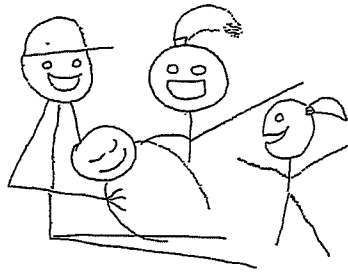


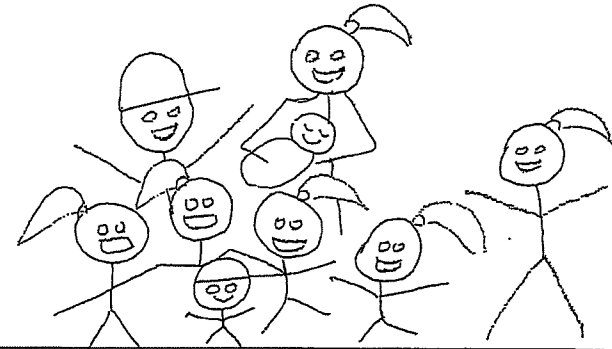


This is the story about why [REDACTED] is not living at home with mom and dad written by helpers at LMO

January [REDACTED]



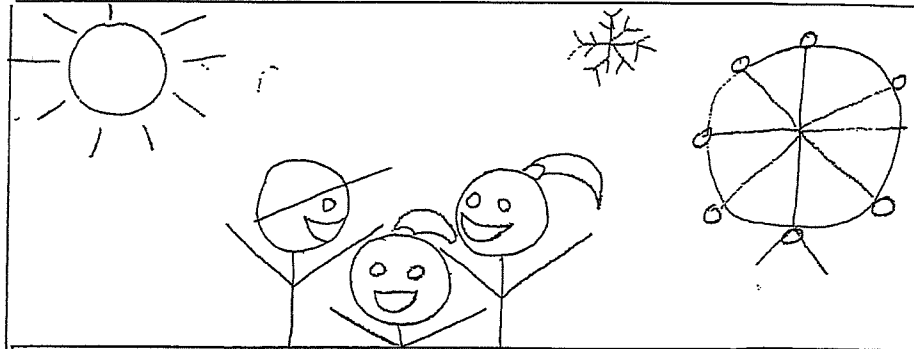
On [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Mom and Dad were excited to welcome their beautiful Metis baby girl, [REDACTED] into the world. [REDACTED]'s name is a name dad's always loved and found noble, and knew he wanted to give it if he ever had a daughter. All the daughters have middle names starting with [REDACTED], connecting them in such a special way. [REDACTED]'s arrival also made her older sister [REDACTED] a big sister for the first time. Welcoming [REDACTED] to the family was such a special day.



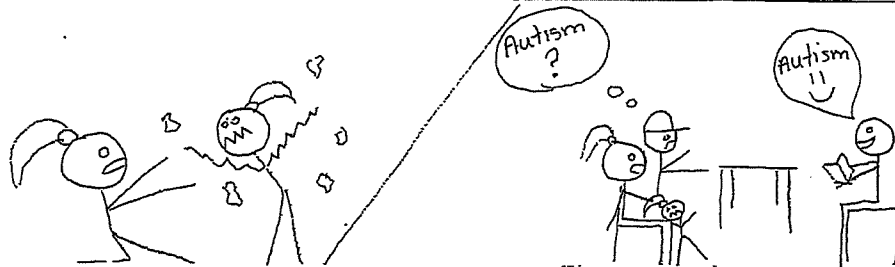
[REDACTED]'s family continued to grow throughout the years. Mom and dad welcomed [REDACTED]'s younger sisters [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], as well as [REDACTED]'s brother [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] loves her siblings very much. [REDACTED] also recently became an aunty for the first time as her oldest sibling [REDACTED] gave birth to baby [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was so excited to be an aunty.



