently retired) works part-time from the Winkler office covering the Southern portion of our Region. Both workers have cases that consist of working with foster parents who are adopting foster children, new applicants looking to adopt, financial subsidy files and post adoption requests. Structured Assessment Family Evaluation (SAFE) continues to be used when doing home studies on all adoption files. Rod Sveistrup is the Adoption Supervisor and Angela Dyck and Shea Kopen continue to be the programs' Administrative Support.

Over the past year Adoption Workers carried 323 cases. Of these cases 100 were Adoption Applications under assessment or awaiting assessment. While our team provides service in all of Manitoba's Adoption Divisions, the majority of these Applications are for Division 1, Permanent Ward Adoptions. Gord worked on 1 division 5 (Extended Family) and consulted on 2 division 7 adoption files (Adult Adoption). Fifty-one cases were Financial Subsidies, providing ongoing support to families and their adopted children, and 172 were Post Adoption/Legal Cases. Adoptions, of older special needs children, on the most part take a year to finalize following the Adoption Placement of a child. With 1.5 workers we placed 2 children for adoption and finalized 2 Adoptions this fiscal year.

Calls from the community involved in the adoption of Indigenous children continue to grow in what is called the 60's Scoop Class Action Lawsuit. Gord Zacharias has agreed to look after the calls and help the callers gain access to the information that is required for them. Gord's natural ability to empathize and listen with people contacting the agency and allowing them to tell their story in a safe environment, He currently has 80 intakes involved with the 60's Scoop Class Action Lawsuit.

We had 24 adoptive parents/applicants/foster parents along with our adoption team and Jeanette Grennier from the GA, to celebrate Adoption Month in November 2018. We all enjoyed the workshop from Harold Park who presented Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) for

Adoption Program Files 2018-2019		
Adoptive Applicant	Financial Assistance	Post Adoption
100	51	172

Parents to us that evening. TBRI is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. It uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors.

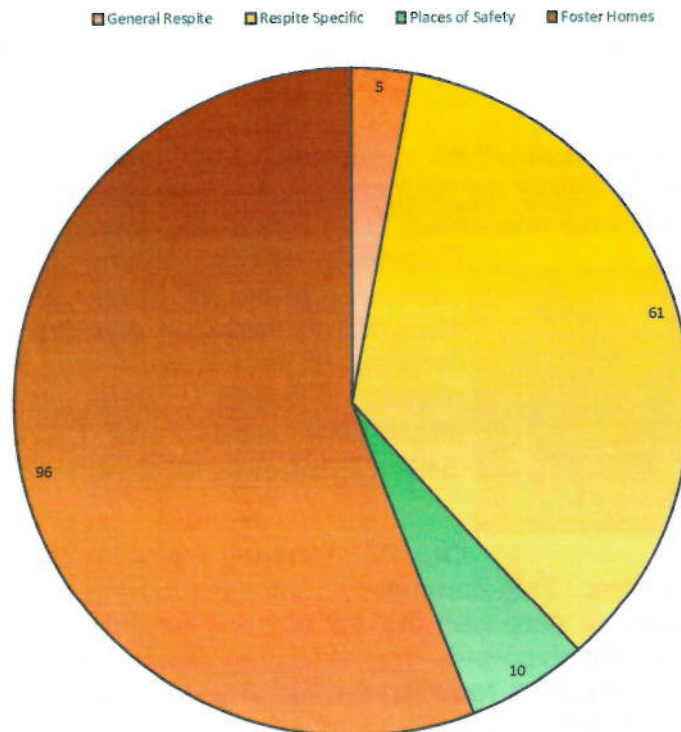
Our Permanency Planning Committee continues to meet to review all child in care files. This committee continues to help front line staff with more permanency planning for children in care with the agency and identify any that may be eligible for adoption or look for family involvement. The adoption team continues to run our own Educational Series which is a mandated requirement for any new adoption applicants to have before they are able to continue with the process of adoption. The team continues to work closely with the foster care team around joint SAFE home studies and related team initiatives and programs.

