



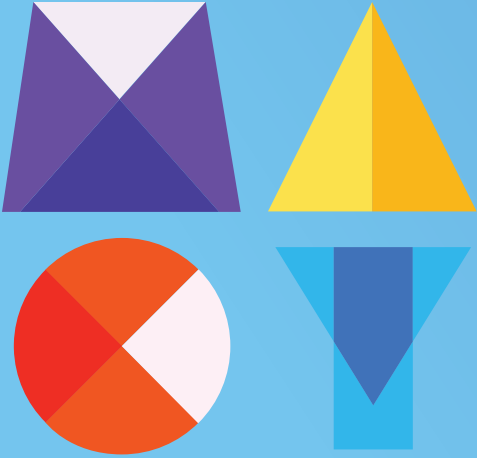
Manitoba Advocate
for Children and Youth



Annual Report

AND SERVICE PLAN
2023-24





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Our Commitment to Reconciliation

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth operates throughout the province of Manitoba.

We acknowledge that our work extends throughout Treaty areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anisineluwuk, Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples.

We acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge that northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We further acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, located on Treaty 3 territory in Ontario. We extend our gratitude to the People of Shoal Lake who work tirelessly to protect our water systems.

We respect the spirit and intent of the treaties made and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit People in the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration.

With a steadfast commitment to social justice and equity, our office operates through a human rights-based lens, weaving the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) *Calls to Action*, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry's *Calls for Justice* into our daily practice. Our hope is that by doing so, we can amplify the voices of those who have been historically silenced and marginalized and foster tangible improvements in the lives and experiences of children, youth, young adults, and their families. We believe that by working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and centring their knowledge and expertise, we can create meaningful and lasting change.

In expressing our reconciliation statement, we commit to honouring and supporting movements led by Indigenous leaders, stewards, and protectors of the land. This responsibility includes integrating Indigenous knowledge systems and amplifying the voices of Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba in our work. We recognize reconciliation is a journey, and we are committed to walking this path with humility, respect, and openness.



📷 Team members from both Winnipeg offices donned Ribbon Skirts for National Ribbon Skirt Day on January 4



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About Our Office

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is an independent and non-partisan office of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. Empowered and governed by *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, our role is to represent the rights, and amplify the voices and opinions of all children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.



MACY's Executive team

The Manitoba Advocate receives its mandate through the ACYA. The mandate includes:

Advocacy Services – to support, assist, inform, and advise children, youth, young adults, and their families on designated services.

Serious Injury and Child Death Reviews and Investigations – to review, investigate, and report on the serious injuries and deaths of children, youth, and young adults.

Research – to conduct research on designated services to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of those services.

Quality Assurance – to monitor the implementation of recommendations made in investigations or special reports and to review and enhance internal policy and procedures.

Public Education and Youth Engagement – to raise awareness and understanding of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)*. To assist and inform children, youth, young adults, and their families in accessing designated services and to promote the best interests of young people in Manitoba.

Advice to Ministers – to advise the ministers who are responsible for designated services in Manitoba on system issues and opportunities for improvement. Designated services are the child- and youth-serving systems that the Manitoba Advocate has a responsibility to monitor. These include the provincial systems of child welfare, adoption, disabilities, education, youth mental health, youth addictions, victim supports, and youth justice.

OUR VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES



Vision

A Manitoba where child- and youth-serving systems work collaboratively to ensure children and youth's rights are honoured, respected, protected, and fulfilled.



Mission

We work to improve the lives of young people by supporting, advocating, and empowering them so their rights are upheld and their voices are heard.



Values

Child-centred Advocacy
Collaboration
Accountability
Relationality
Integrity
Social Justice



Message from the Manitoba Advocate



📷 Manitoba Advocate Sherry Gott

I am privileged and honoured to serve in the role of Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth. On a daily basis, I am inspired by the promise of young people, and the dedication of the MACY team, service providers, Elders, family members, community, and others who are working to improve the lives of children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.

This past year was marked by tremendous growth for our office. Growth is therefore a fitting theme for this report.

Through a process of meaningful engagement, deep listening, and co-learning, we completed a strategic planning process to guide our path forward in ways that reflect the needs, rights, and aspirations of the young people and communities we serve across Manitoba. As you will see on pages 44–46 of this report, this includes ongoing relationship building, collaboration, and decolonization to ensure children and youth's rights are honoured, respected, protected, and fulfilled. The following values are central to

this important, sacred work: child-centred advocacy, collaboration, accountability, relationality, integrity, and social justice.

Guided by the wisdom and teachings of the Elders Council at MACY, we updated our truth and reconciliation framework. Titled *Nikanítowin (The Path Forward)*, this updated framework is a living document that will be integrated across all MACY programs, guiding how we contribute to truth and reconciliation in our individual and collective actions by being responsive to the unique needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and communities across Manitoba.

2023–24 also saw the launch of the Serious Injury Program, fulfilling a Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry recommendation by the late Commissioner Ted Hughes. The new program launched on July 1, 2023. It is the first of its kind in our province, providing a centralized place for the reporting of serious injuries sustained by children receiving publicly-funded reviewable services. The newly-created Serious Injury team has been

collaborating with Advocacy Officers at MACY and service providers across Manitoba to assist seriously injured children and identify recurring trends. This invaluable information will inform an upcoming report to improve public services and the well-being of young people in Manitoba.

As we look forward to 2024–25, we are hard at work on a number of projects and initiatives. In doing so, we will continue to work steadfastly to improve the lives of young people by supporting, advocating, and empowering them so their rights are upheld and their voices are heard.

Ekosi for your continued support and partnership,

Sherry Gott, BSW, MSW, RSW
MANITOBA ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Message de la Protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba



J'ai le privilège et l'honneur d'occuper le poste de protectrice des enfants et des jeunes du Manitoba. Chaque jour, notre jeunesse prometteuse est pour moi une grande source d'inspiration, tout comme l'est le dévouement dont font preuve les équipes du Bureau du protecteur des enfants et des jeunes, les fournisseurs de services, les aînés, les membres des familles, les communautés et d'autres personnes qui travaillent à améliorer la vie des enfants, des adolescents et des jeunes adultes au Manitoba.

L'année qui vient de s'écouler a été marquée par une croissance considérable pour notre bureau. La croissance est donc un thème particulièrement adapté pour ce rapport.

Grâce à un processus de dialogue concret, d'écoute profonde et de co-apprentissage, nous avons pu mener à bien un processus de planification stratégique qui nous guidera vers l'avenir et reflétera les besoins, les droits et les aspirations des jeunes et des collectivités que nous servons dans tout le Manitoba. Pour ce faire, comme vous le verrez aux pages 44-46 de ce rapport, nous nous sommes appuyés sur des relations suivies ainsi que sur des processus de collaboration et de décolonisation pour veiller à ce que les droits des enfants et des jeunes soient estimés, respectés, protégés

et réalisés. Les valeurs suivantes sont au cœur de ce travail important et sacré : une défense des droits axée sur les enfants, la collaboration, la responsabilisation, la relationnalité, l'intégrité et la justice sociale.

Guidés par la sagesse et les enseignements du Conseil des aînés du Bureau, nous avons mis à jour notre cadre de travail en matière de vérité et de réconciliation. Intitulée *Nikanítowin (la voie à suivre)*, cette version actualisée et évolutive du cadre de travail sera intégrée dans tous les programmes du Bureau.

Ce document guidera ainsi nos contributions au travail de vérité et de réconciliation dans toutes nos actions individuelles et collectives en répondant aux besoins particuliers des enfants et des communautés des Premières Nations, des Inuits et des Métis dans tout le Manitoba.

L'année 2023-2024 a également vu le lancement du programme des examens et des enquêtes en cas de blessures graves, conformément à la recommandation formulée par le regretté commissaire Ted Hughes dans le cadre de la Commission d'enquête sur les circonstances du décès de Phoenix Sinclair. Ce nouveau programme, lancé le 1er juillet 2023, est le premier de ce type dans notre province. Il offre un lieu centralisé pour le signalement des blessures graves subies par les enfants bénéficiant de

services sujets à examen financés par l'État. La nouvelle équipe chargée des examens et des enquêtes portant sur les cas de blessures graves collabore avec les agents de protection des droits du protecteur des enfants et des jeunes au Manitoba ainsi que les fournisseurs de services de la province pour aider les enfants gravement blessés et dégager des tendances récurrentes. Ces précieux renseignements serviront de base à un rapport à venir dans le but d'améliorer les services publics et le bien-être des jeunes au Manitoba.

Dans la perspective de 2024-2025, nous travaillons d'arrache-pied sur un certain nombre de projets et d'initiatives. Nous continuerons de travailler dans le but d'améliorer la vie des jeunes en leur apportant un soutien, en les défendant et en leur donnant les outils dont ils ont besoin pour que leurs droits soient respectés et leurs voix entendues.

Ekosi pour votre soutien et votre collaboration,

**Sherry Gott, B. Serv. soc.,
M. Serv. soc.**

**TRAVAILLEUSE SOCIALE AUTORISÉE
PROTECTRICE DES ENFANTS ET DES
JEUNES DU MANITOBA**





Manitoba Gaa-ganootamaaged Wiindamaage

Nin-gichi-inendaan ji-ganootamawagwaa Abinoojiyag gaye Oshkaadiziig omaa Manitoba. Endaso-giizhig niwaabamaag ji-niigaaniwaad oshkaadiziig gaye igi MACY gaa-anokiiwaad, gaa-wiiji'iwewaad, Gichi-ayaag, inawemaaganag, dazhiikewin, gaye igi gaa-inanokiiwaad ji-wiiji'aawaad abinoojiya' gaye oshkaadizii' gaye oshki-ayaag omaa Manitoba.

Noongom gaa-ishkwaaseg aki, gii-gichi-anokiim omaa ozhibii'igewigamigong. Mii dash iwe gaa-dibaadodamaang noongom.

Nin-gaganoonaanaanig nimbizindawaanaanig gaye ni-wiiji-gikendaasomin, mii dash gaa-izhi-giizhitooyaang niigaan inendamowin ge-onji-bimoseyaang ji-wiiji'igowaad oshkaadiziig gaye dazhiikewinan gaa-wiijitoowaang omaa Manitoba. Gi-ga-waabandaam omaa baakiiginiganing 44-46 ozhibii'iganing, ji-wiidanokiimangidwaa, ji-wiiji'angidwaa gaye ji-anishinaabewitoowaang ji-gashkitoowaad oshkaadiziig ji-debinamowaad odinendaagoziwiniwaa, ji-manajji'indwaa, ji-ganawenimindwaa weweni gaye ji-gashkitoowaad endawendamowaad. Onowe ningichi-inendaamin omaa: anokiiwin, ji-ganootamawindwaa abinoojiyag, ji-wiiji'indwaa, ji-debwetawindwaa, ji-wiijitoowaad gakina, debweyendamowin, gwayakosijigewin.

Gichi-ayaag imaa MACY gaa-ayaawaad niwiji'igonaanig jini-bwaakaayaang gaye gikino'amaagewag, ji-debweyaang gii-anokiyaang omaa. Nikanitowin izhinikaade owe mazina'igan, mii dash iwe ge-aabajichigaadeg MACY anokiimagak aaniin igo, ji-wiij'igooyaang ji-debweyaang ji-dazhiikamowaad gakina awiyag endawendamowaad gii-anishinaabewiwaad gii-eshkiimewiwaad gii-aabitawizhaaniwiwaad abinoojiyag omaa dazhiikewining Manitoba.

2023 biinish 2014 gii-izhiseg, gii-maajichigaade iwe Wiisagishinowin Izhichigewin, enakwetamowaad iwe Phoenix Sinclair Gagwedwewin Ge-izhichigeng gaa-gii-ikidopan Ogimaa Ted Hughes. Owe oshki-izhichigewin gii-maajitaamagan July 1, 2023 gii-izhiseg. Mii iwe nitam e-doodamong omaa gidakiikaaning, ji-wiindamaaeng gii-gichi-wiisagishing abinooji gaa-ganawenimind akiikaaning. Owe dash oshki-izhichigewin Wiisagishinowin owiidoowawaawaa' imaa gaa-ganootamaagenid MACY gaye gaa-wiiji'iwened omaa Manitoba ji-wiidoowawaawaaad abinoojiya' gaa-wiisagishinonid gaa-maanzhidoodawinid gaye ji-ikidowaad giishpin ozaam moozhag iwe e-izhiseg. Da-wiindamaagemagan dibaajimoo-mazina'igan gaye ji-ikidoomagak aaniin ge-izhichigewaapan igi gaa-anokiiwaad imaa, ji-wiidoowawaawaaad oshkaadizii' omaa Manitoba.

