

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Honourable Johnny Mike
Minister of Family Services
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Dear Minister Mike,

I am pleased to present the Director of Children & Family Services 2015/16 annual report. The 2015/16 report is an opportunity to provide Nunavummiut with information regarding Child Protection Services that are delivered under the *Child and Family Services Act*. The report serves to show the multiple and collaborative ways families and the Department of Family Services can work together in protecting children and youth.

The report meets the legislated requirements of the *Child and Family Services Act* by providing a report on the administration of the *Act* and its regulations, presenting statistics with respect to child welfare within the territory, and outlining services and initiatives in the Children & Family Services division at the territorial and community level.

2015/16 marks the third year of operations for the Department of Family Services. This year presented a number of opportunities for the Department as we continued to build on the gains made in our first and second years of operation. The Department focused on establishing quality control mechanisms, reviewing and strengthening existing services, programs, and staff training, and looking at ways to increase community engagement. The Department also secured additional resources to strengthen service capacity.

In keeping with our Business Plan priorities, the Department was able to repatriate 34 children and youth to Nunavut in 2015/2016 so that they could receive services within the territory.

Moving forward, the Department will continue to focus on meaningful community engagement with communities and will explore more collaborative ways to work with families and communities to protect children. This includes devoting more positions to prevention and early-intervention through our Family Resource Workers, strengthening training for our frontline workers, and exploring Inuit-specific approaches to child protection, such as Inunnguiniq parenting. In this work, we remain guided by the principle of *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq: Respecting others, relationships and caring for people*, and will continue to strive towards the Sivumut Abluqta objective of *Healthy families through strong and resilient communities*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the families, extended families, and foster families who continue to provide safe and caring homes for children, youth, and adults in communities across the territory. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Children & Family Services team and in particular, the frontline staff, for their continued dedication to children and families. The protection of vulnerable children, individuals, and families is at the heart of the Department's work, and it is because of their continued dedication, time, strength, and support, that this work is possible.

Respectfully,

Jo-Anne Henderson-White, B.A., B.S.W., M.S.W.
Director of Children & Family Services

WHAT IS CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES?

Overview of Service Delivery

The Children & Family Services division is responsible for providing a wide range of support services for children and adults who require support and/or protection. The division is mandated under several acts, including the *Child and Family Services Act* and *Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, to ensure the safety of vulnerable Nunavummiut. The division also plays an important role in program and community development. The following 2 figures provide an overview of the Children & Family Services division, including key areas of service and its service delivery within the territory.

Figure 1: Overview of Services

| | |
|--|--|
| Child Protection Services | Child protection services protect and support children and youth who are at risk or are in need of protection through investigations into suspected cases of child abuse, and through support services within the family home, foster care, or residential care. |
| Adult Supports & Residential Care | Adult supports and residential care provides placements and support for adults, including Elders, whose complexity of needs cannot be met by the family or within the community. This includes in-territory and out-of-territory residential care. |
| Adoption Services | Adoption services support children, youth, birth parents, and adoptive families in private and departmental adoptions. The Department also assists Custom Adoption Commissioners across Nunavut to facilitate Custom Adoptions. |
| Guardianship Services | The Public Guardian is responsible for reviewing guardianship applications and when appointed by the Court, for making decisions about personal and health matters for individuals who are unable to make decisions on their own. |
| Family Violence Prevention | Family Violence Prevention services support individuals experiencing family violence through Family Violence Shelters and Community Social Services Workers, and work to reduce family violence through public awareness and advocacy work. |
| Social Advocacy | The Social Advocacy program provides funding to a number of community organizations across Nunavut working to enhance the lives of Nunavummiut. |

Figure 2: Overview of Service Delivery Structure (as at March 31, 2016)



Year in Review

Table 1 presents an overview of the services delivered to Nunavummiut through the Children & Family Services division. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented is from March 31, 2016, and represents a snapshot in time.

Table 1: Statistical Summary of Children & Family Services

| Select Indicators | Total | Percentage |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Number of Children and Youth Receiving Services | 408 | 100% |
| Male | 219 | 54% |
| Female | 189 | 46% |
| Children and Youth Receiving Services by Court or Agreement | | |
| Under Court Order | 204 | 50% |
| By Service Agreement | 204 | 50% |
| Children and Youth Receiving Services In or Out-of-Territory | | |
| In Nunavut | 347 | 85% |
| Out-of-Territory | 61 | 15% |
| Children and Youth Receiving Services In Nunavut, by Placement Type | | |
| Foster homes | 137 | 39% |
| In family | 113 | 33% |
| Extended family placements | 82 | 24% |
| Group homes | 15 | 4% |
| Number of Adults Receiving Services | 218 | |
| In Nunavut | 91 | 42% |
| Out-of-Territory | 127 | 58% |
| Total Number of Persons Admitted to Family Violence Shelters for FY 15/16 | 593 | |
| Women | 274 | 46% |
| Children | 319 | 54% |
| Persons under Guardianship | 236 | |
| Total Persons in Elder Care Facilities for FY 15/16 | 28 | |

As at March 31, 2016, the Department of Family Services was providing protection and/or support to 408 children and youth and 218 adults through in-home supports, respite care, counselling services, investigations and interventions in cases of abuse, and through foster care and residential care. A large proportion of children and youth (85%) were receiving care and services in Nunavut and more than half were receiving services within their family or extended family. Additionally, for the FY 2015/16, 593 women and children experiencing family violence sought emergency protection at the Department's Family Violence Shelters. Of the total admissions to Family Violence Shelters, 319 were children seeking refuge with their mothers.

The following section presents information on the Department's Child Protection Services, which are mandated under the *Child and Family Services Act*. It is followed by a section outlining the above statistics, with respect to where children, youth, and adults receiving services live, and concludes with an overview of the other areas of service that fall under the Children & Family Services division.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

Child Protection Services are delivered under Nunavut's *Child and Family Services Act* by Community Social Services Workers (CSSWs). The Children & Family Services division is mandated to provide these services every hour of every day within each of the 25 communities across Nunavut. As at March 31, 2016, there were 47 CSSWs working in the territory.

Child Protection Investigations

As per the *Child and Family Services Act*, a person who has information or reasonable grounds to believe a child needs protection must report the matter to a CSSW. The *Act* stipulates that upon receiving a report, and where the CSSW considers it advisable, the report must be investigated. An investigation into a report of suspected child abuse can result in one of three outcomes:

1. The report is found to be without merit and there is no investigation; or
2. The investigation is inconclusive and the file closes; or, if the family would benefit from additional supports, they can access Service Agreements; or
3. The report is validated and the child is in need of protection. The family can agree to a Plan of Care or the court is called upon to determine how to best ensure a child's safety.

