

**Training Evaluations**  
**Terrace, BC**  
**October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

1. How the research training was valuable to you and/or your organization?
  - I liked knowing about the cultural adoption but wasn't really sure about do we have to fill out application forms or can we still just take them and claim her/him as our own.
  - By learning more about foster care because I looked after 3 boys at one time, plus my grandson.
  - I found it very interesting
  - Learning from everyone in group. We all think the same.
  - Learning from each other
  - Learning from each other
  - Very good
  - Very interesting
  - Very valuable. Good sharing and networking and learning.
  - Excellent.
  - Networking, communication.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> nation youth speaking about their own life's experiences.
  - The training was great. A lot of good info.
  - Yes a wealth of knowledge for MCFD adoptions. Thank you.
  - I am a team leader for an adoption and guardianship team for the ministry and wanting to start work with the various bands and agencies to connect their children who are in care with the family/roots.
  - Teachings, sharing the hope that change is coming for the good of the children. The training was able to provide a venue to hear ideas to move child caring practices forward.
  - It was valuable because it brought the ideas of the communities that we work in and we were able to see how the beliefs are shared.
  - Getting all nations from NIFCS together in wonderful. We gathered and shared so much information with each other.
  - I really enjoyed this workshop. I loved hearing about everyone's experiences and their thoughts.
  - Gave me ideas on what to bring home and get a movement going. We have to be more receptive to kids in care.
  - Very valuable, opportunity to bring bands, communities, partners, staff, youth, foster parents together. Learning together creates greater and deeper understanding. Strengthens and bonds friendships.
  - It was valuable to me
  - Yes – I got some ideas how to frame ideas better based on them sharing the work they've been doing.
  - The sharing of each groups perspectives.
  - Very valuable and a stepping stone to the 3 nations and NIFCS moving into custom adoption planning.
  - Reinforce my cultural teachings.
  - More tools to use
  - Helping me to pull together what I learn about of our culture, customs and traditions.

- That everyone wants the same as I do. We have it, we just need to incorporate into today's world.
- It was awesome to network with the 3 nations involved with NIFCS, MCFD, ICWRN. The sharing has brought light to similar practices.
- Speeches too long
- Sharing circle from all nations.
- It was informative
- Helped to focus attention on the role of cultural environment in the raising of adopted native children.
- Very informed, love the giving and sharing with all.

## 2. In your own words share how this training has changed or challenged your perception of Indigenous research?

- It's good to know that our nation is not the only one struggling for a family member.
- It's good to know that something is finally coming thru to help children in care.
- Made it more real hearing words from different nations.
- Teaching at home about the adoption without welfare raising our own children.
- I learned a lot from it.
- Sharing sacred puberty rites
- I've learned quite a lot from other people
- Challenge – how do we influence and help to change policy and practice standards for child welfare?
- More connection, communication and networking.
- Real life experiences.
- It has made me want to learn more.
- It enhanced what I know and added much detail which will be helpful for cultural planning.
- This training supports the work I am trying to do in the northwest. I am so appreciative of this learning opportunity.
- Provides wider world views.
- It hasn't changed or challenged my perception because I already believed that the communities were the teachers. The children and youth as well.
- This type of gathering is valuable for all three nations involved. Shared information on how to better each other's community.
- I see the value in research and can look forward to changes that will soon occur as a result of the research.
- It has opened my eyes and heart to a lot of things. I am a product of foster care. I was taken from my community and moved to another.
- Indigenous research at the forum demonstrates how research can be very inclusive of everyone, encouraging everyone participation to identify and share their thoughts, experiences, vision about honoring their customary laws.
- It was nice to hear all nations to share about this program custom adoption.
- I do this research all the time but they gave me more tools to do it eg. Join the network and get more info.
- Changed – that we are not alone. Challenges- to go ahead and strive to do more in our work.
- Has clarified and opened the concepts to custom adoption and the research required.
- There are many similarities between our communities.
- We have many similarities in all of our communities.
- The research will be for everyone's benefit not to be misused/abused/misinterpreted etc. How we document and share this knowledge with people, communities and our nations.

- That we are getting closer to the way we were – I believe we all need to use this as a guidelines and work with technology and our values to keep our kids in the circle of our life.
- The amount of information that has already been done through reports that can help in our ways of bringing this information to our communities.
- Each nation have their own teachings although they are very similar.
- Enhanced our knowledge . MCFD more info on grandmother's group, MFCS.
- This training was an opportunity to learn and understand the success stories.
- Revealed striking differences in formal and informal adoption practices. Both will reinforce and strengthen child adoption.
- Give me a lot of things and tools to think about and use for our community.

