

[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

# First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Affirming and Promoting  
Indigenous Knowledge and  
Research



***The Drum Shall Beat  
So my heart shall beat.  
And I shall live a hundred  
thousand years.***

*Shirley Daniels*

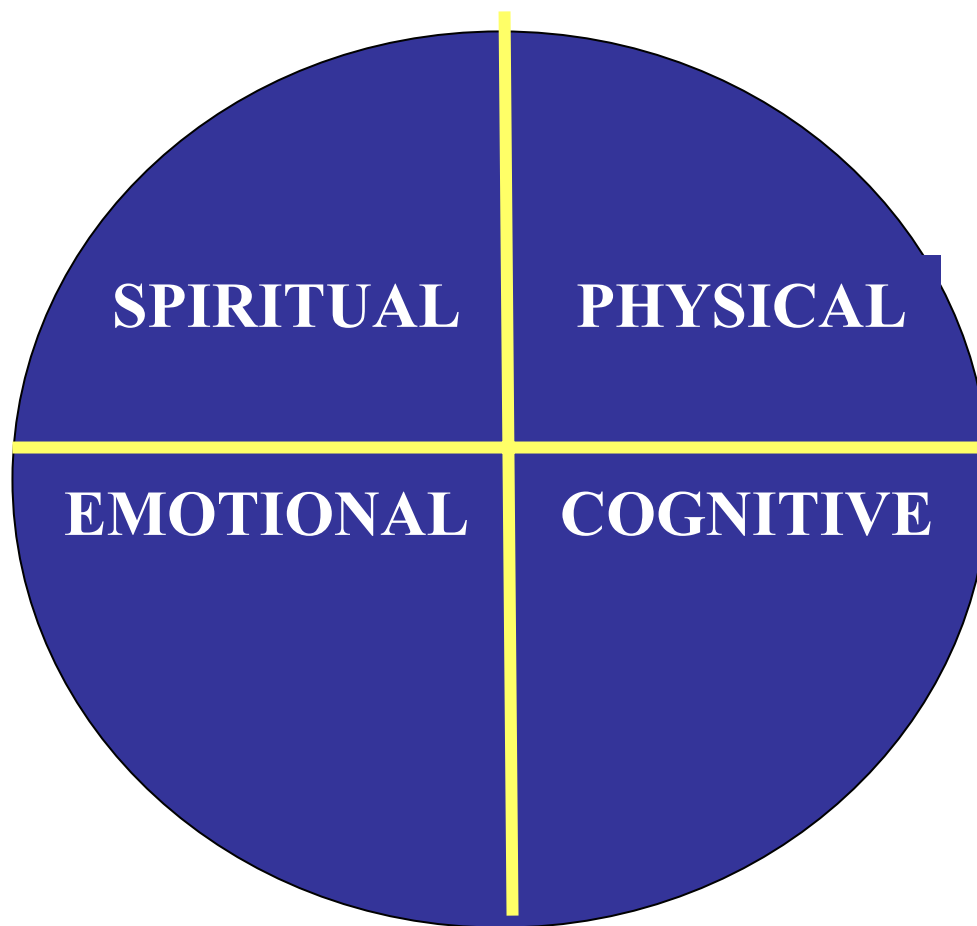


Indigenous  
knowledge that  
was true since the  
beginning guided  
the care of  
children...



# Holistic Worldview: Guiding the care of children and families

[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)



# Colonization Meant

There was no freedom, there was no peace, we were removed from our homes, banned from practicing our culture or speaking our languages... our children were taken away to live in residential schools where shameful and uncivilized... Still we survived... and now we rebuild based on the strengths of our culture and traditions.



[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

# What Colonization means today....



A Government Study  
found when the United  
Nations Human  
Development Index was  
applied to First Nations  
– their standard of living  
ranked 79<sup>th</sup> in the world  
– in the same year  
Canada was first



[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

Aboriginal Youth  
are 5-8 times more  
likely to commit  
suicide than non-  
Aboriginal Youth





[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

First Nations Youth  
are more likely to be  
incarcerated than to  
graduate from  
highschool



[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

There are 22,000  
First Nations  
children in care in  
Canada (approx)



That means there  
are more children  
in state care today  
than there were at  
the height of  
residential school



This is not the world  
we want for our  
children... but if the  
next generation is to  
know freedom,  
opportunity, equality  
and peace we must all  
act resolutely together



