



This handbook is designed to inform service providers, community partners and community members of the services, resources and procedures at North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services (NEOFACS). For up-to-date information please always check the NEOFACS website www.neofacs.org. Some of the programs and services detailed in this brochure are accessible only by a referral from NEOFACS or a partnering community agency.

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## About North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services (NEOFACS) is an integrated agency, providing services to children, youth and their families in the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming. Our client responsive programs and services are innovative, evidence-based, and designed to meet the unique needs of those we serve.

Our Agency provides Child Welfare, Children's Mental Health, Youth Justice and Prevention programs along with a number of other programs and services. NEOFACS is a non-profit charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors whose funding is received primarily from the Ministry of Children & Youth Services. Several other funders support programs as well.

NEOFACS is designated under the French Language Services Act and as such provide services in both official languages.

The spectrum of children's mental health services includes intervention, public education/ prevention and supportive services to children, youth and their families. We are also the provider

of services to children who fall within the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our Agency also operates three residential programs for children/youth between the ages of 12-18. One of the residential programs is operated under the Youth Criminal Justice System, while the others function as children's mental health treatment facilities.

Our Child Welfare services include, assessment, investigation, placement (when and where necessary) as well as, supportive services to children/youth and their families.

NEOFACS is visible in several communities in northeastern Ontario. Our head office is located in Timmins. Primary District campuses are located in Kapuskasing and Kirkland Lake; several other communities are also home to NEOFACS campuses and programs and services. NEOFACS is also proud to own and operate a camp facility located in Moonbeam, Ontario.

The staff of NEOFACS is comprised of dedicated professionals focused on making a difference in the lives of children, youth and their families. Currently the Agency employs approximately 420 staff on a full or part time basis.

#### Vision, Mission, Values

#### Mission

Working together for the well-being and safety of children, youth and families.

#### Vision

Strong, healthy and safe communities where children, youth and families thrive.

#### Values

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services is guided by the following values that influence the way we act and the decisions we make:

- Accountability
- Caring
- Client-focus
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Respect

#### **How to Access Services**

When you call NEOFACS, you will speak to someone who is knowledgeable about all the services in our community. We need only the most basic information to connect you with the right services in an emergency you can get immediate help.

Referrals are accepted from community partners, or from individuals who would like to receive services for themselves or for someone else. Referrals may be made for children and you the who are under 18 years of age.



### **NEOFACS Service Locations**

#### **Offices**

#### Cochrane

451 Chalmers Avenue, P.O. Box 1450 Cochrane, ON POL 1C0 Phone: (705)-272-2449 Fax: (705)-272-3491

#### **Englehart**

40 Third Street,

P.O. Box 607 Englehart, ON POJ 1H0 Phone: (705)-544-5437 Fax: (705)-544-2555

#### Hearst

909, rue George, C.P. 1630 Hearst, ON POL 1N0 Phone: (705)-372-2445 Fax: (705)-362-7687

#### **Iroquois Falls**

457 Zealand Avenue Iroquois Falls, ON POK 1G0 Phone: (705)-232-7000 Fax: (705)-232-6089

#### Kapuskasing

29 Kolb Avenue Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1G2 Phone: (705)-335-2445 Fax: (705)-335-4391

#### **Kirkland Lake**

6 Tweedsmuir Road Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 1H9 Phone: (705)-567-9201

Fax: (705)-568-8787

#### **New Liskeard**

25 Paget Street, P.O. Box 68 New Liskeard, ON POJ 1PO Phone: (705)-647-1200

Phone: (705)-647-1200 Fax: (705)-647-7467

#### Smooth Rock Falls

105 2nd Avenue, P.O. Box 808 Smooth Rock Falls, ON POL 2B0

Phone: (705)-338-2366 Fax: (705)-338-4511

#### **Timmins (Head Office)**

707 Ross Avenue East Timmins, ON P4N 8R1 Phone: (705)-360-7100 Fax: (705)-360-7200

#### **Timmins Wilcox**

457 Wilcox Street Timmins, ON P4N 3M1 Phone: (705)-360-7100 Fax: (705)-360-7200

#### Residential

#### **Mental Health**

Pavillon Jeanne Sauvé 77, avenue de l'Église Val-Rita, ON POL 2G0 Phone: (705)335-4404 Fax: (705)-335-2828