Niigaan ndinaabimin 2024-25 izhiseg ji-dazhiikamaang izhichigewinan gaye oshki-izhichigewinan. Mii ge-izhi-gashkitoowaang babenak ji-izhi-bimaadiziwaad oshkaadiziig, ji-ziidoshkawangidwaa, ji-ganootamawangidwaa gaye ji-wiiji'angidwaa ji-debinamowaad gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziwaad gaye ji-noondawindwaa.

Miigwech gidigoom gii-wiiji'iweyeg gii-wiidanokiimiyaang.

Sherry Gott, BSW, MSW, RSW
MANITOBA GAA-GANOOTAMAWAAD
ABINOOJIYA' GAYE OSHKAADIZII'





Ácimovina ante oci Manitoba Otayamihístamákéw

Nikakisein éko nikakisténimon óma ká itatoskéyán é paminamán óma "Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth" ká itakik. Tanto kísikáw, nisíkiskákon óma otasotamákowiniwáw ókik oskátisak, éko anikik ká sokatoskátakik óméniw MACY, nanátok opaminikéwak, kayitéyátisak, owáketowak, itáwina ininiwak ká ayácik, éko anikik kotakiyak ká atoskátakik óma kita ati mino ayácik táti maminopanihi kocik ókik awásisak, oskátisak, eko amikik ka ati kisi opikicik ota Manitoba.

Anóch kákípe ashíwak níképe kici isícikánán óta ékí makatoskátamák kékwana óta oci nitatoskéwikami-kosinák. Níkáninitahikéwin kita isi ácimowináw óma óta ká ati masinahikáték.

Óma kákí isi námatóyák, ékí nato-tátóyák, éko ékí mámawi-kiskémitamák kékwána, mikí kaskitánán kita kísitayak anihí ké kiskinahótawikoyák kita isi níkáni pimotatóyák anihí ké isi natawénitakik, otasotamá-kowiniwáw, éko opakoséniwów ókik oskátisak éko anihí itáwina ká ayácik ininiwak ká paminamák óta Manitoba. Ké ati isi wápataman kita ayamítáyam óta masinahikanok 44-46 ácimowina, éko nókonwa óma émámawatós-kátamák kékwána, natotátowin, éko kita paskinátamák emistókósiwí iténitawina kita kécináhoyák ókik awásisak éko oskátisak otasotamá-wininiwáw kita sókénitákóké, kita kisténitákoki, ta nákcitániwaki, éko kawisk kita mámawi paminikátéki. Óhi ká pimitisayamák ká maskawé-nitamák kita itómamák óta nitatké-wininák, sókéténimowin; kita-awásisak sokatoskéstamawáyák, mámawi-isícikéwina, kita nókotániwak, kakinaw awizyak, tápwéwin éko kakinaw awiyak kita kisténi wanasowátit ispík natawénitákoki ayako.

É oci kiskinahótinikoyák anihí isi nipwákáwina éko kiskinawátowina kopé itikoyákoyak kayitéyátisak Owand-sowéwak ante MACY, níki oskasi-nayénán

anihi káwí paminamák kawisk éko mino kakécihitowina kita nóci-táyák. Isinikátéw óma "Níkánihitowin (Níkánihitotátowin), óma kiskénahó-towásinahikan kita kisténitáko ápatan misiwé ká takoki óhi MACY paminikéwina, kita pimitisayamák anihí ké isi tápwéké éko kita mino kakécihitonániwak óma ké ati isi pá péyako wéká mámawi niskwási-hitamák óhi ké isi natawénitakik kita isi paminicik anikik Anisinápéwak, kíwétinowininiwak, éko Ápitawikosi-sának awásisak éko ininiwí itáwina óta misiwé Manitoba.

Óma kákípe askíwaki 2023-24 mína níki máci-tánán anima kita natonikáték éko níwéci kita kiskénicikáték kákí oci Wisakáspinatit awiyak Pami-nikéwin, kákí oci máci-tániwak anima Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry kákí síkikémotak kita itócikániwak ana kici Wanasowéwikimáf Ted Hughes ká itit. Ékwánina oski paminikéwin kákí máci-tániwak July 1, 2023.Ékwáni ékwénák ékí oski máci-tániwak ékotowa awásisíwí paminikéwin óta pici-tipáskánik (MB), ita kita máwa citinikátéki tánté éko kékwán ká oci wá wísakáspinatit ókik awásisak mékwác ká kinawénimicik kawisk kita tasi panicik óma nántaw ité. Anima kákí-oki kinawápacikáték Serious Injury ká itakik kí máci wítatoské-néwak anikik Otayanaihistamákéwak ante MACY éko anikik kotakiyak ékosi ká itatoské-cik óta Manitoba kita weí wíciyácik anikik awásisak kákí wá wísakáspinatit éko kita wápatakik ékwéniw éká ékosi ká kítwám kita ispanihe-kocik anikik awásisak. Óma kisténitáko kiskénitamowin kita isi wícicikémakan óta níkánik ácimowina éko anihí kákí-nókotáni-waki nákatawéniniona kawisk kita ati itócikátéki óhi mino-paminiké-wina kakinaw oci ókik oskátisak éko awásisak óta Manitoba.

Óma kákípe askíwaki 2023-24 mína níki máci-tánán anima kita natonikáték éko níwéci kita kiskénicikáték kákí oci Wisakáspinatit Awiyak Pami-nikéwin, kákí oci máci-tániwak anima Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry kákí síkikémotak kita itócikániwak

ana kici Wanasowéwikimáf Ted Hughes ká itit. Ékwánina oski paminikéwin kákí máci-tániwak July 1, 2023.Ékwáni ékwénák ékí oski máci-tániwak ékotowa awásisíwí paminikéwin óta pici-tipáskánik (MB), ita kita máwa citinikátéki tánté éko kékwán ká oci wá wísakáspinatit ókik awásisak mékwác ká kinawénimicik kawisk kita tasi panicik óma nántaw ité. Anima kákí-oki kinawápacikáték Serious Injury ká itakik kí máci wítatoské-néwak anikik Otayanaihistamákéwak ante MACY éko anikik kotakiyak ékosi ká itatoské-cik óta Manitoba kita weí wíciyácik anikik awásisak kákí wá wísakáspinatit éko kita wápatakik ékwéniw éká ékosi ká kítwám kita ispanihe-kocik anikik awásisak. Óma kisténitáko kiskénitamowin kita isi wícicikémakan óta níkánik ácimowina éko anihí kákí-nókotáni-waki nákatawéniniona kawisk kita ati itócikátéki óhi mino-paminiké-wina kakinaw oci ókik oskátisak éko awásisak óta Manitoba.

Óté níkánik ká ati isi nákatawénitamák 2024-25, náspic ni sókatoská-ténán óhi nanátok mino panini-kéwina éko oski nóci-táwina kita ati mino panaináyákoyak anikik oskátisak. Ékwáni óma káwí ati isícikéyák nika-tápitawi atoskáténán óma wístawáw kita ati pimácihocik anikik oskátisak éko isko kaski-táyák kita wíciyáyákoyak, kita suyamihistamáyákoyak, éko kita nísókamáyákoyak, kita ayamihistamáyákoyak, éko kita wítamawáyákoyak óma kita kiskénitakik otasotamákowiniwáw.

Kinanáskomitináwáw óma kínawáw kápe sítoskamawiyák óma nititatos-kéwinák éko ká isi wicéwakanitoyak.

Sherry Gott, BSW, MSW, RSW
MANITOBA OTAYAMIHÍSTAMÁKÉW

Executive Summary

This annual report highlights the work by our office between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. It provides an overview of our activities and initiatives, including:



Program updates from all teams, including: Advocacy Services, Serious Injury and Child Death Reviews and Investigations, Quality Assurance, Research, Youth Engagement, Public Education, and Finance and Administration;



The Advocate for Children and Youth Act review;



A six-part series highlighting the service areas MACY provides support in through a *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* lens; and



Elders Council guidance and direction on serving children, youth, and young people in Manitoba.



MACY team members were honoured to attend the First Nations Caring Society Gala in October 2023

Additionally, we share some key outcomes from the work of our office over the past year:

2,837

requests for advocacy services

1

special report honouring Eishia Hudson

629

children, youth, and young adults supported through ongoing advocacy

1,500+

children reached through I Love to Read Month

90

child death reviews completed

1,394

youth reached through engagement workshops

73

serious injury reviews completed

89

child- and youth-serving organizations connected with through presentations, meetings, and other engagements

1

report card on the government's implementation of recommendations to improve services for young people

1

mural created in rural Manitoba

Résumé

Le présent rapport annuel met en évidence les résultats obtenus par notre bureau entre le 1er avril 2023 et le 31 mars 2024. Il présente un aperçu de nos activités et de nos initiatives, y compris :



des nouvelles de chacun des programmes par leurs équipes respectives, à savoir :
Services de protecteur des droits, Examens et enquêtes portant sur les cas de blessures graves, Enquêtes et examens portant sur les décès d'enfants, Assurance de la qualité, Recherche, Mobilisation des jeunes, Éducation du public, et Finances et administration;



l'examen de la Loi sur le protecteur des enfants et des jeunes;



une série en six parties mettant en évidence les domaines de services dans lesquels le Bureau apporte un soutien sous l'angle de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant;



les conseils et les orientations du Conseil des aînés sur la façon de servir les enfants, les jeunes et les jeunes adultes au Manitoba.



En outre, nous présentons certains des résultats clés obtenus dans le cadre du travail mené par notre bureau au cours de l'année écoulée :

2,837

demandes de services de protection des enfants et des jeunes;

1

rapport spécial en l'honneur d'Eishia Hudson;

629

enfants, jeunes et jeunes adultes appuyés par l'intermédiaire des activités continues de protection;

plus de 1,500

enfants ayant participé au Mois de la lecture;

90

examens réalisés sur des décès d'enfants;

1,394

jeunes participants à des ateliers de mobilisation;

73

examens réalisés sur des blessures graves;

89

organismes de services aux enfants et aux jeunes touchés dans le cadre de présentations, de réunions et d'autres activités de mobilisation;

1

fiche de rendement concernant les progrès du gouvernement dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations visant à améliorer les services destinés aux jeunes

1

fresque créée dans une zone rurale du Manitoba.

Ekidowaad omaa



Omaa dibaamimoomagan aan gaa-izhichigewaad April 1, 2023 biinish March 31, 2014. Dibaajimoomagan aan gaa-izhichigeyaang daabishkoo owe:



Aan gaa-doodamowaad gaa-anokiiwaad omaa daabishkoo ogo: Gaa-ganootamaagewaad, Wiisagishinowin gaye Gii-ishkwaa-bimaadizid Abinoojii Nanaando-gikenjigewin, Ji-minoseg Gegoon, Nanaando-gikenjigewin, Oshkaadiziig Ji-dagwiiwaad, Gikino'amaagewin, gaye Zhooniyaa Enaabadizid;



Gaa-ganootamawaad Abinoojii' gaye Oshkaadizii' Inaakonigewin ganawaabanjigaadeg;



Ngodwaaching e-ganawaabanjigaadeg ezhichigewaad omaa MACY gaa-anokiiwaad imaa United Nations Convention gaa-izhi-inendaagoziwaad Abinoojiiyag; gaye



Gichi-ayaag gaa-maamiinomiwewaad wiindamaagewaad aaniin ge-izhichigeng ji-wiiji'indwaa abinoojiiyag, oshkaadiziig gaye gaa-oshkaadiziwaad gichi-ayaansag omaa Manitoba.

