



Starting From a Traditional Place: The AOPSI Practice Standards Redesign

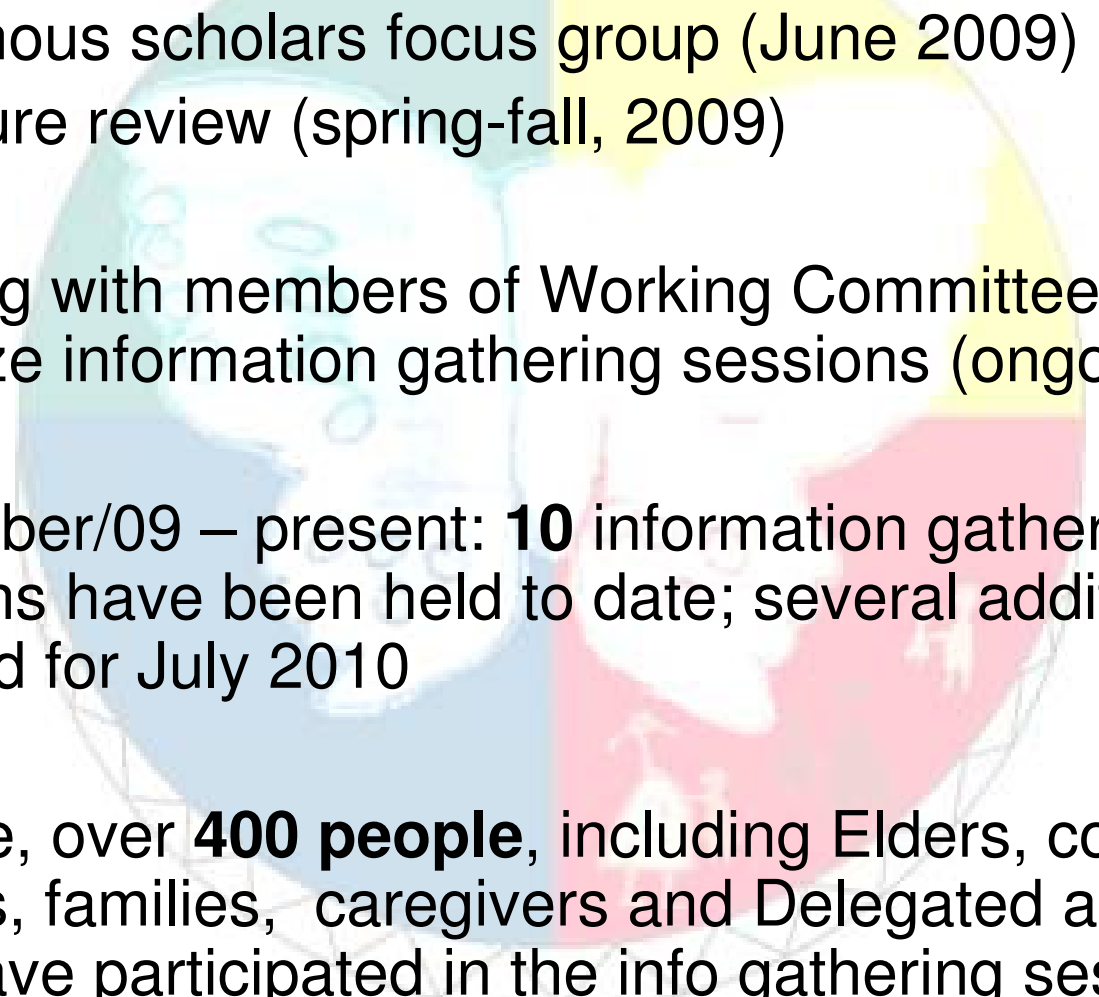
**Update for Steering Committee Meeting
June 2010**

by

Project Lead team: Nota Bene Consulting Group



Activities to date - Highlights

- Indigenous scholars focus group (June 2009)
 - Literature review (spring-fall, 2009)
 - Working with members of Working Committee, to organize information gathering sessions (ongoing)
 - November/09 – present: **10** information gathering sessions have been held to date; several additional ones planned for July 2010
 - To date, over **400 people**, including Elders, community leaders, families, caregivers and Delegated agencies' staff have participated in the info gathering sessions
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Information Gathering sessions

