

# KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA 2019 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

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Semi-annual service report for the Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba  
as set out in our service purchase agreement.

## REPORTING PERIOD

April 1, 2019 to  
September 30, 2019



The Kinship & Foster Family  
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

The Network provides kinship and foster parents with training, guidance, and assistance to enhance and strengthen capacities, knowledge and skills for supporting quality care.

### **Who Are We?**

The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba (The Network) is a non-profit charitable organization funded by the province of Manitoba. The Network's Board membership is fully comprised of Kinship and foster parents. The Network promotes the participation of kinship and foster parents in co-facilitating training and responding to peer support calls for guidance. The Network belongs to the Canadian Foster Family Association and is a member of the Child Welfare League of Canada.

### **Mission Statement**

*To encourage, promote, assist, and educate kinship and foster homes to enhance the quality of life for children in care.*

### **Organizational Beliefs and Services**

At The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba we believe:

#### **Children in Kinship and Foster Care are best served when the Principle of Addition is followed:**

- ✦ The birth family always remains at the center of the circle.
- ✦ Adding people always expands the circle of support.
- ✦ Always add rather than subtract people from a child's life.
- ✦ A kinship or foster family, though not in the center of the circle, is a valuable, temporary, complementary addition to the birth family.

#### **Empowering Kinship and Foster Parents to be respected members of the professional team is fundamental.**

- ✦ To achieve this goal, the Network staff create and facilitate; culturally relevant, trauma informed, capacity building parent training to enhance kinship and foster parenting knowledge, strategies, tools and skills.
- ✦ This training is co-facilitated by staff and kinship/foster parents whenever possible.

#### **A Support system which includes trained peers is invaluable.**

- ✦ The Network provides a Peer Support Program which is managed by staff and trained volunteer kinship/foster parents who provide a broad range of supports to other caregivers navigating difficult situations related to fostering.

#### **Kinship and foster families need planned opportunities to share their collective wisdom and experience.**

- ✦ Annually, the Network hosts several Forums province wide to facilitate discussion and gather salient information on topics relevant to the role of Kinship and Foster parents in the system and for promoting quality care. This information is used to inform better practice.

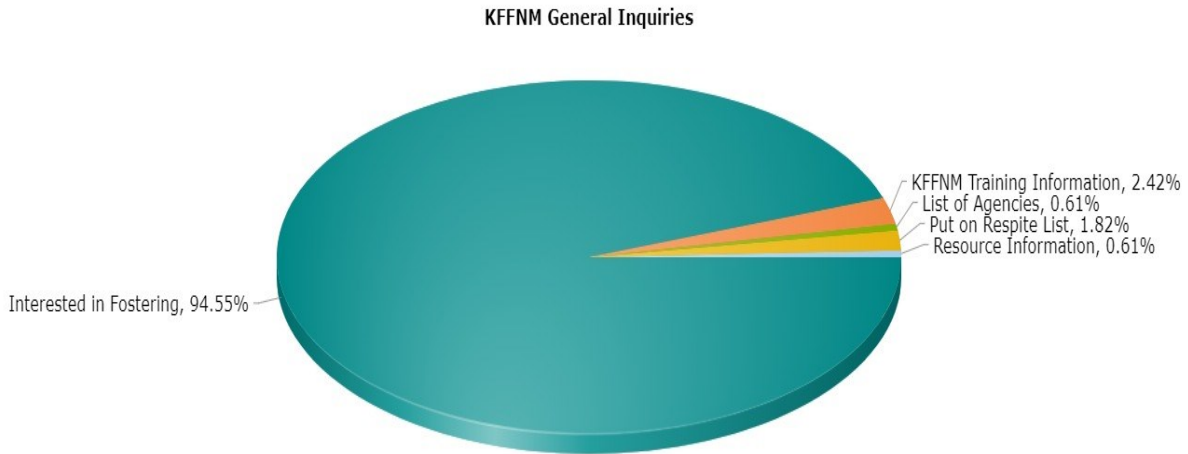
## Kinship/Foster Parent Services Overview

