

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada Annual Report 2010



***Making a Difference for
First Nations Children
and Families***

FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY CARING
SOCIETY OF CANADA

302 251 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

September 9, 2010

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HONORING

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (the Caring Society) expresses its sincere appreciation to First Nations child and family service agencies, our members, funding organizations and partners who have made outstanding contributions to the wellbeing of Aboriginal children, youth and families in 2009/2010.

Special thanks to:

2nd and 3rd Annual Manitoba Indian Child Welfare Gala Organizing Committee
Amnesty International Canada
Assembly of First Nations
Association of Native Child and Family Services of Ontario
Anderson Family, Norway House Cree Nation, MB
Andree Cazabon, Cazabon Productions
Ashoka Foundation
Atkinson Charitable Foundation
Attawapiskat School Campaign
Bentall Corporation
British Columbia Government Employees Union
Brookfield Properties
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Auto Workers
Canadian Postal Workers Union
Canadian Paediatric Society
Caring For First Nations Children Society
Carrier-Sekani Family Services and Chiefs of Northern BC fund raiser
Cheryl Milne, David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights
Child Welfare League of America
Chiefs of Ontario
Christian Horizons
Clara F. and Amelia E. (Elementary School Students, Toronto)
Defence for Children International
Editorial Board of First Peoples Review
Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternate Secondary School
Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
First Nations Family Institute
Forum on Aboriginal Study and Research- University of Ottawa
Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement
Jith Paul Design
J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
Kairos Canada
Kids Help Phone
Koostachin Family, Attawapiskat First Nation, Ontario
Larrakia Development Corporation, Australia

Leah Gryfe Designs
Liam Sharp, Liam Sharp Photography
Manitoba First Nations CFS Gala Committee
Many Hands One Dream Coalition
Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative
McGill University, School of Social Work
Melanie Vincent
Mi'kmaw Family and Children Services
Natasha Scott
National Association of Friendship Centres
National Indian Child Welfare Association (USA)
New Brunswick National First Nations CFS Conference Committee
Northern BC Touchstones Advisory Committee
Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, Ontario
Office of the Ombudsman, NB
Ontario Association of Municipalities
Ontario Association of Social Workers
Ousley, Harvey and Deep, LLP
Paul Champ and Associates Law
Pei-Ju Wang
The Printing House, 50 O'Connor, Ottawa
Sandy Tunwell Accounting
SNAICC (Australia)
Social Innovation Generation Project, Waterloo University
Stikeman Elliott, LLP
Talitha Calder
UNICEF Canada
University of Alberta
University of Victoria School of Social Work, Indigenous Specialization
Wendy Thomas

THE CARING SOCIETY MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN IN 2009/2010:

This has been a historic year at the Caring society as we continued the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to ensure the federal government provides First Nations children equitable benefit, re-designed our website www.fncaringsociety.com and worked with First Nations and the Provincial Government of BC to implement the Touchstones of Hope philosophy of child welfare in Northern British Columbia. With your unwavering support we accomplished the following:

- The Canadian Human Rights Case on First Nations Child Welfare continues with Canada having failed to convince the Federal Court to derail the tribunal.
- Over 6300 people and organizations from 15 countries in the world are following the Canadian Human Rights Case on First Nations Child Welfare through the I am a witness campaign (fnwitness.ca) making it one of the most formally watched legal cases in Canadian history.
- Re-designed our website www.fncaringsociety.com which receives over 2.4 million hits per year making it one of the most popular child welfare resources in Canada.
- Published another edition of the First Peoples Child and Family Review and updated our research database.
- The Caring Across Boundaries photography exhibit by Cindy Blackstock, curator, and featuring photography by Liam Sharp continued to inspire thousands of Canadians. Made possible through the generous support of the Atkinson Foundation, the exhibit highlights why reconciliation is so vital in addressing the inequalities experienced by First Nations children and their families. Over 80,000 people a day viewed the exhibit in Toronto and thousands have seen it since.
- Worked with First Nations and the Province of British Columbia on the implementation of the Touchstones of Hope in Northern B.C.. More information at www.northernbctouchstones.ca
- Continued our advocacy work on the implementation of Jordan's Principle. New Brunswick has announced it will adopt Jordan's Principle in the fall of 2010.
- Continued our support for culturally based equity in First Nations education
- Conducting Caring Across Boundaries sessions in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick
- Completed over 60 presentations in Canada, USA, and Australia to over 12,000 people.

