
GIVING OF THANKS



We are humble and helpless.
Without our people and creation's gifts
We would be nothing.

Everyday we give thanks to our
relations in our own way;
To our people,
To the sun,
To the green vegetation,
To the animals,
To the winds,
TO ALL THINGS.

Author unknown



THE STAFF OF SAGKEENG CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

EXECUTIVE:

Lois E. (Susan) Thomas - BSW - Executive Director
Lloyd Bunn - BSW - Program Manager

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE WORKER SUPERVISORS:

Diane McDonnell - BSW, BA, (Master of Science Degree underway)
Felix Munoz - BA, BSW, RSW (Acting)
Mary Staniscia - (BSW final year) - Winnipeg Satellite Office

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE WORKERS:

Tania Guimond - BSW
Merle Fontaine - (BSW underway)
Anita Prince - (BSW underway)
Walter Spence - (BSW underway)
Jeff Courchene - (On Leave)
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Carol Buboire - BSW - Winnipeg Satellite Office
Darlene Settee - (BSW underway – On Leave)

SUPPORT WORKERS:

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Susan Bruyere - (BSW underway)

CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM:

Cheryl Fontaine - BA, BSW - Child Abuse Coordinator
Jennifer Courchene - Administrative Support

RESOURCE PROGRAM:

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Rhonda Houston - (Aboriginal CFS Diploma underway)
Lois Palmer - (BSW underway) - Winnipeg Satellite Office
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Robert Bunn - BA, LL B

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"Dedication"

Lois E. Thomas – Executive Director

Lois E. (Susan) Thomas is a Sagkeeng First Nation Band Member. She has been Executive Director for Sagkeeng Child & Family Services since January 1995. Lois was first employed by the Agency in October of 1978 as a Family Worker and for a short time in the early 1980's was Acting Director. She then left the community to attain her Bachelor of Social Work Degree; she graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1988.

Lois was always involved with the Agency; during her University years she would come back and work for the Agency relieving staff that was on holidays during the summer months. After graduation she worked for Veteran's Affairs Canada for a short duration and as well worked at Southeast Child and Family Services.

Lois considers herself very fortunate to be working in her own community and endeavors to make Sagkeeng Child & Family Services a program that the community can be proud of.

Lloyd Bunn – Program Manager

Lloyd J. Bunn, Program Manager, was born and raised on the North Shore of Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. He was born sixth to a family of thirteen children. Lloyd is Aboriginal and is able to converse in the Ojibway language spoken in Sagkeeng.

Lloyd attended elementary school in Sagkeeng and secondary school in Winnipeg. He later obtained his Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Calgary in 1982.

Lloyd was one of the original employees in 1977 when Sagkeeng Child and Family Services first opened its doors on the South Shore of Sagkeeng. He was hired as a Child and Services Worker and Homemaker Coordinator. He was also training on the job through the University of Manitoba in their Indian Child and Family Certificate Program. He was with the Agency for two years before leaving to pursue a University degree.

Lloyd returned to Sagkeeng Child and Family Services in early 1983 as a Direct Service Worker and later as a Supervisor. He remained with the Agency for twelve years before moving on again. Lloyd then obtained employment with St. Norbert Foundation as the Aboriginal Program Coordinator and Family Intake Worker. His work then took him to Southeast Child and Family Services for five years as a Supervisor and Case Manager for the Little Grand Rapids Unit.

Lloyd returned to Sagkeeng Child & Family Services in the spring of 2000 as the Program Manager. Lloyd has since been involved in assisting the Agency move forward towards local control of its Child and Family Service Delivery.

Diane McDonnell – Supervisor

Diane McDonnell is a member of the Misi-pawaskik First Nation and was raised in her home community of Grand Rapids. After her marriage, Diane lived in the Interlake region and Dauphin before moving to Winnipeg. Diane and her husband have two daughters and a grandson, all of whom they are quite proud of.

Diane has obtained her Bachelor of Social Work degree as well as her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba. She is currently in her third year of her Master of Science Degree in Family Studies at the University of Manitoba.

In the past fourteen years, Diane has worked in a number of capacities in Native Child Welfare. She has worked as a Child & Family Service Worker, Case Manager and a Supervisor. Currently Diane is employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as a Supervisor and has held this position since April 2000.

Diane's passion is working directly with families. With her graduate degree Diane's long-term goals with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services are to develop culturally appropriate programs that promote healthy families and unity in our community.

Evelyn Webster –Resource Coordinator (Interim)

Evelyn Webster was born and raised in the community of Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. She speaks fluently in both, Ojibway and English. Evelyn graduated from the University of Manitoba, obtaining her Bachelor of Social Work Degree in 1986.