<b>Community of Care</b>	KFFNM responds to the Community of Care phone line. Information packages are sent to interested callers and KFFNM Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care is offered.	<b>Page # 2</b>
<b>Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care</b>	Historical understanding and awareness of care expectations, legislation and standard licensing process.	<b>Page # 3</b>
<b>Peer Support Program</b>	Providing support and education for kinship/foster parents on best practices and systems information. Peer Support Provider Training delivered to kinship/foster parents for program volunteer skill development.	<b>Page # 4</b>
<b>Kinship/Foster Parent Skill Development Series</b>	Basic Level sessions: understanding of kinship/foster parenting skills and knowledge. Advanced Level sessions: parenting strategies, tools and skills to enhance competencies. Facilitator Training: skill development for co-facilitating group training sessions offered by KFFNM.	<b>Page # 6</b>
<b>Information Sessions</b>	KFFNM Service Overview Understanding the child removal appeal process Understanding legislation, standards and policies. Fostering Reconciliation	<b>Page # 8</b>
<b>Focus Forums</b>	Three forums, per year, are facilitated province wide on issues identified by kinship and foster parents and the KFFNM Board.	<b>Page # 9</b>
<b>Groups, Events and Gatherings</b>	Providing support to kinship and foster parent communities.	<b>Page # 9</b>

## Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba

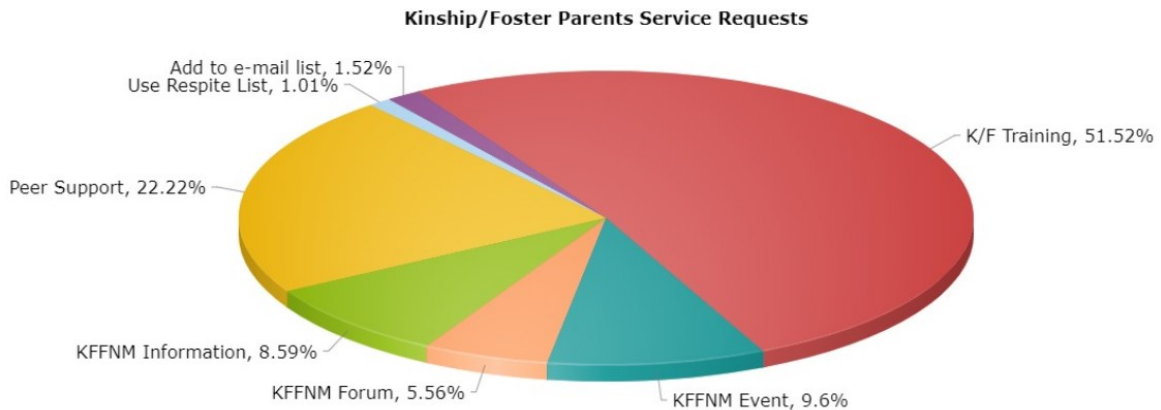
### General Information Callers

KFFNM provides support, through the Community of Care phone line, for community members seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **353** service calls to our office.



### Callers requesting Kinship/Foster Care Information

KFFNM provides program services for kinship and foster parents in Manitoba. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **198** kinship/foster program service calls.



## Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care Information Sessions

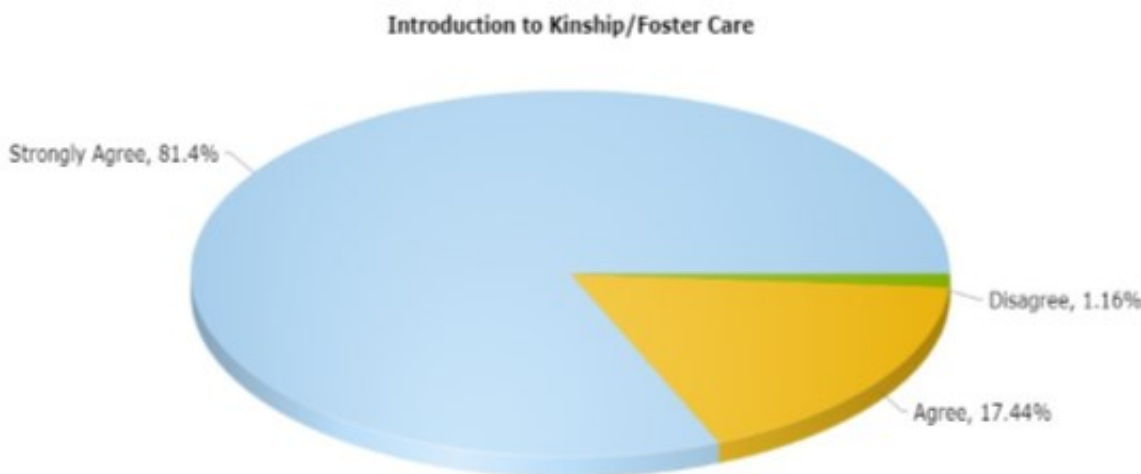
Table provides the number of community member contacts and those which choose to register to attend sessions . During summer months information sessions are often not provided.

