

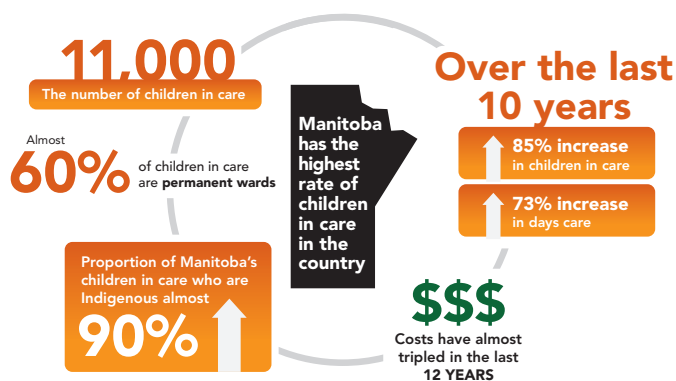
Transforming Child Welfare in Manitoba

Reform. Renew. Results.



The Manitoba government is committed to developing a comprehensive plan that acts on the many outstanding reports and recommendations to achieve better outcomes for children – fewer children in care, stronger partnerships with families and communities, better co-ordination of services and greater public accountability.

Child Welfare in Manitoba



Extended Duration in Care

Strategic initiatives are needed to reduce the number of children coming into care and the length of time they spend in care.

- 40% of all children in care were 0-2 years old when they first came into care.
- 54% of permanent wards are under the age of 10.

Children who grow up in care have significantly worse life outcomes (as adults) compared to children who grow up in forever families.

Better Outcomes for Children

- ✓ Community Driven Prevention
- ✓ Lifelong Connections
- ✓ Fewer Children in Care
- ✓ Fewer Days in Care

Current Welfare Budget



Drivers for Change

- Office of the Children's Advocate including the recent update on responses to the Hughes Public Inquiry
- Bringing our Children Home Report (2014) and the Manitoba First Nations Regional Engagement Interim Report (2017)
- Metis Children and Families and the Child Welfare System (2013)
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action
- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision

Essentials for Reform



1

Community Based Prevention

- Prevention demonstration sites in 2017/18.
- Mobilization and engagement with communities.
- Integration of provincial government resources to better support prevention at the community level, and co-ordination of cross-departmental service accessibility.



2

Lifelong Connections Through Reunification and Permanence

- Introduce customary care (community consultations currently underway).
- Emergency placement resources reform.
 - Early case planning and reunification through support of a multi-disciplinary assessment team and availability of family group conference.
 - Significant reduction in length of time spent in emergency care.
- Evidence-based permanency initiatives (e.g., subsidized guardianship, modernized adoption supports).



3

Funding for Results

- Block funding pilots: create flexibility for enhanced prevention and transition to funding for results and outcomes.
- Partnership to actively pursue enhanced funding from the federal government with an emphasis on prevention and service integration.



4

Legislative Reform

- Modernize The Child and Family Services Act to support a shift in practice and enable communities and families to have more influence on decisions.
- Review The Authorities Act to determine options for continuous improvement.
- Amend legislation to support a variety of permanency options (e.g., customary care).
- Explore options to increase openness and transparency.
- Change the threshold of engagement to enable the system to respond to vulnerable children and families sooner and reduce the number of children in care.
- Legislative Review Committee will lead the process.

Flexible funding:



Delivering Necessary Foundations for Reform: Spring 2018

Develop a comprehensive and improved service delivery model that ensures:

- Greater community influence.
- Support for prevention and early reunification.
- Greater integration of services at a regional level.
- Expanding and building on the successes of innovative practices that are working (e.g., Signs of Safety).
- Modernized legislation.

Available in alternate formats upon request.