

NORTHERN BC TOUCHSTONES OF HOPE

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What's New

With the guidance of the northern British Columbia Touchstones team, the Caring Society completed a comprehensive report of the work that has been done since 2008 in the northern BC Touchstones of Hope initiative. It details the movement from the beginning, provides tools and resources, explains the evaluation and research and outlines preliminary themes from across the Touchstones community sessions. The full report is available online at:

<http://www.northernbctouchstones.ca/docs/Northern-BC-Touchstones-Report-2008-2011.pdf>

The next phase of the northern BC Touchstones initiative includes data analysis and participatory evaluation. The northern BC team recorded all of the discussions from the community sessions. Dr. Saini from the University of Toronto has been transcribing the recordings into a qualitative data analysis program. They will be put into a report outlining themes from each of the gatherings and given to the participating First Nations communities and staff from the First Nations child and family service agencies and Ministry of Children and Family Development. The evaluation process will consist of a participatory process open to all of those involved in the community sessions. It will measure short and long term outcomes for children, youth, families and agencies. The evaluation will serve to inform others about the Touchstones process and inform policy makers of community needs when creating programs or policies.

To participate in this evaluation, the Caring Society has created an online survey about your experience with the Touchstones of Hope and to see the changes in northern British Columbia. We have created 9 questions and would like you to complete the online survey that will take about 20 minutes. This is the link to the survey (cut and paste into browser or CTRL+click): <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DQH5LTX>

We realize that this survey does not fully capture the sharing of your stories about the Touchstones sessions but your experience with Touchstones is very important to the work with children in the north. Please fill out the survey no later than **Friday, November 4, 2011**. If you would rather mail in the survey, please contact Andrea Auger from the Caring Society at aauger@fncaringsociety.com or (613) 230-5885 for a paper copy of the questions.

Save the Dates!

Join the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society in promoting culturally based equity for First Nations children by engaging in respectful activities.

First, you can 'Have a Heart' was inspired by the I Am a Witness campaign (www.fnwitness.ca) which supports culturally based services and funding for child welfare services on reserve. In 2007, the Assembly of First Nations and the Caring Society filed a child welfare discrimination case. After 4 years, the Tribunal Chair Chotalia dismissed the case based on a legal technicality. The AFN and the Caring Society stand by their position that the case should be heard on its full merits. The appeal will be held from February 13-15, 2012, in Federal Court at the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Building on 90 Sparks, in Ottawa, Ontario. As the Tribunal falls on Valentine's Day, the Caring Society invites educators, students, caring individuals, to show love, unity and compassion for a better Canada on February 14, 2011. Some ideas include: letter writing, sending Valentine's to Parliament, attending the Tribunal, creating You Tube videos to spread the word, etc. Lastly, show your support for the 7 Ways to Make a Difference for First Nations children, youth and families.

Second, on June 11, 2012, the Caring Society invites you to join the Our Dreams Matter Too walk in support of Shannen's Dream. The idea is to rally one million people across Canada to walk on the same day for equity for all First Nations children. In order to engage everyone, children across Canada would build mailboxes and citizens of all ages would march to their mailbox with letters to elected officials calling for culturally based equity for First Nation children. The walk can serve as a basis for in class learning and include lessons in art to construct mail boxes, language to write letters in English and French and Indigenous languages, civics to understand why letters from Canadians matter in public policy and human rights. We invite you to engage yourselves in these ways to make a difference! For more information, visit the Caring Society's website at www.fncaringsociety.com.

7 Ways to Make a Difference



i am a witness 
www.
fnwitness
.ca

Be a Witness
Sign Jordan's Principle
Support Shannen's Dream
Sign the Touchstones of Hope
Engage Young People
Many Hands One Dream

www.fncaringsociety.com



Resources

Our Dreams Matter Too

Our Dreams Matter Too is a document created by students from Attawapiskat First Nations in northern Ontario and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg in Quebec. The document is a collection of letters written by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and youth addressing the inequalities in education for First Nations children and youth living on reserve. The report was written so that others can help by taking accountability and action for First Nations children and youth. There is also a hope that *Our Dreams Matter Too* will generate an undertaking by a Special Rapporteur of an "Article 45 review of the inequities faced by First Nations children in Ontario and across Canada". This document was convened by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Provincial Advocate of Ontario and can be downloaded at www.fncaringsociety.com.

Access to information documents

These documents discuss funding issues of child welfare services on reserve as well as Jordan's Principle and have facts relating to British Columbia. See www.fnwitness.ca.

Peer reviewed article

A peer reviewed article about the northern BC Touchstones will appear in the Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) Special Issue (Winter) – Native Children. It was written by Andrea Auger, the Touchstones Coordinator for the Caring Society and Brenda Lewis, Provincial Director of Aboriginal Transformation and Support at MCFD. Stay tuned for more information about this article!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE NORTHERN BC
TOUCHSTONES OF
HOPE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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***See what is happen-
ing in the north! Visit
the website at [www.
northernbc
touchstones.ca](http://www.northernbc
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