	# contacts interested in fostering	# Registered to attend	# Attended
April	20	6	5
May	30	1	0
June	11	1	0
July	19	8	0
August	37	18	11
September	39	30	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>34</b>

### Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care Participant Feedback.

#### Sections 1 & 2

Participant feedback regarding training experience and information provided.



#### Section 4: Written Comments

Participant written comments are separated into 2 primary categories of training content (information provided) or the training process (training presentation). With the primary categories, comments are identified as either analytical (specific particular aspect) or reflective (generalized impression). Finally, analytical separated as being positive (+) or as identifying a challenge (-) in nature.

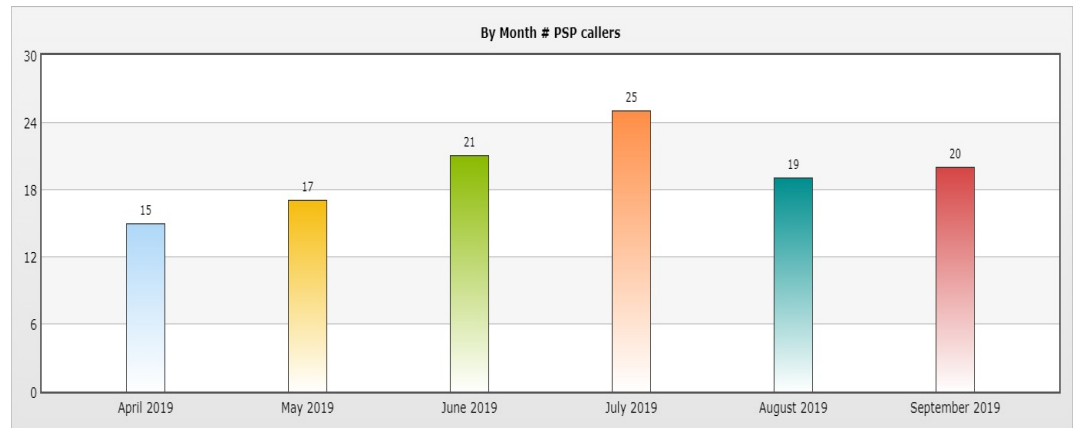
Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	2	1
Challenges identified	0	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	1	7
Challenges identified	0	0

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material presented has provided me with a new perspective on foster parenting.</li> <li>This training was an eye opener for me. I had a different orientation about first nations people. This training has helped me know the first nations people better.</li> </ul>
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking forward to future training and applying the knowledge I've gained.</li> </ul>
TP +Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well informed on topics. Excellent instructor.</li> </ul>
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Touched on a number of key topics and made it interesting.</li> <li>I really appreciated the support and tips I received. Thank you.</li> <li>All foster parents must/need these "modules" to succeed in this profession!</li> <li>Helpful and informative.</li> <li>Thank you for the great insights and continue doing sharing of best practices for would be first time foster parents.</li> </ul>

## Kinship/Foster Parent Peer Support

### Callers requesting Peer Support Program

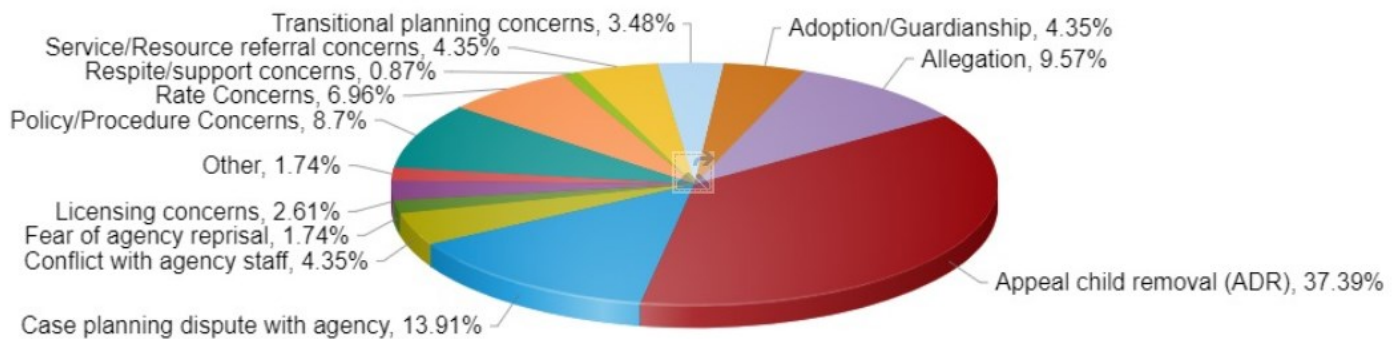
KFFNM provides a Peer Support Program for kinship and foster parents who are seeking support for a variety of concerns. During this reporting period our Peer Support Program received **117** caller requests for support.