Evelyn has been working in the Native Child Welfare field for the past fifteen years for other Northern First Nation Communities. This experience has given Evelyn a lot of exposure to the needs of our First Nation people.

In August 2000, Evelyn returned to Sagkeeng First Nation to work for this Agency as a Supervisor and is presently working as the Resource Coordinator on an interim basis. This position entailed enhancing the existing Foster Resource Program through on-going training and recruiting of new foster parents. This also included developing new resources according to the needs of our children in care.

The goal for Sagkeeng Child & Family Services is to reclaim responsibility for Sagkeeng First Nation children that are presently in care of other agencies.

Felix Munoz – Supervisor (Acting)

Felix is currently employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as an Acting Supervisor. He has over eleven years of experience in Native Child Welfare. Felix being a native of South America is able to identify with the North American First Nations and their customs and traditions. Felix has worked as a Native Child Welfare worker in numerous communities in Northern Manitoba. His work involves addressing issues of abuse, neglect, parent-child conflict and skill development. Over the past four years, he has been working directly with children and families in the community.

Felix obtained two University degrees, a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Sociology and Bachelor of Social Work. He is also registered with the Institute of Social Workers in Manitoba. Felix is motivated by the progress Native Child Welfare is making, especially the direction the Agency is taking in reclaiming responsibility for our children and community.

Mary Staniscia – Supervisor

Mary Staniscia, (nee Courchene) also known as Marie, was born and raised in the community of Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. Mary speaks fluently in both the Ojibway and English language.

Mary entered into the long distance Bachelor of Education Degree program in 1996 and is nearing completion of obtaining her degree. Over the last twelve years Mary has been employed with First Nation Communities in a number of northern locations in the capacity of Mental Health Worker, Direct Service Worker and Supervisor. Mary's years of experience include Administration in First Nation Mental Health as well as Native Child Welfare.

As of April 2001, Mary obtained employment as a Supervisor with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services in the Winnipeg satellite office. Mary feels it is very important, as Native Child Welfare service providers, to continue working towards having Native Child Welfare Agencies, such as ours, obtain responsibility for our own community members, on and off reserve. Mary's goal is to ensure culturally appropriate services are delivered to all of our community members in the Province of Manitoba.

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During the past seven years, while working with SCFS, she also played an important role in helping to establish the Katrina Rae Day Care, worked as a deployed worker to Winnipeg Child and Family Services – Northwest, represented SCFS on the Child Abuse Committee for Eastman Child and Family Services, and also worked as a Southern Technician representing SCFS on the First Nations Child Day Care Initiative with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Cheryl recently graduated from the Bachelor of Social Work degree program, and also has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Winnipeg, majoring in Psychology and Developmental Studies. She is also a graduate of the Career Development Institute, Office Administration program. Cheryl is also a licensed childcare worker, CCW III and worked in the child day care field and with youth in group home settings prior to joining the SCFS team.

During portions of her childhood Cheryl was raised by her grandparents George and Margaret Fontaine, her aunties Marie and Shirley, and uncles, Cliff, Leon and Ted. Therefore, she appreciates and recognizes the important role extended family plays within the lives of First Nations children, and is pleased that she is able to put to use both her previous work and educational experience within her own community.

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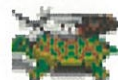
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Ingrid Daniels – Child & Family Service Worker

Ingrid Daniels is a member of the Long Plains Band, through marriage, but was originally a band member of the Sagkeeng First Nation. Ingrid's goal has always been to work with Aboriginal people. Her interest in Native Child Welfare issues are high based on her own experiences as a mother and through her learning experience as a volunteer.

Ingrid was a stay home mom of six children for most of her married life. During that time she volunteered extensively within the communities in which she lived. Her volunteer experiences almost always included working with youth and their parents as well as working with Aboriginal people.

Ingrid resumed her education when circumstances permitted and is in her final year of completing her Bachelor of Social Work Degree. Ingrid's past work experience includes working as a Social Worker in community development projects with the Health Action Center. She also worked at Marymount Treatment Centre in one of their group homes. For a period of time Ingrid also worked with Aboriginal sponsored students at the Manitoba Indian Education Association in Winnipeg.

Ingrid is currently employed with the Sagkeeng Child & Family Services, in the Winnipeg satellite office, as a Child & Family Service Worker. Ingrid feels she has a good understanding of Aboriginal needs and issues and feels this will greatly assist her in her work with the community.

Merle Fontaine – Child & Family Service Worker

Merle Fontaine is a Sagkeeng First Nation member and was born and raised in the community. She is fluent in both Ojibway and English.

