

Rocky Bay Family Services

Family First – “A New Beginning”

Oshki – Bimadiziwin

Annual Report 2019 – 2020

Rocky Bay Family Services

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Message from Chief Mel Hardy

Boozhoo! It is a pleasure to wish you a warm welcome as this is our First Rocky Bay Family Services Annual Report. Rocky Bay Family Services is committed to working to build healthy, strong relationships with our families & our community. It is our vision to remain dedicated to provide quality care to our children, families and our community.

I would like to take this time to thank the creator for gift of the 7 Grandfather Teachings. The Seven Grandfather Teachings are a set of traditional teachings that have been passed down from generation to generation. The seven teachings have been given to the Anishinaabe people to guide them in living a good life, living without conflict and living in peace. Thank you, Creator, for also giving us sovereignty to govern ourselves. Chi-miigwetch.

Debwewin

To speak only to the extent, we have lived or experienced. Commonly referred to as Truth.

Dabasendiziwin

To think lower of oneself in relation to all that sustains us. Commonly referred to as Humility.

Manaaji'idiwin

To go easy on one another and all of Creation. Commonly referred to as Respect.

Zaagi'idiwin

Unconditional love between one another including all of Creation, humans and non-humans. Commonly referred to as Love.

Gwayakwaadiziwin

To live correctly and with virtue. Commonly referred to as Honesty.

Zoongide'ewin

To live with a solid, strong heart. Commonly referred to as Bravery or Courage.

Nibwaakaawin

To live with vision. Commonly referred to as Wisdom.



Message from Director Ramona Thompson

I am pleased to report for the fiscal period of 2019-2020. There have been many positive changes throughout the year. As of June 2019, Rocky Bay Family Services opened its doors to our community members, to provide prevention/intervention-based services.

"Our vision at Rocky Bay Family Services is to empower our families, & to instill a sense of hope for all our community members"

Rocky Bay Family Services has three main functions. The first is to share its community vision. Rocky Bay Family Services will nurture and sustain a healthy, safe, and self-sufficient community for all citizens, near and far. We will value and protect our inherent rights, culture and traditional way of life while respecting and protecting our traditional lands and waters.

Secondly, is our commitment to our people and our dedication to our families. Rocky Bay Family Services purpose is to provide prevention services that will help support families who are involved with the Child Welfare system. Many of our families are receiving on-going support which are needed to help prevent them from having CAS within their homes. Rocky Bay Family Services will focus on enhancing the well-being of our community members by providing support, advocacy and coordinating efforts to prevent predictable issues. This will allow our families to live a healthy lifestyle and follow their traditional family values.

Lastly, is our commitment to reconcile the relationships for all who have been affected by the child welfare system. We are committed to maintaining a mutually respectful relationship with all community members and to walk along with them throughout their healing journey. On behalf of the Rocky Bay Family Services Board it is our pleasure to wish you a warm welcome.

Having the support and guidance from Chief Melvin Hardy, council & BZA's Pandemic Team has been very crucial through this time, especially while we have experienced a worldwide pandemic.

At this time, I would like to take this time to welcome our New Board of Directors to Rocky Bay Family Services.

Micheal Hardy – Board Chair
Jeremiah Thompson - Co-Chair
Amelia Hardy - Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Ann Mickelson – BZA Councillor
Simone Wynne- BZA Councillor

Chi-miigwetch to all BZA/Rocky Bay Family Services staff, volunteers and community members that worked to help support are community during this time.

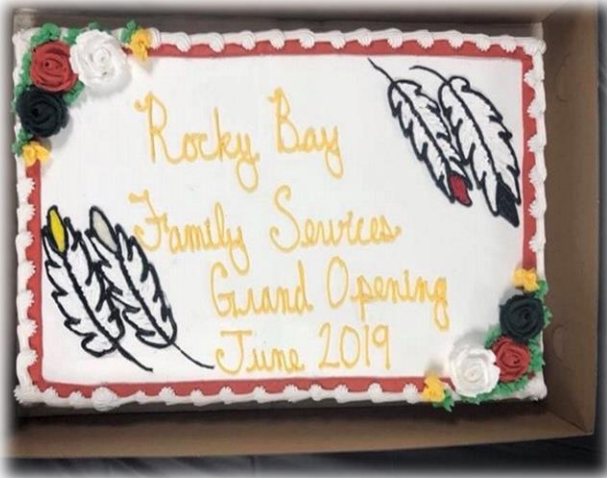
Chi-Miigwetch,

Ramona Thompson

HONOURING OUR FAMILIES

Grand opening

Rocky Bay Family Services opened its doors on June 17th 2019. Rocky Bay Family Services provides many supportive programming for our families throughout the month.



Who We Are?

