



ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2024-2025

ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY



Table of Contents

<i>On Behalf of the Board of Directors.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>About the Organization</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Vision</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Mission.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>OUR TEAM</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Atikameg Child & Family Services Society.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Leadership Team (2024-2025)</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Organizational Chart (2024-2025)</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Community Collaborations.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Whitefish Lake First Nation Community Events.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Whitefish Lake First Nation Community</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Education & Training Sessions.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Whitefish Lake First Nation Youth Resiliency Program</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Whitefish Lake First Nation Health Program.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Whitefish Lake First Nation Education, Social,</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>and ISETS Departments.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Atikameg Healing Shelter for Women & Children</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Programs</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Intervention Program Mission.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Intervention Program Goals.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>First Nation Practice Standards</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Intervention Program Delivery (On-Nation).....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Transitions to Adulthood</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Kinship Program (2024-2025):.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>About Kinship Care</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Goals of the Kinship Care Program</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Role of Kinship Care Providers.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Kinship Care Givers</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Kinship Care Program Delivery 2024-2025</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Supports for Permanency.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Prevention Program (2024-2025):</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Prevention Program Mission.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Prevention Program Goals</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Family Preservation Program:.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>About Family Preservation Program.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Family Preservation Program Mission Statement</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Family Preservation Program Delivery Model.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Family Preservation Workshops & Training Offered.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Family Preservation Program Service Delivery.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Family Preservation Program Impact</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>and Community Involvement</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Prevention Program & Family Preservation.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Program Activities 2024-2025</i>	<i>16</i>

On Behalf of the Board of Directors

The Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Board of Directors are proud to share Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Annual General Report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This report highlights some of the accomplishments and achievements that occurred for the organization while providing exceptional programming for Whitefish Lake First Nation members.

The Atikameg Child & Family Services Society would like to express thanks to all the Whitefish Lake First Nation members that have participated in programming as well as learning activities offered in partnership by Atikameg Child & Family Services Society. Without community participation, our programming would not be as successful and community impacts would not be as rewarding.

We are proud of the many achievements of Atikameg Child & Family Services Society and look forward to continuing to work together towards improving the health and wellbeing of all Whitefish Lake First Nation members.

Eddie Tallman

Board Chair
Chief of Whitefish Lake First Nation

Darren Auger

Board Member
Council of Whitefish Lake First Nation

Clifford Laboucan

Board Member
Council of Whitefish Lake First Nation

Cody Laboucan

Board Member
Council of Whitefish Lake First Nation

Dale Tallman

Board Member
Council of Whitefish Lake First Nation

About the Organization

Atikameg Child and Family Services Society was incorporated on July 27, 2020, by Whitefish Lake First Nation #459 Chief & Council through a motion and signed agreement, which supports the operation, management, and delivery of Child and Family Intervention and Prevention Services.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year Atikameg Child & Family Services Society delivered and supported the following programs:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Intervention Services | 4. Family Preservation Program |
| 2. Kinship Care | 5. Bill C-92 |
| 3. Prevention Services | |

These programs will be highlighted further in the report – identifying their program, missions, goals, objectives, and the fiscal year (2024-2025) activities.



Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Vision

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Vision is to strengthen the safety and well-being of its members' Children, Youth and Families

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Mission

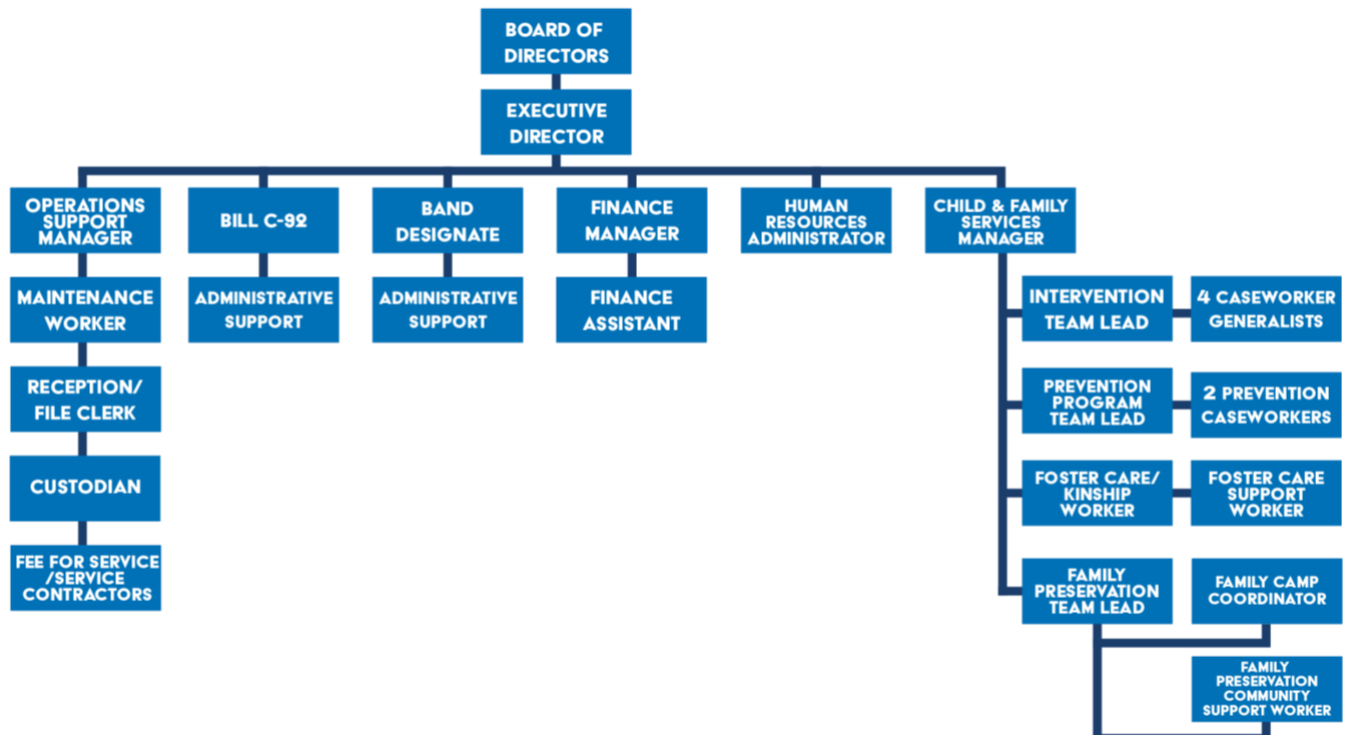
Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Mission is to promote a healthy and self-sustaining community, utilizing a holistic (body, mind, and spirit) approach in meeting the needs of the children, youth, and families of the Nation.