Foster Care

Foster parents are amazing, honorable, humble, courageous, strong and flexible individuals who open their doors to helping other families in crisis by providing a safe place for a child to stay while his or her family heals and/or permanency planning for the child takes place. Ordinary people in our communities come forth making a daily commitment to vulnerable children needing a safe home to live in. Many foster parents find that knowing their actions of providing love and care have made a difference for children when they needed it most, helps them through this grieving process.

Presently Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba have three Foster Care Coordinators, Andre Pelser in the Winkler Office, Anne Johnston-Peters and Janice Madill in the Portage Office. Supervisor is Nicole Fehr and Administrative Support is Jutta Maier. We currently have open; 96 Foster Families in the Central Region (this includes 14 homes licensed for other Agencies) and 10 Place of Safety Homes. It should be noted that we opened and closed 12 Place of Safety Homes in the past year which were short term family/relative placements. In addition to foster homes, our agency supplements care for children and break for foster parents and families by providing respite homes. We currently have 5 General Respite Homes and 61 Respite Homes that are attached to specific foster homes for support.

Foster Care Resources



CFSCM has foster homes split into two areas, North and South of Hwy 2. We have one Foster Care Coordinator in North and another in the South. We also have one Regional Coordinator whose focus is mainly Place of Safety's and Respite Homes. The current goal of the Agency is to recruit new Foster Care Resources throughout the entire area we cover. A major focus is on foster homes for our Designated Emergency Placement Program for After Hours and Emergencies in the Northern part of our area. We especially need foster care placements for ages 12 - 17 throughout the Region.

Training for foster parents has been provided through CFSCM, the General Authority, and the Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba (formally Manitoba Foster Family Network) this past year KFFNM offered their Basic Foster Parent Training in Morden MB. This 9 session course was facilitated by a KFFNM representative as well as a local foster parent.

A Foster Parent Engagement Day was organized on October 18, 2018 during Foster Parent Appreciation Week. The day included a presentation from KFFNM and Sally Marsolais – Support Network Facilitator. Foster parents were provided with lunch, personalized thank you cards and a short video from the agency staff sharing what they appreciated about the foster parents we work with. The Foster Care team is again in the planning stages of this event for 2019.

The annual CFSCM Foster Care Christmas Party took place on Saturday December 8, 2018 at Stride Place in Portage la Prairie. The afternoon consisted a pizza lunch, face painting, cookie decorating, skating and horse drawn wagon rides. Each child in attendance was able to receive a personalized gift from Santa that was donated by community members and local businesses. The Agency would like to give a special thank you to the group of ladies from the Carman region who have assisted with providing our teenagers gifts once again as well as Roquette Canada for their significant contribution to the gifts provided. The Foster Care team would also like to extend a huge thank you to the CFSCM Agency, and to all of the local donors for their financial support in making this event a huge success for the most vulnerable children in our region.





In the summer of 2018, the Chance 2 Camp program made it possible for 91 children in the CFS Central Region to attend summer camp. In 2018, there was \$23688.50 that was directly disbursed to 10 different camps, making it possible for 90 community children and 1 children-in-care to attend summer camp. The Chance 2 Camp initiative is administered by the CFSCM Foundation on behalf of the Agency; it is the longest running program offered by CFS Central Manitoba.

Our 2018 Camp Coordinator was Brittany Toews, our summer student responsible for managing all aspects of our camp communications including maintaining contact with camp staff, parents, agency workers and our volunteers. Brittany was a hardworking, reliable addition to the Foundation, helping with BBQ preparations, running a camp fair at a local school and doing a fabulous job with everything she was asked to help with.

We are fortunate to have community support in the form of volunteer drivers who take their own time to get the kids to and from the camps. In 2018, we facilitated 5 volunteer driver trips to camp and home. We also lend out sleeping bags when needed and would like to acknowledge The Wash Stop in Portage for donating washing services to clean the sleeping bags upon their return. It really does take a village!