#### Résidence F.W.

Schumacher Residence 68 Aura Lake Schumacher, ON PON 1G0 Phone: (705)-360-7230 Fax: (705)-264-5888

#### **Youth Justice**

## **Centre Jeunesse Pineger Youth Centre**

175 Government Road East, P.O. Box 337 Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3J1 Phone: (705)-567-5333 Fax: (705)-567-5335

#### **Camp Cadanac**

1A Domaine Portage Road Moonbeam, ON Fax: (705)-367-2288

#### **Attendance Centres**

#### Cochrane

451 Chalmers Avenue, P.O. Box 1283 Cochrane, ON POL 1CO Phone: (705)-272-5059 Fax: (705)-272-5759

#### Hearst

1121, rue Front, sous sol Hearst, ON P5N 1R1 Phone: (705)-362-4577 Fax: (705)-362-5075

#### Kapuskasing

29 Kolb Avenue Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1G2 Phone: (705)-335-2040 Fax: (705)-335-2309

#### **Timmins**

20 Wilcox Street Timmins, ON P4N 3K6 Phone: (705)-267-2499 Fax: (705)-267-3089

# Brighter Futures, Ontario Early Years Centres

#### Cochrane

435, 10th Avenue Cochrane, ON POL 1C0 Phone: (705)-272-6098 Fax: (705)-272-2718

#### **Englehart**

40 Third Street,

P.O. Box 607 Englehart, ON POJ 1H0 Phone: (705)-544-5437 Fax: (705)-544-2555

#### Hearst

1100 rue Edward, C.P. 5000 Hearst, ON POL 1N0 Phone: (705)-372-2445 Fax: (705)-362-7687