Gaye dash, ni-wii-wiindamaagemin gaa-izhisemagak omaa ndanokiiwininaang ozhibii'igewigamigong gaa-ishkwaa-biboong:

2,837

gii-gagwedwewag awiyag ji-wiiji' inangwaa

1

dibaajimowin gii-gichi-inenimind Eishia Hudson

629

abinoojiiyag, oshkaadiziig gaye gaa-oshkaadiziwaad gichi-ayaansag nin-gii-wiiji'aanaanig e-ganootamawangidwaa

1,500+

abinoojiiyag gii-gashki'indwaa ji-aginjigewaad I Love to Read Month

90

gii-ishkwaa-bimaadiziwaad abinoojiiyag nin-gii-nanaando-gikendaamin gaa-izhisewaad

1,394

oshkaadiziig ngii-gashki'aanaanig ji-dagwiiwaad gikino'amaagewining

73

gaa-wiisagishinowaad abinoojiiyag ngii-anaando-gikendaamin aan gaa-izhisewaad

89

abinoojiiyag gaye oshkaadiziig gaa-izhi-wiiji'indwaa izhichigewining gii-dagwiiwaag gii-waabanda'iweng gaye gii-maawaji'iding gaye godak izhichigewining

1

dibaajimowin aan ogimaawiwin enendang ge-izhichigenaaniwang ji-minosemagak nawach gii-wiiji'indwaa oshkaadiziig

1

mazinibii'igan gii-ozhichigaade omaa Manitoba

Oníkanístamákéw Otácimowina

Cree



Óma tanto askíy ká pakitinamák é wítamák óma tánisi kákípe itótamák óta oci nitatoskéwikamikosinák óma kákípe askíwaki April 1, 2023 éko March 31, 2024. Ékota masinahiKátéwa anichi mámaw kákípe kaskítáyák hita itótamák éko anihí kotaka kékwána kákípe nócitáyák; éko ékota óhi:



paminikéwina kákípe nócitácik ókik Ká ayamitietamákécik, Ká wisaká-spinatit awásis wéká ká nisiwaná-cihit ká kinawápacikáték éko ká natonikáték kékwána káki oci ispanik ékwéniw, Kawisk panuni Kéwina NatoniKéwina, Oskátisak Ká isi akimi-ciK, Kakinow awiyakak óma káwi Kiskinawámáeik, éko anikik ká paninácik sóniyáwa éko anikik Oníkanístamákéwak;



amima *Advocate for Children and Youth Act* masinahkan;



nikotwásik sikástéciciKana é nókotácik ókik kákí isi pamini – kécik anikik MACY éko éki sítoska mákocik anikik UNCRC;



kayitéyátisak ékinahostamákécik isi paminimit anikik awásisak, oskátisak éko anikik Ká ati kisi opiKiák óta Manitoba.

Éko mína, ékwani óhi kákípe nóci – táyák óta oci nitatoskéwiKami – kosinák óma anohé kákípe askíwak:

2,837

ékí natomikawiyák kitá wícihiwéyák anihí oci paminikéwina;

1

péyak kistácimovoin óma kákípe ispanihikot Eishia Hudson;

629

awásisak, oskátisak, éko anikik ká ati kisi opikícik óta Manitoba éki nátamewayákok Kawisk Kita paminicík;

1,500+

awasisak eki wicihicik ante oci "I Love to Read Month";

1,394

oskátisak éki wiciyáyákok óma éki mámawi kakitotáyákok;

90

awásisak káki nisiwanácihicik nántaw isi éki kinawápacolátéki éko kawisk éki itócikátéki kawisk kita itátácik éko;

89

awásisak éko oskátisa-káki wiciyácik otatoskénákanak óma káki mámawi ikotamák kékwána ókik oci oskátisak;

73

nántaw éki isi wísakáspinaticik awásisak éki kinawápaekátéki éki kawisk éki isicikátámonániwaki éyako;

1

éko péyak táspasinahikéwin éki osikéniwak óta nántaw ité Manitoba.

1

péyak ácinowasinahkan anikik kici okimáwa wanasowéwininiwak éki tápwétakik kita sítoskakik óma nawac kawisk kita paminicik amikit oskátisak ké ati isi netawénitakik;

Elders Council and Resident Elder

Guiding the work of our office is a dedicated group of Elders who provide essential direction, clarity, and collaboration to the team and the projects we undertake. The Elders share various practices with the team, including smudging, pipe ceremonies, water ceremonies, cloth offerings, feasting, and offering prayers for children, youth, young adults, and their families. Additionally, they ensure the services we provide and the materials we produce are respectful of the various Nations we serve.

Supported by the Knowledge Keeper, the Elders Council meets with the executive team throughout the year. During these meetings, members of the Elders Council are briefed on all ongoing investigations, research, and systemic advocacy issues and offer their wisdom and insight to the office. The Elders Council met four times in the 2023–24 fiscal year.

The Elders Council consists of members from Indigenous communities and Nations that are representative of the children and youth that we serve. Currently, we have representation on the Elders Council from Métis, Cree, Ojibway, and Dakota Nations.

Elders Council Members

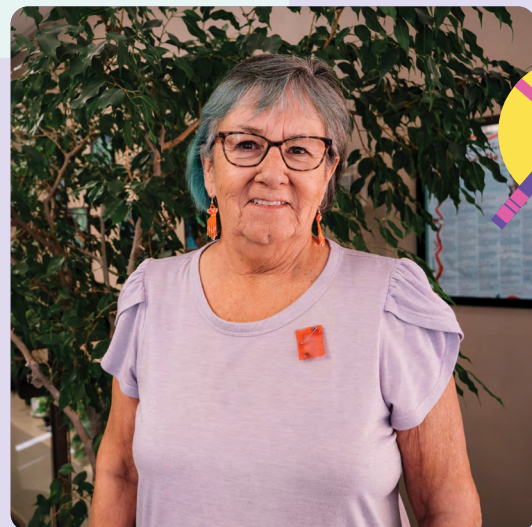
NAME	COMMUNITY
Elder Albert McLeod	Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Norway House
Elder Bill Ballantyne	Brokenhead First Nation
Elder Don Robinson	Bunibonabee (Oxford House) First Nation
Elder Gertrude Ballantyne	Brokenhead First Nation
Elder Louise Lavallee	St. Laurent



Meet MACY's Resident Elder

Elder Louise Lavallee hails from St. Laurent and is fluent in Michif. She has been the Resident Elder at MACY since fall 2023. She has a background in social work where she devoted more than three decades to helping children, youth, young adults, and their families.

In her role as Resident Elder, Elder Louise shares teachings and holds cultural ceremonies to educate the MACY team. She provides essential guidance in carrying out our work in a good way, offering direction and lifting the pipe when clarity is needed.



📷 Elder Louise Lavallee





ACYA Legislative Review

Pursuant to subsection 40 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, a committee of the Legislative Assembly must conduct a comprehensive review of the ACYA within five years of it coming into force and must submit a report to the assembly with recommended amendments.



On March 15, 2023, the ACYA had been in force for five years. As such, our legislated review was scheduled to begin, and a committee was to be struck. In light of the provincial election in October 2023, the Assembly made the decision to postpone the formation of a committee until after the election. On March 4, 2024, a committee of the Legislative Assembly was struck by government, signalling the formal beginning of the process to review the ACYA.

In preparation for the legislative review, an internal committee of MACY staff members has been working to support the process of recommendation development, with the aim to reduce barriers to serving young people in our province. In addition to distributing a survey to collect input from all MACY staff on potential amendments to propose to the committee, extensive jurisdictional scans, and legal research, the focus of the committee this fiscal year was to seek input from stakeholders. In December 2023, we held a webinar inviting stakeholders to learn more about MACY and the upcoming legislative review, and share their experiences providing services to young people in our province. Our internal committee also met with stakeholders individually to learn more about the gaps and barriers they face when providing services to young people. The ongoing work and extensive

outreach resulted in the committee developing draft amendments, which were reviewed and approved by staff and MACY's executive team.

The internal committee's consultations, internal discussions, and general lessons learned over the last six years led us to develop 13 recommendations for proposed amendments focused on addressing the following areas:

- 1. narrowing service gaps for children, youth, and young adults (through expanding the definitions of designated and reviewable services, and clarifying the definition of Serious Injury, as found in the ACYA);**
- 2. advancing human rights and reconciliation; and**
- 3. the importance of reviewing the ACYA at regular intervals.**

These proposed amendments were compiled into a formal submission to the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs.

Based on the timeline of the review process, we anticipate further updates in the 2024–25 fiscal year, as we work toward strengthening our legislation to ensure that all children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba have the opportunity to fulfill their amazing potential.



📷 Manitoba Advocate Sherry Gott presented to government at MLA Orientation Day in October 2023



Offices and Program Areas

The Manitoba Advocate has two offices in Winnipeg and one in Thompson. In total, we have eight program areas: Advocacy Services, Child Death Reviews and Investigations, Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations, Youth Engagement, Public Education, Research, Quality Assurance, and Finance and Administration.

All program areas work collaboratively to respond to individual and systemic issues that create barriers to the rights of children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. This includes the work, insight, and inspiration of MACY's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS).



📷 MACY's Administrative team

Finance and Administration

The Administration team is the first point of contact for children, youth, young adults, their families, service providers, and members of the public who contact or visit our offices in Winnipeg and Thompson. They provide a safe, welcoming experience and are pivotal in connecting those in need to the most appropriate program within MACY. They treat each person with dignity and respect, and adhere to strict confidentiality and data security standards.

In addition to carrying out essential administrative procedures for all teams, the Finance and Administration team helps with special projects such as annual report distribution to government, I Love to Read Month, National Child Day, preparation for special events, and more.

Thompson Office

MACY opened an office in Thompson in 2019 alongside the Manitoba Ombudsman. The aim of this office is to enhance MACY services in the north. This office is staffed with one Intake Assessment Officer, and staff from Winnipeg make regular trips to provide additional assistance. Having an office in Thompson has allowed us to expand in-person advocacy services in the north, and establish stronger relationships with community resources and stakeholders. At this time, this office is funded as a pilot project with funding ending in the spring of 2025. Given the importance of MACY services being available to all youth throughout our province, our hope is that long-term funding for this office will be established.





Advocacy Services

© MACY's Advocacy team

The Advocacy Services program was established in 1993, and has undergone significant growth and transformation over the past three decades, adapting to meet the evolving needs of young people in Manitoba. The team's primary objective is to provide direct assistance to children, youth, young adults, and families in Manitoba. Referrals are received through various channels, including phone, email, walk-ins, mail, and social media.

Advocacy Officers listen to and foster collaboration with children, youth, parents, service providers, and other community members, to address issues related to the provision of public services.

The Advocacy Process

Requests for Service: a source of referral (SOR) contacts or visits our office with an inquiry

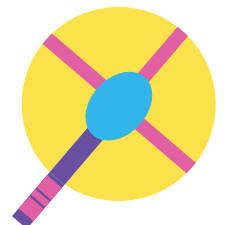
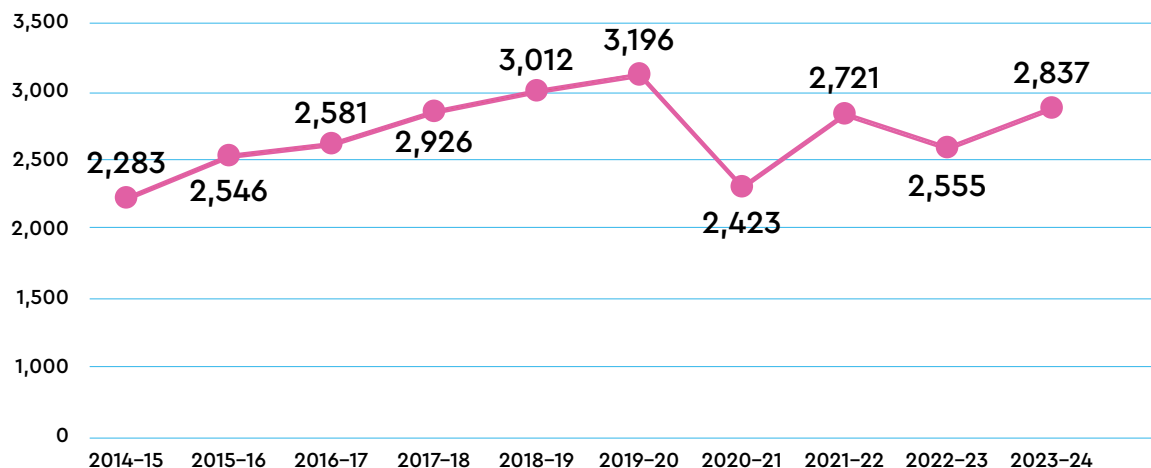
General Inquiries: general information is requested and provided

Intake Service: the SOR speaks to an Advocacy Officer

Requests for Advocacy Services

Given the addition of the Serious Injury Program in mid-2023, we were not surprised to see requests for Advocacy Services increase in the 2023–24 fiscal year. At 82%, the majority of requests are received by phone, with in-person interactions accounting for 9% of requests, email accounting for 8%, and the other 3% split between website, fax, and mail inquiries.

Advocacy Services Requests 2023–24




Systemic Advocacy



MACY's Systemic Advocacy Specialist plays a critical role in identifying and addressing systemic issues affecting young people and their families. The Specialist works collaboratively with service systems and children, youth, and young adults to address advocacy concerns.

