



First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada Inc. “Building Helping Communities”

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Special points of interest:

- First Nations Research Site on Child Welfare Opens at University of Manitoba
- The Caring Society searches for an Executive Director to oversee the Central Office in Ottawa, Ont.
- Introduction to 2002 Board Members of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

Inside this issue:

- Grand Opening First Nations Research Site 1-2
- History of First Nations Caring Society of Canada 1-2
- Job Posting Executive Director 3
- Caring Society T-Shirts for Sale 3
- Introduction to Board members 4
- Interested in Becoming a Society Member? 4

First Nations Research Site Opens at the University of Manitoba!

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada through its association with the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare has established a partnership which will provide an excellent basis for increasing the quality, quantity and availability of research on First Nations Child Welfare in Canada, the United States and abroad on issues of relevance respecting First Nations children, youth and families through the establishment of the First Nations Research Site.

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada Inc. (FNCFCSC) and the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare (CECW) held its grand opening of the First Nations Research Site located at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work on Tuesday, February 5th, 2002.



Matthew Coon Come, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations graciously accepted an invitation to be the key note speaker at our event.

Invited guest speakers included: Dennis White Bird, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; Margaret Swan, Southern Grand Chief of the Southern Chiefs Organization; Dr. Sydney Garrioch, Vice Chief CFS, Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak; Honorable

Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing, Province of Manitoba; Lorette Burch, Manitoba RDG of Health Canada; Nico Trocmé, Director, Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare, University of Toronto; Don Fuchs, Dean of Social Work, University of Manitoba; Cindy Blackstock, Chair, First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada; and key note speaker Matthew Coon Come, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations.

The primary focus of the First Nations Research Site is the development and strengthening of research capacity among First Nation child welfare researchers in Canada. Data and research on First Nations child and family services will be systematically identified and collected for dissemination across the country. The First Nations Research Site will also build a network of First

Story continued on page 2

History and Background on the FNCFC Caring Society

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (Caring Society) was founded in 1998 to provide networking, research and professional development services to one hundred five First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies (FNCFS). In 1999 during the national meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick, the 2001/2002 board members

were appointed by the FNCFS agencies in the province/territory. The current Board Members have significant management experience in a First Nations child and family service context and are recognized nationally for their expertise and leadership. During the first three years of operation, the board of

directors volunteered their time and resources to operate the Caring Society on a very limited funding base composed of membership fees and revenues from funding raising activities. One of the primary focuses of the board of directors was to access broad based funding in order to fully materialize the

Story continued on page 2



Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba - new home of the First Nations Research Site.

Grand Opening of First Nations Research Site Continued

Nations academics and researchers, offer research training and workshops, and conduct analyses of Canadian child welfare data.

The Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare is one of five Centres of Excellence funded under Health Canada's Centres of Excellence of Children's Well-Being Program. Designed to fundamentally improve our understanding of children and youth and what they need to develop in healthy ways, the five Centres will collect and analyze research for generating practical information products

for use on the frontline, including for use by parents and their families.

The Government of Canada has committed \$20 million over five years to this initiative as part of the Federal Government's contribution to the National Children's Agenda. The Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare will be receiving up to \$3.3 million in support of their activities, of which approximately \$240,000 will be allotted to the First Nations Research Site.

For more information about the First Nations Research Site contact Marlyn Bennett, Research Coordinator at (204) 474-8261, (204) 474-7294 (fax), c/o the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba, 413A Tier Building, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, email: bennettm@ms.umanitoba.ca or visit the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare's Website at www.cecw-cepb.ca.

History and Background on FNCF Caring Society Continued ...

The Caring Society's Mission Statement is about "Building a Helping Community."

objectives identified by the membership.

The McConnell Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the Board of the First Nations Child & Caring Society to assist the Board in holding a Strategic Planning Session to strategize for the Society's future. The Board met in Winnipeg on Monday February 4th, 2002 to develop a mission and vision statement, review the successes of the society to date, discuss the future plans for the organization as well as review the purpose and goals behind the Society.