#### **Iroquois Falls**

239 Church Street Iroquois Falls, ON POK 1G0 Phone: (705)-232-6777 Fax: (705)-232-6777

#### Kapuskasing

29 Kolb Avenue Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1G2 Phone: (705)-335-6331 Fax: (705)-335-6337

#### Kirkland Lake

6 Tweedsmuir Road Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 1H9 Phone: (705)-567-5926 Fax: (705)-335-6337

#### Matheson

352 Second Street Matheson, ON POK 1N0 Phone: (705)-273-2131 Fax: (705)-273-2760

#### **North Cobalt**

379 Lakeview Avenue, P.O. Box 130 North Cobalt, ON POJ 1R0 Phone: (705)-672-3333

Phone: (705)-672-3333 Fax: (705)-672-3335

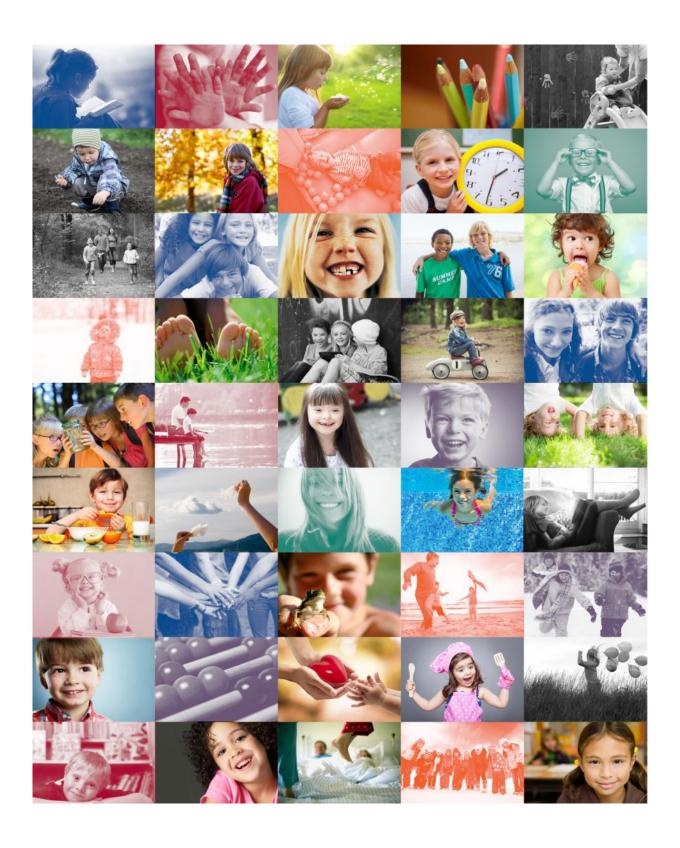
#### **Smooth Rock Falls**

105 2nd Avenue Smooth Rock Falls, ON POL 2BO

Phone: (705)-338-2800 Fax: (705)-338-4511

#### **Timmins**

707 Ross Avenue East Timmins, ON P4N 8R1 Phone: (705)-360-7100 Fax: (705)-360-7222



### **NEOFACS Programs and Services**

An introduction to the programs and services at NEOFACS. Why we offer these programs, how they can be accessed (reference full program access information.)

### **NEOFACS** and the Community

What NEOFACS promotes in the community, a bit about community partnerships, refereeing services and how to access services beyond NEOFACS?



√Hearst

✓ Val Rita

√ Kapuskasing

✓ Moonbeam

✓ Smooth Rock Falls

✓ Cochrane

✓ Iroquois Falls

√Timmins v

√Schumacher

√ Kirkland Lake

✓ Englehart

✓ New Liskeard

✓ North Cobalt

✓ Wilcox (Timmins)

### **Programs and Services**

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#### <u>Intake</u>

NEOFACS' Intake Team accepts all referrals pertaining to:

- Child protection;
- Children's mental health, Autism, Family Preservation,
   Triple P (and other groups), Mobile Crisis;
- Record disclosure referrals for Clinical files, Autism and Child Protection; and,
- Foster Care and Kin in and out of Care.

When necessary, Intake staff will make subsequent referrals to community service partners where a community service, agency or program is more appropriate to best serve the child, youth and/or family.



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**√**Cochrane

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✓ Englehart

✓ New Liskeard

✓ North Cobalt

√Wilcox (Timmins)

## **Programs and Services**

- Child Protection
- Emergency After Hours Services
- Children's Services

## **Child Welfare**

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#### **Child Protection**

## **Investigation, Assessment and Ongoing Services**

Child Protection Services are mandated by the Child and Family Services Act to protect children between the ages of 0-16 from various forms of abuse and neglect.

Services include accepting referrals, conducting investigations and providing short term and long term intervention for children, youth and families.

Child Protection services promote family strengths through the development of service plans with parents to alleviate risk factors for children to ensure their safety. Services also extend to include advocating for and coordinating essential supports with community partners.

Child Protection services are enhanced by the emergency after hour's services, foster care and adoption. Child Protection families are also supported through the use of Volunteer and Protection Support Services.

#### **Emergency After Hours Services**

Emergency After Hours Services are provided to the communities throughout the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming to ensure child protection services are available twenty-four (24) hours each day.

Intervention for children and youth experiencing a mental health crisis can also be accessed through Emergency After Hours Services by initiating the Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Emergency Services are utilized after regular office hours as well as on weekends and holidays. These services are provided by qualified child protection with the support of a supervisor.

#### **Children's Services**

Children's services are offered to children and youth who reside in Agency approved foster homes, kinship care or group homes and are between the ages of 0-16 (youth may continue to receive services up to the age of 21).

Child Care Workers work in conjunction with parents/caregivers, foster parents, ongoing services workers, volunteers, and community service partners to provide direct intervention to ensure children are receiving the necessary support and appropriate services to develop.

