



Growing up at home: Real strategies ensuring the safety of First Nations children

Cindy Blackstock, PhD

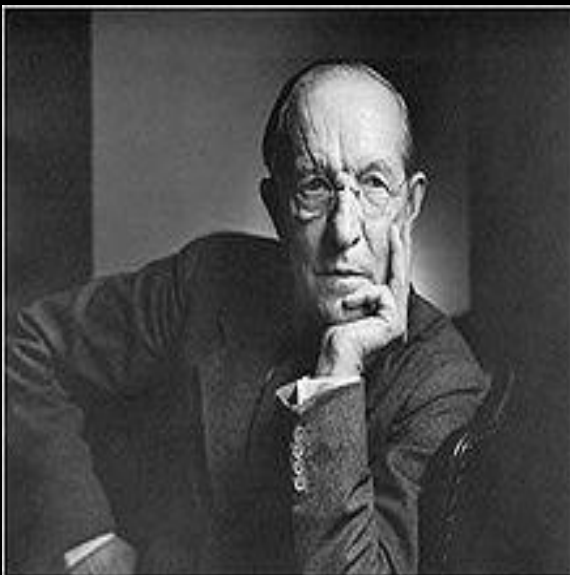
Alberta Association for Services for Children: January 23, 2014

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Associate Professor, University of Alberta



Duncan Campbell
Scott, Superintendent
of Indian Affairs



IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
151,711--10
ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
DEPUTY SUP'T GENERAL OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
OTTAWA



Ottawa, August 22nd, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to place herewith the copy of regulations relating to the education of Indian children, and to request you to have the goodness to furnish me at your early convenience with a form of warrant for the committal of an Indian child to an Industrial School, under Section 9 of the said Regulations. Our Agent has been instructed to give to the person in charge of the child whom it is proposed to commit the notice required by the aforesaid Section, and I should like if possible to be able to transmit the form of affidavit tomorrow.

Your obedient servant,

Acting Deputy Sup't General
of Indian Affairs.

A. Power, Esq.,
Acting Deputy Minister of Justice,
Ottawa.

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Edmonton to host national residential school and reconciliation event

BY GORDON KENT, EDMONTON JOURNAL JANUARY 20, 2014

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STORY

PHOTOS (1)



