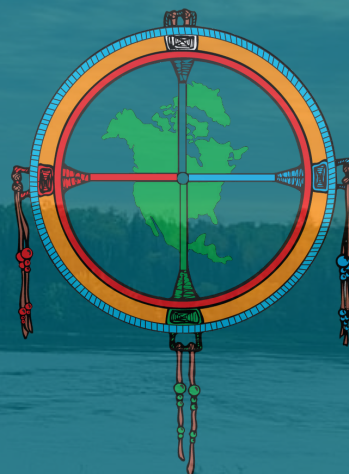


# Rainy River First Nations **Programs & Services**

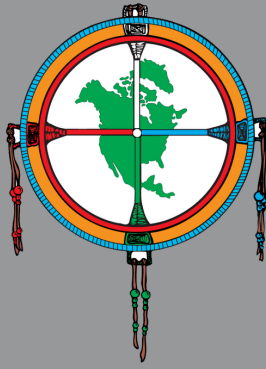
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At a Glance



2  
0  
2  
6

***Rainy River First Nations***  
**MANITOU RAPIDS**



# Table of Contents

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- Programs & Services Overview
- Addiction Treatment & Recovery Services
- Community Wellness Department
- Education Department
- Community Health Department
- Jordan's Principle
- Claims Implementation
- Ontario Works Department
- Membership Department
- Senior's 55+
- Policy and Communications
- Public Works Department
- Training and Employment Department



# Programs & Services Overview

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Boozhoo!

Rainy River First Nations (RRFN) has long been committed to promoting the well-being, growth, and prosperity of its members. Our approach is guided by a deep respect for the values of our people, including a focus on community, tradition, and holistic development.



Our various departments come together to deliver critical services that address the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our community members.

At the core of all our efforts is a commitment to collaboration. Our departments strive to work closely with each other and with external partners to maximize the impact of our programs, ensuring that RRFN members are supported at every stage of life. From promoting healthy living through community-driven wellness initiatives to ensuring financial security through targeted support programs, we have strived to meet the evolving needs of the Rainy River First Nations Membership.

**Wayne Strachan**

Manager of Administration

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807-482-2479 ext. 271



# Addiction Treatment & Recovery Services

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## Mandate

The Rainy River First Nations Addiction Treatment and Recovery Services program focuses on assisting individuals and families affected by substance use disorder. Our mission is to help members of Rainy River First Nations live a healthy and sober life through prevention awareness, counseling, treatment, and aftercare support. The department's approach includes:

- Intake assessments and individualized treatment planning.
- Counseling, transportation, and escort services.
- Discharge planning, referrals, outreach, and support for sober living options and activities.

## Transitional Home Program

The Transitional Home offers a sober, supportive environment for individuals who need additional assistance after completing an addiction treatment program. The home provides residents with structured routines and life skills necessary to live independently, including case management and individualized care plans. The maximum stay is two years, during which clients work on personal goals such as education, employment, and healthy living.

**Adam Ali**

Director of Addiction Treatment and Recovery Services

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# Community Wellness Department

## Mandate

The Community Wellness & Early Childhood Development programs aim to support the holistic development of children, families, and the community through engaging activities, wellness initiatives, and support services. These programs foster personal growth, community engagement, and mental well-being for all participants.

## Programs

- Community Wellness
- Family Well-Being
- Recreation
- Early Childhood Development



The Community Wellness & Early Childhood Development programs at Rainy River First Nations serve the community by providing engaging activities, wellness support, and emergency assistance. We have a range of programming that reflects the commitment to fostering a healthy and active community through recreation, wellness, and support services. With a comprehensive budget and work plan, the Early Childhood Development programs focus on providing resources to newborns and their families, ensuring a strong foundation for future growth and success.

**Rekha Kasana**

Director of Community Wellness  
Rekha.kasana@manitourapids.ca  
807-482-2479 ext: 226



# Education Department



## About

The Rainy River First Nations (RRFN) Education Department is committed to supporting the educational needs of its community members across Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary levels. Our services include educational assistance, transportation, and funding opportunities to promote academic success and personal development.

The Education Department is funded by Indigenous Services Canada and services all Rainy River First Nations community members who are registered on the Indian Registry System. Our services encompass the educational journey of students from elementary school through to post-secondary education, including special programs designed to enhance educational outcomes.

## Services

- Student Transportation (bussing services)
- Financial Assistance
- Student Recognition Programs
- External Educational Opportunities: Experience Trips/Conferences
- Educational Support Services: Education Assistants & Community Education Resource Worker
- Recreation Support

The Rainy River First Nations Education Department continues to provide essential support and resources to students at all educational levels. Through dedicated staff, comprehensive services, and strong partnerships, we aim to foster educational success and personal growth for all RRFN community members.

