

2022– 2023

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD

October 1, 2022 to
March 31, 2023

THE KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA

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



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Contents

Who are We? Organization information	Page 1+2
At A Glance Program Service Delivery	Page 3
Service Requests Type of service requests	Page 4
KFFNM Support Programs Type of support programs accessed	Page 5+6
Skill Development Sessions Registration, Attendance, Feedback information	
Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care	Page # 7
Information Sessions	Page # 8
Level 1 Sessions	Page # 9
Level 2 Sessions	Page # 10



The Network provides kinship and foster care providers with training, support, 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 of Directors is fully comprised of kinship and foster parents. The Network promotes the participation of kinship and foster parents in co-facilitating education programs 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 and their families are best served when kinship or foster care providers are actively working to support reconciliation through following the Principle of Addition.

- ✦ 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, Network staff create and facilitate culturally relevant, trauma informed, capacity building training to enhance kinship and foster care skill development.
- ✦ 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. This information promotes quality of care and is helpful to inform better practice.

Services Overview

<p>Community of Care</p>	<p>KFFNM responds to the Community of Care phone line on behalf of the Province and Authorities. Information packages are sent to interested callers. KFFNM Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care sessions are offered.</p>
<p>Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care</p>	<p>Historical understanding and awareness of care expectations, legislation, the structure of the family services system and standard licensing process.</p>
<p>Peer Support Program</p>	<p>Offers in-person groups and gatherings to support interconnections with care providers. Trained volunteer kinship and foster parents provide phone support and education to kinship/foster parents on best practices and systems information.</p>
<p>Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development Series</p>	<p>Level 1 sessions: understanding of kinship/foster parenting skills and knowledge. Level 2 sessions: parenting strategies, tools and skills to enhance competencies. Facilitator Training: skill development for co-facilitating group training sessions offered through KFFNM.</p>
<p>Information Sessions</p>	<p>Understanding the Child Removal Appeal Process Understanding legislation, standards and policies. Historical perspectives for Fostering Reconciliation KFFNM Service Overview</p>
<p>Focus Forums</p>	<p>Three forums, per year are facilitated province wide on issues identified by kinship and foster parents and the KFFNM Board.</p>
<p>Groups, Events and Gatherings</p>	<p>Providing support to kinship and foster parent communities.</p>

AT A GLANCE

Program Service Delivery Information

During this 6 month reporting period there were **379** inquires to KFFNM services that were responded to.

Overall KFFNM provided **95** Zoom 2-4 hour sessions for **654** session participants/attendees, **6** in-person sessions were provided for a total of **93** participants.

2 Question & Answer sessions were provided for **7** kinship or foster care providers..

Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care sessions recorded **54** community member registrations. Information packages were emailed in response to all registrants. **39** callers attended and completed the KFFNM Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care session.

Skill Development Level sessions (1&2) and **Information Sessions** received **181** kinship and foster care provider registrations resulting in **97** zoom sessions with **643** total attendances.

Skill Development Level 1 sessions offered **4** series start date options. **38** participants attended. **23** completed all the required 9 module sessions and 3 mentorship sessions.
**some participants complete missing sessions in a different reporting period.*

Skill Development Level 2 sessions offered **10** series start date options. **65** participants attended. **45** participants completed by attending the required **4** sessions per topic.

Feedback questionnaires were emailed to participants after the completion of skill development series. **61%** of participants responded and informed us about their experience.

Feedback Highlights:

Overall **77%** of participants thought the information provided was valuable. **74%** responded that they found the KFFNM session workbooks were helpful. When asked if they would continue to participate in future KFFNM Skill Development sessions **98%** responded yes. Kinship and foster parents responses indicated that **83%** felt more empowered from involvement with KFFNM skill development sessions.

Facebook

We reached **4655** people.
We had **487** engagements (reactions, comments, shares).
We received **31** page likes.

Mail-Outs

Adapting to training through Zoom we continue to mail session material directly to participant's home.

During this reporting period we mailed out to kinship and foster parents:

658 training booklets

Volunteer Hours

Board members,
Peer Support Providers,
Education Co-facilitators,
provided **1556** volunteer hours.

Coffee Support Times

3 in-person support sessions were provided with **8** participants joining.

Family Fun Times

1 in-person family gathering was facilitated with **53** kinship, foster parents and their families joining us for food and games and community building.