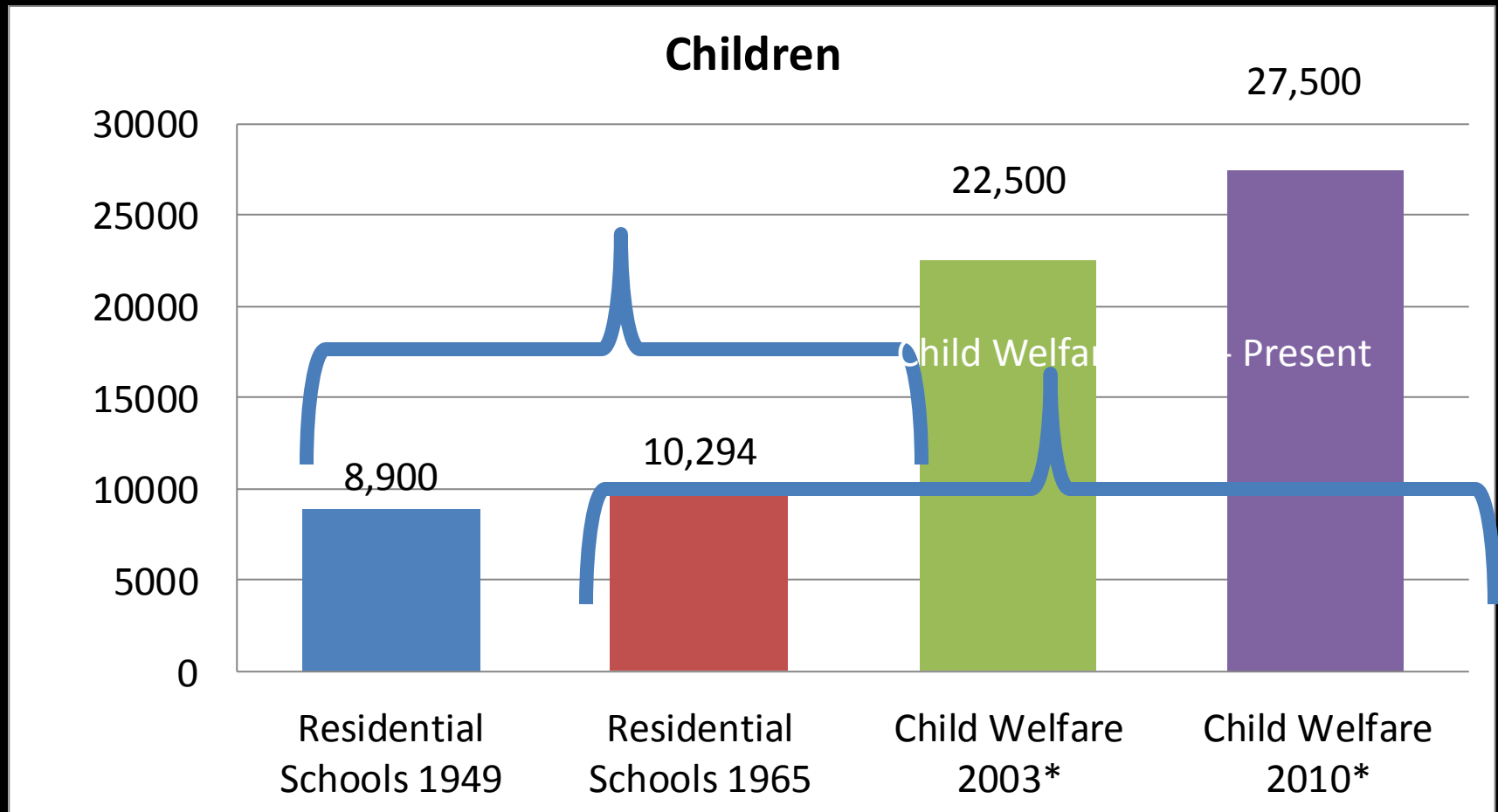
Willie Littlechild, truth and reconciliation commissioner

**Truth and
Reconciliation
Alberta Event:**

**March 27 -30,
2014**

**Edmonton,
Shaw Center
www.trc.ca**

First Nations in State Care in Canada



*estimates. FN children 6-8 more times likely to be in foster care (Auditor General of Canada, 2008) Over 48% of all children in care are Aboriginal (Stats, Canada, 2013)

CURRENT OVERREPRESENTATION OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN CARE*

Provision of Ongoing Services	% of Children in Care		% of Total Child Population ^b		Disparity in Representation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Children in Care
	Aboriginal Children	Non-Aboriginal Children	Aboriginal Children	Non-Aboriginal Children	
British Columbia ^a	52%	48%	8%	92%	12.5
Alberta ^b	59%	41%	9%	91%	14.6
Saskatchewan ^c	80%	20%	25%	75%	12.0
Manitoba ^d	85%	15%	23%	77%	19.0
Ontario ^e	21%	79%	3%	97%	8.6
Quebec ^f	10%				5.4
Nova Scotia ^g	16%				3.0

* Data for New Brunswick and for Canadian territories were not available.

** Data in this table reflect definitions and data collection protocols used in the care of children in the care of their families (including children in the care of their relatives.) The data demonstrate overrepresentation of First Nations children in the care of their families.

Based on data from: ^aBritish Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2009; ^bAlberta Children and Youth Services, 2009; ^cSaskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, 2008; ^dManitoba Family Services and Housing, 2007; ^eOntario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, 2010; ^fBreton, 2011; ^gMulcahy and Trocmé, 2009;