Where they were held, and who they've involved

Lower Mainland (co-organized by Ayas Men Men Child and Family Services, Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services, and VACFSS and hosted by Squamish Nation), involving Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam, Stolo (n=70)

Ktunaxa-Kinbasket (two focus groups organized and hosted by Ktunaxa Kinbasket F&CS) involving staff, Elders and community leaders (n=32)

Metis Family Services (organized and hosted by MFS) involving community members from around the province (n=25)

Vancouver Island (co-organized and co-hosted by Lalum'utul'smun'eem (LS) Child and Family Services and the Directors of the other Van. Is Agencies) involving FNs from all over Vancouver Island (n=130)



Information Gathering sessions con't

Prince Rupert (hosted by NIFCS) involving Elders, community members, staff from Haisla, Kitsumkalum, Kitselis, Laxkwalaams (n=31)

Prince George involving Carrier Sekani staff (n=9)

Kamloops (hosted by Secwepemc CFS) involving Scw'exmx, Nlha'7kapmx CFS, Kamloops Band, Interior Metis CFS, Siska, Secwepemc, UpperNicola Valley, Nooaitch (Merritt) and Cooks Ferry Band (n=69)

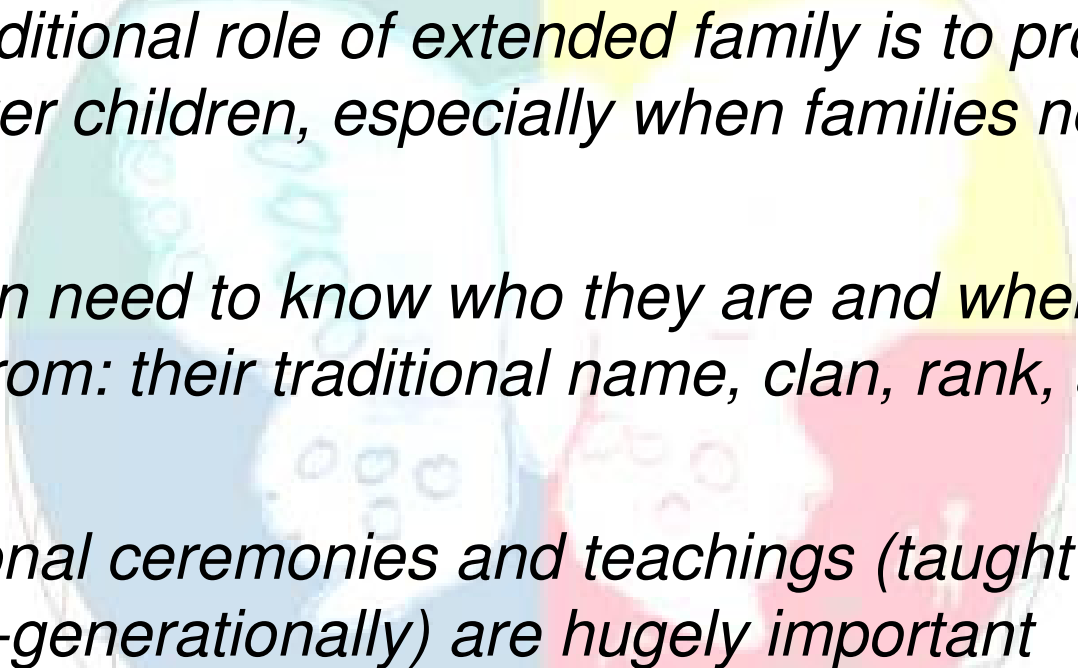
Williams Lake (hosted by Knucwentwecw) involving Desniqi, Williams Lake Band, Sugar Cane FN, Shuswap Nation, Xenigwetin FN, Alexis Creek Band (n=20)

Haida Gwaii, involving Elders, family, community members and staff of HCFSS (n=16)

Kispiox (hosted by Gitxsan) involving Elders, family, community members and staff of GCFSS (n=20)

