

**CIRCLE OF CARE
COLLABORATORS**



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

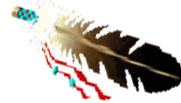


Circle of Care



**For more information about
Circle of Care and/or to complete an
intake, please contact:**

GINA METALLIC, MSW, RSW.
Circle of Care Coordinator
The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
299 Montreal Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1L 6B8
Tel: (613) 748-0657 ext 238
Fax: (613) 749-1195
Email: gmetallic@wabano.com



**CIRCLE OF CARE IS FUNDED BY THE
MINISTRY OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES**



**Do you self-identify as a
First Nations, Inuit or
Métis family?**

**Are you involved with
the Children's Aid
Society of Ottawa?**

**IF YES –
This service is for you!**

What is the Circle of Care?

- “Circle of Care” (COC) is a conflict resolution program.
- It is a **strength-based, culturally safe, family-centered,** and **collaborative** approach to resolving child protection issues.
- COC uses traditional methods, including circles processes. Indigenous facilitators and Elders guide the process.
- **Any family**, status or non-status that **self-identifies** as **First Nation, Inuk or Métis**, and is **involved** with the Children’s Aid Society (CAS) is **entitled to this process**. All families involved with CAS should be given the option to be involved with COC, whether they are involved voluntary or involuntary with CAS.
- **The process is completely confidential**. Nothing said in circle can be used against you outside of circle, unless you give consent to do so.
- The COC Coordinator and Facilitator do not work for CAS. They work on behalf of the Indigenous community and are here to help you reach peaceful resolutions.



“As we sit in Circle, it teaches us that we are all equal. In the Circle, no one is greater than another and no one is less than another” – Elder Jim Mishike’n Albert

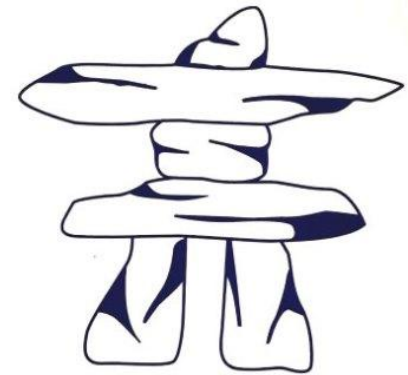
What is the process of Circle of Care?

- Contact the Circle of Care (COC) Coordinator and set up an appointment to complete an intake;
- Your family will meet with the COC Coordinator to discuss what led to your involvement with CAS and what you would like to accomplish (i.e. increase access, close file with CAS, resolve family dispute, bring child home, etc.). If you wish, the Coordinator will make culturally appropriate referrals to community resources to increase the well-being of you and your family;
- The Coordinator will then assign a Facilitator to work with you and your family;
- The Facilitator will meet with you individually to discuss your goals more in depth and build a relationship. The facilitator will also meet with CAS alone;
- The Facilitator will then organize a ‘circle’ with your family, CAS, and your community supports to discuss the current protection issues in Circle. You may create a safety plan for you and your child(ren), if necessary, and other family plans to reduce protection concerns. There may be many ‘mini circles’ like this. When there is indication that CAS will be closing the file, or the family is happy with the outcome of the resolution, the family, Facilitator and Coordinator will prepare for the Final Circle;

You may meet with an Elder or Cultural Teacher for support before and during the Circle of Care process.

What will my Final Circle look like?

- Your Facilitator and Coordinator will greet and welcome everyone.
- An Elder or Cultural Teacher may be involved in the opening and closing of the circle, based on your family’s wishes;
- Everyone will introduce themselves and share information about their experience with your family and how they will continue to support you and your child(ren).
- Everyone will review and create a final Family Plan until it is satisfactory and agreed to by all participants, including CAS.
- A feast will take place to honor you and your family.



“Circles give us the structure and freedom to speak our truth, freedom to drop masks and protections, freedom to be present as a human being, freedom to reveal our deepest longings, freedom to acknowledge mistakes and fears, freedom to act in accord with our core values”- Circle Participant