



Henvey Inlet First Nation Child and Family Wellbeing Project

Henvey Inlet First Nation (HIFN) has decided to reclaim jurisdiction over Henvey Inlet's children and families.

This involves drafting a law, collecting information, engaging with community members, and developing administrative and other systems to support the jurisdiction process.

This is a community-driven initiative to develop a Henvey Inlet-specific Child and Family Wellbeing Law. This will be the community's law and reflects the vision HIFN has for the overall health and wellbeing of its children and families.

Band Representative Program

The Band Representative Program advocates on behalf of Henvey Inlet children and families both on- and off-reserve and provides legal advocacy relating to the Child Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA).

Currently, three Band Representatives advocate for Henvey Inlet children and families at every step of their involvement with provincially mandated societies and agencies, from intake through prevention and protection, including in court and out of court.

The Child and Family Wellbeing Law

The initiative was supported by a Band Council Resolution passed on December 8, 2022, expressing HIFN's commitment to reclaiming jurisdiction over its children.

This law is specific to Henvey Inlet and will focus on the Nation's culture, traditions, and wisdom passed down through generations regarding taking care of HIFN children and families. The Child and Family Wellbeing Law will take precedence over provincial law.

With legal counsel Fogler Rubinoff, and engagement specialists Avaanz Ltd. supporting the process, the community will develop the approach for how to provide Child and Family Services to members of HIFN.

Law Development

In order to gain the information needed to draft the Law, community engagements need to take place.

The information gathered in these engagement sessions, whether through community meetings, focus groups, surveys, discussions or activities, will all help to inform the Law. The planning of these sessions will be led by a Working Group.

Community Engagements

The aim of community engagements is to gain insight into the lived experience of community members with respect to child and family welfare. The purpose is to determine traditional child and family wellbeing approaches, programs, services, and implementation as well as important values and principles that will ground the Child and Family Wellbeing Law.

Community engagements are ongoing. A project kick-off event took place in June 2024 and more events will be scheduled throughout 2024 and 2025.

These engagements are for families and community members on- and off-reserve, Elders, Chief, Council, and Band Representative Program employees, youth on- and off-reserve, those who have been through the child welfare system, and families that have been impacted by the child welfare system.

Working Group

A Working Group of ten members, consisting of both on-reserve and off-reserve HIFN community members, as well as HIFN councillors and Band Representative staff, has been formed to guide the Law's development and oversee the community engagement process.

This is a way to ensure that HIFN voices are being heard and that the needs of the community are properly represented in drafting the Law.

Child and Family Wellbeing Survey

Please scan the QR code below to participate in our survey and give feedback on the child and family wellbeing needs of the Henvey Inlet community.



<https://forms.office.com/r/W2EqAVf1Ss>

