



Launch of Agency Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically; or to provide feedback about the newsletter, please notify us by sending an e-mail to: Information@facsrr.ca



Family & Children's Services of the District of Rainy River offers a variety of programs and services which are designed to meet the needs of the families and children within the Rainy River District.

This initial newsletter will introduce the specific services within our Agency. In each subsequent issue, there will be a space for each service team to submit information that may be of interest or about their services and upcoming events.

There will also be a feature article, which will highlight significant events for our various services.

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper usage, Family & Children's Services will send electronic copies of this newsletter, via e-mail to as many people &/or organizations to distribute to their agency staff.

PDF versions of the newsletter will be available on the Agency web-site at: www.facsrr.ca

(Please note that this newsletter will not replace the "Developmental Services Newsletter" that the Developmental Services Team produces, as that newsletter provides specific information for that program.)



Atikokan Office



Fort Frances Office



Rainy River Branch Office

A Word from the Executive Director

I always find it exciting to see someone's great idea become a reality. This inaugural newsletter is one of many examples of this around our organization.

Raised as a need during our strategic planning process several years ago and subsequently included in this year's service plan, this newsletter reflects the belief of many of us at Family and Children's Services, that the com-

munity needs to be informed of the many programs and services we offer. As you will see from this and subsequent editions we have a dedicated and skilled group of professionals providing a whole range of valuable services on behalf of the children and families in this district.

I applaud the Clerical Team for embracing this initiative, and thank all the contributors both

current and future for their efforts in making this great idea a reality.

Vik Nowak,
Executive Director



Community Services & Quality Assurance

We are very pleased to be a part of FACS' inaugural newsletter and have the opportunity to share information regarding the program and services we provide.

There are three main thrusts in the **Community Services** area and they are:

- **Community Programs**
Supervised Access and Volunteer Programs.
- **Community Partnerships**
Protocol development and maintenance as well as partner collaboration.
- **Community Relations**
Public Relations and Community Education.



On the **Quality Assurance** side there are three main areas:

- **Quality Assurance Program**
Develop and maintain the agency's QA Program.
- **Case Management**
Develop and manage the case management system and implement the agency's Family Centred Conferencing pilot project.
- **Strategic Planning**
Responsibility for the agency's strategic planning cycle (3 – 5 years) as well as annual agency-wide service planning.

In future editions of this newsletter, we will be reporting on our journey to excellence!

At this time, we would like to introduce an exciting new service offered by our team—**Family Centred Conferencing!**



Tina Leimenstoll has been with the agency for several years and has recently joined the Community Services Team as our Family Conferencing Coordinator. Tina is helping to redesign and implement our agency's case management system and is also introducing Family Centred Conferencing (also known as Family Group Decision Making). This is a way for family and others involved with children to help make decisions and plan for the children. **For more information, call Tina at ext. 223.**

We look forward to telling you more about the services we provide in future editions!

Betty-Anne MacKintosh
Manager of Community Services & Quality Assurance

Office Locations:

Fort Frances Office (Main office)

240 First Street East, Suite 200
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1K5
Phone: (807) 274-7787
Fax: (807) 274-6646

Atikokan Office

214 Main Street
P.O. Box 2050
Atikokan, Ontario P0T 1C0
Phone: (807)597-2700
Fax: (807) 597-6920

Rainy River Office

113 Fourth Street East
P.O. Box 476
Rainy River, Ontario P0W 1L0
Phone: (807) 852-3387
Fax: (807) 852-1064

TOLL FREE NUMBER

1-800-465-7764

Child Protection Services

“For more information about or to request a presentation on the “Duty to Report” please call 274-7787”

A **“Children’s Aid Society”** in Ontario is a non-profit community agency legislated under the Child and Family Services Act, and legally mandated to protect children under the age of 16 from abuse and neglect. CAS’s in Ontario are funded by the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Children and Youth Services).

