

NEWS RELEASE – JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release

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KINA GBEZHGOMI CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACHIEVES DESIGNATION - APRIL 1, 2015

WIKWEMIKONG UNCEDED INDIAN RESERVE – We are pleased to announce that on April 1, 2015 Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFs) received designation as a Children's Aid Society pursuant to 15(2) of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

This designation will allow KGCFs to offer services that honour and support the inherent authority of member First Nations to provide care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs. KGCFs mission is to provide services that protect children and strengthen family and community relationships while keeping children connected with their culture, language and community.

KGCFs has been working towards achieving designation for more than 20 years.

KGCFs received formal approval from Hon. Minister Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services, following the last stage of the transitional phase review in February, 2015.

As of April 1, 2015, KGCFs will provide child welfare services to member First Nations within the Districts of Manitoulin and Sudbury. It is important to note that in this first phase of the transition only those families that are recognized members of the seven member First Nations will be transitioned to KGCFs.

KGCFs will be working with The Children's Aid Society of Sudbury and Manitoulin to complete the gradual transfer of all services involving UCCMM and WUIR membership. In phase two of the transition other First Nations within the Districts of Sudbury will be transitioned. There will be further agreements with Nog-da-win-da-min Family and Community Services and Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services which are at various stages of the designation processes and also have member First Nations within the Districts of Sudbury.

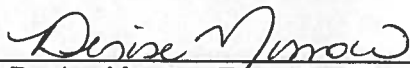
KGCFS and The Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin (CASDSM) have been working closely together on service delivery through the transitional phase to designation. The two agencies have signed an Intra Jurisdictional Protocol to ensure that the service system is seamless. As of April 1, 2015, KGCFS is requesting that community partners contact KGCFS regarding child welfare referrals or inquiries in relation to UCCMM and WUIR community members. If community members or partners are not sure which agency to call or are unclear on the family's First Nation affiliation, they can call CASDSM and the agency will decide if the call should be transferred to KGCFS.

KGCFS and CASDSM are also committed to supporting our community partners in this transition to a community-based model. KGCFS is finalizing child welfare protocols with the police, school boards, hospitals, Violence Against Women Agencies and "Healthy Babies, Healthy Children" programs to formalize the reporting and collaborative relationships.

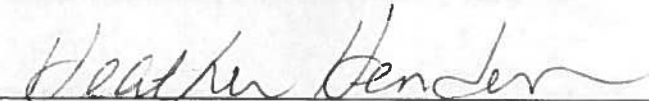
KGCFS and CASDSM remain committed to keeping our stakeholders updated on the status of child welfare service files transfers to KGCFS.

The children impacted by the transition are, as always, our first priority as we work to complete a smooth transition. We encourage all families whom have current involvement with CASDSM and KGCFS to reach out to their assigned child welfare workers for more information on how the transition might affect them.

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Denise Morrow, Executive Director, KGCFS



Heather Henderson, Acting Executive Director,
CASDSM