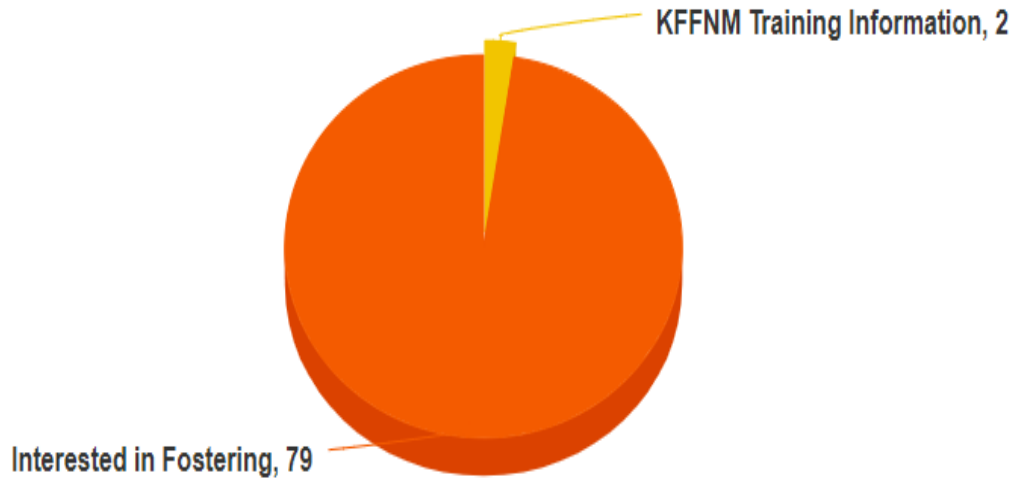
Fostering Family Connections

34 kinship and foster parents joined us for this forum in **3** different communities.

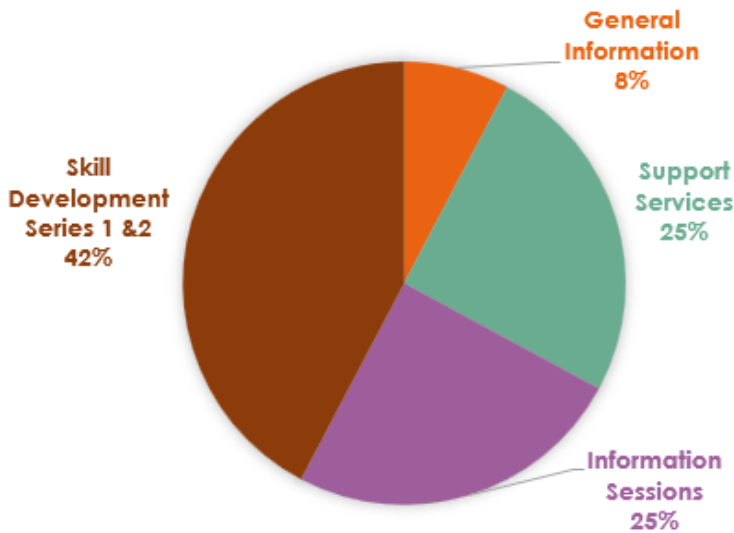
Service Requests

Community Member Requests

KFFNM provides support and information for community members seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba. Community members access the Provincial Community of Care phone line through the KFFNM office phone line in addition to KFFNM Social Media and website during this reporting period. KFFNM responded to **81** community members through direct phone line calls.



Kinship/Foster Care Providers Service Requests



KFFNM provides a variety of program services for kinship and foster care providers in Manitoba.

During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **298** kinship/foster service requests.

The pie chart represents the overall percentage of service request.

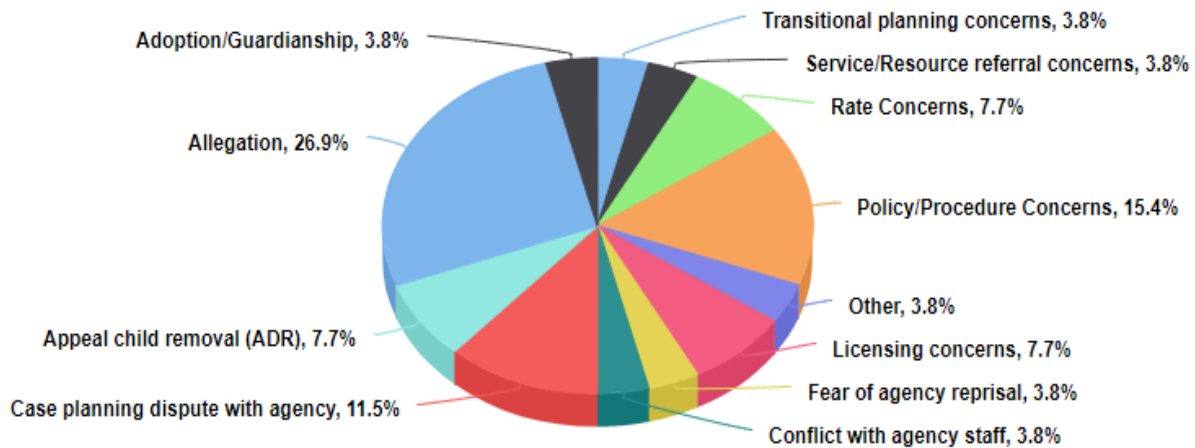
Note: Initial service request does not always represent all supports provided .

