



**MINISTER
OF FAMILIES**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

OCT 13 2021

Dear care providers,

I am writing to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all foster and kinship parents in Manitoba for your ongoing commitment and dedication to children and youth. As we anticipate celebrating National Foster Kinship Family week October 18 through 24, 2021, it is my honour as the Minister of Families to recognize this most important caregiving role.

You make an invaluable contribution to the lives of children and youth by providing them with a safe and secure home environment to develop and thrive. Caregiving requires patience, creativity and compassion. I would like to thank you for extending your passion for parenting to children who are unable to live with their own families.

Furthermore, the efforts that you put into supporting the vital connection between children and their families is critical. It is a special gift to nurture and support children and youth. I have the utmost respect for the compassion and skill this requires.

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged us all. Foster and kinship providers have had to be especially creative and resourceful in finding ways to cope and adapt in order to meet the needs of the children and youth in your care. Helping children adjust to virtual visits with family, keeping kids interested in home-based activities and virtual education, and balancing teen's needs for peer connections with safety are only a few examples of the ingenuity that you have shown during this difficult time.

It is with gratitude that I, on behalf of all Manitobans, extend many thanks to foster and kinship parents for providing consistent and extraordinary care to children and youth. On all of our behalf, I am pleased to honour your tremendous commitment to children and youth in Manitoba.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Squires".

Honourable Rochelle Squires
Minister of Families