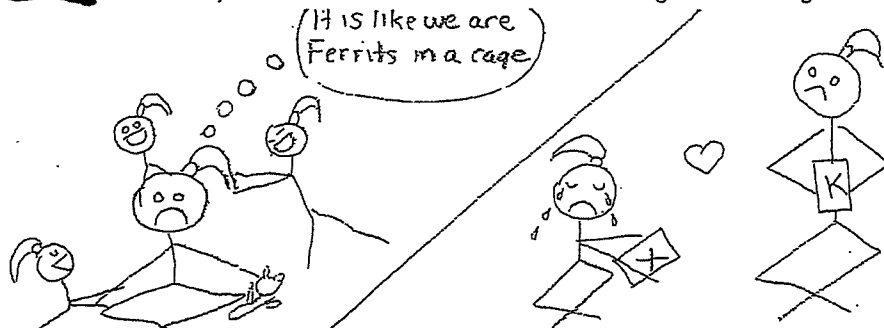
When [REDACTED] was younger, she was most connected to her younger siblings [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] loves spending time with them and would often play toys and go to the park. [REDACTED] loves her family very much, especially her mom and dad. [REDACTED] looks up to her mom and has a strong connection with her dad.



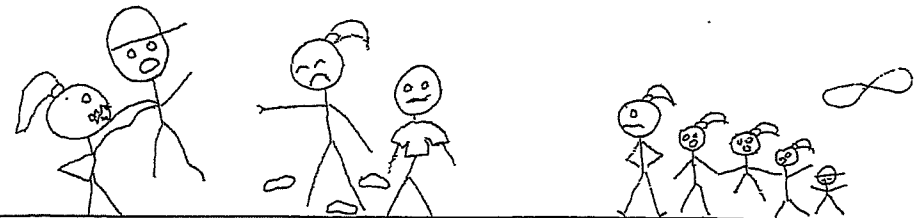
Mom and Dad's favourite memories of the family is when they would go on many adventures and road trips together. Mom and Dad took [REDACTED] and her siblings to [REDACTED] and went to [REDACTED] and the beach. Dad and Mom's favourite memory of [REDACTED] is when they would go to the Winter Carnival in [REDACTED]. This was something special for [REDACTED] and she always loved to go. One year [REDACTED] got to be part of it with the princess ambassadors, which was so much fun.



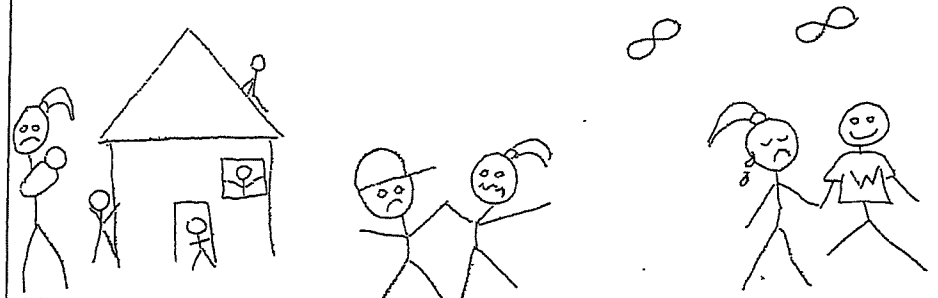
When [redacted] was only 2 years old, mom and dad noticed that she was getting angry more often. When [redacted] was only 5, she started hitting and hurting her mom more. Mom and dad knew they needed some help, so they went to the doctors and asked the school to help as well. The doctor said [redacted] has something called autism. The doctors said [redacted] and her family would need extra help because it may be hard for [redacted] to use her words instead of her body to say what she needed and how she was feeling. All of the caring adults are learning what to do to make things less confusing and scary for [redacted] but right now the adults caring for [redacted] doesn't always know what to do either or how to make things less confusing and scary