This fiscal year, the program's focus has been on strategic response planning and fostering stakeholder engagement in critical areas such as youth addiction services, support for children and youth with learning disabilities, assistance for youth in custody, and the prevention of youth homelessness. The Systemic Advocacy Specialist works closely with all programs to ensure timely responses to emerging advocacy trends.



 This page: In support of Anti-Bullying Day, team members wore pink shirts on February 28

Youth Addiction Services Roundtable

Through extensive community engagement and survey research, including consultation to amplify the voices of youth with substance use issues, we laid the groundwork for a Youth Addiction Services Roundtable to be carried out with support from team members across MACY. The forum aims to unite diverse stakeholders to devise an intersystem strategy, ultimately reducing barriers to essential support services for youth.

Work this fiscal included interviews with 39 diverse youth from Winnipeg, Swan River, Thompson, Brandon, and Steinbach. Further, a survey was delivered to service providers and received 263 responses. Data collected from both initiatives helped inform a background document for the Addiction Services Roundtable, where individuals from across the province will be able to share their voice as part of this collaborative project, which is expected to wrap up in the 2024–25 fiscal year.

If you have any concerns regarding services offered to children and youth, please contact our office. Our dedicated team is here to help. We advocate for children, youth, young adults, and their families in the areas of child welfare, adoption, disability, education, youth mental health, youth addictions, victim supports (including sexual exploitation and domestic violence), and youth justice services.

The Children and Youth Served through Advocacy Services

We opened 629 ongoing advocacy cases in 2023–24 where the source of referral's inquiry required long-term supports, or more complex interventions.

Who Calls Us?

Professional

44%

Child/Youth

17%

Parent
(Birth/
Adoptive)

15%

Extended
Family
Member

13%

Foster Parent/
Legal Guardian

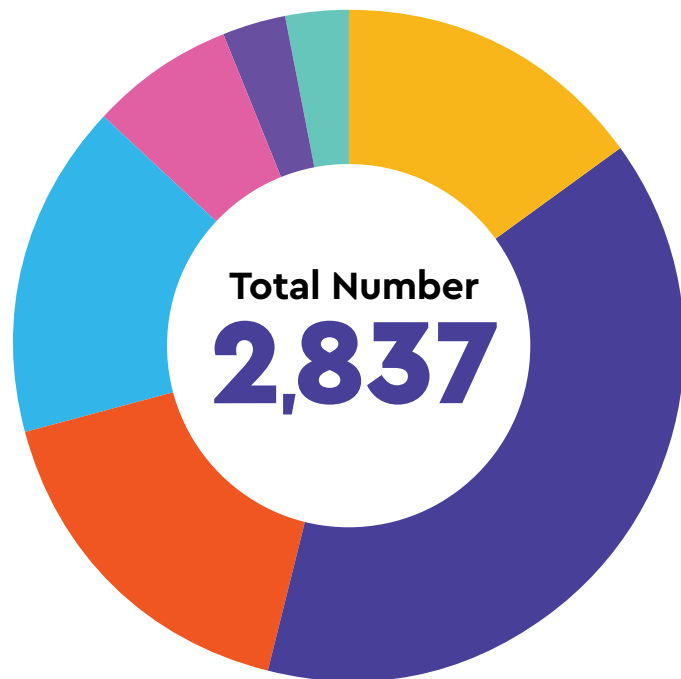
7%

Community
Member

2%

Other/
Unknown

2%



Indigenous Identity

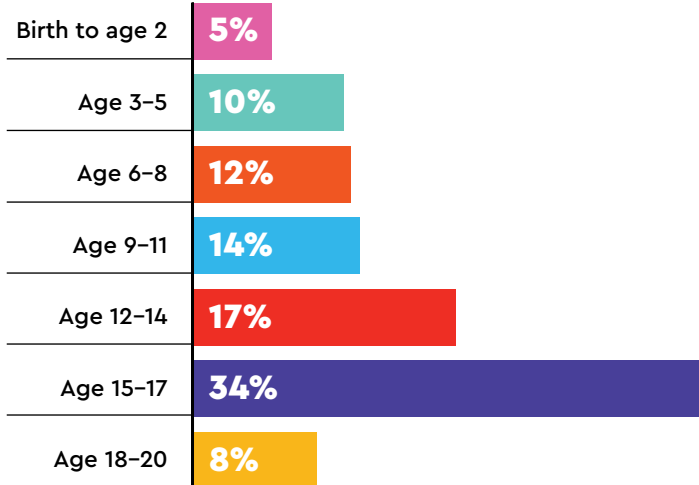
Indigenous

82%

Non-Indigenous/
Unknown

18%

Ages



Top Six Advocacy Issues Impacting Youth *

Victimization
(Abuse, Neglect,
Assault)

36%

**Mental Health
Concern/
Diagnosis**

34%

**Neurodevelopmental
Disability**

16%

**School
Absenteeism**
(Incl. Suspension
and Expulsion)

22%

**Domestic
Violence**
(Victim or
Witness)

17%

**Substance
Misuse**

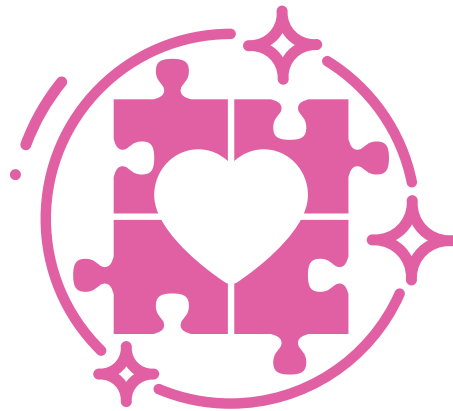
15%

**Percentages do not total 100% as children, youth, and young adults were often impacted by more than one co-occurring challenge.*

Advocacy Case Examples

As highlighted last fiscal, the complexity of advocacy cases continues to be on the rise, as children, youth, and young adults often need services from multiple systems. This underscores the intricate nature of the case work undertaken by Advocacy Officers. Co-occurring challenges young people face also reveal the critical need to ensure the services provided to children, youth, and young adults are working together to effectively address their needs.

On average this past year, advocacy cases remained open to an Advocacy Officer for approximately 164 days, equivalent to roughly five months in duration. The following stories involving children and youth (pseudonyms provided), illustrate some of the challenges young people face when interacting with provincial services as well as the work of Advocacy Services to ensure their rights are protected.



1 DISABILITY ADVOCACY AND TRANSITION PLANNING: Thomas' Story

Thomas had been a child in care, but was now 18 years old. Although he was still receiving support from Child and Family Services (CFS), he was eligible for Community Living disABILITY Services (CLdS). The CFS agency was working to transition Thomas' services to CLdS but felt that CLdS was unresponsive and unhelpful. Additionally, Thomas' placement would need to be licensed through CLdS in order for Thomas to continue to reside there. This placement later broke down, and Thomas was left without housing. Support from MACY was requested in order to help Thomas receive adequate transition planning and services.

The relationship between service providers was strained, and they had difficulty communicating positively with each other. MACY communicated with CFS, CLdS, and Thomas' therapeutic supports, and was able to bring everyone together through a series of system meetings. These meetings ensured that concerns were being addressed and the transition planning for Thomas was moving forward in a positive way.

MACY maintained involvement until Thomas' services had transferred over to CLdS, he was receiving the supports he needed, and was stable in his new placement.

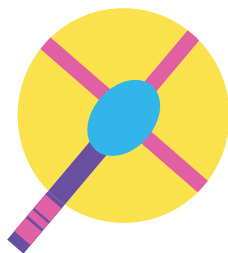
MACY's advocacy involvement highlights
UNCRC Articles 3, 20, 23, and 27.



2 HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND CHILD WELFARE ADVOCACY: Abby's Story

When Abby found out she was pregnant, she decided she wanted to access reproductive healthcare. She did not wish to tell her parent about the pregnancy; however, they found out when this information was shared without Abby's permission. As they disagreed with her choice, they were blocking Abby's ability to access health services. MACY was contacted as Abby was unable to access healthcare, and her mental health had been deteriorating as a result. Child welfare concerns had also been identified in the home.

MACY was able to connect with Abby, amplify her voice, and advocate for the services and supports she needed. Ultimately, Abby was able to obtain the reproductive care she had chosen, and she and her family were able to receive the supports they needed.



MACY's advocacy involvement highlights
UNCRC Articles 3, 16, and 24.



3 DISABILITY ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION PLANNING: Noah's Story

Noah was in grade 4 and had been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. When he has trouble regulating, he can act in ways that others find challenging to manage, and can be aggressive. He lives with his parents who receive support through Children's disABILITY Services. He also has an Individualized Education Plan which aims to identify the supports and services Noah needs to be successful at school.

Noah came to the attention of MACY as his parent was concerned that the school's interventions to manage Noah's behaviour were having the opposite effect. As a result, they believed that Noah's behaviour at school was escalating, he was spending significant amounts of time isolated from his peers, and most recently he had been suspended. The school was now only allowing Noah to attend for a short portion of the school day.

MACY's intervention included multiple meetings and discussions involving the parent, the school, the superintendent, the Department of Education, and other service providers. MACY advocated for Noah's school day to be extended, and for school staff to receive additional training so they could better meet Noah's needs. Eventually, the school was better able to meet Noah's needs, and Noah was once again able to attend full days of school.

MACY's advocacy involvement highlights
UNCRC Articles 3, 23, 28 and 29.

Child Death Reviews and Investigations

When a child, youth, or young adult under the age of 21 dies in Manitoba, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) informs the Manitoba Advocate Office of the death. If the child, youth, young adult, or their family had any contact with child welfare services, youth mental health, youth addiction services, or the youth justice system in the year prior to the death, the Manitoba Advocate may review or investigate public services that were delivered to the child, youth, young adult, or their family. The objective of these reviews and investigations is to provide recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of child-serving services in Manitoba.

Program by the Numbers

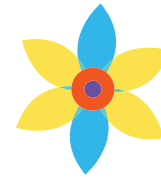
90

child death reviews completed



© MACY's Child Death Reviews and Investigations team

Program Statistics



MACY received a total of 237 official child death notifications from the OCME in 2023–24.

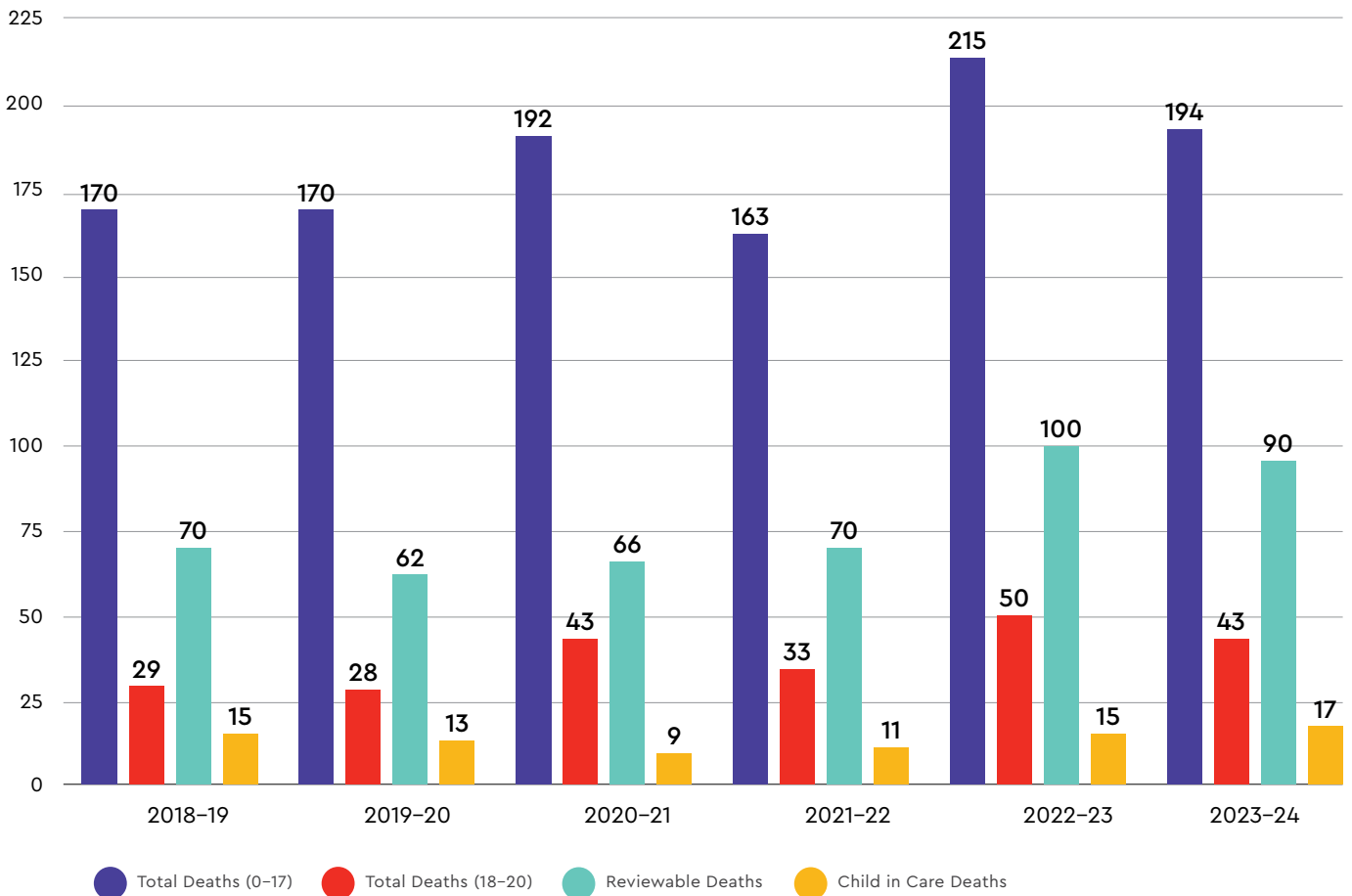
194 notifications for children/youth aged 0–17

