

CASDSM Truth and Reconciliation Statement

The Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin stands in unity with Indigenous peoples on their journey towards truth, reconciliation, and restoration of their rich and vibrant cultures and heritage. This commitment is exemplified through our devolution of services to the four Indigenous child wellbeing agencies whose jurisdictional boundaries overlap with our own, and for whom our support remains enduring. Devolution of services is underscored by our belief that **all** Indigenous persons who identify as Indigenous have the right to be served by an Indigenous Child Wellbeing agency. With the exception of those children, youth, and families who self-identify as Metis, Inuit, or 'Indigenous without First Nation status', and for whom jurisdictional authority for service provision remains in dispute¹, we have achieved the following milestones which are aligned with the 'nine key commitments' unanimously agreed upon in 2017 by the child welfare sector:

1. **Reduced Indigenous Children in Care:** Successfully reduced the number of Indigenous children in care by 100%².
2. **Reduced Legal Files Involving Indigenous Children and Families:** Achieved a 100% reduction in the number of legal files involving Indigenous children and families³.
3. **Supported Customary Care Agreements:** Wholeheartedly supported the Indigenous agencies' use of formal customary care agreements, reaching 100% support.
4. **Forged Collaborative Relationships:** Established and nurtured relationships with the four Indigenous agencies, actively promoting their connections with local Indigenous communities.
5. **Supported Indigenous Agencies' Plans:** Fully supported the Indigenous agencies' plans to enhance their ability to address the unique needs of children and families from Indigenous communities.
6. **Assisted in Accessing Historical Files:** Provided assistance and will continue to aid individuals seeking access to their historical files, ensuring the provision of requested information.
7. **Incorporated Jordan's Principle:** Modified the inter-agency protocol to include Jordan's Principle as a fundamental guiding principle.
8. **Implemented Cross-Cultural Training:** Introduced cross-cultural training for our staff, inclusive of Indigenous training to enhance awareness and understanding.
9. **Promoted Cultural Representation in Governance:** Actively supported and will continue to advocate for cultural representation and involvement at the local Board of Directors, ensuring representation aligns with the population groups we are sanctioned to serve.

¹ We believe **all** Indigenous children, youth, and families have the right to receive services from the Indigenous child wellbeing agency that is designated to provide these.

² 100% reduction pertains to children registered with the First Nation affiliates of the four Indigenous child well-being agencies. Our agency continues to serve children, youth and families who identify as Métis, Inuit, or 'Indigenous without First Nation status', pending a Ministry review of jurisdictional authority for these sectors of the Indigenous populations. We believe that all sectors of the Indigenous population have the right to be served by an Indigenous Child Wellbeing agency.

³ Ibid