

Prince Rupert

RE: How are children cared for in the community? What is the role of families in caring for children?

- *The traditional role of grandparents, aunts and uncles is to look after children*
- *Traditionally, parents are teachers for their children – they provide guidance by modeling, setting examples, saying what's right/wrong*
- *The role of extended family in caring for children and practicing traditional ways has changed, and language and knowledge of culture has been lost, in large part due to legacies of residential schools*
- *We all pull together when community members need help*
- *Children and families attending traditional work camps and learning traditional skills (run by Grandmas' club)*
- *Our (adult) children are re-learning language, culture, traditional ways*

Re: What are traditional values?

- *Learning from elders (elder family members); inter-generational teaching*
- *Feast system*
- *Children need to know who they are and where they come from: their traditional name, clan, rank, and role within the community*
- *No marriages within the same clan*
- *Family roles are gendered: Uncles provide discipline/direction; grandfathers teach (outdoor) skills; aunts provide nurturance; grandmothers listen to their children and pass on knowledge about the past*

Re: What should change in MCFD/child welfare practice?

- *Families' and children's voices need to be heard with regard to: where the child will live; any concerns that the family may have; and how the family will be involved in caring for the child*

- *If parents aren't able to care for their child(ren) or maltreat the child(ren), then the parent(s) should leave the home, not the child*
- *Use collaborative processes, such as Family Group Conferences, prior to making a Continuing Custody Order for the child*
- *Aboriginal children should not be placed in non-Aboriginal homes*
- *Practice (practice standards) should emphasize respectful ways of entering the family's home to discuss complaints*
- *Families need to have more information, education and knowledge about their rights in caring for children and (e.g., care plans and custodial agreements)*
- *Practice (practice standards) should emphasize community education regarding existing resources for families, in the interest of community empowerment*
- *Practice (practice standards) should be guided by the traditional ways of each community*
- *Have more Aboriginal social workers, counselors and other service providers*
- *Social workers and other service providers should always use plain / jargon-free language*

Re: Other themes

- *Nowadays parents struggle in parenting and setting limits*