



ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES Annual General Report

2025 - 2026

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**Welcome
to**

Whitefish Lake First Nation 459

Atikameg, Alberta

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Board of Directors is proud to present the Society's Annual General Report for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments, activities, partnerships, and community involvement that contributed to another successful year for the Society.

Throughout the fiscal year, Atikameg Child & Family Services Society maintained their commitment to providing meaningful, culturally respectful, and community-focused programs and services to the members of Whitefish Lake First Nation. The Society continued to focus on supporting children, youth, families, and community members while promoting health, wellbeing, safety, learning, and positive connections within the community.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report is a reflection of the dedication and commitment of the Society's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, community partners, and, most importantly, the members of Whitefish Lake First Nation. Through continued collaboration and community engagement, the Society was able to provide a variety of programming, learning opportunities, activities, and supports throughout the year.

Atikameg Child & Family Services Society would like to sincerely thank all Whitefish Lake First Nation members who participated in the programs, services, workshops, events, and learning activities offered during the 2025–2026 fiscal year. Community participation is essential to the success of our programming. The involvement, feedback, and support of community members help ensure that programs remain meaningful, relevant, and responsive to the needs of families and individuals.

The Society also recognizes the importance of strong partnerships and collaboration. Working together with community members, leadership, organizations, service providers, and other partners allows us to strengthen our programs and create greater opportunities for children and families. These relationships are an important part of building a supportive, connected, and healthy community.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Atikameg Child & Family Services Society staff. Their commitment to providing quality services and supporting community members has played an important role in the Society's achievements throughout the year. We extend our appreciation to everyone who contributed their time, knowledge, skills, and support to the organization.

As we look toward the coming year, the Society remains committed to building on the successes of 2025–2026. We will continue to work together to strengthen programs and services, encourage community participation, support families, and create opportunities that promote the health, wellbeing, and success of Whitefish Lake First Nation members.



ABOUT ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY

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 2025-2026 fiscal year Atikameg Child & Family Services delivered and supported the following programs:

- ▷ Intervention Services
- ▷ Kinship Care
- ▷ Iyinisowin Program
- ▷ Prevention Services
- ▷ First Nation Representative / Designate
- ▷ Bill C- 92

These programs will be highlighted further into the report, identifying their program mission, goals, objectives and fiscal year 2025-2026 activities.

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

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.

ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES LEADERSHIP TEAM (2025-2026)

TITLE	NAME
Executive Director	Erica Jagodzinsky
Finance Manager	Ruby Anderson
Human Resource Administrator	Delores Weesemat
Operations Support Manager	Valerie Gladue
Maintenance / Security / Camp Team Lead	Vincent Grey
Intervention Team Lead	Jason Anderson
Prevention Team Lead	Desiree Auger
Iyinisowin Program	Terence Tallman
ACFSS Designate	Lillian Noskiye
Bill C – 92 / Special Projects	Darcy Jagodzinsky

ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES FUNDING 2025-2026

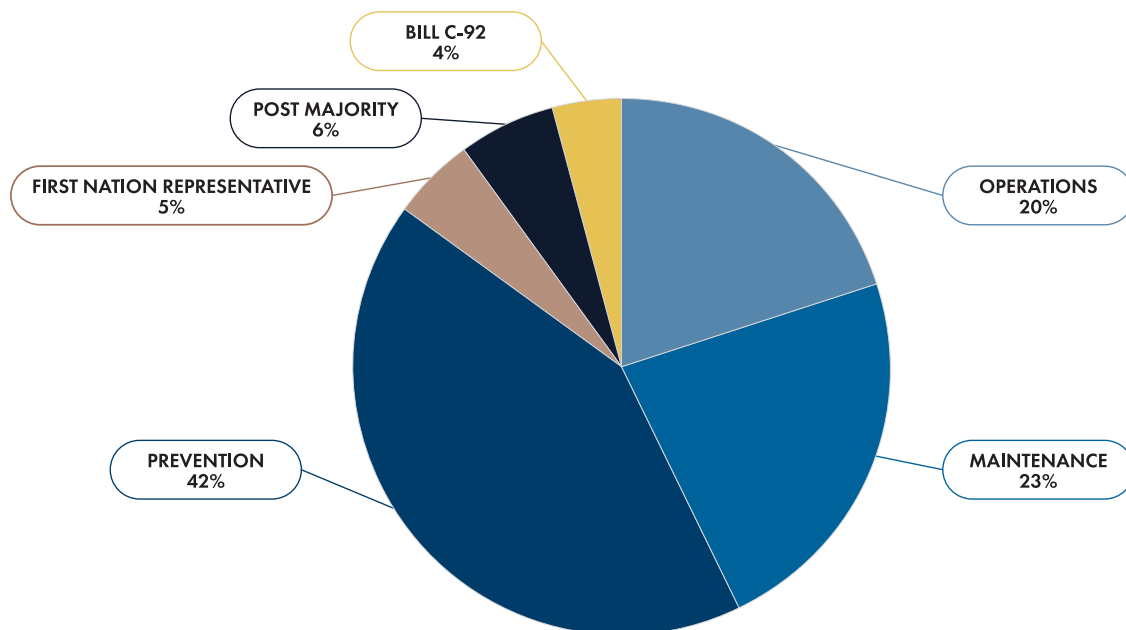


Figure 1.0 Atikameg Child & Family Services Funded Programs 2025-2026

MAINTENANCE TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED 2025-2026

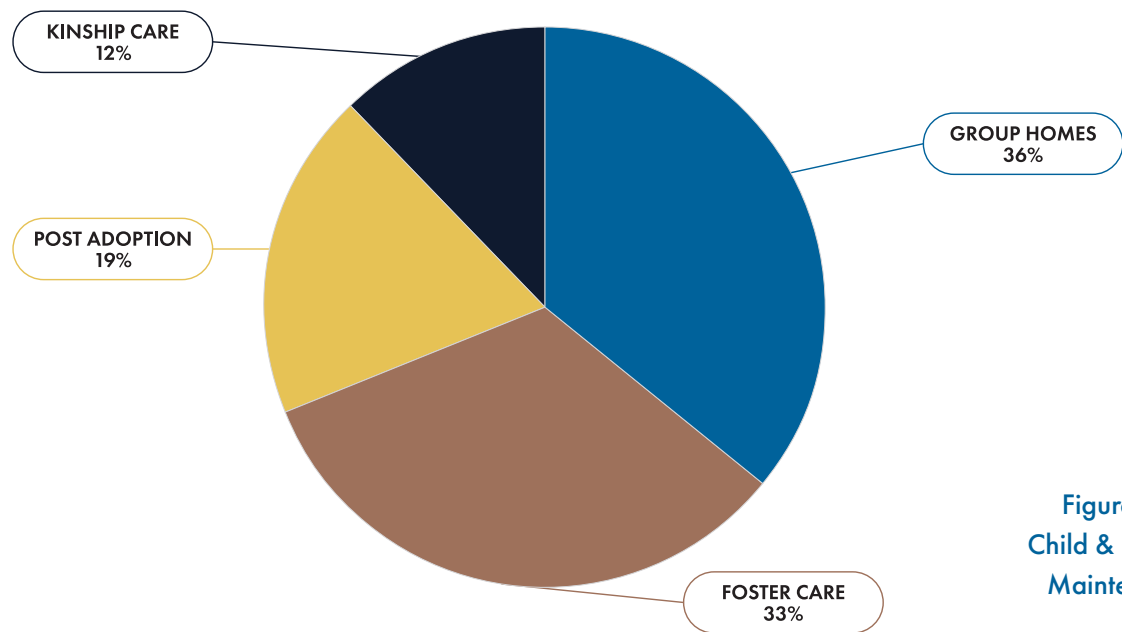


Figure 2.0 Atikameg Child & Family Services Maintenance Funding 2025-2026

ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OPERATIONS 2025-2026

HUMAN RESOURCES

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, Atikameg Child & Family Services Society conducted approximately 20 interviews as part of the recruitment and selection process for new employees. The Society is committed to ensuring that its hiring practices are fair, collaborative, and reflective of the needs and values of Whitefish Lake First Nation.

For all interviews conducted within Atikameg Child & Family Services Society, the selection committee includes representatives from the Atikameg Child & Family Services Leadership Team, Nation Leadership, and the Keepers of the Law. The involvement of these representatives strengthens the recruitment process by bringing together diverse perspectives, knowledge, and experience when selecting candidates who will support the Society and the community.

In addition to strengthening the hiring and selection process, the Human Resources Department completed a comprehensive review and update of all job descriptions within the organization. This review also included job descriptions for Fee-for-Service contractors. Updating these descriptions helps ensure that roles, responsibilities, expectations, and qualifications are clearly identified and aligned with the current needs and operations of Atikameg Child & Family Services Society.