43 notifications for young adults aged 18–20

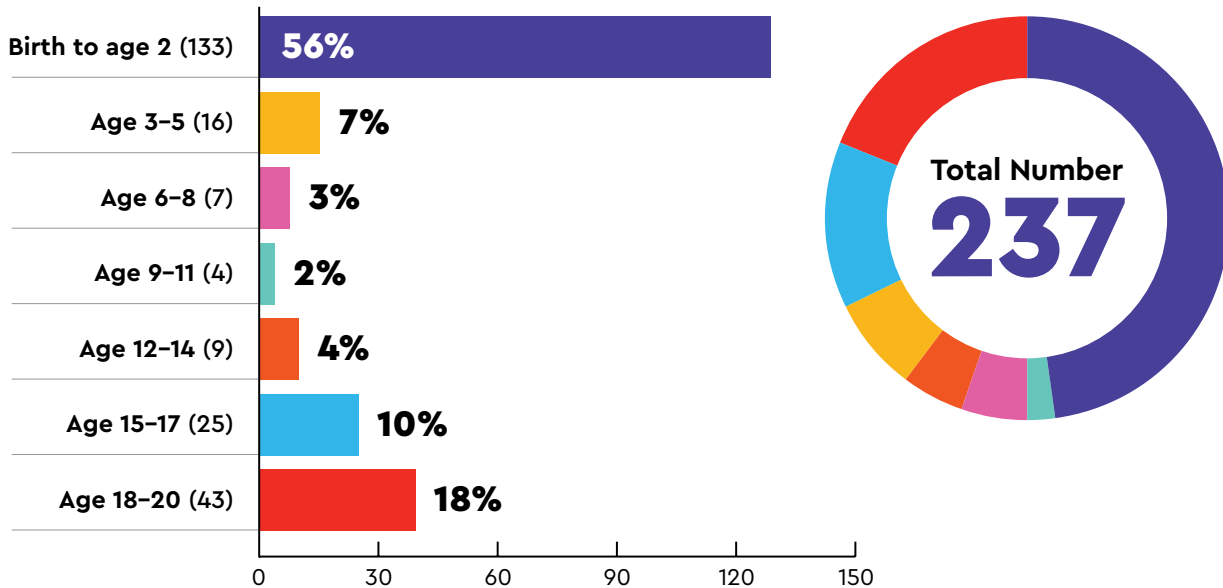
90 notifications were in scope for a review*

* The 90 children, youth, and young adults were in scope for MACY because they or a member of their family were receiving a reviewable service per *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* at the time of death or in the year prior to the death. Of the 90 deaths reviewable by the Advocate, 17 notifications were for a child in care under the age of 18, and three notifications were for young adults aged 18–20 who had entered into an agreement with a young adult through child and family services.

Annual Manitoba Child, Youth, and Young Adult Deaths by Fiscal Year



Manitoba Deaths by Age of Child, Youth, and Young Adult from 2023–24



Manner of Death

The OCME reports child deaths to the Manitoba Advocate within hours or days of a child, youth, or young adult's death. It is the responsibility of the Chief Medical Examiner to assign a manner of death. Manners of death include natural, accidental, suicide, homicide, and undetermined. These can change once final autopsies and the Medical Examiners' reports are completed. As such, some of the information in this table remains preliminary.

Preliminary Manner of Death (Assigned by the Chief Medical Examiner)	Total Manitoba Deaths	Total Percentage	Reviewable Deaths	Non-Reviewable Deaths
Natural	105	44%	28	77
Accidental	23	10%	9	14
Suicide	24	10%	11	13
Homicide	14	6%	10	4
Undetermined*	71	30%	32	39
TOTALS	237	100%	90	147

*Undetermined is the manner of death assigned when the Chief Medical Examiner cannot conclusively determine how the death occurred, even if the physical cause may be known. This category includes sleep-related infant deaths and suspected overdose deaths.

As the table above reveals, there has been an alarming increase in the number of homicide deaths of young people during the 2023–24 fiscal year. This fiscal year, we lost 14 children, youth, and young adults to homicide. This represents a 56% increase compared to the average of the previous five years.

Trends in Child Death Reviews

90 child death reviews completed

80% (72/90) of completed reviews were for an Indigenous child, youth, or young adult

Reviewable services in completed reviews *

94%
Child and Family Services (CFS)

2%
Addictions

14%
Mental Health

1%
Youth Justice

*Percentages do not total 100% as children and youth were involved in more than one reviewable service.

One of the purposes of child death reviews is to identify and analyze recurring circumstances and trends in order to issue evidence-informed recommendations to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of reviewable services. The following are larger recurring trends identified over the 2023–24 fiscal year we are currently monitoring.

Parent/caregiver needs and well-being: To a child, their caregivers are the most important people in their life. Children, especially young ones, are almost entirely reliant on their caregivers to meet their needs. When caregivers do not have access to the support they need to be well, children's safety can be compromised. Research notes a relationship between parental mental health disorders and a host of negative outcomes, including child maltreatment and adverse childhood experiences.¹ Children and their parents live in dynamic environments and effective interventions must be holistic. Over the last year, our office has seen a number of cases where parent/caregiver mental health or addictions directly impacted the safety of children, and in some instances, resulted in the child's death. MACY is uniquely placed to honour the lives of these children by sharing learnings from their stories to improve services. The Manitoba Advocate believes when caregivers do not get the supports and resources they need, parenting capacity is impacted. While the Manitoba Advocate has been vocal about the need for a youth-specific mental health and addiction strategy, the importance of a strategy that encompasses the needs of all Manitobans, and considers equitable and timely access to support for caregivers, cannot be overstated.

Need for specialized placements/facilities:

We at MACY, guided by the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, believe young people in Manitoba should thrive, not just survive. The ability of young people to thrive, however, can be compromised when they experience chronic trauma, shifting their young minds into a space of survival.

Complex trauma occurs when children or adults experience several traumatic events. Trauma resulting from damaging experiences can have a compounding effect, and an overwhelmingly negative impact on a child or youth's life. Previous reports have found young people who present with complex trauma are vulnerable to several negative outcomes including mental health and addiction challenges, being at greater risk of sexual exploitation, and youth justice system involvement. These young people are among some of the most vulnerable citizens in Manitoba and are at the highest risk to come to harm, or even death, by suicide, homicide, or accidental overdose.

Despite admirable efforts by service providers to advocate for these young people, a serious gap in specialized services continues to exist across our province's under-resourced systems. This leaves families and service providers with a tough decision: to seek a specialized residential resource outside the province, or remain in Manitoba where existing placements have proven to be ineffective in meeting the presenting needs of these young people. Urgent attention is needed to develop culturally-safe, specialized inpatient addiction treatment facilities for exceptionally vulnerable youth presenting with the highest needs. The Manitoba Advocate has previously voiced concern about the lack of specialized placements for Manitoba's young people and will continue to do so, advocating for action.

1 Lopes, A. I., Leal, J., & Sani, A. I. (2021). Parental mental health problems and the risk of child maltreatment: The potential role of psychotherapy. *Societies*, 11(3), 108.

Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations

On July 1, 2023, the *Serious Injury Reporting Regulation*, alongside section 21 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, came into force in Manitoba. This legislation mandates the reporting of serious injuries to the Manitoba Advocate Office. It encompasses children, youth, young adults, and their families who have received or are currently receiving child and family services, youth justice, youth mental health, and/or youth addictions services in Manitoba at the time, or one year prior to when the serious injury occurred.

Stemming from a recommendation in the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry, this program marks a significant milestone as the first of its kind in our province, providing a centralized tracking system to inform advocacy, reviews, and the investigations of serious injuries sustained by children, youth, and young adults receiving these publicly-funded reviewable services.



Program Highlights

The first nine months of this new program focused on building its core components, establishing procedures, and raising awareness amongst service providers. A team of five Investigators, one administrative support, and one program manager are now in place. Based on our learning from other Child Advocacy offices across Canada, we established preliminary reporting procedures for the program.

We continue to increase awareness of the reporting requirements through presentations and engagement with community and service providers. We look forward to meeting with additional stakeholders in the 2024-25 fiscal year, including visiting northern Manitoba and more rural and remote communities.



MACY has partnered with the University of Manitoba's Childhood Adversity and Resilience Research Training Platform (CARE RTP) to complete a review of the first six months of the Serious Injury program which will help inform a public special report released in 2024-25. The goals of this report are to better understand the experiences of young people who are being seriously injured in Manitoba, examine emerging trends, gather stakeholder feedback about their experiences reporting serious injuries, and understand how we can move forward to address systemic issues.

Program by
the Numbers

73

serious injury
reviews completed



© MACY's Serious Injury Reviews and Investigations team

Program Statistics

Consistent and reliable reporting from all service providers is crucial to accurately understand the factors associated with serious injuries, and how we can work together to ensure the safety and well-being of young people. Between July 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, we received 184 serious injury referrals. Of those: 111 referrals were in scope for a review and 73 referrals were out of scope for a variety of reasons (based on service provision or the legal definition of a serious injury).

Annual Serious Injury Program Reviews Completed by Fiscal Year*

2023-24

184

Total Referrals Received

111

Total Referrals in Scope

57

Total Reviews Completed for Children Aged 0-17

16

Total Reviews Completed for Young Adults Aged 18-20

*One review is proceeding to an investigation which is ongoing at the time of this report.

What is a Serious Injury?

A serious injury is defined as an injury that:

- (a) is life-threatening;
- (b) requires admission to a hospital or other health care facility and is reasonably expected to cause long-term physical/psychological impairment; or
- (c) is the result of a sexual assault that causes serious physical harm or is reasonably expected to cause long-term psychological impairment.

Serious Injury Trends and Themes

89%

of completed reviews were for an Indigenous child, youth, or young adult

A few trends have emerged over the first nine months of the Serious Injury program. More than 60% of injuries required hospital/health-care facility admission. As for types of injuries most commonly reported/endured, two themes are emerging based on known reports: 1) sexual assaults in which the offender is known to the person, and 2) penetrating wounds (i.e., gun shots and stabbings). The figures below highlight some of the early statistics for primary and secondary injury classifications.

Injuries are classified by primary injury, which refers to the part of the legislated definition the serious injury meets. From there, they are classified with a secondary injury, which gives us more information about the types of injuries. One reported injury can have more than one primary and secondary injury classification.

Primary injury classifications for completed reviews*

29%

were deemed life-threatening (21/73)

63%

required hospital/health-care facility admission (46/73)

32%

were the result of a sexual assault (24/73)

Secondary injury classifications for completed reviews*

29%

Penetrating wound (gunshot and stab wounds) (21/73)

14%

Broken bone (10/73)

12%

Sexual assault (unknown offender) (9/73)

10%

Drug overdose (7/73)

21%

Sexual assault (known offender) (15/73)

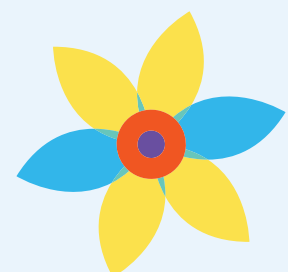
12%

Wound requiring stitches (9/73)

11%

Self-harm/suicide attempt (8/73)

*Total percentages do not equal 100% due to rounding. The secondary injury classification list represents the top seven injuries and is not a fulsome report of all types of injuries.





Who is reporting serious injuries?

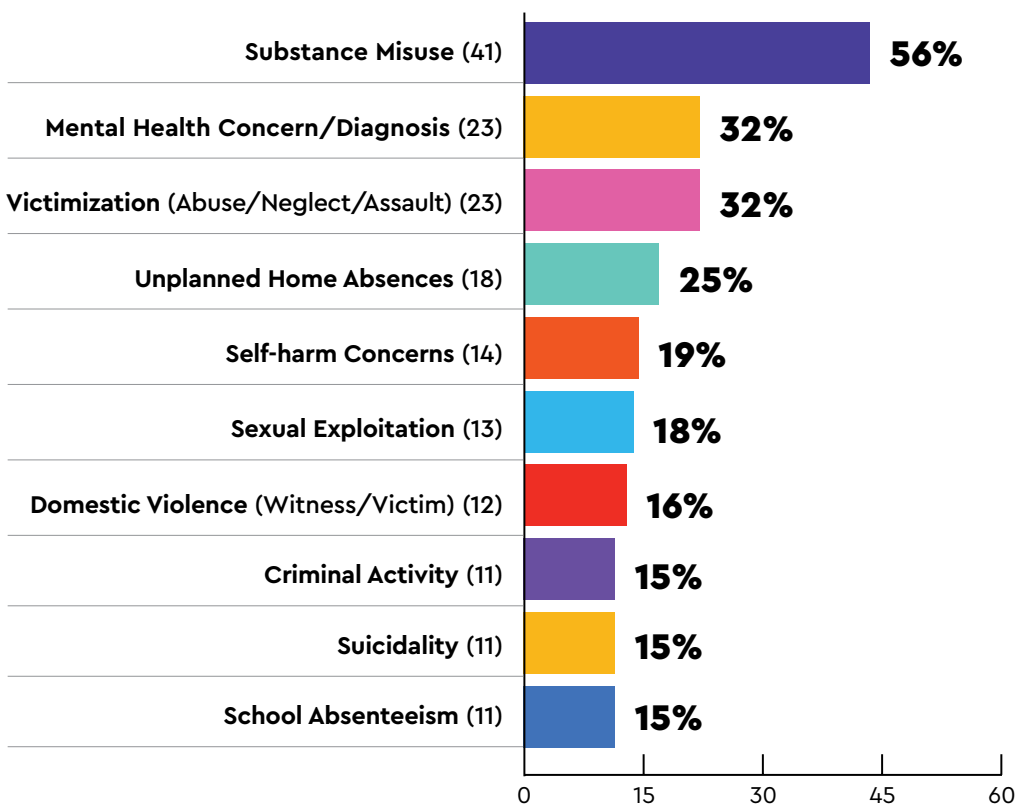
While everyone who provides a reviewable service is legally mandated to report serious injuries, to date, the majority of reports have come from agencies mandated under the Southern First Nations Network of Care, Métis Authority, and Shared Health (which includes Health Sciences Centre and the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre).

In light of initial reporting data and given this is a new program, MACY is aware of underreporting. As such, we will be doing strategic outreach to ensure serious injuries to children, youth, and young adults receiving services from CFS agencies (including intake agencies), youth justice, and community and school-based mental health and addictions programs are being reported.

Risk Factors Present in Those Being Injured

Below is a figure which captures the top 10 risk factors that the reported injured person had present in their life. These numbers highlight the ongoing need for a youth addiction and mental health strategy, and the need to improve placements to meet the complex needs of young people. These numbers also highlight the interconnectedness of risk factors and the need for a whole-of-government response, rather than a fragmented response from individual departments or service providers. Indeed, these collective risk factors need to be addressed collaboratively by all departments in order to best address the needs of young people in Manitoba.

Top 10 Risk Factors Present in Reported Injured Person's Life



Youth Engagement



Inspired by the articles in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC), the Youth Engagement program advocates for children's rights and strives to empower every young person to participate in decisions that directly affect their lives. The 2023–24 fiscal year marked the fifth year for the Youth Engagement program and the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS).

This past year, the Youth Engagement Coordinators and YAAS, supported by the Resident Elder, carried out a diverse range of public education, engagement, and outreach initiatives throughout the province.

Program by the Numbers

89 child- and youth-serving organizations connected with through presentations, meetings, and other engagements

1 mural created in Manitoba, focusing on UNCRC rights

1,394 youth reached through engagement workshops

50 outreach activities where the primary audience was youth



Highlights from 2023-24



National Child Day - A Day of Celebration

National Child Day is recognized each year on November 20. On this day, we honour young people across Manitoba and recognize them as valuable members of our communities. We do this to celebrate children as active participants in their own lives and communities, and to acknowledge how young people can and should meaningfully contribute to decisions that affect their lives.

This is an important day for MACY to celebrate young people. Given our mission is to work to improve the lives of young people by supporting, advocating, and empowering them so their rights are upheld and their voices are heard, we have a responsibility to lead this celebration with and for young people in Manitoba.

As such, the Youth Engagement team planned a day of events celebrating children in Manitoba. Through fun educational activities, our team incorporated learning about the UNCRC.

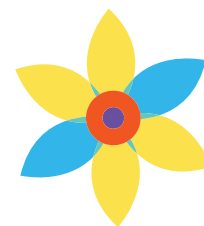


We held a community event at Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre in Winnipeg. We welcomed more than 140 youth attendees from various schools, and children from the community to participate in this celebration. We held several workshops and provided information on topics including: youth wellness, family connection, community resources, the right to express yourself, and various other UNCRC-related themes.

We also hosted young performers and organizations who support young people, such as Just TV, Graffiti Gallery, VOICES, Art City, and the City of Winnipeg.



© This page: MACY team members, YAAS members and young people during National Child Day celebrations at Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre on November 20



Re-Right Project:

UNCRC Murals

The Re-Right Project was inspired by an idea proposed by MACY's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad members to promote the rights of children and youth in the province. In a powerful statement by one of the YAAS members about the creation of the Re-Right Project, the youth expressed that they were going through a challenging time in their life. They wished they knew about their rights; that they could look out the window and see their rights written on the wall somewhere. The expression of this YAAS member denotes the true impact the Re-Right Project carries, and Youth Engagement is thankful to continue the movement in promoting children's rights in such a beautiful way.

To date, they have completed several murals within Winnipeg, and our team determined it was most important for us to continue this work in rural Manitoba. Our team worked closely with staff at the Nisichawayasihk Neyo Ohtinwak Collegiate. We identified an artist whose work is well known in Thompson and across Canada. Youth from the Nelson House Community, the artist, school employees, and MACY's Youth Engagement Coordinators worked together to bring about our first mural in rural Manitoba. The mural focused on UNCRC Article 30: **"Indigenous and minority children have the right to speak their language and enjoy their culture."**

To learn more about the Re-Right Project, visit our website: ManitobaAdvocate.ca

To learn more about the Re-Right Project, watch the video on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/watch?v=OduhPH23xgw



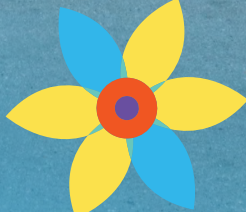
📷 The Youth Engagement team worked closely with Nisichawayasihk Neyo Ohtinwak Collegiate to create this UNCRC mural in Nelson House

Manit

EVERY CHILD MATTERS



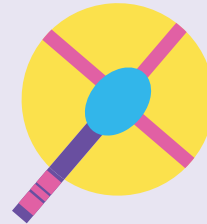
MACY team members commemorated National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) on September 30, 2023





Outgoing members of the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad were recognized with a graduation and appreciation ceremony

Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad



MACY's Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad (YAAS) is one of the key initiatives of the office's Youth Engagement program. The squad consists of a dozen members between the ages of 15 and 24 from across the province. YAAS members meet regularly and are engaged in activities at the Manitoba Advocate office, including, but not limited to, providing consultation on special reports, and leading and collaborating on internal and external projects to engage youth with their human rights, as noted in the UNCR.

YAAS MEMBERS ARE FROM THESE COMMUNITIES ACROSS MANITOBA



- Fox Lake Cree Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation
- Pine Falls
- Winnipeg
- Steinbach via Friesoythe, Germany
- Peguis First Nation
- Thompson
- Fisher River
- Winnipeg via Zipagara, Colombia
- Lake Manitoba First Nation
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation
- Pine Creek First Nation
- Dauphin
- Long Plain First Nation



Highlights from 2023–24

First YAAS Grad and Appreciation Ceremony

The YAAS program began in 2018. Over the first five years of its existence, many strong and talented young people participated in the squad. They have devoted many hours of their time to bring a voice to children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba.

To honour and respect the time and commitment YAAS members have demonstrated, the Youth Engagement team held the first annual YAAS Grad and Appreciation Ceremony. The purpose of this event was to highlight the work of YAAS, as well as to honour long-serving members who have either moved on from the group or who will be taking on mentorship roles. The "Grad Class" was given special gifts and bundles along with a feast of celebration. We look forward to carrying on with this new tradition in recognition of a remarkable group of young people.

Youth Conference

YAAS had the opportunity to attend a conference in Winnipeg, hosted by the Manitoba Red Cross. The theme for this conference was "Empowering Youth Leaders: Supporting Youth Mental Health and Wellness."

Two YAAS members were invited to be keynote speakers at this event. The youth bravely shared their own experiences and journeys with mental health, including supports they accessed. They offered their invaluable insight to the youth audience and advised of positive changes that should occur for youth mental health services in Manitoba.



© YAAS members attended the Red Cross conference "Empowering Youth Leaders: Supporting Youth Mental Health and Wellness"

Peer-to-Peer Research Project

Facilitated by Marie Christensen and based on guidance from Dr. Marlyn Bennett, the Peer-to-Peer Research Project aimed to empower young people in Manitoba who have transitioned out of the child welfare system. The project gave them a platform to share their experiences, while also focusing on gathering the viewpoints of young individuals who have recently transitioned or are currently in the process of transitioning out of care.

Through listening to the stories of their peers, members of the YAAS team gained insights that will help them develop informed recommendations to enhance the services available to youth in care. The ultimate objective of this project is to reduce the number of young people who face homelessness, exploitation, and other negative outcomes when transitioning out of care, and to inform a future MACY project on this issue.

To carry out the research in a good way, members of the YAAS team underwent training that equipped them with the necessary skills to conduct peer-to-peer research using Indigenous research methods. The Youth Engagement team provided support to YAAS in its mission to gather personal stories through conversational interviews with young people who are currently or recently transitioning from care.

The final stage of this project is underway and is expected to wrap up in the 2024–25 fiscal year.

Program by the Numbers

- 29** YAAS-attended events throughout the fiscal year:
- 8** YAAS training opportunities on leadership and advocacy
- 7** YAAS program planning and preparation meetings
- 7** YAAS events, where members participated in cultural outings, or attended community events
- 7** research consultations were provided to YAAS, including internal MACY consultations as well as collaborations with external research partners

Public Education

The Public Education program's primary responsibility is to amplify public awareness of the rights and experiences of children, youth, and young adults in Manitoba. There are a few ways in which we achieve this work: through engaging multimedia projects, and fostering connections with organizations, the media, and community members to amplify the narratives of young people. Additionally, the Public Education team organizes launches for special reports, maintains MACY's website and various social media platforms, and coordinates presentations and community outreach efforts. This fiscal year, work began on a new public outreach strategy, which will launch in 2024-25.

Program by the Numbers

143 public education presentations, of which **71** were to children and youth

1,500+ children reached through I Love to Read Month

7,936 followers across all social media platforms

6 videos produced to highlight the service areas MACY operates in



Video Partnerships

Last fiscal, the Public Education team worked with Enjoy Creative to write, edit, and produce a six-part video series covering six of the service areas in which MACY operates: youth addictions, youth mental health, disabilities, education, youth justice, and victim supports.

The videos featured the voices of MACY's Youth Engagement Coordinators, as well as members of the Youth Ambassador Advisory Squad. Each video focused on a specific service area, examining it in conjunction with relevant *United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child* articles.

Check out all six videos on our YouTube channel:
youtube.com/@ManitobaAdvocate


UNCRC

Section 12 of the ACYA grants MACY the ability to raise awareness and understanding of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC). To that end, this fiscal year the Public Education team updated and began distributing revised UNCRC materials throughout Manitoba (see an example on page 50).

