Happy Holidays!

Everyone at the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada wishes you, your family and community the very best during the holidays and in the new year!

This has been a historic year at the Caring society as we began the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to ensure the federal government provides First Nations children equitable funding for these essential services and launched the implementation of the Touchstones of Hope philosophy of child welfare in Northern British Columbia. With your unwavering support we accomplished the following:

• A photo exhibit of pictures featuring photos taken by Liam Sharp documenting the inequalities experienced in daily life by First Nations children. Thanks to the Atkinson Foundation and Brookfield Properties for housing the exhibit at First Canadian Place to be seen by over 80,000 people a day.
• Continued our advocacy work on the implementation of Jordan’s Principle which was formally adopted by the Province of Ontario this past year.
• Trained Aboriginal youth on the Touchstones of Hope.
• Published the First Peoples Child and Family Review journal and updated our research database.
• Completed over 60 presentations in Canada and Australia to well over 12,000 people.
• Received over 1.7 million hits on our website making it one of the most utilized child welfare resources in Canada.

You can help by buying a membership or going to fncaringsociety.com to find 7 free ways to help Aboriginal children in under 15 minutes. Thank you for your support and look forward to the results of the tribunal and many more other successes for our children in 2010!

First Nation Child Welfare Gala Winnipeg, Manitoba

The 2009 First Nations Child Welfare Gala held October 28th at the Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB, was a resounding success. The First Nations agencies in Manitoba raised over $40,000 in support of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. Thank you in particular to the staff of Southeast Child & Family Services and Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services for their leadership and commitment in hosting this event! THANK YOU for your generosity!!
Continued Success with the **TOUCHSTONES of HOPE**

October 21-22, 2009 in Fraser Lake, BC. At that event, Cindy Blackstock facilitated a workshop for managers from the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD). Three weeks later, Dianna Mould and Brenda Lewis, the Touchstones team in northern BC, held a meeting for MCFD child protection team leaders.

On November 25-26,2009 Andrea Auger, CAB Coordinator, traveled to Fort St. James with the northern BC team for the first of six community workshops. The two day Touchstones of Hope workshop involved community members and others involved in ensuring the safety and the well being of children and families in Fort St. James and the surrounding area. (will insert more info once the workshop is complete).

The pilot workshops are distinctive in nature as they actively involve community members in the development of child safety and wellness plans. Research evidence is presented to the community members and then they leverage this information, and the touchstones of hope to create their own plans about how best to keep children in their communities safe. This is counter to the usual process of having child welfare experts develop the plans and then impose them with community with little or no consultation. Given the unique approach and our need to identify themes across the five sessions we are collecting information shared at all of the sessions using a format created by Dr. Michael Saini, associate professor at the University of Toronto. The format consists of a participatory process where facilitators and participants are directly involved in the research. The entire two day process is recorded using audio devices to capture the rich discussions from the larger group as well as the smaller groups. The facilitators also take notes as and are then able to contribute their own personal notes (thoughts, feelings, suggestions, etc.) at the end of the workshop. The final report will be prepared in draft and then circulated to all communities for feedback before the results are finalized.

Since each community is unique, the discussions will be different at each community workshop. It is important to capture the essence of

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First Peoples *Child & Family* Review

Newest Issue of the Journal the Biggest One Yet!

Volume 4, Number 2, 2009 -- online December 2009 -- **CHECK out the articles and poems noted below!**

1. **For So Long ...**
   Wanda Gabriel

2. **POEM: Their Eyes**
   Elaine M. Alec

3. **Using a Narrative Approach to Understanding the Frontline Practices and Experiences of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Child Protection Workers**
   Sherri Pooyak & Yvonne Gomez

4. **The Frontline of Revitalization: Influences Impacting Aboriginal Helpers**
   Suzy Goodleaf and Wanda Gabriel

5. **Irihapeti Ramsden: The Public Narrative on Cultural Safety**
   Steve Koptie

   Estelle Simard

7. **Family Counselling as Decolonization: Exploring an Indigenous Social-Constructivist Approach in Clinical Practice**
   Suzanne Stewart

8. **Using a Western-Based Survey to Assess Cultural Perspectives of Dene Mothers in Northern Manitoba**
   Luella Bernacki Jonk

9. **In Consideration of the Needs of Our Most Loving of Caregivers: Grandparenting Experiences in Manitoba First Nation Communities**
   Rachel Eri, Carol D.H. Harvey & Wanda Phillips-Beck

10. **If We Show Them Will They Come? Attitudes of Native American Youth Towards Higher Education**
    Emmerentie Oliphant and Sharon B. Templeman

11. **Knowledge Translation in a Community-Based Study of the Relations Among Violence Exposure, Post-Traumatic Stress and Alcohol Misuse in Mi’kmaw Youth**
    Marc Zahradnik, Sherry Stewart, Doreen Stevens, & Christine Wekerle

