

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

The Chief and Council play a very important role by providing customary care and emergency safe house declarations.

The Chief and Council will act as a liaison to all other partners when necessary.

PAYUKOTAYNO

Payukotayno will cooperate with other members of the circle in providing for the best interest of the child.

Payukotayno will provide support to the customary caregivers and consult with the Customary Care Committees and Chiefs and Councils of every community.

Payukotayno will continue to exercise its authority with respect to child protection matters if necessary.

Payukotayno will conduct assessments of child's needs and seek innovative ways of meeting those needs within the child's home community or First Nation.



Traditional Customary Care refers to an arrangement whereby an extended family member or other community member takes over the care of another family's children because the parents are unable to provide care or protect the children. These private arrangements are negotiated between parents and caregivers without Payukotayno's formal involvement.

Formal Customary Care is used to describe placement of a child considered to be in need of protection with alternative caregivers pursuant to a First Nation Band Council Declaration and /or BCR and a Customary Care Agreement that is entered into by the First Nation, family and Payukotayno. Customary Caregivers receive a subsidy equivalent to agency Foster Care rates and the placement is supervised by Payukotayno. Though the child is in care of Payukotayno "Days in care" DO NOT count



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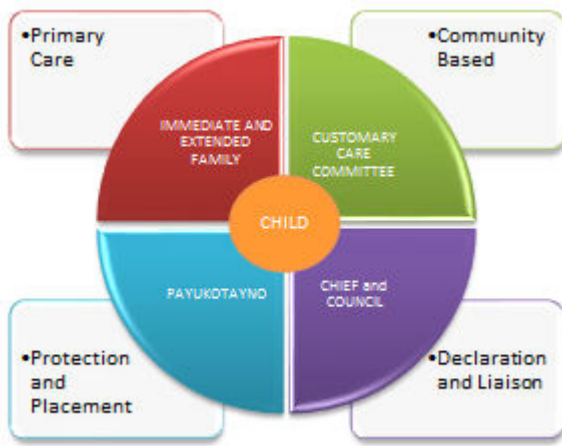
Customary Care

"Cherishing Children, Family and Community"



Payukotayno's customary care model focuses on reunification of the family and sees First Nations as partners in protecting and caring for children and promoting the wellbeing of families and community.

Call Toll Free: 1 888 298 2916



CHILD

The child is the center of the circle; any other partners in the circle may be the entry point of Intervention to the child and all parties collaborate and cooperate in the best interest of the child

IMMEDIATE AND EXTENDED FAMILY

As part of the Customary Care model, the extended family is very important in recommending the most suitable and appropriate home for the child in need.

CUSTOMARY CARE COMMITTEE

The Customary Care Committee is made up of a member of the First Nation Council, Elders and other community members. This committee decides or affirms care to be given to the child in need and provides counsel to parents and caregivers. This Committee also provides advisory services to Payukotayno with respect to caregivers and safe houses within the community.

The primary goal of the Customary Care Program is to transition children from being in the care of the agency to being reunited permanently with family with no further involvement from Payukotayno.

CUSTOMARY CARE IS VOLUNTARY and preserves the child's heritage, cultural traditions and cultural identity while assuring connection to family and community and continuity of lifestyle.

ADMISSION of a child under a Customary Care Agreement is recommended for a situation in which:

- * a child's continued presence in the home creates a situation of risk to the child for harm or injury; or,
- * the parents are unable to provide for the needs of the child; or,
- * no less restrictive course of action, such as home service or Kinship Service to the family is appropriate; or,
- * the child in question is less than sixteen years of age; and,
- * the parent is prepared to maintain contact with the child and be involved in the child's care; and,
- * all parties to the agreement agree to the terms and conditions of the agreement; and,
- * an appropriate residential placement that is likely to benefit the child is available.

The **Customary Care family** has the responsibility of providing a safe and stable nurturing family environment that strives to meet the needs of child(ren) in their care.

CUSTOMARY CARE PLACEMENT PRIORITIES

- **Immediate family in the community where the child is resident.**
- **Extended family in the community where the child is resident.**
- **Immediate family in neighbouring First Nation community.**
- **Extended family in neighbouring First Nation community.**
- **Another First Nation or Indian family within the child's home community.**
- **Another First Nation or Indian family within the child's First Nation.**
- **Another First Nation or Indian family within the parent's First Nation**
- **Another First Nation or Indian family within neighbouring First Nation community.**

CUSTOMARY CARE AGREEMENTS are a written plan outline the arrangements between the Parent(s), child over 12 years, Customary Caregivers, Band Council and Payukotayno; including but not limited to:

- ◆ The legal status/custody of the child
- ◆ Responsibilities of meet the child(ren)'s needs & rights:
 - Education, Clothing, Recreation, religious/spiritual, dental/ medical/ emergency, visits
- ◆ Finances
- ◆ Monitoring/documentation
- ◆ Planning and Review