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First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Affirming and Promoting
Indigenous Knowledge and
Research



***The Drum Shall Beat
So my heart shall beat.
And I shall live a hundred
thousand years.***

Shirley Daniels

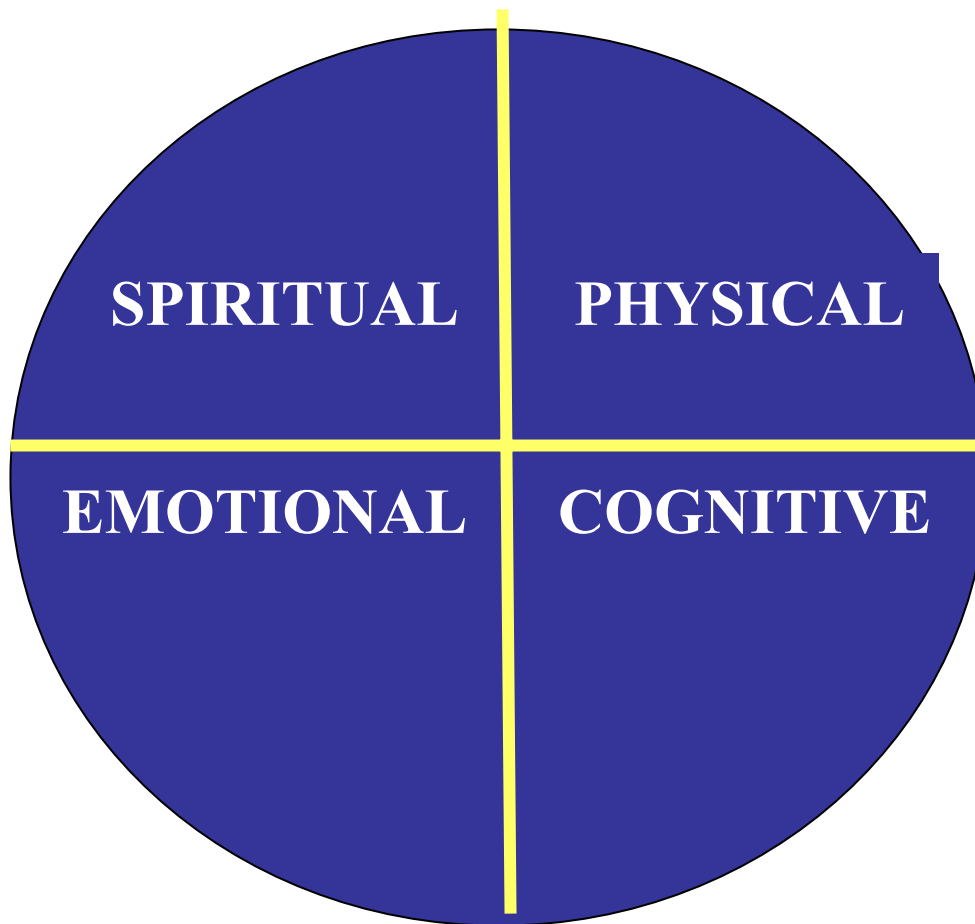


Indigenous
knowledge that
was true since the
beginning guided
the care of
children...



Holistic Worldview: Guiding the care of children and families

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Colonization Meant

There was no freedom, there was no peace, we were removed from our homes, banned from practicing our culture or speaking our languages... our children were taken away to live in residential schools where shameful and uncivilized... Still we survived... and now we rebuild based on the strengths of our culture and traditions.



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What Colonization means today....



A Government Study
found when the United
Nations Human
Development Index was
applied to First Nations
– their standard of living
ranked 79th in the world
– in the same year
Canada was first



Aboriginal Youth
are 5-8 times more
likely to commit
suicide than non-
Aboriginal Youth



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First Nations Youth
are more likely to be
incarcerated than to
graduate from
highschool



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There are 22,000
First Nations
children in care in
Canada (approx)



That means there are more children in state care today than there were at the height of residential school



This is not the world
we want for our
children... but if the
next generation is to
know freedom,
opportunity, equality
and peace we must all
act resolutely together



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First Nations peoples and the over 120 First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies in Canada recognize the problems and are finding a way forward – we need your help



Interdependence: Bridging the Traditions to meet Today's Challenges

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First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Developed by the First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies in Canada to:

- ✓ Create a **gathering place** of information and resources
- ✓ Develop and distribute **research and policy** to enhance best practice
- ✓ Develop and deliver **Professional development** programs and resources



First Nations Research Site Winnipeg Manitoba

- Affirm and advance **indigenous knowledge and research techniques**
- Analyzing and reporting on First Nations child welfare data
- **Strengthen research capacity among First Nations**
- Create forums for **sharing of research materials** (I.e: on line First Nations CFS journal)



Our Partners

- First Nations CFS agencies and regional organizations
- Proud partner with the **Child Welfare Center of Excellence**
- Collaborative relationships with the **Child Welfare League of Canada, University of Toronto, University of Manitoba.**



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Building the Interdependent Circle of Cultural Services

