



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society

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## Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling encouraging for Indigenous children and families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**WEST VANCOUVER, BC - COAST SALISH TERRITORY** - The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) acknowledges and applauds the courage, persistence and determination of Dr. Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations (along with the Chiefs of Ontario and Amnesty International) for today's success in their struggle with Canadian discrimination against First Nations and Aboriginal children.

Through today's Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) decision, all may now clearly see the systematic discrimination visited on First Nations and Aboriginal children as a matter of Federal policy.

Although it has been widely known that First Nations and Aboriginal children are grossly overrepresented in child welfare statistics, this decision forces its acknowledgement as a symptom of racial discrimination.

This may raise uncomfortable questions for many. We are now forced to ask if austerity in Canadian politics has been won, in part, at the expense of a generation of First Nations and Aboriginal children.

"The continuity of the conditions considered in the case with Canada's Indian Residential School System was noted by the adjudicators. Although the CHRT is to be applauded also for the decision, its wish of "healing and recognition for all Aboriginal peoples across Canada for the individual and collective trauma endured as a result of the Indian Residential Schools system" will fall short if not followed up with comprehensive anti-racist policy programmes and leadership, along with wholesale decolonizing of social development efforts. Central to these must be a fundamental shift in policy and programs that support children and families, including immediate and substantial Federal and Provincial increases in investment in early years services such as child care, Indigenous early childhood education, development and care, and Head Start," said Mary Teegee, BCACCS Board President.

The truth can make reconciliation problematic. As Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould suggests, how are we to reconcile with deliberate practices of "not providing indigenous children with the opportunity to be able to succeed?" New leadership and new partnership is required if First Nations and Aboriginal peoples are to have Canadian partners worthy of reconciliation.

BCACCS hopes that Canadian society is up to the challenge, and that the truth of its legacies of racial discrimination will empower us all toward new forms of collective life, and not merely reconciliation with existing ones.

All of our children deserve no less from us.

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More info about BCACCS:

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) is committed to nurturing excellence through community outreach, education, research, and advocacy to ensure every Aboriginal child in BC has access to spiritually enriching, culturally relevant, high quality early childhood development and care services. Link to BCACCS [website](#)

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