Since April 2000 Merle has been employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Child & Family Service Worker. Her job entails carrying a caseload of the children in care as well as providing support services to their families. Merle's previous five years of work experience includes working as a cultural advisor and support worker for First Nation people in the City of Winnipeg.

Merle is currently enrolled in the long distance Bachelor of Social Work Program. She has obtained a two-year Diploma in Health & Wellness as well as a Counseling Skills Certificate from the University of Manitoba. Merle has also successfully completed the Core Competency Based Training delivered by Child and Family Service and Housing.

Tania Guimond – Child & Family Service Worker

Tania Guimond is a band member with Sagkeeng First Nation and presently resides in the community. Tania was born in Pine Falls and resided in the community of Sagkeeng until her youth at which time her family relocated to the Winnipeg area.

Tania obtained her Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Manitoba in 1995. After obtaining her degree she worked for the Salvation Army and Winnipeg Child & Family Services until 1999 at which time she returned to Sagkeeng. Tania is presently employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as a Child & Family Service Worker. She has held this position since October 1999.

Tania had been actively involved as a volunteer at the Elizabeth Fry Society in Winnipeg, Salvation Army Children's Program and at Winnipeg Child & Family Services as a one on one support worker for children.

Tania's return to the community of Sagkeeng was based on her desire to work for the betterment of her own people. She enjoys working with children and their families and through her work, has had the opportunity to reacquaint herself with the community and its members.

Walter Spence – Child & Family Service Worker

Walter Spence is a member of the Peguis First Nation. Walter was born in Winnipeg and was raised, for the most part, in Peguis. For short periods of time he resided in Winnipeg, The Pas, and Brandon. He has made the east side of the lake his home for the past seven years.

Walter has been with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services for the past five years and is currently a Child & Family Service Worker. His previous experience includes working with other First Nations Child Welfare Agencies. Walter is currently enrolled in the long distance education Bachelor of Social Work program through the University of Manitoba.

Walter feels that the rewards in working with children and families are not ones that can be measured in concrete terms, but through seeing the community's spirit grow. Walter is married to a community member and together they have one child and are expecting another in the near future. Walter feels that working with the Agency has enabled him to make a contribution to this community.

Anita Prince – Child & Family Service Worker (Interim)

Anita Prince is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation. Anita has been employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as the file clerk, receptionist and support worker during the last five years. Recently she moved into an interim position as a Child & Family Service Worker.

While employed with the Agency, Anita attended the University of Manitoba Aboriginal Focus Program, obtaining a certificate in Counseling in 1997 and a certificate in Child Sexual Abuse Intervention and Treatment in 1999. Anita is currently enrolled in the long distance Bachelor of Social Work Program at the University of Manitoba.

Presently Anita is anxiously awaiting a response from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation regarding funding on a proposal she submitted. Anita created a program entitled “Giigido-Giige-Ikwe”, based on the theme “Empowering Women”. The program is geared to create community awareness and education on the impacts the residential school has had on our lives as Anicinabe women. Anita is hopeful funding is forthcoming so that this program can be embraced and delivered to and for our community women. Anita is very committed to her job, working with children and their families, and is an avid believer in community healing and wellness.

Murray Bruyere – Support Worker

Murray Bruyere is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation. He was born in Pine Falls and grew up in British Columbia. Murray returned to the area to live permanently in the early 90’s.

Murray has extensive experience and education in Child Welfare and has worked in this area for the past twenty years. Presently Murray is employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Support Worker and has held this position for the past ten years.

Murray is actively involved with the youth in the community. In the past he has developed programs for our youth such as hockey, baseball, basketball and floor hockey. Murray is very involved in traditional culture and his goal is to implement this into future programs that may be developed for our children.

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Rhonda Houston - (Aboriginal CFS Diploma underway)
Lois Palmer - (BSW underway) - Winnipeg Satellite Office
Theresa Bunn - BA, (B. Ed near completion) - Winnipeg Satellite Office

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Robert Bunn - BA, LL B

FINANCE/CLERICAL SUPPORT:

Darlene Courchene - Business Information Systems Certificate - Finance Administrator

Elaine Courchene - Finance Assistant

Lisa Bunn - Receptionist (On Leave)

Sandra Bunn - Receptionist (Interim)

Debbie Bunn - File Clerk

Crissy Courchene - Business Admin. Diploma (Bachelor of Commerce Degree underway) - Clerical Support (Interim)

JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE:

Linda Bunn - Janitor/Custodian

Charles Bruyere - Maintenance

Byron Starr - (Aboriginal CFS Diploma Program underway) - Escort Driver- (Contract)

*Management & Staff
Of
Sagkeeng Child & Family Services Inc.*



"Dedication"

Lois E. Thomas – Executive Director

Lois E. (Susan) Thomas is a Sagkeeng First Nation Band Member. She has been Executive Director for Sagkeeng Child & Family Services since January 1995. Lois was first employed by the Agency in October of 1978 as a Family Worker and for a short time in the early 1980's was Acting Director. She then left the community to attain her Bachelor of Social Work Degree; she graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1988.

