



Métis Nation–Saskatchewan

Ministry of Child and Family Services

COMMUNITY REPORT 2024-25



COMMUNITY REPORT



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Why This, Why Now?

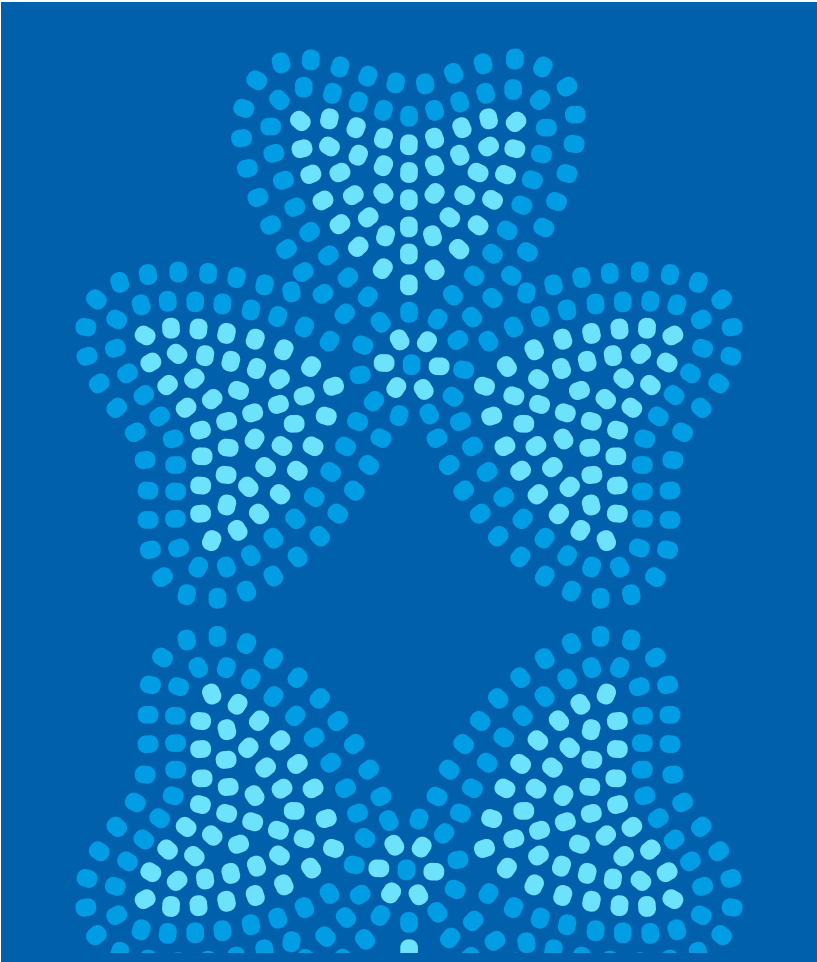
The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has the inherent right to deliver child and family services that reflect Métis culture, values, and ways of life. Assuming jurisdiction over these services is an important step toward creating a better future for Métis children, youth, and families.

In 2020, the federal government passed a law called An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (also known as Bill C-92). This law recognizes the right of Indigenous governments to make their own decisions about child and family services. It creates a path for Indigenous communities to assume jurisdiction and build systems that reflect their unique needs and priorities.

MN–S is recognized under this law as the **Indigenous Governing Body (IGB)** for Métis people in Saskatchewan, representing 30,791 registered citizens residing in 571 municipalities across the province. As part of our journey to assume jurisdiction over child and family services, and to bring our children home, MN–S is engaging with Métis citizens across the province to help design a distinction-based Métis Model of Care for our children and families that is Métis-led and community-driven.

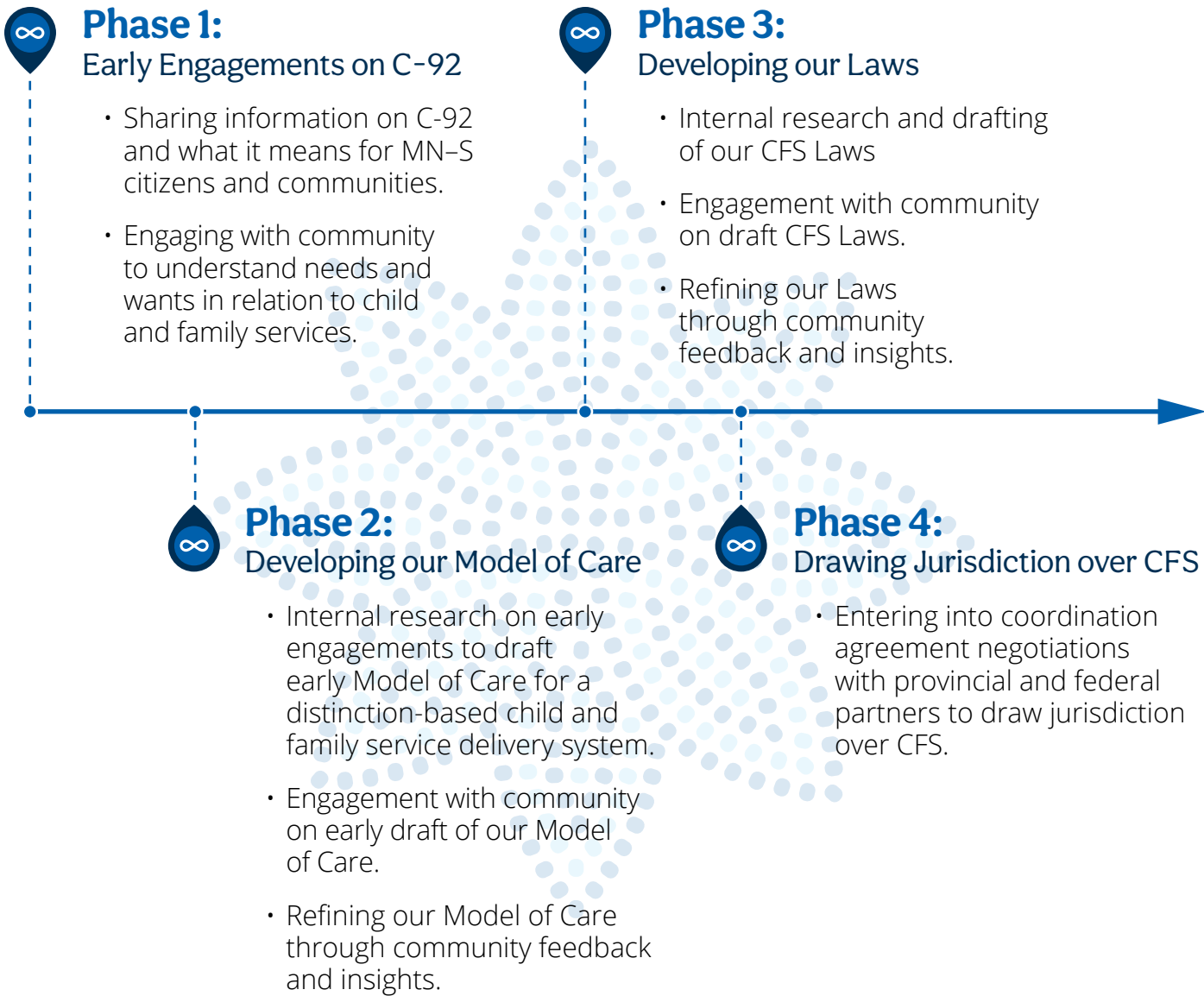
Supporting Families Now While Planning for the Future

While MN–S is committed to carefully planning our path toward assuming jurisdiction over child and family services, we also recognize the urgent need to support Métis children, youth, and families who are currently involved with the provincial system. To help meet these immediate needs, MN–S has dedicated Child and Family Services staff who work directly with the Ministry of Social Services (MSS) to provide cultural connection supports to Métis children, youth and families currently involved with child and family services to connect them with cultural programming offered by Local's, Regions and community-based organizations



Our Pathway to Jurisdiction

MN–S recognizes that assuming jurisdiction over child and family services is a significant and complex responsibility. During our initial 2023 engagement, citizens clearly expressed that this work must be done thoughtfully, collaboratively, and in a way that reflects Métis culture and values. Please see our Community Report – Government Engagement Mechanisms report for more details. Given this, our planning pathway to jurisdiction will take time, and will include key steps outlined below:



Click here to download the 2024 report.

[Métisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/MNS-CFS-Community-Report.pdf](https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/MNS-CFS-Community-Report.pdf)



How We Engaged Citizens

From October 2024 to January 2025, MN-S' Ministry of Child and Family Services hosted a series of citizen engagement opportunities across the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan. We made it a priority to hear from a wide range of Citizen voices during this engagement, and provided different opportunities to engage through:

- 23 in-person engagement sessions hosted in community (see Appendix A for a list of communities visited)
- 4 virtual engagement sessions hosted on Zoom
- 1 online survey
- Additional options for citizens to call or submit written insights to MN-S child and family services staff

After hearing from communities in our 2023 engagement that youth voices were especially important, we made a specific effort to engage directly with Métis youth in this phase of the work. In addition to the engagement options listed above, MN-S child and family services staff also hosted:

- 2 youth-specific virtual engagement sessions hosted on Zoom
- 3 youth-specific in-person engagement sessions hosted in community

Over 362 citizens provided their unique insights and feedback during these engagement sessions to help guide the design of a Métis-distinct Model of Care.

Elevating Voices of Lived Experience

These engagement efforts made a concentrated effort to engage with Métis citizens who have lived experiences, including parents, caregivers, and youth involved with the child and family services system, to help ensure the future Métis Child and Family Services system reflects the distinct cultural traditions, values, experiences and needs of Métis people across Saskatchewan.

OUR ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

What We Asked & How We Asked It

Model of Care

A “Model of Care” describes the way we envision how Métis child and family services will be provided and the best practices for providing them.

A Métis Model of Care will take a holistic approach, focusing on **prevention and intervention** when needed. It will prioritize the well-being of Métis children, youth, and families by ensuring their voices are heard, their needs are met, and their ties to community, culture, and family are preserved.

What is prevention?

Prevention is about providing services that help stop mistreatment and family separation, while supporting families to thrive and promoting children, youth and families’ well-being.

Focus Areas:

- Supporting the well-being and resilience of Métis children, youth, and families.
- Addressing social and economic barriers that increase the risk of involvement with child and family services.
- Ensuring families can easily access programs and have the support to stay together and thrive.
- Providing culturally relevant, family-centered care that respects Métis culture and values.

What is intervention?

Intervention is about providing help when there are concerns about a child’s or youth’s safety. It focuses on keeping children safe and bringing families back together when possible.

Focus Areas:

- Child safety and protection.
- Protective Kinship Care.
- Building safe and healthy relationships with children, youth, and families.
- Supporting family growth with the goal of reunification.
- Providing culturally relevant, family-centered care that respects Métis culture and values.

During our engagement efforts, we presented community with a Model of Care, a draft service framework, for how prevention and intervention services might be provided to support a Métis Model of Care to meet the needs of Métis children, youth, families and communities. Below is a description of potential prevention and intervention supports and services that could help form our Métis Model of Care. This Model of Care is a draft that requires further consultations before it is finalized in the coming years.



Model of Care

Connections & Supports

This focus area will help Métis children, youth, and families strengthen their connection to Métis culture, build and maintain strong family and community bonds, and develop essential life skills for long-term wellbeing.

Housing & Stability

This focus area centers on providing safe, supportive, and culturally appropriate housing for Métis families who are involved with, or at risk of involvement with, child and family services. The goal is to create stable, resilient home environments that keep families together and support their long-term wellbeing.

Emergency Financial Supports

This focus area offers urgent financial help to Métis families involved with or at risk of child and family services. The goal is to keep families together.

Health & Wellbeing

This focus area aims to deliver holistic, culturally grounded supports to strengthen the mental, emotional, and physical health of Métis children, youth, and families. Programs will be tailored to the unique needs of Métis families and promote overall wellbeing.

Protecting & Reunifying Families

This area focuses on keeping Métis children safe and helping families heal and stay together. Services will support protection, stability, and family reunification whenever possible.

Reflecting on the model of care, we asked citizens to think about the unique needs and priorities of their communities, and to share their insights on:

- 1. What potential **prevention programs, supports, or services** would best support Métis children, youth, and families in your community, and what should they look like?
- 2. What potential **intervention programs, supports, or services** do families in your community need when experiencing separation and working toward reunification, and what should they look like?





WHAT WE HEARD

Across Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, Métis citizens shared a clear vision: child and family services must help families stay together, not tear them apart. Citizens emphasized that effective services are proactive, wraparound, culturally grounded, and community-led. Throughout the engagement process, communities were encouraged to share their unique needs and priorities for how the Métis Child and Family Services (CFS) Model of Care should be reflected in their local contexts.

The following sections present key findings from both general and youth-specific engagements, organized under the core focus areas of the Métis Model of Care. These findings highlight the programs and services identified as most needed to support Métis families in thriving together.

Centering Métis Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Storytellers

While communities expressed unique needs that they would like to prioritize in their communities, it is important to note that throughout the engagement, Métis citizens from all regions consistently highlighted the vital role they believe Métis Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Storytellers in supporting Métis family wellbeing. Their involvement in all aspects of child and family services, particularly was seen as key to restoring Métis families, passing down cultural knowledge, traditions and values, and strengthening both Métis community identities and intergenerational connections.



General Citizen Engagement Findings

Connections & Supports

Mentorship & Life Skills Programming

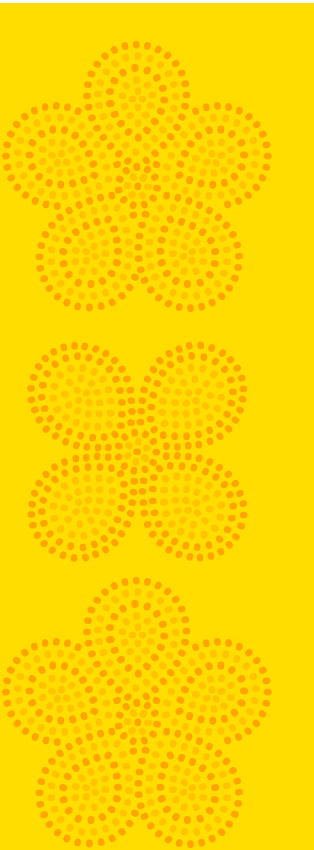
Citizens across all regions identified mentorship and life skills programming as essential for building confidence, promoting independence, strengthening cultural identity, and preparing youth and families for long-term wellbeing. It is important to note that throughout all communities, citizens expressed that these services must prioritize the needs of youth aging out of care. Community priorities included:

- Expanding mentorship programs connecting youth, caregivers, and parents with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and peers.
- Creating peer-to-peer mentorship opportunities, especially for youth aging out of care and parents/caregivers working toward reunification.
- Offering life skills programs (e.g., budgeting and financial literacy, cooking and meal preparation, parenting education).

