

Brief Synopsis of Child Welfare Services in the City of Winnipeg

Prior to 1985, child welfare services in Winnipeg were delivered on a city wide basis by the former Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg.

1983

In 1983, the Manitoba Government made the decision to phase out the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg and to deliver services through six regional based agencies in Winnipeg.

1984

In 1984, there was a process of public consultation and involvement in the selection of community boards for the proposed new regional based agencies in Winnipeg. Boards of approximately 16 members were put in place for each of the five new agencies to be created. The sixth agency, The Children's Aid Society of Eastern Manitoba (later to be known as "Child and Family Services of Eastern Manitoba"), retained its existing structure.

1985

On March 28, 1985, the Lieutenant Governor in Council enacted Manitoba Regulation 78/85 dissolving the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg and creating five new regional based agencies in Winnipeg. They were as follows:

- (a) Child and Family Services Agency of Northwest Winnipeg;
- (b) Child and Family Services Agency of Northeast Winnipeg;
- (c) Child and Family Services Agency of Southwest Winnipeg;
- (d) Child and Family Services Agency of West Winnipeg; and
- (e) Child and Family Services Agency of Central Winnipeg.

The boundaries of the Child and Family Services of Eastern Manitoba were redrawn to include the St. Vital area of the city and became the sixth agency servicing Winnipeg. The child welfare staff from Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg were deployed to the new agencies, cases were transferred, and the new regionalized CFS agencies began operating.

1986

On March 7, 1986, the Lieutenant Governor in Council enacted Manitoba Regulation 61/86 continuing the following Winnipeg agencies with some amendments to the names and adjustments in the territorial boundaries:

- (a) Northwest Child and Family Services Agency;
- (b) Northeast Winnipeg Family and Child Extended Social Services (New Faces);
- (c) Winnipeg South Child and Family Services Agency;
- (d) Child and Family Services of Winnipeg West; and
- (e) Child and Family Services of Central Winnipeg.

Child and Family Services of Eastern Manitoba continued to service the St. Vital area of the city.

Manitoba Regulation 78/85 was repealed.

The six regional agencies in Winnipeg decentralized services within their regions and there were now more than 20 service delivery sites in Winnipeg.

1991 RECENTRALIZATION

On June 24, 1991, the Lieutenant Governor in Council enacted the *Winnipeg Child and Family Regulation* (Manitoba Regulation 139/91) incorporating Winnipeg Child and Family Services under s. 6(2) of *The Child and Family Services Act*. Membership of the Board of Directors was to be 13 individuals, 9 directors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and one director from each of the following service areas:

- (a) Northwest Winnipeg;
- (b) East/Northeast Winnipeg;
- (c) Southwest Winnipeg; and
- (d) Central Winnipeg.

The 1991 recentralization was intended to permit central coordination and neighbourhood delivery in the four service areas noted above.

The following agencies were dissolved: Northwest Child and Family Services Agency, Northeast Family and Child Extended Social Services (New Faces), Winnipeg South Child and Family Services, Child and Family Services of Winnipeg West, Child and

Family Services of Central Winnipeg and Child and Family Services of Eastern Manitoba.

1999 AGENCY REORGANIZATION

Commencing in April of 1999, Winnipeg CFS reorganized from an area-based model of service delivery to a program-based model. The program-based model included the following specialized areas of service:

- (a) Services to Children and Families Program;
- (b) Permanency Planning Program;
- (c) Resources in Support of Services Program;
- (d) Community Based Early Intervention Program;
- (e) Aboriginal Liaison Program; and
- (f) Quality Assurance / Research and Planning.¹

2000 AJI-CWI ESTABLISHED

The AJI-CWI was established in 2000 in response to a recommendation made earlier that year by the Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission (AJIC). The AJIC recommended that the Government of Manitoba work with First Nations and Metis leaders to develop a plan that would result in First Nations and Metis communities developing and delivering child welfare services throughout Manitoba, including the City of Winnipeg.

2001

In the fall of 2001, a series of public consultations were undertaken throughout the province, including Winnipeg, to obtain feedback on the AJI-CWI Conceptual Plan.

2002

On August 9, 2002, the Manitoba Legislature enacted *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act*, S.M. 2002, c.35. This Act, and consequential amendments to *The Child and Family Services Act*, provided the legal framework for the Authorities to provide oversight to their agencies.

¹ See Organizational Chart at Commission Disclosure No. 1653, p. 29586.

2003

On March 31, 2003, the Lieutenant Governor in Council enacted Manitoba Regulation 70/2003 dissolving WCFS. Commencing April 1, 2003, WCFS became a Branch of Department of Family Services and Housing. At this time WCFS was reorganized. The number of programs was reduced to three; namely

- (a) Intake and Early Intervention,
- (b) Services to Children and Families, and
- (c) Resources²

On November 24, 2003, *The Child and Family Services Authorities Act* was proclaimed. Implementation commenced in the regions outside of Winnipeg.

2005

Between May 2, 2005 and October 24, 2005, Winnipeg CFS transferred approximately 2500 case files with proportionate human and capital resources to the three aboriginal authorities. This is commonly referred to as the “AJI-CWI initiative” or “devolution”.

At the same time, approximately 22 WCFS staff who were servicing clients in the southeast “urban fringe” of Winnipeg had their cases transferred to Eastman CFS. This was not part of the AJI-CWI initiative but was a coinciding program reorganization.

In addition, approximately 150 positions were allocated to the Joint Intake Response Unit (JIRU) that, in 2007, was to become All Nations Co-ordinated Response Network (ANCR).

By October 24, 2005, WCFS was reduced to two programs; namely

- (a) Services to Children and Families, and
- (b) Resources

Due to the decrease in the number of families and children in care receiving service from WCFS, the number of service units were decreased from 23 to 11 comprised of seven Family Service units, one combined Family Service and Perinatal unit, two Permanency Planning units and one Family Preservation/Reunification Unit. Before devolution WCFS had approximately 555 staff. After devolution WCFS had approximately 230 staff.

² See Organizational Chart at Commission Disclosure No. 1653, p. 29593