### Primary Issues Identified by Callers

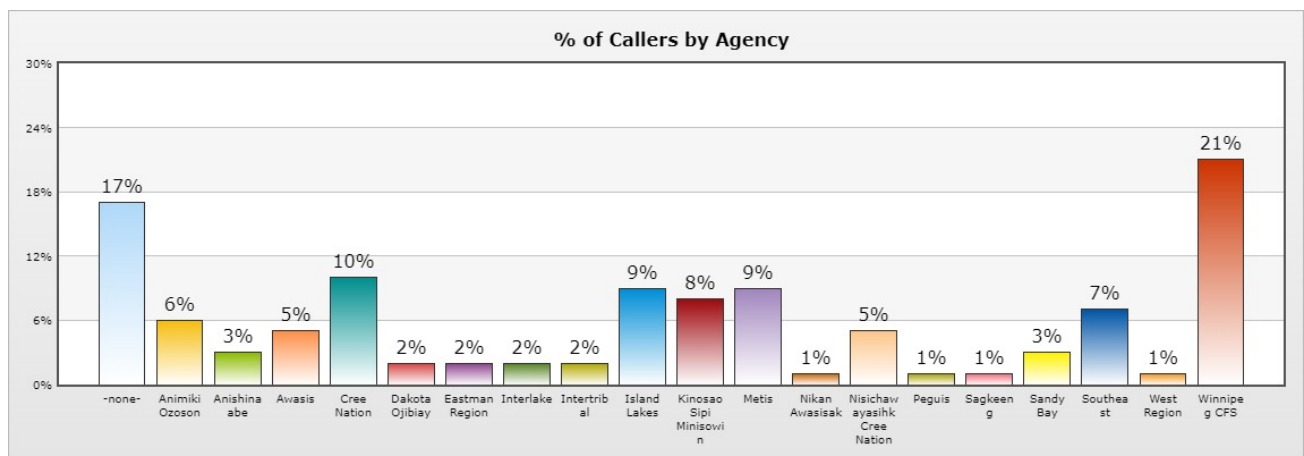
Types of primary issues identified by callers.

April 1 to September 30



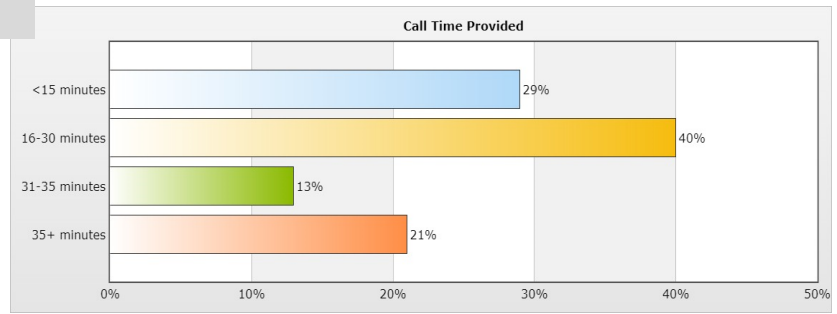
### CFS Agency Identified by Caller

'None' represents agency not identified by caller.



### Peer Support Program Data Analysis

KFFNM data base provides information regarding the average length of time provided to callers. Dramatic changes to the average call time may indicate a need for program service adjustment.



New PSP caller vs. Returning PSP caller

KFFNM data base provides clarity for the number of repeat calls a caller makes contrasted with callers who receive sufficient information and/or support during their initial call. Dramatic changes to these percentages may indicate a need for program service adjustment.



### Peer Support Program Volunteer Training

Volunteers are trained and supported. The trainings are facilitated through developed training sessions, individual reviews, assessments and telephone conversations with volunteers. Currently there are 8 trained Peer Support providers.

#### Volunteer Support and Supervision

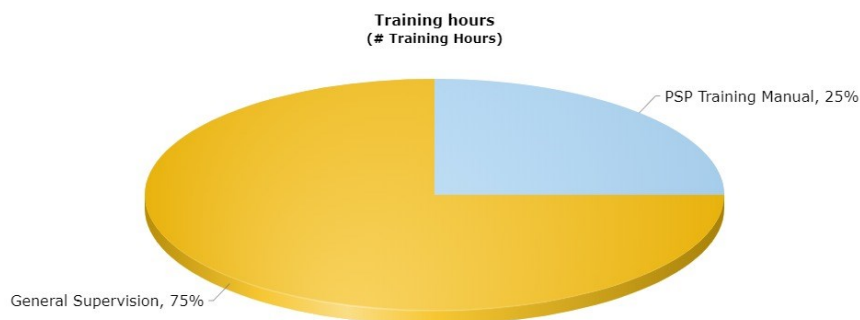
- General support/supervision is provided for program volunteers as a standard of practice.
- Annual Team Building is provided for program volunteers.