Lois was always involved with the Agency; during her University years she would come back and work for the Agency relieving staff that was on holidays during the summer months. After graduation she worked for Veteran's Affairs Canada for a short duration and as well worked at Southeast Child and Family Services.

Lois considers herself very fortunate to be working in her own community and endeavors to make Sagkeeng Child & Family Services a program that the community can be proud of.

Lloyd Bunn – Program Manager

Lloyd J. Bunn, Program Manager, was born and raised on the North Shore of Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. He was born sixth to a family of thirteen children. Lloyd is Aboriginal and is able to converse in the Ojibway language spoken in Sagkeeng.

Lloyd attended elementary school in Sagkeeng and secondary school in Winnipeg. He later obtained his Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Calgary in 1982.

Lloyd was one of the original employees in 1977 when Sagkeeng Child and Family Services first opened its doors on the South Shore of Sagkeeng. He was hired as a Child and Services Worker and Homemaker Coordinator. He was also training on the job through the University of Manitoba in their Indian Child and Family Certificate Program. He was with the Agency for two years before leaving to pursue a University degree.

Lloyd returned to Sagkeeng Child and Family Services in early 1983 as a Direct Service Worker and later as a Supervisor. He remained with the Agency for twelve years before moving on again. Lloyd then obtained employment with St. Norbert Foundation as the Aboriginal Program Coordinator and Family Intake Worker. His work then took him to Southeast Child and Family Services for five years as a Supervisor and Case Manager for the Little Grand Rapids Unit.

Lloyd returned to Sagkeeng Child & Family Services in the spring of 2000 as the Program Manager. Lloyd has since been involved in assisting the Agency move forward towards local control of its Child and Family Service Delivery.

Diane McDonnell – Supervisor

Diane McDonnell is a member of the Misi-pawaskik First Nation and was raised in her home community of Grand Rapids. After her marriage, Diane lived in the Interlake region and Dauphin before moving to Winnipeg. Diane and her husband have two daughters and a grandson, all of whom they are quite proud of.

Diane has obtained her Bachelor of Social Work degree as well as her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba. She is currently in her third year of her Master of Science Degree in Family Studies at the University of Manitoba.

In the past fourteen years, Diane has worked in a number of capacities in Native Child Welfare. She has worked as a Child & Family Service Worker, Case Manager and a Supervisor. Currently Diane is employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as a Supervisor and has held this position since April 2000.

Diane's passion is working directly with families. With her graduate degree Diane's long-term goals with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services are to develop culturally appropriate programs that promote healthy families and unity in our community.

Evelyn Webster –Resource Coordinator (Interim)

Evelyn Webster was born and raised in the community of Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. She speaks fluently in both, Ojibway and English. Evelyn graduated from the University of Manitoba, obtaining her Bachelor of Social Work Degree in 1986.

Evelyn has been working in the Native Child Welfare field for the past fifteen years for other Northern First Nation Communities. This experience has given Evelyn a lot of exposure to the needs of our First Nation people.

In August 2000, Evelyn returned to Sagkeeng First Nation to work for this Agency as a Supervisor and is presently working as the Resource Coordinator on an interim basis. This position entailed enhancing the existing Foster Resource Program through on-going training and recruiting of new foster parents. This also included developing new resources according to the needs of our children in care.

The goal for Sagkeeng Child & Family Services is to reclaim responsibility for Sagkeeng First Nation children that are presently in care of other agencies.

Felix Munoz – Supervisor (Acting)

Felix is currently employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as an Acting Supervisor. He has over eleven years of experience in Native Child Welfare. Felix being a native of South America is able to identify with the North American First Nations and their customs and traditions. Felix has worked as a Native Child Welfare worker in numerous communities in Northern Manitoba. His work involves addressing issues of abuse, neglect, parent-child conflict and skill development. Over the past four years, he has been working directly with children and families in the community.

Felix obtained two University degrees, a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Sociology and Bachelor of Social Work. He is also registered with the Institute of Social Workers in Manitoba. Felix is motivated by the progress Native Child Welfare is making, especially the direction the Agency is taking in reclaiming responsibility for our children and community.

Mary Staniscia – Supervisor

Mary Staniscia, (nee Courchene) also known as Marie, was born and raised in the community of Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. Mary speaks fluently in both the Ojibway and English language.