OUR TEAM

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Leadership Team (2024-2025)

TITLE	NAME	TIMELINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	SHARON PELLETIER	APRIL 2021 – AUG 2024
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	TRUDY L'HIRONDELLE	SEPT 2024 – NOV 2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	INIER CARDINAL	DEC 2024 – MARCH 2025
CFS MANAGER	TRUDY L'HIRONDELLE	JAN 2025 – MARCH 2025
INTERVENTION TEAM LEAD	JASON ANDERSON	2024 – 2025
PREVENTION TEAM LEAD	DARLENE OAR	2024 – 2025
FAMILY PRESEVATION TEAM LEAD	TERENCE TALLMAN	2024 – 2025
ACFSS BAND DESIGNATE	LILLIAN NOSKIYE	2024 – 2025
BILL C - 92	ERICA JAGODZINSKY	2024 – 2025

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Organizational Chart (2024-2025)



Community Collaborations

Whitefish Lake First Nation Community Events

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society actively collaborated and supported the delivery of the following in Nation events during the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

- Community Clean Up Challenge
- Community Program Information Sessions
- Youth Mentorship Presentations
- Community Fitness Challenges
- Bean Bag Tournaments
- Father's & Mother's Day Celebrations
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Treaty Day Celebrations
- Alberta Indigenous Games
- Community Feast
- Thanksgiving Day Feast
- Back to School Community BBQ & Backpack Giveaway
- Kinship Christmas Feast
- Community Hockey Watch Party
- Family Day Celebration
- Community Golf Tournament
- Community Movie Night
- Virtual Golf Tournament
- Golf Memberships for Nation members in Slave Lake, High Prairie, and McLennan – Alberta

Whitefish Lake First Nation Community Education & Training Sessions

- Youth Mentorship Presentation
- Traditional Parenting
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Communication
- Healthy Relationships
- Men & Women's Support Group
- How to Build Support Systems
- Drum Making
- Making a Tipi & Tipi Teaching Workshops
- Personal Budgeting
- Community Support Worker Certification

Whitefish Lake First Nation Youth Resiliency Program

One of the strongest partnerships for Atikameg Child & Family Services Society is with the Whitefish Lake First Nation Youth Resiliency Program. Partnership includes

providing funding and resources to support Youth activities and operations within the Youth Resiliency Program. The leadership team within Atikameg Child & Family Services Society meets with the program monthly to outline potential areas of collaboration. This can include providing transportation for the youth to and from events as well as providing resources to support activities. Planning has occurred with the Youth Resiliency Program to support much needed renovations within the youth facility.

Whitefish Lake First Nation Health Program

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Atikameg Child & Family strengthened partnerships with the Whitefish Lake First Nation Health Program. Program collaborations include support with in-Nation mental health programming and developing sound referral systems. Future partnerships to include collaborative training opportunities with staff, and on-going joint training sessions for community members supporting wellness within the Nation.

Whitefish Lake First Nation Education, Social, and ISETS Departments

Through the Bill C-92 program, Atikameg Child & Family Service partnered with the Whitefish Lake Education, Social, and ISETS Departments to offer in-Nation training for the Community Support Worker Program, which will be discussed further into the report. This partnership was a great success and will pave the way for future work supporting the development of a Whitefish Lake First Nation Child & Family Workforce.

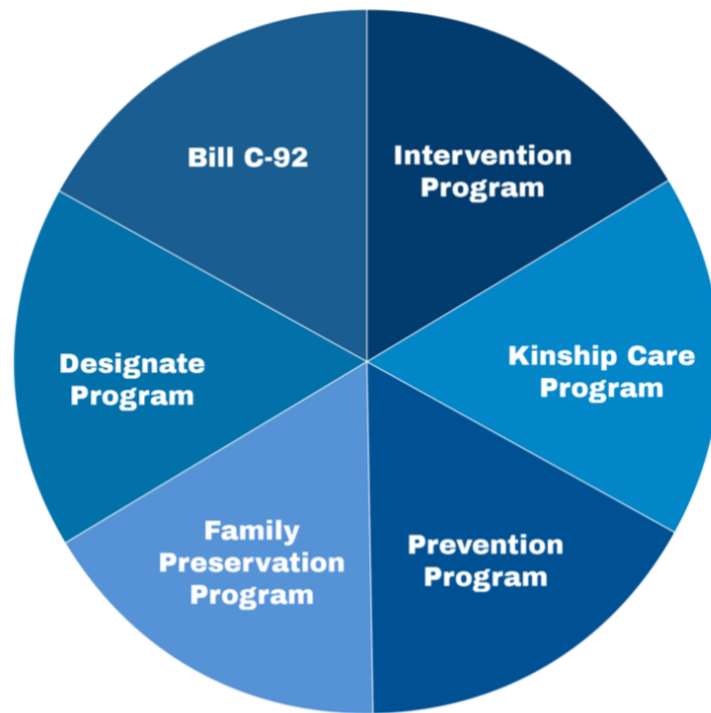
Atikameg Healing Shelter for Women & Children

A new partnership that emerged during the 2024-2025 fiscal year was with the Atikameg Healing Shelter for Women & Children. The partnership explored new opportunities to collaborate. Some activities during the 2024-2025 fiscal year include joint staff training initiatives as well as exploring educational sessions for staff on both organizations.



Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Programs

In the following diagram displays all the program and services offered by Atikameg Child & Family Services during the 2024-2025 fiscal year:



Intervention Program Mission

Our Mission is to promote a healthy and self-sustaining community, utilizing a holistic (body, mind, and spirit) approach in meeting the needs of the children, youth, and families of the Nation.

Intervention Program Goals

For the Child: Promote and provide for the child's need for safety, protection, emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

For the Families: Promote, support, unity, and wellness for family; establish and maintain a positive working relationship with families.

For the Community: Encourage community involvement; to educate the community about our program; to establish and maintain positive working relationships with community service-providers and to encourage community involvement; and

Wakohtowin: Cree word for the interconnected nature of relationships, and communities.



First Nation Practice Standards

Atikameg Child & Family Services has incorporated First Nations Child & Family Practice Standards into all areas of service delivery. Below is a list of key Principles that guide all activities for Caseworkers support for First Nation Children, Youth, and Families.

- The standards applied the reciprocal relationships of collective responsibilities for childcare practices among extended families and communities. The collective responsibilities of First Nations is to ensure the safety and stability of our First Nations children and families.
- The standards are in keeping with the sacred kinship connections and relational bonds that are central for the child development in childcare practices of First Nations.
- The standards respect the use of cultural protocol to build connections reciprocal responsibilities among families, and support services for the restoration of healthy communities.
- The standards are premised on the relational world view that all casual factors are interdependent, and thus services will correspond in holistic manner.

Intervention Program Delivery (On-Nation)

CHILDREN'S AGES	MALE	FEMALE
UNDER AGE 1-3	9	8
4-6 YEARS OLD	7	4
7-10 YEARS OLD	7	7
11-14 YEARS OLD	7	4
15-17 YEARS OLD	0	6
18-21 YEARS OLD	3	4
TOTAL	33	33

Transitions to Adulthood

Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) will help prepare young adults to live independently, pursue education, and build their careers from the ages of 18 to the age of 22. Atikameg Child & Family Services had 8 Young Adults participating in the TAP Program during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Kinship Program (2024-2025):

About Kinship Care

Kinship care is an extended family home that's approved to care for a child or youth in care. The caregiver has a family relationship or significant connection to the child - for example, grandparent, aunt, or close family friend. Supports for kinship care provide supports to a child and caregivers in kinship care.

Goals of the Kinship Care Program

1. To promote and provide for the child's need for safety, protection, emotional, physical, mental and spiritual well-being.
2. To promote, support, unity and wellness for family; establish and maintain a positive working relationship with families; and
3. To encourage community involvement; to educate the community about our program; to establish and maintain positive working relationships with community service-providers and to encourage community involvement.

Role of Kinship Care Providers

Children living in kinship require love, comfort, security, and stability. Atikameg kinship care program is based on the belief that whenever possible; children will have the opportunity to live with extended family or those they feel connected to, and that these connections promote the overall well-being of children and youth. Kinship care program allows for a child who needs to come into care to be placed immediately with someone familiar in Whitefish Lake First Nation #459.

Kinship Care Givers

- Take care of the day-to-day needs of the child residing in their care, including the child's physical, emotional, spiritual, and cultural needs.
- Work as part of a team with the child, the parents and extended family, support network, caseworker, and other professionals.
- May participate in training that enhances and develops their parenting skills or is specific to the needs of the children in their care.
- Participate in planning meetings; and
- Support and facilitate appropriate contact between the child and their own family.

Kinship Care Program Delivery 2024-2025

- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Atikameg Child & Family Services had 24 registered Kinship Homes and 3 Foster Homes.
- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Atikameg Child & Family Services recruited 2 additional Kinship Homes during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.
- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year Atikameg Child & Family Services provided training and support for Kinship Homes. Training includes 2 Days Orientation and Traditional Parenting.

Supports for Permanency

When the child has a legal status of permanent guardianship order (PGO), they have a permanency plan developed. The child's caregiver is supported in obtaining Private Guardianship Order. A Supports for Permanency Agreement is signed yearly. This child is no longer in custody of ACFSS but through an agreement we provide financial assistance.

There are currently 22 children from Whitefish Lake First Nation under Private Guardianship Orders with Supports for Permanency Agreements.

Prevention Program (2024-2025):

Prevention Program Mission

To promote a safe community for our children through culturally appropriate prevention and well-being services and teachings, which improve family wellness, through a concept of togetherness within our beliefs, tradition, and language.

Prevention Program Goals

Primary Prevention:

1. Promotion and awareness on how to recognize and respond to child Violence and Anger Management sessions.
2. Nutrition classes for teen parents; and
3. Awareness campaigns on how and where to report suspected child maltreatment.

Secondary Prevention:

1. Group intervention or specific family support activities that are directly linked to the child protection concerns.
2. Home visit programs for new parent(s) / teen parent(s);
3. Parent mentoring programs.
4. Life-skills training.
5. Parenting skills training; and
6. Family counselling, guidance, and assessment.