Please support the Caring Society by becoming a member or making a donation on line at www.fncaringsociety.com

Did you know?

- The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society is the only national organization serving Aboriginal children and families and the one of the few national organizations that does not receive any federal government funding
- The Caring society has four staff and many volunteers
- The Caring society works in partnership with Indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand and the United States to advance the rights of Indigenous children.
- Honours to the Board and staff this past year include:
 - An Order of Canada
 - Ashoka Foundation Fellowship
 - Ontario Municipalities Association Award
 - Canadian Association of Social Workers Outstanding Service Award
- Membership has increased 400% over the past two years.
- The number of registered individual and organizational supporters of our various campaigns represents the support of millions of people in Canada who want to see a better future for First Nations children.
- Jordan's Principle is one of the most widely supported child policies in Canadian history.
- The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on First Nations child welfare is being formally followed by over 6300 caring people and organizations making it one of the most formally watched legal cases in Canadian history.
- Stikeman Elliott LLP, the firm that provided pro bono legal services on federal court matters respecting the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has won the Platinum Award from L'expert Magazine for excellence in pro bono services for the Aboriginal community. Congratulations Stikeman Elliott and many thanks for your excellent work!

About us

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (the Caring Society) was developed at the Squamish First Nation in 1998 at a national meeting of First Nations child and family service agencies (FNCFS). Meeting delegates agreed that a national non profit organization was required to provide research, policy, professional development and networking support to the First Nations child and family service agencies in Canada. An interim board was elected and the plan they developed for the development of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada was approved at a second national meeting of First Nations child and family service agencies hosted by Kingsclear First Nation in May of 1999.

In 2001, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, in partnership with the Center of Excellence for Child Welfare, established the first research site devoted to the affirmation and support of First Nations child welfare research. Although the Centre of Excellence is no longer in existence, the Caring society continues to provide research services out of the Ottawa office under the leadership of Marlyn Bennett who lives in Winnipeg. Our research activities have a specific emphasis on the dissemination of culturally based resources on Aboriginal children and families. The First Peoples Child and Family Review and the searchable database of over 3000 annotated article are just two of the vital research services the Caring society continues to provide.

Building on the existing infrastructure, the Caring Society with the support of the Voluntary Sector Initiative, established a head office in Ottawa in 2002 tasked with organizational administration, policy and public education services. The Caring Society no longer receives any federal government funding and is completely supported as a result of a diversified funding plan and the generous support of First Nations child and family service agencies, our members and donors. We thank all our donors and members for their support. It is because of you that we are able to continue our important work for children and their families.

The Caring society also focuses on developing evidence based solutions to address systemic policy problems that undermine the safety and well being of First Nations children and their families. We believe in the caring nature of the public and are pleased to provide 7 free ways for every person to make a difference for Aboriginal children on our website www.fncaringsociety.com. Thousands of people and organizations have already stepped forward to do one or more of the 7 ways to make a difference and these actions have truly helped make a better world for First Nations children.