KFFNM SUPPORT PROGRAMS

It is apparent our Peer Support call line is a first point of access for kinship and foster parents. Callers often repeatedly access this particular resource as they work to resolve challenges. With increase to our support services we are seeing a shift from callers strictly accessing the support line. They often transition to a variety of KFFNM support or skill development services. Support referrals are made to Information Sessions, Skill Development Sessions, In-Person Support Times, or Question & Answer sessions.

Peer Support Program

KFFNM Peer Support Program for kinship and foster parents who are seeking support for a variety of concerns. Peer Support calls are grouped into primary issues as identified by callers. Data is collected relating to all complementary concerns and Peer Support provider responses are audited and recorded for training purposes.



In-Person Support Groups

KFFNM has re-opened peer support services which provide in-person engagement. A strong majority of care providers have requested access to this level of support. During this reporting period the focus was on facilitating engagement amongst participants and discovery for relevant subject matter participants would like to explore through this particular resource.

During this reporting period, 5 In Person sessions were provided.	# Registered	# Attended
	23	9

Family Fun Time Events

KFFNM facilitated an in-person Family Fun Time in Thompson. Family times are a celebration for kinship/ foster families to come together for community building. It is a time to share a meal, engage in crafts or activities and the bouncy castle, facepainting and craft tables are very exciting for the kids.

During this reporting period, 1 Family Time event was provided.	# Families Registered	# Family Members Attended
	19	53

Care Provider Zoom Question & Answer Sessions

KFFNM offered Question & Answer ZOOM sessions to kinship and foster care providers. The focus was to provide increased awareness of the volunteer and program services we offer. Information was collected on initiatives which participants felt we should consider.

During this reporting period,
2 Q&A ZOOM sessions were provided.

Registered
7

Attended
7

Focus Forums

KFFNM invites Manitoba’s kinship and foster parents to participate in a series of community forums. These forums offer kinship and foster parents an opportunity to share their wisdom and express their opinions on the challenges and rewards of kinship and foster parenting. It is our hope that the ideas presented in these forums may improve the kinship/foster care experience for everyone involved.

Focus on Family Connections was the topic explored during 2022 and 2023. Information was discussed regarding historical perspectives and possible impacts of Bill C-92. Four questions were posed to participants. Responses to questions were compiled and will be published in an upcoming report. Forums were held in Thomson, Steinbach, and Winnipeg.

During this reporting period,
3 in-person forums were facilitated.

Attended
34

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers are engaged with the KFFNM board, PSP call line, as well as co-facilitating care provider skill development educational sessions.

During this reporting period.

Service	Hours Provided
KFFNM Board	16
PSP call line	1438
Co-Facilitating	102

KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care

During this reporting period,
8 Introduction sessions were provided.

Registered # Attended

57	39
-----------	-----------

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Found the training helpful.	50%	38%	0	0	12%
Believe the information provided will be useful.	63%	37%	0	0	0

Feedback regarding information provided.

	A great deal	A lot	moderate amount	A little	None at all
The information helped me develop insight into the Manitoba foster care system.	63%	13%	25%	0	0

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
Session clarified the responsibilities, rights & roles of a kinship/foster care provider.	100%	0	0
Session clarified the expectations involved with a kinship/foster care provider.	88%	12%	0
I am aware of the next steps for becoming a kinship/foster care provider.	88%	13%	0
I am aware of the training and skill development expectations for kinship/foster parents.	100%	0	0
I am aware of supports and resources offered through KFFNM.	100%	0	0

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

	Likely	Not sure	Unlikely
Are you interested in continuing KFFNM training after you are licensed.	100%	0	0

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the trainer's presentation helped clarify the information.	86%	14%	0

KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Information Sessions

In response to commonly asked questions from Peer Support Callers and training participants KFFNM has developed 'stand alone' Information Sessions.