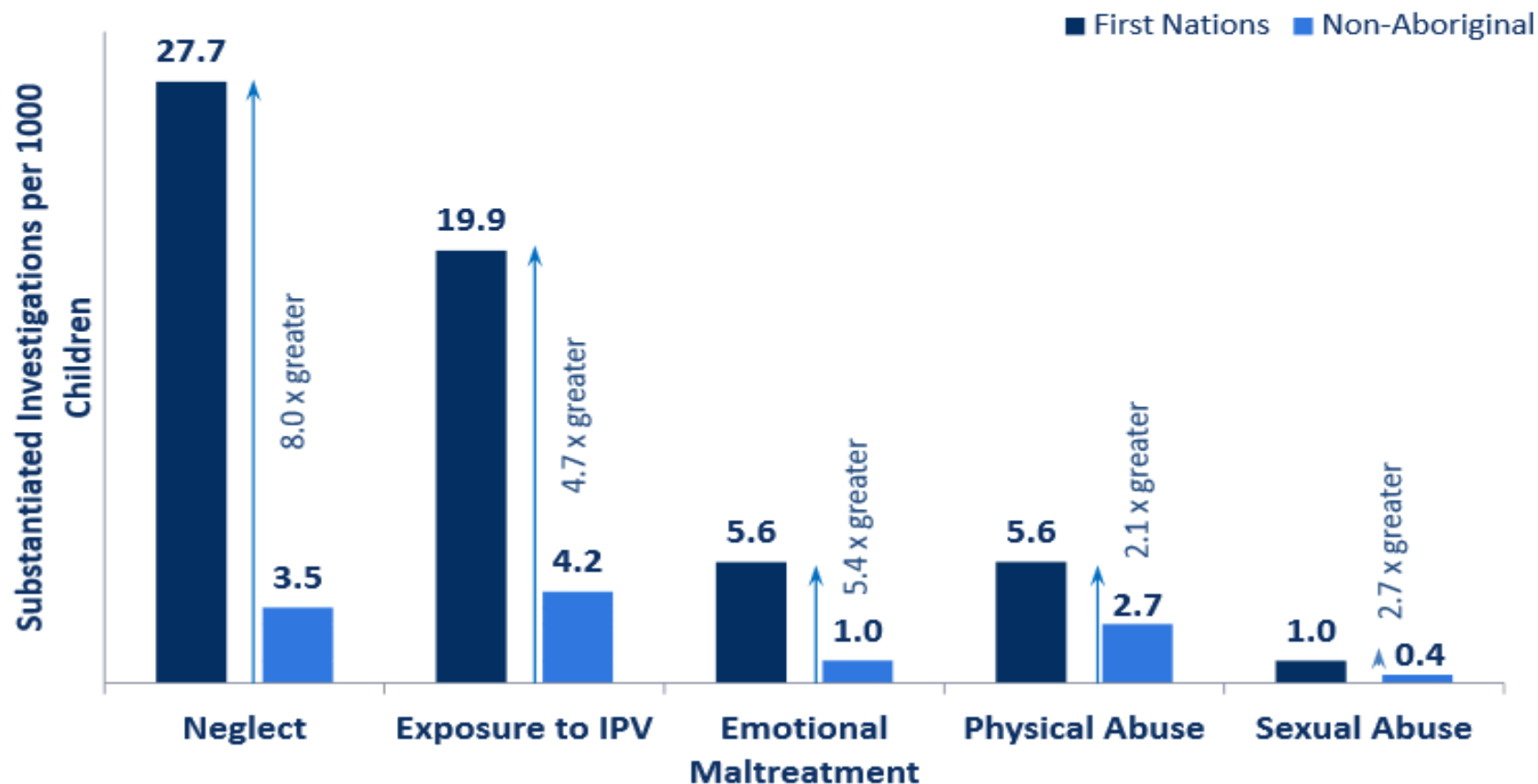
^hStatistics Canada, 2008

First Nations children in Alberta are 14.6 times more likely to be placed in child welfare than other children

KISKISIK AWASISAK: REMEMBER THE CHILDREN

Source: Kiskisik Awasisak: Remember the Children (CIS-2008)
WWW.CWRP.CA

PRIMARY CATEGORIES OF MALTREATMENT IN SUBSTANTIATED FIRST NATIONS AND NON-ABORIGINAL MALTREATMENT INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY SAMPLED AGENCIES



Source: Kiskisik Awasisak: Remember the Children (CIS-2008)
WWW.CWRP.CA

Drivers to Overrepresentation and Barriers to addressing it

- Poverty
- Poor or inadequate housing
- Substance misuse
- Mental health and wellness
- Inequality
- Inadequate and poorly targeted child welfare interventions
- Inadequate training for child welfare administrators, social workers and allied service providers.