The Caring Society Mission and Mandate

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society believes Aboriginal communities are in the best position to design and implement their own child safety solutions and that as a national organization our best role is to provide quality resources for them to draw upon. In light of this primary objective, the Board of Directors of the Caring Society developed the following mission statement for the Society:

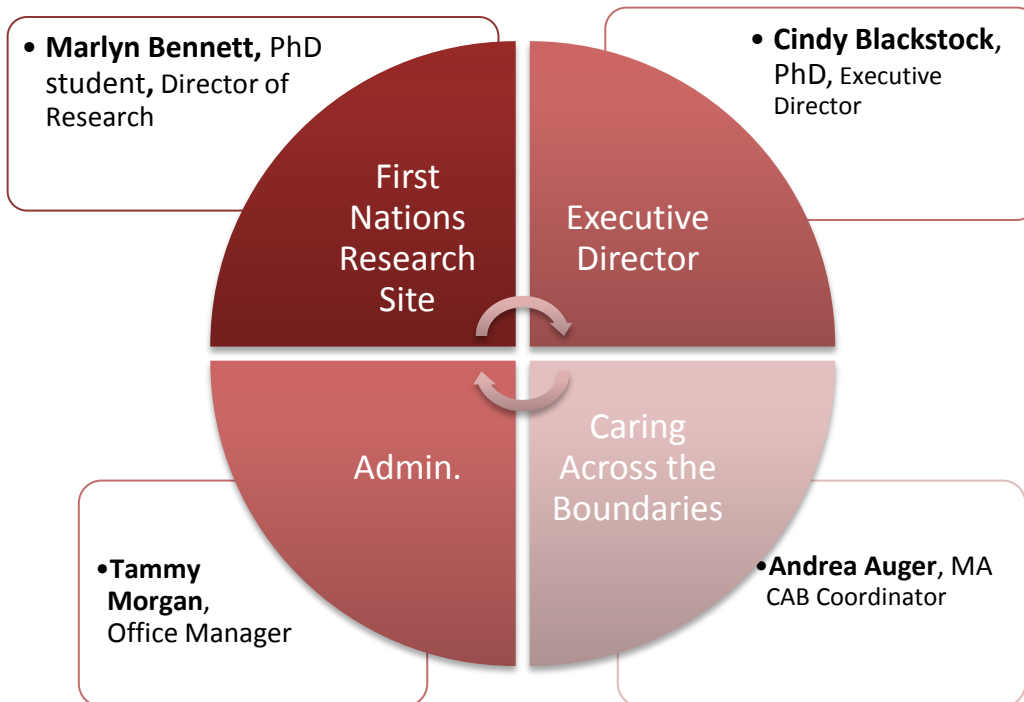
“Building Helping Communities”

This mission is achieved through the following mandate which was developed in partnership with First Nations Child and Family Service Agency Directors at a meeting hosted by Kingsclear First Nation in Fredericton New Brunswick in 1999.

THE CARING SOCIETY Board of Directors

Name	Affiliation	Board Position
Elsie Flette	Southern FN Authority, Manitoba	President
Joan Glode	Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services	Vice President
Bill Gillespie	Southern FN Authority, Manitoba	Treasurer
Carolyn Peacock	Yellowhead Tribal Services	Alberta Contact Person
Raymond Shingoose	Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services	Board Member
Linda Deer and Robin Deconte	Kahnawake Shakotiiia'takehnhas Community Services and Kitigan Zibi CFS	Board Members
Kenn Richard	Native CFS of Toronto	Board Member
Landon Pearson	Carleton University	Board Member
Deborah Parker Loewen	Sask. Member at Large	Board Member
Judy Levi	Coordinator, New Brunswick First Nations Child and Family Services	Board Member

THE CARING SOCIETY Staff



Mandate and Project Summary for 2009/2010

Research	Policy	Education	Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touchstones of Hope participatory action research • A new edition of the First Peoples Child and Family Review • Updating of research databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan's Principle campaign • Attawapiskat School Campaign supporter • Human Rights Case on First Nations Child Welfare Funding • 7 ways to make a difference campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly newsletter • Re-designed our resource rich website which receives over 2.4 million hits per year • Over 60 presentations reaching 12,000 people in 3 countries • Caring Across Boundaries photography exhibition in New Brunswick and Ottawa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touchstones of Hope provincial forum in BC • Three community Touchstones of Hope Sessions (BC) • Caring Across Boundaries sessions with Kids Help Phone and Child and Youth Advocates office in New Brunswick • Reconciliation forum in Washington State

