

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW



### ----- Roles – Caseworker -----

The minister of Social Services has parental rights and responsibilities for a child in care. As the designate of the minister, the role of the caseworker is to carry out those parental responsibilities. **The primary focus is the best interest of the child.** The caseworker must ensure that quality care is provided to children who are in the care of the Minister of Social Services. The caseworker is to ensure that all services to children, their families and caregivers are provided in accordance with departmental policy, standards and philosophy.

#### **There's more.....**

The caseworker must work in a co-operative partnership with families and caregivers toward the goal of meeting the total needs of children in out-of-home care. Caseworkers will assist the caregiver in developing their role so that the child can succeed in the caregiver's home, school and community, and where appropriate, prepare the child for return to his/her family.

#### **Primary functions of a caseworker:**

- \* **be knowledgeable** about the impact of out-of-home care on a child's development, identity and sense of belonging
- \* match a child in care with a placement resource **that best meets his/her needs;**
- \* provide caregivers with **all** information about the child that will enable them to adequately meet the child's needs and to **share relevant and important information** with all those involved in case planning
- \* develop, implement and review short-term and long-term individual case plans for children in care;
- \* **have regular visits** with the child in the caregiver home or some other setting which is comfortable for the child;
- \* **ensure and facilitate** contact between the child and their family as it is safe and appropriate to do so;
- \* ensure that the child is **consulted and permitted to express his/her views**, to the significant decisions which concern the child, such as medical treatment, education, religion, and discharge from care, or transfer to another placement;
- \* ensure that the child's family, extended family or Band is consulted and permitted to express their views. This includes input into significant decisions concerning medical treatment, education, religion, change of placement and discharge from care;
- \* access any necessary resources required to meet the needs of children, youth and their families;
- \* **record/document and safeguard** all relevant information to ensure confidentiality;
- \* **provide support and counseling services** to children, youth, families and caregivers;
- \* assure the child, appropriate to age, the child's family and child's caregiver are aware of their right to appeal
- \* children, appropriate to age, **are to be informed** of the Children's Advocate and provided information on how to contact the Children's Advocate Office

**For further information see: Chapter 1, Section 1.0.1.5 – Roles in the Children's Services Policies and Procedures Manual.**

