



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

COLLEEN RUDDERHAM

Overview

Community Services plays a key role in supporting health, social development, Muscim services, and family service programs.

- Recent efforts include partnerships with an Optometrist and discussions with a potential secondary nurse candidate to address the health care gaps in the community. Community Services is also exploring the creation of a new position to assist members in navigating access to services and resources more easily.
- Incorporating culture into health and wellness is a priority. This approach will not only honor traditional practices, but also ensures that health services are culturally relevant and supportive of the community's identity.
- There are also plans to improve food sustainability by hosting workshops on canning, growing your own vegetables, and traditional harvesting. Options and opportunities are also being reviewed on how we can maintain a food bank in Houpsitas and Campbell River.
- The aging population and elder support within KCFN is growing. We are working on attracting members to gain a career in healthcare, as well as having families be more involved in caring for their elders. We will continue to host elder lunches and begin to prioritize presentations on various topics of concern for their continuing education.
- The youth will also be a priority by having them involved in various activities twice a week with a focus on culture, physical activity, workshops, teachings and career planning. We will also focus on activities that will involve both the elders and youth that will foster lasting relationships, and lifelong learning.
- Medical transportation continues to be an important concern to the health of members. FNHA restrictions have caused strain on the budget and streamlining service delivery. Community Services is in the process of transferring medical transportation from NTC to KCFN in early 2025. With this transfer, KCFN will be able to operate under its own policy and have more autonomy in making decisions.
- A creation of a wrap around team is currently under review. This team will provide coordinated, personalized support that addresses the physical, emotional and social aspects of well being to individuals and families in need.
- The primary focus of the Social Development department has been on income assistance. We aim to expand into employment support, helping clients achieve their personal goals and build independence.

Financial Overview

Community Services is funded by a mix of federal, provincial, and grant sources.

Over the years, we have seen an increase in funding allocated to Community Services. However, despite these increases, our budget remains under pressure. As we expand and enhance our services to meet the critical needs of our community, the financial demands on our department have also grown. Due to those circumstances, we must be mindful of managing the budget.

While we remain committed to delivering quality support programs, we must balance our resources to ensure that we can meet both the current and future needs effectively. Moving forward, the department will focus on maximizing efficiency, seek new funding opportunities, and prioritizing services that have the greatest impact on community well being.

Staffing

Health

Shirley Hansen - Patient Travel Clerk
KCFN Nurse - Currently in Progress
Allan Campbell - Mental Health Counsellor (Contract)
Upper Island Counselling - Contract
Amber Vinge Optometrist - Independent

Social Development

Carol Smith - Social Development Worker
Teresa John - Social Development Worker

Family Services

Daniel Blackstone - Family Services Manager
Molly Dawson - Family Services Coordinator

Muscim Services

Diane Nickerson - Manager of Muscim Services
Carla Short - Elder Worker
Sam Mayer - Youth Worker
Amber Vincent - Youth Worker

Warrior Program

Monique Comeau

Vision of the Department

Community Services aims to foster an already thriving, resilient community with comprehensive services for physical, mental, cultural, and social well-being. Future initiatives in our 5-year plan include:

a) Enhancing Community Health and Wellness

- **Holistic Health Services:** Focus on integrated care for physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health with preventative programs empowering individuals to manage their health.
- **Cultural Integration:** Further incorporate cultural practices into health services. For example, incorporating healing circles and ceremonies, blending Western and traditional healing practices by treating not just the body, but also the mind, spirit, and emotions, and incorporating traditional medicines.

b) Strengthening Family Services

- **Expanding Support Networks:** Develop new programs and enhance existing ones to better address social challenges.
- **Community Empowerment:** Community Services aims to empower community members by providing them with the tools, resources, and knowledge necessary to lead fulfilling lives through the increase in health education, family programs tailored to needs, and provide early support systems to reduce and/or eliminate issues before they escalate.

c) Broadening Muscim Services

- **Disability Awareness & Access:** Assess elder care needs to improve support for disabilities, including transportation, housing, and caregiver training.
- **LGBTQ2S Support:** Create a safe space for LGBTQ2S individuals to connect and access resources, honoring the community's historical acceptance of gender diversity.

d) Creating Pathways through Social Development

- **Career Opportunities:** Partner with organizations such as NETP and contractors to deliver training and apprenticeship opportunities to build capacity.
- **Mentorship & Career Planning:** Provide mentorship through the development of career plans, providing structured training for mentors, providing skill-building opportunities, and adapting to the needs of mentees.

e) Proactive Crisis Management and Prevention

- **Prevention Programs:** Continue focusing on prevention, using data to improve care and secure funding.
- **Crisis Response and Support:** Establish a wrap around team to provide quick, personalized support during health, social or family crises.