Depending on the outcomes listed above, a family may receive various Child Protection Services as per the *Child and Family Services Act*, which are described below.

Types of Child Protection Services

Service Agreements

Service Agreements are utilized when there are no serious protection concerns, but a youth or family would benefit from receiving additional supports. These agreements provide opportunities for families to work collaboratively with the Children & Family Services division before court involvement is warranted. These agreements also work to support youth who are working towards independence. There are 3 different types of Service Agreements:

Voluntary Support Agreement: An agreement with parents of children under the age of 16 who are not in need of protection, but require some form of support. The purpose of a Voluntary Support Agreement is to provide support services in a preventative and proactive way to prevent further intervention by CSSWs.

Case Example: The school contacts a CSSW with concerns about a child. The child has become withdrawn and recently confided in his teacher that he hates when his parents fight. The CSSW investigates the report, and the parents admit to fighting in front of their son. The CSSW offers a Voluntary Support Agreement and helps the parents develop strategies for when conflicts arise (i.e., when a conflict starts, the child spends the night with his grandmother).

Support Services Agreement: An agreement with youth between the ages of 16 and 19 who cannot remain safely in their parents' home and are making efforts to care for themselves and live independently.

Case Example: A 17 year old regularly attends the Health Centre for check-ups with her new baby, where she expresses concerns to the nurse about her situation at home. Her sister's family recently moved in with her and her parents, leaving little space for her and her daughter, and causing increased conflict in the house. The nurse helps her reach out to a CSSW who, through a Support Services Agreement, assists the young woman work towards independence. This may involve helping her move into a relative's home until she secures housing.

Extended Support Agreement: An agreement that allows the Children & Family Services division provide supports to young adults between the ages of 19 and 26. Under this agreement, youth can access support services with respect to finances, education, and housing.

Case Example: An 18 year old has resided in foster care since he was 7 and plans to move out of his foster home as soon as he turns 19. The CSSW working with him suggests an Extended Support Agreement, which would provide him with supports until he is 26. The young adult refuses. At 20 years of age, the young adult is finding it challenging and overwhelming trying to secure stable housing, return to school, and access financial resources. He reaches out to his previous CSSW who, through an Extended Support Agreement, provides him with the necessary supports.

Figure 3A below outlines how a family or youth may become involved with the Children & Family Services division through Service Agreements.

Figure 3A: Child protection process when assessment determines the child/youth is not in need of immediate protection.

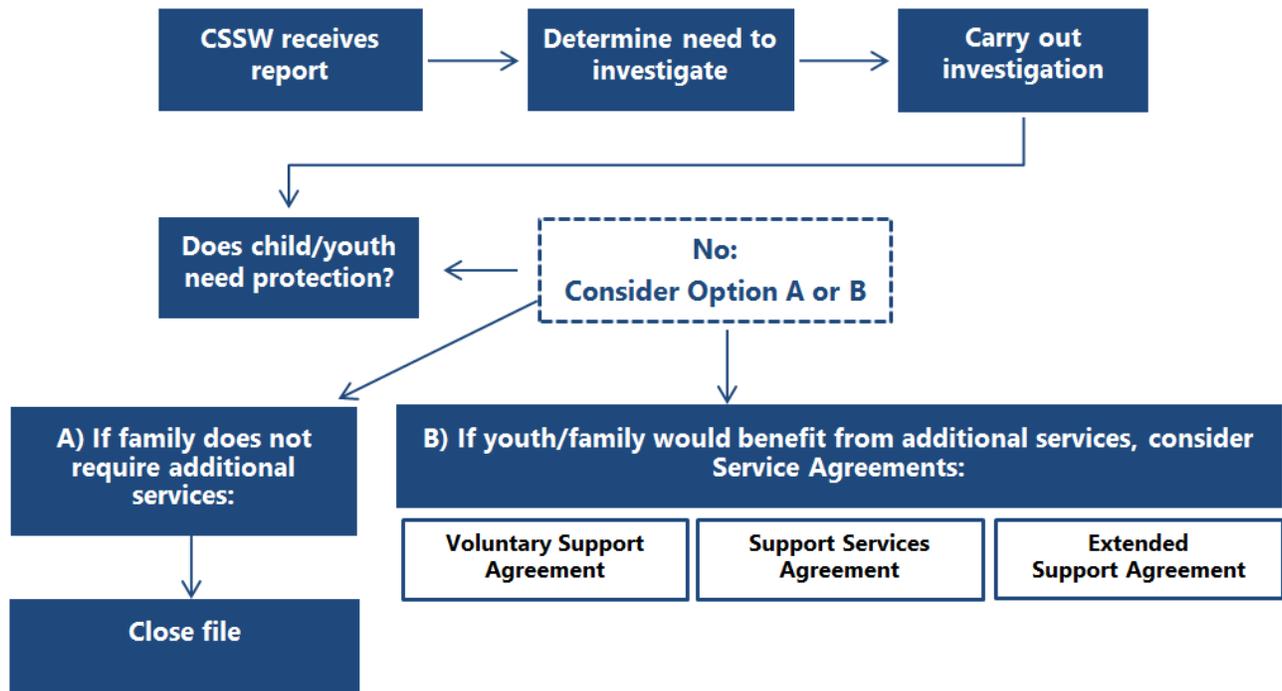
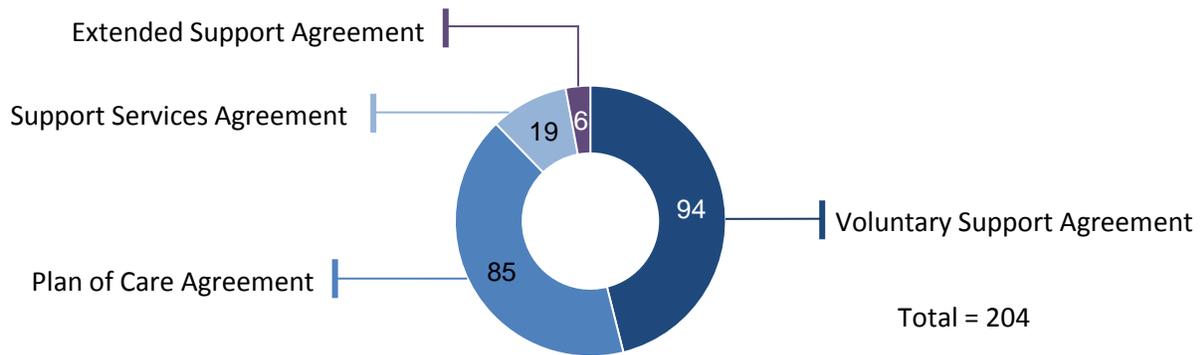


Figure 4 on the next page describes how many children and youth were receiving service, by the types of Service Agreements outlined above. The figure also includes the number of children and youth receiving service through Plan of Care Agreements. A Plan of Care is a written agreement between the parent(s) and Children & Family Services division that outlines a case plan for the child and family to ensure the child’s protection and wellbeing. Although a Plan of Care Agreement is still an agreement and alternative to court, a Plan of Care means there are immediate child protection concerns within the home. The following section titled Court Orders outlines how a family may become involved with Children & Family Services through Plan of Care Agreements.