Services to children while in care include, support, referral services, preparation for independence, access to natural family, permanency planning, appropriate medical, dental and optical care, and much more. Individualized Service Plans are developed for each child/youth as part of the Ontario's Looking After Children documentation identifying goals and objectives in the areas of health, education, self care, family/social relationships, identity and emotional/behavioral development.

Children and youth who reside in Agency foster care, kinship care or group are provided a copy of their own Book of Rights. This book has been developed to assist children and youth understand their rights and



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### **Programs and Services**

- Child & Family Intervention
- Intensive Service Coordination
- Mobile Crisis Response
- Family Preservation Program
- Autism Intervention Program
- Autism Resource Program (ARP)
- Applied Behaviour Analysis Program
- Residential Programs
- Telepsychiatry Services

### **About Children's Mental Health**

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#### **Child & Family Intervention Programs**

Children, youth and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties may benefit from the broad range of services offered through these programs. Professionals assist families in identifying and addressing their child/youth's behavioral, social and/or emotional issues. Psychological assessments may be requested and performed as an appropriate form on intervention. Children and/or youth referred to these programs must be under the age of eighteen (18) and reside within the Districts of Cochrane or Timiskaming. Referral can be made by telephone, mail or in person. Participation in services is voluntary and consent is required.

Services provided include:

- Individual and Family Assessment and Intervention
- Brief Service (Consultation)
- Group Intervention
- Parent Education and Training
- School and Community Based Mental Health Consultation

#### **Intensive Service Coordination**

Intensive Service Coordination is used to address and develop a plan of service for children and youth with complex special needs. This service applies system case management practices which involve interagency and cross-sector networking. It is an effective process used when multiple service providers collaborate to develop, synchronize and manage the implementation of an integrated service plan to meet the identified needs of the child/youth and family and

support goal achievement.

Intensive Service Coordination is available at the community level and provides support to children/youth and their families through a family centered approach. Qualified staff will assist children/youth and families to identify strengths, goals, informal supports and potential service providers to be engaged in service planning.

Referrals are initiated by service providers involved with children and youth and are made directly to the Intensive Service Coordination team.

#### **Mobile Crisis Response**

The Mobile Crisis Response Service addresses the needs of children, youth and families who require an integrated and coordinated, community-based crisis management intervention. This service is responsive to children and youth up to eighteen (18) years of age and who reside in the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming. The service includes 24-hour telephone response, risk assessment, access to appropriate professional and clinical services and supports including hospitalization, where required, and linkage to follow-up services and plans of care. Mobile Crisis services are offered seven (7) days per week, twenty four (24) hours a day and is accessed after hours through the Emergency After Hours Service. This service will respond to children, youth and families who are in crisis due to acute suicidal ideation, severe homicidal ideation, and/or physical violence and/or aggression which affects the family, school and community. The Mobile Crisis Response Service will be

initiated upon referral through NEOFACS, Police Services or local hospitals.

#### **Family Preservation Program**

The Family Preservation Program provides inhome counseling and support to families of children identified as experiencing mental health difficulties and are at risk of family breakdown. This service extends rather than replaces services that are already in place for a family. The staff provides flexible, intense and diverse services to address various needs of clients by utilizing a holistic approach. Children/youth referred to the program must be under the age of eighteen (18) years and reside within the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming. Participation in this program is voluntary and consents are required.

Services provided include:

- Behaviour Management Training
- Parenting Techniques
- Dealing with Discipline
- Establishing Routines
- Household Management
- Understanding Developmental Stages
- Accessing Social Services/Community Resources
- Preparing for Individual and/or Family Counselling

#### **Autism Intervention Program**

The Autism Intervention Program (Intensive Behaviour Intervention – IBI) offered by NEOFACS is through a partnership with HANDS The Family Help Network from North Bay.

IBI is a method of teaching skills to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders based on the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA).

