

Annual Report

2022/23



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Our Mission

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

Message From The Executive Director and President

We are so pleased that we have had some opportunities to work and join with people this year! We are planning for more to come.

The Board and Staff of The Kinship and Foster Family Network would like to thank all Kinship and Foster Parents for the incredible work they do everyday. The challenge of looking after someone else's children requires a huge amount of skill and knowledge. You all have the strength of character and generosity to embrace such a very demanding lifestyle.

We also want to express our gratitude to the volunteers that support your organization. The Network could not exist without the amazing Board of Directors, Peer Support Providers and Co-Facilitators. These people somehow find time to give even more of themselves to support the kinship and foster care community. Phenomenal people!

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the staff at The Network. Each member of the team go above and beyond to give their best. They approach their work with passion, dedication and determination.

Moving Through Change...

The Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families means Child Welfare Systems are changing and evolving. Be assured that we are committed to doing our very best to stay informed and help you navigate these changes.

This positive movement is a step towards addressing the long history of past actions that harmed our Indigenous peoples and resulted in intergenerational trauma. We hear from so many of you that you want to help advance reconciliation while you are providing temporary care for other's children. We also hear repeatedly that you wish you could be more connected to the children's families, and have amazing ideas about how to help create healthy transition plans that will support everyone involved. We spent a lot of time exploring these ideas over the past year during our forums. The topic was **Focus on Family Connections**. You can read more about this on page 6. The report that was created as a result of the forums will be available and distributed to all of our contacts very soon. Please keep an eye out for it, read it, and also share it so as many people as possible hear your voices!

Jennifer Karaim

Executive Director

Marion Brading

President

*Our Board of Directors, Peer Support Providers and Co Facilitators have volunteered approximately **2,917** hours this fiscal year!*

*We provided **177** on-line Information or Skill Development sessions for **1369** participants !*

What Does the Network Offer

Our organization – At The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba we have the desire for positive change in Child Welfare, and believe it is possible if people are committed to work together.

We represent a strong, healthy and engaged working group with many and varied voices. Within our Board of Directors and Staff team we are collectively: Kinship/Foster Parents, former Youth in Care, Indigenous, Non-Indigenous, Metis, Grandmothers, Grandfathers, Parents, Adoptive Parents, Adoptees, Social Workers, Curriculum Writers, Trainers, etc.

We believe Kinship & Foster Parents hold critical knowledge that can help positively transform the Child Welfare System and should be seen as respected members of the professional team surrounding children in care.

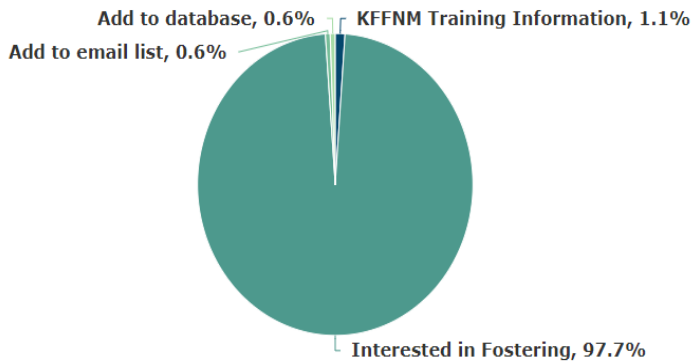
Some of the ways we collect and utilize this critical knowledge are:

- Our Board of Directors are all currently licensed kinship/foster parents.
- We provide training (Introductory, Basic and Advanced Competency Based Curriculum). Yearly we evaluate and analyze participant feedback and make any necessary changes as required.
- We create Manitoba based training material which reflects kinship or foster parenting in Manitoba’s communities. We invite past attendees to join us to attend material review sessions to critique and strengthen our training.
- Support systems – Our Peer Support Line is where we help people navigate the issues they are facing case by case. * Note we do not advocate for individual kinship & foster parents, rather we empower them with parenting strategies, tools and skills to be their own best advocate.
- We hold community forums across the province on current community identified topics. At the conclusion of a cycle of forums we compile and publish a report of the findings. We do this in a manner which respects individual participant’s confidentiality, allowing them to participate fully.