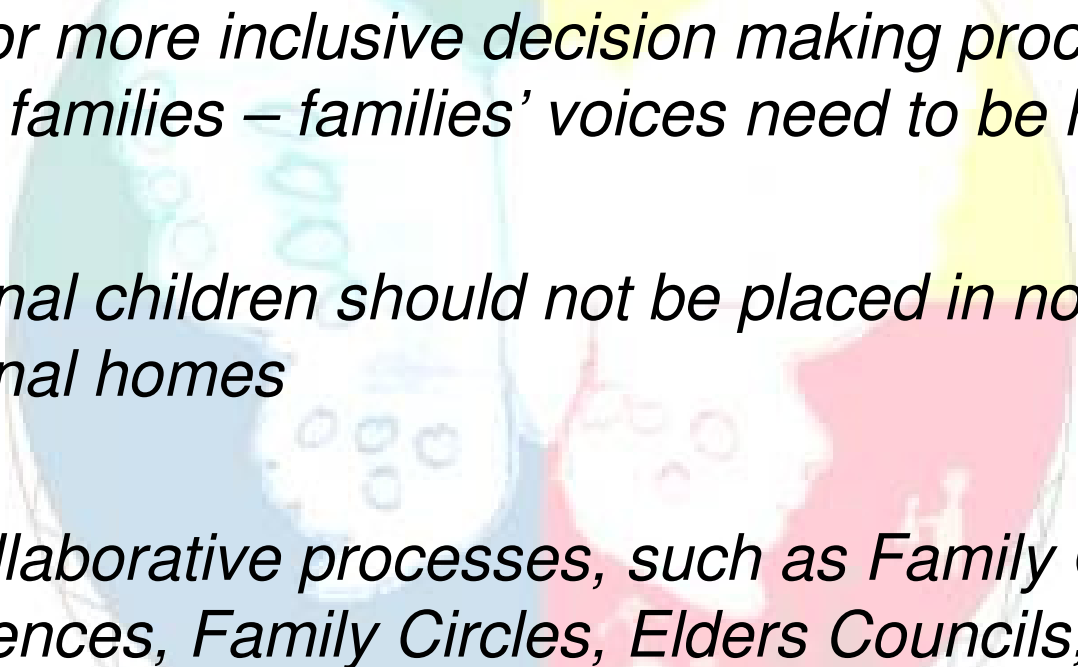


Key Themes emerging from sessions

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- *The traditional role of extended family is to protect and look after children, especially when families need help*
 - *Children need to know who they are and where they come from: their traditional name, clan, rank, and role*
 - *Traditional ceremonies and teachings (taught by elders or inter-generationally) are hugely important*