**Hope Mosbeck**

Education Counsellor

[hope.mosbeck@manitourapids.ca](mailto:hope.mosbeck@manitourapids.ca)

807-482-2479 ext. 270





# Community Health Department

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## Mandate

The Rainy River First Nations Health Department is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of community members by providing culturally appropriate, client-centered health services and initiatives. In partnership with local health authorities such as Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services, Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, Indigenous Services Canada, and other stakeholders, the department strives to deliver effective, equitable, and holistic healthcare.

Our goal is to enhance the overall quality of life for all members through collaboration and a commitment to comprehensive health and wellness services.

## Services

- **Home & Community Care (HCC) Services**
  - Home Care Nursing
  - Palliative Care
  - Home Support Services:
  - Case Management & Transitional Care
  - Respite Care
- **Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) & Medical Transportation**
  - NIHB Medical Transportation – Long Distance
  - Local Medical Transportation:
- **Public/Community Health Programs**
  - Immunizations
  - Communicable Disease Education
  - Child and Family Health
  - Health Promotion & Injury Prevention
  - Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program
  - Indigenous Midwifery Program
- **Diabetes Education**
- **Foot Care Services**
- **Nurse Practitioner Services**

## After-Hours/Weekend Support

24/7 phone support for urgent health concerns, bridging the gap between regular office hours and emergency services. Contact: (807) 271-6481.

**Juanita Connon**

Community Health Director

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# Jordan's Principle

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## Mandate

The mandate of Jordan's Principle is simple but profound: First Nations children, whether they live on or off-reserve, must have access to the services and supports they require without delay. When a government or service provider is unsure who is responsible for the cost of care, Jordan's Principle mandates that the service must be provided first, and disputes can be resolved afterward. The primary focus is on addressing the needs of First Nations children so they can live a healthy and full life.

## Overview

Jordan's Principle is a commitment made by the Canadian government to ensure First Nations children have equitable access to services and supports that they need. It is named after Jordan River Anderson, a child from Norway House Cree Nation who spent his entire life in the hospital because the federal and provincial governments could not agree on who was responsible for funding his at-home care. Jordan's Principle ensures that First Nations children do not face similar delays or denials of care and services due to jurisdictional disputes or gaps in service coverage.

## Services Covered

Jordan's Principle covers a wide range of services, including but not limited to:

- Health: includes access to medical equipment, therapies (occupational, speech, physiotherapy), mental health supports, and home care.
- Education: can provide assistance for special education services, tutoring, assessments, and supplies.
- Social Services: respite care, after-school programs, transportation, or childcare services that address the well-being of the child.
- Cultural Supports: cultural and language programs, support for participation in ceremonies and cultural events, and resources for traditional knowledge keepers or elders to assist in a child's development.
- Housing and Equipment: adaptive equipment for children with disabilities, home modifications, or other tools necessary for a child's quality of life.

**Amber Vanasse**

J.P. Service Coordinator

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807-482-2479 ext. 239



# Claims Implementation

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## Mandate

The Rainy River First Nations (RRFN) Claims Implementation Program is dedicated to the expansion and management of reserve lands. This program aims to:

- Purchase property for reserve expansion.
- Identify and prioritize sacred and cultural sites on former reserve lands.
- Acquire strategic properties that align with RRFN's economic and business objectives for long-term value and gain.

## Progress & Expansion

The Rainy River First Nations Claims Implementation Program continues to make significant progress toward expanding reserve lands and acquiring strategic properties. With 43% of the planned acquisitions remaining, the program remains committed to achieving its goals in alignment with RRFN's economic and cultural priorities. Strategic training and partnerships will further enhance the program's ability to secure lands that hold long-term economic value while preserving important cultural sites for future generations.

**Nicole Cochrane**

Lands and Natural Resources Manager

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# Ontario Works Department

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## Mandate

The Ontario Works Program is designed to provide financial assistance and employment services to help individuals in financial need achieve self-reliance and secure sustainable employment. The program offers both employment assistance (EA) and basic financial assistance (BFA).

## Services Offered

- Employment Assistance:
  - Job search support services
  - Employment placement and job retention services
  - Workshops and training (e.g., life skills, resume writing, First Aid/CPR)
- Basic Financial Assistance:
- Provides income assistance to cover basic needs and shelter expenses, including emergency assistance.

## Other Services

- Formal Daycare Services
- Informal Daycare Services
- Transitional Support Funding: assists individuals or families who lack the financial means to address critical health and safety issues. This includes support for shelter, home repairs, and utilities to prevent unsafe living conditions.
- Funeral Policy Services:
  - Funeral home services (embalming, transportation of the deceased)
  - Cemetery plot costs
  - Traditional burial costs (e.g., pine box, community feast)
  - Funeral services may also cover transportation costs for family members

**Patrick Morrissette**

OW- Social Services Administrator  
patrick.morrissette@manitou Rapids.ca  
807-482-2479 ext.256



# Membership Department

Rainy River First Nations (RRFNs) has a deep and enduring commitment to the protection, preservation, and advancement of our Membership Treaty Rights.

RRFNs has faced generations of changes, from forced assimilation policies such as Indian Residential Schools to the imposition of colonial legislation, including the Indian Act. These efforts by the Federal Government and the Church were designed to undermine our identity and extinguish our treaty rights.