Once again, Winkler Bible Camp and Circle Square Ranch were the overwhelming favourites for children in 2018. We sent 31 kids to Winkler Bible Camp and 25 to Circle Square Ranch, with the remaining children choosing places such as Camp Arnes, Valley View Bible Camp and others. As is always the case, campers and their parents make the choice of which camp the child will attend; only camps accredited by the Manitoba Camping Association are eligible for funding from Chance 2 Camp.



All of the “Chance 2” programs give our clients the opportunity to participate in an activity of their choice. The Chance 2 Grow program is especially popular with families because it funds children for both sports and the arts—so children can express themselves in a wide range of extracurricular activities. In 2018, the Chance 2 Grow program funded 134 children and youth in the Central Region to pursue recreation and they chose to attend music lessons, dance classes and a variety of sports lessons ranging from martial arts training to horseback riding. Chance 2 Grow provides funds for equipment for both sports and the arts across the Region. Approximately \$26,745 was paid directly to municipal recreation programs, music instructors and other service providers who deliver programming to our clients. We are also proud to say that our funds are going back into the same communities who support us, by providing income to piano teachers, art studios, local sporting associations, and much more.



We are grateful to the Winnipeg Goldeyes Field of Dreams Foundation, Portage Mutual Insurance, Portage Credit Union for their continued support of Chance 2 Grow. Vanstone Nurseries have become important partners in the Chance 2 Grow program via our annual plant sale which provides high quality flowers to our generous supporters in Portage la Prairie and beyond. The summer of 2018 was the 6th anniversary of the Chance 2 Grow plant sale. Our committee of community volunteers need to be commended on their continued dedication to the cause. Thank you to Jody Fletcher, Cora McCartney, Liz Sherritt, Val Sissons, Cindy Clarkson, Pat Wall, Lou Collett, Andrea Miller and Jodi Lee for your efforts and friendship to the Foundation.





The 2018-19 year marked 14 years for the Arron's Chance 2 Play golf tournament and the continuation of a successful partnership between the Foundation and NHL player Arron Asham, who was born in Portage la Prairie and got his start playing hockey for teams in the local area.

"Arron's Chance 2 Play" was designed to assist children and youth in the Central Plains district of our region, including Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, MacGregor, Oakville, St. Claude, and St. Eustache, who need funding support to play hockey. With the support of Arron and his family, friends, and NHL colleagues, the program continues to benefit families who need financial assistance to allow their children to participate in hockey and CanSkate programs.

A popular annual golf tournament raises money for "Arron's Chance 2 Play" and the 2018 event was once again held on the third Friday in July at the Portage Golf Club. Title sponsors were Meseyton Construction, Portage Mutual, and Portage CO-OP who have contributed to making this event a huge success for the children who benefit from this fundraiser. Plans are underway to celebrate next year's 15th anniversary of the tournament. The community has been an amazing support of this program and its initiatives and we are so thankful.

In 2018, \$23,452.00 was provided by Arron's Chance 2 Play to support 38 children in the Central Plains region.