Do you want to hear more from us?

Please contact us through the links below for a MACY or UNCRC-focused presentation. We also offer youth engagement workshops.

 info@manitobaadvocate.ca

 ManitobaAdvocate.ca

I Love to Read Month

In February 2023, MACY offered free reading sessions to classrooms across the province for I Love to Read Month. We featured three books about children's rights and staff provided the readings in both English and French, travelling across Winnipeg, various rural communities, as well as virtually, to connect with children and youth about their rights.


1,500+ children and youth were read to for I Love to Read Month

40 presentations were done in total, 14 of these being in rural schools

We continue to appreciate the opportunity to connect with school communities throughout Manitoba, and plan to make modifications to our process for the next fiscal year to ensure we are reaching more rural and remote communities.

Follow MACY on social media

 facebook.com/ManitobaAdvocate

 tiktok.com/@manitoba_advocate

 instagram.com/manitobaadvocate

 youtube.com/@ManitobaAdvocate

 linkedin.com/company/mbadvocate





📷 MACY'S Research team

Research

The Research team facilitates, collaborates on, and conducts high-quality research projects – including reports, briefings, submissions, and statements of concern – in order to inform policy decisions and improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of designated services provided to children and youth in Manitoba. Research projects are used to inform work on systemic issues, including investigations and special reports. Research and any resulting special reports released by the Manitoba Advocate may include recommendations for government departments, provincial ministers responsible for the provision of a designated service, and/or any public body or other person providing a designated service that the Advocate considers appropriate.

Program by the Numbers

- 1** special report honouring Eishia Hudson
- 2** projects integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and knowledge systems
- 15** consultations with public bodies, Elders, committees, Indigenous organizations, and experts
- 19** interviews with youth in Winnipeg about addictions services



Read the Butterfly Project special report on our website: ManitobaAdvocate.ca



Program Highlights

Over the course of the 2023–24 fiscal year, the Research team:

- engaged in critical reflection to work toward decolonizing its research processes and methods;
- worked with the Quality Assurance team on monitoring recommendations, writing the 2023 compliance report, and revising the new compliance model;
- supported the Advocate's statement of concern on youth suicide;
- participated in the internal committee struck to review *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*;
- worked with the Childhood Adversity and Resilience Research Training Platform (CARE RTP) team's review of serious injuries;
- conducted literature reviews of best practices for the purpose of office-wide collaboration with external bodies; and
- provided ongoing quality assurance, policy analysis, and research support for MACY programs.

Special Report

MEMENGWAA WIIDOODAAGEWIN (Butterfly Project): Honouring Eishia Hudson (June 2023)



This special report tells the story of Eishia Hudson, an incredible, young Indigenous girl who was tragically shot and killed by a member of the Winnipeg Police Service on April 8, 2020. The report identifies service gaps and systemic barriers that Eishia and her family experienced before her death, and explores protective factors and the benefits of strength-based wraparound supports for children and youth. It also outlines experiences of, and opportunities to address, violence and systemic racism in youth-police interactions. Based on extensive engagement with Eishia's family, racialized youth, community organizations, system experts, Elders, service providers, and Indigenous Governing Bodies, this report issued four recommendations aimed to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of public services for children and youth in the province. This special report would not have been possible without the close collaboration between the Research, Child Death Reviews and Investigations, and Quality Assurance programs.



Research Collaborations

The Manitoba Advocate collaborates with experts and researchers who are dedicated to addressing children's rights issues in Manitoba, including:

1. Centre for Healthcare Innovation, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba
2. Centre for Human Rights Research, University of Manitoba
3. Childhood Adversity and Resilience Research Training Platform (CARE RTP)
4. Dr. Kendra Nixon and the Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse Network (RESOLVE)
5. Dr. Roberta Woodgate, University of Manitoba, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair Award in Child and Family Engagement in Health Research and Healthcare
6. First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba
7. Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (includes SPECTRUM – Social Policy Evaluation Collaborative Team at Universities in Manitoba)
8. Master of Human Rights Program, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
9. Supporting the Health of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law Proceedings, Winnipeg and Area Community of Practice
10. The Safe Sleep Committee
11. Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg



MACY'S Quality Assurance team



Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance (QA) program focuses on the development and maintenance of internal quality assurance processes and protocols, including the development of tools and resources used to support and strengthen programs. It works to ensure effective and efficient service delivery of public systems serving children and youth in Manitoba, including the services provided by the Manitoba Advocate office. The program also conducts and provides policy analysis on provincial, territorial, and federal issues that have implications for Manitoba children and youth. Finally, the QA program monitors the government's progress in implementing recommendations made by the Manitoba Advocate in investigations or special reports.

Program by the Numbers

27 internal information requests for program support and continuous improvement

3 office-wide projects where QA support, analysis, or leadership was provided

1 special report analyzing government implementation of MACY's recommendations

57 recommendations from special reports and investigations reviewed and analyzed

Program Highlights

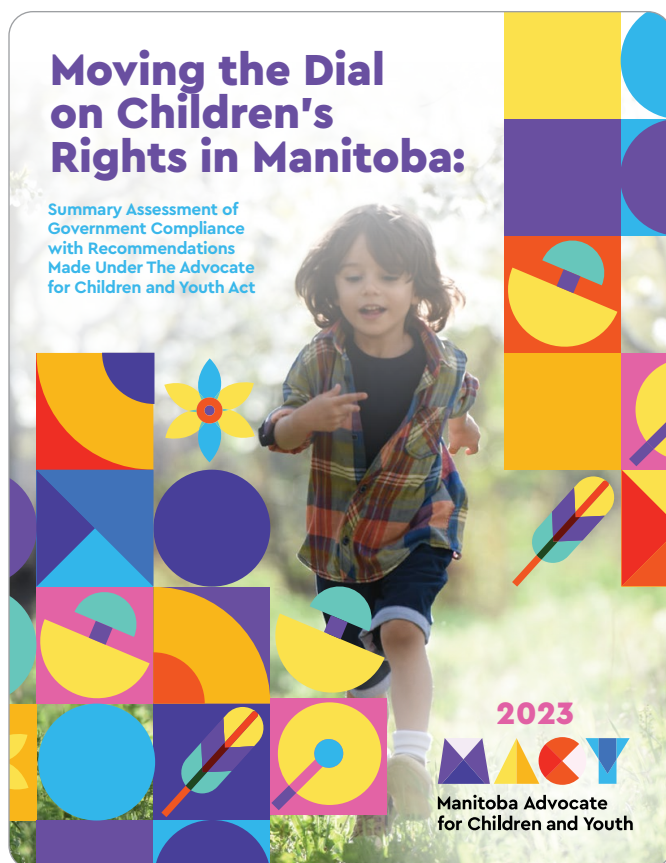
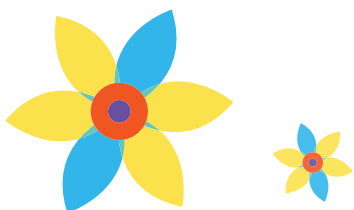
Some highlights from the QA team over the 2023–24 year include:

- supported the MACY executive team by providing multiple briefing notes on issues impacting children, youth, and young adults;
- continued the review and enhancement of internal policy and procedures;
- provided information management support to the development of the Serious Injury program;
- collaborated on office-wide projects such as the CARE RTP partnership and Addictions Roundtable;
- led the legislative review of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA);
- continued analysis of the recommendation monitoring process, aiming to improve internal processes, build relationships, enhance collaboration, ensure transparency, and achieve overall success in monitoring; and,
- played a key role in the creation of the special report honouring Eishia Hudson and led the recommendation development process.

Recommendation Monitoring

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth has been issuing recommendations and monitoring progress toward their implementation under the ACYA since it came into force in 2018. This is a collaborative and rigorous process that serves the important function of supporting the Manitoba government's responsibility to honour, respect, protect, and fulfill children's rights.

View the Recommendation Tracker on our website:
ManitobaAdvocate.ca



📷 Cover page of the 2023 Compliance Report, *Moving the Dial on Children's Rights in Manitoba*

2023 Compliance Report

Moving the Dial on Children's Rights in Manitoba: Summary Assessment of Government Compliance with Recommendations Made Under The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (February 2024)

This report summarizes the assessment of progress made by public bodies to implement 57 recommendations from 11 special reports during the 2023–24 fiscal year. It also reviews overall progress since the publication of MACY's first compliance report in 2020, as well as the degree to which this process has been able to advance children's rights in the province. The report finds that there is a discrepancy in the overall progress reported on paper and the lived realities and experiences of young people and their families. To help ensure this process is more effective in moving the dial to advance children's rights, MACY sets out its vision for moving forward in a good way and commits to reviewing the objectives and methods underpinning the current monitoring process.

Read the report on our website:
ManitobaAdvocate.ca

Compliance Highlights: 2023

32%

of publicly-issued recommendations are now fully implemented

75%

of recommendations now have positive or mid-level assessments, an increase of 15% from last year

98.5%

of recommendations now have demonstrated actions toward their implementation



48%

of all recommendations undergoing their second, third, or fourth assessment this year recorded no progress

Overall compliance by special report, systemic issue, and government department continued to see improvements this fiscal year

There is a concerning lack of progress in relation to improving mental health, addictions, and disability services for children and youth

Many of the systemic issues the recommendations strive to address have seen no improvements on the ground, including the enduring youth suicide and addictions crises, as well as substantial barriers to accessing disability services



MACY's New Compliance Model

While MACY's previous recommendation monitoring model had been groundbreaking in many ways, and has brought about some commendable achievements, what has become increasingly clear is that this process has, up until now, been less effective in moving the dial on children's rights in Manitoba than was anticipated. For this reason, last fiscal QA led the development of a new process for monitoring progress on the implementation of recommendations issued by MACY.

This new monitoring framework – to be introduced in the 2024–25 fiscal year – aims to capture incremental change and progress made in the right direction, setting the tone for positive relational dynamics that reflect collaboration and encourage active participation. To help MACY move away from a deficit-based approach (which tends to convey judgment) toward a more collaborative approach that sees monitoring as an opportunity for strength-based learning and growth, this new framework also integrates Indigenous methodologies. Ultimately, our goal is to foster a culture of listening and learning to make space for a deeper understanding of the barriers and challenges faced, and to encourage collaboration as we work to progressively improve the lives of children and youth across Manitoba.



📷 Elder Louise Lavallee with MACY executive and program managers following the presentation of the 2022–23 Annual Report to the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs

Service Plan and Strategic Priorities

In accordance with sections 29 and 30 of the ACYA, the Advocate is required to develop a service plan containing defined objectives and performance measures in the office's annual report.

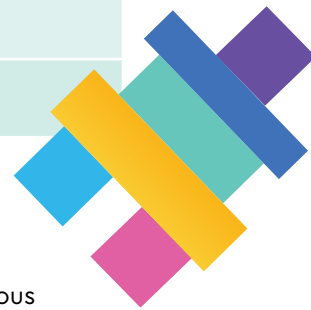
The following section outlines MACY's key strategic objectives, and the indicators used to monitor progress toward their implementation.



Pillar 1: Strengthening Relationships, Awareness, and Accountability

A key priority for the Manitoba Advocate is to strengthen relationships, awareness of our mandate through strategic outreach, and accountability of child- and youth-serving systems through special reports, statements of concern, and evidence-based recommendations.

OBJECTIVE	2023/24 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Public education outreach strategy	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y
Youth engagement strategy	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y
Release special reports	1	1
Issue statements of concern	2	2
Monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations	1	1
Annual report	(Y/N)	Y



Pillar 2: Service Excellence

We are committed to service excellence and responsiveness through goal setting, continuous improvement, and timely, consistent, and effective interventions that are guided by best practices.

OBJECTIVE	2023/24 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Update internal standards for consistency in service delivery:	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of new advocacy service intakes that receive a response within one business day 	90%	92%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of child death reviews completed within 12 months of the child death 	90%	90%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of serious injury reviews completed within 12 months of the serious injury 	80%	92%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of children and youth who report knowing more about children's rights following a presentation 	80%	85%
Update recommendation compliance model	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y

Pillar 3: Trauma-Informed and Culturally-Inclusive Work

There are ongoing opportunities to ensure our work is trauma-informed, anti-oppressive, and culturally-inclusive. In doing so, we seek to provide safe services and spaces for all children and youth.