This past year, the Caring Society secured funding for a First Nations Research Centre in partnership with the University of Toronto, the Child Welfare League of Canada and the University of Manitoba. The centre is based in Winnipeg, Manitoba and will maintain a database on First Nations child and family service research, conduct

research projects and work to increase research capacity with First Nations communities.

In November 2001, the Society received a significant funding commitment to establish a second office in Ottawa to develop and deliver professional development programs, enhance and expand partnerships with other national and international child and family service organizations and produce public awareness for its programs and services.

The mission statement collectively agreed to by the Board members of the Society is based on "Building a Helping Community."

The principle values espoused by the Society include:

- Love for our children, families, communities, nations
- Respect for the people who work with/for First Nations children, families, communities;
- Sharing of our individual and collective resources (knowledge, wealth, ideas, etc.) to nurture and care for

the whole community;

- The value of First Nation teachings and practices for today's First Nations children and families.

The purpose and goals of the Society are to:

- Provide public education on the needs of all First Nations children, youth and their families through research, information and other services directed toward enhancing and improving public awareness on issues;
- Promote the development of policies for First Nations children, youth and their families aimed at strengthening existing programs and services as well as promoting quality programs of care, education and treatment;
- Promote First Nations training programs for professional staff, caregivers and volunteers who work with First Nations children, youth and their families;
- Develop the opportunity for inter-professional and inter-



First Nations child and family service research, conduct

History and Background on Society continued ...

organizational exchanges among groups concerned with services to children, youth and their families;

- Act as an information resource for members of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, the public and First Nation organizations across Canada and in other countries interested in accessing or

disseminating information on First Nation children, youth and their families;

- Facilitate the development of First Nations standards in services to First Nations children, youth and their families across Canada with particular focus on First Nations child welfare, mental health and young offender programs for the purpose of

encouraging excellence in the delivery of services and enhancing the means by which these young people can be helped;

- Promote sensitivity in policies and programs relative to the diverse needs of individuals, families and communities within all programs conducted on behalf of the Society.

It is envisioned that the Society will apply for accreditation from the Council on Accreditation within the next five years as another important milestone in the Society's future development.



The Caring Society Invites Applications for Executive Director

Deadline: April 30, 2002

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada is accepting applications from innovative, energetic and experienced individuals with a strong management background in First Nations child welfare for the position of Executive Director. This is a senior management position with responsibility for the day to day management, operation and establishment of a national office in Ottawa, Ontario.

The ideal candidate must possess a Masters of Social Work or a

suitable combination of post secondary education and experience relevant to the position. The Executive Director will work collaboratively with a Board of Directors comprised of First Nations CFS executive directors, various First Nations Child and Family Agencies and other child welfare service providers across Canada.

The Executive Director is expected to play a leadership role in suggesting innovative approaches to practice, policy

and research issues as well as developing opportunities for professional staff development including research training and support programs for individuals, volunteers and agencies engaged in providing child and family services to First Nations children, youth, families, communities and organizations across Canada.

For more information on the responsibilities of this position, see our web site at www.fncfcs.com.

Please submit your resume, three references and salary expectations no later than **Tuesday, April 30th, 2002** to:

**Ms. Elsie Flette,
Chair - Selection Committee,
First Nations Child & Family
Caring Society of Canada Inc.,
c/o 704 - 167 Lombard Ave,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
R3B 0V3**

**Telephone (204) 985-4050,
Fax (204) 985-4079,
email: eflette@shaw.ca.**

Caring Society T-Shirts for Sale

The Society is pleased to offer T-Shirts for sale to the public bearing the First Nations Child & Family Society logo. The T-shirts are \$20 each and come in the following sizes:

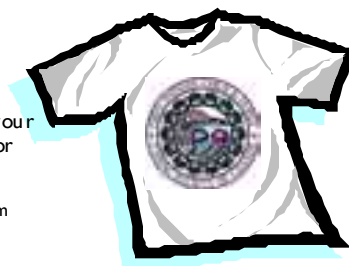
Children's (6-8), (10-12)

Women's (Small, Medium, Large)

Men's (Small, Medium, Large and Extra-large).