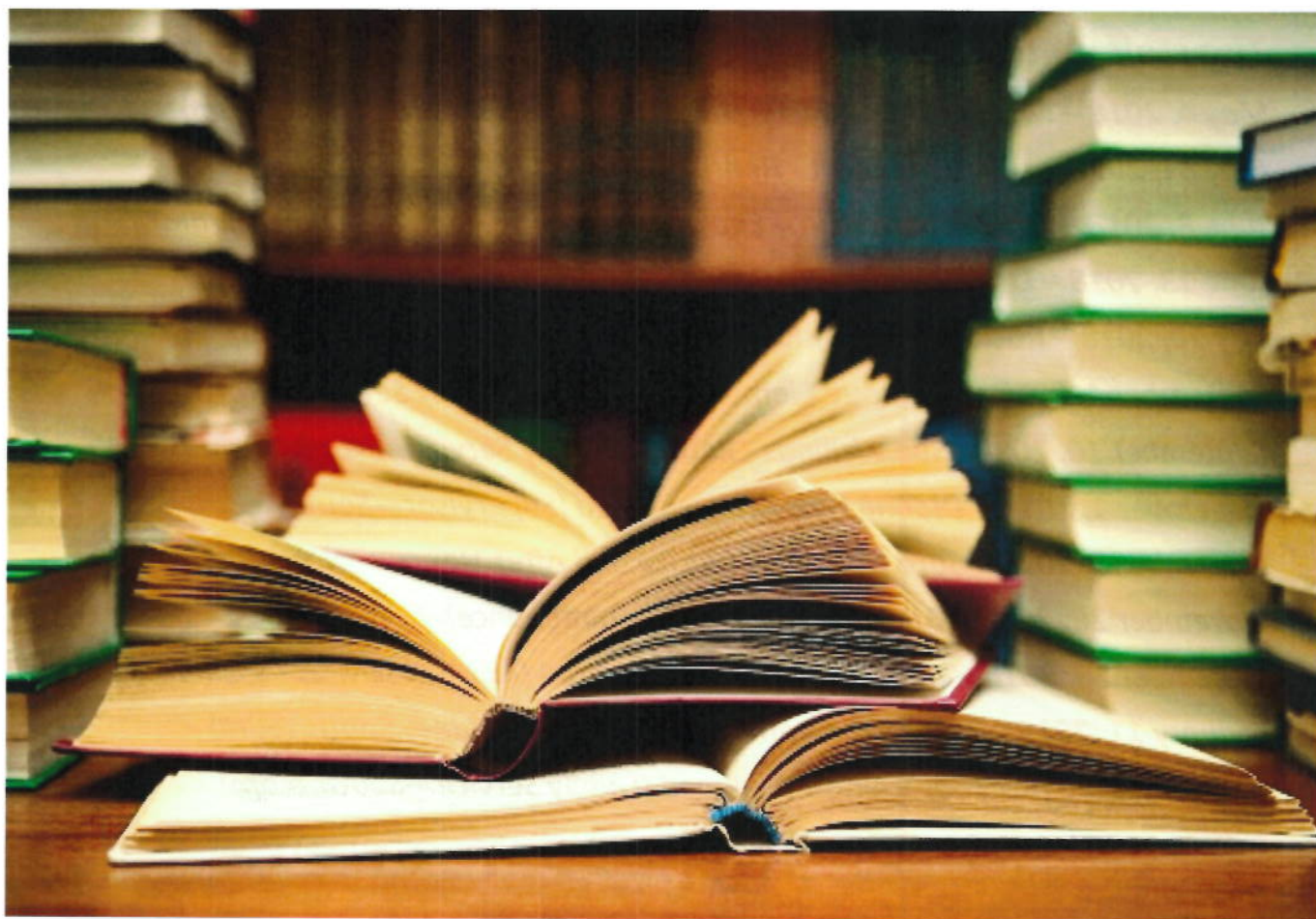


“Chance 2 Learn” is a program that provides financial assistance to qualifying individuals to assist with various post-secondary education expenses. To be eligible for a subsidy a person needs to be either a former child in care, or a youth on an extension of care with Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc. Chance 2 Learn is funded by the Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation and is administered by the Agency.



Individuals applying for the Chance 2 Learn Program are required to submit verification of registration and acceptance in an educational program, school or university. In addition they need to provide proof of some form of community service, two letters of reference, and a written portion outlining why they should be considered for the grant.

We are able to help usually 1-2 students each year with some expense related to them furthering their education, whether it be buying a laptop, paying for some tuition, helping with books, bus passes, etc.



