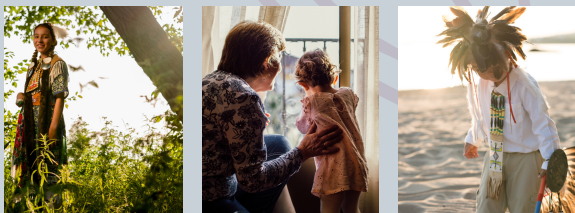


# What is a Customary Care Agreement?

Customary Care practices are influenced by the cultures of the parents and the community, in which the child is being raised. The use of Customary Care Agreement is based on the principles of consensus, voluntary participation, cooperation, and collaboration of the care of the child(ren). The Agreement recognizes that members of the child's immediate and extended family and community share responsibility in the provision of care to a child.



## Types of Customary Care Agreements

**Short-Term:** Temporary placements and signed for up to six months at a time.

**Long-Term:** Can be in effect until the child turns eighteen years of age.

Let's keep our children  
in our communities!



## Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services

Customary Care Coordinator  
Merle McLeod  
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niijcfs.com



# Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services Customary Care



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Niijaansinaanik  
OUR CHILDREN

Customary Care Providers are required to meet Ministry and Agency standards of care and to agree to participate in formal planning and decision making for the child and his/her family.

Niijaansinaanik Child & Family Services is a family-focused agency, that provides individual, family & community healing through prevention, intervention, cultural education and community development.

#### Who We Serve:

Henvey Inlet, Dokis, Magnetawan, Shawanaga, Wasauksing, and Wahnapiatae.

*\*Indigenous, Métis and Inuit Children & Families in the Parry Sound & Nipissing District*

Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services is licensed by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) to approve Alternative Care Homes.

## What is Customary Care ?

The Customary Care Program is based on our Indigenous cultural belief system. Our Program recognizes and respects inherent rights of the Anishinabek. This model of Customary Care will be implemented only if the child is deemed in need of protection, as identified through a Child Welfare Authority or the Courts and the respective First Nation community, declares that the child(ren) be cared for under a Customary Care Agreement, through a Band Council Resolution (BCR).

Niijaasaanik Child and Family Services mission and mandate is to place children with family and community first with a preference to utilize Customary Care above all other permanency options. It is the desire of the Agency that Customary Care Agreements be reached before any court applications are required. The program individualizes each Agreement, encompassing traditional practices and/or healthy child rearing and care. All members of the family, extended family, relatives, and community are involved in caring for children, whose families experience difficulties.

## Customary Care Coordinator

- Works collaboratively with First Nations Families and Protection Agencies to develop Customary Care Agreements.
- Provides education and awareness on Customary Care Programs and Services.
- Coordinates and ensures all documentation is completed for implementation of the Customary Care Agreement.
- Monitors and assists in regular reviews of Customary Care Agreements.

**The Rights of Anishinaabe Children & Youth are inherent and forever in all care practices.**

View List of Rights listed at:

[niijcfs.com/services/customary-care](http://niijcfs.com/services/customary-care)

