

PROVINCIAL AFTER-HOURS RESPONSE TEAM (PART) – SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN CARE AND THEIR CARE GIVERS

Transforming our core programs and services for better outcomes

Provincial After-Hours Response Team (PART)

The Provincial After-Hours Response Team responds to both child protection and children in care issues outside of regular business hours.

In addition to applying their expertise to child protection calls, PART's role has expanded to include responding to the needs of children in care, acting as a "wise and conscientious parent" after regular business hours and on holidays and weekends.

- PART social workers will assess all calls and adhere to children in care program policies when responding to calls from foster parents, residential staff, and other community members or the children themselves.
- As the legal guardian of children in care, the response of PART will vary, depending on the presenting needs of the child.
- Any action taken by PART will be in line with what any parent would do to ensure their child is safe, comfortable and well-cared for.
- Some of the ways help may be provided include: telephone conversation, coaching, mentoring, referral to community resources, and attending in person when the situation warrants such immediate action.
- PART social workers strive to preserve a positive, collaborative and trusting relationship with foster parents, who may find themselves in a challenging situation as they work towards providing for the needs of a child in care in their home and the needs of their own family.
- PART supervisors now have the authority to temporarily increase the approved bed capacity in foster homes when foster parents are willing to accept another placement after-hours.
- Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services respond to child protection and children in care issues outside of regular business hours to families living on reserve, and children in the care of Mi'kmaw Family and Children Services via on-call supervisors and social workers. The contact number is 1-800-263-8686.

Recommendations from the **"Dialogue with Foster Parents"** prompted the urgent needs of foster parents' and children in care arising **after business hours and on weekends** to be addressed. Rethinking the role of Emergency Duty and **expanding services** to include supporting foster parents and other children in care givers was a **natural solution**.

After regular business hours, on weekends and on holidays, supportive services are provided throughout the province by the **Provincial After-Hours Response Team**, which operates out of the Central Region.

1-866-922-2434

Through the **Provincial After-Hours Response Team**, after hours **child protection** services have expanded to include **coaching and support** for the emotional well-being of **children and care givers** to help ensure placement disruption is minimal.

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