However, through resilience, we have maintained our languages, songs, ceremonies, ways of life, teachings, stories, and laws. These cultural elements form the foundation of our identity as a people, and our membership is determined by our relationships and responsibilities within our community. This is not only a cultural tradition but a law that is essential to our survival.

## **Gwen Medicine**

Membership Registrar  
membership@manitourapids.ca  
807-482-2479 ext.: 268



## Senior's 55+

The Rainy River First Nations (RRFN) Senior 55+ Program is dedicated to promoting the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness of senior community members. Through engaging activities and support services, the program encourages lifelong learning, community involvement, and healthy living practices.

### Key Focus Areas:

- Continual learning
- Embracing new experiences
- Knowledge sharing
- Promoting healthy living practices (food, exercise, mental health)
- Balancing traditional and modern lifestyles
- Engaging with other communities



## **Danica Medicine**

Elders Coordinator  
danica.medicine@manitourapids.ca  
807-482-2479 ext.: 269



# Policy & Communications

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## Mandate

### **Policy, Procedures & Laws:**

Work together with the Membership, Leadership and Administration toward decolonization, rehabilitation and reconciliation: to incorporate their various viewpoints and traditional values and practices into the policies, procedures and laws that govern the Nation and support people in understanding them.

### **Communications:**

Provide Members with up-to-date information on what is happening in the Community on all levels, administrative and political, through various platforms and media.

## Services Offered

### **Policy, Procedures, and laws.**

There are eight areas of service that the Policy Analyst fulfills:

- Advise
- Analyze
- Navigate
- Amend
- Develop
- Communicate
- Research
- Write

### **Communications:**

Any time that a Member, Staff or Chief and Council want news, a story, memorandum or event to be communicated to Membership, they are welcome to submit them to the Policy and Communications Department for distribution on various platforms.

**Lauren Hyatt**

Policy & Communications Analyst

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807-482-2479 ext. 214



# Public Works Department

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## Mandate

The Public Works Department of Rainy River First Nations is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for its community through the efficient management and delivery of essential services. This department is responsible for a broad range of functions, including housing, water and wastewater treatment, operations and maintenance (O&M), asset and fleet management, fire and emergency services, and work on capital projects in partnership with other departments. Our goal is to ensure safe, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure and services that meet the needs of the community while supporting its growth and development.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Rainy River First Nations Public Works Department is committed to delivering high-quality, reliable, and sustainable public services. Through proactive management, community engagement, and adherence to regulatory standards, we aim to enhance the safety, health, and overall well-being of the Rainy River First Nations community.

## Services & Programs \*

- Housing
- Water Treatment Plant
- Wastewater Treatment
- Operations & Maintenance: The O&M division of the Public Works Team is dedicated to ensuring community health by completing minor repairs, picking up garbage and recycling, lawn and road maintenance, etc.
- Asset & Fleet Management

\* Continued on next page



# Public Works Department

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## Services & Programs Continued

- Fire & Emergency Services: RRFNs PW Department has oversight of the volunteer Fire and Emergency Response Services of the community.
- Animal Control
- Capital Projects
- RRFN Trust Proposal Writing: assists members with Certificates of Possession (CPs) and/or off-reserve members with writing infrastructure/housing related proposals to the Trust. For On-Reserve CPs the RRFNs PW Department is also available to administer and manage the project when requested. We will also assist with final reporting where possible.
- Off-Reserve Home Renovation Program
- Remedial Home Renovations
- Building New Homes

### **Kyle Kellar**

Public Works Manager  
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807-482-2479 ext. 222

### **Austin Jack**

Public Works Coordinator  
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807-482-2479 ext. 228



# Training & Employment Department

## Mandate

The Rainy River First Nations (RRFN) Training and Employment Program is designed to promote training and employment opportunities for RRFN members. Through partnerships and funding allocations, the program aims to enhance skill development and create job opportunities both within the community and for off-reserve members.

## Programs

These are some of the programs that have been offered:

- Operator-in-Training Year
- G1 Permit Preparation Program
- Safe-start Driver's Training
- Introduction to Residential Trades (Summer Youth Employment Program)
- Heavy Equipment Operator Program



The Rainy River First Nations Training and Employment Program continues to make significant strides by offering a variety of programs both on and off-reserve.

The Programs offered empower members to develop critical skills and pursue certifications that will enhance their employment prospects. The collaboration with organizations such as Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong and Seven Generations Education Institute has been instrumental in providing these opportunities.

**Tracy Oshie-Horton**

Training & Employment Coordinator  
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These are some of the Programs and Services that we offer here at Rainy River First Nations. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information on programs and services that the Nation offers, please reach out to our Staff at the contact details below.

# Miigwech!

## **Rainy River First Nations Contact Information :**

 807-482-2479

 [www.rainyriverfirstnations.com](http://www.rainyriverfirstnations.com)

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