

Respect,  
Belonging,  
Commitment,  
Building capacity,  
Hope,  
Responsiveness  
and  
"strengthening my  
roots"  
Are The  
Foundation  
Of Our  
Roots Program



## NEW DIRECTIONS

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULTS & FAMILIES

### Mission

To provide responsive and individualized services that foster the hopes and dreams of people and their communities

### Vision

A community where all people have well-being, are honoured and can dream.

### Values

Integrity in all that we do

Honour the strengths of people and community

Holism emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual, environmental and cultural

Respect for all people

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# ROOTS PROGRAM

*Child Centred  
Services*

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## Roots Program

Strong roots give children and youth a safe foundation that supports their growth, allows them to explore the world and to take the risks to pursue their dreams trusting that the connections they have will hold, nurture, and guide them.

Roots is one of the programs in our Child Centred Services. It provides specialized case management and supports to transition children and youth from our CTC and My Home Programs into a home where they can have strong roots. The transition can involve reuniting the children with their family or community, or helping them root in an alternative place when they are aging out of care and do not have relatives to go back to.

### Our Goals

The main goal of the program is to offer a sustainable and successful opportunity for children and youth to fulfil their dream to reunify with their loved ones or to age into a home and community where they are loved, supported, and can belong and contribute.

### Our Approach

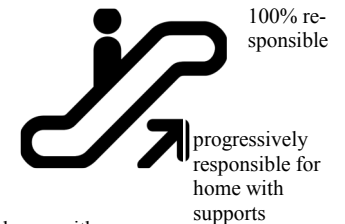
- Help the child or youth and his or her Social Worker identify a loving and healthy family or community connection the child values.
- Meet with all involved (child or youth, CFS, significant others, Roots) to make a commitment that together all form a team.
- Identify and set up extended-family type of individualized supports for the child or youth and significant others so that the reunification and rooting are successful and sustainable (e.g., problem solving, coordination with other community resources, coordination and planning with school, etc.).
- Together develop a Child Centred Plan and goals.
- Connect with other New Directions and community resources that can provide needed supports.
- Progressively strengthen the natural unpaid network of support for the child or youth.

### Roots team

- Help and encourage children and youth reach their goals and problem solve with them to address challenges and barriers.
- Is responsive to the child or youth and their significant others as they work through the process of connecting, developing routines, and rooting into a home environment.
- Engages with the child or youth and significant others supporting skill building and constructive interactions.
- Facilitates access to other helpful resources.

### Possible streams:

1. Move in **with family**:
  - a. Reunite with parent(s)
  - b. Reunite with a relative
2. Move in with a **significant other** (i.e., a person in the child or youth's life that has been a source of love and support and is willing to welcome child in his or her home. Examples: former teacher, former neighbor, godparent, friend of the family, etc.)
3. **Independent living**. Process:



Move into house with supports

### Making Referrals

CTC, My Home, the CFS Social Worker or the child or youth can explore the option of a referral with the Roots team.

When Roots team is aware of the interest, we approach the other involved parties to explore together.

All referrals come from the joint agreement of the child or youth, CTC or My Home programs staff, and CFS Worker.

