

## **Keeping the Sash Around the Family:**

### **A Look at Metis Child, Family and Community Services**

*Once a month, we will profile a different program of the Metis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) Agency, an affiliate of the Manitoba Metis Federation. This month, we look at its kinship care program and foster home recruitment.*

The Metis community is often applauded for the importance it places on family. It comes as no surprise, then, that extended family and community members often provide care and protection for children when parents are unable to.

As a result, the Metis Child, Family and Community Services Agency developed services that recognize the value of an extended family support network. Keeping children within their family networks can reduce the trauma they often experience when they enter the care of an agency.

But when people take on the responsibility of caring for extended family members full-time, they may require additional support. The kinship care program was developed to provide services and training to extended family members, tailoring the support to each family's unique strengths and needs.

The MCFCS Agency also recruits for foster homes, seeking community members who believe in the importance of supporting children and youth and who are able to embrace the cultural and familial needs of the child. One of the agency's primary goals is to form a collaborative relationship between the foster parents and parents, ensuring the children receive the best care possible.

The agency also provides support services and monthly connector meetings, during which foster parents gather together for peer support and information, as well as training to increase their knowledge and understanding of the children in their care.

For more information about the agency, visit its website at [www.metiscfs.mb.ca](http://www.metiscfs.mb.ca) or call (204) 927-6960. Watch for another feature about an MCFCS program in the next edition of *Le Metis*!