HELLO, GOOD-BYE

It has been a very busy year at CFS. We have said goodbye to several staff members who are on their way to new adventures. We have also been training some new, young enthusiastic staff members to take their place. So, we would like to pay tribute to those who left and welcome those who have joined us.

The new staff for April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 are:

*May 14, 2018 – **Cathy Carroll** – Admin Support (North)*

*May 17, 2018 – **Janis Maxwell** – Family Service (South Team)*

*July 3, 2018 – **Rina Tomashewsky** – Family Service Case Aide (North Team)*

*November 26, 2018 - **Alescha Anderson** – Intake (North Team)*

*December 10, 2018 – **Jennifer Just** – Family Service (South Team)*

*December 17, 2018 – **Lauren Gilmore** – Intake (North Team)*

*January 7, 2019 – **Twyla Janes** – Weekend After-Hours*

*January 21, 2019 – **Brandon Letexier** – Intake Case Aide (North Team)*

*February 19, 2019 – **Kristen Major** – Family Service Case Aide (South Team)*

The staff who left during April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 are:

*May 4, 2018 – **Monica Lapointe** – Retired (In-Home Support—North Team)*

*May 31, 2018 – **Lillian Lockhart** - Retired (Foster Care—South Team)*

*June 8, 2018 – **Pauline Johnston** – End of Term (Family Service—North Team)*

*June 13, 2018 – **Leta Maksymyk** - Retired (Admin Support—Portage Office)*

*July 20, 2018 – **Rachel Friesen** - Resigned (Family Service—South Team)*

*September 4, 2018 – **Monique Clement** – Resigned (Family Service—North Team)*

*September 10, 2018 - **Sue Wellings** - Retired (Family Service—North Team)*

*November 1, 2018 – **Dianne Heinrichs** – Retired (Supervisor—South Team)*

*November 8, 2019 – **Sara Murray**— (Intake and After-Hours — North Team)*

*November 26, 2018 – **Brian Fust** - Retired (Maintenance)*

*December 28, 2018 – **Audrey Armstrong**—Retired (Adoption Services—South Team)*

*January 11, 2019 – **Jessica Jackson** – Resigned (Case Aide— South Team)*

*February 8, 2019 – **Jodi Young** – Resigned (Family Service—South Team)*

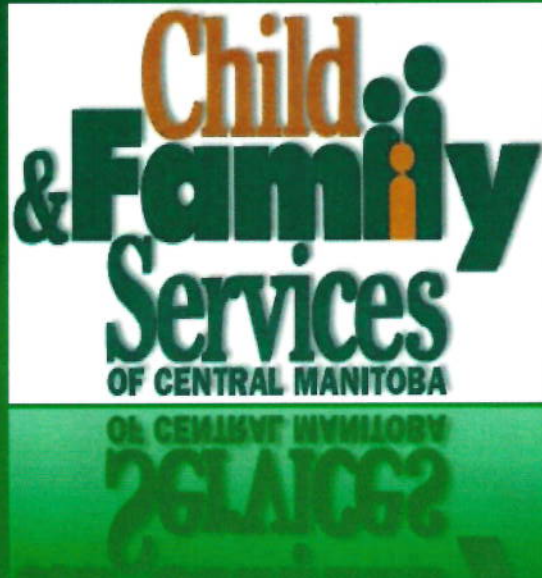
We have been extremely lucky in our years here to have had so many great employees come through. We hope that they have enjoyed, or are enjoying, their time with us and we thank them for their loyalty and dedication to CFS of CM.