The purpose of IBI is to increase the child's rate of learning, primarily in the areas of language and social development.

It is intensive (at least 20 hours per week of constant practice with trained and closely supervised instructor therapists) and focuses on many skills including: cooperation, imitation, visual, language, social and motor skills. Most services are provided in small centres, but can also be provided in schools, day care, etc. Any child may benefit from IBI, but research shows clearly that IBI is most suitable for younger children.

To participate in the Autism Intervention Program a child must be diagnosed with moderate to severe Autism, as well as complete an eligibility assessment.

The transition out of the program to school is completed over a 12 month period (Connections Program), in which IBI staff work with parents, the ASD School Support Program and the school team.

For service users residing in communities from Hearst to Englehart, referrals are made directly to NEOFACS, by calling an Intake worker at 705-360-7100.

#### **Autism Resource Program (ARP)**

The Autism Resource Program is a home-based consultation and resource program designed to support families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. A thorough assessment is completed to determine the child/family's needs and strengths in order to link families to appropriate services, supports and resources. The program provides psychoeducation, support, coaching and resources to

families, extended families, and other significant people in the life of the child with autism. Workers help to develop and introduce resources such as visual schedules, social stories, and other appropriate tools and strategies. Additionally, the program works to support the generalization of skills acquired by the child in other programs/environments (ABA, IBI) to the home environment. Support is also offered to children/youth and their families during periods of transition (during engagement and discharge from clinical programs; as youth transitions to adult services etc.). Service plans are developed with each family and are re-evaluated and updated on a regular basis.

Eligibility for this program includes children and youth who have a confirmed diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and who are between the ages of 0-21 years (youth over the age of 18 must be actively attending school or a training program). Service users must reside in the Districts of Cochrane and/or Timiskaming.

Access to this program is initiated through a referral made directly to NEOFACS by contacting an Intake worker.

#### **Applied Behaviour Analysis Program**

Applied Behaviour Analysis Program (ABA) is designed to support a broad range of children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Specifically the program aims to develop skills in key areas and to address behaviours that interfere with functional life skills and decrease interfering behaviours. The

services and supports of the program promote the generalization and maintenance of skills across settings and conditions and help children and youth with ASD build skills and manage behaviours so that they can participate in their communities.

The purpose of the regional ABA Program is to build on the continuum of services for children and youth with ASD. Using an ABA approach, service is intensive and time-limited (approximately 12 weeks) and focuses on addressing the needs of children and youth with ASD. Service can be delivered in a variety of settings. Each child's service is individualized to meet their needs with a goal identified in one of the following key areas: Communication, Social/Interpersonal, Daily Living and Behaviour Management/Emotional Regulation. Service can be provided as many times as needed and a referral for further service can be made directly upon completion of each series of service.

Eligibility for services is as follows:

- Children and youth, ages 0-17 (up to 18th birthday), who have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD and who require assistance to develop their skills in one or more areas in order to improve their quality of life;
- Children and youth may be receiving other ASD specific or general services and supports. These will be considered in the development of the ABA-based service plan
- Children and youth who are on the waitlist or are receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention Services (Autism Intervention Program) are

- eligible for ABA services and supports; and,
- Children and youth who reside within the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming.

Referrals for this program can be made by contacting the North East ABA Program at, One Kids Place, 1-866-626-9100 or a referral form can be downloaded from www.onekidsplace.ca

A Central Waitlist for the entire North East Region is managed through One Kids Place.

#### **Residential Programs**

F. W. Schumacher (FWS) and The Pavillon are Residential Treatment Programs that operate as a staff model residential treatment service within a therapeutic milieu for children and youth between the ages of 12-15 years. Residents may be male or female and reside in the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming. Youth placed in The Pavillon must be Francophone as the program is only offered in French.