#### Volunteer Skill Development training manuals

- Peer Support Program Intake Procedures
- Peer Support Volunteer Orientation
- Volunteer Enrollment Procedures
- Peer Support Program Training Manual
- Child Welfare Systems Knowledge
- Understanding the Appeal Process
- Procedures and Standards for data collection
- Policy and Procedures for managing service calls

### Training Provided to Volunteers

Total volunteer training hours and training material is recorded to support a high level of service delivery.



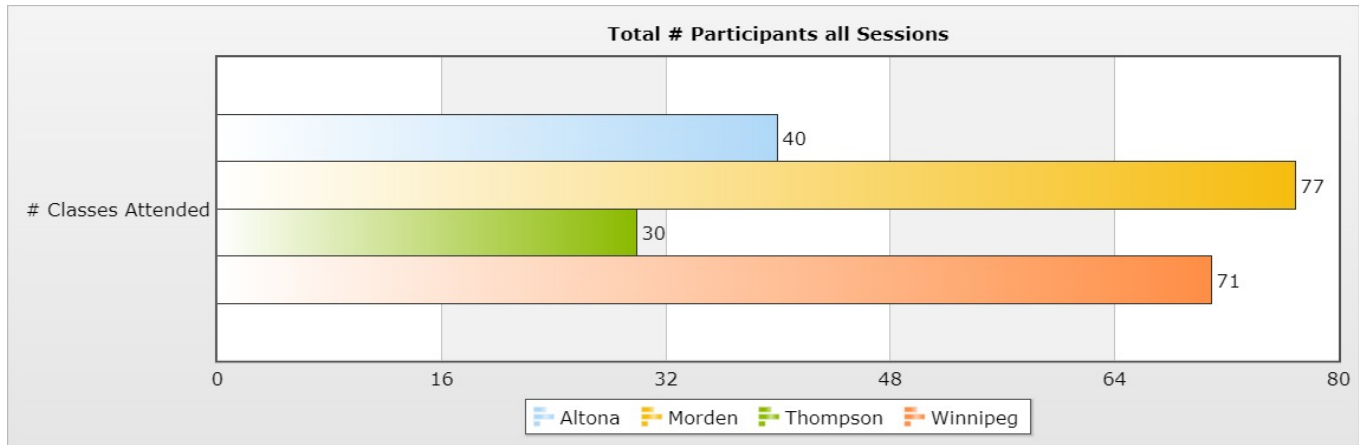
## Kinship/Foster Parent Skill Development

### Basic Level Series

*9 sessions complete the Basic Level Series.*

During this reporting period, **3** completed series of **9** sessions and **2** additional sessions were provided to **218** session attendees.

Location provided and number of participants for all session.



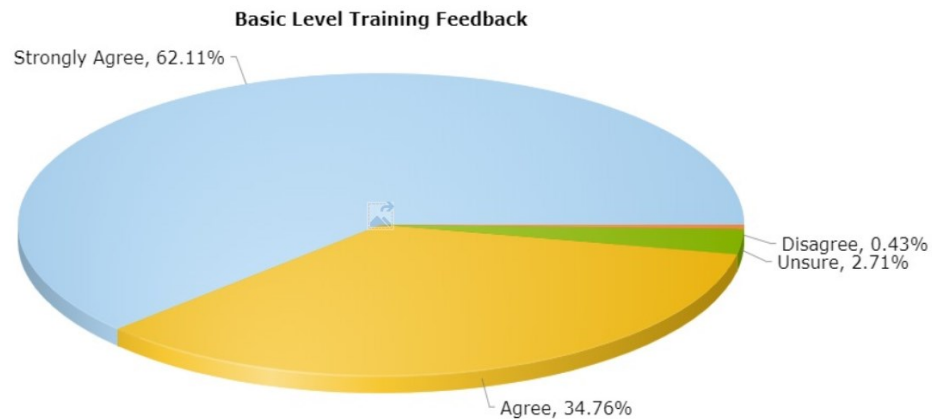
### Basic Level Series

*Participant Feedback.*

Kinship and foster parent participants continue to report a high level of satisfaction with the Kinship/Foster Parent Skill Development Basic Level sessions.

## Sections 1 & 2

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



## Section 3: Written Comments

See page #3 for information regarding written comments data collection methodology.

Examples of written comments submitted.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	24	0
Challenges identified	5	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	34	0
Challenges identified	5	0

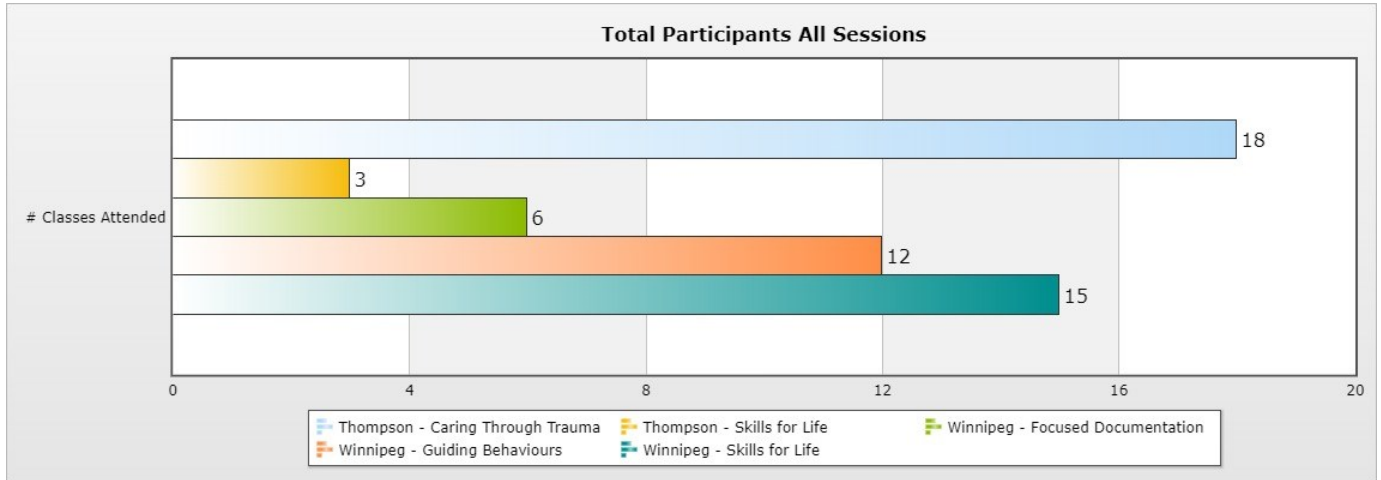
TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I really appreciated the information, the tools and especially the discussions.</li> <li>- This is a great program with lots of good information.</li> <li>- Such helpful, practical information.</li> </ul>
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great material.</li> <li>- I would like to see the advanced training come to this region.</li> </ul>
TP + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I really appreciated the intentionality and encouragement to be thoughtful about all aspects of fostering.</li> <li>- This training has been wonderful, also the opportunity to connect with other foster parents in the area.</li> </ul>
TP - Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I found there was a lot of good information and resources. So much so that I found myself overwhelmed at times.</li> <li>- More examples of safety strategies and situations.</li> </ul>
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I found this very helpful and think this should be mandatory for everyone before starting to foster, so they are better equipped.</li> </ul>



**Advanced Level Series**  
*5 series each, including 3 sessions to complete the Advanced Level Series.*

During this reporting period, **3** Advanced Level Series of **9** sessions were provided to **54** session attendees.

Location provided and number of participants for all sessions.

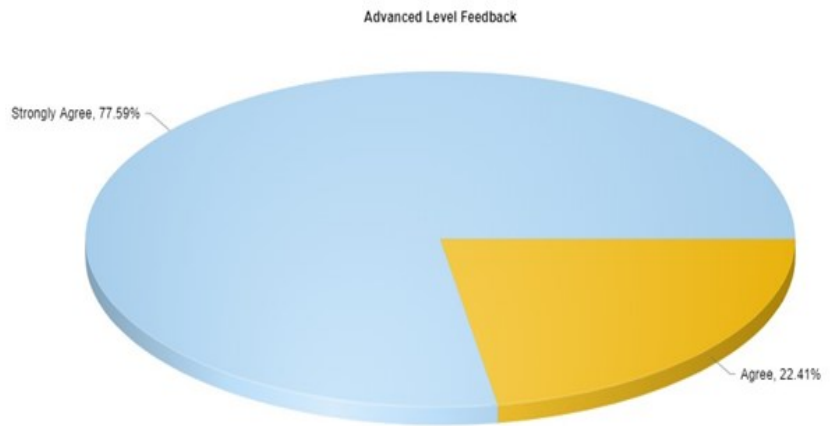


**Advanced Level Series**  
*Participant Feedback.*

Kinship and foster parent participants continue to report a high level of satisfaction with the Kinship/Foster Parent Skill Development Advanced Level sessions.