KFFNM Volunteer Training	# Trainings Provided	# Participants Attended	# Hours Involved
Co-Facilitator	3 full days	3	48
Peer Support	2 sessions	9	14

Initial Service Requests

Community Member Requests

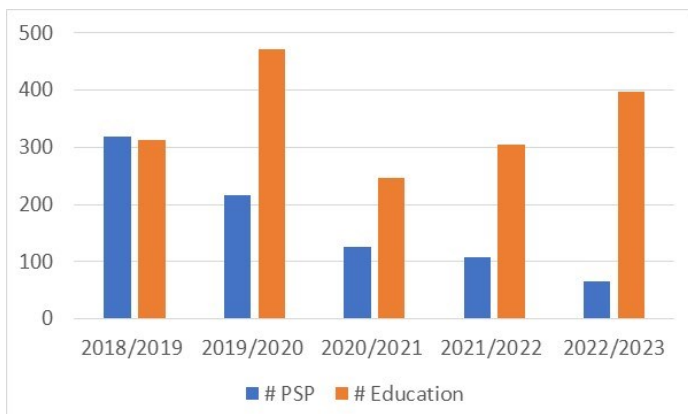
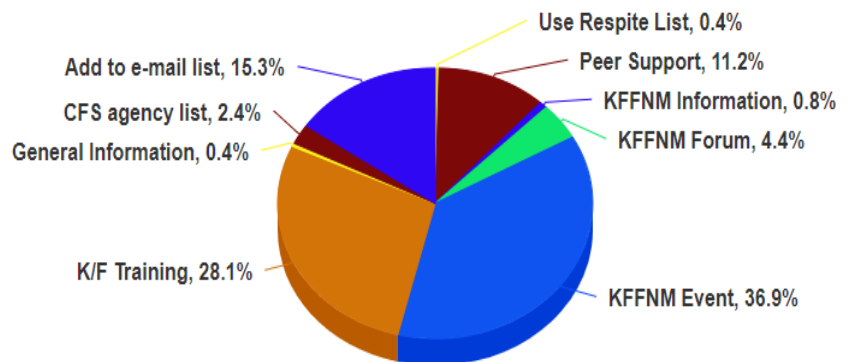


KFFNM provides support and information for Manitobans seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba.

Community members access the KFFNM office through the Provincial Community of Care phone line. We responded to **81** community members phone line calls.

Kinship/Foster Care Providers Requests

Reasons why kinship or foster parents initially contact our organization.



One data trend we watch is the positive impact the introduction of our educational services is having on our Peer Support phone line. We are seeing callers receive initial support through the peer support program and then continue to access our educational services to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

Community Events

This past year we were back on the highway heading to communities and connecting with kinship and foster care providers, their families and the children they are providing care for.

Family Fun Times involve lunch or supper, and community building opportunities for all involved. We bring along games, activities and a bouncy castle is set up for the bouncers in the group.



Family Fun Times

2 in-person family gatherings were facilitated with **140** kinship, foster parents and their families joining us for food and games.

Coffee and Support Chats

4 in-person support sessions were provided with **17** participants joining in.

Facebook

We reached **8257** people. We had **836** engagements (reactions, comments, shares).

Manitoba Moose and KFFNM Partnership

This past spring, the Kinship and Foster Family Network had the opportunity to partner with the Manitoba Moose thanks to **Jimmy Oligny, Captain of the Manitoba Moose.**



Several children in care were given the opportunity to attend a game along with their caregivers, receive some memorabilia and had a chance to meet with Jimmy following the game. Ten families were hosted throughout the months of March and April and it was a special experience for all involved. We are looking forward to the upcoming hockey season, as Jimmy wants to keep the program going. Please watch for more information about this exciting program in your email inboxes, KFFNM's Facebook page and on our website - www.KFFNM.ca

Check out this Link to learn a bit more about Jimmy, the program and his recent award:

<https://moosehockey.com/news/oligny-dupre-award-2023/>

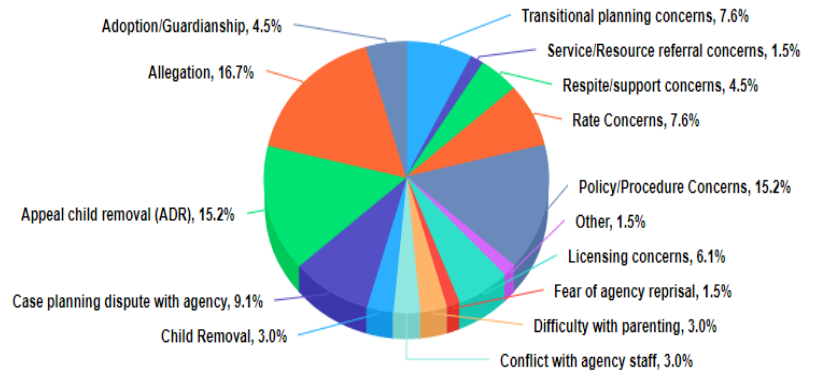
Peer To Peer Support Program

Peer Support Provided	Q&A Sessions	Coffee Chat Sessions
66 Foster/Kinship care providers	4 sessions 19 Zoomed-In participants	4 sessions 17 In-Person participants

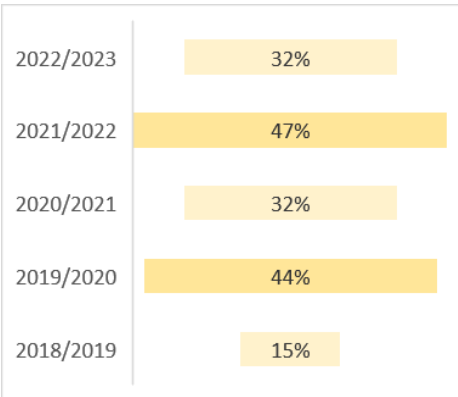
To provide enhanced support for callers accessing the support line we have returned to offering in-person Coffee and Support Chat times at the office.