Projects and Services: Living our Mission Statement

First Peoples Child and Family Review

The 2010 year has been very productive for the First Peoples Child and Family Review online journal. We were proud to publish a new edition with contributions from 15 authors. The First Peoples journal continues to be available for free from the Caring Society's website, as well as through Lund University's *Directory of Open Access Journals* (DOAJ, www.doaj.org) in Sweden. The journal also appears in *EBSCO Publishing's* database of journals, an information resource for millions of researchers in thousands of institutions worldwide (www.ebsco.com). The journal is also housed at the Library of Canada and is distributed throughout the United States by the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

The journal continues to be a successful resource used by many students and instructors as well as people working as children's program administrators, in frontline practice and by many individuals working at policy levels. Numerous copies of the journal are available at university libraries across Canada.

This past year, hits to the Caring Society's website have increased considerably and now number over 2.4 million per year. On average, there are over 550 hits to the journal website monthly. The journal is consistently among the top 5 visited pages on the Caring Society website accumulating about 2600 hits per month and is accessed by users throughout North America and the world. In addition, interest in the journal and increased responses to our Call for Papers means that we are publishing on average of 10 articles per issue (amounting to approximately 20 articles published a year). This indicates that our journal has become an important and credible resource for many scholars, researchers, academic institutions and frontline providers.

A stable funding source for the journal has been discontinued, however, we are continuing to work hard to make sure this important resources is available for years to come.



Reconciliation in Child Welfare: Touchstones of Hope

The Reconciliation: Touchstones of Hope is a framework for systemic change in child welfare to benefit Aboriginal children and their families. Based on a four stage process of reconciliation, the Touchstones of Hope movement engages Aboriginal communities, mainstream child welfare and allied professionals and leaders in a process of re-defining child welfare and then agreeing on pragmatic plans to put community visions into action. This innovative, and relatively low cost program, is already leading to reports of children in foster care being returned home much quicker than before as community members are actively engaged in ensuring the safety of children in their communities. The Touchstones movement has a number of tools to help communities move from the principles and process of reconciliation into real action that benefits children and families. Current resources include: 1) the Touchstones for Leadership program to engage community leaders in reconciliation, 2) Touchstones for Youth to promote youth leadership in reconciliation and 3) the Bachelor of Social Work curriculum geared toward integrating reconciliation into university curricula. In addition to profiling the Touchstones of Hope on our own website, we also have a website to profile the Touchstones of Hope movement in Northern British Columbia (www.northernbctouchstones.ca). Touchstones bookmarks, posters and other public information materials are also available. Our next initiative will be to update the original 5 module Touchstones for Leadership to incorporate suggestions from all the participants who have generously provided feedback.

Since January 2008, we have trained 98 Touchstones of Hope facilitators in six provinces of whom, 87 were trained in the Touchstones for Leadership curriculum and 11 were trained in the Touchstones for Youth curriculum. Touchstones of Hope facilitators have played a vital role in working with First Nations communities in Northern British Columbia to define their culturally specific visions of healthy children, youth and families and building action plans to achieve those visions. Three community sessions have been held to date with another two scheduled for the fall of 2010. For more information on the Touchstones of Hope program in Northern British Columbia go to www.northernbctouchstones.ca

In addition, to the work in Northern British Columbia, Caring society staff have facilitated or participated in Touchstones workshops with provincial government employees, Native American and non-Aboriginal peoples working in child welfare in Washington State and at the national First Nations child and family services conference hosted by Yellowhead Tribal Services.

We have also been pleased to host Caring Across Boundaries sessions to promote collaboration between voluntary sector organizations and Aboriginal communities in partnership with Kids Help Phone and the Child and Youth Advocate in New Brunswick.