Mary entered into the long distance Bachelor of Education Degree program in 1996 and is nearing completion of obtaining her degree. Over the last twelve years Mary has been employed with First Nation Communities in a number of northern locations in the capacity of Mental Health Worker, Direct Service Worker and Supervisor. Mary's years of experience include Administration in First Nation Mental Health as well as Native Child Welfare.

As of April 2001, Mary obtained employment as a Supervisor with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services in the Winnipeg satellite office. Mary feels it is very important, as Native Child Welfare service providers, to continue working towards having Native Child Welfare Agencies, such as ours, obtain responsibility for our own community members, on and off reserve. Mary's goal is to ensure culturally appropriate services are delivered to all of our community members in the Province of Manitoba.

Cheryl Fontaine – Child Abuse Coordinator

Cheryl Fontaine has recently been appointed the Child Abuse Coordinator at Sagkeeng Child and Family Services (SCFS). In this new and exciting role, Cheryl will be responsible for overseeing child abuse investigations, working with the newly established Regional Child Abuse Committee, and providing prevention and intervention workshops within the community. Prior to this, Cheryl worked as a Child & Family Service Worker with the Agency beginning in 1993.

During the past seven years, while working with SCFS, she also played an important role in helping to establish the Katrina Rae Day Care, worked as a deployed worker to Winnipeg Child and Family Services – Northwest, represented SCFS on the Child Abuse Committee for Eastman Child and Family Services, and also worked as a Southern Technician representing SCFS on the First Nations Child Day Care Initiative with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Cheryl recently graduated from the Bachelor of Social Work degree program, and also has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Winnipeg, majoring in Psychology and Developmental Studies. She is also a graduate of the Career Development Institute, Office Administration program. Cheryl is also a licensed childcare worker, CCW III and worked in the child day care field and with youth in group home settings prior to joining the SCFS team.

During portions of her childhood Cheryl was raised by her grandparents George and Margaret Fontaine, her aunties Marie and Shirley, and uncles, Cliff, Leon and Ted. Therefore, she appreciates and recognizes the important role extended family plays within the lives of First Nations children, and is pleased that she is able to put to use both her previous work and educational experience within her own community.

Darlene Courchene – Finance Administrator

Darlene Courchene is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation and was born and raised in Winnipeg. In 1995 Darlene moved to the community with her husband and children to work with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as the Finance Administrator.

Darlene's education and work experience revolve around Business and Finance. Prior to moving to Sagkeeng she was an instructor at a community college for approximately five years.

Darlene is very involved at the community level, participating and volunteering in many community events. Her goal in this area is to promote activities, which encourage and involve the children in our community.

Robert Bunn – Legal Counsel

Robert Bunn has recently been retained as the Sagkeeng Child & Family Services Inc., lawyer for in-house consultation. Robert is a resident and community member of Sagkeeng First Nation. He is from a family that is comprised of seven children, two sisters and four brothers. His parents are John Bunn and Susan Gott (deceased).

Upon graduation of grade twelve, Robert entered into the Bachelor of Arts program at the University of Winnipeg. Upon completion in 1986 he became employed at the Manitoba Indian Education Association as an Education Counselor. In 1990 he entered into the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba and graduated in 1993. Robert articulated for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in 1995 while enrolled in the Bar Admission Course of the Law Society of Manitoba. Robert received his license to practice law in June 1996.

Since his admission to the Law Society of Manitoba, Robert has maintained working with First Nation people in various capacities. In 1998 Robert was retained as Legal Counsel for the Band Administration of Sagkeeng First Nation. Robert's primary reason for returning is to work hand in hand with the people in the community.

Carol Buboire – Child & Family Service Worker

Carol Buboire (nee: Courchene) is a resident of Fort Alexander. She left the community at the age of sixteen and has just recently returned. In 1985 she started her education from a grade five level at Red River Community College. She obtained a certificate as a Developmental Service Worker in 1990. After obtaining her certificate, Carol was employed with Manitoba Support Services for six years. While working, Carol entered the Bachelor of Social Work Program at the University of Manitoba. Carol graduated in 1996 with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. While obtaining her degree, she was also acquiring knowledge and experience in Play Therapy under the guidance of Ellis Lehmann & Associates. Since June 1991, prior to obtaining her degree, Carol has worked in the Social Services Field.

After graduation, Carol obtained employment at Native Women's Transition Centre for two years. She also worked as a Play Therapist with Ellis Lehmann & Associates and Women in Second Stage Housing (WISH). Carol relocated to Thompson in 1999 and worked in South Indian Lake for Manitoba Family Services and Housing. In April 2001 Carol joined Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Child & Family Service Worker. Carol hopes to have the opportunity to reacquaint herself with the residents of Sagkeeng and work in assisting people in achieving their goals.

Ingrid Daniels – Child & Family Service Worker

Ingrid Daniels is a member of the Long Plains Band, through marriage, but was originally a band member of the Sagkeeng First Nation. Ingrid's goal has always been to work with Aboriginal people. Her interest in Native Child Welfare issues are high based on her own experiences as a mother and through her learning experience as a volunteer.

Ingrid was a stay home mom of six children for most of her married life. During that time she volunteered extensively within the communities in which she lived. Her volunteer experiences almost always included working with youth and their parents as well as working with Aboriginal people.

Ingrid resumed her education when circumstances permitted and is in her final year of completing her Bachelor of Social Work Degree. Ingrid's past work experience includes working as a Social Worker in community development projects with the Health Action Center. She also worked at Marymount Treatment Centre in one of their group homes. For a period of time Ingrid also worked with Aboriginal sponsored students at the Manitoba Indian Education Association in Winnipeg.

Ingrid is currently employed with the Sagkeeng Child & Family Services, in the Winnipeg satellite office, as a Child & Family Service Worker. Ingrid feels she has a good understanding of Aboriginal needs and issues and feels this will greatly assist her in her work with the community.

Merle Fontaine – Child & Family Service Worker

Merle Fontaine is a Sagkeeng First Nation member and was born and raised in the community. She is fluent in both Ojibway and English.

Since April 2000 Merle has been employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Child & Family Service Worker. Her job entails carrying a caseload of the children in care as well as providing support services to their families. Merle's previous five years of work experience includes working as a cultural advisor and support worker for First Nation people in the City of Winnipeg.

Merle is currently enrolled in the long distance Bachelor of Social Work Program. She has obtained a two-year Diploma in Health & Wellness as well as a Counseling Skills Certificate from the University of Manitoba. Merle has also successfully completed the Core Competency Based Training delivered by Child and Family Service and Housing.

Tania Guimond – Child & Family Service Worker

Tania Guimond is a band member with Sagkeeng First Nation and presently resides in the community. Tania was born in Pine Falls and resided in the community of Sagkeeng until her youth at which time her family relocated to the Winnipeg area.

Tania obtained her Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Manitoba in 1995. After obtaining her degree she worked for the Salvation Army and Winnipeg Child & Family Services until 1999 at which time she returned to Sagkeeng. Tania is presently employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as a Child & Family Service Worker. She has held this position since October 1999.

Tania had been actively involved as a volunteer at the Elizabeth Fry Society in Winnipeg, Salvation Army Children's Program and at Winnipeg Child & Family Services as a one on one support worker for children.

Tania's return to the community of Sagkeeng was based on her desire to work for the betterment of her own people. She enjoys working with children and their families and through her work, has had the opportunity to reacquaint herself with the community and its members.

Walter Spence – Child & Family Service Worker

Walter Spence is a member of the Peguis First Nation. Walter was born in Winnipeg and was raised, for the most part, in Peguis. For short periods of time he resided in Winnipeg, The Pas, and Brandon. He has made the east side of the lake his home for the past seven years.

Walter has been with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services for the past five years and is currently a Child & Family Service Worker. His previous experience includes working with other First Nations Child Welfare Agencies. Walter is currently enrolled in the long distance education Bachelor of Social Work program through the University of Manitoba.

Walter feels that the rewards in working with children and families are not ones that can be measured in concrete terms, but through seeing the community's spirit grow. Walter is married to a community member and together they have one child and are expecting another in the near future. Walter feels that working with the Agency has enabled him to make a contribution to this community.

Anita Prince – Child & Family Service Worker (Interim)

Anita Prince is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation. Anita has been employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as the file clerk, receptionist and support worker during the last five years. Recently she moved into an interim position as a Child & Family Service Worker.

While employed with the Agency, Anita attended the University of Manitoba Aboriginal Focus Program, obtaining a certificate in Counseling in 1997 and a certificate in Child Sexual Abuse Intervention and Treatment in 1999. Anita is currently enrolled in the long distance Bachelor of Social Work Program at the University of Manitoba.

Presently Anita is anxiously awaiting a response from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation regarding funding on a proposal she submitted. Anita created a program entitled “Giigido-Giige-Ikwe”, based on the theme “Empowering Women”. The program is geared to create community awareness and education on the impacts the residential school has had on our lives as Anicinabe women. Anita is hopeful funding is forthcoming so that this program can be embraced and delivered to and for our community women. Anita is very committed to her job, working with children and their families, and is an avid believer in community healing and wellness.

Murray Bruyere – Support Worker

Murray Bruyere is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation. He was born in Pine Falls and grew up in British Columbia. Murray returned to the area to live permanently in the early 90’s.

