

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

**Discovering the
Common Core**
PRACTICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CHANGE



In Canada, Aboriginal women are at higher risk of violence and do not share the same legal protection as non-aboriginal women. Their rights are not secured under the Canadian Charter. Similar situations exist for indigenous women around the world. Workshops will identify challenges, and innovative approaches in providing support and interventions for indigenous women and their children.

Keynote: Indigenous Women

[Cindy Blackstock](#),ⁱ(Canada) **The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society:** “ *In Canadian society, we have normalized the risk to Aboriginal children. We no longer question the fact that 30% of the kids in Child Welfare care are Aboriginal, or that 50% of the young people who are being sexually exploited are Aboriginal. .We have normalized it, which has taken away from the tragedy that it is. Each one of these young people should be given a full opportunity to make a difference.*”

[Shirley Slann](#),ⁱⁱ (Australia: Queensland Women’s Health Network and WESNET)

“Domestic and family violence is not just women’s business. It’s men’s business and children’s business. The whole family needs to hear the message.”

Workshops:

1. Promoting Peace -Aboriginal Healing Practices Reduce Family Violence

A sharing of information about an innovative community based prevention program developed and guided by the understanding that indigenous knowledge and traditional healing practices provide a foundation for reducing family violence and creating healthy living environments. - Canada

2. Muddy Waters: Maori Women take Charge of Their Destiny

Who benefits from what is happening to battered Maori women? It is Maori women who are disproportionately represented at the wrong end of the fist, but rarely consulted, and often silenced by systems that should be there to help. - New Zealand

3. Sheltering Indigenous Women: Global Best Practice (Panel: Mexico, USA)

Best practices and strategies provided by shelter to service indigenous women in the Puebla area. – Mexico

The Alaskan experience of developing and implementing shelter programs relevant to indigenous women.

4. The Costs of Violence: to Women, Society and the State

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ CRUZ , survivor from Guatemala and spokesperson for "Sobrevivientes". The "Sobrevivientes" association initially began in 2001 as a youth justice center for victims of sexual violence. In 2003 Claudia's mother, founding member of 'Sobrevivientes', recognized the need to focus on the eradication of violence towards women in Guatemala and to provide access to justice for these women-victims and their survivors. The group has been pivotal in identifying the systemic violence towards women in Guatemala as an aftermath of 50 years of militarism in their country.

5. Indigenous Children Exposed to Family Violence – Promising Practices (Panel: Australia, Canada)

This presentation highlights the issues and responses to Aboriginal women and children who have experience violence in different remote and urban Australian Aboriginal communities.

Honoring the voices of children, uses traditional teachings to promote the opportunity for children and their mothers to explore their thoughts, feels, and physiological responses to the challenging relations they have experienced in life.

6. Healing Journeys: Resolving Family Violence in Indigenous Families: Panel: Canada (French), Mexico (Spanish), Canada

Tools and a resource kit were developed to meet the needs of Aboriginal women and children who have been victims of violence - Canada

A specialized intervention model was developed for use in a shelter in Chiapas, Mexico.

7. Iroquois Way of Life in a Safe House

How to find common ground and build a healthy lifestyle - Canada

ⁱ i Cindy Blackstock is the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS). This national organization seeks to promote, and support, First Nations child and family service agencies in Canada by providing research, professional development and public education services.

Cindy Blackstock has worked in the field of child and family services for over twenty years. She worked as a social worker for the provincial government as well as a First Nations child and family service agency and was executive director of a regional Indigenous professional development agency for Indigenous social workers in 1998.

Cindy's primary research interest is in exploring the etiological drivers of child maltreatment and the role of the voluntary sector in supporting community based responses. She has published widely on the welfare and rights of First Nations children and is a Board member of the Child Welfare League of Canada and of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child.

ⁱⁱ Shirley Slann is a representative of the Western Queensland Health Network and is a Rural and Remote Resource Worker, employed by North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service. She is based in Mount Isa and provides domestic and family violence community education, resources, support and assistance with domestic violence protection orders and variations. An advocate for Indigenous women and Non Indigenous women living in rural and remote communities, she works to ensure their voices are heard and that the many issues facing them are addressed. She wants to assist Indigenous communities to become empowered to address their own issues and to work at their own local responses. There are many issues facing Indigenous women's health and wellbeing that need to be addressed to bring it up to a national standard. Shirley would like to see an end to the violence that is destroying many communities and families.