**Sections 1 & 2**

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



**Section 3: Written Comments**

See page #3 for information regarding written comments data collection methodology.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	2	1
Challenges identified	0	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	3	2
Challenges identified	0	0

Examples of written comments submitted.

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This training was helpful in showing tools/skills to becoming a better foster parent.</li> <li>Thank you for all the information, so much insight, wisdom and knowledge was gained in this training.</li> </ul>
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking forward to our next training. Thanks for all.</li> </ul>
TP +Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very good, helpful tools/material. Discussions are very open minded.</li> <li>Great new round table format, very knowledge.</li> <li>It would be nice to bring our foster kids with us for these skills.</li> </ul>
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will continue to participate in any training sessions; they are always so helpful! Thanks.</li> <li>Well done, Thank you!</li> </ul>

## Kinship/Foster Parent Information Sessions

In response to commonly asked questions from kinship and foster parents, KFFNM has developed ‘stand alone’ Information Sessions. Presentation material is Board approved and piloted with kinship and foster parent community member groups.

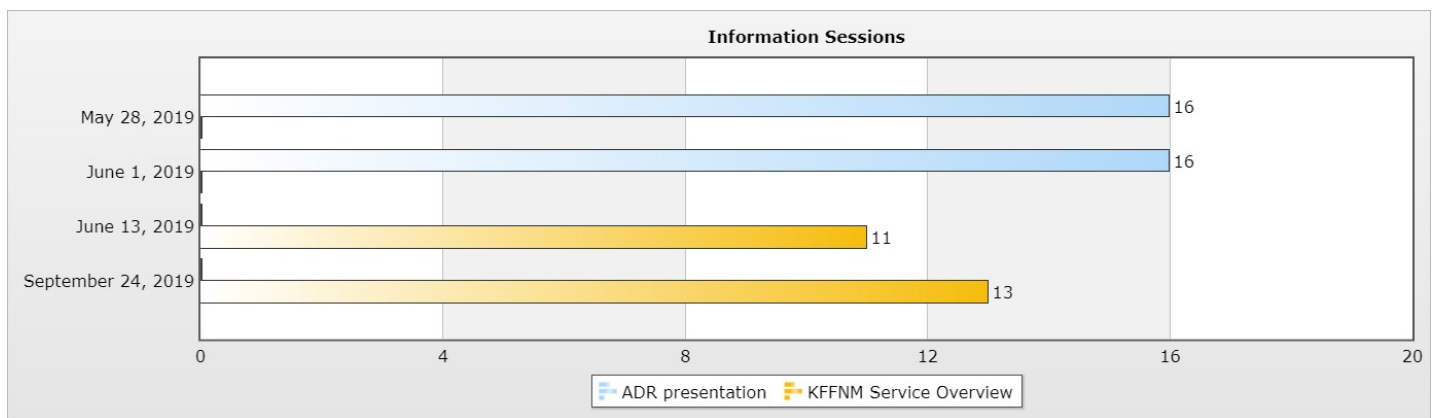
### Current Information sessions offered:

- KFFNM Service Overview
- Understanding the Appeal Process for Child Removal
- CFS Legislation which guides kinship/foster care
- Fostering Reconciliation through Kinship/Foster care

### Information Sessions Provided

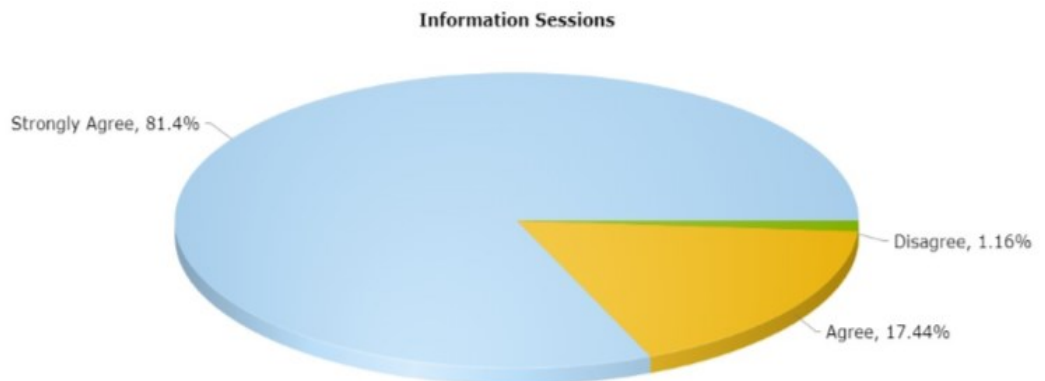
During this reporting period, **3** Information Sessions were provided to 56 attendees.