Figure 4: Children and Youth Receiving Service, by Service Agreement, March 31, 2016



As shown above, a total of 204 children and youth were receiving care through Service Agreements, with the highest number receiving care through Voluntary Support Agreements. Families receiving care through this type of agreement may have access to a variety of services, including but not limited to: counselling, in-home support, respite care, parenting programs, mediation of conflict, and/or any other services agreed to by the Director and the parent(s). The Department is committed to utilizing these types of Service Agreements to avoid future and further intervention by CSSWs.

Court Orders

The following section describes the services the Department is mandated to deliver under the *Act* when a child is in need of protection. There are 3 different types of Court Orders utilized when a child is in need of protection:

Supervision Order: A court order that directs a CSSW to supervise the home of a child according to the terms and conditions of the order. The order cannot be for a period exceeding one year.

Case Example: A mother with a medically fragile child requires support in meeting her child’s needs. She has 4 other children and a limited support system as she is new in the community. The mother has strong parenting skills, but has missed a number of the child’s appointments at the Health Centre. The nurse is concerned that the child is at risk if he does not receive the medical attention he requires. As such, the nurse makes a referral to a CSSW. A Supervision Order is issued because the child’s needs are extremely high, and without intervention from the CSSW, the child would remain at risk. The CSSW may work with the mother in building her support systems and drawing on the support of community members to assist her meet her child’s needs (i.e., the nurse, her neighbor, etc.).

Temporary Custody Order: A court order which directs that the child be placed in the custody of the Director for a specified period.

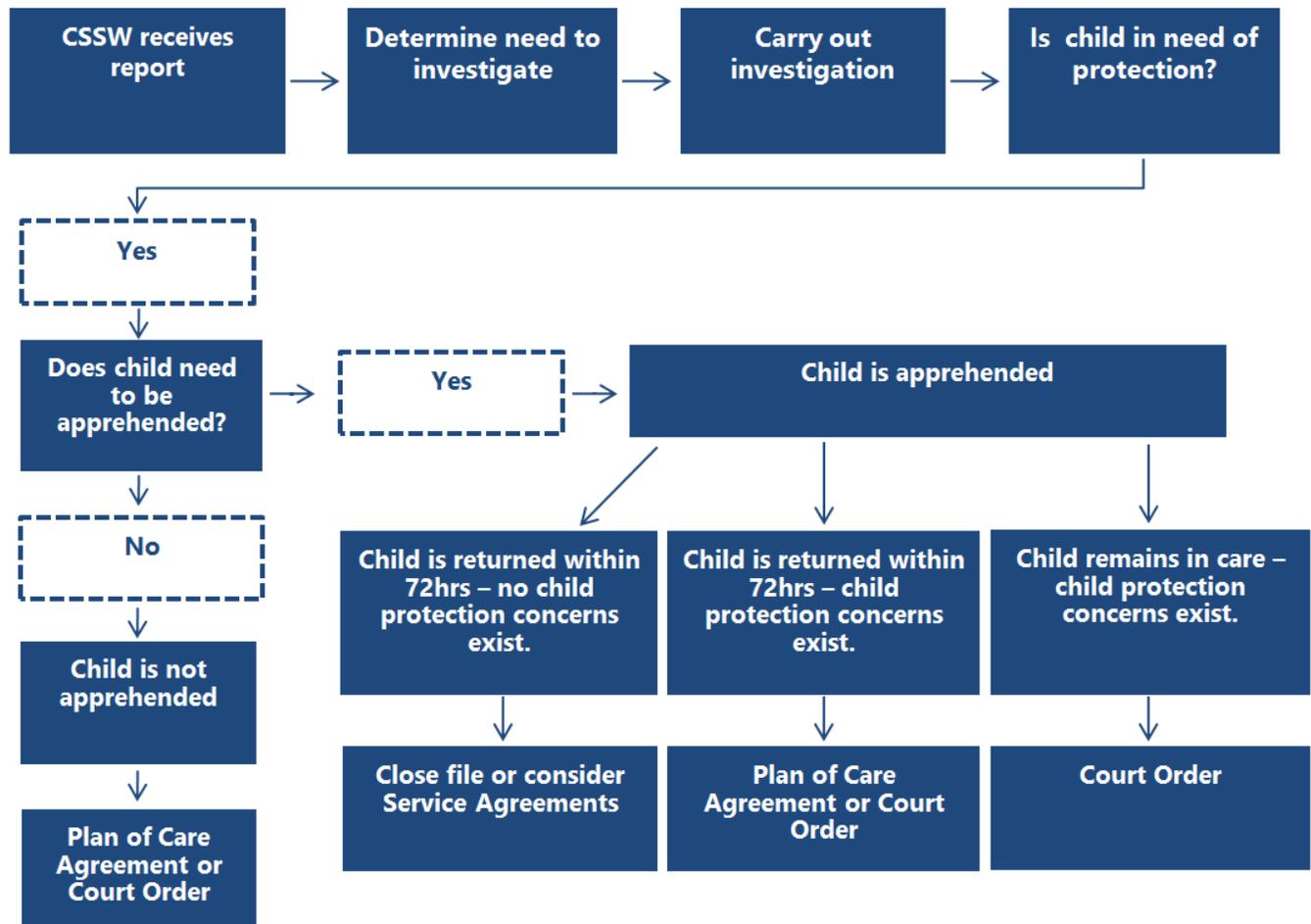
Case Example: A family has had significant involvement with Child Protection Services as a result of ongoing family violence. In one particular instance, the child witnessed the violence and both parents were arrested. The ongoing violence resulted in the court ordering a Temporary Custody Order and the child was placed with his grandparents. The parents are open to working with the CSSW in developing a plan to have the child return to them. The plan may include supervised visits with the child, conflict mediation and safety planning, and increasing the parents’ supports in the community.

Permanent Custody Order: A court order that places a child in the permanent custody of the Director to age 16, extendable to 19 if the youth consents or if ordered by the court. The court may specify in the order any terms and conditions that the court deems necessary such as provisions around the child’s access to their parent(s).

Case Example: A young couple recently had a baby. The parents have cognitive delays, and are struggling to meet the needs of their child. Their family is trying to support them, but have concerns about the parents’ capacity to care for the child. A family member contacts a CSSW, and asks for support in determining a long-term plan for the child. The couple decides, with their family, that the child should go under the permanent care of the Director. A family member becomes a foster parent for the child and eventually, the child is adopted into the extended family.

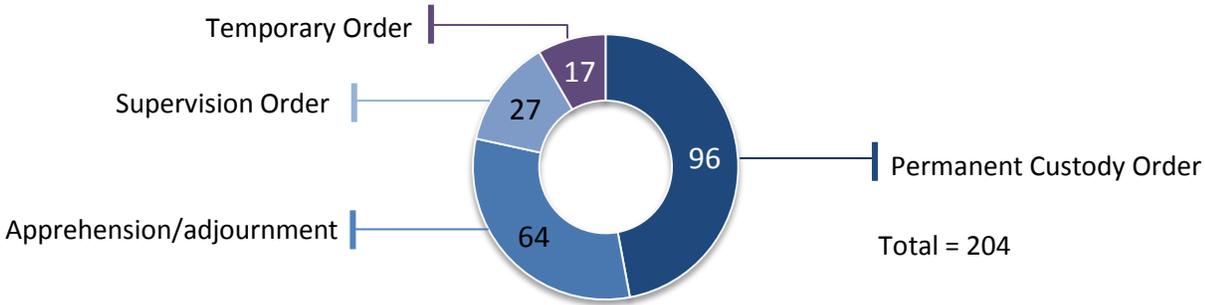
Figure 3B below outlines the steps that occur when a CSSW’s assessment determines a child is in need of protection. It demonstrates that where possible, a family can still work with Children & Family Services through Plan of Care Agreements instead of going to court.

Figure 3B: Child protection process when assessment determines the child/youth is in need of protection.



As at March 31, 2016, there were 204 children and youth under the Court Orders described above. Figure 5 below provides a snapshot of the number of children and youth receiving service through Court Orders, including the number of children and youth under apprehension/adjudgment statuses. An apprehension is a point in time when a child has been removed from the care of their parent(s). An adjournment order means a Court Order was made to bring the matter back to court on a later date, at which point one of the 3 types of Court Orders can be issued.

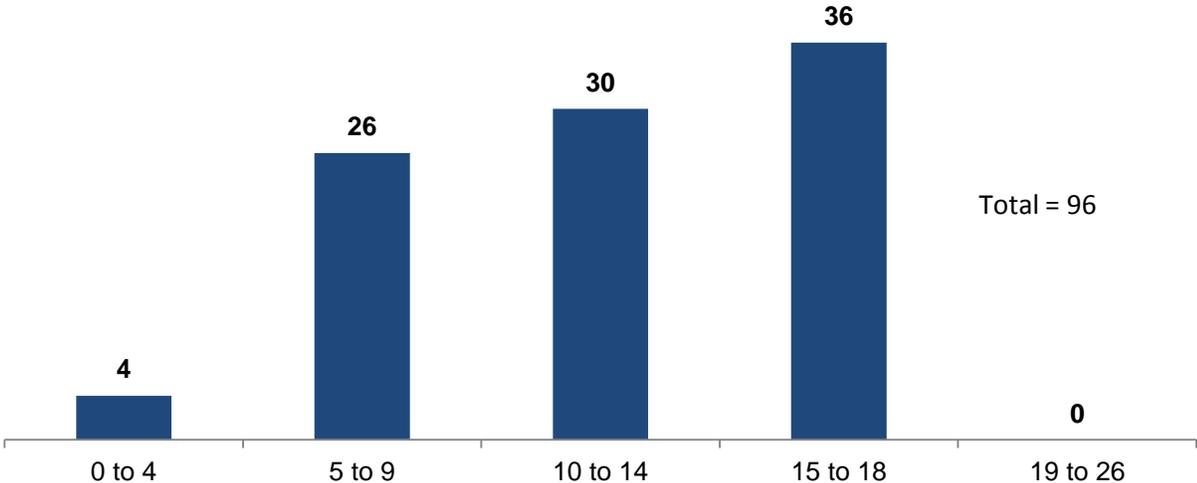
Figure 5: Children and Youth Receiving Service, by Court Order, March 31, 2016



Almost half (47%) of children and youth who were receiving services by Court Orders were receiving services under Permanent Custody Orders (also known as Permanent Care). Figure 6 below outlines the number of children and youth who were under Permanent Custody Orders as at March 31, 2016, with the highest number of youth in care between the ages of 15 and 18. The table also shows that there were no youth between the ages of 19 and 26 under Permanent Care. Bill 51, *An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*, which came into effect January 2014, allows youth who were under Permanent Care to become eligible for Extended Support Agreements at the age of 19.

As the following section on the next page illustrates, the Department works to ensure children and youth under Permanent Care can remain within their family, extended family, and/or community.

Figure 6: Children and Youth in Permanent Care in Nunavut, by Age, March 31, 2016