These Human Resources initiatives represent an ongoing commitment to strengthening organizational practices, supporting accountability, and ensuring that the Society has qualified and dedicated individuals in place to provide quality services and programming to Whitefish Lake First Nation members.

ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES FEE FOR SERVICE

The Fee for Service Program provides flexible support to multiple program areas, including Intervention, Prevention, Iyinsowin, and Foster/Kinship. Available services are practical, family-centered, and community-oriented, with emphasis on transportation, supervised access, in-home support, tutoring, family court interpretation, and specialized support. The provider mix shows the program relies on both local capacity and external service coverage, particularly in Edmonton.

The Fee for Service Program demonstrated broad service coverage during the 2025–2026 reporting year. The program recorded 89 transports and 94 transporter trips

MONTH	TRANSPORTERS	# OF TRANSPORTER TRIPS
April 2025	7	7
May 2025	5	5
June 2025	6	6
July 2025	13	13
August 2025	1	1
September 2025	3	3
October 2025	13	13
November 2025	10	10
December 2025	7	7
January 2026	9	9
February 2026	6	6
March 2026	9	14
Total	89	94

Figure 3.0 Atikameg Child & Family Services Fee for Service Activities 2025-2026

INTERVENTION PROGRAM (2025-2026)

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.

INTERVENTION PROGRAM DELIVERY (ON-NATION)

ACFSS AGREEMENTS	Custody Agreement with Guardian	Interim Custody Order	Temporary Guardianship Order	Permanent Guardianship Order	Total
Totals	18	8	1	43	70

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 10 Young Adults participating in the TAP Program during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

FOSTER / KINSHIP PROGRAM (2025-2026)

ABOUT FOSTER / KINSHIP CARE

Foster / 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 Foster / Kinship care provide supports to a child and caregivers in foster / kinship care.

GOALS OF THE FOSTER / 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 relationships 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 FOSTER / KINSHIP CARE PROVIDERS

Children living in foster / kinship require love, comfort, security and stability. Atikameg foster / 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. Foster / 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.



FOSTER / 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.

FOSTER / KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM DELIVERY 2025-2026

- ▶ The Foster / Kinship Care Program had 21 registered Foster/Kinship Homes
- ▶ The Foster / Kinship Care Program recruited 5 additional Foster/Kinship Homes
- ▶ The Foster / Kinship Care Program provided training and support for Foster/Kinship Homes. Training included: Orientations, Traditional Parenting, PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education) On-line Training Program
- ▶ The Foster / Kinship Care Program also participated in the following Community Engagements: both sets of ACFSS Community Updates, Atikameg Community School Career Fair, and Whitefish Lake First Nation Treaty Days
- ▶ The Foster / Kinship Care Program held a honouring ceremony to recognize years of service for their Foster / Kinship Homes

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.

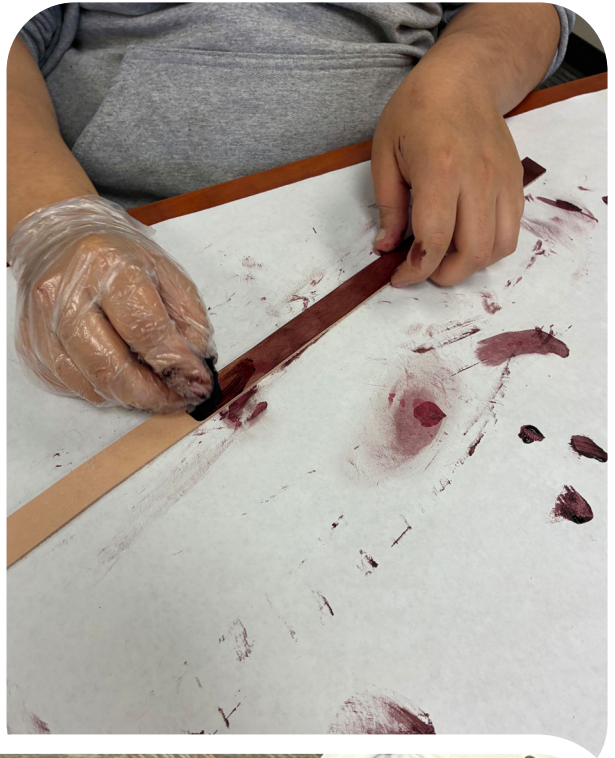
There are currently 14 children from Whitefish Lake First Nation under Private Guardianship Orders with Supports for Permanency Agreements.