OBJECTIVE	2023/24 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Review, adapt, and update policies and procedures and position descriptions for all programs	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y
Increase collaboration and consultation with child- and youth-serving systems and stakeholders	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y
Adapt services and spaces to ensure they are trauma-informed, culturally-inclusive, aware, sensitive, and safe for clients and staff	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y

Pillar 4: Reconciliation and Restorative Practices

We acknowledge our role in truth, reconciliation, and restorative practices to decolonize our services. In doing so, we commit to honouring Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and working.



OBJECTIVE	2023/24 TARGET	ACTUAL OUTPUT
Update reconciliation framework, and work in collaboration with young people, their families, communities, service providers, and Indigenous Governing Bodies	Phase 1 (Y/N)	Y
Integrate Knowledge Keeper/Elder services across all programs and service areas	Y/N	Y
Hold regular Elders Council meetings	4	3 meetings and 1 luncheon
Hold staff trainings in cultural competency and awareness, learning events, and land-based activities	8	20
Include preference for hiring Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) in all new employment postings	100%	100%

“

Sweetgrass is a sacred medicine that represents kindness. Each braid is comprised of seven single strands of grass. Each strand represents a human being, while the braid's three sections embody the trinity of body, mind, and spirit. Much like a strand of hair, every sweetgrass strand possesses beauty, a delightful aroma, and individuality. However, like hair, each strand is more fragile on its own. Yet, when woven together, those same strands gain strength and unity.”

— TEACHING SHARED BY
ELDER LOUISE LAVALLEE



2023-24 Financial Report

\$1,327,000 Operating
\$5,183,000 Salaries and Benefits
\$6,510,000 Total

All numbers include the Thompson office.

Our Team

As of September 1, 2024



📷 Staff at the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, taken in Sept 2024



EXECUTIVE TEAM

Sherry Gott BSW MSW RSW
Manitoba Advocate for
Children and Youth

Dr. Karlee Sapoznik Evans
BAH MA PhD
Deputy Manitoba
Advocate for Children
and Youth, responsible for
Investigations, Research,
Quality Assurance, and
Public Education

Kelly Gossfeld BSW RSW
Indigenous Deputy Manitoba
Advocate for Children
and Youth, responsible for
Advocacy Services, Youth
Engagement, and Finance
and Administration

Kristen Douglas
Executive Coordinator
(outgoing)

Justice Stove
Executive Coordinator

MANAGEMENT

Cyndi Menke
Manager, Finance and
Administration

Jamie Robinson
Manager, Serious Injury
Reviews and Investigations

Joanne Lysak
Manager, Advocacy
Services

Kirstin Magnusson
Manager, Advocacy
Services and Youth
Engagement

Lindsay Ridgley
Manager, Public Education

Dr. Matthew Maher
Manager, Research and
Quality Assurance

Tanis Hudson
Manager, Child Death
Reviews and Investigations

ELDER IN RESIDENCE

Louise Lavallee

ADMINISTRATION

Ila Miles
Administrative Assistant

Joan Machendagoos
Administrative Assistant

Angela Kolaski
Senior Clerk

Reji Thomas
Senior Clerk

Lisa Robinson
Senior Clerk

ADVOCACY SERVICES

Alexandra Guemili
Systemic Advocacy
Specialist

**Brittney
Mikolayanko**
Advocacy Officer

Chelsea Small
Advocacy Officer

Debra De Silva
Advocacy Officer

Gerald Krosney
Advocacy Officer

Helen Chornoby
Advocacy Officer

Kim Wuirch
Advocacy Officer

Krista Rey Advocacy
Officer

Laurel Nychporuk
Advocacy Officer

Mae Choo-Mah
Advocacy Officer

Margherita Gagliardi
Advocacy Officer

Marya Bryn-Bear
Advocacy Officer

Mia Faircloth
Advocacy Officer

Sonia Babyak
Advocacy Officer

Stacy Moore
Advocacy Officer

CHILD DEATH REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS

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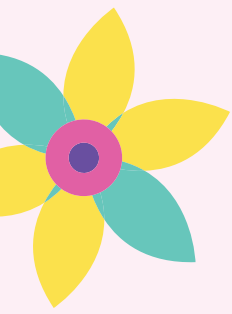
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YOU HAVE RIGHTS!



The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* is a list of all the things that you need to reach your full potential and to live your best life. All children around the world have the special rights listed in the Convention, and almost all governments have made a promise to do everything they can to respect, protect, and fulfill them to make sure that children can enjoy them.



Article 1

You have the special rights listed here until you are 18.

Article 2

You have these rights, no matter who you are, what you look like, where you live, what you think or say, what abilities you have, or any other reason.

Article 3

Whenever adults make decisions or do things that affect you, they must always think about what is best for you.

Article 7

You have the right to a name and to belong to a country. You also have the right to know and to be cared for by your parents.

Article 4

The government must do everything it can to make sure you can enjoy all your rights.

Article 5

Your family has rights and responsibilities to guide your development and help you know about your rights.

Article 6

You have the right to be alive. The government must make sure that you can survive and develop in the best possible way.

Article 8

You have the right to your own identity and it should never be taken away from you.

Article 9

You have the right to see and live with your parents, unless it is unsafe for you.

Article 10

If you live in a different country than your parents, you have the right to see them or get back together with them.

Article 11

You have the right not to be taken out of the country illegally.

Article 12

You have the right to share your opinions freely. Adults should listen and take you seriously.

Article 13

You have the right to learn about stuff and share your thoughts and feelings in any way, unless it harms other people.

Article 14

You have the right to choose your own thoughts, beliefs, and religion – with your parents' guidance – as long as other people aren't harmed.

Article 15

You have the right to choose your own friends and to join or set up groups, as long as this doesn't harm other people.

Article 16

You have the right to privacy. Any interference with this right must be reasonable and lawful.

Article 17

You have the right to get information from many different places and in a way that you can understand. You also have the right to be protected from information that could harm you.

Article 18

You have the right to be raised by both parents, if possible, and the government must help them by providing support and services.

Article 19

You have the right to be protected from harm and poor treatment.

Article 20

If you can't live with your family, you have the right to be well looked after by people who respect your culture, language, and other aspects of your life.

Article 21

If you're adopted or in foster care, you have the right to protection and the best care possible.

Article 22

If you're forced to leave your country because you're not safe there, you have the right to help and special protection (refugee status), as well as the same rights as children born in Canada.

Article 23

If you live with a disability, you have the right to special care, education, and treatment so that you can enjoy the best possible life.

Article 24

You have the right to the best possible physical and mental health. The government must do everything it can to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment, and information to help you stay safe and healthy.

Article 25

If you live away from home, you have the right to regular check-ins to make sure you are being well cared for and are still in the best place.

Article 26

If your family doesn't have everything they need, you have the right to get extra money and help from the government.

Article 27

You have the right to have your basic needs met, which means having access to essential things like nutritious food, clothing, and a safe place to live.

Article 28

You have the right to access a good education.

Article 29

You have the right to an education that helps you reach your full potential. It should develop your personality and respect for others, the environment, and your own and other cultures.

Article 30

You have the right to speak your own language and to follow your family's way of life. If you belong to an Indigenous or other minority group, this right has special protection.

Article 34

You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 31

You have the right to rest, play, and enjoy your life by doing things like sports, music, art, and other fun activities.

Article 32

You have the right to be protected from work that could harm you, your health, or your education. If you are old enough to work, you have the right to safety and fair pay.

Article 33

You have the right to be protected from drug-related harms.

Article 35

You have the right to be protected from being taken or sold (human trafficking).

Article 36

You have the right to be protected from things that could harm your well-being and development.

Article 37

You have the right to be protected from treatment and punishment that is cruel or hurtful, even if you're in the justice system.

Article 38

You have the right to protection and freedom from war. If you're under 15, you can't be forced to join an army or take part in war.

Article 39

You have the right to special help if you've been harmed in any way.

Article 40

You have the right to fair treatment and legal help in the justice system.

Article 41

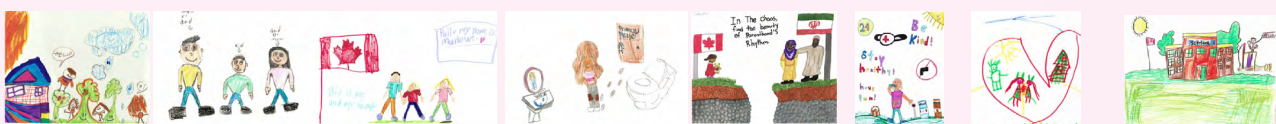
The rights set here are a minimum. If there are laws that offer you better protection where you live, those come first.

Article 42

You have the right to know your rights. Adults should know and help you learn about them too.

Articles 43–54

These articles explain how adults, governments, and other organizations should work to make sure all children enjoy their rights.



All drawings above were created by MACY team members' children!

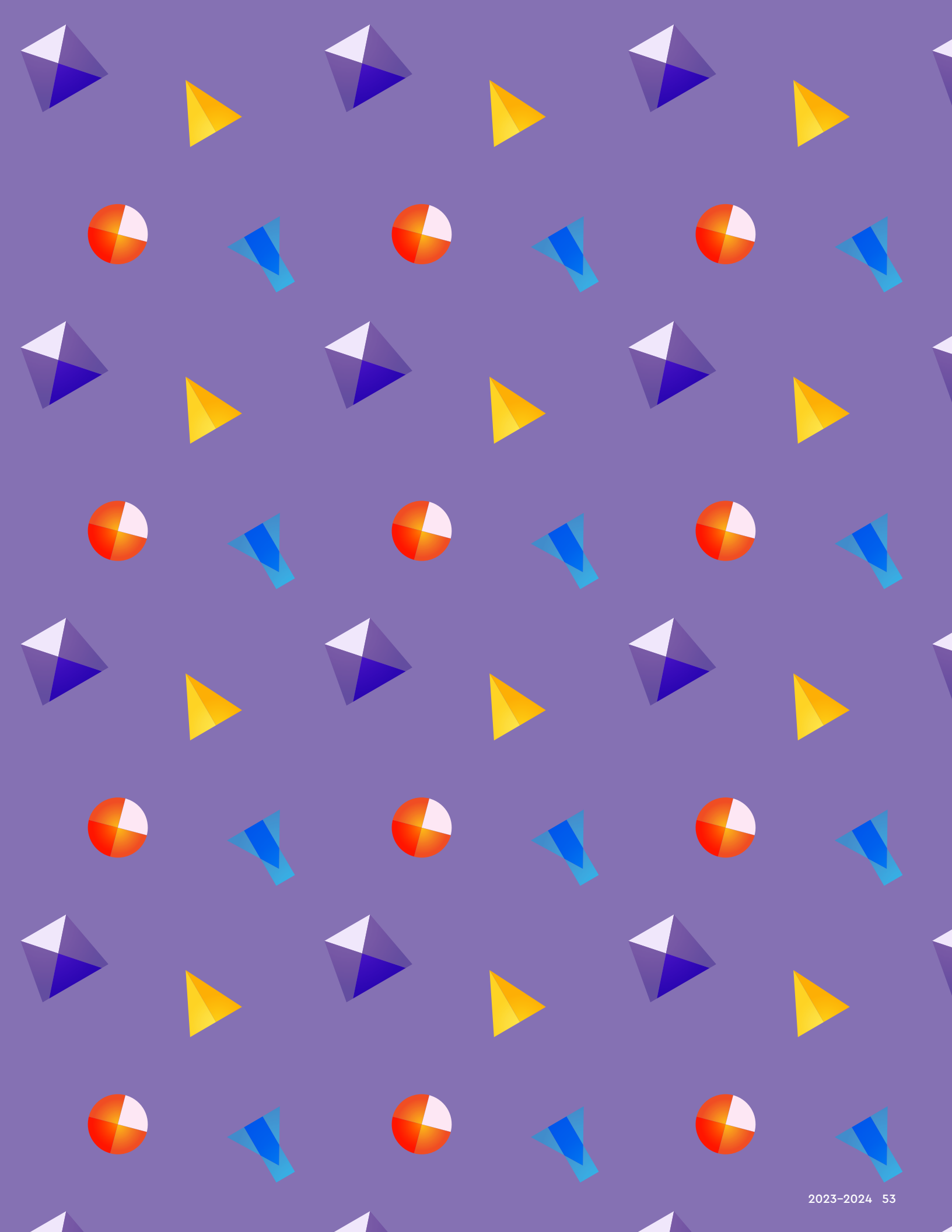




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Every child in Manitoba deserves to feel safe, valued, and supported. By protecting their rights and enhancing their lives, we are investing in a brighter future for our entire community. Let's ensure every child has the chance to thrive.”

— SHERRY GOTT, MANITOBA ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH





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