People living in more equal societies:

Live longer

Are better educated

Have robust economies

Live in safe/trusting communities

Have lower rates of mental illness and substance misuse

(Wilkinson & Pickett, 2010- The Spirit Level)



The Spirit Level

Why Equality is Better for Everyone

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett

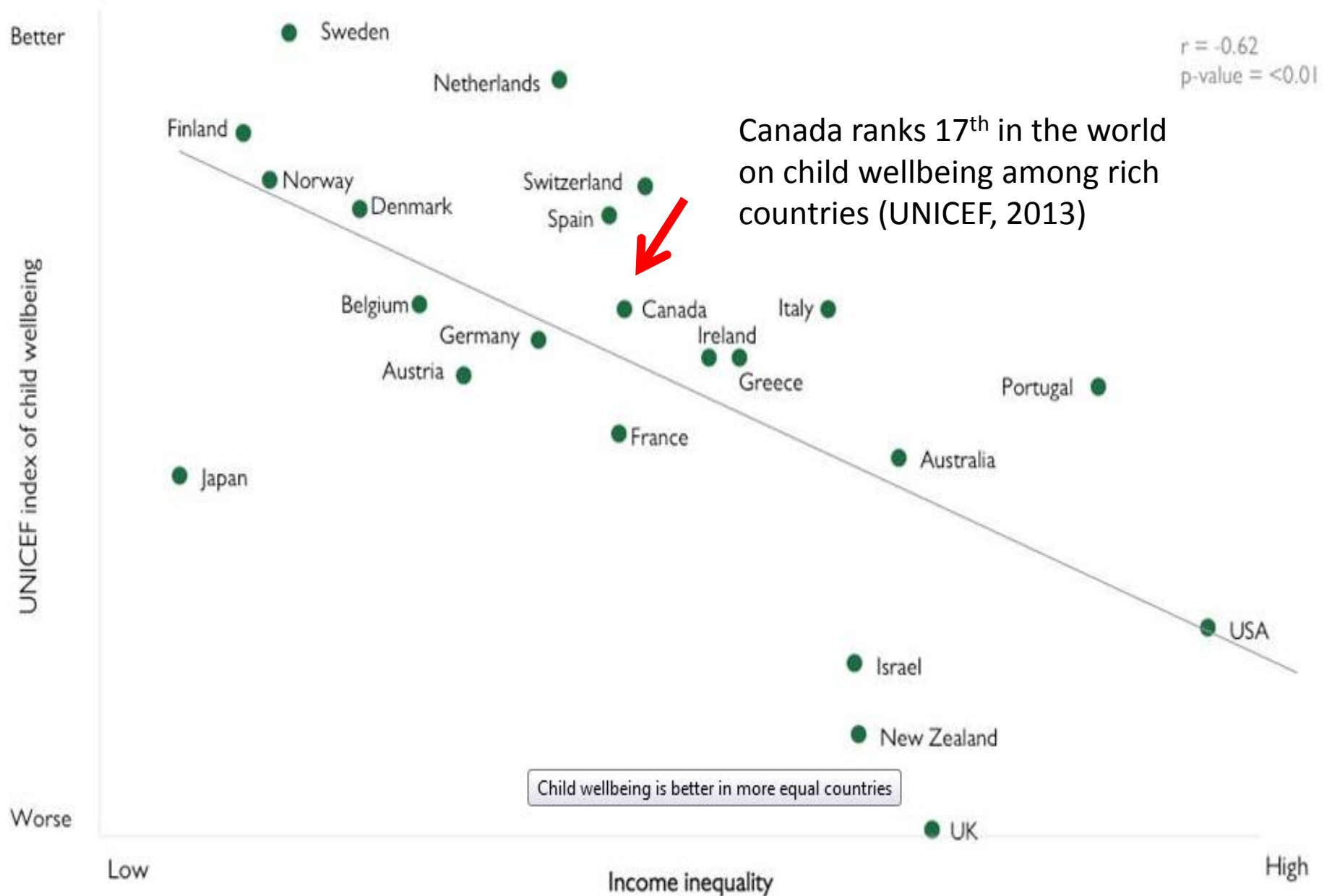
'A book with a big idea, big enough to change political thinking'
Sunday Times

