



Métis **FAMILY WELLBEING** *Program*

HEALTHY AND WHOLE MÉTIS FAMILIES

The Métis Family Wellbeing Program is a new program aimed at supporting Healthy and Whole Métis Families. The Program is delivered by the Métis Nation of Ontario with support from Ontario's Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). The program is an investment under Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy. The broader Indigenous Family Wellbeing Program funds the Métis Nation of Ontario and other Indigenous partners to design and deliver prevention-focused, culture-based supports to promote healthy communities.

The program is intended to: support families to heal from the effects of intergenerational trauma; reduce violence; and address the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in child welfare and youth justice systems. The program will support children, youth and their families in diverse communities with increased access to appropriate services.

Guiding Principles

Throughout the co-development of the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services heard from Indigenous partners that a shift to prevention and community-based funding would signal a commitment to a new way of working together while focusing on local community needs and reconciliation.

The program is guided by the principle that improving opportunities and outcomes and for Indigenous children and youth requires fundamental systems change that enables Indigenous communities to take the lead in the design and delivery of effective, preventative, wholistic and culturally grounded services.

Transformational Goals and Objectives

The Métis Family Wellbeing Program aims to prevent and disrupt the cycle of violence against Métis women by developing resources to support children and youth affected by violence. Strengths-based interventions are intended to reduce the need for children being taken into care by supporting families through the least disruptive means possible.

The program recognizes the inter-connection between reducing violence in families and communities and improving child and youth outcomes over a lifetime. As such, indicators of program success include:

- ∞ The reduction of the number of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare and youth justice systems;
- ∞ The reduction of the occurrence of family violence; and
- ∞ The improvement of the overall health and wellbeing of communities.

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The Métis Family Wellbeing Program is centered around the following goals that form the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy:

1. Métis children and youth are grounded in their culture and have positive self-identity;
2. Métis children and youth have access to culture-based, timely, high-quality services and supports;
3. Métis children and youth grow up in strong and stable families and communities in harmony and mutual respect with all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people;
4. Métis children and youth play an important role in breaking the cycle of violence;
5. Métis children and youth are informed, engaged, and empowered to choose healthy relationships and sexual health;
6. Métis youth participate meaningfully in the labour force and have improved socio-economic conditions;
7. Métis children and youth have a strong voice, are leaders in influencing the decisions that affect them, and are included in, and responsible for, social, economic and civic change.

Métis Family Wellbeing Program Delivery Model

The Métis Nation of Ontario signed an agreement with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to deliver the program in Métis communities across the province. The agreement was signed in 2016-17 and represents a three-year fiscal commitment and a total budget of about \$8M.

Administered through the MNO Healing and Wellness branch, the program will leverage knowledge, resources and supports from other MNO programs including those delivered through the MNO Education and Training branch. Newly created positions include:

- ∞ 29 Métis Family Well Being Coordinators (full-time)
- ∞ 29 Métis Cultural Coordinators (part-time)
- ∞ 2 Métis Family Wellbeing Supervisors
- ∞ 1 Health Policy Advisor

The program will support Métis community events and activities that encourage cultural learning and knowledge exchange. The purpose of providing these unique opportunities within the community is to assist in building self-esteem; self-awareness and self-confidence of Métis children and youth. Another focus of the program involves community outreach and education as a means of improving access to appropriate services in the broader service community for Métis children, youth, and families.

The service delivery model is similar to the model in place for other MNO Healing and Wellness programs such as Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Community Wellness. The primary focus for the (29) Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinators is direct one-on-one client services and the provision of preventative educational components.

MNO's programming is client-driven and based on the expressed needs of individuals and families. The 'clients' are Métis children and youth and wellness planning will often involve the entire family.

The part-time Cultural Coordinators are responsible for planning and implementing community-based cultural events and activities in their site delivery location. This includes but is not limited to organizing family socials, workshops, and a range of cultural activities and events.



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Roles and Responsibilities of Program Coordinators

Métis Family Wellbeing Program Coordinators 29 (full time)

Program Coordinators are responsible for the following three areas of activity:

- ∞ **Client-based activities:** to support wellness planning, service coordination, advocacy and referrals to other service providers. The MNO Health Access Tracking System is a tool the MNO uses to maintain important client information, track progress and report on outcomes.
- ∞ **Participant-based activities:** to provide information to MNO citizens in group settings. This includes information sharing at local Métis Community Council events and other cultural celebrations. It also includes education activities designed to ensure Métis children, youth and families are engaged and empowered to choose healthy relationships and have an opportunity to grow-up in strong and stable families and communities.
- ∞ **Networking:** to develop and maintain relationships with other community service providers. This collaboration is intended to expand the scope of services available to Métis children, youth and families.
- ∞ **Establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships with MNO Community Councils and citizens.**

Métis Cultural Coordinators 29 (part time)

Part time Cultural Coordinators are responsible for the following areas of activity:

- ∞ **Assist with all aspects of program delivery and special events.**
- ∞ **Plan, research and coordinate program activities including traditional Métis games and skills such as fiddle playing, Métis dancing, finger-weaving, beading and other culture-based activities.**
- ∞ **Engage with Métis children, youth, and knowledge holders including MNO Senators in program activities.**
- ∞ **Establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships with MNO Community Councils and citizens.**

Further Information

The Métis Family Wellbeing Program is established and will be fully operationalized in the winter of 2016-2017. For further information, please contact the MNO Healing and Wellness Manager of Operations or a Program Coordinator in your community.

The MNO wishes to acknowledge its partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Children and Youth Services and looks forward to working with the Ministry to ensure that the Program is sustained and supported beyond its current commitment to March 31, 2019.

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
PROGRAM DELIVERY SITES