

The “Child’s Circle of Support” - Ensuring Culturally Safe Practices in Providing Early Intervention Services to Aboriginal Children and Families



Assessment Conference – UBC Vancouver
May 5th 2016

Presenter: Nadine Gagné-L'Hirondelle
Provincial Advisor for Aboriginal Supported Child
Development Programs in BC

“The questions we must ask ourselves nationally are very simple. How do we as a country move to heal the trauma that drives the misery of many native communities? What can be done to undo the dynamics our past has dictated? Some may balk at such inquiry, fearing the discomfort that comes with guilt. However, this is not a matter of communal guilt, but of communal responsibility. It is not about the past. It is about the present. And it is about all of us: When some among us suffer, ultimately we all do.”

– Gabor Mate

“Institutions and individuals interacting with native people must become deeply trauma-informed. Judges, teachers, law-enforcement personnel, nurses, doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, public employees, policy-makers all must understand what trauma is, its multiple impacts on human mentality and behavior, and how to address it. Without such information, as I have witnessed repeatedly, the best-meaning people can unwittingly re-traumatize those who can least bear further pain and loss.”

– Gabor Mate

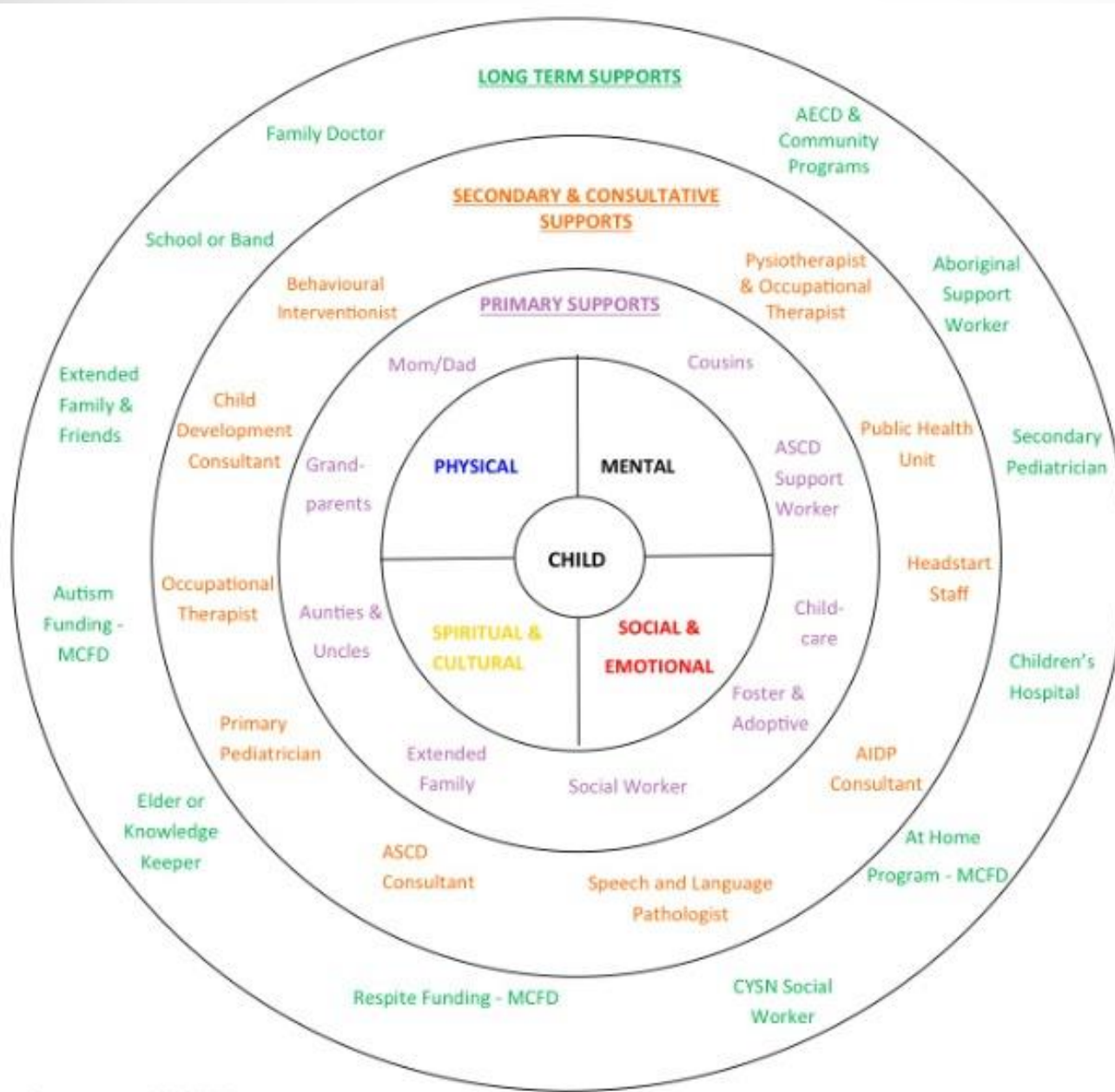
“Children, youth and families, cannot be viewed in isolation from their extended family, their communities and the mental, physical, environmental, social and spiritual realms of their lives.”



Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework – MCFD
2015



Child's Circle of Support – ASCD Policy Framework



Adapted from
 “Trinity’s Ecological Model of Support”
 By Laranna Androsoff
 (ASCD Provincial Policy Working Group—Parent Representative)

Links to key documents

Jordan's Principle

- http://speakingmytruth.ca/downloads/AHFvol1/11_Blackstock.pdf
- <http://aptn.ca/news/2014/05/28/jordans-principle-equal-access/>

January 26th 2016 - CHRT rules Canadian government is racially discriminating against First Nations children

<https://www.cssspnql.com/en/news-media/single/2016/01/26/human-rights-tribunal-finds-the-canadian-government-is-racially-discriminating-against-163-000-first-nations-children>

Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada – TRC Findings and Call to Action

- [http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring the Truth Reconciling for the Future July 23 2015.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring%20the%20Truth%20Reconciling%20for%20the%20Future%20July%2023%202015.pdf)
- [http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls to Action English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls%20to%20Action%20English2.pdf)

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRI
PS_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRI
PS_en.pdf)

**Disrupted Attachments: A Social Context Complex
Trauma Framework and the Lives of Aboriginal
Peoples in Canada – Research Paper**

http://www.naho.ca/jah/english/jah05_03/V5_13_Attachments_02.pdf

Relational Pathways in Early Intervention (AIDP research report by Alison Gerlach)

http://aidp.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Research_Summary_AIDP_AGerlachSept2015.pdf

Steps in the Right Direction – Connecting & Collaborating in Early Intervention Therapy with Aboriginal Families & Communities (2007), by Alison Gerlach for BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/files_2/accs-publications.php (electronic copy or order a hard copy).

Aboriginal Children in Care - Report to Canada's Premiers - July 2015

[http://www.canadaspremiers.ca/phocadownload/publications/aboriginal children in care report july2015.pdf](http://www.canadaspremiers.ca/phocadownload/publications/aboriginal_children_in_care_report_july2015.pdf)

**“DNA and the Impact on Intergenerational Trauma”
CBC interview**

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2676226824>

Contact Information

Aboriginal Infant Development and Aboriginal Supported Child
Development Provincial Office

551 Chatham Street,
Victoria BC V8T 1E1



(Phone) 250-388-5593
(Toll Free) 1-866-338-4881
(Fax) 250-388-5502
www.aidp.bc.ca
www.ascdp.bc.ca



Nadine Gagné-L'Hirondelle (ASCD Provincial Advisor)
advisor.ascdp@bcaafc.com