'A sweeping theory of everything' *Guardian*

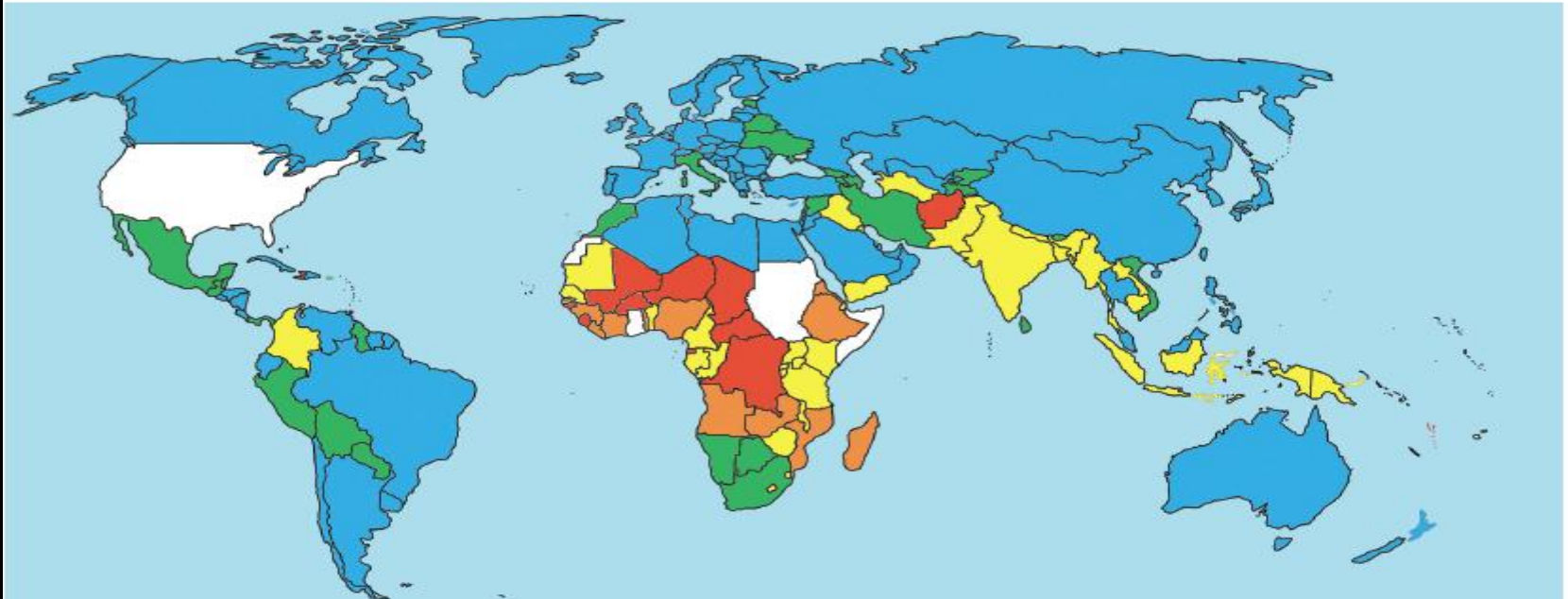
'Highly influential' *The Times*



Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, 2010



The KidsRights Index - overall score



Canada ranks 60th in the world in terms of respecting children's rights

Kidsrightsindex.org

		Score					ment
1	Portugal	0,888	0,99	0,99	0,79	0,94	0,75
2	Netherlands	0,872	0,99	1,00	0,81	0,98	0,64
3	Norway	0,862	0,99	1,00	0,83	0,96	0,60
4	Slovenia	0,857	0,99	1,00	0,82	0,98	0,58
5	Iceland	0,856	1,00	1,00	0,83	0,93	0,60
6	Switzerland	0,852	0,98	1,00	0,80	0,98	0,58
7	Ireland	0,848	0,99	1,00	0,83	0,92	0,58
8	Sweden	0,833	0,99	1,00	0,83	0,97	0,50
9	France	0,831	0,99	1,00	0,84	0,95	0,50
10	Spain	0,829	0,98	1,00	0,85	0,94	0,50

What can Child Welfare
do about poverty?