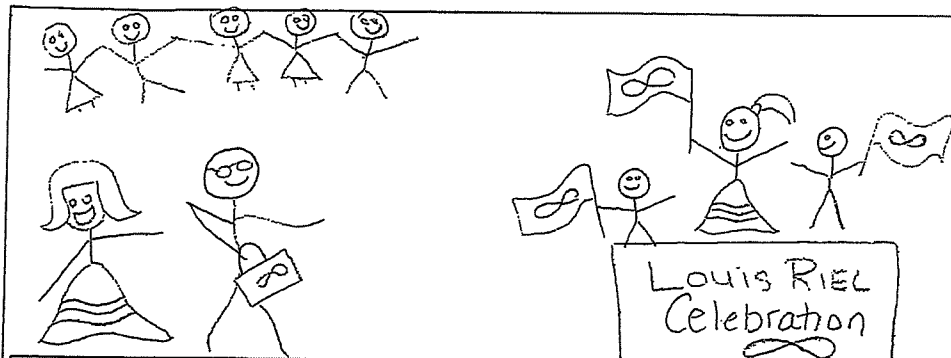
Although [redacted] left home, [redacted] and [redacted] remained connected by messaging each other which was special for both of them. Around the same time Mom and Dad shared with LMO that [redacted] would hit and hurt her younger siblings. When this was talked about with caring adults, we learned that [redacted] would be often playing with her siblings and sometimes they would do things like touch her hair or be too close inside her bubble. She would ask for space but because no adults were there to help [redacted] she would use her hands and body to set the boundary.



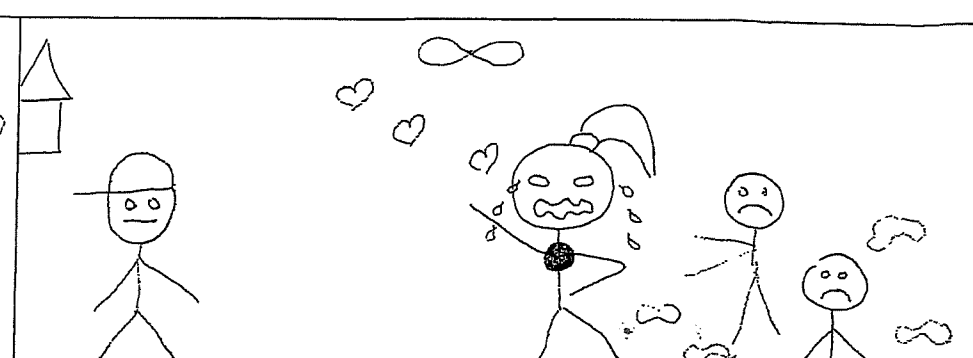
In [redacted], when [redacted] was about 11 and the family was living in [redacted], [redacted] asked a youth worker for help. They said that mom and dad would say hurtful things to them and someone had shared with social workers that Mom would throw things at [redacted] when she was angry. Mom and dad said that there was so much fighting when [redacted] was home that it wasn't safe for [redacted] and the younger kids. [redacted] went to live at [redacted] house, [redacted] them moved back home and into care a few times before they moved to [redacted] in October [redacted]. This was a space for [redacted] to be surrounded by her Metis family and elders.



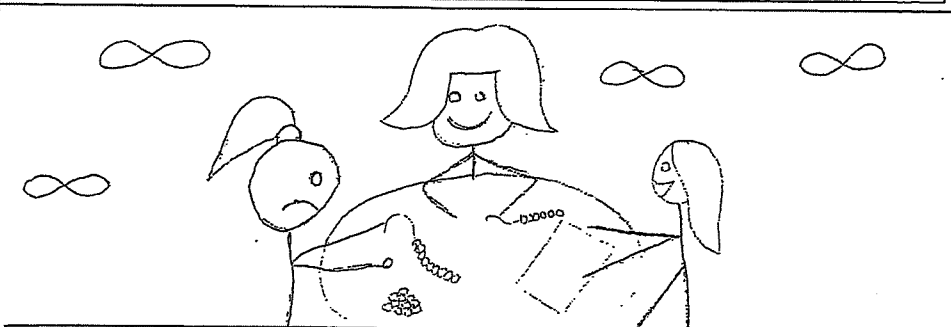
In May [redacted], [redacted] had to move to a home called [redacted]. LMO, Mom and Dad were meeting to figure out what would be best for the family. Mom and Dad decided some time living away from the family would help [redacted] have a break and would give them time to learn what [redacted] would need. This is a time LMO would help mom and dad learn tools to have [redacted] come back home. Baby [redacted] moved into mom and dad's in fall of [redacted], and this was also a time when [redacted] was living at [redacted].



