

Manitoba Foster Family Network

2015/2016 Annual Report

Greetings From the President

This has been a whirlwind of a year with the start of the mentorship program being delivered throughout the province and the introduction of the information session for prospective foster parents in Winnipeg has been very well received.

I have volunteered for the Manitoba Foster Family Network since before the doors first opened on Provencher and I have to say that I could never have imagined the impact we would be able to have on the foster parents of Manitoba.

I am privileged to lead such a dedicated group of people who have managed the work of the Network throughout the year. The Board of Directors are continuously changing to meet the needs of the Network and the people that we serve.

I would like to also say thank you and to express my appreciation to all the volunteers that give so much to the organization and to the people of their communities.

And lastly, I would like to thank the staff for their dedication to foster parents. The Network has become such an amazing organization because of its people. Thank you to all the foster parents, volunteers, staff and all the collaterals that work so hard to make an impact on the lives of Manitoba's children.

Greetings From the Executive Director

Hello Everyone!

I would like to take a moment to recognize some of the staff. Jennifer Karaim has recently celebrated 5 years with us and Lisa Moxam will be celebrating 10 years this summer. Congratulations and thank you to you both. As well, I need to take a moment to thank Charlotte Sauder for her time with us. We are very sorry to see her move on to other endeavors but wish her all the best in the future! Welcome to our newest team member - Chris Thompson who will be the staff supporting the Northern region.

When compiling this report, I try to make it as informative as possible to help our members and collaterals understand exactly what it is we do here. Our team works hard to provide the supports to foster and kinship parents that they identify as being important. This may include support through an appeal or allegation, assistance with an Alternate Dispute Resolution or simply someone to listen. Often education and training is identified as a key issue for foster parents. Over the past year we have begun to roll-out the Mentorship program in many communities throughout the province. We are also providing the following training on a regular basis:

- ◆ Skills for Life
- ◆ Writing Your Therapeutic Milieu
- ◆ Mental Health First Aid
- ◆ Caring Through Trauma

We are currently working on developing new training for foster parents that should be ready for piloting in the late fall. Keep an eye on our calendar on our website at www.mffn.ca. All training opportunities are posted on the calendar including those offered by our collaterals.

As you are going through this report, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to connect with our office. Any one of our staff will be able to assist you.