BZA Rocky Bay first Nation will nurture and sustain a healthy, safe, and self-sufficient community for all citizens, near and far. We will value and protect our inherent rights, culture and traditional way of life while respecting and protecting our traditional lands and waters.

Mission

Rocky Bay Family Services promotes healing, well-being by utilizing an integrated holistic approach. We honour Anishinabek culture, values, and traditional ways of life. We do this by creating a model that is culture-based and respects the values of our people, the extended family, and the right to self-determination.

Core Values

- To provide unique empowering service delivery that can reconcile, and preserve families
- Humility honour and integrity in our business affairs
- To respect families through our culture & traditional ways
- We strive as a team to work collaboratively with all supports for our families to ensure positive outcomes

HONOURING OUR CHILDREN

Rocky Bay Family Services will support our families and our community, so that they feel safe, valued & protected. Family is at the heart of a healthy community and it is important that Rocky Bay Family Services provide prevention/intervention-based services to all.

On July 24th, 2019, Rocky Bay Family Services held its 1st Annual Honouring our Children's Day.

This was a successful celebration where children were reunited with their uncles, aunties, grandmothers, grandfathers, and cousins. This will be an annual event held in BZA First Nation.

It was nice to see our children and families laughing, playing, sharing stories, interacting with each other and meeting some relatives for the first time. We had children in-care come to visit our community. Chi-miigwetch to all for helping make this 1st Annual Honouring our children a successful celebration.



“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children”. – Sitting Bull

HONOURING OUR ELDERS



Our Elders have been meeting on a bi-weekly basis via phone conference. Our Cultural team includes support for access to land-based practices, medicines, ceremonies, and presence of an Elder and/or Knowledge Keeper on site for access to children, youth, and families at their request.

Although COVID – 19 is in place, our Elders continue to show our community support by guiding us during this time. Our Elders have dedicated themselves through:

- ~ Online cultural support
- ~ Making cloth masks to help protect from COVID-19
- ~ Prayers
- ~ Smudging

National Indigenous Day

On June 21st, 2020, our Elders met at Prince Arthur's Landing at Marina Park. Our Elders practiced social distancing and offered a drum song and prayers. Chi-Miigwetch to all our beautiful Elders for your love and prayers during this time.



HONOURING OUR COMMUNITY

Addiction & Mental Health Services

BZA's National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADP) worker is responsible for the planning, facilitating and implementation of our program to promote a healthy drug and alcohol-free lifestyle. Our addiction worker provides many opportunities to support change and offer harm reduction techniques and options for treatment services.



BZA's Community Mental Wellness Worker (CMWW) has been actively involved in assisting our entire community on/off reserve by connecting with Elders, adults, youth and children to advocate and achieve wholistic wellbeing. Our Nations people can connect with the Community Mental Wellness worker at any time for individual, couples or group wellness sessions in very time efficient manner. The CMWW has made themselves available at various times during the recent pandemic by all forms of technology and communication.



We will support our families by providing prevention & intervention services.

Social Repatriation Worker

The Social/Repatriation Worker has been providing support to the membership of Rocky Bay First Nation, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. By ensuring children establish or re-establish ties between, their families and the community.

Jordan's Principle Worker

The Jordan's Principle Worker has provided on-going support, for families and their children both on/off reserve to access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them.

Band Representative

The Band Representative has been providing support and advocacy to the membership of Rocky Bay First Nation, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. The Band Rep has been supporting our families who are involved with the Children's Aid Society to ensure that the rights of our families and children are being respected by the CAS.



Parent/Volunteer Committee

Rocky Bay Family Services Volunteer Committee have been working diligently by providing online activities for our families. So far, our volunteer committee has raised over \$1000. All proceeds go to cover the cost of online contest. All BZA members are encouraged to participate. Thank you to our Volunteer Committee for your continued support during this time. Not only have you allowed our members to stay connected, but this has allowed families to have some fun, especially during a time like this, Chi-Miigwetch!!



BZA COVID-19 Health & Safety

Pandemic Team

Since March 2020 when COVID-19 was announced, Chief and Council had made the decision to form a Health & Safety Committee. The Pandemic team was created to ensure the wellbeing & safety of our community. The Pandemic Team met weekly to provide updates to ensure that safety measures were put in place. The pandemic team made plans to ensure food security was made available for all our members, they also set up a security team to monitor the highway to protect our members from Covid-19. During this time BZA was able to purchase a Cube Van to help assist our families with food deliveries.

The Pandemic Team continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis, and we want to thank our community members for being patient during this time. Not only have you helped protect yourself, but also helped to protect our members from Covid – 19. Please continue to practice social distancing, wash hands, and wear a mask. We will continue to update the community.

Stay Safe! Together we can get through this!