IYINISOWIN PROGRAM

The 2025-2026 fiscal year marks the first year of program delivery for the Iyinisowin Program. During the initial part of the fiscal year, the program recruited a Team Leader, Urban Youth Outreach Workers, Caseworkers, Finance Support, and an Administrative Support / Genealogist. Program delivery began September 2025 and was strengthened throughout the year.





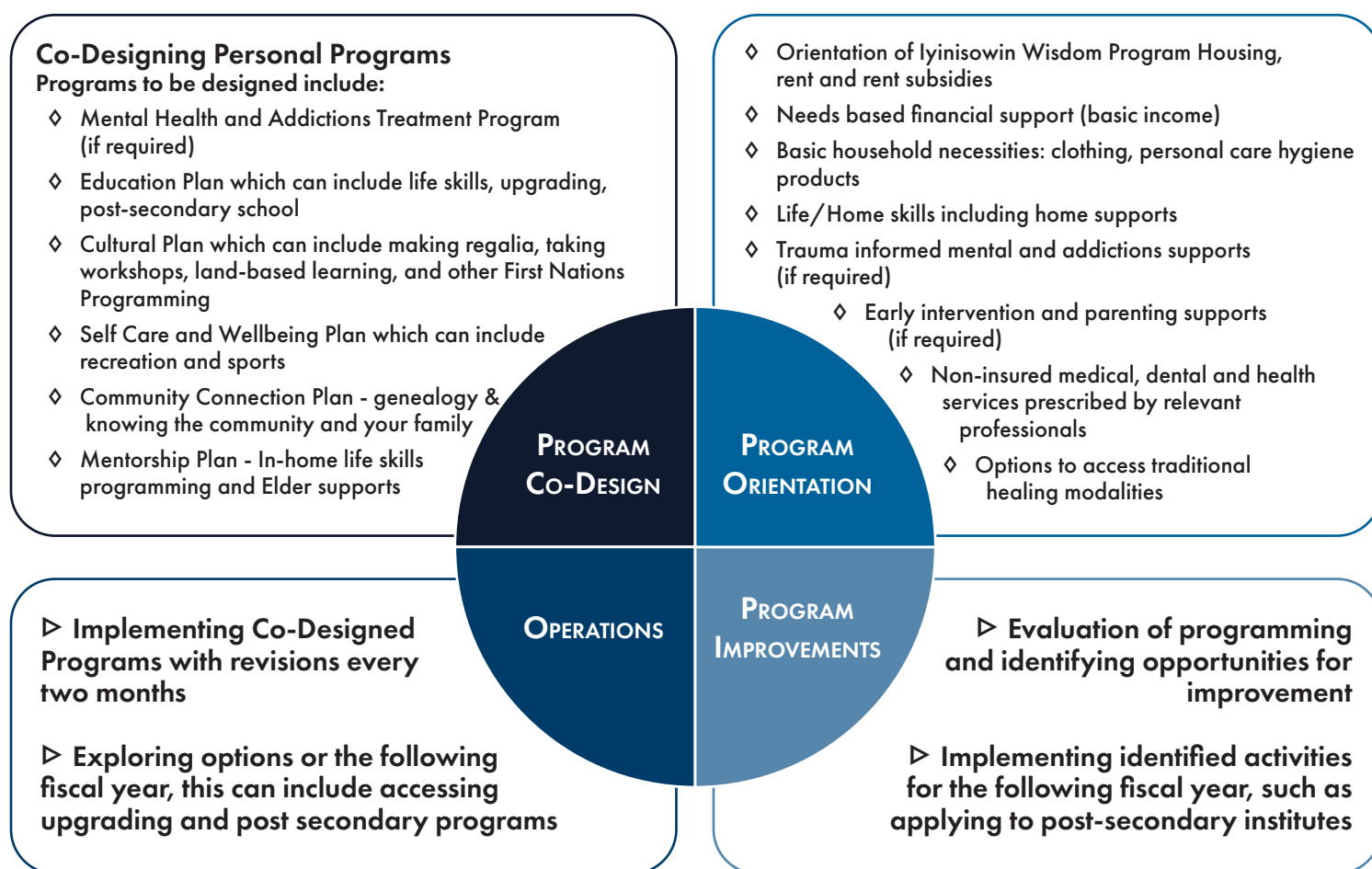
INISOWIN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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.

IYINISOWIN 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.

