

Begun in August 2000, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI) is a three-year process through which Aboriginal organizations and the Province of Manitoba will work together to restructure the child and family services system in the province. The Aboriginal parties to the AJI-CWI are:

- Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF);
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC); and
- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakinak (MKO).

The AJI-CWI followed the Province of Manitoba's 1999 commitment to address the recommendations of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry had been commissioned in 1988 to examine the relationship between the Aboriginal peoples of Manitoba and the justice system. This included an examination of the historical treatment of Aboriginal people by the child and family services system. The 1991 report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry documented many serious problems with the child and family services system and made recommendations for significant change.

The major goals of the AJI-CWI are to:

- Recognize a province-wide First Nations right and authority to control and deliver child and family services to their community members by extending and expanding off-reserve jurisdiction;
- Recognize a province-wide Metis right and authority to control and deliver child and family services to their community members; and
- Restructure the existing child and family services system through legislative and other changes.

The AJI-CWI has adopted a schedule with five separate stages to guide its work:

Phase 1: September 2000 to December 2000 – Establishment of Working Groups to develop proposals and recommendations for the draft plan for restructuring the system.

Phase 2: January 2001 to July 2001 – Preparation of a consolidated conceptual plan for restructuring the system based on Working Groups proposals and recommendations.

Phase 3: August 2001 to December 2001 – Completion of a process to be secure public feedback on the conceptual plan and development of a detailed implementation plan for the restructuring.

Phase 4: January 2002 to March 2003 – Implementation of the planned change.

Phase 5: April 2003 to October 2003 – Stabilization of changes implemented.

Please note that the time lines for the phases will be adjusted as required by the AJI-CWI.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Central Information Line:

- In Winnipeg call: 945-1183
- Outside of Winnipeg call toll-free: 1-866-300-7503

You may also visit the AJI-CWI Web Site at: <http://www.aji-cwi.mb.ca>

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For more information on the AJI-CWI, call the initiative's central information line at 945-1183 (toll-free at 1-866-300-7503) or call one of the four parties directly.

Manitoba Metis Federation

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(204) 586-8474

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

2nd Floor – 260 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0M6
(204) 956-0610

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak

200 – 701 Thompson Drive
Thompson, Manitoba R8N 2A0
(204) 677-1600

Province of Manitoba

Family Services and Housing, Child and Family
Services Division
216 – 114 Garry Street
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The AJI-CWI also has a web site that contains background information on the initiative and updates on its progress. The web site address is: www.aji-cwi.mb.ca.

