

---

# KCFS Spring Newsletter

---



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear Families, Communities, and Partners,*

*Spring is here, bringing new opportunities to reflect on the progress we've made and the work ahead. March was Social Work Month, a time to recognize the importance of supporting children, youth, and families. At Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, we remain committed to ensuring First Nations families receive the care, resources, and culturally relevant support they need to thrive.*

*Over the past few months, we have taken important steps to strengthen the services we provide. We are expanding prevention-focused programs that help families before challenges become crises, ensuring that children can remain safely with their families and connected to their communities. Our goal is to provide meaningful, culturally rooted supports that make a difference in the lives of those we serve.*

*As part of our commitment to meeting the needs of the communities we serve, we are also transitioning to a remote service model in Kapuskasing. While our physical office closed on March 31, 2025, families will continue to receive uninterrupted support, with staff available 24/7 at 705-268-9033.*

*Another key area we are closely monitoring is Jordan's Principle, ensuring that families continue to receive the support they need. Recent changes to the program have created some uncertainty, but we remain dedicated to advocating for families and assisting them in navigating the process. If you need more information on how to access available resources, please reach out to us.*

*Looking back, we also want to highlight the incredible community spirit shown during Pink Shirt Day and Family Day, which brought people together to stand against bullying, promote inclusion, and celebrate the strength of families. These events are a reminder of how community connections can create a lasting impact.*

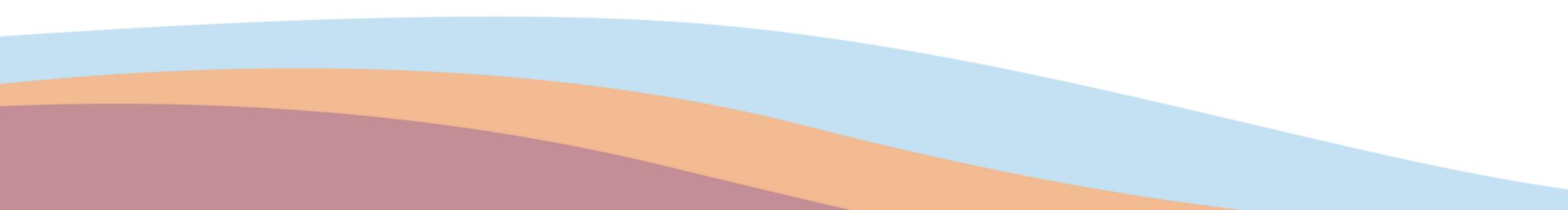
*As we move forward into spring and summer, we look forward to hosting even more events and opportunities to engage with families. Thank you to everyone who supports our mission—your dedication and commitment make a real difference.*

*Chi Miigwetch,*

***Kristin Murray***

*Executive Director*

*Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services*

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping, wavy bands in shades of light blue, orange, and purple.

---

# Spotlight on Jordan's Principle

---

Delays in Jordan's Principle continue to impact the children and families we serve. While the government reports progress, 129,000 cases remain unresolved, including 17,000 urgent cases. These delays mean families are still struggling to access essential services.

We want to recognize and thank our frontline staff, who continue to navigate complicated paperwork, slow reimbursements, and shifting policies to ensure children receive the care they need. Despite these challenges, Kuuwanimano remains committed to meeting critical needs and supporting families through these ongoing changes.

## First Nations Child and Family Services And Jordan's Principle Settlement Information

The first claims period is now open. Claims are being accepted for the Removed Child Class and the Removed Child Family Class, two of nine Classes included in the Settlement. Kuuwanimano is doing its best to guide families through this process and ensure they receive the services they are entitled to.

Families and clients can learn more and access submission details by visiting: [First Nations Child And Family Services And Jordan's Principle Settlement](#)

---

# Meet Marlene Our New Director of Prevention

---



We're excited to welcome Marlene Kapashesit as Kuuwanimano's new Director of Prevention. Marlene comes to us with extensive experience in child and family services and a strong passion for community-driven prevention programs.

