



# Caring Network News

A quarterly publication brought to you by the Caring for First Nations Children Society

Summer 2007



## Update from the Caring for First Nations Children Society...

### Next Forum and Partnership meetings:

Sept 18th (Forum) and Sept 19th and 20th (Partnership)  
Marriott Residence Hotel  
1234 Hornby Street,  
Vancouver BC

As usual, there are a variety of projects and programs running concurrently. On the policy front we are currently working on the following:

- Review of the Operational Standards for delegated agencies is almost complete. There has been a dedicated group of Agency Directors who have participated in the review. We would like to acknowledge the participants:
  - Wendy White, K'wak'walt'si CFS
  - Nita Walkem, NIha'7kapmx CFS
  - Sandra Ritchot, Carrier Sekani FS
  - INAC and MCFD

Once this is completed, the Practice Standards will need to be reviewed to include changes in legislation and out of care options.

- JAMC MOU Review is almost complete and should be ready for sign-off in September 2007.
- Human Resources Survey is near completion and will be presented at the September 2007 Partnership Meeting

In terms of training, we are currently looking for space to hold the next ABSW session. The Cultural Awareness Training Program is undergoing an evaluation and this should be completed by October 2007. Currently, we are contracted to provide six sessions to November 2007. Board Training will be held over the summer and the location is being determined.

CFNCS held its AGM in March 2007. We would like to welcome the new and returning Board of Directors.

- Maurice Squires, President
- Lise Haddock, Vice President
- Nancy Sandy, Treasurer
- Sandra Ritchot, Member
- Wendy White, Member
- Darin Park, Member

On behalf of the Board of Directors and society staff we wish you a safe summer and look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.



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Linda Lucas  
Executive Director

# CFNCS Training Report

Submitted by Grace Atkinson

A new round of voluntary services training commenced on Jan 22, 2007 in Richmond. There were 18 participants who attended five weeks of training, which they completed on March 9, 2007. While in class, the group created new friendships and new understandings in working with First Nations and Aboriginal people.

The graduation was hosted by Métis Family Services at the Richmond convention centre. Along with the graduates and their families, special guests gave words of encouragement and praise to the participants.

Included were: the Honourable Tom Christianson, Minister of Child and Family Development; Marilyn Hedlund, Provincial Director of Child Welfare; Ron Short, Acting Executive

Director of Métis Family Services and Elder Mercy Thomas. There was Métis cultural entertainment – many thanks to Cory and Janet for sharing their music with us, we loved the “moose ribs”. Along with this was a smaller entertainer, Ta’Kaiya Blaney, six years old who sang Amazing Grace and played her violin for us, just incredible.

The participants received their certificates for completing the long five weeks of training. During training the participants selected the Braker Award winner. This award is provided by Braker and Associates and is given to the person the group selects as the participant (not instructor) who contributed most to the group’s learning. The group selected Louise Hall, from

Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services. The group decided that they wanted to give a special gift to the participant that made them laugh because it makes it a little easier to be away from home. This award went to Del Blaney from Ayas Men Men who received the Class Clown Award and a “special pen”.

April saw the return of participants to complete the Guardianship week of the training. Guests Melanie Mark and Monica Flexhaug assisted in helping the participants to better understand sexually exploited youth and youth suicide prevention.

Finally the ASW training wrapped up with the final two weeks of Child Protection training in May. After eight long weeks, participants find it very challenging to focus on the



material but also realize that the critical pieces of learning happen in these final two weeks. The training wraps up with an opportunity for participants to conduct “real” interviews with actors. Many thanks to Diana Frances and the Shooting Stars who make this final learning possible.

In closing, Kim, Laurie, Shawn and Chris would like to say thank-you to all the participants who contributed to the learning by sharing their stories and their lives with us, and congratulations.

**Board Training:** 18 Board members from four agencies gathered in Merritt for Board training in March. Many thanks to Scw'exmx Child and Family

Services for hosting this three-day event. Linda and Chris both report that this group worked hard; learned a lot and had fun.

**CAT:** In addition to two weeks of CAT Week 1 and two weeks of CAT Week 2 delivered in the Fraser, Vancouver/Coastal and Vancouver Island regions, one three-day session of a Manager’s CAT was delivered to the Management team from the North Region.

This was a pilot session that provided Managers with an opportunity to experience what front-line workers learn in the training and to examine their roles in the decisions regarding Aboriginal children and families. The Society continues to hear many

positive comments about the training and the impact the training has had on the relationships between the Ministry and the delegated Agencies in the North Region. Congratulations to Peter Cunningham, Del Graff and everyone who participated in making this pilot a success.