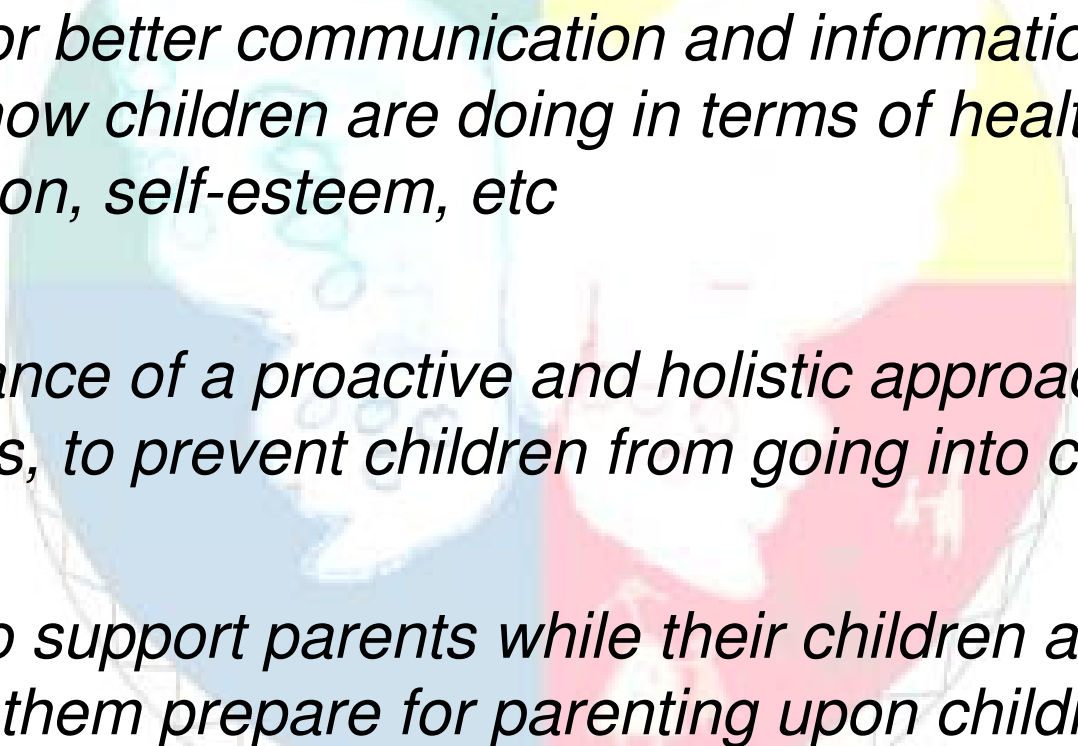


Key Themes emerging from sessions (con't)

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- *Need for more inclusive decision making processes that involve families – families' voices need to be heard*
 - *Aboriginal children should not be placed in non-Aboriginal homes*
 - *Use collaborative processes, such as Family Group Conferences, Family Circles, Elders Councils, etc*



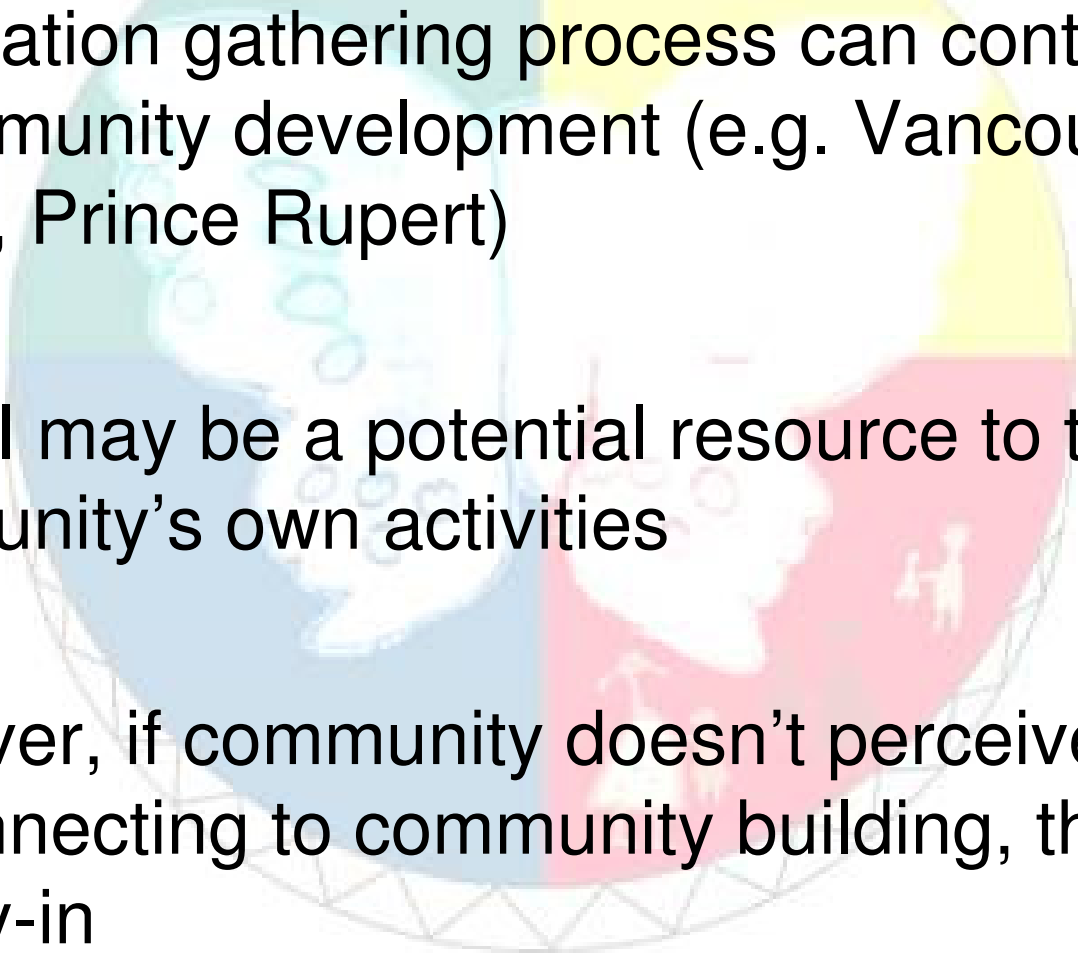
Key Themes emerging from sessions (con't)

