



MANDATE

To operate and manage an Aboriginal Delegated agency that provides a continuum of culturally appropriate prevention, intervention and protection services for children and families of the Member Indian Bands within the scope of legislative directives.

NIFCS is guided by cultural knowledge, values and wisdom and supported with strategic governance by a First Nations board of directors, representing each community.

NIFCS has a caring, compassionate, and empathetic team that deliver culturally appropriate services to children, youth and families belonging to NIFCS seven member bands.

OVERVIEW

NIFCS is directly mandated by the member nations to safeguard the inherent right of our children to thrive in a safe and healthy environment and strengthen cultural identities and family unity.

NIFCS offers a variety of support services and programs, partnering with the family, extended family and community to strengthen the family's wellness to care for and nurture their children in the best way possible.

*Moving with one heart,
one mind, "Sayt K'üülm Goot"
with the children and youth
at the center*



NIFCS - Northwest

4562 Queensway Dr., Terrace, BC V8G 3X6

NIFCS - North Coast Services

#3 – 222 3rd Avenue West, Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1

Contact NIFCS Direct Toll Free

1-888-310-3311

To report a child safety concern Mon-Fri 8:30 am-4:30 pm, please call **1-800-663-9122**. After 4:30 pm and weekends, call 310-1234 (TTY1-866-660-0505).



NORTHWEST INTER-NATION FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

Supports & Services Overview

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide community-based and community driven child and family care services that protect and preserve the unique cultural identity of every child and family in the bands we serve.

Description of Services & Programs

Advocacy

NIFCS helps families understand their rights when involved with MCFD and works with all parties in a respectful, cultural manner to collaboratively solve concerns and make a plan for care, safety or support.

Guardianship

Children and youth who are in the care of the agency (temporary or permanent) are assigned a social worker who ensures that planning takes into account the specific needs of the child and prepares the child for permanency or independence.

The focus of our work with the children and youth is to ensure that their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs are being met at all times, in partnership with the child/youth's surrounding support system.

Caregiver Recruitment and Development

We are always in need of Caregivers and of Aboriginal families willing to open their hearts and their homes to an Aboriginal child. Caregivers can provide support to children and youth who need:

- Long-term placements
- Short-term placements
- Emergency care

Support Services

All services are provided on a voluntary basis recognizing that it is the parent who knows best what services may meet their child or family's needs.

Agreements may be provided for a term (renewable) of up to 6 months may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health

Provides clinical assessment and treatment that promotes cultural enhancement and positive growth in children experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, any mental health problem. Utilizes a holistic framework and culturally relevant traditional assessment and treatment methods wraps around the needs of each child/youth.

Respite Care

Offers short term relief care for Caregivers.

Parenting Programs

Includes the Strengthening Families Program, where families learn new ways of communicating with each other, dealing with peer pressure and setting rules and consequences, while still showing love.

Voluntary Care Agreement

An agreement for when families are in short-term crisis and it may be beneficial for temporary care for their child(ren). For example, a VCA may be the best option when parent(s) enter a hospital, treatment facility or program, while the parent still remains the legal guardian.

Youth Agreements

This agreement can provide supports to youth who are not able to reside with their family or whose parents are unable to assist and provide residential, financial or educational support.

Special Needs Agreements

When a child has been diagnosed with a permanent or long-term severe or developmental disability or identified as at risk for developmental delay, a family may be eligible for extra assistance.

Extended Family Program

When circumstances prevent a child from living with parents, the preferred option is for the child to be cared for by someone they know. It can also include someone with an established relationship or cultural connection to the child and their family. NIFCS may offer a child's Caregivers financial help and other support services as required.

Family Support Worker Program

Family Support Worker services are based on local First Nations culture and promote the rebuilding of a healthier community. The services are flexible and responsive to ensure children, youth and families receive services that are specific to the needs. This may include in home support and parent coaching, child and youth care support, children's and parenting groups etc.

Traditional Cultural Activities and Programs

Remaining connected to Aboriginal culture is foundational to NIFCS service delivery model. NIFCS cultural programs are grounded in the traditions and beliefs of the Tsimshian and Haisla people.

NIFCS cultural programs enrich and enhance the other delegated programs provided to children, youth and families. Because culture matters and culture heals, this is an area that NIFCS intends to strengthen and grow continuously. Current service offerings include:

- Homecomings
- Transition Ceremonies
- Cultural Camps
- Traditional Parenting Programs
- Plus other exciting holistic development and skills programs for youth under development.

CHILD AND YOUTH SAFETY

NIFCS is now C6 delegated and is responsible to review, assess, and investigate reports of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children for the children and families residing on traditional territory.

This includes:

- Assessment and response to incoming child safety reports
- Investigations of a safety protection concern for any child in the seven traditional territories we serve
- Working with families least intrusively and calling family meetings to support the families that are brought to our attention and wrap support around them with our FSW and other services in the communities