She believes that prevention is about building strong relationships, offering support before challenges escalate, and creating safe environments where families can thrive. In her new role, Marlene will focus on expanding outreach, strengthening family support programs, and working closely with communities to ensure families have the resources they need.

We're thrilled to have her on board and look forward to the positive Impact she will make!

# First Nations and Community Relations Department Update

Anni, Wachey!

Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services is committed to strengthening relationships with the First Nations we serve. Our goal is to foster trust-based connections by offering support, guidance, and open communication between First Nation Band Representatives and the agency. We remain dedicated to engaging with families and communities to deepen these important ties.

One key initiative supporting this work is our Quarterly Band Reviews, which provide a space for meaningful discussions between Band Representatives and Case Managers. These reviews, held both in person and online, help ensure transparency, trust, and accountability while supporting the reunification process for families.

Our team has also been working to strengthen partnerships within the community. We have been bringing together organizations such as the Timmins Friendship Centre, Misiway, Wabun Tribal Council, and Mushkegowuk to collaborate, support each other, and connect the community through the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

We've been engaging with the community through local events including, hosting an information booth at the Canadore College Powwow in North Bay, where we spoke with social service students about careers in the field. We also attended the Mushkegowuk Cup Hockey Tournament Vendor Day in Timmins, sharing information with youth and families about Prevention Services, employment opportunities, and upcoming events.

We are looking forward to continuing to connect with our community through the following upcoming events.

- Northern College Annual Powwow – Saturday, April 12th, 2025
- Child Welfare and Referral Process Training, along with Understanding Standards and Eligibility Spectrum, offered to First Nations Band Representatives and Child Welfare professionals in the community
- Tea and Bannock Drop-In sessions at KCFS Office Districts
- Free Family Play Park Drop-In – First Thursday of every month.

For more information, visit our Kunuwanimano Community Events Facebook Page. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to:

- Roberta Echum, Community Relations Specialist at: [Roberta.Echum@Kunuwanimano.com](mailto:Roberta.Echum@Kunuwanimano.com)

We look forward to continuing to build strong connections and support our community.  
Miigwetch!

---

# Recent Events at Kunuwanimano: Celebrating Our Community

---

At Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, we believe in the power of community and connection. Over the past few months, we've hosted events that brought families together, reinforced important values, and created lasting memories.

## **Pink Shirt Day:**

Community members joined us in taking a stand against bullying by wearing pink and participating in activities that promoted kindness, respect, and inclusion. It was an important reminder of the need to create safe and welcoming spaces for all.

## **Family Day:**

Families gathered for a day filled with laughter, fun, and quality time together. These moments strengthen relationships and provide families with opportunities to connect in a supportive environment.

## **MARCH BREAK EVENTS**

### **Family Bowling:**

Families came together for a fun-filled afternoon at Mid-Town Bowling Alley, enjoying friendly competition and shared laughter.

### **March Break "In a Bag" Kits:**

These take-home kits, filled with engaging activities like baking, board games, painting, and science experiments, helped families enjoy creative and meaningful time together.



**Thank you to everyone who participated and made these events such a success!**

---

---

---

## Upcoming Notable Dates:

---

**April 12th and 13th** - Northern College Powwow: Honouring our Women.

**May 5th** - MMIW Day (Red Dress Day)

**May 10th** - Bear Witness Day (Spirit Bear's Birthday)

**May 16th** - Moose Hide Campaign Day

**June 21st** - National Indigenous People's Day

---

---

## Office Closures:

---

**April 18th** - 2025 Good Friday

**April 21st** - 2025 Easter Monday

**May 19th** - 2025 Victory Day

**June 21st** - 2025 National Indigenous People's Day

During any office closure dates, only the after-hours service will be available. If there is an immediate concern for a child or youth, our team is still available 24/7 by calling (705) 268-9033.