



**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM – WAKAABIT – WOKESAPE PROJECT
COORDINATION AGREEMENT TEMPLATE – HIGHLIGHTS**

- Developed to work with the Anishinaabe and Dakota Family Law Templates or to support any other First Nation Laws developed.
- Places the First Nation as the primary or leading “party” throughout the provisions to further ground the paramountcy of the First Nation’s Laws.
- Supports a tri-lateral Agreement; however, could be adapted for bilateral coordination.
- Begins to address the “colonial” language and structure of federal and provincial templates – moving towards plain language to be shared orally and translated in the First Nation’s Language.
- “Whereas” statements presented as the parties’ “commitments” to the relationship with focus on the purpose of the First Nation’s Laws and jurisdiction being exercised the First Nation’s way – grounds the interpretation.
- Promotes a shift in language away from colonial child welfare terms that are a barrier to change in practice.
 - “Community, Wellness and Safety Services” replaces “Child and Family Services”
 - “Family and community wellness services” replaces “prevention”
 - “Safety and temporary separation services” replaces “protection”.
- Includes a “Rights and Jurisdiction Section” to fully establish the First Nation’s inherent right for jurisdiction to ground this fact in the interpretation of the provisions.
- Includes the “Rights of the First Nation’s Children” in the Agreement to ground the decisions made as part of the Agreement – focus on the best interest of children their family and community.
- “Terms of Agreement” stress the government to government relationship – not a “joint venture or an employer-employee relationship.
- Allows for periodic review within the timeline of the Agreement.
- Includes Funding principles, core funding arrangements and addresses funding policy changes (by Canada or Manitoba) to provide a structure to the funding relationship that is absent in Bill C92.
- Includes a principle commitment for Canada and Manitoba to work collaboratively with the First Nation to ensure substantive equality and address current systemic discrimination with two different funding approaches/levels must commit to common funding approach.
- This is a living document that will change as the FSA comes into play and also based on any amendments made to Bill C92.