Murray has extensive experience and education in Child Welfare and has worked in this area for the past twenty years. Presently Murray is employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Support Worker and has held this position for the past ten years.

Murray is actively involved with the youth in the community. In the past he has developed programs for our youth such as hockey, baseball, basketball and floor hockey. Murray is very involved in traditional culture and his goal is to implement this into future programs that may be developed for our children.

Susan Bruyere – Support Worker

Susan Bruyere was born in Keeseekoose Saskatchewan and raised in Swan River and The Pas. She moved to Winnipeg in 1973 where she graduated grade twelve. She then moved to the community of Sagkeeng in 1998.

In 1976 - 1978 Susan attended the University of Brandon pursuing her Bachelor of Nursing Degree. She then went on to work for Northwest Child & Family Services in Winnipeg for one year. From there she obtained employment at Knowles Centre as a Resident/Community Youth Worker. At the same time, she continued her education at Red River Community College in the area of Youth Care Worker. After completing her studies at Red River she became employed at Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin Inc., as a Resident Support Worker, counseling abused women, a position she held for nine years.

In February 2001 Susan became employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as a Support Worker. She currently works with our children in the area of support and guidance. . Presently Susan is enrolled in the long distance education Bachelor of Social Work Program at the University of Manitoba.

Rhonda Houston – Resource Worker

Rhonda Houston is a member of Peguis First Nation. She was born in Bissett and was raised in this area with the exception of living for six years in the Red Lake, Ontario region. Rhonda is currently enrolled in the Aboriginal Child and Family Services Diploma program. Her past experience includes working in the management, administrative and financial capacity. She has her certificate in Business Administration from Red River Community College. Previous to coming to Sagkeeng Child & Family Services in April of 2000, Rhonda was employed for a number of years with The Virginia Fontaine Addictions Foundation as a supervisor. This work involved working with youth in the addictions field as well as supervision of work teams.

Rhonda is currently employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Resource Worker. Rhonda's past work experience has always involved work with the First Nations people and this experience has given her a good understanding of the needs of our people.

Theresa Bunn – Resource Worker

Theresa Bunn was recently hired as a Resource Worker for Sagkeeng Child & Family Services. She is a member of the Fort Alexander Reserve and is fluent in both the Ojibway and English language.

Theresa obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Manitoba. She is in her final year of obtaining her Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Winnipeg. She has worked in the Human Resource field with Aboriginal people since 1970.

Theresa was previously employed at Corrections Canada as a Case Management Officer then a Parole Officer in the Institution. She worked for the last six years maintaining a caseload and has extensive experience in risk assessment. Prior to this, Theresa was employed by the Sagkeeng First Nation Band as Director of Social Services and Director of Lands and Planning. She was also employed as a Teacher and Head Librarian by Sagkeeng Education Authority.

Lois Palmer – Resource Worker

Lois Palmer is a member of Peguis First Nation and was born and raised in Northern, Ontario. She moved to Winnipeg in 1986 and has dedicated herself to working for First Nation peoples

Lois is currently enrolled in the long distance Bachelor of Social Work Program through the University of Manitoba. Her past experience includes working in an administrative and financial capacity. Previous to coming to Sagkeeng Child & Family Services in October 2000, Lois was employed for a number of years in the Resource Program at Southeast Child & Family Services. This work took her to the Northern First Nation communities regularly.

Lois is currently employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as a Resource Worker. Through working in the Northern First Nation Communities, Lois' experience has enabled her to work and understand the needs of our First Nation people. She also brings with her a number of administrative skills that enhances her ability to meet the demands and requirements of her position as a Resource Worker.

Elaine Courchene – Finance Assistant

Elaine Courchene is a First Nation member of Sagkeeng and was born and raised in a First Nation community in Saskatchewan. Elaine moved to the community and has resided here since 1995

Elaine has been employed with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services since 1999 as a Financial Assistant. Previous to this Elaine's experience has been primarily in the administrative field. Prior to relocating to the community of Sagkeeng, Elaine was employed as an Administrative Assistant for a large Housing Corporation. Elaine is currently involved in ongoing training in the financial field.

Jennifer Courchene – Administrative Support - Child Abuse Program

Jennifer Courchene is a First Nation member of Sagkeeng. She does not speak the language but does have an understanding of the Objibway language. She was born in Rivers, Manitoba and resided in a small community known as Oo-za-we-kwun until she was school age. Jennifer and her family moved to numerous other towns and communities in Manitoba until they settled in the community of Sagkeeng in 1980.

Jennifer has been employed with Sagkeeng Child & Family Services since April 2000. Initially she was employed as a receptionist, then as a Finance Assistant and recently accepted her present position, Administrative Support for the Child Abuse Program.