Community Building & Cultural Connections

Citizens emphasized the need for safe, welcoming spaces to gather, celebrate Métis culture, and rebuild intergenerational connections. Community-building was seen as central to identity, belonging, and healing. Community priorities included:

- Provide opportunities for communities to host regular cultural gatherings, feasts, and seasonal events.
- Creating year-round cultural programming led by Elders (e.g., beading, moose cutting, storytelling, family dances).
- Strengthening Michif language revitalization efforts and increase daily use opportunities.
- Developing dedicated youth gathering opportunities.



Sports & Recreation

Citizens shared that accessible recreational activities are vital for youth development, health, and community connection, but affordability remains a major barrier. They called for financial supports to help Métis youth participate in sports and recreation, along with an expansion of sports and recreation opportunities in their communities.

Early Learning & Child Care (ELCC)

Citizens emphasized the need to expand access to culturally grounded Métis-led childcare options in community, as well as early learning opportunities for children and youth where language, traditions, and identity are part of their daily learning. Citizens also highlighted the importance of engaging parents as active partners in early childhood development.

Housing & Stability

Supportive, Transitional, and Affordable Housing

Safe, stable housing was seen as fundamental for keeping Métis families together, promoting reunification, and preventing crisis-driven child welfare involvement. Community priorities included:

- Developing transitional and supportive housing for youth aging out of care and families working toward reunification.
- Providing emergency housing and safe homes for families in crisis or fleeing domestic violence.
- Building affordable, multigenerational, and culturally relevant housing options to meet Métis families' needs.

Emergency Financial Supports

Citizens identified the need for emergency financial supports to help families stay stable and prevent emergencies that could lead to system involvement. They emphasized the importance of creating emergency programs that cover essentials like rent, utilities, transportation, food, and clothing, and called for help in obtaining key documents like IDs and birth certificates to access services and benefits.



Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health Services & Supports

There is an urgent need for culturally safe, trauma-informed mental health services, particularly for youth and families impacted by intergenerational trauma and family separation. Community priorities included:

- Increasing access to counselling services for children, youth, parents/caregivers and families.
- Creating land-based healing programs, equine therapy, and ceremony-based wellness options.
- Providing emergency mental health supports, especially for youth in crisis.
- Implementing early intervention programs for families at risk of domestic violence.

Addiction and Recovery Supports

Citizens prioritized a full continuum of culturally safe addiction services focused on keeping families together and supporting long-term recovery. Community priorities included:

- Providing immediate-access detox options rooted in Métis healing.
- Developing family-centered treatment programs that prevent family separation.
- Offering post-treatment recovery supports, including sober living homes, peer groups, and counselling.
- Providing prevention-focused education programs for Métis youth.



Food Sovereignty

Restoring food sovereignty was seen as vital for promoting wellness, cultural pride, and self-sufficiency among Métis families. Community priorities included:

- Establishing community gardens, greenhouses, and traditional food harvesting initiatives.
- Offering hands-on food programs (e.g., hunting, canning, nutrition education).
- Expanding school food programs and emergency food hampers.

Medical Transportation

Citizens identified transportation challenges as a major barrier to accessing healthcare, especially in rural and Northern communities. They called for the creation of Métis-specific medical transportation programs, along with supports like fuel vouchers, shuttle services, and travel assistance to help families reach the care they need.

Disability Supports

Citizens shared that Métis children and adults with disabilities need better access to supports, and services. They highlighted gaps in therapies, rehabilitation, adaptive tools, and community programs. Citizens also called for a Métis-specific child first initiative similar to Jordan's Principle to ensure Métis families can get the help they need when they need it.

Birthing Services & Women's Health

Citizens emphasized the need for Métis-specific, trauma-informed birthing services that honour traditional practices and promote family wellness. They called for culturally safe prenatal, birthing, and postnatal supports close to home, greater training and support for Métis doulas and midwives, and the development of holistic Métis women's health programming.

Protecting and Reunifying Families

Safety and Intervention

Citizens emphasized that safety and intervention services must focus on prevention, early support, and keeping families together. They stressed the need for community-based, culturally safe approaches that help families address challenges before they escalate. Citizens called for supports like Métis-led wellness checks, early intervention teams, and family-centered services that focus on healing, rebuilding trust, and maintaining family connections, rather than removing children whenever possible.

Protective Kinship Care

Keeping Métis children within their extended families and communities was seen as essential to preserving cultural identity, stability, and healing. Community priorities included:

- Strengthening supports for Métis kinship and foster caregivers.
- Ensuring full disclosure of children’s needs to caregivers.
- Providing financial supports for kinship caregivers, particularly grandparents.
- Offering mentorship, peer supports, and culturally grounded training for caregivers.

Respite and Emergency Care

Citizens shared that flexible, local respite care is crucial for supporting caregivers and preventing family breakdowns. They called for trusted, 24/7 respite options led by Métis caregivers, such as Elders and Aunties, to provide safe support when families need it most.



Family Reunification Supports

Reunification efforts must be holistic, culturally safe, and trauma-informed, focusing on healing and long-term family wellbeing. Community priorities included:

- Offering parenting mentorship, trauma counselling, and transportation for family visits.
- Creating visiting suites that offer safe, home-like spaces for reconnection.
- Implementing family-led decision-making processes and consistent follow-up support post-reunification.

Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Citizens spoke to the importance of having Métis-led, non-punitive ways to resolve conflicts that focus on healing, accountability, and keeping families and communities strong. They called for the development of mediation services and wellness support that focus on keeping families together, while also centering the best interest of the child and family.





Our children hold a
sacred place in our
Métis Nation and
with that, comes a
sacred responsibility
to care for them.

Youth Engagement Findings

In 2023, we heard a clear call to uplift the voices of Métis youth in shaping their future. In response, we created dedicated engagement opportunities where young Métis citizens could share their visions, priorities and insights on what a Métis Model of Care should look like. The findings below reflect what Métis youth shared during dedicated engagement sessions.

Connections and Supports

Mentorship and Skill Development

Youth emphasized the importance of building meaningful relationships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members to strengthen cultural knowledge and community ties. They shared a desire for mentorship opportunities that feel natural and trust-based, rather than formal, and suggested creating mentorship directories to match youth with mentors based on shared interests and goals. Peer support networks were also seen as vital, offering Métis youth spaces to connect, encourage one another, and share lived experiences.

Youth expressed a strong need for practical life skills programming to support independence and resilience. Skill development priorities included

- Workshops on budgeting, financial literacy, renter education, ID replacement, driver's education, and post-secondary planning.
- Leadership development opportunities that provide formal recognition and strengthen career pathways.
- Supports to help youth research, apply for, and manage education funding and scholarship opportunities.

Community Building & Cultural Connections

Youth highlighted the need for safe, gang and drug-free community spaces where they can gather, learn, and connect culturally. Opportunities for informal evening and weekend gatherings, intensive mentorships with Elders, and traditional skill-building (e.g., deer skinning and land-based living) were seen as important, with an emphasis on supporting 2SLGBTQ+ youth and addressing mental health needs through cultural connection.



Housing and Stability

Youth emphasized the urgent need for supportive living options to help those aging out of care transition into adulthood safely and successfully. They called for housing that provides continued access to mentorship, life skills programs, and strong community ties, rather than ending support at age 18. Youth also envisioned family reunification housing that includes extended family and supported multi-generational models that foster natural community connections. Homes must be safe, culturally reflective, multi-bedroom, and designed with shared community spaces.

