



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada 2012–2017

Mission Statement Building Helping Communities

Vision Statement Ensuring First Nations children and their families have equitable opportunities to grow up safely at home, be healthy, achieve their dreams, celebrate their languages and culture and be proud of who they are.

Value Statement We value holistic knowledge and practices that support First Nations communities to love, respect and nurture First Nations children, young people, and families.

Core Values

- Loving and respecting First Nations children, young people, families, communities and Nations.
- 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 nurture and care for First Nations children, young people, families, communities and Nations.
- Respecting the value of diverse First Nations cultures, languages, contexts and aspirations.
- Supporting 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.

Future Directions and Planning Strategies

1. Ensuring the safety and well being of First Nations children, young people and families by facilitating the transfer of traditional knowledge to guide and support families about the care of this generation of First Nations children and young people, and those that follow.
 - a) Collaborate with scholars to produce or distribute research relevant to Aboriginal children, families and Nations consistent with the OCAP Principles (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession).
 - b) Publish the First Peoples Child and Family Review on line journal bi-annually whenever possible to promote culturally based knowledge sharing relevant to Aboriginal children, their families, communities and Nations.
 - c) Maintain a free on line database on Aboriginal children, families, communities and Nations.
 - d) Whenever possible, ensure that Caring Society knowledge, services and products are available free of charge.
 - e) Educate non-Aboriginal peoples, educational institutions and organizations on the importance of respecting and supporting First Nations cultures, languages and knowledge.
 - f) Expand the national awards program acknowledging excellence in culturally based care for First Nations children, young people and families.

2. Supporting reconciliation in ways that honor, respect and uplift First Nations children, young people, families and Nations and other peoples living in Canada based on the Reconciliation in Child Welfare: Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families movement process and principles.
 - a) Provide education and support to First Nations and non-Aboriginal groups interested in re-visioning and re-designing child welfare and other children's services using the Reconciliation in Child Welfare: Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families movement model.
 - b) Respectfully educate caring children, young people, adults and organizations about the rights, safety, wellbeing and cultures of First Nations children, young people, families and Nations.
 - c) Respectfully work with Inuit and Métis communities to support the wellbeing of all Aboriginal children in Canada and with Indigenous peoples 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.
 - e) Provide public education materials such as the quarterly newsletter and bi-annual open access online journal, and information sheets.
3. Addressing 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) Promote public education on the causes of disadvantage for First Nations children, young people and families and viable and evidence based solutions to address these challenges.
 - b) 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.
 - c) Collaborate with researchers and research institutions to document the causes of disadvantage for First Nations children, youth and families and inform evidence-based solutions.
4. Valuing 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 that the Caring Society provides high quality services, in a timely and professional manner.
 - c) Continue to implement a comprehensive resource diversification strategy that builds on Caring Society values and respects principles of financial accountability and sustainability.
 - d) Invite feedback, and whenever possible independent evaluation, to ensure the quality and relevancy of our services.
 - e) Refine and implement a volunteer recruitment, retention, and appreciation program.
 - f) Develop and implement a plan for succession planning in key Caring Society positions to ensure continuity of values, goals and programs.
 - g) Implement a recognition program for persons and organizations who make in kind and financial contributions to support the Caring Society and its work.