Debra Bunn – File Clerk

Debra Bunn is from Fort Alexander Indian Reserve and has been employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services for the past three years as file clerk. She is a graduate of Fort Alexander High School and Assiniboine Community College, Grade X11, Community Social Development Worker and Aboriginal Community Development Diploma Program. Besides working at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services, Debbie has also worked for Sagkeeng First Nation in the Social and Economic Development Programs.

It has always been Debbie's goal to work and help the community members of Sagkeeng. As a proud member of Sagkeeng, she is confident that together we can overcome the current difficulties and strive for success in being a First Nation community.

Sandra Bunn – Receptionist (Interim)

Sandra Bunn is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation and with the exception of twelve years in which she lived in Winnipeg, she has resided on the North Shore of the community.

Sandra is a graduate of Sagkeeng Anicinabe High School, and historically one of the first recipients of a diploma from the on-reserve High School. Prior to this the community could only offer a grade eight education to their children. Sandra continued her education at Red River Community College, completing her first year of Business Administration. Sandra remained in Winnipeg and worked in an Administrative capacity for eight years. Throughout those eight years, she continued her education, with the support of her employer, and completed a number of courses at the University of British Columbia.

Sandra is currently employed as the Receptionist in an interim position at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services. Sandra has been actively involved as a community member, volunteering at the school and community level as well as participating as a board member for the local Health Centre.

Crissy Courchene – Receptionist

Crissy Courchene is from Sagkeeng First Nation. She was born in Winnipeg and raised in Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. Crissy has been employed, on an interim basis, as clerical support for Sagkeeng Child & Family Services.

Crissy graduated high school in June 1998 from Sagkeeng Anicinabe High School. She then went on to complete her Business Administration Studies at Red River Community College. Crissy is enrolled in the fall session of the Bachelor of Commerce Program at the University of Manitoba and will be working towards obtaining her degree.

Linda Bunn – Janitor/Custodian

Linda Bunn was born in Lone Island, Manitoba and was raised in Fort Alexander Indian Reserve where she is a band member. Linda is from a family of thirteen born to the late Mr & Mrs Frank Bunn. She also has four children of her own and speaks fluently in both Ojibway and English.

Linda's education includes a certificate in Early Childhood Education. Linda is presently employed with Sagkeeng Child and Family Services as a janitor/custodian since March 1999. Previous to this she was employed with various organizations in the community.

Charles Bruyere – Maintenance

Charles Bruyere is a member of the Sagkeeng First Nation community. Charles was born in Pine Falls and was raised in the community of Sagkeeng until his late teens. He later returned to Sagkeeng in 1996.

Charles entered a two-year program at New Careers in Winnipeg and obtained a certificate in Substance Abuse Counselling. Following his graduation, he was employed at the St Norbert Youth Program for a period of time and then at the Sagkeeng Treatment Centre. Charles also worked at Winnipeg Child and Family Services for approximately three years. Charles then returned to school at the Winnipeg Education Centre, completing two years of the four year Bachelor of Social Work Program. Charles plans on returning to school to complete the Bachelor of Social Work Program at a later date.

Charles is presently employed at Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as the Maintenance Worker. He has been employed at the Agency since January 2001. Charles is mechanically inclined and enjoys running his own automotive repair business in his free time.

Byron Starr – Escort Driver

Byron Starr was born and raised in Fort Alexander Indian Reserve. His parents are Mary and Jack Starr. He is currently self-employed, and is contracted by Sagkeeng Child & Family Services as the Escort Driver. He has a grade X11 education and is currently enrolled in the Aboriginal Child and Family Services Diploma Program. His long-term goal is to become a Social Worker and helper in his community.



Acknowledgments

Sagkeeng Child & Family Services would like to acknowledge the following community members and collaterals for their past, present and future support. Without their assistance, the path that has brought us here today would have certainly proven to be a more difficult journey. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to;

Elders

*Mrs Verna Prince
Mrs Julianna Courchene
Mr George Courchene*

*f*or your wisdom and guidance;

Community Collaterals

*Chief and Council
Sagkeeng Band Administration Office
Sagkeeng Wellness Program
Sagkeeng Health Centre
George M. Guimond Care Centre
Katrina Rae Day Care Centre
Sagkeeng Education Authority
Sagkeeng High School
Anicinabe Community School
Sagkeeng Elementary School*

*f*or working collectively towards a stronger and healthier community;

External Collaterals

*Eastman Services & Housing
RCMP Powerview Detachment
Blue Water Medical Group
Child Protection & Support Branch
Child Protection Centre*

*f*or your support of our community.