IYINISOWIN SERVICE DELIVERY MATRIX



IYINISOWIN PROGRAM DELIVERY 2025-2026

MONTH	SESSION TITLES	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
September 2025	Horse Dance Therapy, Personal & Money Management, Budgeting, and Resume Writing	4	30
October 2025	School Supports, Grief and Loss Workshop, Anxiety Workshop, Concho Belt Making, Protocol Training, and Sweat Ceremony	6	50
November 2025	School Supports, Air Frying Session, Class 7 Learners License, Budgeting, Self Care, Elk Island Nature Walk, River Cree Holiday Market, and Job Fairs	8	60
December 2025	School Supports, Money Mentors, Budgeting, Land Based Teachings, and Horse Therapy	5	60
January 2026	School Supports, Budgeting, Vision Boards, Self Care, and Story Telling by WFLFN Elder	5	50
February 2026	School Supports, Budgeting, Card Show, and Sweat Ceremony	4	38
March 2026	School Supports, Budgeting, Bowling, Creation Story Teaching, and Sweat Ceremony	5	48
Totals		37	336

IYINISOWIN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND RESOURCE REFERRALS

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Iyinisowin Program partnered with many organizations, some of the organizations include:

- ▷ Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- ▷ Housing First
- ▷ Bent Arrow
- ▷ AA Groups
- ▷ Al-Anon Groups
- ▷ Whitefish Lake First Nation Off-Reserve Program
- ▷ Whitefish Lake First Nation ISETS Program
- ▷ Yellowhead Tribal College
- ▷ Northwestern Polytechnic
- ▷ University of Alberta
- ▷ McEwan University
- ▷ Northwestern Polytechnic
- ▷ Legal Aid Alberta
- ▷ Indigenous Wellness Clinic



IYINISOWIN CONTINUED PROGRAM TRAJECTORY PLANNING

- ▷ Reviewing ongoing practices looking for enhancements and refinements in processes for smoother workflow.
- ▷ Working toward case management and away from crisis management to support stabilization of program.
- ▷ Maintain operational movements forward with case management.
- ▷ Continued mapping, case planning and implementation
- ▷ Genograms to find further supports in the family

Continued Program Trajectory Planning ensures program growth and support for both clients and staff within the Iyinisowin Program.

IYINISOWIN PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES

- ▷ All Iyinisowin Clients have obtained stable housing
- ▷ Many of the Iyinisowin Clients have created vision boards, which outline future educational aspirations
- ▷ Approximately 35 % of the Iyinisowin clients have found stable employment while connected to the program
- ▷ Clients are openly requesting cultural focused programming which supports identify as a Whitefish Lake First Nation member



PREVENTION PROGRAM

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Prevention Team consisted of a Team Lead and 4 Prevention Workers. In addition to the formal Prevention Team, the Prevention Program also provided resources to employee approximately 20 Security Guards to provide security services to the following physical locations: Atikameg Child & Family Services Society Head Office in Atikameg, Whitefish Lake First Nation Youth Centre, and the Atikameg Child & Family Services Cultural Camp.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year there was 6 Kookum and Mosum Agreements and 30 Prevention Agreements with Whitefish Lake First Nation members. Throughout the fiscal year, 22 of the active agreements were completed with 8 remaining agreements moving into the new fiscal year.

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.

PRIMARY PREVENTION PROGRAM GOALS

1. Promotion and awareness on how to recognize and respond to child Violence and Anger Management sessions
2. Nutrition classes for teen parents
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
6. Family counselling, guidance, and assessment



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
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
10. For families to take responsibility in creating safety for children to remain in Whitefish Lake First Nation



PREVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES 2025-2026

MONTH	SESSION TITLES	TOTAL SESSIONS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
April 2025	Easter Egg Hunt Community Supper, Community Self Care Workshop, Men's Support Group, Bean Bag Tournament, Woman's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Cooking Classes, and Boxing Club	6	225
May 2025	Men's Support Group, WFLFN Nation BBQ, Golf Tournament, Bean Bag Tournament, Mother's Day Celebration, Celebration of Life, Cooking Classes, and Woman's Support Group	6	550
June 2025	Whitefish Lake First Nation Father's Day Golf Tournament, Whitefish Lake First Nation Gospel Jamboree, Men's Bean Bag Tournament, Woman's Bean Bag Tournament, WFLFN Parade, Woman's Support Group, Horseshoe Tournament, Celebration of Life, Cooking Classes, and Whitefish Day	6	650
July 2025	Community Support Worker Program, Men's Support Group, Woman's Support Group, Whitefish Lake First Nation Community Feast, Whitefish Lake Children & Youth Wristbands Stampede, Open House Event, Community Parade, Bean Bag Tournament, Cultural Camp, Hand Games, Ball Hockey, Children's Rides, Celebration of Life, Cooking Classes, and Treaty Days	12	1500
August 2025	Dream Catcher Teachings, Youth Bean Bag Tournament, Men's Support Group, Woman's Support Group, Back to School Backpack Giveaway, Celebration of Life, Cooking Classes	8	600
September 2025	Orange Tee-shirt Beading, Men's Support Group, Woman's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Leadership for Indigenous Youth, Cooking Classes	6	200
October 2025	Men's Support Group, Woman's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Children Halloween Event, WFLFN Thanksgiving Dinner, Leadership for Indigenous Youth, WFLFN Fall Fest, WFLFN Community Update, Cooking Classes	9	1000
November 2025	Men's Support Group, Woman's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Rattle Making Workshop, Land Based Learnings, Cultural Ceremony, Christmas Craft Night, Sewing Classes, Trauma Informed Workshops, and Cooking Classes	10	220
December 2025	Men's Support Group, Celebration of Life, WFLFN Community Christmas Party, Sewing Classes, and Cooking Classes	6	800

MONTH	SESSION TITLES	TOTAL SESSIONS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
January 2026	Men's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Sewing Classes, Online Cree Classes, Cooking Classes, Community Support Worker Program, WFLFN Card Show, and Youth Mentorship Program	8	300
February 2026	Men's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Sewing Classes, Online Cree Classes, Cooking Classes, Valentines Community Event, and WFLFN Card Show	7	500
March 2026	Men's Support Group, Celebration of Life, Sewing Classes, Online Cree Classes, Cooking Classes, and WFLFN Community Update	6	600
Totals		90	7145



PREVENTION PROGRAM COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES 2025-2026

MONTH	SESSION TITLES / COLLABORATIVE PARTNER	TOTAL SESSIONS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
April 2025	Cultural / Traditional Language Interpretation Workshop (Health) Native Hockey Provincials (Youth Centre) WFLFN Pond Hockey (Youth Centre) Youth Cooking Lessons (Youth Centre)	4	300
May 2025	Baseball Event (Youth Centre) Alberta Indigenous Games Prep (Youth Centre) Youth Cooking Classes (Youth Centre)	3	200
June 2025	Traditional Land Based Wellness Workshop (Youth Centre) Drumming / Horse Dance Celebration (Health) Alberta Indigenous Games Prep (Youth Centre) WFLFN Girls Volleyball Camp (Youth Centre) WFLFN Golf (Youth Centre) Children Activity Summer Program (Youth Centre) Youth Baseball League (Youth Centre)	7	350
July 2025	Alberta Indigenous Games Prep (Youth Centre) WFLFN Treaty Days (All WFLFN Departments) WFLFN Girls Volleyball Camp (Youth Centre) WFLFN Golf (Youth Centre) Children Activity Summer Program (Youth Centre) Youth Baseball League (Youth Centre)	6	350
August 2025	Alberta Indigenous Games (Youth Centre) Youth Golfing (Youth Centre)	1	150





MONTH	SESSION TITLES / COLLABORATIVE PARTNER	TOTAL SESSIONS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
September 2025	Truth & Reconciliation Walk & Dinner (Health) Youth Bingo (Youth Centre) Youth Hockey (Youth Centre) Youth Leadership (Youth Centre) Student Field Trip (KTC Education)	5	200
October 2025	WFLFN Fall Fest (Health) Youth Leadership (Youth Centre) Warrior Fitness (Youth Centre)	3	400
November 2025	Land Based Learning (Health) Mini Round Dance (Health) Mental Health Workshop (Youth Centre)	3	200
December 2025	Youth Hockey (Youth Centre) Youth Mentorship Program (Youth Centre)	2	50
January 2026	Youth Hockey (Youth Centre) Supplies & Furniture (Youth Centre)	2	200
February 2026	Youth Hockey (Youth Centre) Youth Mentorship Program (Youth Centre) Traditional Land Based Learning (Youth Centre)	3	100
March 2026	Youth Hockey (Youth Centre) Swim Event (Youth Centre)	2	100
Totals		40	2600

FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE / DESIGNATE SERVICES

First Nation Representative / Designate Services funding aims at ensuring that the rights of First Nations children, youth, young adults and families are respected when they are involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the child and family services system.