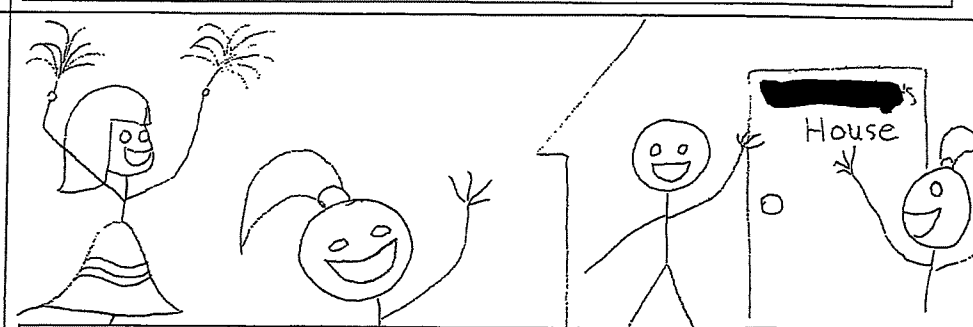
While [redacted] was living at [redacted], she began to connect more with her Metis Identity. She attended [redacted] Group, met other Metis youth, developed relationships with Elders like Lynda and Patrick, and met more members of the LMO team. Community is central to Metis people. [redacted] led the opening ceremony alongside other Metis youth at the Louis Riel celebration in [redacted]. She proudly wore her ribbon skirt, sang a beautiful song, and shared space with her Metis people.



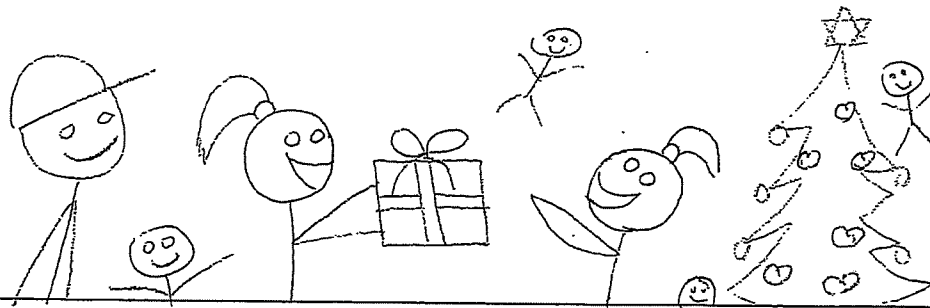
Mom, dad and her caregivers don't always understand what [redacted] is feeling in her body and how best to support her. Sometimes dad doesn't always answer when [redacted] needs him to and that makes her feel unsafe and upset in her body. [redacted] always wants to have more connection with her family, and when they cannot connect, that makes her feel sad and lonely. [redacted] has such big sadness from this that she sometimes is so lonely and she wants to die.



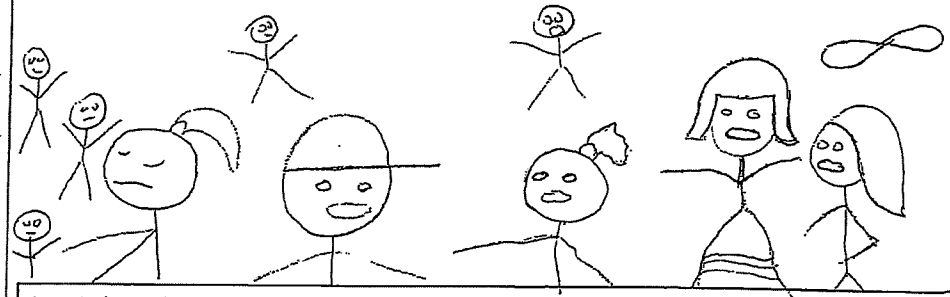
[redacted] bravely worked hard on her life promotion plan. She made sure she used her best words so that her parantii and caregivers could help her. [redacted] makes her plan stronger every month because she hopes that the people around her like Dad, Mom, [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted] Elder Lynda, Michif Wellness counsellor Jillian, and other LMO staff will help her learn to keep her body and other peoples bodies safe and she can safely connect with the people who matter most to her.



