

## **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 the agency itself.*

The Metis are often categorized along with other Aboriginal Peoples, so the establishment of Metis-specific child and family services were met with great fanfare upon their debut a few years ago.

There are two different but equally important facets to Metis child and family services in Manitoba. One of four such authorities that operate within the province, the Metis Child and Family Services Authority administers and manages the delivery of services for Metis and Inuit people. The Metis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) Agency, in turn, runs culturally relevant programs and services for Metis and Inuit families across the province. Staff are committed to ensuring that all children and youth receive the safe and nurturing care that will enhance their development and well-being, while empowering families and communities to share the responsibility of protecting their children and youth.

The MCFCS believes that children are best-served within their own families but recognizes that life circumstances and challenges can impact family functioning and interfere with parents' abilities to meet the needs of their children. It is then that the agency and community must get involved, supporting, respecting and empowering the families in the process.

With a full range of unique programs and services, some of which we will profile in the coming months, agency staff can focus and respond to the individual needs of each family they assist, building a collaborative relationship and involving the families' own challenges and strengths. Many of the services are unique to the MCFCS Agency and have been developed by the staff themselves.

For more information about Metis child and family services, visit the agency's website at [www.metiscfs.mb.ca](http://www.metiscfs.mb.ca). Watch for a feature about an MCFCS program in the next edition of *Le Metis*!