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Welcome to the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

About NCHCW

The **National Center for Housing and Child Welfare (NCHCW)** links housing resources and knowledge to child welfare agencies in order to improve family functioning, prevent family homelessness, and reduce the need for out-of-home placement. The Center's work also includes a focus on youth permanency and independent living to ensure that older youth in foster care have a connection to permanent family as well as a solid plan for stable housing and services to help them be successful as adults.

The Center works at the local, regional, and national level to create cross-agency partnerships to enable communities

w.org/

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Microfinance

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Microfinance

Why will some low-income Australian families pay 6 times more for this fridge than they should?

Many low-income Australian families can't afford to buy a fridge - instead, they rent one.

Renting a secondhand 420L Westinghouse refrigerator costs approximately \$905 per annum whereas buying the same refrigerator new costs approximately \$990.

This means that over 5 years, the low-income family will pay \$3,535 more for a refrigerator than a family who can afford to buy one. NAB Microfinance helps low-income families buy





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Bringing Systems Together for Family Recovery, Safety, and Stability

The mission of the NCSACW is to improve systems and practice for families with substance use disorders who are involved in the child welfare and family judicial systems by assisting local, State and tribal agencies.

< 1 2 3 4 5 >

What is NCSACW?



A national resource center providing information, expert consultation, training and technical assistance to child welfare, dependency court and substance abuse treatment professionals to improve the safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes for children, parents and families.

[Substance Abuse
Treatment Professionals](#)

[Child Welfare
Professionals](#)

[Court
Professionals](#)

[Legislators](#)

Child Welfare Professionals

- o Tutorial 2: Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Professionals



Bringing Families Together: Models of Hope and Recovery

Bringing Families Together: ...



**Bringing Families Together:
Models of Hope and Recovery**



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City-Region Studies Centre

Community-University
Partnership (CUP)

► First Nations Children's Action
Research and Education
Service

Research

Education

Who We Are

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Research and Education Service

First Nations Children's Action Research and Education Service

FN CARES is a partnership between the University of Alberta and the [First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada](#). We are committed to:

- translating well-established research on the structural drivers of disadvantage (poverty, poor housing, unequal funding for health care, child welfare and education) for First Nations children, youth, and families into pragmatic, community-based solutions
- respecting and supporting First Nations self-determination in research by engaging communities as partners and co-researchers in all stages of each project
- engaging children and youth in creating solutions to the issues that so directly affect their lives and futures

Click on the video image to watch Cindy Blackstock on CBC's *8th Fire*. She discusses the link between the unprecedented number of First Nations children



What's New?

[Annual Report: 2012/13](#)

[Hi-Ho Mistahey!](#), a brand new NFB film by internationally acclaimed

<http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/research/institutes-and-centres/fncares/>

What can you do about
inequities in government
services for First Nations
children?