First Nation Representative / Designate Services activities may include:

- ▶ Engaging with child and family services providers and participating in child and family service matters as set out in provincial, territorial and federal child and family services laws.
- ▶ Serving as the main contact between a First Nation and child and family services providers.
- ▶ Advocating for the children's rights and collaboration with other service providers in the best interest of the child.
- ▶ Exercising the rights and responsibilities of the First Nation under provincial, territorial and federal child and family services laws.
- ▶ Ensuring that child and family services providers address the real needs of First Nations children, youth, and families, including needs tied to culture, land and geography, and the effects of historical and contemporary disadvantage.
- ▶ Building and maintaining meaningful cultural, family and community connections for First Nations children, youth and families involved with the child and family services system.
- ▶ Facilitating the repatriation and/or reunification of children and youth in care with their family and First Nation(s).
- ▶ Supporting First Nations children, youth and families involved or at risk of involvement with the child and family services system outside of their home communities, including working across different regions and jurisdictions.
- ▶ Supporting First Nations youth and young adults with post-majority support services.
- ▶ Participating in child and family services administrative and court proceedings.
- ▶ Accessing legal resources to represent the First Nation's interests in child and family services administrative and court proceedings.
- ▶ Receiving and responding to notices under provincial, territorial and federal child and family services laws.
- ▶ Helping families access prevention supports.
- ▶ Supporting customary care, kinship care and alternative care arrangements.
- ▶ Providing or arranging for alternative dispute resolution (e.g., circle processes and Indigenous approaches).
- ▶ Monitoring agreements with child and family services providers pertaining to individual children, youth, and families.
- ▶ Developing and monitoring protocols or service agreements with child and family services providers.
- ▶ Participating in the development and monitoring of service plans with child and family services providers, for example:
 - ◊ Child, youth, or family care plans
 - ◊ Safety planning
 - ◊ Permanency planning
 - ◊ After care plans
 - ◊ Youth transition/post-majority support services plans



FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE / DESIGNATE CASE FILES 2025-2026

SOUTH REGION	NUMBER OF CASES
Edmonton, Alberta	45
Calgary, Alberta	2
Red Deer, Alberta	2
Leduc, Alberta	2
Westlock, Alberta	1
Other Locations	4
Total	56

NORTH REGION	NUMBER OF CASES
Grande Prairie, Alberta	4
Falher, Alberta	4
Peace River, Alberta	2
Slave Lake, Alberta	4
Athabasca, Alberta	3
Prince George/Dawson/hope B.C.	5
Other Locations	3
Total	24

For each region, the First Nation Representative / Designate Program hosts quarterly meetings. At these meetings, the ACFSS Designate ensures that provincial caseworkers are aware of their responsibility to ensure that all Whitefish Lake First Nation children have the opportunity to build and maintain meaningful cultural, family, and community connections with their families and community in Whitefish Lake First Nation.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

To support Community Connection the ACFSS Designate participated and supported a multitude of internal ACFSS Events, some events include:

1. Whitefish Lake First Nation Treaty Days
2. Commemorative Events i.e. Sod Turning Ceremony
3. Hosting Annual Christmas Celebration for Designate Children
4. Participation in ACFSS Community Updates



ADDITIONAL FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE / DESIGNATE ACTIVITIES

1. Provide information to Whitefish Lake First Nation members to support the development of Genograms
2. In partnership with Whitefish Lake First Nation membership support individuals to become Whitefish Lake First Nation Members
3. Supporting Whitefish Lake First Nation members when they have family court and need Whitefish Lake First Nation support
4. Regular updates with Whitefish Lake First Nation Leadership
5. Working with Whitefish Lake First Nation members to register their new babies
6. Annual visits to Whitefish Lake First Nation children living in British Columbia



FUTURE GOALS OF THE FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE / DESIGNATE SERVICES

- ▷ All Whitefish Lake First Nation Children are fully registered and can access all benefits of being a full member from Whitefish Lake First Nation
- ▷ Establishing mediation and supports for all Whitefish Lake First Nation members that have to attend family court
- ▷ Working with internal systems to bring back all Whitefish Lake First Nation children home
- ▷ Strengthening processes for all Whitefish Lake First Nation children to know their families, culture and history



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.

