

NORTHERN AUTHORITY *Messenger*



January 2017

• Otayámihistmákéw • Owiitamaake • Yatih ghe ahli •

Vol. 1 Issue 1

Message from the Acting Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to introduce our new newsletter called the "Messenger" or Otayámihistmákéw in Cree, Owiitamaake in Oji-Cree and Yatih ghe ahli in Dene. The Messenger is intended to help our office communicate better with each agency. Issued monthly, the two-page Messenger will help agency staff to know what is happening within our region and within the overall provincial CFS system. On behalf of the Northern Authority, I look forward to the Messenger being an important tool in strengthening communications to help us accomplish greater things together.

Bryan Hart
A/Chief Executive Officer

Statement **MISSION**

Supporting and empowering First Nation child and family services agencies in northern Manitoba to enhance and enrich family life

*S*on and I are playing catch. I have a terrible "throw that sails over his head. I say, "Sorry, that was a bad throw." He stops, gives me a kind look and says, "No daddy, that was a wonderful throw." Then takes two steps towards getting the ball. He stops again, turns back around and says, "When we say something nice, even when we don't mean it at all, that's called being polite, right?"

~ (thoughtcatalog.com) ~

SSP Meetings *Completed!*

The Northern Authority would like to thank each agency for hosting and participating in the annual Strategic Service Plans (SSP) meetings (CNCFCA - October 25, 2016, OCNCFS - November 3, 2016, Nikan - November 18, 2016, ILFNFS - November 24, 2016, Awasis - December 9, 2016, KSMA - December 15, 2016 and NCNFCWC - December 17, 2016). These meetings continue to be valuable opportunities for all stakeholders (agencies, Northern Authority, INAC and the province) to engage on a different level to help all sides better understand our respective priorities, opportunities, and challenges.



December 15th, 2016 SSP meeting held within one of KSMA's family enhancement cabins in Norway House Cree Nation traditional territory.

Northern Authority Update

- The Northern Authority would like to thank Bruce Unfried for his significant contribution to the organization throughout his role as Special Projects Manager. Bruce's last day with the Northern Authority was January 13, 2017 and Alice Bignell will be acting Special Projects Manager until further notice.
- The Northern Authority is pleased to welcome Angela McGloan to the organization effective January 30, 2017 as our new Standards Manager. We would like to thank Awasis' Marlene Salamandyk as well as ILFNFS' Shawenne McKay for their participation on our screening-interview-selection panel. Charity Martin will remain with the organization in her new role as Foster Care Coordinator.

Special Acknowledgement

Occasionally something exceptional happens which requires a special acknowledgement.

On the evening on December 4th, 2016 one of our youth in care (14-year old girl) refused to go back to her placement in Winnipeg. She was picked up on Main Street appearing vulnerable, depressed and lost. She was taken to a youth shelter and Mitch Bourbonniere (professional therapist who works with high risk youth) was called to make sure the girl would be ok going to the shelter. However, the girl ran towards the river and jumped in. Mitch and others arrived on the scene. A number of people including Mitch attempted to talk her back out but she began to lose consciousness and started to go under. Mitch jumped into the river and swam out to get her. The police and paramedics arrived. Mitch was able to grab the youth and both were pulled out from the middle of the river by a rope. Both were taken to St. Boniface Hospital's Emergency and have since recovered. Ekosani Mitch!

RESP Opportunities to Support CICs in Post-Secondary Education and/or Training

As shared/discussed at a January 2016 regional finance directors' meeting, there is a great opportunity for CFS agencies to establish a Registered Education Saving Plan (RESP) for each CIC without the agency having to contribute any of it's own money. Currently, CFS agencies are eligible to receive \$2,000.00 (via the Canada Learning Bond) for each CIC's RESP. In addition to this \$2,000.00, the federal government through its Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) program will provide an additional 20% up to a maximum of \$500.00 per year for any contributions made by a non-federal government entity.

There are many CFS agencies from across the country that have set up RESP accounts for the CICs. In Manitoba, agencies under the General Authority have set up RESP accounts for their CICs and were able to receive the initial \$500.00 grant as well as \$100/year grants (up to the maximum \$2,000 amount) on a retroactive basis. So even if the child is 14 years old at the time of set up, the agency was able to obtain the full \$2,000 amount for each child. For further information go to: <http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/savings/clb.shtml> and also view the information on the CESG and Additional Canada Education Savings Grant (A-CESG).

Agency Profiles: Best Practices

There are many good things happening in our region and too often we fail to recognize these things because of the usual day-to-day demands of the work that we do – so it goes in CFS. The Northern Authority is intending to change this and would like to invite each agency to participate in a process to highlight our respective accomplishments and best practices. As part of this process, the Northern Authority intends to dedicate from time-to-time a full page of this two-page newsletter to highlight/share these accomplishments and best practices. The Northern Authority will be contacting each agency to discuss opportunities for profiling one or more of your agency's best practices.

Calendar

January 27 th , 2017	Agency Relations meeting
January 31 st , 2017	Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre " Returning Our Children Home - Reconciliation and Engagement of Families through Family Group Conferencing " - Shifting decision making for the care and protection of children to the entire family and community.
February 2 nd , 2017	Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) Manitoba Chapter Panel Discussion on Child Welfare
February 20 th , 2017	Louis Riel Day
February 24 th , 2017	Aboriginal Justice Awareness Day

Every child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding.
~ Robert John Meehan ~