To order contact Marlyn

Bennett or Gladys McKay at (204) 474-8261 or fax your order to (204) 474-7594 or email either bennett.m@ms.umanitoba.ca or gladysmckay@hotmail.com



FIRST NATIONS CHILD & FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA, INC.

c/o Faculty of Social Work
 University of Manitoba
 413A Tier Building
 Phone: 204-474-8261
 Fax: 204-474-7594
 Email: bennettm@ms.umanitoba.ca

Our Web Site has now been launched but is still under construction—Visit us at: www.fncfcs.com

First Nations Research Site Staff:

Marlyn Bennett,
 Research Coordinator
 bennettm@ms.umanitoba.ca

Gladys McKay,
 Finance & Administrative Officer
 gladysmckay@hotmail.com



The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada is a national research and professional development organization which builds upon the traditional value of interdependence by establishing national capacity to network, access information, develop effective policies and conduct research for and on behalf of 105 First Nations Child & Family service providers across Canada. The 2001/2002 Board Members are as follows:

Cindy Blackstock, *Chair*, Caring for First Nations Children Society, 909-100 Royal Park South, West Vancouver, British Columbia, V7T 1A2, Phone (604)925-0461, fax (604) 925-0471, email: cindy.blackstock@cfnc.

Elsie Flette, *Co-Chair*, West Region Child & Family Services, Rolling River First Nation, P.O. Box 280, Erickson, Manitoba, R0J 1P0, Phone (204) 636-6100 or (204) 985-4050, Fax (204) 636-6158, email: eflette@wrcfs.mb.ca.

Bill Gillespie, *Secretary*, Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, 210—119 Pine Street S., Timmins, Ontario, P4N 2K3, Phone (705) 268-9033, Fax (705) 268-9272, email: billg@vianet.ca.

Joan Glode, *Director*, Mi'kmaw Family & Children's Services of Nova Scotia, Box 179, Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, B0N 2H0, Phone (902) 758-3553, Fax (902) 758-2390, email: glodejm@gov.ns.ca.

Raymond Shingoose, *Director*, Yorton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc., 21 Bradbrooke Drive, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, S2N 2J8, Phone (306) 782-8838, Fax (306) 782-7780, email: ytccfs@sk.sympatico.ca.

Darin Keewatin, *Director*, West Region Child & Family Services, Rolling River First Nation, P.O. Box 280, Erickson, Manitoba, R0J 1P0, Phone (204) 636-6100 or (204) 985-4050, Fax (204) 636-6158, email: darin@wrcfs.mb.ca.

Donald Horne, *Director*, Shakotia'takehnhas Community Services, P.O. Box 1440, Kahnawake, Quebec, J0L 1B0, Phone (450) 632-6880, Fax (450) 632-5116, email: dhorne@axess.com.

The Board members are elected annually at an Annual General Meeting. Each Board member takes turns hosting the Annual General Meeting at various locations across Canada.

Next Annual General Meeting of the Society (2002): Date and Location TBA

Interested in Becoming a Member of the Society?

If you wish to become a member of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, please fill out the registration form below. Membership includes quarterly newsletters, access to research and resource materials, subscription to the upcoming new First Nations C&F Caring Society journal which will be published yearly, and informed of current issues related to First Nations child welfare.

Yes, I 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 (\$25)
- Small Agency membership (\$350) Large Agency membership (\$600)

LAST NAME:		FIRST NAME:	
JOB TITLE:		EMPLOYED BY:	
MAILING ADDRESS:			
CITY:		PROVINCE:	
POSTAL CODE:		EMAIL:	
PHONE:	EXT #:	FAX:	

Payment Information:

Please make cheques or money orders payable in Canadian funds to First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada Inc. and mail along with this form to:

**First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada Inc.
 c/o Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
 413A Tier Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2**