Atikameg School

Tertiary Prevention:

These activities relate to specific family member needs and are aimed at preventing/ending the crisis- to avoid removal of the child(ren) from the home.

1. Immediate crisis intervention supports.
2. Intensive family preservation services.
3. Family support workers.
4. Restorative intervention services.
5. In-home support aides.
6. Childcare, respite care.
7. Reduce the number of children in the care of Alberta Children's Services - Intervention Services.
8. Establish well defined Intervention/Prevention programs so that our children can remain with their families on reserve.
9. Reunite children that are under the care of Intervention Services, with their families and our community; and
10. For families to take responsibility in creating safety for children to remain in Whitefish Lake First Nation.

Family Preservation Program:

About Family Preservation Program

We are a Wholistic healing training facility. Our Team provides the tools and skills our people need to have a positive fulfilled and prospering life. Our vision is to see our Nation live in a healthy and thriving community. For our people to become healthy in every way (wholistically), and to continue this path for generations to come.

Family Preservation Program Mission Statement

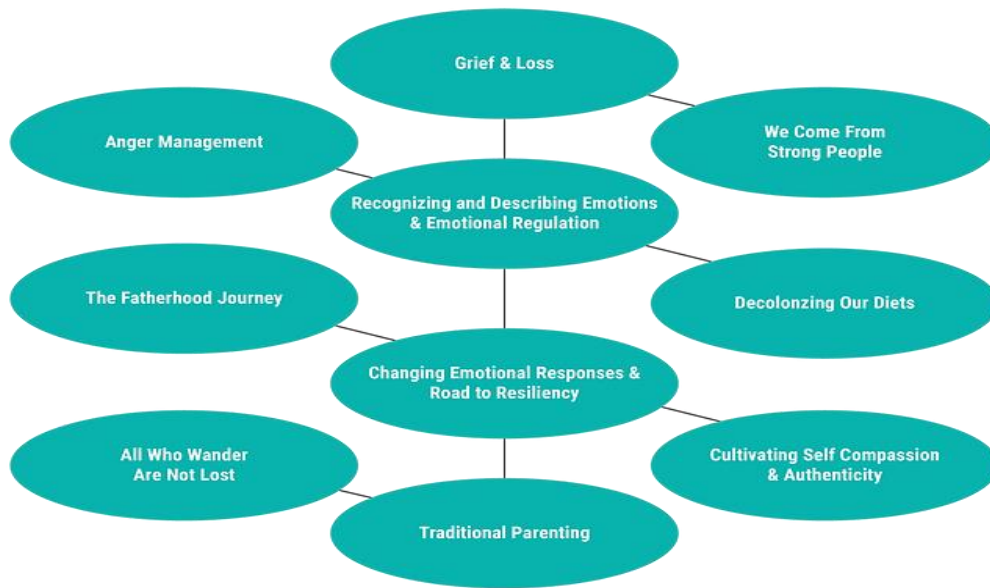
Our aim is to offer tools and skills that will help people know how to better cope with hardship, trauma, or any trials they have experienced. By providing a Training Facility that will offer workshops, training and awareness geared towards Mental, Emotional, Physical and Spiritual healing. To be a lifeline of hope and recovery.



Family Preservation Program Delivery Model



Family Preservation Workshops & Training Offered



In addition, the list above the Family Preservation Program asked Nation members what they would like to see for workshops and training, through this activity, the program expanded programming to include land-based teachings and cultural ways workshops.

Family Preservation Program Service Delivery

The Family Preservation Program Team provides the following:

1. Confidence Building Learning Opportunities.
2. Individual or Group Approaches.
3. Child Based Training Opportunities.
4. Land Based Learning.
5. Incorporating First Nation Wellness Teachings throughout all programming.
6. Individual one-on-one sessions, when requested.

Family Preservation Program Impact and Community Involvement

This year, the Family Preservation Program continued to focus on strengthening families through culturally grounded community-led support. The involvement of community members proved deeply rewarding for participants, enhancing family time, and fostering physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences, creating a sense of unity, empathy, and healing.

Prevention Program & Family Preservation

Program Activities 2024-2025

Prevention programming was jointly supported by the Prevention and Family Preservation Teams, below is a brief glimpse at the programming that was offered during the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

MONTH LOCATION	SESSION TITLES	NUMBER OF SESSION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
APRIL 2024	MOCCASIN MAKING, HEALTH CHALLENGE	5	62
MAY 2024 ATIKAMEG WHITEFISH RIVER	MOCCASIN MAKING, INFORMATION SESSION, COMMUNITY CLEAN UP, FITNESS CHALLENGE, INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS, COMMUNITY WATCH PARTY, FAMILY FUN DAY, AND YOUTH MENTOR PRESENTATION	12	511
JUNE 2024 ATIKAMEG SLAVE LAKE	WAGON TRAIN, BEAN BAG CHALLENGE, YOUTH MENTORSHIP PRESENTATION, FATHER'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT, AND MEN'S GROUPS	5	260
JULY 2024 ATIKAMEG EDMONTON URBAN	MEN'S GROUPS, CANADA DAY CELEBRATION, YOUTH CONFERENCE, PERSONAL BUDGETING, TREATY DAYS, PARENTING, PERSONAL, BUDGETING, COMMUNICATION, AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS	15	912
AUGUST 2024 ATIKAMEG & EDMONTON	MEN'S GROUPS, ALBERTA INDIGENOUS GAMES, BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT, AND MAIG – COMMUNITY SUPPORT	10	430
SEPTEMBER 2024 ATIKAMEG	MEN'S GROUPS, COMMUNITY DINNER, AND ACTIVE PARENTING PROGRAMMING	4	215
OCTOBER 2024 ATIKAMEG	CULTURE CAMP EVENT, THANKSGIVING DINNER, PERSONAL BUDGETING, AND POSITIVE PARENTING SESSION	4	352
NOVEMBER 2024 ATIKAMEG	MEN'S GROUPS, HOW TO BUILD SUPPORT SYSTEM, POW-WOW, REGALIA MAKING	4	84
DECEMBER 2024 ATIKAMEG	MEN'S GROUP	2	24
JANUARY 2025	MEN'S GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS, ATIKAMEG GOLF SIM, AND TRADITIONAL PARENTING	12	117
FEBRUARY 2025 ATIKAMEG	WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP, MEN'S GROUPS, EDUCATION SESSION, FAMILY DAY EVENT, WATCH PARTY, DRUM MAKING, ATIKAMEG GOLF SIM	11	390
MARCH 2025 ATIKAMEG	WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP, MEN'S GROUPS WELLNESS CHALLENGE, COMMUNITY GOLF SIM TOURNEY, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS, A.S.I.S.T TRAINING	12	133
	TOTAL ACTIVITIES:	96	3,490