12. **Child Protective Services and University-Based Partnerships: A Participatory Action-Based Model for Creating and Sharing Knowledge**
    Randall Waechter, Christine Wekerle, Bruce Leslie,

Deborah Goodman, Nadine Wathen, Brenda Moody & the MAP Research Team

    Bronwyn Ewing

    Cindy Blackstock

15. **After This, Nothing Happened: Indigenous Academic Writing and Chickadee Peoples’ Words**
    Steve Koptie

16. **Aboriginal Youth Gangs: Preventative Approaches**
    Jane P. Preston, Sheila Carr-Stewart & Charlene Northwest

    Sandrina de Finney, Jacquie Green, & Leslie Brown

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CONTINUED ...
World renowned photographer, Liam Sharp volunteered his time to work with First Nations children, youth and families to share messages of reconciliation that they wanted to share with Canadians. We were honoured that three First Nations communities/organizations participated in the project: Tobique First Nation, New Brunswick; Attawapiskat First Nation, Ontario and Carrier Sekani Family Services which is a branch society of the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council. The pictures document issues ranging from the importance of culture, language, and treaties to the need for equitable investment in education and child welfare on reserves. The exhibit opened at First Canadian Place in Toronto on November 23, 2009 and we were honoured that Councillor Robert Hassencahl from Tobique First Nation; Mary Teegee and Emma Williams from Carrier-Sekani Family Services, Chief Hall and a delegation from Attawapiskat First Nation including speaker Summer Mudd and her dad Lindy Mudd, were in attendance. First Canadian Place is the largest office tower in Toronto and is visited by over 87,000 people a day which means that on each of the 5 days the exhibit was on display there were 87,000 opportunities to engage caring Canadians in making a difference for First Nations children. As the exhibit is meant to educate and engage non-Aboriginal Canadians in reconciliation in ways that truly make a difference for children and families on reserve, post cards with 7 free ways for people to make a difference were available (www.fncaringsociety.com).

We have recently updated our English section of the Touchstones web page. Changes to the French Touchstones webpage is underway. A new feature of the webpage will be to create space for people and organizations that have used the Touchstones of Hope to share your experiences. Please send stories you would like considered for posting by e-mail to aauger@fncaringsociety.com or by fax to (613) 230-3080.

Thank you to everyone who has made the Touchstones of Hope such a success this past year! We look forward to the Touchstones and reconciliation projects to come in 2010!

A big ‘thank you’ to Dr. Saini for dedicating his time to this project!

The FNCFCS would like to welcome the newest member of the Ottawa team, Sara Caverley. Sara is a fourth year journalism student at Carleton University and will be working with us part time until March 2010.

W orld renowned photographer, Liam Sharp volunteered his time to work with First Nations children, youth and families to share messages of reconciliation that they wanted to share with Canadians. We were honoured that three First Nations communities/organizations participated in the project: Tobique First Nation, New Brunswick; Attawapiskat First Nation, Ontario and Carrier Sekani Family Services which is a branch society of the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council. The pictures document issues ranging from the importance of culture, language, and treaties to the need for equitable investment in education and child welfare on reserves. The exhibit opened at First Canadian Place in Toronto on November 23, 2009 and we were honoured that Councillor Robert Hassencahl from Tobique First Nation; Mary Teegee and Emma Williams from Carrier-Sekani Family Services, Chief Hall and a delegation from Attawapiskat First Nation including speaker Summer Mudd and her dad Lindy Mudd, were in attendance. First Canadian Place is the largest office tower in Toronto and is visited by over 87,000 people a day which means that on each of the 5 days the exhibit was on display there were 87,000 opportunities to engage caring Canadians in making a difference for First Nations children. As the exhibit is meant to educate and engage non-Aboriginal Canadians in reconciliation in ways that truly make a difference for children and families on reserve, post cards with 7 free ways for people to make a difference were available (www.fncaringsociety.com).

The opening of the exhibit also marked the occasion of Cindy Blackstock receiving the Atkinson Charitable Foundation Social Economic Justice Fellowship. The exhibit was made possible through the generous support of the participating communities, Liam Sharp, the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, Brookfield Properties and PhotoSensitive.

Here are just a few of the comments we received about the exhibit:

“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!”
FNCFCS membership information

If you would like to join the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society as a Member under one of the following categories:

- Individual Membership ($75)
- Student Membership with ID ($5)
- Elder Membership ($5)
- Small FNCFCS Agency Membership: 1 - 50 employees ($350)
- Large FNCFCS Agency Membership: 50+ employees ($600)
- Small Associate Membership: Organizations with 1 - 50 employees ($350)
- Large Associate Membership: Organizations with 50+ employees ($600)

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Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is bliss, taste it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it.

Mother Theresa