

Reconciliation Resources

Annotated by Sara Caverley

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Arsenault, Damien. Bellemare, Michel. Gravel, Richard et al. A Goal for the Common Good: A Goal we can Achieve by Working Together. Government of Quebec: Quebec, 2010.

This synthesis underlines the recommendations of the Comité consultative de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale. It is useful as a tool for developing future social policy in Quebec. The action plan includes far-reaching deliberations and innovative recommendations to guide the government and society towards a process to combat poverty. It sheds light on the priorities that have emerged throughout the Committee's work since 2007.

Assembly of First Nations. Our Voice, Our Survey, Our Reality. First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey: Ottawa, January 2009.

This self-governing survey is nation-wide in scope and specific to the health of First Nation populations. The cited data was collected in 2002-03 in 238 First Nations reserves and communities with more than 22,000 participants. The booklet provides a snapshot of the health and living conditions in these areas, using charts, graphs, tables, photos and quick fact boxes. It highlights results from the First Nation Regional Longitudinal Health Survey and includes three questionnaires designed for adults, youth and children.

British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs. Indigenous Child at the Centre Action Plan. British Columbia, January, 2008.

This document serves as a collective vision for a strategic action plan to address issues faced by First Nations children and families. The information is organized by historical, international, funding and political contexts. It highlights such initiatives as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Jordan's Principle. It identifies six goals, each with defined action items and desired outcomes.

Butler-Jones, David. The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada. Public Health Agency of Canada: Ottawa, 2009.

This report focuses on the current health and well-being of children in Canada under the age of 12. It considers historical efforts made to help children grow up well, highlights successes and identifies where further action is needed, setting trajectories for lifelong health. In this annual edition, Butler-Jones focuses on how childhood experiences impact health over the life course. He mentions that inequalities are evident particularly among children who are Aboriginal. The work also cites positive examples that demonstrate how Aboriginal communities are creating conditions for good health, such as Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program, Head Start Program and Eel Ground First Nation School. It is intended to generally inform Canadians about various factors that contribute to establishing and maintaining good health and recommended for parents, teachers, caregivers, health professionals and decision-makers.

Cameron, Gary and Coady, Nick, eds. Moving Toward Positive Systems of Child and Family Welfare. Wilfred Laurier University Press: Waterloo, 2007.

The papers in this volume provide a general description and critique of Canadian child and family welfare systems. The authors examine child welfare drawing on a variety of perspectives and international comparisons to enrich their considerations for future steps. They present possibilities for innovation in Canadian child welfare, extrapolating from literature reviews and original research. Readers will find each chapter can be used for different purposes, containing enough contextual information to be useful as a separate resource. One chapter is specific to Aboriginal child welfare. Dr. Cindy Blackstock (FNCFCS) et al provides a comprehensive analysis of First Nations experiences with child welfare in Canada. They examine funding models, service delivery and illustrative visions for respectful caring models of child welfare developed by Aboriginal populations.

Castellano, M. Archibald, L. and DeGangné, M. From Truth to Reconciliation: Transforming the Legacy of Residential Schools. Aboriginal Healing Foundation: Ottawa, 2008.

This collection of 21 papers from a cross section of dedicated authors points to the social change needed to support reconciliation. Each of the papers is introduced with an author biography and summary of themes. Historical components, a breakdown of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and an overview of the role of truth and reconciliation commissions provide comprehensive background, making this document useful for Truth and Reconciliation commissioners. Also contained in the work are reflections made by Aboriginal youth and proposals for new understanding of treaties. One chapter on child welfare in Canada is authored by Dr. Cindy Blackstock (FNCFCS).

A Draft Charter of the Rights of the Maori Child. Te Komako: New Zealand, August 2002.

This document is printed in English and Maori language. It is based on two years of consultation and development with health and educational provider groups. It lists and explains fundamental principles, ethos and children's rights based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Hodgkin, Rachel and Newell, Peter. Implementation Handbook for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. United Nations Publications: New York, 2007.

This extensive 800 page handbook is intended for use as a practical tool for implementation by governments, UNICEF, UN agencies, NGOs, human rights institutions and academics to guide them on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The implications of each article in the Convention is explained and illustrated in this fully revised third edition, which includes a CD ROM. Each article is structured to include detailed consideration of the background and implications of individual elements of the article. Appendices include the full texts of the convention on the Rights of the Child, a guide to UN-related agencies and a concluding implementation checklist. This handbook is meant to be widely used by all those involved in promoting the fullest possible implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mackay, Sharon, Fuchs, Don and Brown, Ivan eds. Passion for Action in Child and Family Services: Voices from the Prairies. Canadian Plains Research Centre Press: Regina, 2009.

This volume includes a foreword by British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth. The essays represent a selection of presentations from a 2007 symposium in Regina, which emphasized the importance of sharing information about successful initiatives for at-risk children. Taken as a whole, the book advocates strengthening education, training, policy, service delivery and research to assist children and families ranging from across the prairies and Northwest Territories. It

is recommended for university educators, government and First Nations training and service delivery administrators.

Richard, Bernard. Hand-in-Hand: A Review of First Nations Child Welfare in New Brunswick. Office of the Ombudsman and Child and Youth Advocate. Fredericton, February 2010.

This review presents 93 recommendations regarding child welfare services provided in New Brunswick's fifteen First Nations communities. It is aimed towards each level of government and calls upon all residents of the province to strive for equal opportunity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike. It analyzes the situation of child welfare services in Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities, from a social, economic and cultural context.

The report offers a voice to First Nations youth, their families, community leaders and service providers. It is fused with passages from Mi'kmaq Creation Stories; illustrations of lives improved by child welfare agencies; and poignant case studies, such as the legacy of Jordan River Anderson. It is also inclusive of tables displaying child welfare service delivery models. The appendix contains a roadmap for implementing the report's recommendations. It is intended for all governments and lays out targets to be achieved between June 2010 and April 2011.

The report is commended for looking beyond the provision of better services in individual child welfare cases by making recommendations aimed at preventing these kinds of cases from arising in the first place – what can be done to improve the underlying determinants of child welfare, including recreational activities, household income, dependency issues, and linguistic and cultural identity. Moreover, this section focuses on finding solutions to combat addictions, reducing domestic violence and preserving and promoting First Nations languages.