Crystal, Cheryl, Shawn, Laurie and Grace thank everyone for their courage and willingness to take the risks to examine the difficult issues facing Ministry staff as they make changes to their practice with First Nations and Aboriginal children and families.



*Child Protection Class May 07 with guest Minister of Children and Family Development Tom Christensen*

## Recent Publications of Interest

### ***Coming Home: The Story of Tikinagan Child and Family Services***

Maurice Brubacher together with the People of Tikinagan describes how a large First Nations child welfare agency in northwestern Ontario has dealt with numerous challenges to develop modern, culturally appropriate services based on traditional teachings and child rearing customs.

[www.cwlc.ca/pdfs/](http://www.cwlc.ca/pdfs/)

### ***Through the Eyes of Young People: Meaningful Child Participation in BC Family Court Processes***

Published by International Institute for Child Rights, the report highlights the key findings of IICRD's work over the past 2.5 years. The work, with funding from the Law Foundation of British Columbia, has thus far included: reviewing the current state of young people's participation in family court proceedings through collecting the views of young people, judges, lawyers, and service providers involved in BC; identifying good practices supportive of young people's participation; and suggesting ways to build on good practices to improve the state of

things for young people in BC family court proceedings. To view a copy of the report, please visit [www.iicrd.org/familycourt/](http://www.iicrd.org/familycourt/)

### ***Handle with Care – Promoting Children's Mental Health in Child Care Settings***

This 43-page resource booklet is rich with direct quotes and examples from 81 quality child care centres across the country, including eight centres in BC. It was prepared as part of the Early Childhood Care and Mental Health Project, and carried out by the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre. The purpose of the project was to explore ways that the mental health of young children can be promoted in community-based child care centres. Centre-based child care has been suggested as a particularly good site for mental health promotion given the large number of children enrolled.

Available in full on the Canadian Mental Health Association's website at: [www.cmha.ca/data/1/rec\\_docs/156\\_handle\\_with\\_care.pdf](http://www.cmha.ca/data/1/rec_docs/156_handle_with_care.pdf). Print copies can be ordered from the CMHA and are available in English or French.

### ***Promoting Resilience in Child Welfare***

Peter Dudding, CWLC Executive Director, is pleased to announce the official publication of his latest project, Promoting Resilience in Child Welfare. Edited by R. J. Flynn, P. M. Dudding, and J. G. Barber, it is now available for purchase through the University of Toronto Press. Promoting Resilience in Child Welfare presents reviews of research, new empirical findings, and useful practice and policy suggestions derived from the perspectives of the Looking After Children (LAC) initiative and resilience theory by an array of international voices. Practitioners, out-of-home care providers, youths in care, in-service trainers, students, researchers, and policy makers in Canada and across the world will find much in this book that speaks to more effective ways of improving the lives of young people being looked after in out-of-home care. To order a copy, email [utpbbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca](mailto:utpbbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca)

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## ***In Your Grasp: British Columbia's Family Resource Database***

A new online resource for foster parents is now available. In Your Grasp is a special needs database identifying services available by region and type of service. By going to [www.inyourgrasp.com](http://www.inyourgrasp.com) you can, for example, search for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Day Care Services or Youth Justice resources in your own community.

The website is a project of BC Federation of Foster Parents, Adoptive Families Association, and Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents.



# BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

## FAS/FAE Resource Kit

The BCANDS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect Resource Kit was designed specifically for Aboriginal Community Workers by Dr. Robin LaDue, a First Nation of North America, to assist in prevention of FAS/FAE in First Nations communities.

To order any of the following, call:

Tel: 250-381-7303

Toll Free: 1-888-815-5511

## BCANDS Resource Guide

\$8.00

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects Resources Guide for Aboriginal Community Workers

## Dr. Ladue's Caregivers Guide

\$10.00

- A Practical Native American Guide for Caregivers, Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Alcohol Related Conditions

## Dr. Ladue's Professional Guide

\$15.00

- A Practical Native American Guide for Professionals working with children, adolescents, and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

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## First Peoples Family and Child Review

The on-line journal, *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, has included a number of articles in the past two volumes, of interest to delegated child and family service agencies. Below is a partial list of what can be found at: <http://www.fncfcs.com/pubs/onlineJournal.html>.