These residential programs accept children and youth who are experiencing psychological difficulties within the home or community setting with the plan of reintegrating them into their family system or an acceptable social system in collaboration with the family and/or referring agent. The programs are designed to provide intervention services in a supportive and structured environment, allowing the child/ youth to develop skills over a minimum 6 month period. The residential programs are one service component in a broader spectrum of community services. Children and youth are referred with an existing network of services in place, which the

residential programs join to assist in meeting specific and identified goals. The roles and responsibilities of family and service providers do not change during the period of placement thus providing continuity through the child 's/youth 's return to their home community.

#### Services provided include:

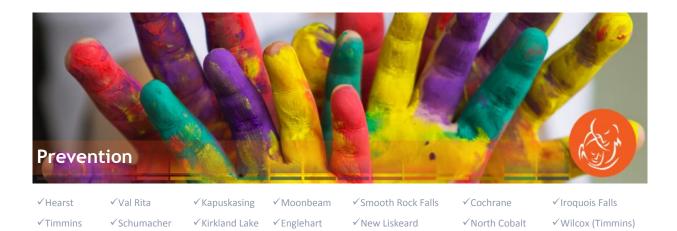
- Anger Awareness and Interpersonal Problem Solving
- Relationship Counseling
- Victim Awareness
- Thinking Error
- Grief, Loss and Separation Counseling
- Self-Esteem and Life Skills
- Social Skill Development
- Day Treatment Program (Education)

#### **Telepsychiarty Services**

The Telepsychiatry Services include Psychiatric and Psychological Services. These services are available within the community via teleconferencing and are provided by professional Psychiatrists and/or Psychologists from the Hospital for Sick Children.

The Telepsychiatry Services include consultations, interviews with parent/legal guardian of a child/youth, interactive discussions regarding a client, and program consultations.

Referrals to this service are initiated by a caseworker who is currently providing a service to a family. Consents are required and the participants in the program must be voluntary.



#### **Programs and Services**

- Ontario Early Years Centre and Brighter Futures
- Early Learning Program
- Supervised Access Program

## **About Prevention**

## Ontario Early Years Centre and Brighter Futures

The Ontario Early Years Centre is a place for parents and their children to grow!!!

#### **Ontario Early Years Center**

The Ontario Early Years Center provides support to parents and programs for children (0-6 years) to ensure they have the very best possible start in life. A variety of programs and services which promote children's optimal development and readiness to learn in a healthy, safe and supportive environment are provided. Early Years professionals and volunteers staff the centre and provide programs and services to meet identified needs. Services are offered in partnership with many community-based organizations. Programs and services through the Ontario Early Years Center are offered in French and English and are available to families and their children throughout the week, weekends and evenings. A monthly calendar is available at the centre. Program and services to parents and caregivers include:

- Playgroups
- Parenting Workshops
- Parent/child Interactive Workshops
- Lending Libraries, i.e. Toys, books, magazines, videos
- Early Literacy Programs
- School Readiness Programs
- Special events
- Participant Advisory Committee
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Community Information

#### **Brighter Futures**

Brighter Futures is a Community Action Program for children which provide programming for families with children 0-6 years. This program is offered in communities throughout the NEOFACS service area. The programs operate in partnership with other services and organizations in their

respective communities. The population served includes families who are at risk due to isolation, social or economic status, health or age. Programs include teen prenatal, transition to teen parenting and teen parenting groups, playgroups, lending libraries and collective kitchens.

#### **Early Learning Program**

The Early Learning program provides opportunity for children to become school-ready. Specifically the program emphasizes the development of self-help, language, numeracy, gross and fine motor and social skills. The Early Learning Program is not intended to provide an alternative to Junior and/or Senior Kindergarten programs, but to complement them and prepare children for their success in Junior and Senior Kindergarten.

The Timiskaming Brighter Futures Preschool Early Learning Program is offered to children between the ages of two and a half (2.5) and four (4) years of age, i.e. one year prior to children becoming eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten.

Access to this program is through a self-referral. Parents or legal guardian can call directly one of our three locations in the Timiskaming District.