Policy Change: A better world for First Nations children and families



Child from Tobique First Nation
Photograph by Liam Sharp (2009)

"The New Brunswick government would like to have an agreement on the so-called Jordan's Principle with the federal government by September, Social Development Minister Kelly Lamrock said on Friday."

CBC News February 26, 2010

Read more:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2010/02/26/nb-lamrock-richard-first-nations-report-recommendations-212.html#ixzz0yxUNuTVg>

Jordan's Principle

The Caring Society has worked with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Norway House Cree Nation to promote Jordan's Principle. This child first principle to resolving governmental jurisdictional disputes regarding funding for children's services has been endorsed by over 2900 individuals and organizations. In May of 2007 when MP Jean Crowder (NDP) tabled a private members motion in the House of Commons in support of Jordan's Principle. On December 12, 2007, Private Members motion 296 in support of Jordan's Principle was passed unanimously by the House of Commons. Jordan's father, Ernest Andersen and his older sister, Jerlene, were joined by other children and families from Norway House in the gallery of the House of Commons to witness this historic moment. As Ernest Anderson so rightly pointed out the good done in Jordan's name that day would be nothing but a moral victory unless the provincial and federal governments implemented it. A month later, BC Premier Gordon Campbell became the first Premier to announce full support for Jordan's Principle and table an implementation plan. This was followed by an announcement by the Western Premiers that they all strongly supported Jordan's Principle. We are pleased to note that the Province of Ontario officially announced support for Jordan's Principle on April 22,

2009 and New Brunswick has announced it will implement Jordan's Principle in the fall of 2010. Unfortunately, federal government officials have tried to narrow the definition of Jordan's Principle to apply only to children with complex medical needs. This was done by the federal government without any meaningful consultation with the Anderson family or Norway House Cree Nation. In keeping with Motion 296, we reject this narrowing of Jordan's legacy and will continue to press the federal government to implement Jordan's Principle across all federal government services. Jordan's legacy was equality not partial equality. We are also committed to working with the provinces and territories to ensure all adopt and fully implement this important principle.

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

There are more First Nations children in child welfare care today than at the height of residential schools. First Nations children are driven into foster care at 6-8 times the rate of other children by poverty, poor housing and substance misuse. The good news is that these factors respond to services, the bad news is that according to leading experts, the Auditor General of Canada (2008), the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (2009) and INAC's own documents, the federal government provides inequitable child welfare funding to address the problems. According to INAC, its child welfare program affects 160,000 First Nations children on reserves including at least 8,000 children in foster care.

In 2007, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada was proud to join with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in filing a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) against the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada alleging that the inequitable funding for First Nations children and families on reserve resulted in unequal benefit under child welfare laws. The Canadian Human Rights Commission has referred the case for hearing before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

This historic case marks the first time that the federal government will be held accountable for its current treatment of First Nations children and families before a legal authority with the power to make enforceable orders. The precedent could help address other inequalities for children on reserve in areas such as education, health and other social services.

The federal government is trying to avoid a public hearing on the merits using legal loopholes. The federal government argues it only "funds" the child welfare services to the First Nations children while others "provide" the services and thus their "funding" no matter how inequitable, is not a service as defined in the Canadian Human Rights Act. Fortunately, Canada has already lost two efforts in Federal Court to derail the tribunal on the funding is not a service issue but, apparently desperate to avoid a hearing on the facts, Canada filed a motion to dismiss on the same grounds at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and this was heard on June 2, 3, 2010 in Ottawa. People from across Canada

came to Ottawa to witness the hearing first hand as Canada has tried to block media from broadcasting the hearing.

Stikeman Elliott LLP, the firm that provided pro bono legal services on federal court matters respecting the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has won the Platinum Award from L'Expert Magazine for excellence in pro bono services for the Aboriginal community. Congratulations Stikeman Elliott and many thanks for your excellent work! Paul Champ, of Paul Champ and Associates, was honoured by the BC Civil Liberties Association for excellence in human rights law. We are so pleased and honored to have such great legal counsel working for First Nations children and their families.