Band Designate Program (2024-2025)

Understanding the Band Designate Role

The role of the Band Designate as defined by Child, Youth, and Intervention Act is to:

- Represent and support Whitefish Lake First Nation children that are currently in the care of the Government of Alberta or other Government Agencies.
- Address child protection matters, ensuring children's rights to their culture and community are upheld.
- Ensuring that Whitefish Lake First Nation children have access to their cultural heritage and community connections within the child welfare system; and
- Advocate on behalf of all Whitefish Lake First Nation and its members or eligible individuals.

Band Designate Case Files

FISCAL YEAR	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
NUMBER OF CASES	61	61	61	61	61	61	92	118

Band Designate Case Locations

LOCATION	NUMBER OF CASES
EDMONTON AND AREA	52
LESSER SLAVE LAKE AREA	9
PEACE RIVER AREA	8
GRANDE PRAIRIE AND AREA	10
WESTLOCK AND ATHABASCA AREA	13
BRITISH COLUMBIA	10
OTHER: HINTON, EDSON, CALMAR, BON ACCORD, ETC...	16
TOTAL	118

Band Designate Activities

- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, quarterly meetings were held with all Band Designate Files, this includes updates with the Child & Youth as well as sharing information on Whitefish Lake First Nation Events and Gatherings.
- Promoting family placements for all Off-Nation Intervention Files.
- Providing Information on Registering Whitefish Lake Nation Children; and
- Providing Christmas Gifts to all Whitefish Lake First Nation Designate Children and Youth.

Bill C - 92

About Bill C - 92

On June 21, 2019, Bill C - 92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Children, Youth and Families became law. The purpose of the Bill is to recognize Indigenous People's jurisdiction over Child and Family Services. For First Nations across Canada, Bill C-92 means that First Nations will be provided resources to develop Nation laws that align with their Inherent Rights, Values, and Traditions showcasing their uniqueness and vibrant cultures. Through the development of the laws, the Nations will be able to provide enhanced services that truly meet the needs of Nation members regardless of where they reside.

For Whitefish Lake First Nation #459, this also meant the beginning of a journey.



Traditional First Nations Doll



Translation of Syllabics on Hand Drum: "We Will Succeed"

The Journey for Whitefish Lake First Nation

The Journey for Whitefish Lake First Nation is to work collaboratively with Nation members to develop a Nation Law for Child & Family Services and engage with Nation Members on establishing and creating new programming to meet the true needs of Nation members. Whitefish Lake First Nation created a Whitefish Lake First Nation Jurisdictional Working Group to guide processes for Whitefish Lake First Nation.

Bill C-92 WFLFN Jurisdictional Working Group Members:

NAME	TITLE
BERT AUGER	WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION ELDER
GILBERT LABOUCAN	WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION ELDER
PEARL AUGER	WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION ELDER
YVONNE LABOUCAN	WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION ELDER
DALE TALLMAN	NATION COUNCIL MEMBER
SHARON PELTIER, TRUDY L'HIRONDELLE/ INIER CARDINAL	ACFSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ERICA JAGODZINSKY	BILL C-92 LEAD
DARCY JAGODZINSKY	TECHNICAL SUPPORTS
DENNIS BURNSIDE	TECHNICAL SUPPORTS
TANYA KAPPO	LEGAL

Atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin Development

Whitefish Lake First Nation Community Engagement

As an initial step to development of the atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin (Taking Care of Each Other Law), the Bill C -92 WFLFN Jurisdictional Working hosted several focus groups, these focus groups ignited discussions and began to pave the way for Law development.

DATE	FOCUS GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024	NATION YOUTH FOCUS GROUP	60
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024	NATION ELDERS FOCUS GROUP	40
OCTOBER 02, 2024	NATION BAND STAFF FOCUS GROUP (HEALTH CENTRE, WOMEN'S SHELTER, BAND OFFICE)	30
OCTOBER 17, 2024	ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY FOCUS GROUP	15

In addition to the Focus Groups listed, the Jurisdiction Working Group also hosted several Community Engagement Sessions. These Engagement Sessions are listed in the chart below:

DATE	FOCUS GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
OCTOBER 09, 2024	PEACE RIVER, ALBERTA	25
OCTOBER 10, 2024	GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA	30
OCTOBER 11, 2024	SLAVE LAKE, ALBERTA	25
OCTOBER 12, 2024	EDMONTON, ALBERTA	30
OCTOBER 15, 2024	ATIKAMEG, ALBERTA	80

Whitefish Lake First Nation Priorities

After review of information gathered from the Focus Groups and Community Engagement Sessions with Whitefish Lake First Nation Membership, the following priority areas were identified as key components in Law Development:

Language: Language is critical to who we are as Whitefish Lake First Nation Members. There needs to be opportunities and resources allocated for Children, Youth, and Families to learn and in some cases re-learn Cree. Programming can include Language Camps, workshops, and online learning sessions throughout the year.

Cultural Learning: Supporting Cultural and Knowledge Teachings will be critical for the success of the new Law. Land-Based learning opportunities was identified as a key component to creating a new Child & Family System for Whitefish Lake First Nation members. Many workshops were identified such as hunting, fishing, picking berries, traditional teachings, and gathering medicines.

Education & Training: All Nation members agree that developing a Child & Family Workforce is critical for the success of the Law; and development of a new and improved Child & Family Agency. Future work must include opportunities for Nation Members to access training and work with the Nation's children & families.

New Programming Supports: Throughout the Engagement Sessions many new programming supports were identified, this includes support for Nation Members and their families in transition from substance use. Discussions also occurred about healthy Nation Members and their families. When building a new system prevention programming needs to include and be offered to all members within the Nation as

prevention services are universal. Some programming options include new and improved Youth & Elder supports.

Connection to the Nation: Many Nation members have moved away from the Nation for either work, education, and/or other reasons. It is agreed that members regardless of where they reside will always be Whitefish Lake First Nation members and opportunities must exist to bring them back to the Nation for celebration and/or other important events. There were discussions on developing curriculum that focused on Nation history as well and providing opportunities for Nation members to develop and explore their family trees and lineages.

New Relationship with Children, Youth, Parents, Elders, and Community

Members: Children's parents need to be in forefront of all decisions regarding the best interests of their children. Currently under the province of Alberta, parents feel like they are not welcomed or encouraged to be part of the decisions making process. This needs to change with the new system. The new system needs to provide services to all Nation members ensuring Whitefish Lake First Nation values and traditions are guiding the process.



First Nation Medicines



Handmade First Nations Rattle

Treaty 8 Tipi

Atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin Ratification

As part of the process, the Bill C-92 WFLFN Jurisdictional Working Group developed a fair, unbiased, impartial, and culturally appropriate ratification process. This process included presenting the draft law to the community for review and a formal vote. For the law to be accepted by the membership of Whitefish Lake First Nation, the number of voters that constitutes a majority is 50% plus one that cast a ballot.

Please see formal law presentation/voting locations:

DATE	LOCATION
MARCH 03, 2024	CHATEAU NOVA HOTEL, PEACE RIVER, ALBERTA
MARCH 04, 2024	FOUR POINTS HOTEL, GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA
MARCH 05, 2024	SLAVE LAKE INN, SLAVE LAKE, ALBERTA
MARCH 06, 2024	DOUBLE TREE HILTON, EDMONTON, ALBERTA
MARCH 07, 2024	WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION COMMUNITY HALL, ATIKAMEG, ALBERTA

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF VOTES
TOTAL NUMBER OF "YES" VOTES CAST	167
TOTAL NUMBER OF "NO" VOTES CAST	13
TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST	180

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Ruling (CHRT) 41 Submissions

As part of the Bill C - 92 process, Atikameg Child & Family Services in partnership with Whitefish Lake First Nation can develop and submit CHRT 41 submissions to further establish operating capacity for the organization to address systemic issues. Some examples are below:

Jurisdiction over Child Welfare: Bill C - 92 recognizes that First Nations peoples have the right to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services, a right affirmed under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Funded activities can include developing laws, coordination agreements, and implementing transformative changes within the child & family system to further establish Nation jurisdiction.

Strengthening Cultural Communication: Bill C - 92 emphasizes the importance of cultural continuity for First Nation children, ensuring that child and family services promote the transmission of First Nation languages, cultures, practices, and knowledge. Funded activities can include establishing language programming,

re-aligning existing programming with cultural knowledge, and supporting First Nation children, youth, and families to access cultural programs.

Establishing Operational Capacity: Bill C-92 acknowledges the importance of operational capacity. One of the most accessed elements of CHRT 41 is establishing and creating operational capacity to strengthen service delivery. Funded activities can include Child & Family Administrative Buildings, Reunification Homes, Children's Lodges, Post-Majority Facilities, and required needs assessments.

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society in partnership with Whitefish Lake First Nation has submitted and been approved for the following projects during the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

New Atikameg Child & Family Administrative Building

The new Child & Family Administrative Building which is scheduled to be break ground during the fall of 2025 is approximately 2,400 square meters that features an inviting lobby, gathering space, cultural tipi space, flex office, reception, maintenance office, storage room, universal washroom, commercial kitchen, men's and women's washrooms, elevator, laundry, wellness/craft room, an Elders suite, and a childcare room with a bathroom.



ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING- OPTION ONE - RENDERING

The new spaces will also include a Child & Family Caseworker unit which includes:

- 8 Offices
- 10 Cubical Spaces
- Conference Room
- Data Room
- Secure File Storage
- Copy Room
- Staff Room

The new building also includes a Prevention unit which includes:

- 8 Offices
- 8 Cubical Spaces
- Men's / Woman's washroom

The second floor of the Second floor of the new building, creates space for the following:

- Program Specialist, Designate, Team Lead, Family Ties Offices
- 6 Cubical Spaces
- Conference Room
- Staff Room
- Secure File Storage Room
- Copy Room
- Men's / Women's Washrooms.

