

Foreword

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As I prepare my course materials for another semester at the University of Victoria School of Social Work I ponder on how I could be teaching a course entitled, *'Protecting Indigenous Children.'* Although I love teaching and the energy a new semester brings, I am sadly reminded that we do not offer courses entitled this way about other populations. For example, *"Protecting Italian Canadian children"* is not in our course calendar.

The reality is that Indigenous children continue to be represented in significant numbers in child welfare systems and institutions and endemic poverty plays a significant role in many of these situations. The only comfort I find in organizing this course is that I can look to this publication as I always have to share perspectives and voices from Indigenous colleagues and practitioners from across the country that share my concerns and are willing to speak on behalf of our children to inform research, policy and practice.

In this issue, I am pleased to see some offerings from a diverse number of scholars, practitioners and researchers. The journal begins with a discussion on

reconciliation and child welfare which is timely in an era where reconciliation for Aboriginal peoples in Canada is being widely discussed. In creating a community response for special needs youth, the authors remind us that solutions are within our own communities. The issues of poverty, homelessness and the sex trade for Aboriginal girls in Canada are reminders that the roots of child and family practice issues are structural and should be every citizen's concern. This volume also contains articles on policy and rights for Indigenous youth in systems such as education or child welfare. It is also exciting to include articles from other countries such as Australia in this volume and to have an article written en Francais which being one of my languages was a pleasure to read and one I can refer some of our students to.

As a social work educator I am proud to be affiliated with this journal since its inception. I was honored to be asked to write this foreword and hope that you appreciate the hard work of the editorial staff and many contributors of this volume and past publications.

Merci beaucoup. All my relations.

Jeannine Carriere