Callers are asked, at an appropriate time during a support call, if they can identify the primary reason they have for seeking support or information.

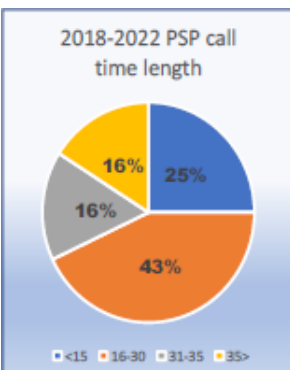
The data regarding primary concerns is recorded and offers opportunities for greater understanding.



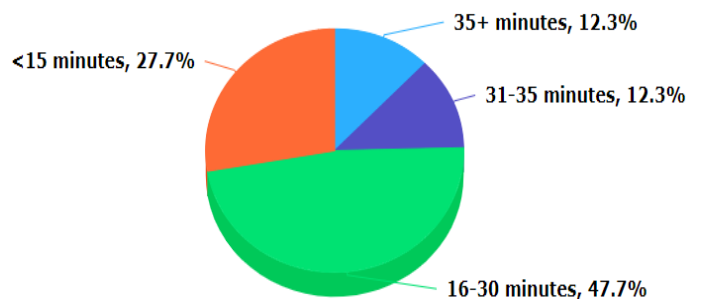
% of K/F calls for Appeal Child Removal Process and Allegation during previous years.



Combining the percentage of primary concerns for seeking support or information regarding Child Removal Appeal Process or allegations together indicates such calls have involved an important aspect of the Peer Support Program engagement.



PSP data collection has shown, year over year, Peer Support volunteers devote a fairly consistent period of time supporting callers. This reporting indicates a slight increase in time devoted to support.



Percentage of support time provided 2022-2023

Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care

Introduction to Foster Care		
12 sessions	103 Registered	70 Zoomed-In

We collect feedback information by emailing feedback forms through Survey Monkey.

97% of responses indicate they are interested in continuing KFFNM Skill Development trainings when they become licensed care providers.

	Agree	Unsure
Session clarified the responsibilities, rights & roles of a kinship/foster care provider.	95%	5%
Session clarified the expectations involved with a kinship/foster care provider.	89%	11%
I am aware of the next steps for becoming a kinship/foster care provider.	79%	21%
I am aware of the training and skill development expectations for kinship/foster parents.	90%	10%
I am aware of supports and resources offered through KFFNM.	100%	0

Focus Forums

Focus Forums is one approach we use to distribute information on topics of concern and collect the voices of kinship and foster care providers.

The Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Children, Youth and Families is federal

legislation that establishes national standards for the welfare of Indigenous children. This Act will bring about changes within the Child Welfare System.

Kinship and foster care providers across Manitoba need an understanding the Act and possible changes they may experience as care providers.

We facilitated three forums in three different regions of the province and collected the voices of 34 kinship and foster carer providers.

Kinship and foster care providers who attended these forums demonstrated the strength and wisdom of their service. We wish to thank those who offered their time.



This forum involved a morning discussion period, lunch, and an afternoon session. The afternoon session proposed four questions and asked participants to write their responses on post-it notes and attach them to the question. The questions explored skills kinship/foster parents need to create a successful parent to parent knowledge transfer?

Focus on Family Connections Report

This report will be available soon, please watch our KFFNM.ca website.

Kinship & Foster Care Skill Development

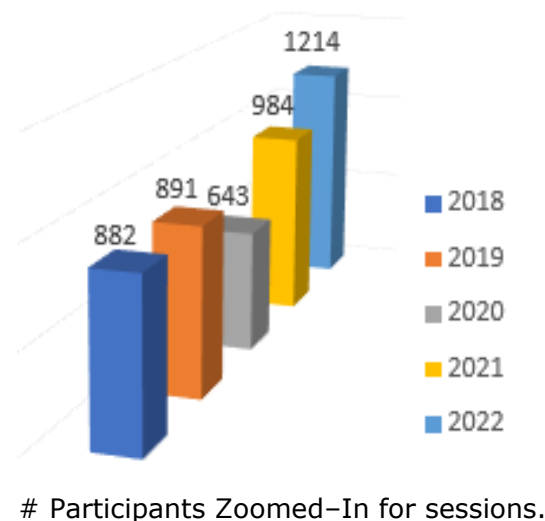
Level 1 Skill Development	Level 2 Skill Development	Information Sessions
60 sessions 657 zoomed in	72 sessions 440 zoomed in	117 attendees 117 zoomed in

411 kinship or foster care providers registered to attend. **306** attended one or more sessions. **1214** participants zoomed-in to attend sessions. **64%** of attendees completed all the sessions they registered for.

Important data we collect each year reflects the level of engagement by kinship and foster care providers.

- The number of educational series (Level 1, Level 2, or Information Sessions) that were offered.
- The number of registrations for each series.
- The number of participants who attended at least one session within each series.
- How many total participants attended (zoomed in to a session) across all series.

This graph shows the total number of participants attended (zoomed in) across all series, by year.



Mail-Outs

Adapting to training through Zoom, we mail out directly to participant's homes. We design and provide work-along participant material designed for all the sessions we provide. Each session module has one Participant Workbook and several modules have additional booklets of parenting tools.

During this reporting year, **1343** KFFNM educational training material booklets were mailed out to kinship and foster care providers.

Kinship & Foster Care Provider Skill Development Participant Feed Back

All Feedback questionnaires asked this question.

	Yes	No
Will you join us for future training sessions?	98%	2%

Information Sessions

Feedback regarding value of training session.

How well did this Information Session meet your needs?

Did you find the session workbooks helpful?

	A great deal	A lot	Moderate	A little	Not at all
How well did this Information Session meet your needs?	55%	33%	10%	2%	0
Did you find the session workbooks helpful?	55%	35%	8%	0	2%

Level 1

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?	71%	20%	9%	0	0
Did this training increase your awareness for how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?	52%	39%	4%	1%	0
Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?	53%	41%	6%	0	0
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?	0	89%	0	11%	0

Level 2

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?

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

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
How well did the training sessions meet your needs?	60%	40%	0	0	0
Do you feel the training sessions strengthened your kinship/foster parenting skills?	79%	16%	5%	0	0

Financial Information

Each year this organization is subject to a financial audit. This process is designed to ensure we are operating in a fiscally responsible manner. Below you will find the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for 2022/23 as reported in the audited financial statements. If you wish to read the audit report in full, it can be accessed on our website under Reports.

THE KINSHIP & FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Province of Manitoba - core funding	\$ 558,500	\$ 558,500
Province of Manitoba - other funding	55,925	46,944
Donation and other income	1,311	1,411
	615,736	606,855
EXPENSES		
Accommodations	1,060	1,721
Advertising and promotion	795	-
Amortization	3,854	5,560
Bad debts	-	164
Business taxes, licenses and memberships	141	-
Equipment rentals	-	126
Facility rental	957	171
Insurance	5,391	4,685
Interest and bank charges	1,810	1,993
Meals and entertainment	3,782	2,122
Memberships	17,328	15,586
Office	23,471	32,503
Printing	1,557	12,021
Professional fees	29,262	28,555
Rent	58,166	52,034
Respite	3,760	2,818
Salaries and wages	480,500	491,880
Staff and volunteer appreciation	1,458	1,403
Travel	1,823	2,224
	635,115	655,566
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ (19,379)	\$ (48,711)

Organizational Beliefs

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

Empowerment of Kinship and Foster Parents to be respected members of the professional team, and we strive to provide training and supports that will assist them in achieving this goal.

Kinship and Foster Care works best when following the Principles of Addition:

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

Board of Directors

It is the goal of The Kinship & Foster Family network of Manitoba to maintain a Board of Directors comprised of four members from the South, three from the North and two from Winnipeg. Currently our Board of Directors is as follows:

Member	Region	Position
Marion Brading	North	President
Sarivea Ellsworth	North	Member at Large
Michelle Bruneau	North	Board Development & Nominating Committee
Sean Kiely	South	Treasurer/Secretary
Lani Licardo	Winnipeg	Vice President

Staff

The Kinship & Foster Family Network office is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In order to deliver community based programming, flexibility in work schedule and provincial travel is a requirement of all staff.

Staff Member	Position
Jennifer Karaim	Executive Director
Terri McNaughton-Wright	Education Coordinator
Brad Wright	Curriculum Developer
Wendy Gillespie	Peer Support Coordinator
Nancy Barbour	Intake Coordinator
Linda Ens	Community Development Worker



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

90 Terracon Place
Winnipeg, MB R2J 4G7
Phone: 204-940-1280
E-mail: manfost@kffnm.ca
www.kffnm.ca