### Selected Articles, Volume 3, Number 1, 2007:

Keeping First Nations children at home: A few Federal policy changes could make a big difference  
Fred Wien, Cindy Blackstock, John Loxley and Nico Trocmé

The politics of kith and kin: Observations on the British Columbia government's reaction to the death of Sherry Charlie Gerald Cradock

Reflections of a Mi'kmaq social worker on a quarter of a century work in First Nations child welfare  
Nancy MacDonald and Judy MacDonald

Promising practice for maintaining identities in First Nation adoption  
Jeannine Carriere

Identity lost and found: Lessons from the sixties scoop  
Raven Sinclair

Here be dragons! Reconciling Indigenous and Western knowledge to improve Aboriginal child welfare  
Jean Lafrance and Betty Bastien

Are rural American Indian adolescents becoming a race of angels?  
John Courname

(A Literature Review) Re-examining issues behind the loss of family and cultural and the impact on Aboriginal youth suicide rates  
Kristine Morris

### Selected Articles, Volume 3, Number 2, 2007

An Alcohol Abuse Early Intervention Approach with Mi'kmaq Adolescents  
Christopher J. Mashquash, M. Nancy Comeau, and Sherry H. Stewart

The Effects of Self Harming Behaviours of Youth in Child Welfare Care  
Connie Cheung and Deborah Goodman

A Commentary on Alternative Approaches to the Research Process with Canadian First Nation Communities  
Doreen Stevens

Is Attachment Theory Consistent with Aboriginal Parenting Realities?  
Raymond Neckoway, Keith Brownlee, and Bruno Castellan

A Change of Residence: Government Schools and Foster Homes as Sites of Forced Aboriginal Assimilation – A Paper Designed to Provoke Thought and Systemic Change  
Cathy Richardson and Bill Nelson

# Promising Practice for Maintaining Identities in First Nation Adoption

## Abstract

The purpose of this article is to explore the importance of identity in First Nation adoption. It is adapted from a PhD study completed by the author in 2005. The objectives of this study were: (1) describe how connectedness relates to health for First Nation adoptees, and (2)

explore legislative, policy and program implications in the adoption of First Nation children.

The findings suggest that for First Nation adoptees, there is a causal relationship between connection to birth family, community and ancestral knowledge, adoption and health. The major finding is

that loss of identity may contribute to impaired physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health for First Nation adoptees. This article provides suggestions on how identity can be preserved in First Nation adoption through programs, policies and practice.  
[http://www.fncfcs.com/pubs/vol3num1/Carriere\\_pp46.pdf](http://www.fncfcs.com/pubs/vol3num1/Carriere_pp46.pdf)

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## CFNCS Welcomes Sharlene Wilson

Wi-a-wah! Hello, I am pleased to be working with CFNCS in the capacity of Program Assistant. I hail from the matriarchal Gitksan Territory and come from the house of Laadax. My husband, Bob, is from Galiano Island and that is why we have made Victoria our choice of residence. I have four children and two grandsons and can understand the daily challenges we all face as Moms and Grandmas in today's world.

When my children were younger my Granny's parting words for me were always, "take care of the kids, Lene!" I would always reply, "I will Granny, I will call you if anything happens". As my children grew after her passing, I often thought of her saying those words to me and telling her in my heart that I was taking care of the kids. I can now take her advice and apply it here! So, from my Granny to you: take care of the kids! Each of you have something to offer to make our children's lives better today – find out what that is and give it away!

My story is the beginning of my gift to you and I look forward to hearing yours. Ha'mi'yaa!



Sharlene Wilson – Program Assistant



# Coming Events

## **Passion for Action: Building on Strength and Innovative Changes in Child and Family Services – 4th Annual Prairie Child Welfare Consortium**

The event is expected to draw approximately 250 participants from across SK, AB, MB, the NWT and the rest of Canada. An enthusiastic province-wide planning committee has been hard at work for several months. A wonderful opportunity to meet university, government, First Nations and Metis colleagues, all with a special interest in child and family services.

September 12 - 14, 2007  
Regina, SK Information:  
<http://www.pcwcsymposium.com>

## **Responding to Child and Youth Victims of Sexual Exploitation on the Internet**

A 4-day training seminar to provide information and education to professionals in Ontario who are working with children and youth who have been sexually exploited on the internet, as well as their families and communities. Presented by Toronto Child Abuse Center

September 24 - 27, 2007  
Collingwood, ON  
Information available  
<http://www.boostforkids.org/pdf/RCE-Brochure.pdf>

## **Informing Health Care Policy for Canadian Children and Youth: Strategies that are Making a Difference**

Session highlights include Evidence-Based Government: How Do We Make It Happen and Aboriginal Health Care: Exploring What Works. Includes a workshop with André Picard, Health Reporter

with the Globe and Mail; speakers are Brenda Zimmerman and Craig Keilberger. Presented by Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres.