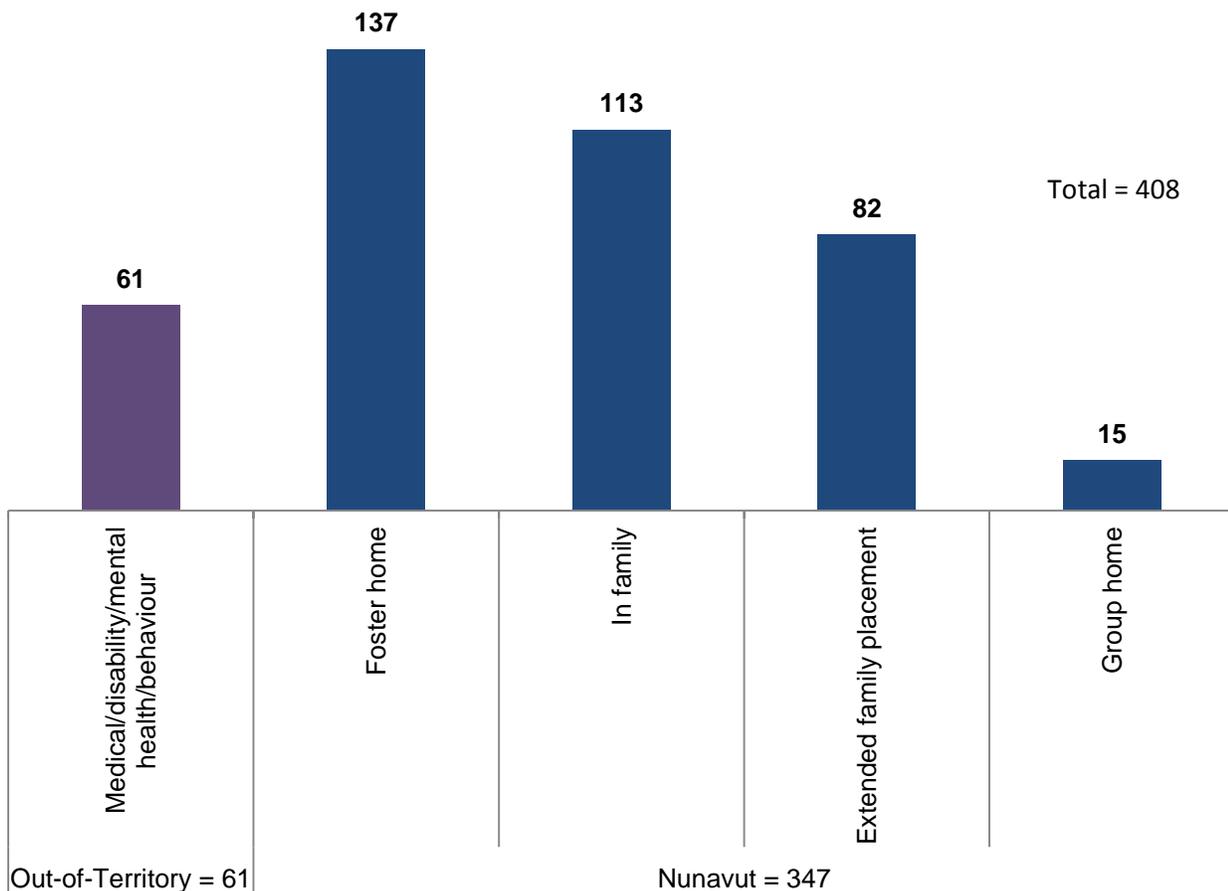
Where Children & Youth Receiving Services Live

The Children & Family Services division recognizes the importance of keeping a child who requires protection or support within their extended family and community. Where possible, the division will place a child in care with an extended foster family, where an extended family member cares for the child, or a provisional foster home, where a community member known to the child cares for the child. When this is not possible, the division will explore foster homes within the child’s community.

Figure 7 describes where children were receiving services as at March 31, 2016. Of the 408 children and youth supported by the Department, 347 (85%) were receiving services in-territory. Almost half of the children and youth receiving services in-territory (56%) remained within their family or extended family. Although the Department is mandated to protect children and youth at risk or in need of protection, the *Child and Family Services Act* allows for more collaborative and flexible ways to work with families to ensure children and youth can be supported in their family or extended family.

The figure also shows that 61 children and youth, or 15% of all children and youth supported by the Department, were receiving service out-of-territory for a variety of reasons including severe behavioural or mental health challenges, and/or medical issues. The Department recognizes the importance of working to repatriate children and youth who are receiving services out-of-territory, where possible.

Figure 7: Children and Youth Receiving Service, In- and Out-of-Territory, March 31, 2016



In-Territory Residential Care (Group Homes)

As Figure 7 demonstrates, there were 15 children and youth residing in group homes within the territory. Group homes offer placement and support for children and youth whose needs exceed the care provided within a family or foster family. As the table below demonstrates, the Department of Family Services provided \$3,615,054.03 in FY 2015/16 to 3 group homes in Nunavut. This funding allows children and youth to remain in-territory while their needs are being met.

Table 2: Children and Youth in Group Home, by Group Home, March 31, 2016

| Name of Facility | Location | Beds | Funding Allocations (15/16) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Naja Isabelle Home | Chesterfield Inlet | 10 | \$2,231,775.03 |
| Illagiitugut Group Home | Iqaluit | 6 | \$584,331 |
| 4-D North (Atlantic Youth Services) | Cambridge Bay | 6 | \$798,948 |
| Total | | 22 | \$3,615,054.03 |

Out-of-Territory Residential Care

Out-of-territory residential care may be necessary for children and youth who need access to specialized services such as child psychiatrists and psychologists, behavioural specialists, and/or trauma and addiction specialists. These services are necessary to address physical or sexual abuse or psychological trauma; complex mental health and severe behavioral issues; and/or medical issues such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The division has service contracts with facilities (i.e., group homes, specialized care homes, medical facilities) in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario. To ensure adequate oversight over these facilities and clients' care, the Department completes a comprehensive review of all out-of-territory residential care facilities on an annual basis. Additionally, CSSWs from clients' home communities monitor clients' progress and wellbeing through regular contact and quarterly reviews of individual care plans.

Before any child or youth is placed out-of-territory, the Pre-Placement Review Committee (PPRC) meets with staff and other stakeholders to discuss all treatment options for a child or youth who requires additional support. The PPRC consists of Department of Family Services' staff, other key service providers (i.e., Mental Health, School Counselors, RCMP, etc.), and family members where possible. The PPRC is responsible for ensuring all options have been considered well in advance of a client leaving the territory. During FY 2015/16, 72 PPRC meetings were conducted.

OTHER AREAS OF SERVICE UNDER CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Adult Supports & Residential Care

As at March 31, 2016, the Department of Family Services was supporting 218 adults. Of these adults, 91 were receiving service within the territory. This type of service includes day-to-day support provided by CSSWs to adults and/or their family, including but not limited to: counselling, respite care, in-home support, and/or drug or alcohol rehabilitation. The Department also provides funding to adult residential care facilities in-territory and out-of-territory.

In-Territory Residential Care

In-territory residential care facilities include group homes, supported living homes, and alternative family care homes. Alternative family care homes allow adults, who are over the age of 19 and receive Departmental

support under the *Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, to maintain residence in Nunavut with a relative instead of being placed out-of-territory.

Table 3 below shows the residential care facilities in Nunavut that receive funding from the Department of Family Services. Adults residing in residential care facilities have access to culturally relevant programming and opportunities to attend community and cultural events.