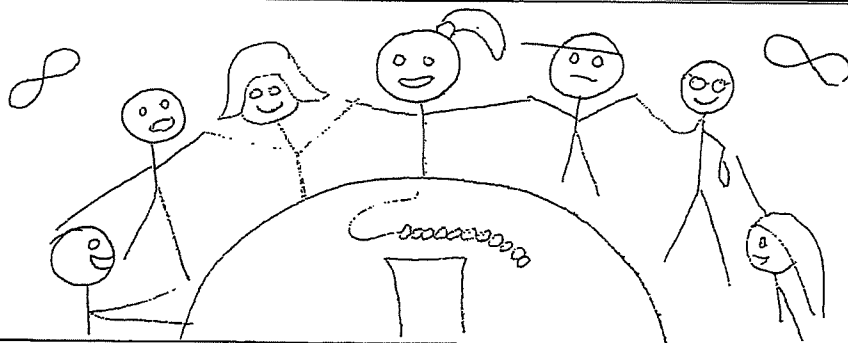
In April [redacted] Altaya opened their hearts and doors for Metis children and youth who were unable to live at home for different reasons. Altaya was so excited to greet [redacted]. In fact, [redacted] and [redacted] decided to change jobs and move to Altaya so that they could still spend time with [redacted]. Relationship is so important to Metis people. Elder Lynda knew that moving again was going to be hard for [redacted], but Elder Lynda also knew how courageous and resilient [redacted] was, so she cheered her on the whole way.



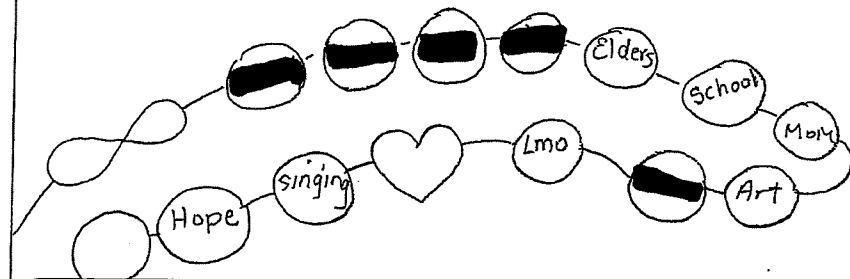
Since moving into her Altaya home, [REDACTED] has enjoyed spending some time with her family. They have gone out for dinners, to a hockey game, and to the mall. They even had a wonderful Christmas dinner together. [REDACTED] proudly shares that her mom's love language is gift giving so Christmas is extra special because everyone's hearts glow. [REDACTED]'s family is always happy to spend time with [REDACTED].



LMO Helpers, doctors, counsellors are all worried that Mom and Dad don't have all the tools they need to help [REDACTED] right now. Mom and dad struggle to help [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and baby [REDACTED] feels safe in their bodies. So, in January [REDACTED] Dad, Mom, LMO helpers, and Elder Lynda decided [REDACTED] would not return to live at mom and dad's home. This decision is really hard and we all know this will make [REDACTED] feel really sad in her heart.



Centering [REDACTED]'s voice; Elder Lynda, dad and family, Chloe, Chantelle, Meghan, Nikki, Jillian and others at LMO are all strengthening [REDACTED]'s Life Promotion Plan to show how they are all going support her connection and sense of belonging. We are all going to work together to help [REDACTED] practice her skills that she created and believes in so she doesn't feel so lonely and want to die. We will all continue to follow [REDACTED]'s Life Promotion plan and make sure [REDACTED] always knows who is helping her when she is struggling and where she can find her hope, resilience and connection even when it is really hard.



We are always connected, even in the times when we are apart. We are family and we are Metis.