The **“Child and Family Services Act”** promotes the best interests, protection and well-being of children with key emphasis on early action, access to information and early permanency planning.

The function of a CAS is to investigate allegations or evidence that children who are under the age of 16 who may be in need of

protection and provide services to protect those children.

This program offers child welfare services to children and families who reside within the District of Rainy River, excluding First Nation communities,* and include:

- Intake Assessment
- Abuse/Neglect Investigation
- Protection of Children
- Community Information and Education.
- Kinship Care Home Assessments.

The **“Duty to Report”** abuse and neglect is a key component of the Child and Family Services Act, stressing that every person who

believes, on reasonable grounds, that a child is, or may be, in need of protection, must promptly report the belief and the information upon which it is based, to a Children’s Aid Society.

**Note: Child Protection Services for those residing on First Nation territories in the District are served by Weechi-it-te-win Family Services, contact (807) 274-3201.*



Children’s Services



Children’s Services provides residential care to children up to the age of 18, who cannot be cared for by their biological parents.

Children may be in care temporarily with the consent of their parents, or themselves if they are over the age of 12 years, by signing a Temporary Care Agreement. Society Wardship is also temporary but is ordered by the court. Crown Wardship is permanent and Family and Children Services assumes the duties and

responsibilities of parents for children under this court order. Former Crown Wards of the Society can continue to receive assistance until the age of 21.

This service is provided to those residing in the Rainy River District, but excluding those living on any First Nation within the District*.

Services include:

- Foster Care
- Adoption Services
- Extended Care & Maintenance

**Note: Foster Care & Adoption Services for those residing on First Nation territories are served by Weechi-it-te-win Family Services, contact 274-3201.*



Developmental Services

Developmental Services provides support to children and their families, with the goal that each child will reach their highest potential and live as active members of our community.

Programs offered include:

Community Integration

A program for children ages 6-21 years who have been diagnosed as having a physical and/or developmental disability.

Family Relief

A program for families of children who have been diagnosed as having a physical and/or developmental disability.

Infant/Child Development

A program for children ages 0-6 years and their parents. Parenting and developmental support is available for all families as well as those who have been diagnosed or are at risk for a physical, developmental, or sensory delay.

How to Get Service

Parents or guardians wishing to become involved may request assistance by calling **Integrated Services Northwest:**

- In **Fort Frances, Rainy River and Area**, call (807) 274-9797, or toll free 1-866-646-6616 or visit their office at 240 First Street East, Fort Frances, Ontario.
- **Atikokan** area referrals call (807) 597-4528, or toll free 1-866-646-6611, or visit the office at 214 Main Street, Atikokan, Ontario.

Children’s Mental Health Services

Children’s Mental Health Services assists children, adolescents, and their families who may be experiencing emotional, social, and/or psychological problems in their school, family and/or community life.

Services are provided free of charge, for a wide range of difficulties from mild adjustment reactions to severe psychiatric problems in children ranging in age from birth up to 18 years of age. Services include:

- Psychometric Assessments
- Suicide Risk Assessments
- Family Counselling

- Individual Counselling for Children
- Support for Children in an Education Program
- In-School Counselling
- Court-Ordered Assessment
- Groups

How to Get Service

Referrals should be made by the parent or guardian. However, referrals can also be made by other service providers (e.g. schools, doctors, etc.) with the parent’s consent. In addition, children 12 years or older can also make self-referrals.



Referrals for service are received through **Integrated Services Northwest:**

- In **Fort Frances, Rainy River and Area**, call (807) 274-9797, or toll free 1-866-646-6616 or visit their office at 240 First Street East, Fort Frances, Ontario.
- **Atikokan** area referrals call (807) 597-4528, or toll free 1-866-646-6611, or visit the office at 214 Main Street, Atikokan, Ontario.

We are on the Web!
www.facsrr.ca

Call your local office of **Family & Children’s Services** 24 Hours a day, 7 Days a week Or visit us on the web www.facsrr.ca