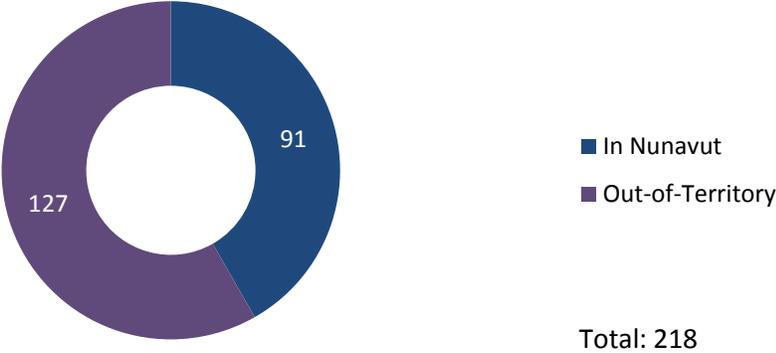
Table 3: Adult Residential Care Facilities in Nunavut, March 31, 2016

| Name of Facility | Beds | Funding Allocations (15/16) |
|--|------|-----------------------------|
| Naja Isabelle Home (Chesterfield Inlet) | 10 | \$2,231,775.03 |
| Ivik Adult Group Home (Iqaluit) | 8 | \$590,358 |
| Rankin Inlet Adult Group Home | 7 | \$804,366.64 |
| Hamlet of Rankin Inlet Supported Independent Living (Rankin Inlet) | 8 | \$605,941.30 |
| Alternative Family Care Homes (Various Communities) | 6 | Foster-care per-diems paid |

Out-of-Territory Residential Care

As at March 31, 2016, the Department was supporting 127 adults out-of-territory in group homes, medical facilities, and specialized care homes. As per the figure below, more than half (58%) of the adults the Department was supporting were receiving services out-of-territory. Because Nunavut does not have the capacity or infrastructure, the Department must rely on out-of-territory residential care facilities to meet the needs of Nunavummiut who require specialized care, ongoing medical intervention, treatment of mental health, or dementia services. The Department is working to decrease the number of adult clients referred out-of-territory through its alternative family care homes.

Figure 8: Adults Receiving Service, In- and Out-of-Territory, March 31, 2016



Elder Care Facilities

The Department also provides funding to 3 Elder Care Facilities in Nunavut. During FY 2015/16, the Department supported a total of 28 Elders within the Elder Care Facilities. Table 4 on the next page outlines the Department’s funding to the 3 Elder Care Facilities.

Table 4: Elder Care Facilities in Nunavut, March 31, 2016

| Name of Facility | Beds | Funding Allocations (15/16) |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Pimakslirvik Corporation – Arviat Elders Centre | 8 | \$926,541.64 |
| Baker Lake Hospice Society | 8 | \$1,065,380.60 |
| Iqaluit Elders Home (Iqaluit) | 8 | \$1,045,000 |
| Total | 24 | \$3,036,922.24 |

The Department of Family Services works closely with the Department of Health to arrange for out-of-territory care for Elders who, due to developing complex care needs, can no longer be cared for in the territory's 3 Elder Care Facilities. Where Elders are receiving Guardianship Services under the Department of Family Services, the Children & Family Services division will continue to provide oversight to these clients and their families.

Guardianship Services

Under the *Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*, the Nunavut Court of Justice can appoint a guardian for any individual who is unable to make decisions with respect to their health care, personal care, or finances. Family members, friends, or any other adult concerned about the wellbeing of a proposed represented person can apply to the court for a Guardianship Order. When no family member or other adult is willing to be a guardian, the court will appoint the Public Guardian to represent the individual.

The Public Guardian

The Public Guardian is appointed by the Government of Nunavut under the *Guardianship and Trusteeship Act*. The Public Guardian is located within the Department of Family Services and is responsible for managing Guardianship Services, including reviewing all guardianship applications and documents before they are presented to the court.

As at March 31, 2016, the Public Guardian was responsible for 236 active files. Additionally, the Public Guardian receives, on average, 7 new referrals per month. A large percentage of these referrals are for individuals who are part of the aging population in Nunavut, which is expected to grow substantially over the next 15 years. As such, the Department of Family Services expects that the already high caseload of the Public Guardian will continue to rise as the aging population is expected to grow substantially over the next 15 years.¹

Table 5 below outlines the number of individuals accessing Guardianship Services.

Table 5: Persons under Guardianship in Nunavut, March 31, 2016

| Type | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Persons Under Guardianship | 123 | 180 |
| New Referrals to Guardianship | 25 | 47 |
| New Guardianship Orders | 23 | 9 |
| Total | 171 | 236 |

¹ According to the 2011 Census, there were 1,060 individuals aged 65 and older in Nunavut, and 5,350 individuals between the ages of 45-64 (Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, 2012). It is projected by 2030 that individuals aged 65 and older will triple to 3,292 (Data prepared by Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, December, 2014, as presented in "Continuing Care in Nunavut 2015 to 2035", 2015).

Table 5 on the previous page illustrates a substantial increase in the number of persons under Guardianship from FY 2014/15 to FY 2015/16. This increase can be attributed largely in part to the Department’s efforts raising public awareness of Guardianship Services. This has resulted in increased referrals from outside the Department of Family Services. Additionally, the table shows a decrease in the number of new Guardianship Orders for FY 2015/16. Guardianship Orders were temporarily put on hold by the court in FY 2015/16 to address changes in the process of filing Guardianship Orders. These Orders will be filed in FY 2016/17.

Adoption Services

Under the *Adoption Act*, Children & Family Services is responsible for departmental and private adoptions in Nunavut. The Children & Family Services division also provides support to Custom Adoption Commissioners under the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act (ACARA)*. Figure 9 outlines the different types of adoptions in Nunavut.

Figure 9: Types of Adoptions in Nunavut

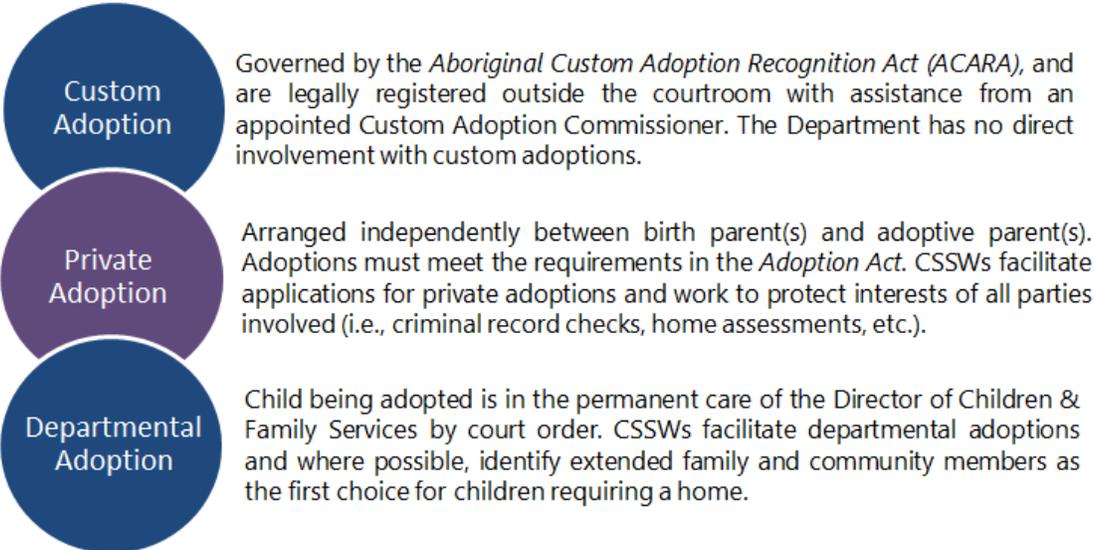


Table 6 below provides a snapshot of the number of children adopted in Nunavut for FY 2015/16, by region and type of adoption. The table shows a high number of children adopted under *ACARA*. Although the Department has no direct involvement in the Custom Adoption process, the Department is responsible for the appointment, training, and payment of Adoption Commissioners. As at March 31, 2016, there were 28 Custom Adoption Commissioners across the territory.

