OUR LAW

Principles That Guide Us

Five principles sit at the heart of Mihtatakaw Sîpiy Awasak Wiyasiwêwin. Every decision is measured against them.

◆ Best Interests of the Awasis (Child)

Safety, well-being and development come first, along with the child's connection to family, community and culture.

◆ Cultural Continuity

Services must protect the child's language, identity and connection to Driftpile culture.

◆ Substantive Equality

A child is never removed because of poverty, housing or a parent's health status. Support comes before separation.

◆ Prevention Comes First

Families are offered wraparound support, healing and practical help before any intervention is considered.

◆ Family Placement Priority

If care outside the home is needed, our law sets a strict order – family first, then the Nation.

WHO THE LAW COVERS

- All DCN Members and their Awasak,
- Residents of the Driftpile Cree Nation who are not Members (prevention services only)
- Others, where a Service Delivery or Coordination Agreement applies (prevention services only)

THE WORDS OF OUR LAW

- **Awasis / Awasak –** a child, or children, up to and including age 18
- **Oski-iyinîs –** a young adult, aged 18 up to and including 26
- **Kanawêyim –** keeping an Awasis (child); includes custody and guardianship
- **Nîkâni-kaskihcikêw –** the Director under the Act

GET IN TOUCH

Our doors are open.

Whether you need support, want to get involved, or have a question about our law – Reach Out.

MAIN OFFICE

Driftpile Cree Nation, AB
T0G 0V0
(825) 233-0027
reception@ckam.ca

SUB-OFFICE – EDMONTON

12223 152 St NW
Edmonton, AB T5V 1N3
(877) 571-9016
edm.reception@ckam.ca

REPORT A CHILD IN NEED

To report a child who may need protection, or to confirm a DCN child in your care:

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Mon - Fri (825) 233-0027

Afterhours call 1-877-736-0801

READ THE LATEST VERSION OF THE MIHTATAKAW SIPIY AWASAK WIYASIWÊWIN BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE WWW.CKAM.CA

www.ckam.ca

CHIEF KINOSEW AWASAK MÎKIWÂHP
CHIEF KINOSEW CHILDREN'S LODGE

DRIFTPILE CREE NATION · TREATY 8

Chief Kinosew Awasak Mikiwâhp

CHIEF KINOSEW CHILDREN'S LODGE

OUR CHILDREN · OUR WAY

Mihtatakaw Sipiy Awasak Wiyasiwêwin

DRIFTPILE RIVER CHILDREN'S LAW

A short guide to our law, our departments and where to find us.

OUR LAW

OUR DEPARTMENTS

OUR LOCATIONS

www.ckam.ca

OUR LAW

Mihtatakaw Sipiy Awasak Wiyasiwêwin

Enacted 17 March 2025. More than legislation — a statement of sovereignty and a promise to our children.

Our law reclaims full authority over how our children and families are cared for. It is grounded in the inherent right of self-government affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and by UNDRIP, and replaces provincial authority with DCN governance.

What our law does

- ✓ **DCN leads and delivers** all child and family services under our own law
- ✓ **CKAM is the agency** established under the Act to deliver the program
- ✓ **Prevention comes first** — families together and culturally connected
- ✓ **Traditional practices stand in law** — customary care, customary adoption and family agreements

How the law works

- **Board of Governors** — up to seven Governors appointed by Band Council Resolution
- **Nîkâni-kaskihcikêw** — the Director under the Act, who holds protection decision-making authority
- **Awasak ôh-nâtamâkêw** — an advocate for our children
- **Miyo-Wîcêhtowin Onâtamâkêw** — our tribunal for appeals, mediation and healing circles

Where an Awasis (Child) is placed

1. With one of the Awasis's parents
2. With another adult family member
3. With an adult member of Driftpile Cree Nation
4. With an adult from another Indigenous community
5. With any other adult

A DUTY ON EVERYONE

Anyone who believes an Awasis (child) needs protection must report it without delay — call **(825) 233-0027**.

OUR DEPARTMENTS

The Teams Behind the Work

Open to all Driftpile Cree Nation members. Prevention programs are voluntary and confidential.

Family Preservation

PREVENTION FIRST · KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Parenting workshops, traditional practices, referrals, mentorship and family service planning.

Family Preservation — Intensive Services

WHEN A FAMILY NEEDS MORE, SOONER

Intensive in-home support, emergency assistance, parent aides, counselling and safety planning.

Family & Community Supports

WRAPAROUND HELP AROUND THE FAMILY

Cultural events, connection to Elders, and help navigating housing, income and benefits.

Customary Care

SECTION 8.2 OF THE ACT

Voluntary care by a trusted family or Nation member, with caregiver support, Care Home approval and customary adoption.

Post-Majority

YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 15–26

Housing and rent support, financial planning, education, wellness, life skills and cultural engagement.

First Nation Band Representative

ADVOCATING WHEREVER OUR CHILDREN ARE

Representing our children's interests in child welfare decisions and court proceedings, with Elders' guidance.

CORPORATE SERVICES

- **Operations** — leadership, service planning, both offices
- **Finance** — accounting, payroll and assistance to families
- **Human Resources** — recruitment; openings at www.ckam.ca
- **Programs & Events** — north and south coordination
- **Transportation & Reception** — rides and first contact

FIND US

Our Office Locations

Two offices serve DCN members wherever they live.

MAIN OFFICE

DRIFTPILE CREE NATION · HEAD OFFICE

ADDRESS **Driftpile Cree Nation, AB** T0G 0V0
PHONE **(825) 233-0027**
EMAIL reception@ckam.ca
SERVES Driftpile and northern Alberta

SUB-OFFICE

EDMONTON · SOUTHERN ALBERTA

ADDRESS **12223 152 St NW** Edmonton, AB T5V 1N3
PHONE **(877) 571-9016**
EMAIL edm.reception@ckam.ca
SERVES Edmonton and southern Alberta

Who to contact

IF YOU NEED…	CONTACT
To report a child who may need protection	1-877-736-0801 Option 1: Main Office (Driftpile and Northern Alberta) Option 2: Sub Office (Edmonton and Southern Alberta)
To confirm a DCN child in your care	MAIN fp.supervisor@ckam.ca SUB fp.supervisor3@ckam.ca
Parenting support and referrals	MAIN fp.supervisor2@ckam.ca SUB cody.willier@ckam.ca
Customary care and caregiver support	MAIN pm.fcs.director@ckam.ca SUB ccsupervisor@ckam.ca
Support for a young adult aged 15–26	pmsupervisor@ckam.ca