Respectfully,

Shawna Normand



Staff

Shawna Normand

Executive Director

Jennifer Karaim

Project Manager

Ashley Prefontaine

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Moxam

Community Development Worker

Chris Thompson

Community Development Worker

Brad Wright

Community Development Worker

Terri McNaughton-Wright

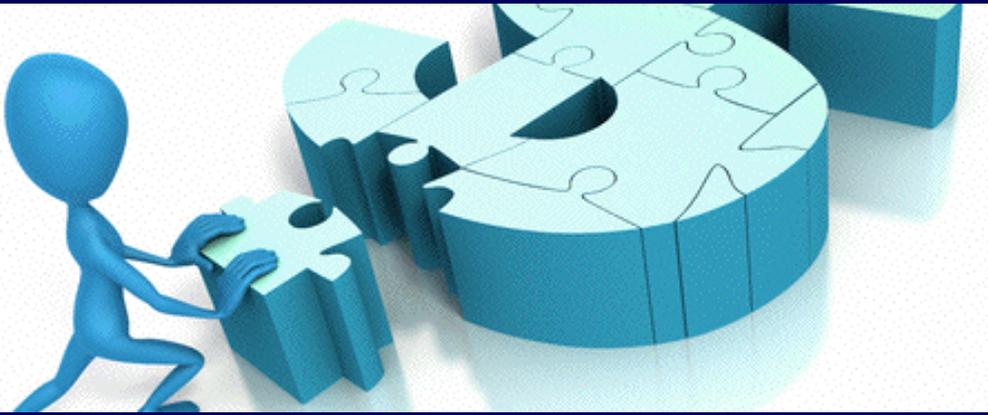
Education Coordinator

Cindy Singer

Accounting

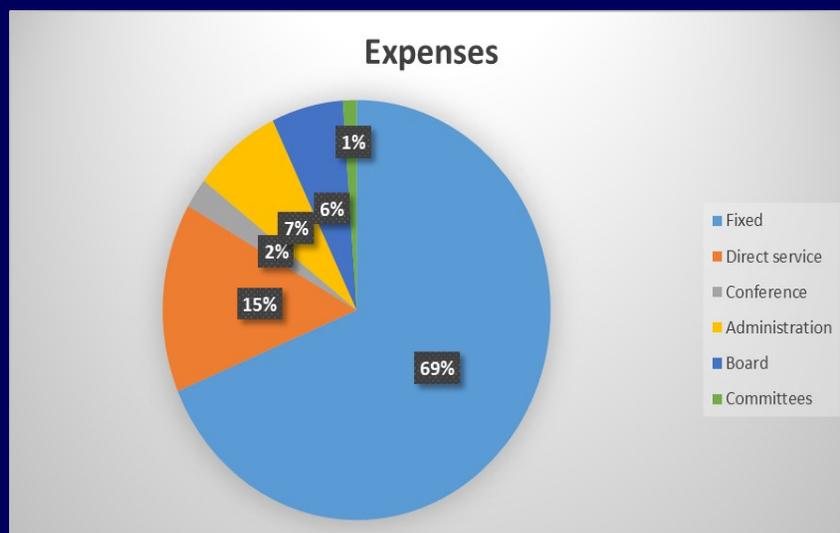
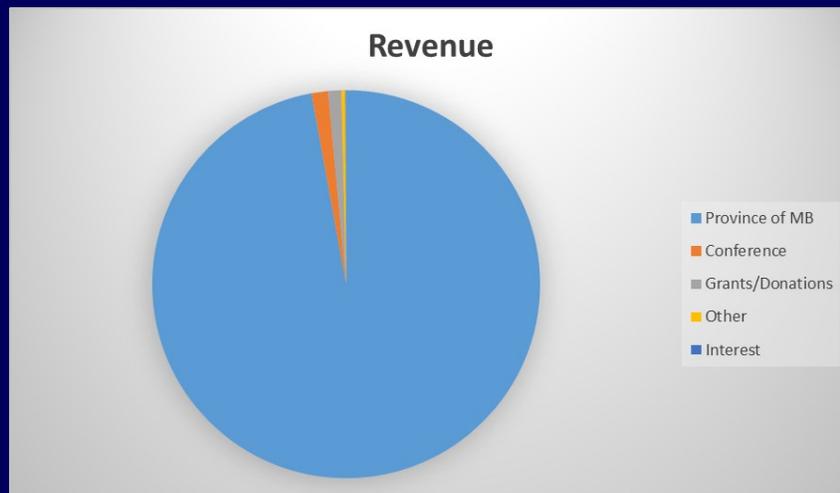
Facebook

If you haven't already, connect with us on Facebook! It is an excellent way to keep up to date with changes in the system, get notified of events in your community and to keep in touch with other foster parents.



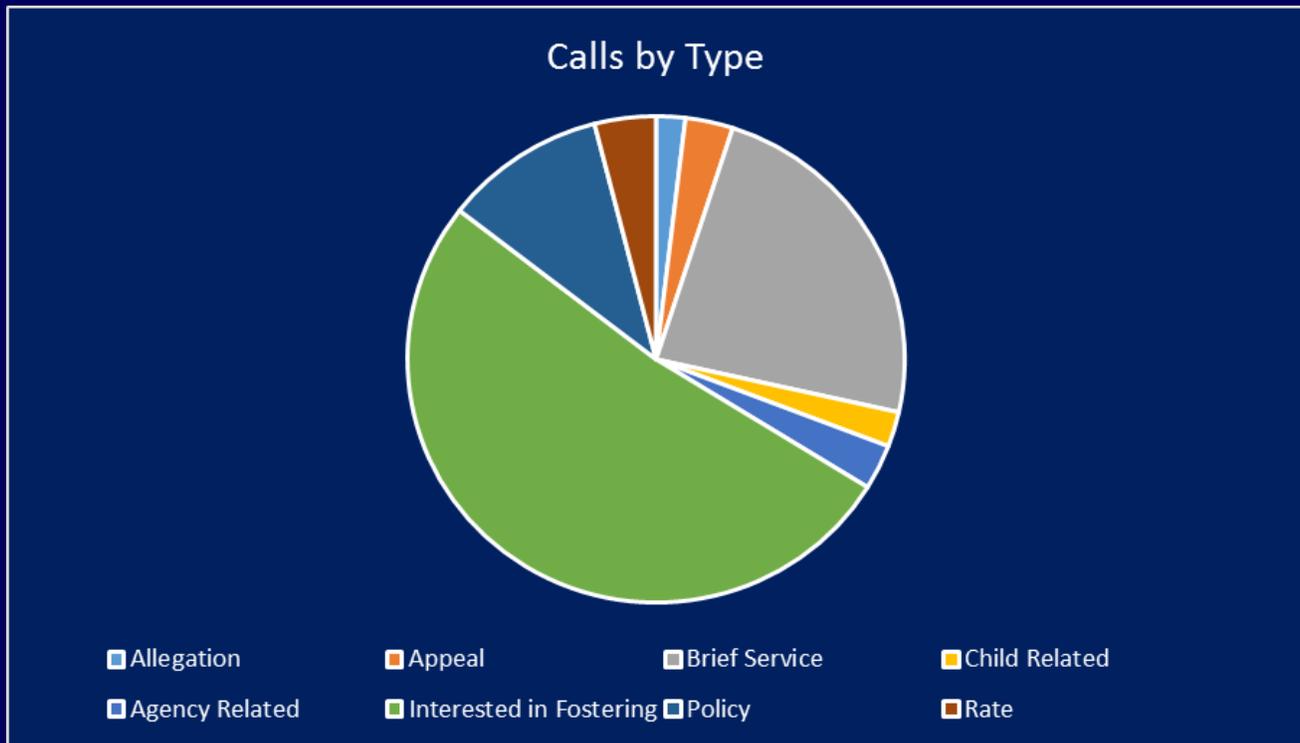
Financial Information

Each year this organization is subject to a financial Audit. This process is designed to ensure we are held accountable for all financial revenues and expenses. Below you will find some of the highlights of that audit. If you wish to read the audit report in full, it can be accessed on our website on the Resources page under Audited Statement.