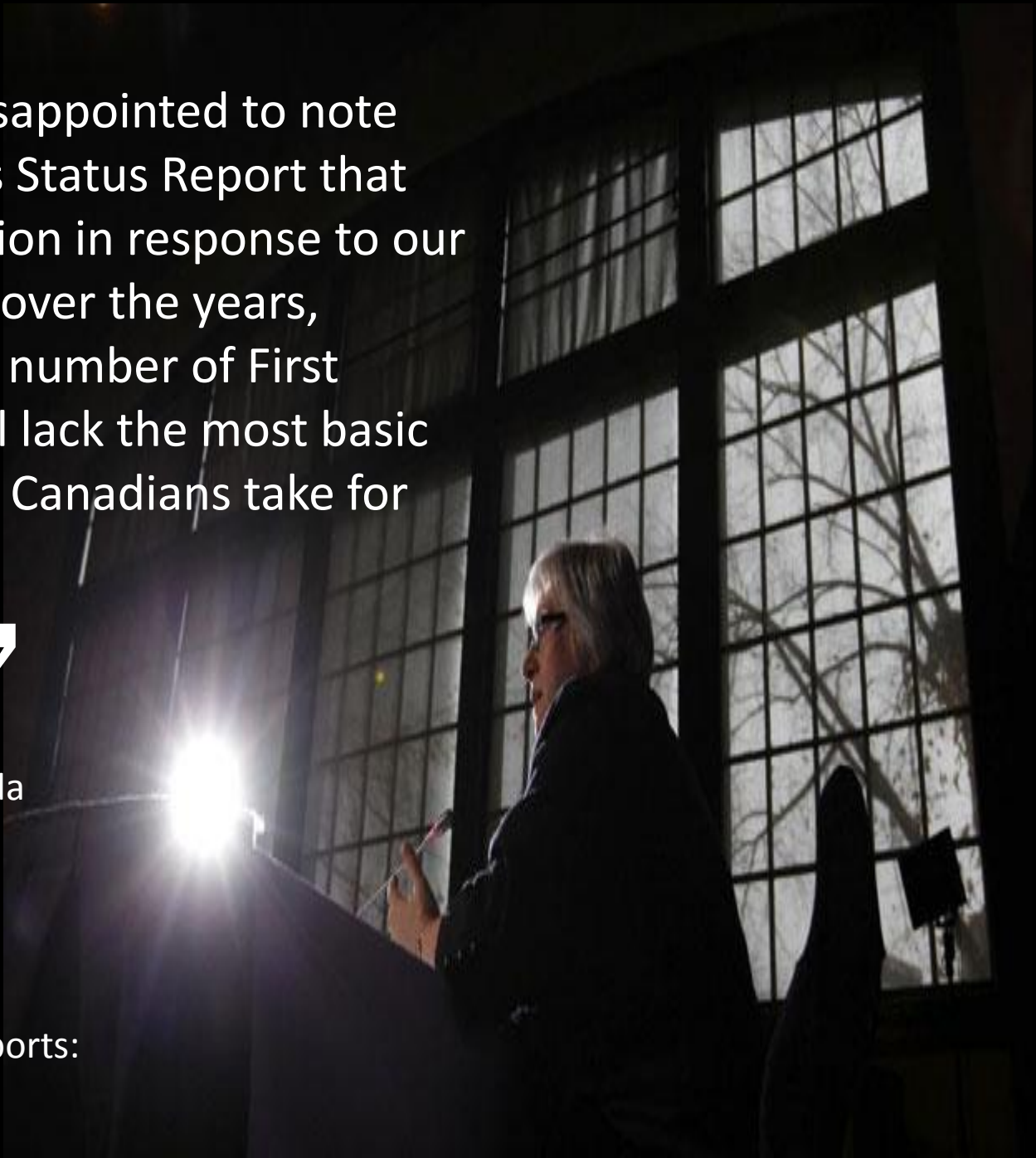
“

I am profoundly disappointed to note in Chapter 4 of this Status Report that despite federal action in response to our recommendations over the years, a disproportionate number of First Nations people still lack the most basic services that other Canadians take for granted.

”

Sheila Fraser,
Auditor General of Canada
(June 2011)

Child welfare specific OAG reports:
May 2008; June 2011



Should funding for First Nations children be the same on and off reserve?





9844 Supporters



**“School should be a time for dreams – every kid
deserves this”**

**Shannen Koostachin, founder of Shannen’s Dream,
(1995-2010)**

Jordan River Anderson

Founder of Jordan's Principle
1999-2005



*Jordan's
Principle*

A child first principle for First Nations children to resolving payment disputes between the federal and provincial governments about how to pay for services every other child gets

7775 Supporters
www.jordansprinciple.ca

Maurina Beadle and Pictou Landing FN v Attorney General of Canada

- Maurina Beadle and Pictou Landing taking Canada to court to enforce Jordan's Principle for Jeremy and all FN children across Canada
- In April 2013, Federal Court ruled in favour of Maurina and ordered Canada to reimburse Pictou Landing FN for Jeremy's care.
- Canada has appealed and wants Maurina and Pictou to pay their legal costs. Hearing: Spring 2014.



