



Research at the Caring Society: An Overview

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Research has the potential to bring to light some of the current realities and barriers First Nations communities face, but research can also be used to develop and share solutions for strengthening healthy communities.

OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) principles are a set of research standards designed to inform and protect the conditions under which First Nations data is collected, managed and used (First Nations Information Governance Centre [FNIGC], 2017).¹ This research process is rooted in respecting that First Nations communities should be active parties in any research concerning them; they understand their needs and are in the best position to govern their information. Researchers abide by OCAP principles to ensure that research protects and promotes the self-determination and cultural vitality of First Nation communities.

Typically in the past, researchers have failed to consult with the First Nations communities they aim to study and have not produced discernable benefits for First Nations peoples. The relationship shared by First Nation communities and academics and other data collectors has historically been marred by the imposition of outside research interests and a lack of accountability to the communities (FNIGC, 2017). Since communities are their own best experts, positive outcomes for healthy children and families come out of environments where First Nations rights are affirmed and respected (Fearn, 2006). The Caring Society aims to provide resources that communities can draw from to implement their own best solution including journal articles, community resources and initiatives, information guides, policy documents and a research database that feature Indigenous perspectives and topics of interest. Here is a brief overview of research initiatives and opportunities the Caring Society proudly offers.²

¹ OCAP® is a registered trademark of the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC).

² Visit <https://fncaringsociety.com/> to learn more.

First Peoples Child & Family Review (FPCFR)

[\(journals.sfu.ca/fpcfr/index.php/FPCFR/\)](http://journals.sfu.ca/fpcfr/index.php/FPCFR/)

Typically published twice a year since 2004, the *FPCFR* is a peer-reviewed journal that features the wide perspectives and knowledges of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. Academic journal publishers may implement access fees requiring the public to pay in order to view and read research articles. In contrast, the *FPCFR* is an open access journal, meaning that readers have free and unlimited access to all of the articles. In addition, authors who publish with the *FPCFR* retain copyright of their work.

The *FPCFR* accepts research, critical analyses, personal narratives and creative expression submissions from a variety of disciplines. Past *FPCFR* submissions have featured topics including transracial adoption, the Sixties Scoop, personal identity, child welfare policy and reconciliation in Canada. The *FPCFR* accepts submissions in different formats (written, video, audio recording) and different languages (English, French, Indigenous languages).

The *FPCFR* team encourages young people to join the research process. Each issue of the *FPCFR* accepts one youth submission and the *FPCFR* team mentors that youth in the research publication process as much as possible. In 2014, the *FPCFR* published a special issue on equity and reconciliation with contributions only from children and youth which may be the only academic journal to have done so.

Research Database

[\(fncaringsociety.com/publications/search\)](http://fncaringsociety.com/publications/search)

The open access, free research database offers descriptions and links (when available) to resources related to Indigenous children and families in Canada as well as in other countries. Resources include a wide range of informative sources

including journal articles, literature reviews, reports, guides, films, and community resources.

Indigenous Kids Rights Path

(indigenoukidsrightspath.ca)

Canada committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which promises that all Canadian children have certain rights no matter what (United Nations General Assembly, 1989). It can be hard for young Indigenous people to recognize and get help when their rights are not being respected, especially those who live on reserves and in remote communities. Created in 2015, the Indigenous Kids Rights Path (IKRP) is an information hub aimed at informing young Indigenous individuals of their rights and directing them to the appropriate places if they feel that their rights are being violated. The website also provides a place to learn more about things that make it harder for Indigenous children and young people to succeed, as well as ways that people of all ages can help to ensure that Indigenous kids' rights in Canada are respected.

FNCARES (First Nations Child Action Research and Education Service)

(fncaringsociety.com/fncares-research)

Since 2013, FNCARES is a partnership between the University of Alberta and the Caring Society based out of the U of A committed to developing pragmatic, community-based solutions that put research related to the structural drivers of disadvantage for First Nations children, families and communities into action. For example, in 2015, FNCARES published the *First Nations Child Poverty: A Literature Review and Analysis* which captures the impacts of Canada's history of colonialism on First Nations communities by connecting the ongoing structural inequities to the continued removal of First Nations children (Brittain & Blackstock, 2015).

FNCARES conducts research that promotes the self-determination of First Nations communities by engaging them throughout the research process. Children and youth are considered to have especially valuable capacities to engage in self-determined research. Currently, FNCARES is part of a SSHRC-funded research project (2012-2018) called *Building*

Research Capacity with First Nations and Mainstream Youth Protection Services in Quebec.³

FNCARES also organizes and hosts a range of free and accessible educational opportunities including lectures, panel discussions and film screenings. The 2016 film (Dis)placed gathers the voices of Indigenous youth as they reflect on their time in child welfare.⁴

References

Brittain, M. & Blackstock, C. (2015). *First Nations child poverty: a literature review and analysis*. Ottawa, ON: First Nations Child Action Research and Education Service.

Fearn, T. (2006). *A sense of belonging: Supporting healthy child development in Aboriginal families*. Retrieved from http://www.beststart.org/resources/hlthy_chld_dev/pdf/aboriginal_manual.pdf

The First Nations Information Governance Centre. (2017). The First Nations Principles of OCAP. Retrieved from <http://fnigc.ca/ocap.html>

The United Nations. (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child. *Treaty Series, 1577*, 3. Retrieved from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

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³ Learn about research projects at <https://fncaringsociety.com/fncares-research>

⁴ Visit <http://www.kingcripproductions.com/displaced.html> for more information about viewing the film.