New Emergency Children's Lodge & Family Reunification Homes

The new Atikameg Child & Family Services Reunification Home (west portion of building) and the Atikameg Child & Family Services Emergency Children's Lodge (East portion of building) will begin building in January 2026. The building will house both organizations. However, both organizations are separate from one another, ensuring privacy and independent operations. Specifics for each of the organizations is below:

Atikameg Child & Family Services Reunification Home

- Shared Reception w/ Emergency Children's Lodge
- Separate Waiting Area
- Washrooms & Staff Washrooms
- 4 Cubical Spaces
- Supervisor & Counselling Offices
- Cultural Prayer Room (tipi)
- Common Living Quarters
- 2 - (3) Bedroom unit which includes: Living Space, Washroom, 3 Bedrooms, Storage Room
- Shared File Storage, Work Room, Conference Room, Commercial Kitchen with Emergency Children Lodge

Atikameg Child & Family Services Emergency Children's Lodge

- Separate Waiting area
- Vestibule
- Washroom & Staff Washrooms
- 4 Cubical Spaces
- Supervisor & Counselling Offices
- Cultural Prayer Room (tipi)
- Common Living Quarters
- Laundry & Linen Storage
- Observation Office
- 6 Single Bedrooms
- 4 with Direct Washroom Access –
2 with Shared Corridor
Washroom



Community Capacity & Education Initiatives

In partnership with Northwestern Polytechnic Institute, Whitefish Lake First Nation Bill C -92 Jurisdictional Working Group, Whitefish Lake First Nation Education, ISETs, and Social Programs – a Community Support Worker Certificate Program was delivered in the Nation from January 9, 2025, until February 4, 2025. The education opportunity graduated 17 successful learners.

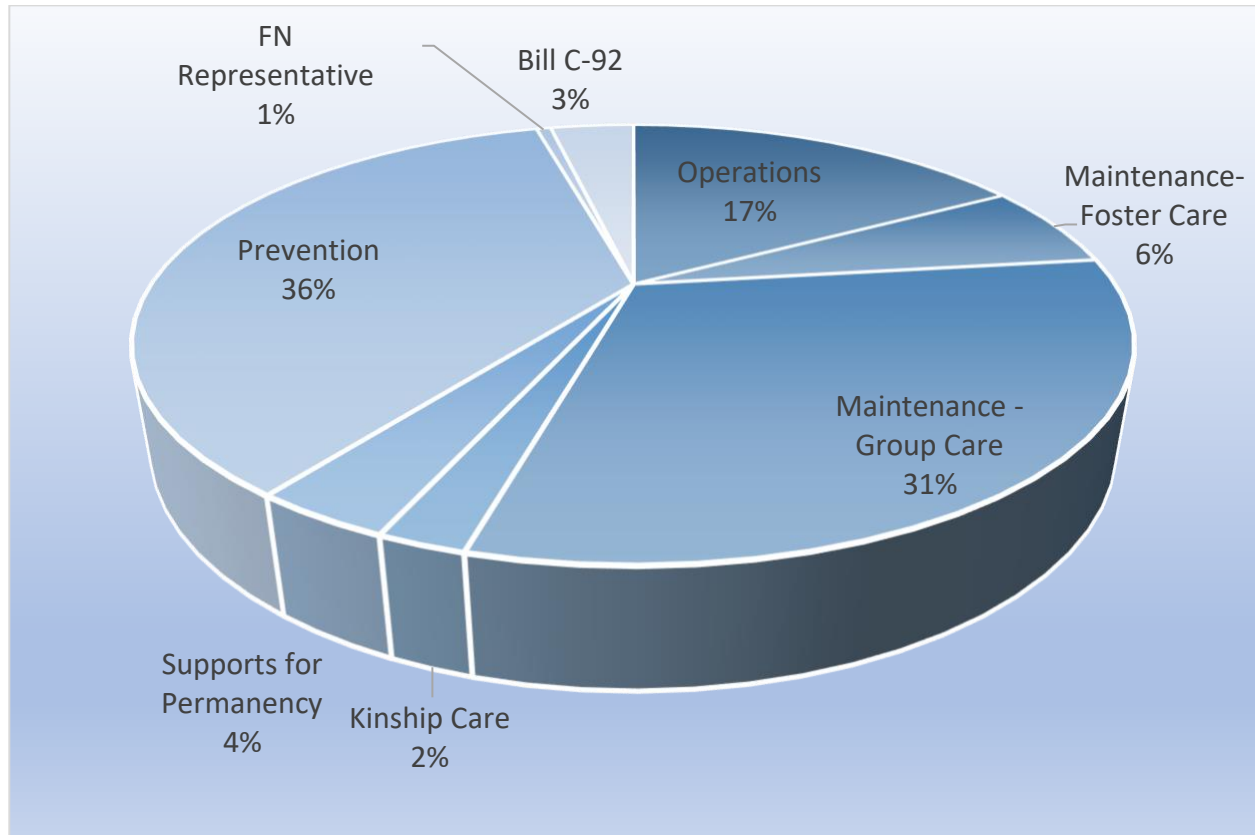
The certificate program was developed by the Whitefish Lake First Nation Bill C - 92 Jurisdictional Working Group and Northwestern Polytechnic Institute. The program is comprised of the following components:

- Early Learning
- Food Safety
- Team Building
- Communication Strategies
- Conflict Resolution
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills
- Nehiyaw Ways (Whitefish Lake First Nation History)
- Trauma, Addiction, and Mental Wellbeing
- Intermediate First Aid
- Psychological First Aid
- Child & Family Law
- Privacy and Documentation



Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Financial Reporting 2024 -2025

Atikameg Child & Family Services Funded Programs 2024-2025



Program Funding vs Overall Funding Received during the 2024-2025 fiscal year

PROGRAM	LEVEL OF FUNDING RECIEVED
PREVENTION	36%
MAINTENANCE (GROUP CARE)	31%
OPERATIONS	17%
MAINTENANCE (FOSTER CARE)	6%
SUPPORTS FOR PERMANENCY	4%
BILL C-92	3%
KINSHIP CARE	2%
FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE (DESIGNATE)	1%

Program Development 2024-2025

Through the work of Bill C-92, the Whitefish Lake First Nation Bill C - 92 Jurisdictional Working Group supported the development of the Iynisiwin ᐃᓯᓯᐃᓪᓴ (Post Majority) program for Whitefish Lake First Nation young adults between the ages of 18 and 26.

