

First Peoples Child & Family Review

A Journal on Innovation and Best Practices in Aboriginal Child Welfare Administration,
Research, Policy & Practice

Foreword

Cindy Blackstock

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First Nations Research Site
Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare

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First Peoples Online Journal

Cindy Blackstock

For thousands of years we have asked our own questions and found our own answers based on the great knowledge of our ancestors. For millennia, peoples of different generations held this knowledge in a sacred trust ensuring its eternal perpetuity. Our ancestors must have known that a time would come when many of our peoples would die as they did during colonization and others would be denied the cultural gifts of their ancestors as they were during residential schools because our ancestors ensured that the strength of the knowledge and values were so strong that they endured these troubled times to bless the care of Aboriginal children today.

There can be no more important knowledge than that which guides the care of our children. Precious always, perhaps even more precious now because together, as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, we have before us the responsibility to create a relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children based on respectful coexistence as distinct and valued peoples. For social work this means affirming that Aboriginal peoples are in the best position to care for their children. It also means that – social work must understand that it cannot receive the gift of Aboriginal knowledge if its hands are tightly clutched around its own ideas of what is legitimate, formal and academic.

This journal places Aboriginal knowledge and voice at the centre and supplements this with concordant Euro-western social work knowledge. By including articles that may be unexpected in other journals we endeavor to create space in the

academic world for the teachings of Aboriginal peoples and the sharing of new ideas – often rooted in teachings that have stood the ultimate test of lived validation through hundreds of generations.

We dedicate this first edition to all those who came before us - whose knowledge and spirit guide the proper care of children, young people, and each other. And to the generations of young people to follow us – may you look back and know that your voice was heard.

Respectfully
Cindy Blackstock
Executive Director
First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada