

Policy Title: **Child & Family Programs & Services**

Policy Statement:

The TCSA vision statement—**Strong Like Two People**—has special relevance to children and families. Survival today requires the strength and ability to survive in both cultures: to find a fertile common ground based upon the values our Traditional Tlicho Culture and the skills needed to live in a modern 21st Century society. But many of our children and families are in trouble and need our help. Our role is to help them discover and build upon this common ground and develop the skills needed to survive and thrive.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe, secure and health environment for children and their families and to help ensure that children develop in a manner that is consistent with their culture.

This policy applies to all residents living in Tlicho communities as well as to those residents placed outside Tlicho communities.

Guidelines

The goal of our child and family services is to strengthen and build upon the four fundamental relationships that are the foundation of our culture;

- The relationship with the land—which is the source of our existence and of our culture;
 - The relationship within the family—which nurtures the child and supports the family members;
 - The relationship with the individual's inner spirit—which provides a sense of personal identity and an awareness of the larger world in which he or she lives;
 - The relationship with the broader community which awakens a sense of personal responsibility and a commitment to help others.
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Though our Tlicho integrated service delivery model we will provide comprehensive services for children and families that will meet their physical, emotional intellectual and spiritual needs.

Parents or formal guardians have the primary responsibility to protect, care for and develop their children. We will do whatever we can to help support the family to meet its responsibility. We will intervene only when it is absolutely necessary because the family is unable or unwilling to fulfill its responsibility and/or when we are required to do so by law.

The manner in which we will service children and families will be guided by our traditional values as expressed in our culture and cosmology. As much as possible we will provide services in the Tlicho language. We will make every effort to adapt child welfare practices to meet the needs of children and families in a manner that is realistic and culturally relevant.

We will work with community residents to develop programs, services and projects that will strengthen family life and reduce the stress on families

Whenever possible we will involve respected elders and community residents in decisions affecting their children and families.

Procedures:

1. We will continue our efforts to build our child and family services around Tlicho citizens who understand the Tlicho culture and can speak the Tlicho language;
2. We will provide on-going orientation training for non Tlicho child and family staff to help them understand our culture and traditions;
3. We will continue to explain our services to community residents so they will understand what we do and why we do it—and support us in our efforts;
4. We will work with the wider Tlicho community to develop programs for youth and young adults;
5. Will establish and work with Community Service Committees to help residents take a leadership role in the development and delivery of children and family services;
6. We will continue to work with the GNWT to adapt children and family child services to meet the specific needs of Tlicho residents and communities.

Authorities:

TCSA Act 13; Education Act, 117; Hospital Insurance & Health and Social Services Administration Act, 10(10), 13(1) Child and Family Services Act.

Approval Dates: 1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

3rd Reading/ Approval:

Chairperson: _____

CEO : _____
