

Working with Kiipewii'chego Prenatal and Postnatal means you will have access to:

- Support
- Information
- Advocacy
- Workshops
- Opportunities



About the First Nations Family Advocate Office

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) opened the First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) on June 1, 2015, with the office gifted the name “Abinoojiyak Bigiiwewag,” which translates to “our children are coming home.”

From information gathered during community engagement sessions in May 2014, the AMC published the Bringing Our Children Home (BOCH) Report, which offered ten recommendations that would address many of the issues and concerns identified with the provincial Child and Family Service (CFS) system. The BOCH Report recommended creating the FNFAO as a mechanism to implement further report recommendations.

The FNFAO is unique because our mandate is from the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly, and our advocacy work supports the whole family. We work outside of the current Manitoba child welfare system, understanding that our work cannot empower a provincial system that has clearly failed First Nation children, families and communities. We work to empower First Nation families and Nations under the broader mandate of the AMC to realize full jurisdiction and authority over our own children.



200-286 Smith Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4

Front Desk: 204.957.8450

Toll Free: 1.855.996.9989

Fax: 204.956.2303

Email: fnfao@manitobachiefs.com

FirstNationsFamilyAdvocate.com

[Facebook.com/FirstNationsFamilyAdvocate](https://www.facebook.com/FirstNationsFamilyAdvocate)



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

Kiipewii'chego Prenatal and Postnatal Support



Support network for new and expectant First Nations mothers and families involved with the Child and Family Services system



Abinoojiyak Bigiiwewag
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
“Bringing Our Children Home”

An Initiative of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

What is Kiipewii'chego?

Kiipewii'chego translates to “we come to help”. Kiipewii'chego is about building trusting and supportive relationships with families, and teaching skills and values to support parents in their caregiver journey until the infant is two years of age.

Our Kiipewii'chego Prenatal and Postnatal workers are trained Doulas and advocates that work with expectant parents. They provide supports to strengthen the family unit while building relationships with various community organizations to create a support network for First Nations mothers and families who are currently or previously involved with the CFS system.

What services are offered through Kiipewii'chego Prenatal and Postnatal?

- Traditional Parenting workshop
- Sacred Babies workshop
- Best care practices for prenatal and postnatal families
- Supports to help families to identify a holistic approach to wellbeing
- Empower families by connecting them to Elders and Knowledge Keepers to strengthen cultural identity
- Individualized family assistance, hospital and labour visits, making nutritious meals
- Advocacy.

How do I Learn More?

Please call us at 204-957-8450 or 1-855-996-9989. If you prefer, you can email fnfao@manitobachiefs.com

Traditional Parenting

Topics include:

Caring for your medicine wheel, constructing your contemporary birth lodge, nurturing your family bundle, breastfeeding, medicine teachings, naming ceremony, belly button and placenta teachings, moss bag teachings, cradleboard teachings and rattles teachings.

- Held weekly – contact the First Nations Family Advocate Office for registration dates and times
- Certificates provided for each completed week
- Child minding, a snack and bus tickets provided
- If interested, please register prior to attending.



Advocacy

Our Kiipewii'chego Prenatal and Postnatal team provides advocacy for mothers and families experiencing challenges with the CFS and/or healthcare system. At times, they are the first responders when a family is experiencing a newborn apprehension at the hospital. They will work with families to address concerns and identify next steps.

Establishing individualized family care plans, self-advocacy information, FNFAO workshops, housing applications, and referrals to community resources to support maternal health and other areas as needed.

Additional Supports

- Establishing birth plans
- Nutritional health for mother and baby
- Self-care strategies and teachings
- Breastfeeding and formula feeding
- Bottle sterilization
- Bathing and burping techniques
- Postpartum health
- Safe sleep practices
- Bonding with baby
- Connecting parents to community supports and resources
- Connect families with Elders