Peer Support Program and CISM Support

Our Peer Support and CISM team consist of foster parent and kinship volunteers and staff who have been specifically trained to provide the support to foster and kinship parents. These phone lines are answered live Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Evenings, weekends and holidays, a message can be left and their call will be returned within a couple hours until 9:00 pm. Any calls coming in after 9:00 pm will be returned the following day. Below is a breakdown of the calls our providers encountered during the last year.



Current Support Providers

Teresa Morin

Rachelle Vincent

Brad Wright

Terri McNaughton-Wright

Karen Beaudin

Danae McCullough

Christine Arndt

Patti Skirzyk

Linda Ens

Sharon Joyal

Jennifer Karaim

Shawna Normand

Education

Support of foster and kinship families through education is one of our main priorities. It is our goal to continue to work with agencies, authorities, collaterals and communities throughout the Province to deliver standardized education at no cost to the families. Below is the training we delivered in the last fiscal year.

Training Title	Number of Modules	Number of Sessions Held
Interested in Kinship/Fostering	1	12
Guiding Behaviours	2	1
Mentorship	12	3
Writing Your Therapeutic Milieu	4	2
Skills For Life	4	2
Ad Hoc Training	Varied	7

Over the past year, the Manitoba Foster Family Network has delivered training in the following communities:

- Winnipeg
- Thompson
- Birch River
- Sapotaweyak
- Dauphin
- Flin Flon
- The Pas
- Morden
- Grunthal
- Wuskwi Sipihk

Currently we offer the following training sessions:

Interested in Kinship/Fostering Information

Writing Your Therapeutic Milieu

Skills For Life

Mental Health First Aid

Mentorship

If you recognize a need for training in your community, please call our office and speak to one of our staff about options for training in your community or upcoming opportunities for training near you.



Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors for the 2016/2017 Year

Member	Region
Cathy Wiebe - President	South
Sharon Joyal - VP South/Secretary	South
Linda Ens - Treasurer	South
Patti Skirzyk	South
Doug Gerrard - VP Winnipeg	Winnipeg
Norm Johnson - VP North	North
Robyne Gilfillan	North
Danae McCullough	North
Marion Brading	North

As a non-profit organization, we rely on our volunteers to assist with planning, guidance and work. Our Board of Directors is no exception. This group of experienced and dedicated kinship and foster care providers help to steer the direction the organization takes in all aspects from Education to Finance. They support and assist with events in their regions, take part in the strategic planning of the organization and help to set the standards to which we are held accountable.

To those who are returning for the 2016/2017 fiscal year, we would like to welcome you back and look forward to working with you for another term. For those who are joining us for the first time, welcome aboard! Finally, to those who have had to leave us, we are sorry to see you go and we wish you all the best in the future.

Do you think you could spare two hours each month and a couple days in May or June? Would you like to have some input into how the organization functions? If so, please contact our office for more information on serving on our Board of Directors. All licensed foster parents and kinship care providers are welcome to apply!

Additional Resources

DISCOUNT CARD

We are pleased to offer all kinship and foster families with a discount card that can be redeemed at many vendors throughout the province.

NEWSLETTER

Our quarterly newsletter is sent out to all kinship and foster families who are registered with us. The Networker contains events, information and training opportunities.

TRAINING SPACE

Our office is often used for training - both ours and that of our collaterals. If you need a FREE space for a meeting or training, contact our office.

WEBSITE

Our website is filled with information for all care providers which includes a calendar that contains all provincial training and events we are aware of whether it is our event or one of many other collateral events.

SUPPORT

More than anything else, it is our priority to ensure that all caregivers feel supported, informed and empowered. Regardless of the situation in your home, your experiences or your connections, we all need to be supported. If you are experiencing ANY challenges, have ANY questions, call our office. Our staff and volunteers would love to talk to you!



Manitoba
FOSTER FAMILY
Network

"Fostering Connections"

Upcoming Training

For those of you who were unable to attend our conference and AGM, I would like to take a moment to let you know about some of the training initiatives that we are currently working on. These initiatives have been brought to our attention by both kinship and foster families as well as some of our collaterals, who we will be working with in the development of the curriculum. These topics include:

- Childhood Safety - Sleep Safe, Water Safety and more
- ASSIST
- Working with biological families and Co-Parenting Collaborations
- Neuro-developmental Disorders
- Adolescent Parents and Babes

If you have training ideas that you would like to see us develop, please contact our office and speak to any of our staff.

Your Voice

Your voice is important to us and helps us to ensure we are providing the right supports in the right places. If you have any questions or comments about the services we provide, or if you need services we don't, we encourage you to contact our office at any time. As a grass-roots organization, the thoughts and opinions of our kinship and foster parents is essential for us to continue to provide the most relevant services possible.

**We look forward to hearing
from you!**

Manitoba Foster Family Network

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