### 3. In what ways could this training be helpful for others?

- That it would be nice if NIFCS would really help other nations. It seems they go all out for their nation or family. Just saying.
- To have more workshops in different communities.
- Teach the social workers that work with nations.
- Exchanging ideas.
- How we can share this workshop with our people.
- How we can share this workshop with our people.
- It will help them a lot to listen to other people doing things in cultural ways
- Sharing is important and helpful. We all have the same vision, we all want our children to feel love and belonging.
- Go to village and train the younger generation or get the Elders to train.
- More awareness
- To actually learn from real life's experiences. Education.
- The info would be helpful to friends and family because of all the good information.
- Helps community members to be able to understand other communities and their practice. Helps encourage others to share knowledge and enter into research safely.
- I think just having more of these forums. I would want all ministry staff members to attend and listen and learn.
- Indigenous research allows for the knowledge to be shared. It informs people of all the wonderful things that are happening to bring about positive change.
- It's important for all workers who work in communities to have this training and know that it is the holistic view, with the child at the centre needs to be the approach.
- Everything except the hotel service was great. It's not the fault of the presenters. Longer than 2 days.
- More open dialogue where people could share more thoughts and opinions.
- A website video's, bring it home to communities, our leadership, band councils.
- Returning the information shared at this forum could be returned to each participant in a report. CD, access to website. Interviewing a youth with questions set up by UVic was very powerful, compelling and a transformative experience for the adults.
- To work with children and family that plan to adopt a child.
- Other tribes and agencies doing this work but this network can be a vehicle to pull us together.
- To be able to share the training to hopefully enlighten a lot of doubts in regards to their children.
- Of all ages and each community as the concepts/material/visuals and open participation fostered a better understanding.
- More forums in the Northwest.
- Use other ideas if one idea will not work try something else.

- It creates guide/template for others to follow and adapt to their nations.
- All information is helpful to others. We take what we need and work amongst youth to get them interested.
- The suggestions and recommendations from other communities and sharing for them to bring back is great.
- Involve other nations speakers to speak, not only certain groups.
- Rights of children.
- I can't speak for others it was helpful for me.
- Will enlighten others on what works. That the raising of a child is the responsibility of lots of his/her immediate family and community at large.
- Very helpful, it should be used for our interest.

#### 4. What would you like to see added to this training?

- N/a
- To bring more social workers in to this program.
- n/a
- To accept what we share today about taking a child and our own teachings, tradition and culture to them.
- Get more youth involved.
- More youth to be involved.
- n/a
- more time.
- More awareness of special needs diet needs, etc.
- Real life's experiences. More involvement on community basis in all areas. Always improvement.
- Longer
- Info on how this knowledge will be used for policy change? For legislation change? To allow cultural adoptions to receive MCFD funding?
- n/a
- more time on an action plan; more time for next steps.
- More youth, have youth sessions. Have foster parent sessions.
- All the other groups (communities) in NIFCS. 3 were represented. I hope the other 6 get to experience this.
- More open dialogue.
- Excellent training.
- A follow up plan to report on actions taken, lessons learned and next steps to apply lessons learned.
- n/a
- not sure right now.
- More time.
- Aboriginal ceremony, such as smudging, sweat lodge (when possible) – traditional teachings.
- Booths/vendors/entertainment ie. Comedy. – but enjoyed the group presentations.
- I think more youth input to know how they feel.
- Let nations know we could invite elders and youth.
- More input from each different band – then take ideas from there.
- More time.
- Planning by all groups for presentations.
- 1 week training (in Hawaii) or Kitlope
- Training handouts of other success stories.

- Case studies. Evaluations of impact of cultural/custom adoption of now adults who experienced such adoptions.
- Booths, presentations, pictures of community and the things they do with family and children.

## 5. Provide any feedback or recommendations about how the training was facilitated.

- I thought it was very good except for the people who were serving the lunches.
- The ladies that facilitated this were very friendly. That's how it should be.
- I find it easier to understand hearing people talk instead of reading.
- It was really good.
- Good
- What next? Where will all the data collected go? Will the information impact or change child welfare policy, if so, how?
- It was excellent and great. Lot of learning, teaching. We can learn from each other.
- Keeping elders, special needs, special diets, more awareness. Muffins were too dry – stale)
- More health food choices. Muffins were too dry.
- Very good
- Amazing facilitator – respectful, upbeat, insightful, and culture centered. Thank you so much for travelling here and moving past the barriers to bless us.
- I engaged these two days very much and having the grandmothers share was so educational.
- It was facilitated excellent. Couldn't have made improvements, despite the accommodations as some have experienced discrimination and it was difficult for the participants because of the broken elevator which is no fault of the facilitators. As well the waiting for rooms as the hotel was not prepared, food that was served, the snacks, lunch were not fresh. Again not the fault of the facilitators. Sandrina, Jeannine and Kelly were excellent. Made everyone feel safe and welcomed. Thanks for everything.
- This was the best forum I have been to. We have gathered so much information and encourage more to come for NIFCS. Thank you very much.
- Good job as usual.
- Group participation was excellent. Individuals and groups feel empowered. Nice pacing, lots of laughter and caring. Love was truly felt in the two days. The only drawback was the service of the hotel.
- n/a
- it was all good.
- Facilitation was excellent
- Excellent facilitation and no recommendations.
- Very well thanks
- It was well done. I know there was a lot of work put into it. Thank you.
- Very well received and very resourceful for us. Thank you.
- More groups – too much talking which makes it harder to concentrate. Native people work with their hands.
- Excellent, time was given to those willing to share and the respect shown was greatly appreciated.
- All the above.
- Maybe invite non First Nations teachers to talk about cultural sensitivity.
- A job well done. Thank you.
- Was great. Must be done often. We must do more focussed studies.
- Facilitated very well, enjoyed it all.