

First Peoples Child & Family Review

An Interdisciplinary Journal Honouring the Voices, Perspectives, and Knowledges of First Peoples

Foreword

Brittany Mathews and Madelaine McCracken

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[See table of contents](#)

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Brittany Mathews and Madelaine McCracken

Coordinating Editors of the *First Peoples Child & Family Review*

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Twenty years after publishing its first issue, it is with deep gratitude to all the authors, editors, contributors and readers that we announce this is the final *First Peoples Child & Family Review* issue. In the very first issue of the FPCFR published in 2004, Dr. Cindy Blackstock wrote in the foreword:

There can be no more important knowledge than that which guides the care of our children. Precious always, perhaps even more precious now because together, as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, we have before us the responsibility to create a relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children based on respectful coexistence as distinct and valued peoples.

This precious knowledge graciously shared with the FPCFR formed the journal's mission: to centre Indigenous knowledges, perspectives and voices that promoted innovation in matters affecting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children, families, and communities. This work may have been unexpected in other academic journals, but it ultimately created space in the academic world for the knowledge, perspectives, and voices of Indigenous peoples.

Most importantly, the FPCFR published peer-reviewed written, audio, and visual work created by First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous children and young people. Consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, children and young people have a right to participate in matters that affect them. As such, the FPCFR worked with children and young people to centre their voices, perspectives, and expertise on reconciliation and working together to ensure the rights of every child are respected.

This final issue represents the best of FPCFR's work over the past 20, with articles and videos offering critical perspectives on the wellbeing of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and young people. This issue is also honoured to publish two works written by young people. First, Castle Oaks Public School students write about their work promoting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and how children and young people can end injustices. The poem written by Hazel remembers the children lost to the residential school system and offers a call for all people to

Foreword

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stand together to ensure that this generation and future generations of children are honoured and respected for the sacred gifts they are.

We hope that the FPCFR archive continues to offer critical insights and perspectives on matters affecting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children, families, and communities, as well as lessons on including and promoting the voices and perspectives of children and young people. Again, thank you and much gratitude to the authors, editor, contributors, and readers, especially children and young people, who made twenty years of FPCFR publishing meaningful.

In good spirit,
Brittany Mathews

1 <https://youtu.be/Al0zN-GvRbo>