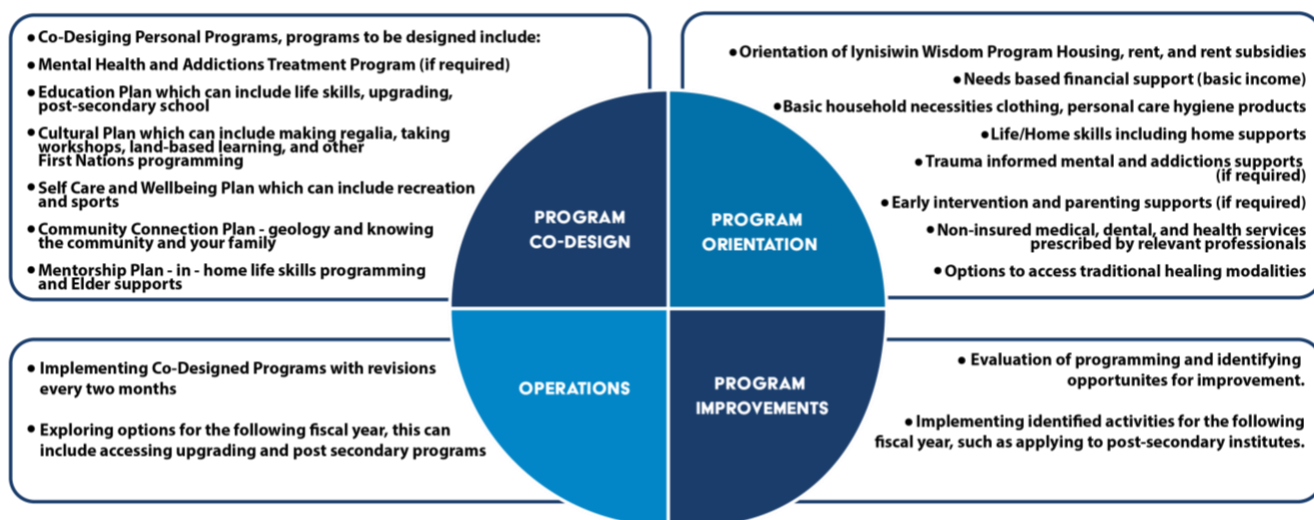
Iynisiwin ᐃᓯᓯᐃᓪᓴ Program Objectives

Using a First Nation approach the program will provide post-majority support services to Whitefish Lake First Nation Youth between the ages of 18 - 26. Support services will be delivered in a manner that puts the needs of the First Nations young people at the center. Which will increase accessibility, program responsiveness, and ensure the safety and well-being of each youth.

Iynisiwin ᐃᓯᓯᐃᓪᓴ Program Approach

The program is intended to support the delivery of voluntary services for youth transitioning out of care into adulthood and to young adults who were formally in care. The supports have been developed to ensure safety, culturally appropriateness, self-identified best interest, and provide substantive equality to all program participants. Services provided are to be co-designed with the youth to ensure individualized programming that is flexible, realistic, and meets the needs of each youth.

Iynisiwin ᐃᓯᓯᐃᓪᓴ Service Delivery Matrix



*Whitefish Lake First Nation does not offer many specialized services on the Nation; therefore, many youths will be accessing specialized services such as education and health programming in urban settings. With this in mind, Atikameg Child & Family Services will establish urban supports in Edmonton, Alberta to provide consistent and reliable services for the youth taking the **Iyinisowin ᐃᓯᓂᓯᐃᓂ "Wisdom" Program**

Moving Forward 2025-2026 Projected Activities

Developing capacity and expanding programming opportunities for Whitefish Lake First Nation's members is the highest priority for Atikameg Child & Family Services. Using this guiding principle, the following projected activities have been identified for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for Atikameg Child & Family Services:

1. Launch the Iyinisowin ᐃᓯᓂᓯᐃᓂ "Wisdom" Program, this includes creating transfer agreements with existing service delivery organizations.
2. Expand Child & Family Services Delivery to include all Nation members even those living in urban settings. This will include establishing a new agreement with the Province of Alberta to provide Child & Family Services to all Nation members regardless of where they reside.
3. Develop Education & Training options for Nation Members to further create in-community capacity to support the effective delivery of Child & Family Services to Whitefish Lake First Nation Members. To date, activities identified include supporting two Community Support Worker Certification programs both in-Nation and virtually and developing a pre-social work program and delivering a social work diploma program.
4. In partnership with the Whitefish Lake First Nation Bill C - 92 Jurisdictional Working Group fully implement atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin. This activity will include new partnerships with the Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, and other applicable Agencies.
5. Strengthen communication with all Nation members, this activity will include on-going presentations both in-Nation as well as in urban settings such as Edmonton, Alberta and Grande Prairie, Alberta. Future work to also include updating the organizations website as well as developing a communication strategy that is effective and expands the existing communication reach for Atikameg Child & Family Services Society.



Kahkiyaw awasisak sâkîhawak

"All Children are Loved"

2024 - 2025



ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2024-2025

ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

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