Jordan's Principle

Province/Territory	2009 Status	2011 Status	Recommended actions
British Columbia	Fair	Fair	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth has been introduced and discussions with the federal government are underway. An implementation plan is needed.
Alberta	Poor	Poor	Discussions with the federal government are underway but a child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Saskatchewan	Fair		
Manitoba	Fair		introduced and discussions with the federal government are underway. An implementation plan is needed.
Ontario	Fair	Fair	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth has been introduced and discussions with the federal government are underway. An implementation plan is needed.
Quebec	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
New Brunswick	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Nova Scotia	Good	Good	Tripartite agreement between the federal government, province and Mi'kmaq Family and Children's Services provides a mechanism for dispute-resolution to address children's needs, including special medical requirements.
Prince Edward Island	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Newfoundland and Labrador	Poor	Poor	Discussions with the federal government are underway but a child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Yukon	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Northwest Territories	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Nunavut	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.

Alberta has the lowest possible rating (poor) for implementation of Jordan's Principle

Excellent: Province/territory has adopted and implemented a child-first principle to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving services provided to First Nations children and youth.
Good: Province/territory has a dispute resolution process with a child-first principle for resolving jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth.
Fair: Province/territory has adopted a child-first principle to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving services for First Nations children and youth, but has not yet developed or implemented specific strategy.
Poor: Province/territory has not adopted a child-first principle.

Are we doing enough? (Canadian Paediatric Society, 2012)

The I am a witness Campaign

- Human Rights case alleges Canada 's provision of child welfare is discriminatory pursuant to the Canadian Human Rights Act
- Watch *I am a witness* video to find out what young people think about the case.
- Watch the testimony at <http://aptn.ca/pages/news/tag/kids-in-care/>



12,458 Supporters

**Complaint filed with
CHRC 2007**



**CHRC refers to CHRT
September 2008**



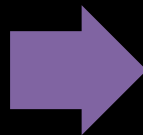
**2 Federal Court
Decisions refuse
Canada's efforts to
derail referral to
Tribunal (2011, 2012)**



**CHRT grants Canada's motion to
dismiss on jurisdictional
grounds
March 2011**



**Federal Court overturns
Tribunal's Decision (2012)
and Federal Court of Appeal
refuses Canada's appeal
(2013)**



**Hearings began at CHRT on February 25,
2013 to conclude summer 2014**

**FOLLOW THE
ONGOING COVERAGE**
Canadian Human Rights Tribunal - Ottawa
#KidsInCare

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www.aptn.ca/news



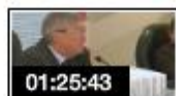
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CHAT



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01:25:43

TRIBUNAL MAY
22 Afternoon



02:05:12

TRIBUNAL May
21, 2013 AM



26:26

TRIBUNAL May
13, 2013



01:35:08

Tribunal April 9th
2013.



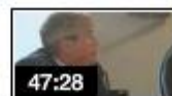
01:43:00

Tribunal April 8,
2013 - morning



06:10

TRIBUNAL April
4, 2013 AM Pt.3



47:28

TRIBUNAL April
4, 2013 AM Pt.1



01:13:03

TRIBUNAL April
3, 2013 PM Pt.1



54:18

TRIBUNAL April
3, 2013 AM Pt.1



14:22

TRIBUNAL April
2, 2013 AM Pt.2



21:

Tribu
2013



On February 14, 2014

Have a heart for
First Nations children



Send Valentine's Day cards to ensure First Nations children
can grow up safely at home, get a good education, be
healthy and proud

www.fncaringociety.com/have-a-heart



Order copies at info@fncaringociety.com
Proceeds support child participation in
reconciliation based activities.

Take Action: “One small act is worth more than a million thoughts”

Ai Weiwei

www.fncaringociety.com



Jordan's Principle

