



## Children's Bill of Rights

"It is our sacred duty to ensure that the cycles of life continue, Children are the future of the Nawash Nation. The following Children's Bill of Rights outlines the rights of Children in Neyaashiinigiing. Together, as a community, we honour these rights to ensure that Children exist as the Creator intended and that our future generations achieve success and thrive."

### The Sacred Trust

*"The Anishinaabeg have always been a spiritual people with a deep spiritual connection to our ancestors, to our children and to our Mother Earth. We believe that our children are sacred gifts from the Creator and that they are to be raised in a Sacred Circle of shared community responsibility. The Creator has entrusted all community members with the duty to care for and protect our children. Our First Nation has a responsibility to ensure care and protection for all Nawash member children, including those who may be entitled to status living on- and living off-reserve. This Sacred Trust cannot be taken from us. Because of this Sacred Trust, the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation is committed to ensuring that our children are raised to be strong and healthy and are given the opportunities they need to grow to their full potential. We recognize that the future of our community and our First Nation is dependent upon our children and that our children will grow to become future parents and community leaders. Our families need support to provide protection and care for children and the community holds a shared responsibility to help our children to grow to their full potential."* \*Nawash Chief and Council 2009

### All Children in Neyaashiinigiing have the right:

- To be safe and cared for; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually by their family, extended family and First Nation Community;
- To be heard and believed by others;
- To be free from sexual abuse and exploitation;
- To their culture, heritage and language;
- To engage in their culture, heritage and language with out restriction(s);
- To equal and fair treatment; regardless of their identity, gender, sexual orientation, language, mental capacity, family relations and or name;
- To access and utilize support programs;
- To be loved and feel safe, whether inside or outside of their community;
- To adequate health care, education, nutrition and shelter;
- To freedom of spirit and to be their authentic selves;
- To play, to relax, to be respected and to have peace;
- To share their voice, to be heard and to be properly represented in decisions affecting their future;
- To a culturally-based education;
- To maintain their family name, familial ties and relationships within their community.

### A child is "in need of protection" when one or more specific conditions are met, for example:

- they suffered from physical harm because of what a parent did
- there is a risk that they will likely suffer physical harm because of what a parent does
- they have been sexually abused by a parent
- there is a risk that they will likely be sexually abused by a parent

If it is suspected that a child is being abused or neglected, it is important to report it immediately. Reporting child abuse can help protect children from further harm and connect them with the services they need.

If you have concerns for a **child's welfare**, immediately call 519-371-4453 or toll free 1-855-322-4453. For more information and/or support please contact:

**Nawash Native Child Welfare at 519 534 3818 – 23 Lighthouse Road Neyaashiinigiing**