Annual Meeting:  
October 14 - 17, 2007  
Montreal, QC  
Information  
<http://www.caphc.org/annual.html>

## **2007 Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference**

The overall theme for the 2007 Conference is Evidence, Action, Innovation: Moving to End Injury, Violence and Suicide in Canada, with submissions incorporating the sub-themes of Evidence, Action and Innovation in relation to issue areas including: social support networks; education; physical environments; social environments; health services; culture; impact of colonialism; spirituality; role of traditional healers; income; social status; employment and working conditions; capacity building; networking; biology and genetic endowment; personal health practices and coping skills; gender; and, health across the lifespan. Co-hosted by Safe Communities Foundation, Safe Kids Canada, SMARTRISK and ThinkFirst Canada.

November 11 - 13, 2007  
Toronto, ON  
Information <http://207.35.157.99/natconf/>

## **Putting It All Together**

Join the local, provincial, and national community in deepening the understanding of the interrelationship between community, school and family in supporting healthy child and youth development. This exciting three-

day forum will inform participants of the value of building community capacity, promote an awareness of the continuum of healthy child development through adolescence, provide hands-on skill building opportunities, and promote collaboration and integration of services. We are very pleased to confirm Dr Bruce Perry, Dr Jean Clinton, and Dr Paul Kershaw among others as our guest speakers.

November 19 - 21, 2007  
Hamilton, ON  
Information available  
<http://www.puttingitaltogether.ca/>

## **Early Years Conference 2008**

All children have the right to opportunities for realizing their full potential. Some children by nature of individual, family, or community circumstances are more vulnerable and will need extra support in achieving this. In order for these supports to be most effective, we must look through the eyes of the child. We must integrate our knowledge of the principles of child and family development with research and innovative practice. Special attention will be given to children in care and children with disabilities. Presented by Interprofessional Continuing Education – University of British Columbia

January 31 - February 2, 2008  
Vancouver, BC  
Information available:  
[http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Early\\_Years.htm](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Early_Years.htm)

# Book Review

## PEOPLE, POLITICS, AND CHILD WELFARE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Edited by Leslie T Foster and Brian Wharf

### About the Book

*People, Politics, and Child Welfare in British Columbia* traces the evolution of policies and programs intended to protect children in BC from neglect and abuse. Analyzing this evolution reveals that child protection policy and practice has reflected the priorities of politicians and public servants in power. With few exceptions, efforts to establish effective programs have focused on structural arrangements, staffing responsibilities, and rules to regulate the practice of child welfare workers.

Contributors to this book conclude that these attempts have been unsuccessful thus far because they have failed to address the impact of poverty on clients. The need to respect the cultural traditions and values of First Nations clients has also been ignored. Effective services require recognizing and remedying poverty's impact, establishing community control over services, and developing a radically different approach to the day-to-day practice of child welfare workers.

*People, Politics, and Child Welfare in British Columbia* provides a crucial assessment of the state of child welfare in the province. Practitioners, scholars, and students in social work, child and youth care, education, and other human-service professions will find this book particularly important.

In Canada, order your copy of *People, Politics, and Child Welfare in British Columbia* from UNIPresses at:

UNIPresses

34 Armstrong Avenue

Georgetown ON L7G 4R9

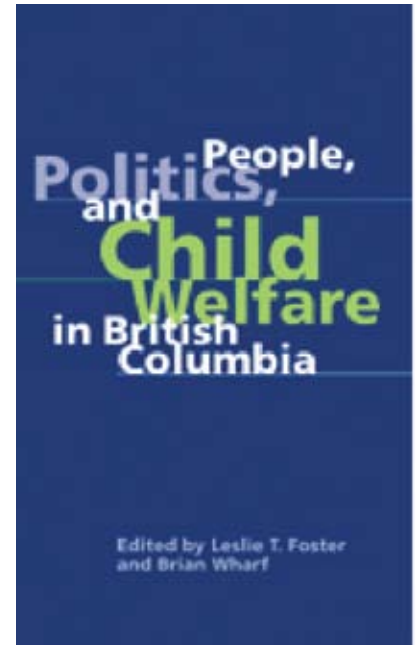
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### BECOME A MEMBER OF CFNCS!

Corporate and Individual memberships are available and entitle the member to benefits such as:

- reduced registration fees for conferences
- quarterly newsletter
- access to the resource centre
- access to message posting

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Individual Membership Fee is \$20  
Annual Corporate Membership Fee is \$200

Please make all cheques payable to:  
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To join online please go to:  
<http://cfncs.com/membership.htm>