Practice



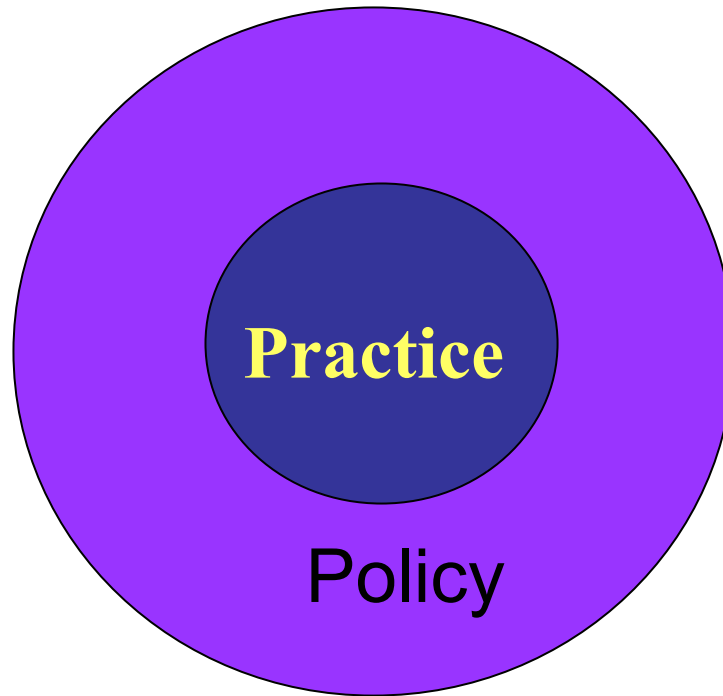
Building Capacity to Support Innovative Approaches to Practice

- Programs **build on the culture** of the community but must also meet **provincial/territorial or tribal statutory requirements**.
- Holistic model requires **interdependence** between research, policy, service delivery and evaluation.
- Requires a **community development framework** to address the significant impacts of colonization.



Policy and the Interdependent Circle of Practice

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Policy

- ▶ Must be developed by First Nations to ensure culturally appropriate practice.
- ▶ Should be responsive to community context.
- ▶ Based on research that is reflective of First Nations cultures, and values
- ▶ Be evaluated in a manner reflective and relevant to First Nations



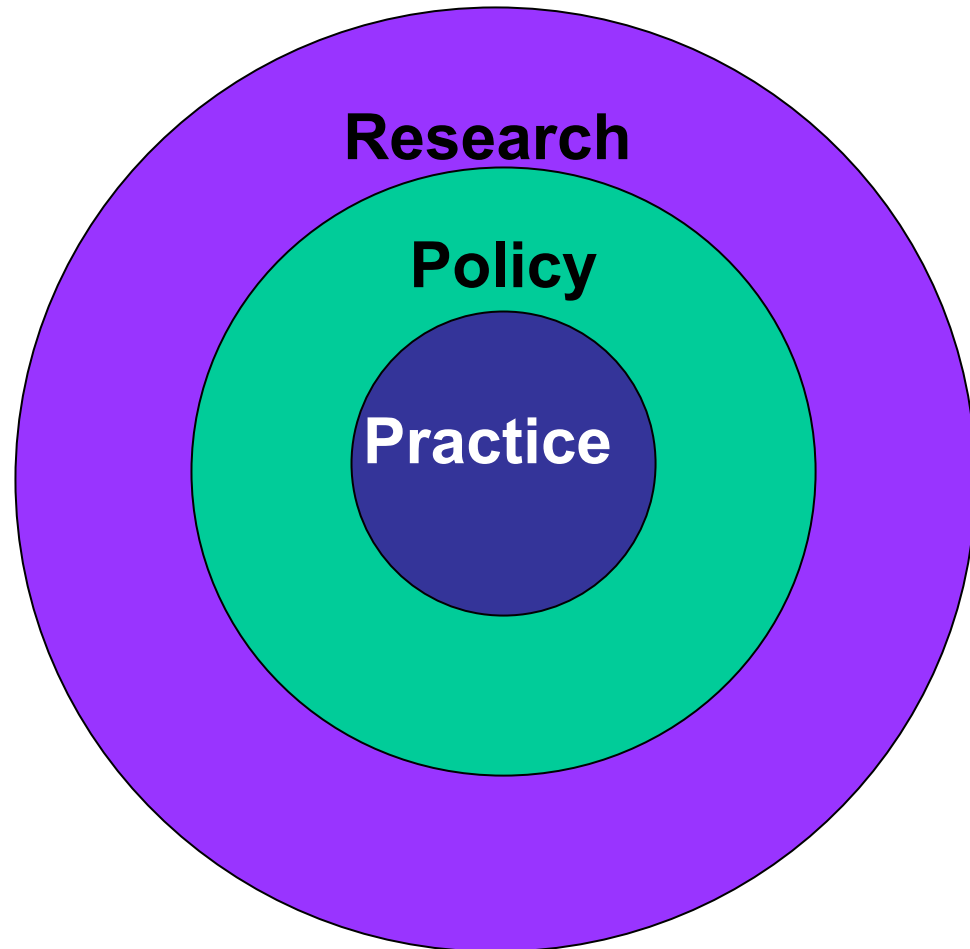
Innovations in Policy

- The **Aboriginal Operational Practice Standards and Indicators** in BC
- The **Joint National Policy Review on First Nations Child and Family Services** by the Assembly of First Nations and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada



Affirming Indigenous Knowledge and Research

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Innovation in Research FN Research Site Projects

- ▶ Completion of an **Annotated Bibliography of over 800 articles** relating to Aboriginal child welfare in Canada.
- ▶ Research to determine the **nature and extent of disabilities and access to services** for children in the care of First Nations CFS agencies
- ▶ Assist with secondary analysis of **First Nations CIS data**



Future Research Goals

- ▶ Development of a **First Nations Research Ethics Review** panel and process (2003)
- ▶ Publication of an **on-line research journal** (2003)
- ▶ Development of Research **professional development programs and processes** (Ongoing)



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Contact Us

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Caring Society of Canada**

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