[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

First Nations peoples and the over 120 First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies in Canada recognize the problems and are finding a way forward – we need your help



# Interdependence: Bridging the Traditions to meet Today's Challenges

[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)



# First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Developed by the First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies in Canada to:

- ✓ Create a **gathering place** of information and resources
- ✓ Develop and distribute **research and policy** to enhance best practice
- ✓ Develop and deliver **Professional development** programs and resources



# First Nations Research Site Winnipeg Manitoba

- Affirm and advance **indigenous knowledge and research techniques**
- Analyzing and reporting on First Nations child welfare data
- **Strengthen research capacity among First Nations**
- Create forums for **sharing of research materials** (I.e: on line First Nations CFS journal)





# Our Partners

- First Nations CFS agencies and regional organizations
- Proud partner with the **Child Welfare Center of Excellence**
- Collaborative relationships with the **Child Welfare League of Canada, University of Toronto, University of Manitoba.**



[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)

# Building the Interdependent Circle of Cultural Services

**Practice**



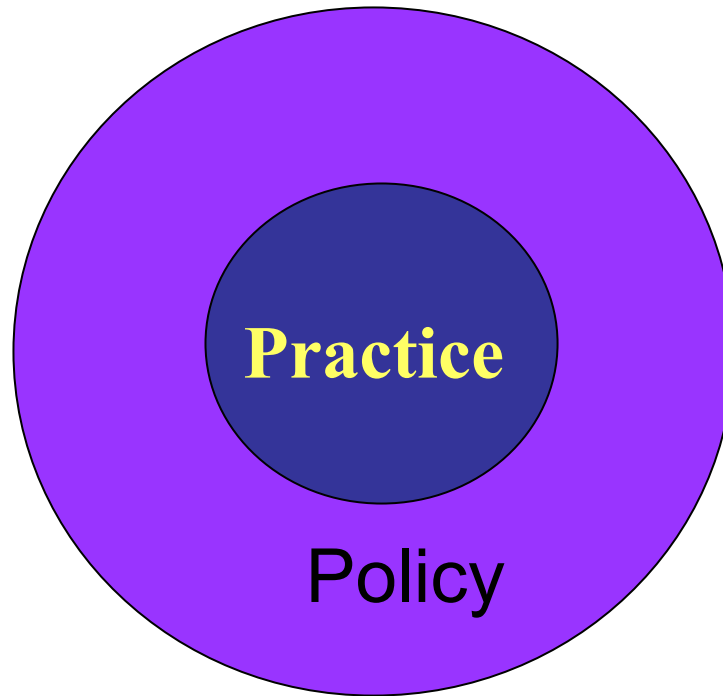
# Building Capacity to Support Innovative Approaches to Practice

- Programs **build on the culture** of the community but must also meet **provincial/territorial or tribal statutory requirements**.
- Holistic model requires **interdependence** between research, policy, service delivery and evaluation.
- Requires a **community development framework** to address the significant impacts of colonization.



# Policy and the Interdependent Circle of Practice

[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)



# Policy

- ▶ Must be developed by First Nations to ensure culturally appropriate practice.
- ▶ Should be responsive to community context.
- ▶ Based on research that is reflective of First Nations cultures, and values
- ▶ Be evaluated in a manner reflective and relevant to First Nations



# Innovations in Policy

- The **Aboriginal Operational Practice Standards and Indicators** in BC
- The **Joint National Policy Review on First Nations Child and Family Services** by the Assembly of First Nations and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada



# Affirming Indigenous Knowledge and Research

[fnfcs.com](http://fnfcs.com)



# Innovation in Research FN Research Site Projects

- ▶ Completion of an **Annotated Bibliography of over 800 articles** relating to Aboriginal child welfare in Canada.
- ▶ Research to determine the **nature and extent of disabilities and access to services** for children in the care of First Nations CFS agencies
- ▶ Assist with secondary analysis of **First Nations CIS data**





# Future Research Goals

- ▶ Development of a **First Nations Research Ethics Review** panel and process (2003)
- ▶ Publication of an **on-line research journal** (2003)
- ▶ Development of Research **professional development programs and processes** (Ongoing)



**fncfcs.com**

## Contact Us

**First Nations Child and Family  
Caring Society of Canada**

**Website: [www.fncfcs.com](http://www.fncfcs.com)**

**Research Site: (204) 474-8261**

