

The strategy to create a provincial research network to support Indigenous child welfare responds to an urgent need for Indigenous Research that is grounded in the voices of Indigenous children, youth families and community. More than half of the children in care in BC are Indigenous, but they only make up 4% of the population and there is little research to support best practices. In collaboration with REACH our Network will deliver a one day forum which will illustrate how traditional methods of practice with Indigenous babies and children have been effective. The philosophy of ICWR is to 'gather and share' accounts of methods that are effective. As such, this one day forum will be a forum to share the knowledge of early years from a Métis perspective and philosophy. The one day event will include voices from Elders to talk about cultural practices with babies. Storytelling, puppet shows and other activities will be utilized to illustrate methods that are effective when working with young children. More importantly, the one day forum will be a place to dialogue about how to transmit cultural teachings into practice; how we learn about rites of passage and, as a community how do we support families with their new born babies and children.

The expected outcome from this one day forum includes the following:

- a) Enhance community and institutional research partnerships
- b) Increases capacity around research strengths in early childhood care and development and early childhood of Indigenous children and families
- c) Increased diversity, social equity and cross-cultural development
- d) Increased front-line experience to determine best practices in order to enhance the lives of aboriginal children and their families.
- e) Strategize about the health and wellbeing of children and young children in particular.
- f) A report will be written and distributed to both networks about the activities, dialogue and suggestions from the one day event.

Dr. Cathy Richardson, Dr. Jeannine Carrier and Jacquie Green in collaboration with Susan Williams, Rebecca Mabee and staff members have provided leadership in planning this one day event. The one day forum will take place at Métis Community Services, Victoria, BC. Métis Elders and presenters will facilitate activities throughout the day to illustrate the importance of early childhood from an Indigenous Métis perspective.

It is essential as Indigenous leaders to host an event such as this, in community. It is also important that food, healthy snacks and adequate space is available for children and Elders. Our intention is to keep the activities and discussions interactive throughout the day. A value as Indigenous leaders is to demonstrate that we teach and learn by interacting with one another which demonstrates we are all teachers and learners who contribute in a unique manner to how Indigenous Research unfolds.

March 29, 2010

8:30 – 9:00	Registration, Meet and Greet
9:00	Opening Prayer and Welcome: Elder Fran Baker Opening Remarks Organization host Robin Massey – morning stretch/energizer
10:00 10:45	Gerry Ambers “How to Teach Cultural Practice”  Nutrition Break
11:00	Puppet Show - Rebecca Mabee & Hannah Hidson Milnes “Maria’s Tale”
NOON (Lunch activity)	LUNCH Focus Group Questions in 4 directions – Cathy Richardson Activity: 4 Stations of Toys in each direction that speaks to the following – transmitting culture, preparing for birth, rites of passage, as a community how do we support families? Cathy Richardson
1:15	Dana Lynne Métis Film: “Métis Community Services”
1:45	Three generations: Jeannine Carriere, Robin Massey and baby Robin – family yoga activity
2:30	Nutrition Break
2:45	Wrap and closing circle with participants – Cathy Richardson
3:00	Closing Activity – Robin Massey Closing Prayer – Fran Baker



