

# Strategic Directions 2019–2025

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada



## MISSION STATEMENT

Provide reconciliation-based public education, research and support to promote the safety and wellbeing of First Nations children, young people, families and Nations.

## VISION STATEMENT

Ensure First Nations children and their families have culturally based and equitable opportunities to grow up safely at home, be healthy, get a good education and be proud of who they are.

## CORE VALUES

- Love, respect, honesty, transparency and integrity in our work and relationships.
- Recognizing the rights of Indigenous children and families pursuant to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Respect for diverse First Nations cultures, languages, contexts and aspirations.
- Honouring caring people and organizations who work respectfully with First Nations children, young people, families, communities and Nations.
- Sharing our individual and collective resources to uplift, nurture and care for First Nations children, young people, families, communities and Nations.
- Encouraging holistic knowledge and practices that support First Nations communities in caring for their children, young people and families.

## Future Directions and Planning Strategies

### 1. Truth Telling

Ensure the safety and wellbeing of First Nations children, young people and families by facilitating the transfer of traditional knowledge and community-based solutions to guide and support families and others in caring for this generation of First Nations children and young people, and those that follow.

- a) Collaborate with scholars, educators, children and youth, and others to produce and/or distribute research relevant to First Nations children, families and Nations consistent with Indigenous research principles and practices.
- b) Advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action regarding improved data collection on First Nations children, youth and families with a particular focus on longitudinal data that captures structural drivers of disadvantage.
- c) Aim to publish two editions of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review* online journal each year to promote culturally based knowledge sharing relevant to Indigenous children, their families, communities and Nations.
- d) Maintain and expand the free online database with resources relating to Indigenous children, families, communities and Nations.

- e) Educate non-Indigenous peoples, educational institutions and organizations on the importance of respecting and supporting First Nations cultures, languages and knowledge.
- f) Continue implementing national awards programs acknowledging moral courage in holistic health (Peter Henderson Bryce Award) and academic excellence in children's health (Jordan's Principle Scholarship).
- g) Whenever possible, ensure that Caring Society knowledge, services and products are available free of charge.

### 2. Acknowledging

Value the support from First Nations children, young people, families and Nations, our members and the many caring children, young people, adults, professionals and organizations that work with us.

- a) Ensure Caring Society values and ethics continue to be foundational to all aspects of our work.
- b) Ensure the Caring Society continues its strong practice of respecting and honoring child and youth voices and participation.

- c) Ensure that the Caring Society provides high quality reconciliation resources in a timely and professional manner.
- d) Continue to implement a comprehensive resource diversification strategy that builds on Caring Society values and respects principles of financial accountability and sustainability.
- e) Invite feedback and, whenever possible, independent evaluation to ensure the quality and relevance of our reconciliation resources.
- f) Develop and implement a plan for succession planning in key Caring Society positions to ensure continuity of values, goals and programs.
- g) Refine and continue to implement a recognition program for persons and organizations who make contributions to the Caring Society and its work.

### 3. Restoring

Address the evidence-based causes of disadvantage for First Nations children and young people by building on cultural strengths and supporting evidence-based solutions aligning with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- a) Expand public education on the causes of disadvantage for First Nations children, young people and families and what can be done to address them.
- b) Assume a life-long learning and engagement approach to reconciliation by developing and promoting reconciliation resources relating to First Nations children to all age groups.
- c) Increase outreach to refugee and new Canadian communities on reconciliation and its importance for the co-creation of a just society for all children and young people.
- d) Promote viable and evidence-based solutions to address challenges including implementation of the Spirit Bear Plan, participation in annual events and participation in 7 Free Ways to Make a Difference.
- e) Participate in, and support, solutions that ensure First Nations children, young people and families have equitable access to services provided by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial governments, non-profit sector, professional bodies and corporate sectors in ways that meet their needs.
- f) Continue working with partners to ensure government compliance with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling on First Nations child and family services and Jordan's Principle.
- g) Continue to educate and engage the public on Shannen's Dream to achieve equitable and culturally based education and proper schools for all First Nations students.

- h) Collaborate with researchers and research institutions to document the causes of disadvantage for First Nations children, youth and families and inform evidence-based solutions.
- i) Maintain and update a rights-focused website (Indigenous Kids Rights Path) with current resources and up-to-date contact information of organizations that can help with urgent concerns.

### 4. Relating

Support people in participating in meaningful reconciliation in ways that honour, respect and uplift First Nations children, young people, families and Nations and other peoples living in Canada.

- a) Provide education and support to First Nations and other peoples interested in re-visioning and re-designing services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples using the process and principles of the Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families.
- b) Respectfully educate and engage caring children, young people, adults and organizations about the rights, safety, wellbeing and cultures of First Nations children, young people, families and Nations.
- c) Diversify the communities and organizations we work with to support the wellbeing of all First Nations children, young people and families in Canada and with other Indigenous peoples nationally and internationally to support the culturally based wellbeing of all Indigenous children.
- d) Provide evidence-based, cost-free opportunities for members of the public to support First Nations children, young people, families and Nations such as participating in the 7 Free Ways to Make a Difference and annual events.
- e) Diversify types of materials and resources available to the public with a special emphasis on ensuring a greater range of materials that are accessible to persons of low income and persons with disabilities (e.g., free reconciliation activities, webinars, public service announcements, animated films, etc.).
- f) Build on the Reconciling History initiative which invites people to learn from the past in ways that promote full and proper implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- g) Provide up-to-date educator resources, event resources and public education materials (newsletters, information sheets, videos, etc.) to support the Spirit Bear Plan and other ways to make a difference.