#### **Supervised Access Program**

When parents separate or divorce, difficulties sometimes arise between the parents at the time the children are exchanged for a visit and/or there may be concerns about the visits themselves. The Supervised Access Program offers separated or divorced families a way to deal with some of these difficulties.

Children and their parents involved in custody and access disputes can utilize a safe, neutral, and child-focused settings where visits and exchanges can take place under the supervision of trained staff and volunteers.

Children, their parents and/or family members can preserve or reconstruct caring relationships through the use of our service.

Access to services is through a self-referral or through the court process. Voluntary referrals may be appropriate when both parties consent to the service being used.

Each adult participant must complete an intake interview and agree to follow the policies and procedures before the service commences.

Supervised Access Services is a program offered by NEOFACS and funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General.



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✓ New Liskeard

✓ North Cobalt

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## **Programs and Services**

- Residential Programs
- Community Support Team
- Restorative Justice
- Attendance Centres

## **About Youth Justice**

#### **Residential Program**

Pineger Youth Centre (Youth Justice)
Pineger Youth Centre (PYC) is a Closed
Custody and Detention centre.

This program is designed to provide quality services, which assist youth in conflict with the law in functioning more responsibly within the community.

PYC provides structured programming, which includes assessment, competency skill development and recreational programs. The Centre accommodates male or female youth, between the ages of 12 through 17. Services from this program can only be accessed through court referrals or police apprehensions due to criminal activity.

#### Services provided include:

- Self-contained Day Treatment Program
- Reduction of Antisocial Peer Interaction
- Change in Antisocial Attitudes, Feelings and Behaviours
- Increased Self-Control, Self-Management and Problem Solving

## <u>Community Support Team</u> <u>The Community Support Team (CST)</u>

The Community Support Team provides support and counseling services to high-risk youth who have been in conflict with the law and are between the ages of 12-15 years. All referrals to this program are initiated by the Phase One Probation Officers within the Districts of Cochrane and Temiskaming. The purpose of this program is to reduce

involvement of young offenders within the secure custody/detention system, prevent the return of young offenders to custody; and enable the earliest possible return of these young offenders to their communities with support and appropriate assistance. The services are community based, (sessions may be offered to clients in their home, at a school, office, etc.) voluntary and the hours of operation are flexible to meet the needs.

#### Services provided include:

- Intake and Assessment
- Psychological Assessment and Consultation
- Reasoning and Rehabilitation (cognitive training)
- Anger Management
- Lifeskill Development
- Social Skills Training
- Sexual Offender Treatment (TASO)
- Discharge Planning
- Pre-Adjudication Program
   Individual, Family and Group Counseling

#### **Restorative Justice**

Restorative Justice helps in an inclusive and meaningful way meet the needs of young people who are in conflict with the law.

Restorative justice practices provide voluntary opportunities for those who have been harmed and those who have caused harm to take on an active participatory role in their journey for justice, accountability, and reparation.

#### **Attendance Centres**

Attendance Centre programs are designed to meet the needs of youth in conflict with the law. These centres are intended as an alternative to a custody order. Youth attending the centres will benefit from a period of intensive, highly structured and closely supervised programming to address their individual needs such as anger management, life skills or employment/job search skills.

The centres programs provide more constructive, long-term and sustainable solutions to youth crime that reinforce important societal values such as respect, responsibility and accountability. The intensive programming promotes family involvement, community support, positive attitudes and behaviour, and the development of appropriate social skills involving key members of the case management team and community resources as required. Access to the program is through a referral from a Probation Officer (Case Manager).



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✓ Englehart

✓ New Liskeard

✓ North Cobalt

√Wilcox (Timmins)

### **Programs and Services**

- Fostering
- Adopting
  - Birth Parenting
  - Adoptive Applicant Services
  - Adoption Disclosure

What about? Therapeutic foster care?

## **Placement Resources**

#### **Fostering**

Foster Care Services are provided to children and youth, between the ages of 0 to 21, where the Agency has care of the child/youth and who are in need of a "place of safety."

Foster Parents fulfill all parental roles for a foster child and as such provide food, clothing, nurturing and healthy and safe environments for children to grow and develop to their full potential. Foster parents also accompany children to medical and dental appointments. Foster Parents ensure attendance at school and provide support and guidance with the children's education and homework completion. They recognize and encourage the development of individual talents and strive to meet the emotional needs of the child, making them feel valued and cared for as a part of the foster family. Contributing to the child's positive identity, foster parents promote a strong sense of purpose and self-esteem. They support the child's religious beliefs and cultural values. Foster parents understand that the child's primary family is a very important part of the child's life, even though he or she may not be residing with them.

For individuals and couples who are applying to foster a child/youth a home safety inspection is completed. If the home safety inspection is positive they are invited to attend a mandatory pre-service training called Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (P.R.I.D.E.). This is a 27 hour commitment offered over a 9 week period. P.R.I.D.E. will serve to inform and educate foster applicants about the role

and expectations of fostering a child/youth. A home study will also be completed following a Structured Analysis Family Assessment (S.A.F.E.) format. Once approved, the prospective foster family will be supported through the selection, and placement process. Upon placement of a child into the approved home, remuneration is provided by the Agency to the foster family.

The PRIDE program is facilitated by trained staff and foster parents.

Each foster family is assigned a foster care worker who provides ongoing support to the foster family. This foster care worker also works collaboratively with the worker assigned to support the foster child placed in the home.

Cluster Groups are offered to approved foster families as a method of group support. Regular, on-going training opportunities are an integral part of the program encouraging foster parents to develop their expertise and knowledge in various areas. Approved Foster Parents of the Agency will have membership with the LOFF (League of Foster Families) Association.

#### **Birth Parent Counseling:**

Birth Parent Counseling is offered to parents experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. This service will provide options to parents regarding adoption and/or the decision to parent. Birth Parent Counseling also provides supports to the parents throughout the duration of the pregnancy, the birth and the relinquishment, if adoption is selected.

#### **Adoptive Applicant Services:**

For individuals and couples who are applying to adopt a child/youth a home safety inspection is completed. If the home safety inspection is positive they are invited to attend a mandatory pre-service training called Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (P.R.I.D.E.). This is a 27 hour commitment offered over a 9 week period. P.R.I.D.E. will serve to inform and educate adoptive applicants about the role and expectations of adopting a child/youth. A home study will also be completed following a Structured Analysis Family Assessment (S.A.F.E.) format. Once approved, the prospective adoptive families will be supported through the matching and selection, pre-placement, adoption probation and finalization processes.

#### **Adoption Disclosure:**

Adoption disclosure services are provided by contacting <a href="www.serviceontario.ca">www.serviceontario.ca</a> or by calling 1 800 461 2156 (toll free). Service Ontario will refer people who are seeking non-identifying social and medical history information. Non-identifying social and medical reports are prepared and provided to the requesting party. There is a waiting list for this service.



## Programs and Services

• Volunteering & Community Services

#### **About Volunteering & Community Services**

Volunteer Services are offered to enhance, strengthen and augment the Agency's services to children, youth and families. Volunteers are able to assist staff in most service areas and contribute to the overall care, well being and protection of children, youth and families. The Agency acknowledges that Volunteers are a valuable asset and provide a vital link in the delivery of the Agency's services. Volunteers engage in a discussion with a Volunteer Coordinator to determine interests of volunteer work and assess their strengths.

The Agency provides quality training and regular supervision of Volunteers. Volunteers are screened by trained staff to determine suitability for volunteering. Criminal reference checks are completed on each Volunteer applicant as well as a request and review of character references. A clear and effective accountability system has been developed and implemented for our Volunteers to ensure they are supported and informed about matters important to their work.

Applicants can call any Agency campus to initiate the process to become an approved Volunteer for the Agency.

