

Foreword

Joan Glode

Mi'Maq Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia

In my busy life as a social work administrator, mother, grandmother and board and committee person, I come into daily contact with individuals and groups who represent the broad cross section of our communities and families as well as the agencies we work with and the government groups that fund us. Sharing pictures of my grandson has superceded stories about my dogs but the essential things in life remain the same: working with our staff and with our community to understand and address both the emerging and ongoing needs of our families and children which includes the aboriginal children: Métis, Status and Non Status Indian and Inuit children which the province transfers to my agency, Mi'kmaq Family when they become permanent care and custody. This current issue of the Journal contains a timely cluster of articles which focus on culturally relevant and age appropriate interventions and supports for our youth, many of whom have been involved with child welfare. One article argues that the unique challenges that aboriginal youth face as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood are compounded by the

growing evidence that indicates that this population experiences childhood maltreatment and intervention for maltreatment differently than non-Aboriginal youth while another exams the possible links between childhood maltreatment and subsequent alcohol misuse. Other articles describe research or programs that have found respectful and culturally appropriate ways of engaging youth and community members to identify needs and gaps in services and suggest programs and services that could be meaningful to the lives of youth in the community. Many of the articles also document their process for obtaining ethical approval and community consent and provide some guiding principles and practices when conducting research in a First Nation or Aboriginal community. A number of the articles come from my own Mi'kmaq community in Atlantic Canada.

Congratulations and thanks to all of our current contributors, especially the community members who shared their stories. You have provided useful and timely information while suggesting areas that need additional work.