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- *Need for better communication and information - e.g., about how children are doing in terms of health, education, self-esteem, etc*
 - *Importance of a proactive and holistic approach to services, to prevent children from going into care*
 - *Need to support parents while their children are in care, to help them prepare for parenting upon children's return*



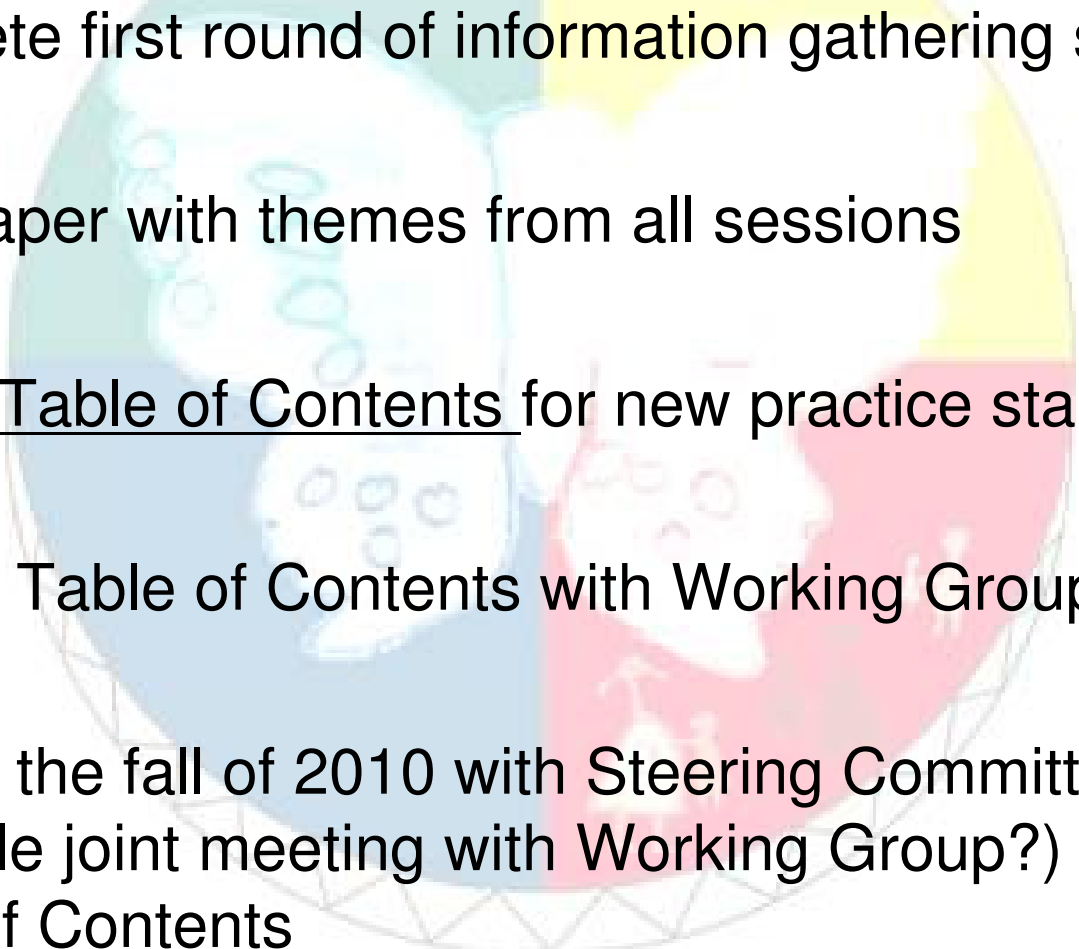
Emerging lessons

about the info gathering process

- Information gathering process can contribute to a community development (e.g. Vancouver Island, Prince Rupert)
 - AOPSI may be a potential resource to the community's own activities
 - However, if community doesn't perceive AOPSI as connecting to community building, there won't be buy-in
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Next Steps - Summer/Fall 2010

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- Complete first round of information gathering sessions
 - Draft paper with themes from all sessions
 - Draft a Table of Contents for new practice standards
 - Review Table of Contents with Working Group
 - Meet in the fall of 2010 with Steering Committee (possible joint meeting with Working Group?) to review Table of Contents