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2019

	Core Agency Support Fund	Ward Care Fund	Protection and Prevention Services	Designated Intake	Capital Fund	Differential Response Fund	2019	2018
Assets								
Current Assets								
Cash	\$ 3,427,014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,427,014	\$ 2,271,079
Accounts Receivable	316,952	10,457	-	-	-	-	327,409	335,046
Prepaid Expenses	31,213	-	-	-	-	-	31,213	27,854
	\$ 3,775,179	\$ 10,457	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,785,636	\$ 2,633,979
Capital Assets					\$ 821,382		821,382	826,592
	\$ 3,775,179	\$ 10,457	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 821,382	\$ -	\$ 4,607,018	\$ 3,460,571
Liabilities and Net Assets								
Current Liabilities								
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	181,009	2,756				-	183,765	74,483
Accrued Vacation/Sick Pay	341,317						341,317	362,143
Working Capital Advance		116,600				-	116,600	220,000
Current Portion-Long-Term Debt							-	10,653
Interfund Balances	1,727,201	(2,323,202)	166,956	537,636		(108,591)	-	-
Long-term Liabilities								
Long-term Debt							-	-
Accrued Severance Pay	435,432						435,432	581,045
Deferred Contributions					206,771	73,092	333,605	334,800
	\$ 2,738,701	\$(2,203,846)	\$ 166,956	\$ 537,636	\$ 206,771	\$ (35,499)	\$ 1,410,719	\$ 1,583,124
Net Assets								
	1,036,478	2,214,303	\$(166,956)	\$(537,636)	614,611	35,499	3,196,299	1,877,447
	\$ 3,775,179	\$ 10,457	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 821,382	\$ -	\$ 4,607,018	\$ 3,460,571

Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc.
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
For the Year Ended March 31, 2019

	Core Agency Support Fund	Ward Care Fund	Protection and Prevention Services	Designated Intake	Capital Fund	Differential Response Fund	2019	2018
Revenue								
Province of Manitoba	\$ -	\$ 4,578,086	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,578,086	\$ 4,300,973
General Child and Family Services Authority	990,078	-	2,224,921	703,560	-	-	3,918,559	3,933,265
Amortization of Deferred Contributions	-	-	-	-	12,163	367,650	379,813	365,107
Other	221,045	-	-	-	-	36,600	257,645	238,374
Total Revenue	\$ 1,211,123	\$ 4,578,086	\$ 2,224,921	\$ 703,560	\$ 12,163	\$ 404,250	\$ 9,134,103	\$ 8,837,719
Expenses								
Salaries & Benefits	649,567	-	1,711,625	875,836	-	307,872	3,544,900	3,620,766
Travel & Field Service Costs	63,885	-	75,742	-	-	11,645	151,272	126,945
Office Operations/Misc	238,430	-	-	51,483	-	49,234	339,147	339,059
Service Support	141,150	-	167,554	20,216	-	-	328,920	292,381
Other Support	76,547	-	-	-	-	-	76,547	95,828
Ward Care Expenses	-	3,294,448	-	-	-	-	3,294,448	3,895,995
Amortization of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	80,017	-	80,017	85,165
Allocation of Operations	(270,000)	-	270,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	899,579	3,294,448	2,224,921	947,535	80,017	368,751	7,815,251	8,456,139
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue								
Over Expenses	\$ 311,544	\$ 1,283,638	\$ -	\$(243,975)	\$ (67,854)	\$ 35,499	\$ 1,318,852	\$ 381,580
Net Assets, April 1, 2018	799,741	930,665	(166,956)	(293,661)	607,658	-	1,877,447	1,495,867
Interfund Transfer	(74,807)	-	-	-	74,807	-	-	-
Net Assets, March 31, 2019	\$ 1,036,478	\$ 2,214,303	\$ (166,956)	\$(537,636)	\$ 614,611	\$ 35,499	\$ 3,196,299	\$ 1,877,447



Portage Office :
 25-3rd Street SE
 Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 1N1
 P : 204-857-8751 or 1-888-339-3576
 F : 204-239-1413

Winkler Office :
 324 South Railway Avenue
 Winkler, MB R6W 0M8
 P : 204-331-5040
 F : 204-331-5046

<https://cfsofcentralmb.mb.ca/>

Designated Intake Agency For All Four Authorities In Manitoba's Central Region (Off-Reserve)