Emergency Financial Support

Youth highlighted the need for emergency financial supports that help families meet urgent needs, especially with transportation and accessing vital services.

Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health Supports

Youth expressed a need for mental health education and prevention programming that starts early, particularly focusing on substance use awareness (e.g., vaping, substance dependence). They also recommended technology-based supports, such as apps, to help Métis youth access mental health services without needing to travel.

Addiction and Recovery Programming

Youth called for culturally grounded, trauma-informed addiction recovery programs that last longer than current 28 to 30-day models. They emphasized integrating Métis land-based healing with western approaches and expressed a desire for services like “wet houses” and longer-term detox programs to support lasting recovery.

Protecting and Reunifying Families

Safety and Intervention Services

Youth stressed that caseworkers must carry smaller caseloads to provide meaningful support to families. They shared a strong belief that children should stay safely in their homes whenever possible, with additional family supports coming in, rather than removing children.

Respite and Emergency Care

Youth identified the need for culturally connected respite programs that offer breaks for parents and caregivers while building mentorship connections for Métis children and youth within trusted community supports.

Protective Kinship

Youth reinforced the importance of kinship care models that prioritize keeping Métis children with family and community whenever possible, supporting identity and belonging.

Family Reunification Supports

Youth shared that transparency, and clear pathways are essential during reunification efforts. All families should understand what is happening, what their role is and what is coming next. They recommended having dedicated staff to assist with transportation and regular family visits, culturally safe visiting spaces (e.g., “Auntie’s House” models), parenting education programs, and culturally competent staff who practice less intrusive monitoring. Youth also emphasized that spaces and services should reflect Métis ways of being.

Transitioning to Adulthood - Support Beyond Age 18

Youth strongly rejected the idea of “aging out of care” at 18, calling for supports to continue as they transition into adulthood. They expressed a need for trusted advisors, system navigators, and education about available resources, not just knowing what’s out there but being empowered to access it. They emphasized the importance of having ongoing, reliable support systems that help them build stable, independent lives.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

A Métis-Distinct Child and
Family Services Ecosystem

Community Design Principles for a Métis-Distinct Model of Care

Citizens were engaged to help identify key principles rooted in Métis culture, traditions, and language to guide the development of our Model of Care. Their insights helped shape the core design principles below, which will support the creation of programs, services, and approaches that help Métis children, youth, families, and communities thrive.

Ka ishi pimaatishiyaahk (Our Way of Life): Rooted in Métis Culture

- Culture must be embedded throughout our Model of Care. Programs and services must reflect Métis culture, language, traditions, and child-rearing practices.
- Métis Elders, youth and those with lived experience must have a meaningful voice in designing the Model of Care and shaping services.
- Our Model of Care must use language that celebrates Métis strengths, values, and ways of knowing. Replace colonial terms with language that reflects care, connection, and community. Integrate Métis languages into everyday service delivery to support revitalization and affirm identity.

Miyeu Waahkooyoowin (Being Related in a Good Way): Centering Family & Kinship Relations

- Our Model of Care must be wholistic and rooted in Métis kinship networks and community relationships.
- Our Model of Care must centre the whole family unit, including children, youth, parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents, and caregivers.
- Our Model of Care must ensure that Métis families’ unique needs are supported in ways that allow them to heal, grow, and reunite in ways that best work for them.



Miyeu maahkootowin (Being in a Good Way): Strong Systems and Strategic Partnerships

- Employ and support Métis staff with cultural knowledge, trauma-informed care skills, and local experience.
- Services must be culturally distinct, welcoming, strengths-based, and responsive to historical and intergenerational trauma.
- Scale or adapt what is already working; don’t reinvent the wheel.
- Work with local First Nations, municipalities, community-based organizations, and other partners to leverage community strengths, while honouring Métis self-determination to support métis and mixed families.

Ka Niikaaniichik (Those Who Lead Us): Leading with Trust, Accountability, and Good Governance

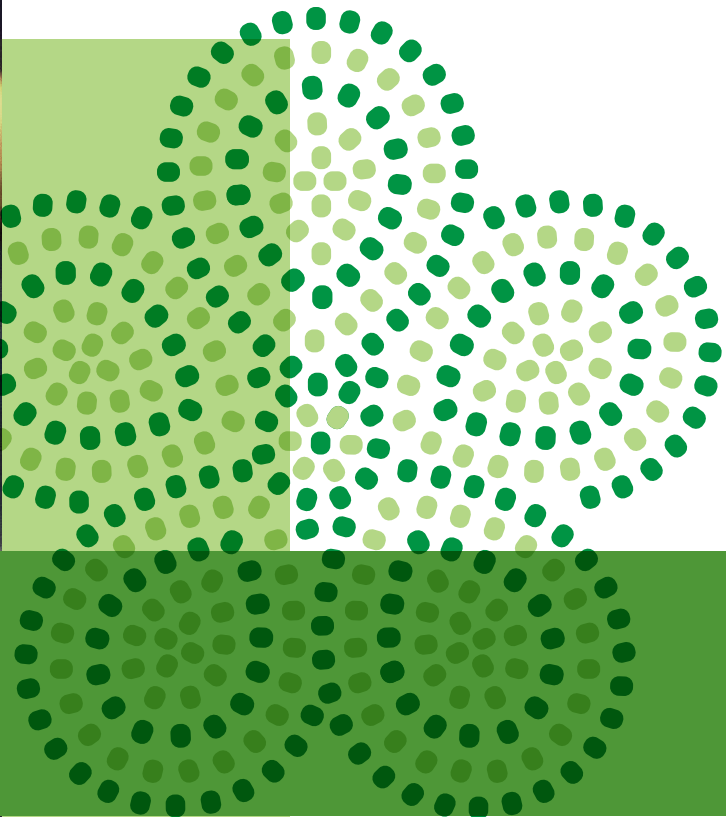
- Create an integrated system that provides programs and services locally, regionally and provincially that allows services to be delivered close to home when possible.
- Ensure long-term, stable funding to promote consistent service delivery and build community trust.
- Continually assess, evaluate and adapt services to meet changing community needs.
- Use lived experience, storytelling, and culturally grounded indicators to define success.

Proposed Model of Care Programs and Services



Guided by community insights and feedback gathered through engagement in 2023 and 2024–25, MN–S’s Ministry of Child and Family Services has developed a set of potential programs and services to meet the needs of Métis children, youth, and communities under our Model of Care. These programs are grounded in Métis culture and values, with a strong focus on prevention to help families stay together and thrive. When separation does occur, our Model of Care also includes wraparound intervention programs and services to help families heal and reunite.

These DRAFT programs will need to be prioritized through 2025/26 consultations, and all programs will likely not be implemented.



Prevention

Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Child Care Subsidy		Connections & Supports
The Child Care Subsidy Program is a preventative financial support program offering support to Métis families to access affordable childcare. The program is designed to reduce caregiver stress, strengthen family well-being, and help prevent child protection involvement.		
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Counselling Services Program		Health & Wellness
The Counselling Service Program would allow MN–S citizens who are children, parents or caregivers to access group and family culturally relevant counselling services. Citizens could pick their own counsellors. This program integrates trauma-informed and culturally relevant practices in flexible settings including schools, homes, virtual platforms, offices, community spaces and land-based environments. Group counselling includes age and gender specific cohorts, parent/caregiver circles, and specialized support groups tailored to community needs. Through these services, the program aims to strengthen mental health, foster resilience, and rebuild relationships within families and communities.		
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Culture Camps		Connections & Supports
The Culture Camps Program has quarterly, land-based camps for citizens offering families immersive Métis cultural education and opportunities to strengthen kinship close to home. Open to all—but with a focus on families in CFS prevention—the camps engage participants in traditional teachings, land-based activities, and mentorship by local Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community leaders. By blending hands-on learning of Métis practices with community-building, the program fosters resilience and cultural continuity—fostering land-based cultural education and enduring kinship ties in Métis communities.		