Table 6: Children Adopted in Nunavut, by Region, FY 2015/16

| Region | Private | Departmental | Custom |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Kivalliq | 2 | 1 | 68 |
| Qikiqtaaluk (excluding Iqaluit) | 10 | 4 | 41 |
| Iqaluit | 6 | 3 | 26 |
| Kitikmeot | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| Total | 19 | 9 | 156 |

Family Violence Prevention

The Department of Family Services works to address family violence in the territory by collaborating with other Departments in coordinating the Government of Nunavut’s response to family violence, and liaising with Federal, Provincial, and Territorial forums on issues relating to family violence. Most importantly, the Department is responsible for providing community-level support to those experiencing family violence.

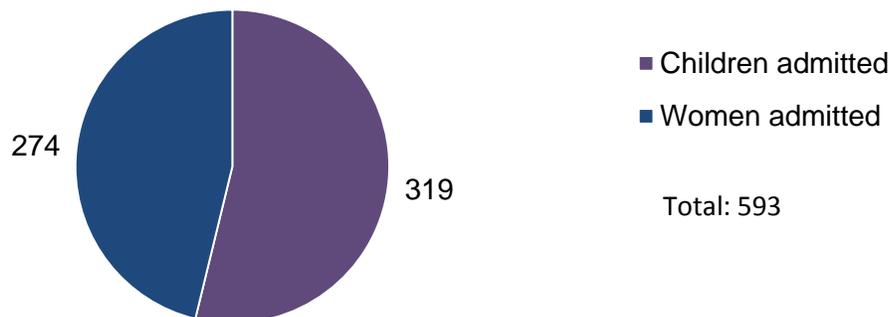
The Department of Family Services provides funding to five Family Violence Shelters in Nunavut, and provides online and in-person training to the workers at the shelters. Family Violence Shelters provide an integral safety net for women and children seeking 24-hour emergency protection, crisis intervention, and support services. Additionally, CSSWs provide family violence intervention services in communities including individual and group counselling, referrals to other services, and transportation to a safe location. Table 7 below outlines the funding the Department of Family Services provides to Family Violence Shelters. For the FY 2015/16, the Department was successful in securing additional funding for the Family Violence Shelters. Total funding allocations increased from \$2,412,074 in FY 2015/16 to \$2,640,000 in FY 2016/17.

Table 7: Family Violence Shelters in Nunavut

| Name of Facility | Location | Beds | Funding Allocations (15/16) |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Kataujaq Safe Shelter | Rankin Inlet | 10 | \$302,428 |
| Kugaaruk Safe Shelter | Kugaaruk | 12 | \$309,049 |
| Kugluktuk Safe Shelter | Kugluktuk | 12 | \$309,049 |
| Qimaavik | Apex (Iqaluit) | 21 | \$1,222,484 |
| St. Michael’s Crisis Shelter | Cambridge Bay | 6 | \$269,064 |
| Total | | 61 | \$2,412,074 |

During FY 2015/16, there were a total of 593 admissions to Family Violence Shelters. 319 (54%) of these admissions were children seeking protection with their mothers. This demonstrates the need to increase prevention-based services within communities and programming to support children and youth who have experienced family violence.