The "I am a witness" campaign invites caring Canadians to sign up to be a witness meaning that they agree to follow the tribunal and make up their own minds about whether or not the Canadian government is treating First Nations children fairly.



Elizabeth Wyn Wood Students at the Canadian
Human Rights Tribunal
June 2, 2010



We are particularly thankful to the staff and students of Elizabeth Wyn Wood Secondary School who have been very active witnesses. They have attended the tribunal hearings and have also made "I am a witness" t-shirts to promote the campaign. The students have posted their reflections on the "I am a witness" webpage and a number are also featured in a video short available at fnwitness.ca

Here are just a couple of the reflections posted by the Elizabeth Wyn Wood Students at fnwitness.ca:

"I went to the Tribunal Hearing because I realized that what is happening isn't right and its just more assimilation. By being there, it shows that I care and that young people care and take an interest." Jon Dundas

"I want to say that when I first started the process of "being a witness", I only learned about one side of the story...the First Nations' children's side. After witnessing both days of the Tribunal hearings, I realize that there **IS NO OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY.**"
Shannara Nafe

"The bureaucracy (Canada) has tried to approach this human tragedy with sterile indifference, as if it weren't a Human Rights case at all, but an obscure, legal proceeding that has no direct relationship to communities that are so afflicted." Abdurrahman Mujber

To date, over 6300 caring organizations and individuals of all ages have signed on to the I am a witness campaign from at least 15 countries in the world. The “I am a witness” campaign has promotional items such as buttons, posters, and bookmarks in both official languages. Go to fnwitness.ca for more information and to sign on as a witness. It takes two minutes, is open to people of all ages and organizations and is completely free!

Join the inspiring students of Elizabeth Wyn Wood Secondary in caring enough about First Nations children to watch the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on First Nations Child Welfare. Many thanks to the students, their families and the teachers and staff at Elizabeth Wyn Wood for truly making a positive difference for First Nations children and youth!

International Relationships

Along with the many other activities of the Society, a key goal is to ensure that First Nations child and family service agencies are aware of and included in international discussions relevant to First Nations children youth and families. This past year Cindy Blackstock was honoured to travel throughout the Northern Territory in Australia to learn from peoples and organizations working with Indigenous children and families in that country as well as to share the experiences of First Nations in Canada. She had the honor of presenting at the Secretariat of Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (snaicc.asn.au) event in Alice Springs which was attended by over 900 people working with Aboriginal and Torres Islander Strait children and families. She was particularly interested in the Northern Territory Intervention launched by the Australian Government in 2007 under the auspices of addressing the sexual abuse of Indigenous children. Although the reported rates of sexual abuse for Indigenous children are less than those for non-Aboriginal children, the Australian government implemented a host of measures that the United Nations has since said violate Australia's human rights obligations. Measures are applied to Aboriginal peoples only and include: income management, banning of alcohol and pornography, signing of land leases back to the government, lifting of the Racial Discrimination Act so people cannot appeal the measures and sending in army troops to enforce the measures. The Caring society urges all people to learn more about the intervention and learn how you can take action by going to stoptheintervention.org.

The Caring society is also proud to continue our partnership with the Child Welfare League of America and the National Indian Child Welfare Association in the USA to support their work in implementing the Touchstones of Hope child welfare model in several Native American communities in the USA.

We value our relationships with the international community and look forward to our continued partnerships with these impressive organizations.

Caring Across Boundaries Photography Exhibit



Children from Tobique First Nation. Photography by Liam Sharp (2009)

International award winning photographer, Liam Sharp, generously volunteered his expertise to create a high quality photography exhibit showing the strength, dignity and inequities experienced by First Nations children living in three First Nations communities in Canada (Attawapiskat First Nation, Ontario; Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, BC; and Tobique First Nation, NB). With the generous support of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation and Brookfield Properties, the Caring Across Boundaries photography exhibit premiered at First Canadian Place in Toronto from November 23-29, 2009. The exhibit was seen by over 80,000 people a day and provided an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and engage caring Canadians in making a positive difference for First Nations children by providing them 7 cost free ways to make a difference in less than 15 minutes.



