

The activities of agencies are governed by the following principles which are found in *The Child and Family Services Act*.

“The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba hereby declares that the fundamental principles guiding the provision of services to children and families are:

1. The best interests of children are a fundamental responsibility of society.
2. The family is the basic unit of society and its well-being should be supported and preserved.
3. The family is the basic source of care, nurture and acculturation of children and parents have the primary responsibility to ensure the well-being of their children.
4. Families and children have the right to the least interference with their affairs to the extent compatible with the best interests of children and the responsibilities of society.
5. Children have a right to a continuous family environment in which they can flourish.
6. Families and children are entitled to be informed of their rights and to participate in the decisions affecting those rights.
7. Families are entitled to receive preventive and supportive services directed to preserving the family unit.
8. Families are entitled to services which respect their cultural and linguistic heritage.
9. Decisions to remove or place children should be based on the best interests of the child and not on the basis of the family's financial status.
10. Communities have a responsibility to promote the best interests of their children and families and have the right to participate in services to their families and children.
11. Indian bands are entitled to the provision of child and family services in a manner which respects their unique status as aboriginal peoples.”