

**BRINGING OUR
CHILDREN
HOME**



Assistant Advocates, Family Reunification Team, Restorative Justice

Bringing Our Children Home National
Conference
Treaty 1 Territory
Winnipeg, Manitoba
November 25-27, 2019



Asinwano Biowewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



**ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS**



**BRINGING OUR
CHILDREN
HOME**



Assistant Advocates

Cheryle Dreaver



Asinwano Biowewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS





Assistant Advocates

- The Assistant Advocates empower families to take a lead role in identifying the steps to have their children returned to them. The Advocates help families explore options for action and continue to work with families to:
 - Do research, investigation and evaluation of the situation
 - Provide important information about the rights and services available
 - Recommend a plan of action to be taken
 - Provide counseling, consulting, and support to implement the plan/action
 - Provide ongoing follow up and a report on progress



Asinwano Biawewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS



BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME



Orientation

- Monday's 1-3pm
- Orientation Package
- Consent form
- Assigned an Advocate

Intake Process

- Intake Form
- Collecting Data
- Honest and Accurate Disclosure Form

Referrals

- Umbrella Approach





Assistant Advocate Challenges

- Residential schools and sixties scoop being perpetuated
- Poverty
- People wanting to talk to someone to have their story recognized and validated
- Crisis Intervention
- Each client has special requests and needs, every story is unique



Asinwano Biawewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS





Assistant Family Advocate Successes

*2015-2019 Statistics (FNFAO 4-year program report) Assistant Advocate intakes:
1319*

- Reunification 264 families
- Avoided 191 apprehension
- Avoided 46 birth alerts
- Supported 165 kinship placements
- Supported 89 visitations
- Supported 11 guardianships
- Supported 13 families with custody files



Asinwano Biawewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS



**BRINGING OUR
CHILDREN
HOME**



Family Reunification Team

Kendra Inglis, Team Lead



Asinwano Biowewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



**ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS**





Family Reunification

- In April 2017, the AMC was mandated to do a file to file audit of the Child and Family Services Agencies
- FNFAO partnered with South East Child and Family Services (SECFS) to examine case files where there is no real concern for protection
- Reunification workers work at the SECFS agency Tuesday to Thursday and at the FNFAO Mondays and Fridays
- They connect with social workers at SECFS to discuss case plans for children/families to ensure that all parties are working toward reunification





Family Engagement Worker

- Works hand in hand with the Reunification Worker
- Works directly with families to:
 - To accomplish their goals outlined in their initial case plan
 - connect with resources (housing, transportation, EIA applications, support services, donations)
- Once a family is reunify, the family engagement workers will continue to support the family to help with the transition





The Intake Process

1. Client Referrals: Families, Social Workers at SECFS, Assistant Advocates at FNFAO (clients fall under SECFS), Public Health Nurses, First Nation or Outside resources
2. Meets with families/grandparents to fill out:
 - Intake form (determining if families are seeking reunification)
 - Consent form
 - Collects additional documentation
3. Meets with CFS workers pertaining to the family, gathering all information
4. Engagement workers meets with family to create a case plan that would speed up the process of reaching the family's goals for reunification





Family Reunification Team Challenges

- Waiting times for programs
- Lack of beds for treatment programs
- Lengthy process to get adequate housing
- Agencies setting up barriers, not cooperative (confidentiality)
- Social workers case planning include unreasonable expectations
- Needing assistance and lack of Reunification and Engagement workers (limited budget)



Asinwama Biawewana
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS





Family Reunification Team Successes

2018-2019 Statistics (FNFAO 4-year progress report)

Reunification Team intakes: 231

- Reunified 94 families
- Avoided 14 birth alerts
- Avoided 77 apprehensions
- Secured 117 families with visitations
- Supported 21 families with guardianship rights
- Supported 43 kinship placements
- Supported 8 families with custody files



Asinwama Biawewana
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS



BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME



Video



Asinwama Biowewina
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS



**BRINGING OUR
CHILDREN
HOME**



Restorative Justice Worker

Travis Bighetty



Asinwano Biowewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



**ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS**





Restorative Justice

- Offering supports to families that are involved in the Justice System and to help with the navigation within the CFS and Justice System
- Restorative Justice Approach
 - Based on an understanding that crime is a violation of people and relationships
 - Encouraging meaningful engagement and accountability
 - Providing opportunities for healing, reparation and reintegration



Asinwano Biawewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS



BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME



FNFAO Men's Forum 2019- Winnipeg, Manitoba



**BRINGING OUR
CHILDREN
HOME**



Questions & Answers



Asinwano Biowewano
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



**ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS**





FOR MORE INFORMATION:

First Nations Family Advocate Office / *Abinoojiyag Bigiiwewag*

2nd Floor – 286 Smith Street,

Winnipeg, MB R3C 1K4

Phone (204) 957-8450

Toll Free 1-855-996-9989

Fax (204) 956-2303

Email: pcameron@manitobachiefs.com



Abinoojiyag Bigiiwewag
First Nations
Family Advocate Office
"Bringing Our Children Home"



ASSEMBLY OF
MANITOBA CHIEFS