IMPLEMENTATION OF **ATIKAMEK SÂKAHIKAN KANAKATEYIMITOK WÎYASIWEWIN**

On March 7, 2024, Whitefish Lake First Nation members through a formal ratification process voted "yes" to accept the **Atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin**, as presented. The 2025–2026 fiscal year was a period of taking the steps necessary to begin fully implementing the law, as identified by Whitefish Lake First Nation members throughout the law development process.

As a first step in the implementation process, and in partnership with Nation Leaders, a formal Committee of Elders' Representatives was established. The purpose of this body is to ensure that the integrity and true intent of the law are maintained and upheld throughout all levels of its implementation. The Committee of Elders is known as the **Keepers of the Law**. Please see the Keepers of the Law Membership below in alphabetical order:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Auger, Bert | 3. Laboucan, Gilbert |
| 2. Auger, Pearl | 4. Laboucan, Yvonne |

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Keepers of the Law supported Atikameg Child & Family Services on many initiatives, some of the initiatives include:

- ▷ Atikameg Child & Family Services Policy Development
- ▷ Review and Revision of the CHRT Submissions on behalf of the Organization
- ▷ Community Education and Awareness Initiatives
- ▷ Joint Meetings and Update Sessions with the Chief and Council of Whitefish Lake First Nation
- ▷ Strategic Planning in collaboration with the Chief and Council of Whitefish Lake First Nation
- ▷ Planning of Special Commemorative Events, including the Sod Turning Ceremony
- ▷ Planning and Implementation of Community Update Sessions
- ▷ Participation in Atikameg Child & Family Services Interview Panels
- ▷ Supporting the development of new programs, including the Iyinisowin Program



During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Bill C – 92 program held a strategic planning session on fully implementing **Atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin**. The following discussion and activities were identified and completed at the session:

1. Review of all structures within the **Atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wîyasiwewin**.

◇ Office of onâkateyihcikew

◇ Advocate Services

◇ kihci wîyasiwewikamik

◇ Office of maskawisetâ

◇ Office of nômihi nakateyim
2. Draft priority sequence of implementation based on structural areas

3. Draft activities to consider for each structural area

4. Identify draft phased approaches within each of the structural areas, where appropriate

5. Identify additional considerations when implementing the Nation Law i.e. existing Nation Laws, Nation Practices, Privacy, and Research Protocols

WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION COMMUNITY UPDATES

In partnership with the Keepers of the Law, Atikameg Child & Family Services held the following community update sessions:

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
October 28, 2025	Grande Prairie, Alberta	March 9, 2025	Edmonton, Alberta
October 29, 2025	Whitefish Lake First Nation	March 10, 2025	Whitefish Lake First Nation
October 30, 2025	Edmonton, Alberta	March 11, 2025	Grande Prairie, Alberta

Whitefish Lake First Nation community updates are a priority for the Bill C – 92 Program as well as the Keepers of the Law. These sessions provide opportunities to receive feedback on existing programming as well as share new upcoming program opportunities that members can access throughout the fiscal year. The Keepers of the Law are grateful to all members that have attended each of the community updates during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.



BILL C -92 COMMUNITY CAPACITY & EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In partnership with Northwestern Polytechnic Institute, Whitefish Lake First Nation and the Keepers of the Law, two Community Support Worker Certificate Program were delivered for Whitefish Lake First Nation members during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The Community Support Worker 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



Please see below for training dates as well as graduate numbers:

TRAINING DATES	LOCATION	GRADUATES
July 3, 2025 – July 30, 2025	Whitefish Lake First Nation	19
January 7, 2026 – January 30, 2026	Online	23

BILL C – 92 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Atikameg Child & Family Services 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 Family Preservation and Protective Services Building

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.

Commemorative Events

On December 16, 2025, Atikameg Child & Family Services hosted a Sod Turning Ceremony for the Atikameg Child & Family Services Society's Administrative Building. This event was attended by Whitefish Lake First Nation Leaders, Elders, Children, Community Members, and Atikameg Child & Family staff. The event included an online component where the ceremony was viewed live through Facebook, in addition, the event also included a live performance from the Nation's elementary school chorus group.





ATIKAMEG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SOCIETY MOVING FORWARD 2026-2027

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 has been identified for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for Atikameg Child & Family Services:

1. 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.
2. 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 developing a pre-social work program and delivering a social work diploma program.
3. In partnership with the Keepers of the Law fully implement atikamek sâkahikan kanakateyimitok wiyasiwewin. This activity will include new partnerships with the Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, and other applicable Agencies.
4. Strengthen communication with all Nation members. 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.