Date provided and number of participants for all session.



### Information Sessions Participant Feedback.

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



### Section 3: Written Comments

See page #3 for information regarding written comments data collection methodology.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	2	1
Challenges identified	0	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	0	1
Challenges identified	0	0

#### Examples of written comments submitted.

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Really appreciated the information.</li> <li>Wonderful to have this information pulled from the legislation and packaged in a way that makes it practical and useful for daily living.</li> </ul>
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanks! much appreciated!</li> </ul>
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Really appreciated the way it was presented. Thanks!</li> </ul>

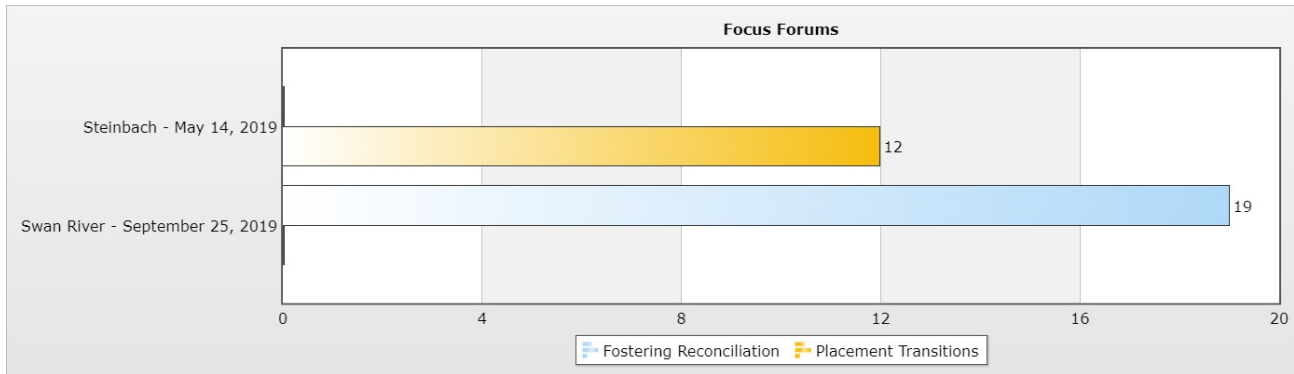
## Focus Forums

To collect the voices of kinship/foster parents on a variety of relevant issues, the KFFNM provides forums in communities throughout the province. The voices of kinship/foster parents are made available through KFFNM Forum Reports provided after each forum topic series is completed.

### Focus Forums Provided

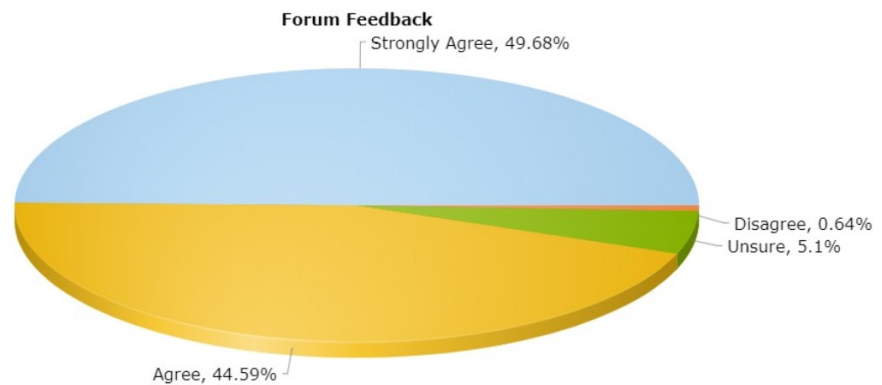
KFFNM held 2 kinship/foster parent forums during this reporting period, completing the forum process for a prior topic and beginning the forum process for a new topic.

Location provided and number of participants for all sessions.



### Focus Forums Participant Feedback.

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



## Groups, Events and Gatherings

Categorized by region, the Kinship and Foster Family Network staff and volunteers provided the following services and supports within their region for the current reporting period.

Community	Event	Date	Attendance
Winnipeg	KFFNM Family Barbeque	June 12, 2019	45
Steinbach	KFFNM Family Barbeque	July 13, 2019	67
Thompson	Family Fun Night	September 19, 2019	56



The Kinship & Foster Family  
Network of Manitoba

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**FOSTERING CONNECTIONS**