Resources (Staffed Care)

Program Overview

PBCFS operates group homes that provide structured, staffed care for children and youth in care who require more support than can be provided in a family-based foster placement. Group homes offer a stable, home-like environment with consistent professional care, clear structure, and strong cultural grounding. They serve children and youth with a range of needs, including those with complex behaviours, histories of trauma, or circumstances that make foster care placement challenging at a given time.

Program Philosophy

A group home is more than a place to stay — it is a community. PBCFS group homes are built on the belief that every child, regardless of what they have experienced, deserves safety, belonging, and connection to their culture. Staff work alongside children and youth in a consistent, caring, and structured way, modelling healthy relationships and providing the stability that many of these young people have not previously experienced. Cree cultural identity is not an add-on — it is central to daily life in the home.

Program Goals

- Provide safe, stable, structured residential care for children and youth who cannot be safely maintained in a family-based setting.
- Address the behavioural, emotional, and developmental needs of residents through consistent, trauma-informed caregiving.
- Maintain and strengthen residents' connections to Cree culture, language, Elders, and community.
- Support residents' engagement with education, health, and other services.
- Work toward transition to a less restrictive setting — ideally a family placement — as soon as it is appropriate for the child.

Operational Information

Population Served	Children and youth (up to 18) in the care of PBCFS who require staffed, structured residential care beyond what a family-based

	foster placement can provide. This includes youth with complex needs, histories of trauma, or behavioural challenges.
Settings	PBCFS-operated group home facilities located in Prince Albert and/or PBCN communities.
Hours of Service	24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Staffed at all times.
Days of Service	Every day of the year.
Frequency of Service	Residential — children and youth live in the home on an ongoing basis. Staff provide continuous daily care. Case management contact occurs on a scheduled and as-needed basis.
Payers / Funding	Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
Fees	No fees.
Referral Sources	Internally from PBCFS Child and Family Services (Child Protection) workers.

Services Offered

Structured Daily Care

Staff provide consistent, structured daily routines including meals, hygiene, school attendance, recreational activities, and bedtime routines. Clear expectations and consistent consequences create a predictable environment that supports regulation and growth.

Provided directly by PBCFS group home staff.

Trauma-Informed Relationship-Based Care

Staff are trained to understand the impact of trauma on children's behaviour and development, and to respond in ways that build trust, safety, and connection rather than escalating conflict. Relationships with consistent caregivers are the core tool of this program.

Provided directly by trained PBCFS residential staff.

Cultural Programming

Group home residents participate in regular cultural activities, including Elder visits, land-based programming, ceremony, traditional foods, and language activities. Cultural identity is embedded in daily life, not treated as an optional add-on.

Provided directly and through engagement of Elders and cultural practitioners.

Education and Life Skills Support

Staff support residents in attending and succeeding at school, completing homework, and developing the life skills they will need as they grow older. Individual support plans address specific learning and developmental needs.

Provided directly; educational support accessed through referral to school-based services as needed.

Case Management and Planning

Each resident has a case plan developed in collaboration with their CFS worker, family (where appropriate), and the group home team. Plans address safety, wellbeing, cultural connection, permanency, and transition goals.

Case management provided by CFS workers; group home staff contribute directly to planning processes.

Service Modalities and Personnel

Primary Modality	Structured residential care using a trauma-informed, relationship-based approach grounded in Cree cultural values.
Additional Modalities	Consistent routines and behaviour support; cultural programming; life skills development; Elder engagement; family contact facilitation.
Personnel	Child and Youth Care Workers (CYC diploma or relevant experience; CYC certification preferred). Supervised by a House Manager and Program Supervisor. Training in trauma-informed care, behaviour management, and cultural competency is required for all staff.