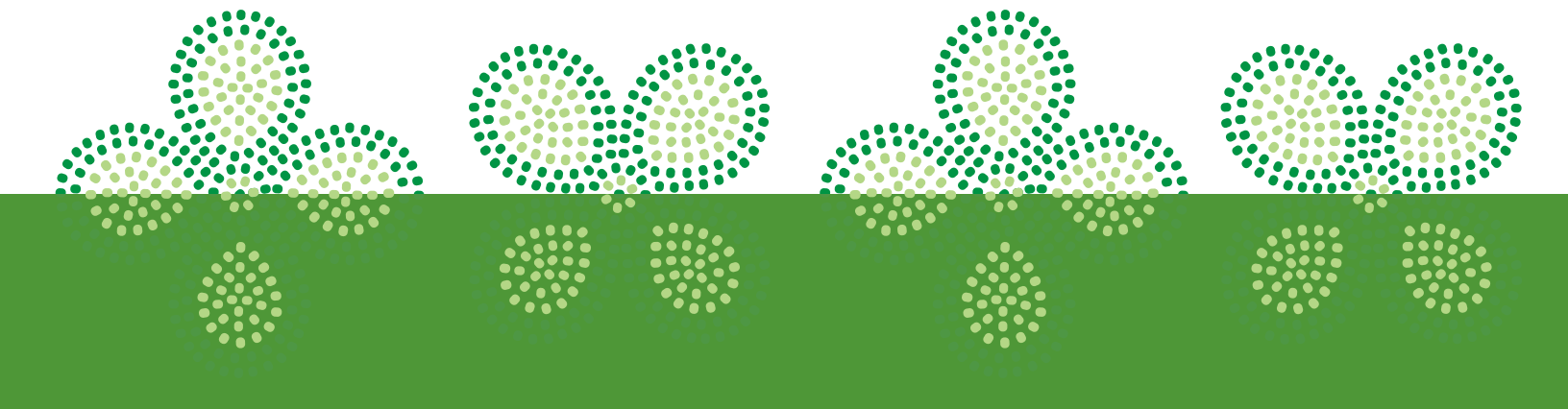
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Cultural Skill Development		Connections & Supports
	The Cultural Skill Development Program is delivered for Métis children, families and caregivers in Saskatchewan with the opportunity to develop and enhance their cultural knowledge and skills. Delivered by Métis knowledge keepers and community members, this program will include hands-on learning, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and culturally relevant workshops, activities, and events. The aim of this program is to strengthen Métis identity, build confidence, and create meaningful connections through hands-on cultural learning and community involvement.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Family Support		Protecting & Reunifying Families
	The Family Support Program offers voluntary, time-limited assistance to families referred to MN–S CFS who are considered at-risk for apprehension, but where increased support would prevent apprehension. Programming builds parenting and life skills, strengthens family dynamics, and culturally rooted services, and practical support. Families are supported with the goal of becoming independent and eliminating or reducing apprehension risks. With the completion of the program, it will help to empower families referred to CFS by providing structured, culturally grounded support that fosters family unity, stability, and long-term well-being.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Food Sovereignty		Health & Wellness
	The Food Sovereignty Program provides year-round, culturally grounded food sustenance & nutrition education through activities such as community gardening, hunting, trapping, fishing, harvesting, and canning. With food being distributed to households with children who are MN–S Citizens. Programs emphasize region-specific practices and teachings. This approach encourages meaningful engagement among Métis families, and youth. The program aims to empower families with children who are Citizens by increasing their understanding of food sovereignty and integrating these practices into daily life, ultimately reducing the risk of involvement with MN–S CFS.	

Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Head Start Program		Connections & Supports
	The Head Start Program will provide Métis families with access to culturally distinct early childhood education and support services. Focuses on nurturing the holistic development of children from birth to eight years old through a well-rounded approach that supports their physical, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and cultural growth. Children and families will take part in activities like playing, reading, singing, cultural teachings, and outdoor time. Beyond supporting the growth and development of Métis children, the program also aims to strengthen Métis communities' well-being, ensuring a healthy environment for Métis children to thrive.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Incarcerated Support Group		Connections & Supports
	The Incarcerated Parent Support Group provides support for Métis parents, caregivers, kin, and family members currently incarcerated, offering culturally grounded sessions led by designated facilitators within correctional facilities. Participants engage in traditional teachings, parenting-skills workshops, mental health and anger-management training, and guidance on navigating MN–S CFS systems to foster resilience and healing. Through shared reflection, peer mentorship, and holistic care—encompassing cultural practices, life-skills development, and system navigation, this program prepares participants for successful reintegration and reunification with their families, strengthening bonds and reducing reoccurring offences causing family disruptions.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Land-based Treatment & Detox		Health & Wellness
	The Land-based Detox and Treatment Program provides culturally grounded, holistic healing for Métis individuals and families experiencing substance use challenges. Combining traditional Métis practices (e.g., land-based teachings and practices) with modern detox and treatment strategies, the program reconnects participants to the land, fosters mental and emotional well-being, and builds resilience. Additionally, the program will offer visitation suites on site for families to maintain connections while kin are attending treatment. The goal is to empower Métis individuals and families through cultural reconnection and evidence-informed detox and treatment, promoting sustained wellness and reducing reliance on institutional care.	

Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Mentorship Programs		Connections & Supports
	The Mentorship Programs provide culturally grounded mentorship services for youth (ages 7-26) and parents involved with the MN-S CFS. The youth stream engages participants by supporting their personal growth as determined by the youth's interests. The parent stream strengthens skills, confidence, and capacity of parents/caregivers. These programs may be held through one-on-one mentorship, workshops, and peer-to-peer programing. The goal of both streams is to emphasize meaningful relationships, fostering resilience, and strengthening family stability, ultimately aiming to reduce risk factors and improve long-term outcomes for Métis children, youth, and families.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Métis Child First Initiative (MCFI)		Emergency Financial Supports
	Métis Child First Initiative is a health, social, cultural and educational financial support service based on principles that ensure substantive equality among Métis children across Saskatchewan. This program is designed to address gaps in essential services and provide Métis children with access to products, services, and supports they need to thrive. Similar to Jordan's Principle and Inuit Child First Initiative, MCFI will ensure Métis children have the resources they need to overcome barriers to long-term success.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Midwife & Doula Program		Health & Wellness
	The Midwife and Doulas Program provides Métis women and families across Saskatchewan with free or low-cost culturally safe, compassionate, and accessible maternal supports and services during pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and postpartum. The program focuses on integrating Métis cultural traditions, values, and practices into supports and services, ensuring women and families receive maternal care that is culturally grounded and responsive to their unique needs and situation. Through a combination of midwifery services, doula support, and mentorship from aunties, the program offers a comprehensive care model that respects and incorporates traditional Métis birthing practices and supports. The program aims to reduce the need for Métis women and families to travel to urban centers for maternal care, bringing services directly to their community and making maternal healthcare more accessible.	

Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Parenting/Life Skill Development Program		Connections & Supports
	The Parenting/Life Skill Development Program provides Métis parents in Saskatchewan with opportunities to develop and improve parenting and life skills. This program 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/caregivers 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.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Respite Program (Kinship, Parents, and Foster)		Connections & Supports
	The Respite Program (Kinship, Parent, and Foster Care) is a support service offering in-home or community-based respite to people caring for Métis children and youth who are considered at-risk for apprehension and for caregivers who have Métis children placed in their care. Respite can be accessed through a flexible arrangement including either recurring scheduling or one-time basis depending on their needs. The program aims to reduce parent/caregiver stress, strengthen family well-being, and/or help prevent child protection involvement.	
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Riel Scouts		Connections & Supports
	The Riel Scouts Program provides Métis youth (ages 5-18) with culturally rooted land-based experiences that foster leadership, resilience, and connection to Métis heritage. Year-round in community sessions, followed by summer camps at Dumont Lodge on Métis land engage participants. This program supports building confidence, life skills, and cultural pride, including pathways for older scouts to mentor peers and earn certifications (e.g., Hunter safety, first aid, MHFA, etc.). Riel Scouts addresses cultural disconnection, and lack of positive role models, serving connecting youth from across the province.	

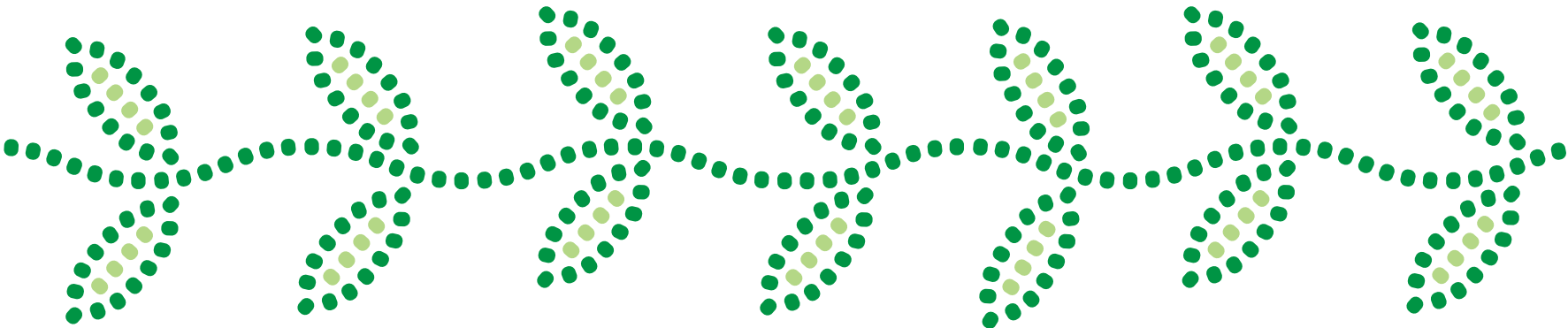
Program Name:	Prevention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Sports and Recreational Grants for Children	The Sports and Recreational Grants for Children provides Métis youth with flexible funding to support children (up to age 18) in sports teams, cultural classes, recreational groups, and other youth activities. This program covers registration fees, equipment, and travel costs, ensuring barriers to participation are removed. Whether it's sport or culture support would be provided with a financial cap depending on funding. By fostering physical health, cultural engagement, and positive peer connections, the program strengthens confidence, resilience, and community ties.	Connections & Supports



Intervention

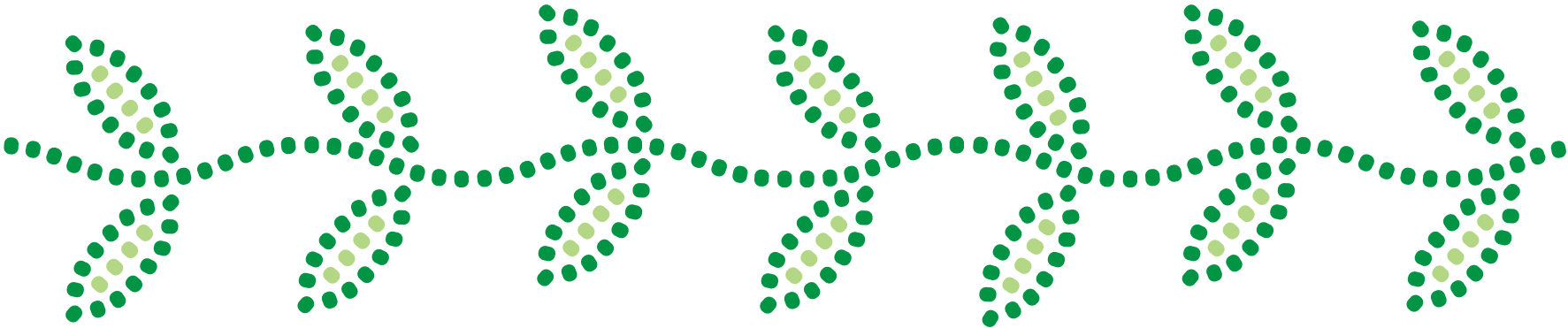
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Domestic Violence Housing Program	The Domestic Violence Housing Program offers safe, temporary, and culturally grounded emergency housing for Métis families at risk or victims of domestic violence. Homes are staffed 24/7 and provide on-site support, including counselling, legal aid, advocacy, and domestic violence education. Families work with a caseworker to set goals, access services, and plan for long-term stability. This program aims to promote safety, healing, and family preservation Métis families experiencing domestic violence, while preventing further child protection involvement.	Housing & Stability

Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Emergency and Protective Placements (Kinship, Community and Foster)	The Emergency and Protective Placements Program ensures that when removal from home is necessary, children and youth remain connected to family, community, and culture. Through two pathways—emergency placements for immediate safety risks (e.g., short-term kinship, foster, or MN–S emergency homes) and protective placements for longer-term kinship and foster care in a staggered process (e.g., immediate family, extended family, Métis community)—siblings stay together. Family-centered decisions, flexible visits, and ongoing parental support reduce trauma and promote reunification. Caregivers will receive financial assistance for basic and special needs and will be paired with dedicated workers to navigate the CFS system with the goal of reunifying parents and children whenever possible. When possible, safe visitations with parents will be arranged.	Protecting & Reunifying Families
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Harm Reduction Housing for Parents	The Harm Reduction Housing for Parents provides Métis parents in Saskatchewan who are actively facing substance use challenges and seeking to reconnect with their children access to live in a 24/7 staffed, multi-unit residential facility. This supportive environment offers safe and stable housing where parents can focus on healing while maintaining and rebuilding relationships with their children during visits. With a focus on harm reduction, family reunification, cultural connections, and long-term stability, this program aims to empower Métis parents on their path toward wellness and family preservation. This program would be deeply integrated with the Land-Based Treatment Program.	Housing & Stability



Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
High Needs Youth Housing		Housing & Stability
	The High Needs Youth Housing Program supports youth with needs exceeding the capacity of kinship/foster care placements, or who require a period of stabilization before moving into more permanent living arrangements. It provides a safe, supportive environment where youth have structure, supervision, and access to therapeutic services necessary to develop essential life skills. Individualized support plans will be developed through a person-centered framework in collaboration with the youth and their support network, reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing needs and progress. Opportunities for cultural connection will be woven into programming and support plans, fostering a sense of pride and belonging. These experiences are vital in supporting healing, resilience, and long-term wellness.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Housing for Single Fathers		Housing & Stability
	This housing program will provide single Métis fathers, who are actively working to reunite with their children or who have their children in care, with access to safe, affordable rental housing. By providing stable, long-term 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.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Intake & Family Finder		Protecting & Reunifying Families
	The Intake & Family Finder Program is a two-branch program 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 and engage extended family, kin, or community members who are willing and able to provide safe, culturally appropriate care and support for Métis children. By proactively building connections and relationships, this branch helps strengthen family and community networks, ensuring children have a safe place to go if needed. The aim of this program is to ensure timely responses to child safety concerns and remain connected to their families and communities when possible.	

Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Investigation Program		Protecting & Reunifying Families
	The Investigation Program serves Métis families in Saskatchewan through providing timely and culturally sensitive responses to child protection concerns. The program conducts thorough investigations to assess potential risk, gather essential information, and determine the best course of action, prioritizing child safety. Depending on investigation results, families will either enter intervention programming, or access prevention support and services. The goal of the program is to ensure Métis children are protected while supporting family unity and preservation when possible.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Parent Stabilization Camp		Protecting & Reunifying Families
	The Parent Stabilization Camp offers a three-month, land-based cultural immersion for Métis parents immediately following child apprehension. Participants reside on Métis-owned land under the guidance of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and counsellors, engaging daily in traditional practices, wilderness skills, and parenting workshops woven into the fabric of camp life. Flexible child visitation toward the program's end supports gradual reunification, while weekly mentorship and peer support foster resilience, coping strategies, and practical life skills—stabilizing parents immediately post-apprehension through culturally grounded support, immersive skill development, and continuous mentorship. Once completed and when deemed in the best interest of the child parents will be reunited and supported to ensure families can stay together.	



Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Permanency Planning & Adoption		Protecting & Reunifying Families
	The Permanency Planning and Adoption Program provides culturally appropriate, stable, and supportive permanency options for Métis children in the MN-S CFS system when reunification is not possible. Prioritizing the child’s best interests, this program emphasizes preserving Métis identity by seeking adoptive or guardianship placements within the Métis kin or family whenever possible. Ultimately, the program’s goal is to ensure Métis children grow up in stable homes that honor their unique cultural identities and foster strong community, kinship, and family connections.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Post-Majority Financial Supports		Emergency Financial Supports
	The Post-Majority Financial Support Program is a voluntary initiative for Métis youth aged 18–26 involved with MN-S CFS (or who have been placed in long-term care). Participants receive need-based funding for housing, basic necessities, educational support, social needs, cultural or recreational activities. The ultimate goal is to provide comprehensive financial and mentoring support that fosters independence, stability, and long-term success for Métis youth transitioning from care.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Post-Majority Semi Supportive Housing		Housing & Stability
	The Post-Majority Semi Supportive Housing Program will provide housing options for Métis youth (ages 18-26) transitioning from care. Supportive housing options include Supportive Kinship Homes and Semi-Supportive housing complexes. Each model integrates Métis culture through Elder visits, traditional meals, and life skills coaching, ensuring safe, inclusive environments that foster independence and cultural continuity. The goal is to empower Métis youth transitioning out of care with safe, culturally rooted housing and supports, fostering independence, stability, and a strong connection to their heritage.	

Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Recovery and Maintenance Program		Health & Wellness
	The Recovery and Maintenance Program offers a culturally grounded, trauma informed post-treatment support system tailored for Métis individuals (ages 15+) and families navigating early recovery. This program integrates individual and group counselling, peer mentorship, cultural teachings, and skills development to build recovery capital and protect family unity. Distinction-based and trauma-informed, the program strengthens family systems and promotes intergenerational healing by offering wraparound care that prevents apprehensions and fosters long-term stability rooted in culture, trust, and accountability.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Reunification Financial Support		Emergency Financial Supports
	The Reunification Financial Support Program provides Métis families with short-term funding to cover essential expenses that might otherwise delay reunification after child apprehensions. Eligible costs include rental supplements for adequate housing, furnishings, clothing, and other essential needs. Designed to bridge gaps until long-term support such as Canada Child Tax Benefit or other funding resumes, the program addresses immediate financial needs and reduces poverty-driven barriers. By alleviating these costs, families can focus on healing and safe reunification without undue hardship.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Semi Supportive Family Housing		Housing & Stability
	Semi Supportive Family Housing provides at-risk Métis families in Saskatchewan with safe, temporary, rent-geared-to-income housing. Families in this program will have access to on-site support services, where dedicated case workers and 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 then they will continue to have access to support workers for up to three months after transitioning to independent living.	

Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Visitation Program		Housing & Stability
	The Family Visiting Program ensures meaningful family connections are maintained when separation occurs due to involvement with MN-S CFS. Recognizing the rights of children in care, the program provides flexible visitation opportunities for parents, siblings, and extended family, emphasizing familial and cultural connections. Programming is adaptable to each family's unique circumstances, accommodates transportation needs of both children and family members, and extends beyond standard business hours. Ultimately, the program aims to reduce trauma associated with separation by maintaining strong family relationships, supporting cultural continuity, and prioritizing the best interests of Métis children, youth and families.	
Program Name:	Intervention	Model Of Care Focus Area:
Youth Harm Reduction Housing		Housing & Stability
	The Youth Harm Reduction Housing Program provides culturally grounded housing support for youth experiencing active addiction and who cannot live with family or foster placements as a result. Operating from harm reduction, housing-first, and trauma-informed lenses, the program recognizes abstinence is not always immediately achievable or desired, focusing instead on meeting youth where they are and supporting their self-determined goals. Within safe, supportive environments, youth will be supported by program staff to develop harm reduction skills, mental health strategies, cultural connections, and essential life skills. This approach encourages youth to seek help and make healthier choices with the aim to empower Métis youth experiencing high-risk lifestyles to achieve stability through housing, mental health supports, skill-building, and culturally driven healing opportunities.	

Service Delivery Pathways

To deliver the programs and services under our Model of Care, citizens and elected leadership have emphasized the importance of a distinctions-based approach to service delivery. Throughout MN-S's consultation efforts, it has become clear that a one-size-fits-all model may not always meet the diverse needs of Métis families and communities across Saskatchewan. While centralized service delivery can help ensure consistency and equitable outcomes, particularly for intervention services, community feedback highlighted the value of decentralized, locally tailored approaches for prevention services to reflect regional needs and priorities. A balanced approach to centralized and decentralized service delivery is essential to providing strength-based, cost-effective prevention services that support family wellbeing and reduce the need for child and family interventions.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan represents the political, socioeconomic, cultural and educational interests of Métis citizens in the province through an elected representative system at local, regional and provincial levels. MN-S three-tiered governance structure can be leveraged to support the effective design and delivery of the MN-S Child and Family Services model.