Caring Across Boundaries Photography Exhibition, First Canadian Place, Toronto, November 2009

Here are just a few of the many positive we received comments from people who went to see the photography exhibition at First Canadian Place in Toronto:

“The exhibit is amazing. The pictures are really very moving and they will affect anyone who sees them.”

“ the final selection of photos were extremely powerful.”

" This is definitely Arts-informed, it does reach out and pulls people in from across social, economic, and cultural boundaries. Imagine this display of photos of the poorest people in Canada, exhibited in one of the richest places in Canada! The good part about it is, there is a hopeful message, and you can do something to change this situation, go to the website: www.fncaringsociety.com and choose one of the seven things you can do to make a difference, it really is in our power, and it really is our responsibility each one of us as Canadians, we can do something today, to help and to move this issue forward."

The exhibit has now travelled to the Assembly of First Nations meeting in Ottawa in December of 2009, the National First Nations Child and Family Services Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick in May of 2010, and will be shown again at the University of Ottawa on September 22, 2010. Information on the exhibit and how you can arrange for it to visit your community is available at <http://fncaringsociety.com/projects/CAB-photo-exhibit>

Future Directions

Our vision of Canada is one where all First Nations children are treated with culturally based equity, respect and justice. We know just what to do to make that vision a reality and it will require the active engagement of caring Canadians and organizations to make it happen. The inequities experienced by First Nations children are so entrenched that nothing less than a social movement is needed that provides meaningful opportunities for all Canadians of all income levels to get involved in the creation of a better Canada. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society blends high quality research, public education and skilful policy change in ways that fuel the social movement of equity for First Nations children. Over the next year we look forward to making the following visions a reality:

Research	Policy	Education	Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publishing 2 more editions of the First Peoples Child and Family Review• Expanding our free searchable databases• Analyze the data from the community visioning sessions at the Touchstones of Hope in Northern BC to identify promising practice and policy trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a unified social movement plan to promote equity in all government services to First Nations children• Working to ensure two more prov./terr sign on to Jordan's Principle• Human Rights Case on First Nations Child Welfare Funding to be heard and to have a ruling pending• Expand the reach of our 7 ways to make a difference campaign• Engaging at least 3000 other individuals and organizations in our campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly newsletter• Continue to promote the website and expand use of Twitter and social networking sites• Conduct presentations that reach at least 15,000 people• Ensure the Caring Across Boundaries photography exhibit is seen by people in three regions of the country• Develop an education guide for the Caring Across Boundaries exhibit• Mentor Aboriginal youth in presentation skills and provide opportunities for them to present on human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the community engagement sessions in Northern BC and analyze results to produce a new vision of child welfare and begin implementing the action plan.• Create a policy advocacy mentoring program targeted to individuals who have no money and little experience.• Engage young people as leaders in the I am a witness campaign, Attawapiskat School Campaign and Jordan's Principle

As a small organization with four staff members we are proud of our progress to date and are thankful for the support of Aboriginal child and family service agencies, our members, First Nations communities, as well as our government, academic and voluntary sector partners. Without your support and encouragement the progress we are proud to report to you this year would not have been possible.

Want to Make A Difference for Aboriginal Children?



Join National Chief Shawn Atleo of the Assembly of First Nations in supporting the I am a witness campaign for the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on First Nations Child Welfare

Go on line to www.fncaringsociety.com and join the 7 ways to make a difference movement for culturally based service equity for First Nations children. You will find seven ways you can make a difference for Aboriginal children and youth in under 15 minutes and think about supporting the Caring Society by becoming a member or making an on line donation.