Figure 10: Persons Admitted to Family Violence Shelters, FY 2015/16

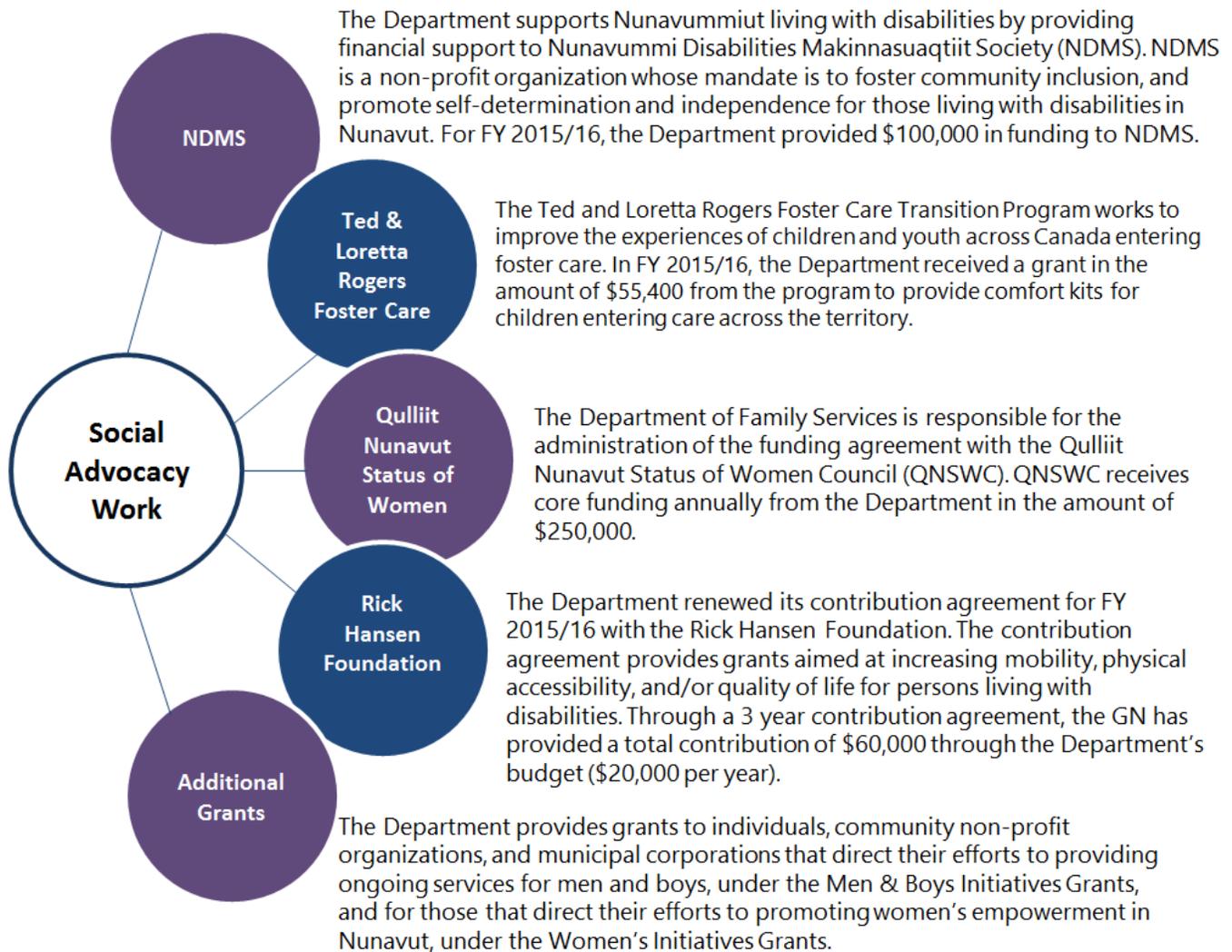


Social Advocacy

The Department of Family Services provides funding and offers grants to a number of organizations in Nunavut working to enhance the lives of Nunavummiut.

Figure 11 below provides an overview of the Department of Family Services' contribution agreements and grants, under the Children & Family Services division, that assist organizations and communities support different efforts across the territory.

Figure 11: Social Advocacy within Children & Family Services



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2015/16

Strengthened Service Capacity

The Department of Family Services secured funding for additional frontline staff for FY 2016/17, increasing the Department's capacity to support children, adults, and families across Nunavut. Funding for 2 additional staff was secured for the Iqaluit Area Office for FY 2016/17, which is the Department's frontline support office that provides services to Nunavummiut living permanently or temporarily in Iqaluit. Additionally, the Department secured funding for 7 Family Resource Workers who will provide services focused on prevention and community engagement. The pilot project will allow the Department to incorporate Inuit Societal Values and Inuktitut language services into program delivery, address workload and recruitment concerns, and support CSSWs in prevention-based services. The increase in frontline staff and creation of Family Resource Worker positions touch upon many of the recommendations in the Auditor General's 2014 *Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut*, including increasing the Iqaluit Area Office's capacity to address compliance standards and workload challenges, and actively engaging with the community to keep families and children safe.

Progress towards a Children & Family Services Case Management System

In FY 2015/16, the Department of Family Services secured funding for an electronic case management system. Establishing a case management system was recommended in the Auditor General's 2011 and 2014 Reports, to ensure timely and consistent collection and sharing of basic information about children in care. The current Children & Family Services' tracking system only captures limited child-related data, and does not capture information critical for case management and compliance. The new system will allow CSSWs to document referrals, investigations, service plans, and case notes. This will allow for increased oversight and transparency, as well as planning and program development.

The Department continues to work towards the implementation of a case management system and expects the system will be operational by the end of FY 2018/19.

Reviewed & Revised Training Supports for Staff

The Children & Family Services division revised the training curriculum for CSSWs to better support them and improve their capacities to work with individuals and families. The amended curriculum will be utilized in all upcoming training for FY 2016/17. A number of monthly telephone seminars also took place addressing topics such as adoption, case management, working collaboratively with families, and Elder abuse. Children & Family Services staff continue to have access to many online training courses, some of which are Nunavut-specific (i.e., Truth & Reconciliation Commission). From April 2015 to March 2016, staff participated in over 213 courses.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Prioritizing Men & Boys Programming

The Department of Family Services will coordinate a roundtable in Iqaluit in October 2016 with key stakeholders who offer supports and programs to men and boys. The roundtable will provide the division an opportunity to better understand important issues and challenges men and boys are experiencing, and identify best practices in the development of future programming. The Department is looking to coordinate additional roundtables for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Regions. The roundtables will inform the Department on how it can best support the needs of community-based agencies providing programs to men and boys, and support the Department in determining where funding from its Men & Boys Initiatives Grants should be allocated.

Supporting the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Action Plan

In *Resiliency Within*, Nunavut's one year action plan for suicide prevention in Nunavut for FY 2016/17, the Department of Family Services committed to developing evidence informed initiatives to prevent, assess, and respond to child sexual abuse. To this end, the Department hired a PY to identify promising practices with respect to child sexual abuse initiatives, and to draft a work plan for the incoming Coordinator, Preventing Violence Against Children and Youth, who will be responsible for coordinating the Department's initiatives to address child sexual abuse in the territory. The new Coordinator will fall under the Children & Family Services division and support the Department in meeting the recommendations outlined in the action plan.

Increasing Community Engagement

The Department of Family Services is contracting the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre (QHRC) to deliver 4 training sessions of its Inunnguiniq Parenting Program Facilitator Training. The training sessions will be delivered to a combination of CSSWs and community organizations with mandates to provide parenting programming. The parenting program, based on needs identified by Nunavummiut, includes Inuit perspectives on child-rearing, positive discipline methods, wellness counselling and healing from trauma. Additionally, the program aligns with the Auditor General's recommendations in the 2014 *Follow-up Report* as it engages parents in keeping children safe and expands community engagement and development by including Elders in the delivery of the program. The proposed dates for the training sessions span from November 2016 – February 2017.

The Department was also successful in obtaining funding for a new training program for its CSSWs which focuses on parent-community engagement. The training will focus on improving CSSWs' understanding of community engagement and consultation, and effective collaboration and communication. The training is an important step towards community engagement and empowering communities to provide safety and protection for children.

Additionally, the Department will continue to work towards hiring the 7 Family Resource Workers. These workers will provide essential services to Nunavummiut, including family violence prevention programming, support to foster care families, support to CSSWs, and community engagement. Although the Department has experienced delays and challenges in the hiring process, the Department is actively working to address the issues to ensure the Department can begin supporting families and communities in more proactive ways.

CONCLUSION

The 2015/16 annual report serves to demonstrate how the Department of Family Services supports collaborative approaches to the protection of vulnerable and at-risk children and youth. The next fiscal year is an opportunity for the Department to continue strengthening these collaborative approaches to child protection, through increasing and expanding its parental and community engagement. Parents and communities are ultimately responsible for the protection and wellbeing of all vulnerable Nunavummiut, and as such, the Department will continue to explore ways to work collaboratively with parents and families and build positive partnerships in communities.

Note on Data Collection

The data in this report came from monthly summaries provided by frontline staff. All efforts are made to provide accurate information in the absence of a centralized case management system. As noted above, the Department of Family Services is working towards the implementation of a case management system which will facilitate accurate data collection.