Local

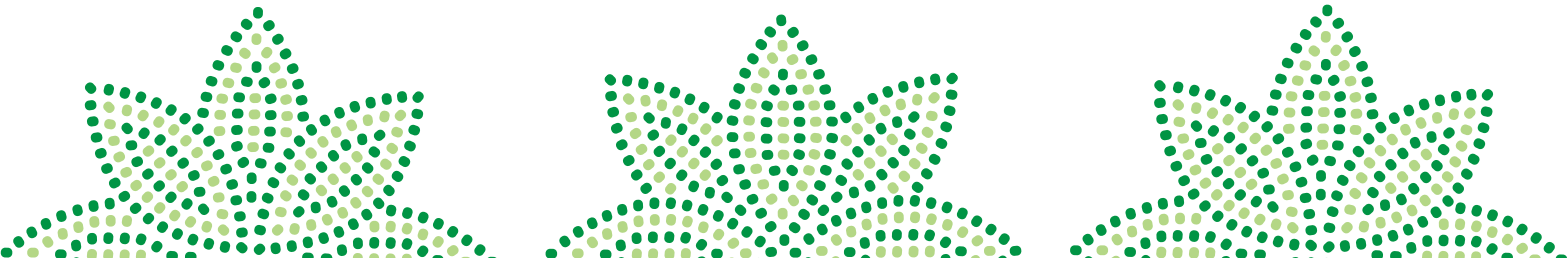
MN-S has 89 Local's located throughout the province. Locals' are uniquely positioned to understand and respond to local community needs and priorities. However, since the majority of MN-S Citizens are not currently connected to Locals, greater efforts are needed to connect Local's and Citizens and ensure Citizens are aware of and can access programs and supports offered at the community level by Locals.

Regional

MN-S's 12 Regions, which are overseen by Regional Councils, are uniquely positioned to bring citizens throughout the Region together to provide programs accessible to all Citizens. Regions cover vast areas, and any programs offered at a Regional Level would need to be supported by Local's to ensure they are meeting needs and are accessible to Citizens.

Community-Centred, Community Led

Throughout the engagement process communities noted that strong relationships between MN-S and Locals are key to successful implementation. Participants noted that there is a desire to have programs led by communities, and that community members should play an active role in service delivery when possible.



Provincial

MN–S’ provincial public service plays a key role in carrying out the mandate of elected officials by supporting the implementation of policies, programs, and priorities as set by MN–S leadership. MN–S’ provincial public service provides technical support, promotes consistent service delivery, and enables cost efficiencies across the province.

Building on this strong three-tiered governance foundation, further consultation is ongoing to develop a collaborative service delivery model for Child and Family Services. This model will ensure that Locals, Regions, and MN–S’ Provincial Public Service work together to serve Métis families and deliver prevention and intervention services that are responsive to community needs, consistent across regions, and grounded in Métis culture, values, and rights. By actively involving all levels of governance, MN–S aims to create a service system that is citizen-centered, flexible, and capable of meeting the diverse needs of Métis children, youth, and families across the province.

Next Steps:

As we continue to advance toward jurisdiction over child and family services, our next engagement efforts will focus on refining our Métis Model of Care and co-developing dispute resolution mechanisms that support communities in addressing their needs related to child and family services. We anticipate holding community conversations in the Fall/Winter of 2025/26 to help guide this work together. To learn more about how to get involved, please visit [Métisnationsk.com/childandfamily/](https://metisnationsk.com/childandfamily/).

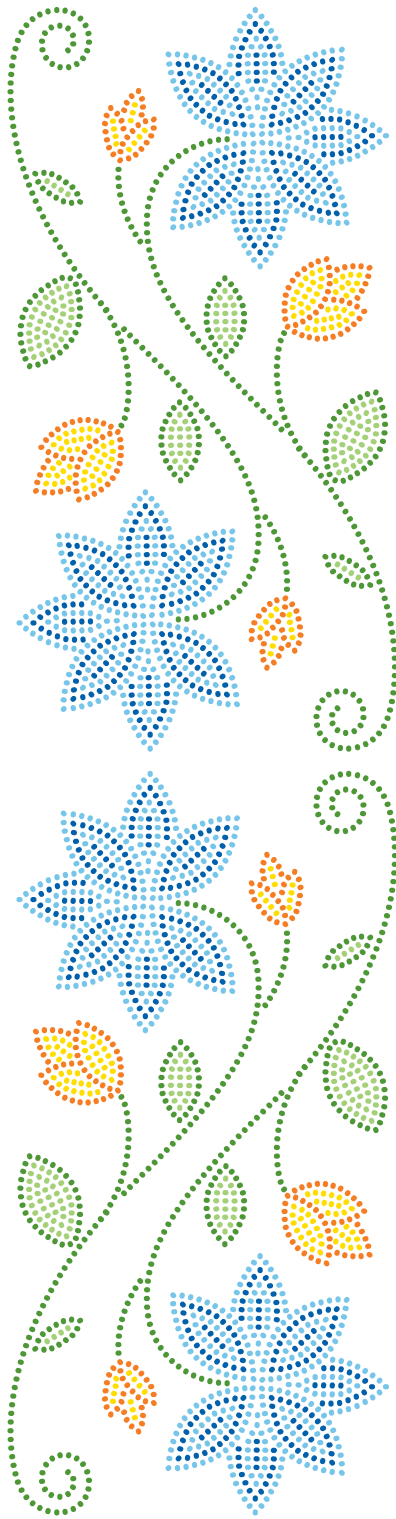
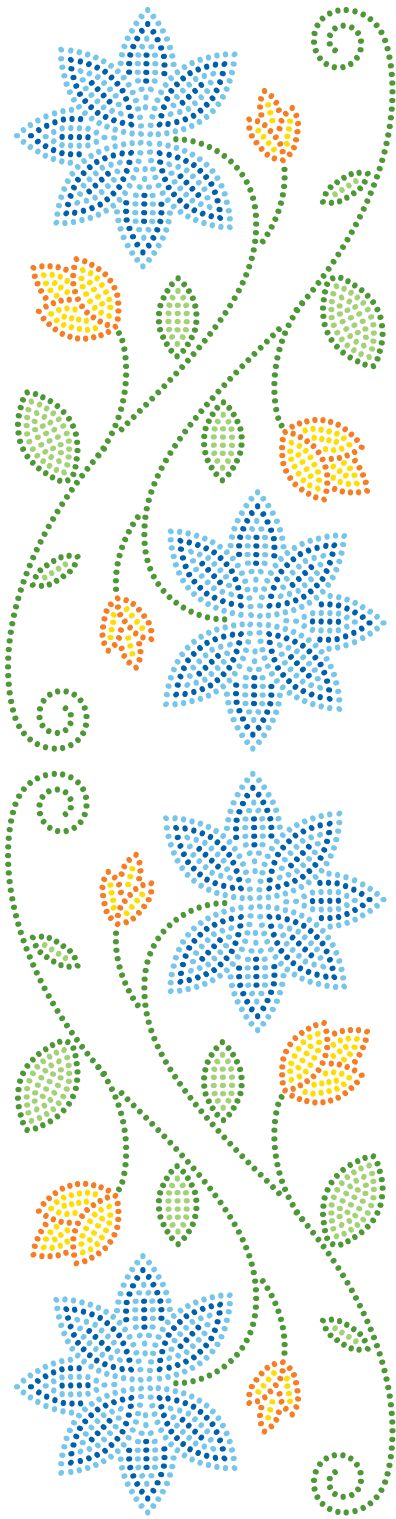
We extend our deepest thanks to all Métis citizens, families, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community leaders who shared their stories, insights, and hopes throughout this engagement process. Your voices will continue to shape our Métis Model of Care and help bring Métis children, youth and families back to their communities: connected, supported and thriving.



Appendix A – 2024/25 Engagement Locations

In-Person Engagements Locations

- Big River
- Biggar
- Buffalo Narrows
- Candle Lake
- Chitek Lake
- Cumberland House
- Estevan
- Indian Head
- Île-à-la-Crosse
- La Loche
- La Ronge
- Lloydminster
- Meadow Lake
- Melfort
- Melville
- Nipawin
- North Battleford
- Pinehouse
- Prince Albert
- Regina
- Saskatoon
- Swift Current
- Yorkton





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