During this reporting period, **11** Information Zoom sessions were provided.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered	total # in Zoom sessions
74	51

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	A great deal	A lot	Moderate	A little	Not at all
How well did this Information Session meet your needs?	62%	24%	10%	4%	0
Did you find the session workbooks helpful?	57%	33%	5%	0	5%

Feedback regarding information provided.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful	Did not have prior questions	Now I have questions
Did the information in this session provide answers to questions you had?	73%	3%	0	14%	10%

	Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult
How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during this session?	52%	43%	5%

	Am working at it	Am seeing engagement	Already feel like a team member	Not sure
Did the information provided help you feel more valuable as a member of the CFS team?	43%	17%	39%	1%

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the facilitator was helpful in guiding your learning experience?	67%	33%	0

	Yes	No
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%	0

THE KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Level 1

KFFNM skill development approach is to support the development and enhancement of the unique kinship and foster parent skill sets involved with providing temporary and complementary care from within the Child and Family Services system. Skills to successfully work as valued and accountable members of the Child and Family Services team. Skills to articulate the descriptive elements of their unique parenting (*What, Why, Who, When and Where, and How outcomes are measured*). Skills to communicate their unique parenting to CFS Agencies, natural family members, schools, respite workers, and community resources.

During this reporting period 4 Level 1 training series were provided. Each training series contains **12** training sessions. During this reporting period **48** zoom training sessions were provided. Training series were offered during mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered for Training Series	# attended Training Series	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Training Series
48	38	356	23

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?

Did this training increase your awareness for how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?

Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?

Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
How well did the training sessions meet your needs?	85%	0	15%	0	0
Did this training increase your awareness for how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?	55%	35%	5%	5%	0
Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?	65%	25%	10%	0	0
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?	0	85%	0	15%	0

Regarding working partnership with CFS

Do you feel more empowered to be a valuable member of the CFS team?

	I am working at it	I am seeing engagement	I already feel like a team member	Not sure
Do you feel more empowered to be a valuable member of the CFS team?	25%	10%	50%	15%

Specific questions about training principles.

What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?

Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors ‘Strategies, Tools, and Skills’ when describing the parenting you provide?

How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during the sessions?

	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?	90%	10%	0

	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely
Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors ‘Strategies, Tools, and Skills’ when describing the parenting you provide?	95%	0	5%

	Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during the sessions?	42%	58%	0	0	0

Regarding level of participant engagement.

Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?

Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?

Will you join us for future training sessions?

	Yes	No
Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?	100%	0
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?	85%	15%
Will you join us for future training sessions?	95%	5%

THE KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Level 2

KFFNM skill development advances to the integration of kinship and foster parenting skills based upon principles and practices presented during Level 1 sessions. Course material uses many examples and means by which skills can be integrated into parenting. Participants examine their parenting Strategies, Tools and Skills in combination with previously defined parenting descriptors to greater clarify the impact of their care practices.

Level 2 sessions offered **during reporting period:**

- Guiding Behaviours
- Skills for Life
- Focused Documentation
- Fostering Family Connections
- Writing Your Milieu

During this reporting period, **10** Level **2** Series for a total of **40** sessions. During this reporting period **1** session for Writing Your Milieu was provided in person to foster care group participants.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered to attend	# attended	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Level 2 Series
76	65	238	51

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
How well did the training sessions meet your needs?	71%	29%	0	0	0
Do you feel the training sessions strengthened your kinship/foster parenting skills?	91%	9	0	0	0

Do you feel the training sessions strengthened your kinship/foster parenting skills?

Did Level 2 sessions assist you with developing and articulating parenting strategies you use?

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderate Amount	A Little	None at all
Did Level 2 sessions assist you with developing and articulating parenting strategies you use?	73%	27%	0	0	0

Did you discover parenting tools, starting these sessions, which will support your parenting strategies?

Yes	No
100%	0

Specific questions about training material.

Did you find the workbooks helpful?

A great deal	A lot	Moderate amount	Not at all
73%	18%	9%	0

How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during the sessions?

Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
27%	55%	18%	0	0

Regarding level of participant engagement.

Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?

Yes	No
100%	0
100%	0

Will you join us for future training sessions?



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS