

Children's Voices have Power: Ending Inequalities for First Nations Children and Young People



Cindy Blackstock, PhD

Big Ideas Congress: May 25, 2014

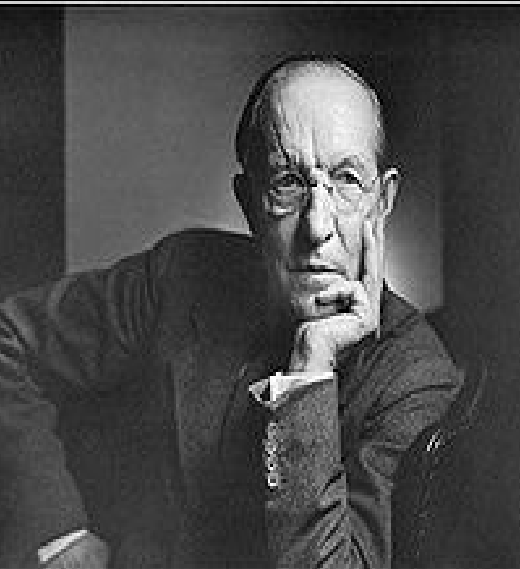
First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Associate Professor, University of Alberta

The Beaver
CANADA'S HISTORY MAGAZINE



Duncan Campbell
Scott, Superintendent
of Indian Affairs



IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
151,711--10
ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
DEPUTY Supt GENERAL OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
OTTAWA

Ottawa, August 22nd, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to place herewith the copy of regulations relating to the education of Indian children, and to request you to have the goodness to furnish me at your early convenience with a form of warrant for the committal of an Indian child to an Industrial School, under Section 9 of the said Regulations. Our Agent has been instructed to give to the person in charge of the child whom it is proposed to commit the notice required by the aforesaid Section, and I should like if possible to be able to transmit the form of ~~affidavit~~ tomorrow.

Your obedient servant,

Acting Deputy Sup't General
of Indian Affairs.

A. Power, Esq.,
Acting Deputy Minister of Justice,
Ottawa.



353988

Total Results of 245 pupils examined in 7 Indian Schools:-
(Including 1000 American)

Age	No. in Family alive.			Aver. children liv'g.	
	Father	Mother	Children	Alive	Alive/Dead
5 or under	8	10	16	14	18
6-8	14	16	24	18	24
9-11	73	145	171	587	289
					3.7

Temperature		Pulse		Respiration		Glands		Nose	
98.4	99	98	100	Under 20	21-25	26-30	31-35	Nor.	Abn.
99	100	101	80	80	120	20	25	over	
95	117	85	101	70	65	97	109	29	177
									68
									179
									64

Throat		Lungs		Chest		AV. exp'n of Chest		Gen. Appoe	
Nor.	Abn.	Nor.	Abn.	Good	Dep'd.	Fair	Poor	or	or



Indian Act introduced to eradicate Indian peoples and ways of life

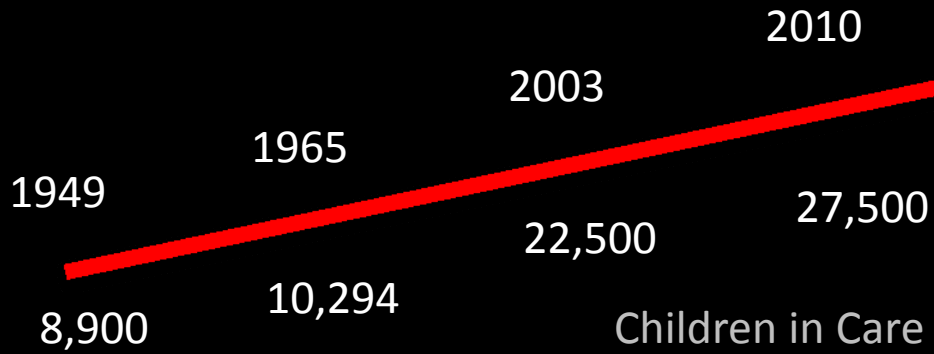
Duncan Campbell Scott gets a warrant for the removal of Indian children "not properly cared for"

Provincial child welfare begins on reserves.

Caldwell finds 80 percent of children in the schools are there for child welfare reasons

Siksika First Nation opens child welfare agency

Human Rights Case alleging Fed. Gov't discrimination towards First Nations children



Children in Care

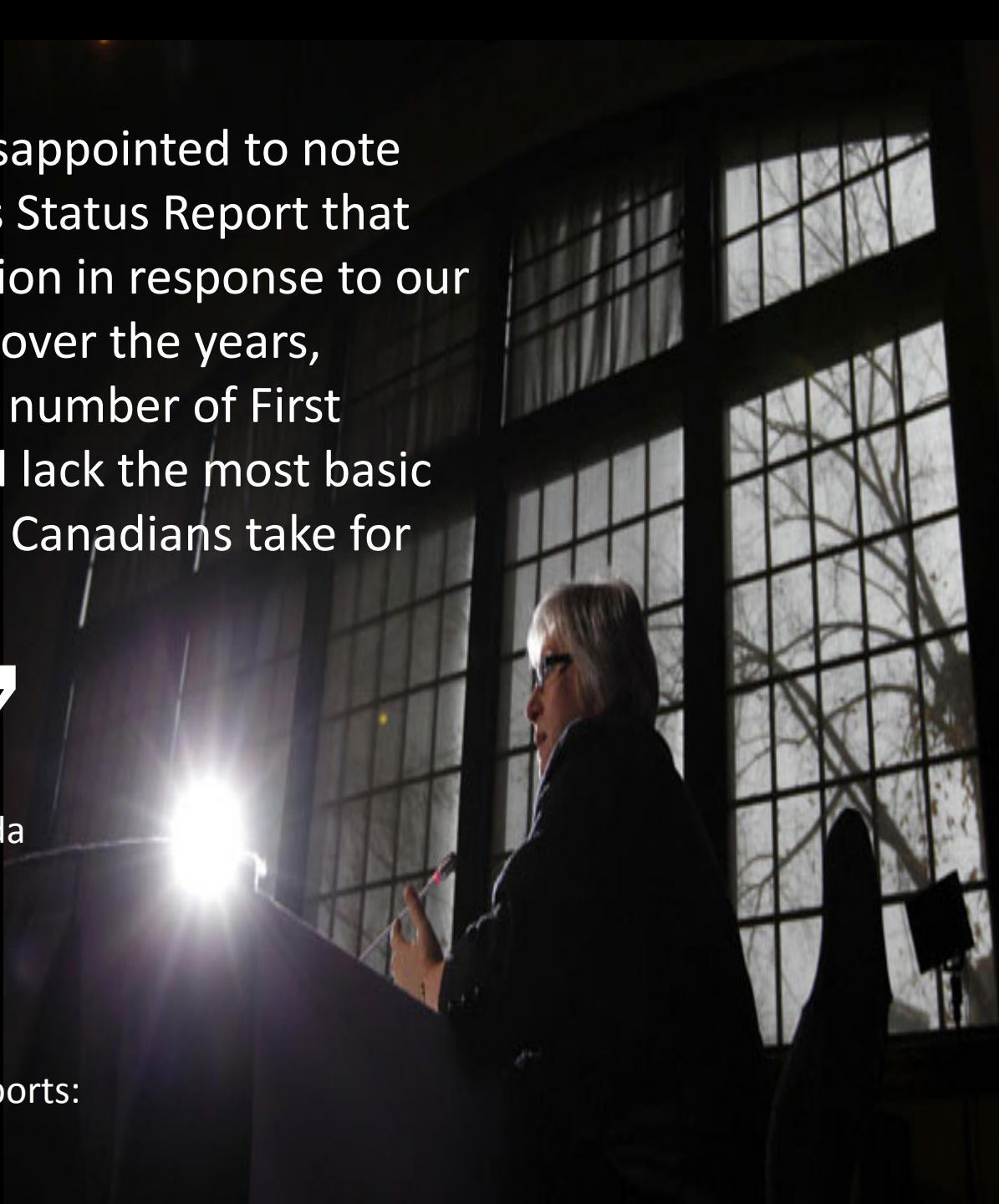
“

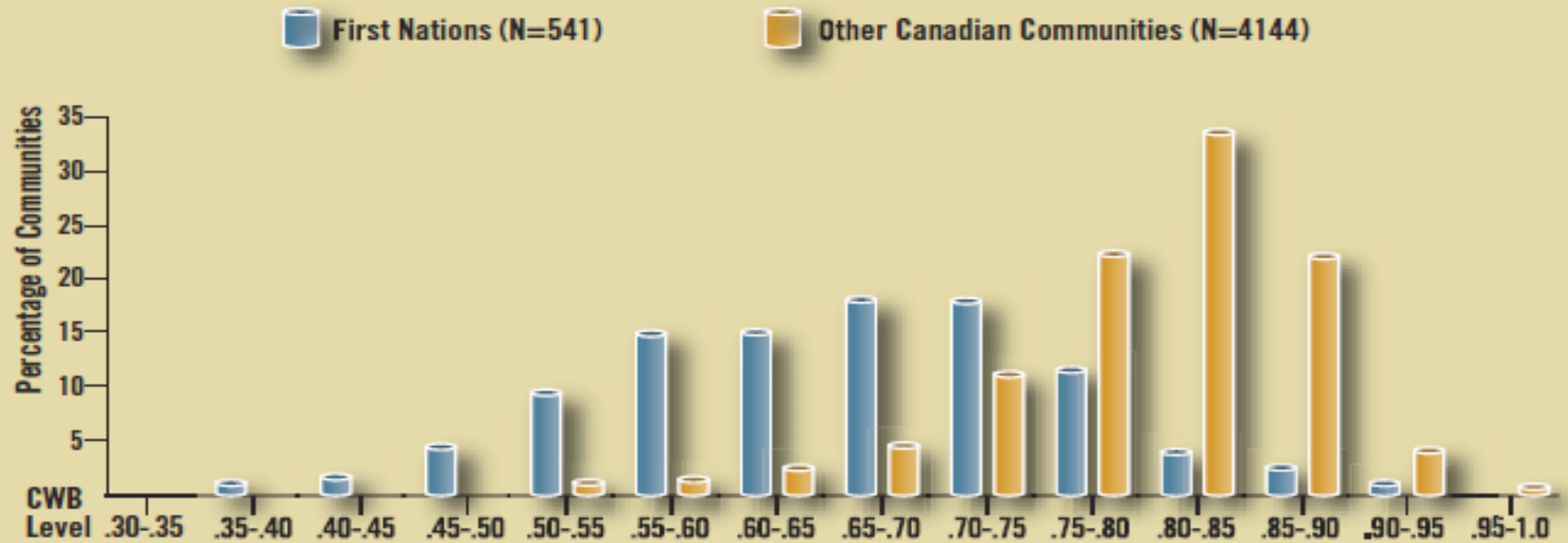
I am profoundly disappointed to note in Chapter 4 of this Status Report that despite federal action in response to our recommendations over the years, a disproportionate number of First Nations people still lack the most basic services that other Canadians take for granted.

”

Sheila Fraser,
Auditor General of Canada
(June 2011)

Child welfare specific OAG reports:
May 2008; June 2011





The disparity in well-being between First Nations and other Canadian communities is also evident when you look at those communities with the highest and lowest CWB scores. Although First Nations communities made up approximately 13% of all Canadian communities, 92% of the “bottom 100” Canadian communities in 2001 were First Nations. One First Nation did rank among the “top 100” Canadian communities in 2001, highlighting again that well-being varied greatly from one First Nation to another.

HDI application to First Nations

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

<http://www.publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/R2-348-2004E.pdf>



People living in more equal societies:

Live longer

Are better educated

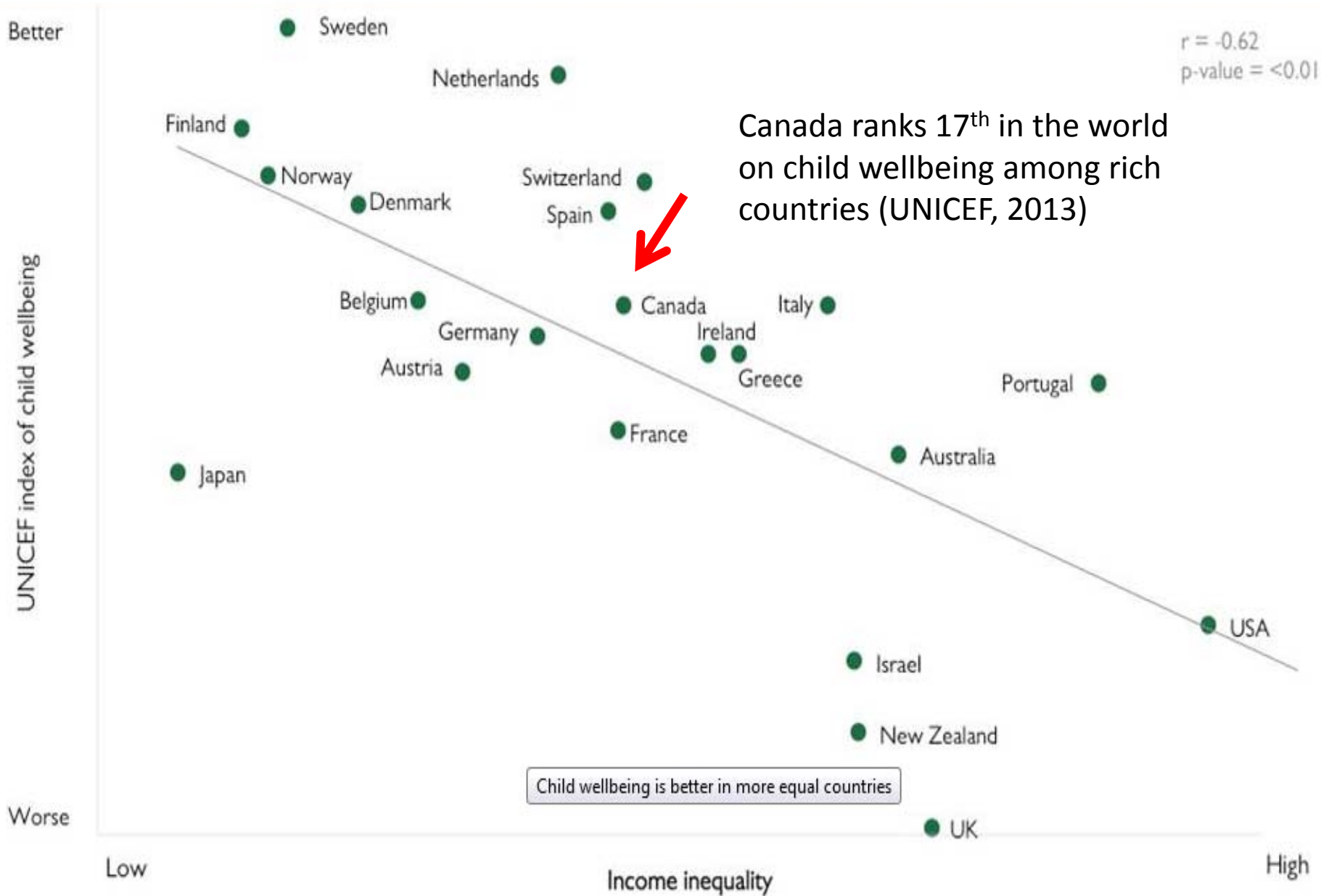
Have robust economies

Live in safe/trusting communities

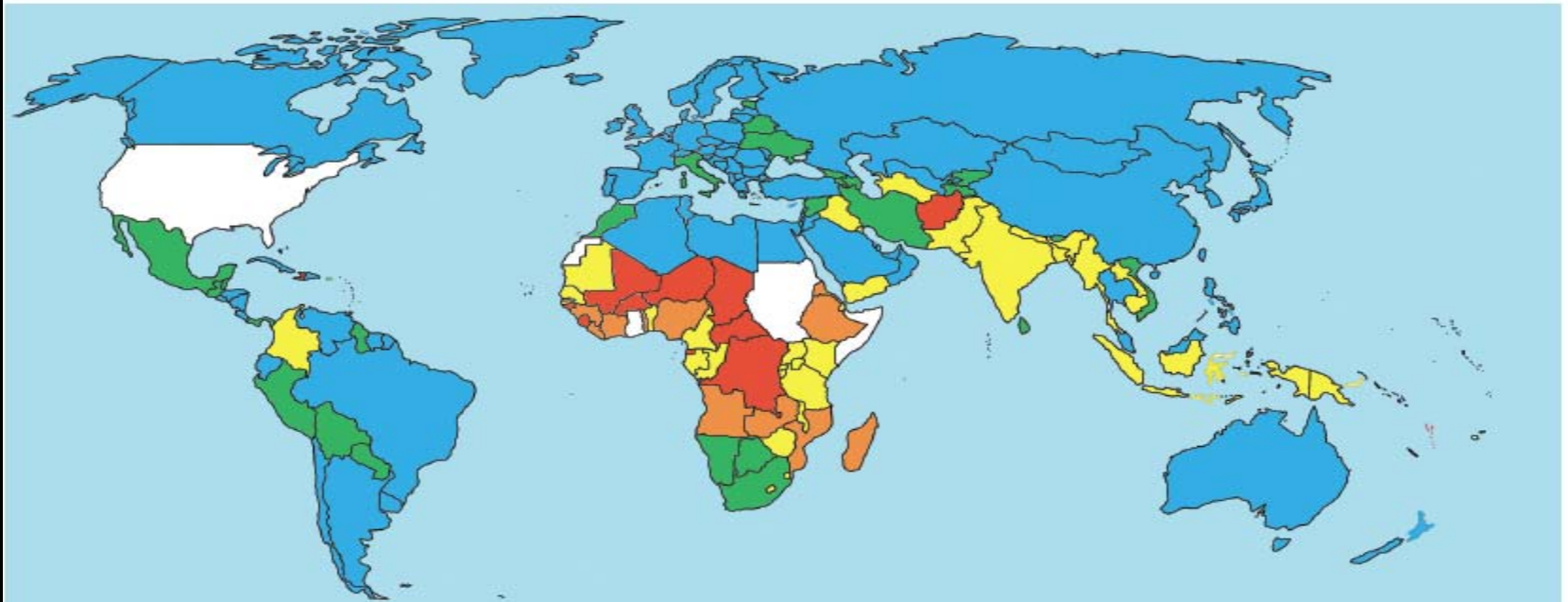
Have lower rates of mental illness and substance misuse

(Wilkinson & Pickett, 2010- The Spirit Level)

The income gap tripled between 1980 and 2012. (Conference Board of Canada, 2012)



The KidsRights Index - overall score



Canada ranks 60th in the world in terms of respecting children's rights and 11th in the world on the Human Development Index (2013) Kidsrightsindex.org

2	Netherlands	0,872	0,99	1,00	0,81	0,98	0,64
3	Norway	0,862	0,99	1,00	0,83	0,96	0,60
4	Slovenia	0,857	0,99	1,00	0,82	0,98	0,58
5	Iceland	0,856	1,00	1,00	0,83	0,93	0,60
6	Switzerland	0,852	0,98	1,00	0,80	0,98	0,58
7	Ireland	0,848	0,99	1,00	0,83	0,92	0,58
8	Sweden	0,833	0,99	1,00	0,83	0,97	0,50
9	France	0,831	0,99	1,00	0,84	0,95	0,50
10	Spain	0,829	0,98	1,00	0,85	0,94	0,50

What can you do about
inequities in government
services for First Nations
children?

Jordan River Anderson

Founder of Jordan's Principle
1999-2005



*Jordan's
Principle*

A child first principle for First Nations children to resolving payment disputes between the federal and provincial governments about how to pay for services every other child gets

8249 Supporters
www.jordansprinciple.ca

- Federal and provincial policy differ in terms of the length of time a child must wait before being able to apply for new mobility equipment and the number and/or types of mobility devices the government will pay for a particular child.

Service Example: A child with multiple disabilities and /or complex medical needs requires a wheelchair and stroller and requires that a lift and tracking device be installed in his/her family home. The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB) will provide children with only one item, once every five years. If the item is a wheelchair, NIHB supports the provision of manual wheelchairs only, which must be fitted with seating inserts in order to accommodate small children. If the item is a ceiling mounted lift and tracking device, funding is not provided by NIHB to install the device in the family home. If these same children were to reside off reserve, they would be eligible to receive more than one mobility devices (if needed) and any installation costs would be borne by the provincial program providing the mobility device.

Maurina Beadle and Pictou Landing FN v Attorney General of Canada

- Maurina Beadle and Pictou Landing taking Canada to court to enforce Jordan's Principle for Jeremy and all FN children across Canada
- In April 2013, Federal Court ruled in favour of Maurina and ordered Canada to reimburse Pictou Landing FN for Jeremy's care.
- Canada has appealed and wants Maurina and Pictou to pay their legal costs. Hearing: Spring 2014.



Jordan's Principle

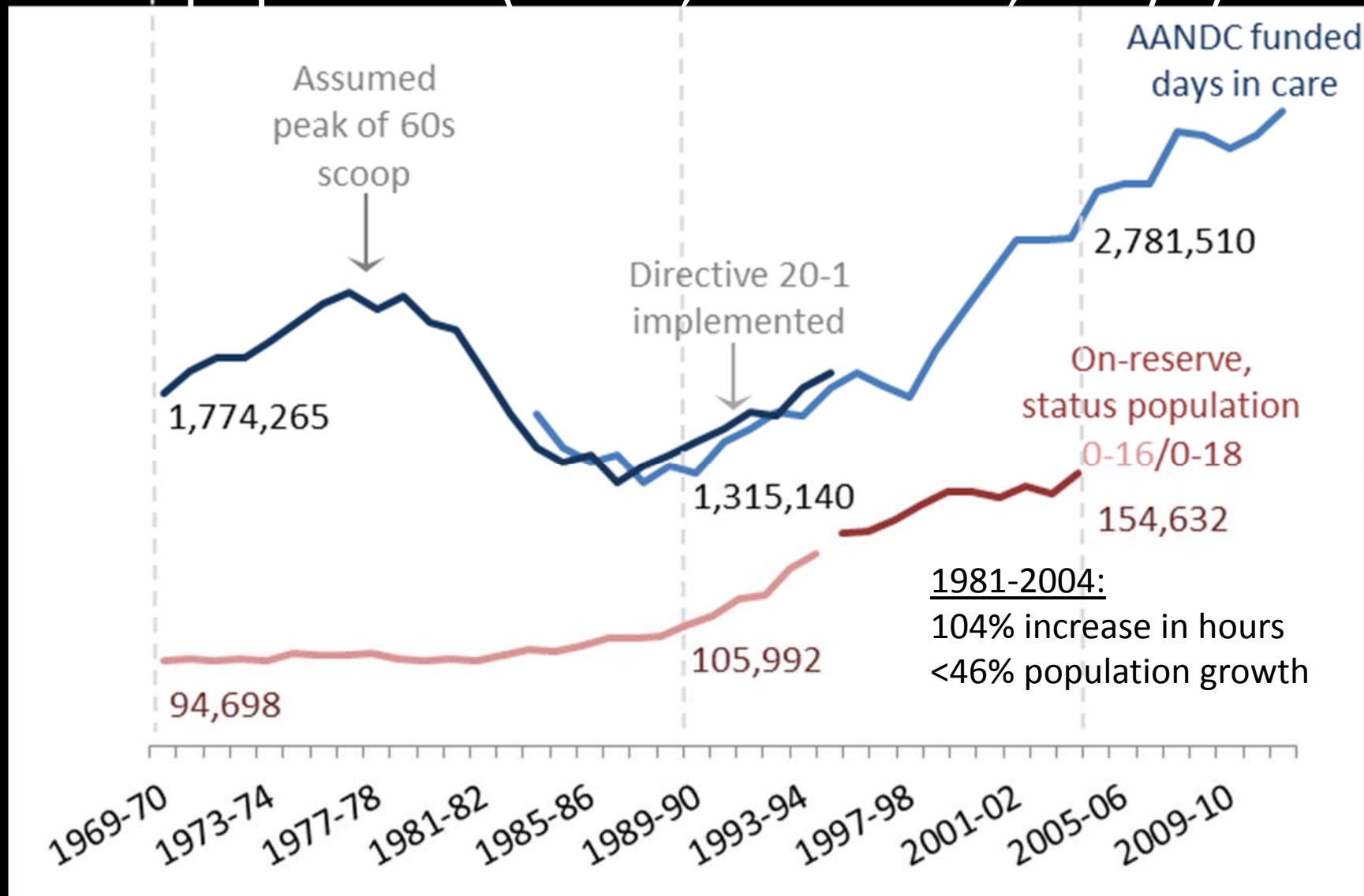
Province/Territory	2009 Status	2011 Status	Recommended actions
British Columbia	Fair	Fair	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth has been introduced and discussions with the federal government are underway. An implementation plan is needed.
Alberta	Poor	Poor	Discussions with the federal government are underway but a child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Saskatchewan	Fair	Fair	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth has been introduced and interim implementation received unanimous support from First Nations leaders. An implementation plan is needed.
Manitoba	Fair	Fair	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth has been introduced and discussions with the federal government are underway. An implementation plan is needed.
Ontario	Fair	Fair	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth has been introduced and discussions with the federal government are underway. An implementation plan is needed.
Quebec	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
New Brunswick	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Nova Scotia	Good	Good	Tripartite agreement between the federal government, province and Mi'kmaq Family and Children's Services provides a mechanism for dispute-resolution to address children's needs, including special medical requirements.
Prince Edward Island	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Newfoundland and Labrador	Poor	Poor	Discussions with the federal government are underway but a child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Yukon	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Northwest Territories	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.
Nunavut	Poor	Poor	A child-first policy to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth needs to be introduced.

Ontario has the second lowest rating for implementation of Jordan's Principle.

- Excellent:** Province/territory has adopted and implemented a child-first principle to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving services provided to First Nations children and youth.
- Good:** Province/territory has a dispute resolution process with a child-first principle for resolving jurisdictional disputes involving the care of First Nations children and youth.
- Fair:** Province/territory has adopted a child-first principle to resolve jurisdictional disputes involving services for First Nations children and youth, but has not yet developed or implemented specific strategy.
- Poor:** Province/territory has not adopted a child-first principle.

Are we doing enough? (Canadian Paediatric Society, 2012)

AANDC estimates of funded days in care and child population (status, on-reserve, all P/T)



CURRENT OVERREPRESENTATION OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN CARE*

Provision of Ongoing Services	% of Children in Care		% of Total Child Population ^b		Disparity in Representation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Children in Care
	Aboriginal Children	Non-Aboriginal Children	Aboriginal Children	Non-Aboriginal Children	
British Columbia ^a	52%	48%	8%	92%	12.5
Alberta ^b	59%	41%	9%	91%	14.6
Saskatchewan ^c	80%	20%	25%	75%	12.0
Manitoba ^d	85%	15%	23%	77%	19.0
Ontario ^e	21%	79%	3%	97%	8.6
Quebec ^f	10%				5.4
Nova Scotia ^g	16%				3.0

First Nations children in Ontario are 8.6 times more likely to be placed in child welfare than other children

* Data for New Brunswick and for Canadian territories were not provided.
 ** Data in this table reflect definitions and data collection protocols used in the care of children in the care of their relatives.) The data demonstrate overrepresentation of First Nations children in the care of their relatives.)

Based on data from: ^aBritish Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2009; ^bAlberta Children and Youth Services, 2009; ^cSaskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, 2008; ^dManitoba Family Services and Housing, 2007; ^eOntario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, 2010; ^fBreton, 2011; ^gMulcahy and Trocmé, 2009; ^hStatistics Canada, 2008

KISKISIK AWASISAK: REMEMBER THE CHILDREN

Source: Kiskisik Awasisak: Remember the Children (CIS-2008)
 WWW.CWRP.CA

The I am a witness Campaign

- Human Rights case alleges Canada 's provision of child welfare is discriminatory pursuant to the Canadian Human Rights Act
- Over 20 witnesses have testified and over 400 documents have been filed as evidence
- Witness testimony concludes May 28-30, 2014 Open to the public 9:30-4:30, 11th floor, 160 Elgin Street. Ottawa. A great learning experience for students!



12,914 Supporters

FOLLOW THE ONGOING COVERAGE
Canadian Human Rights Tribunal - Ottawa
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- PM SESSION.



01:00:03

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- PM SESSION



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TRIBUNAL MARCH 17, 2014
- PM SESSION.



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TRIBUNAL MARCH 20, 2014
AM SESSION PT 2.



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TRIBUNAL MARCH 19, 2014
- AM SESSION.



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TRIBUNAL MARCH 18 2014
AM SESSION



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“

I want to say that when I first started the process of being a witness I only learned about one side of the story... the First Nations children's side. After witnessing both days of the Tribunal hearings I realize THERE IS NO OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

”

Shannara Nafe,
June 2, 3, 2010



Young people wearing I am a witness t-shirts designed by Shannara at the Tribunal

Our Dreams Matter Too Walk

www.fncaringsociety.com/our-dreams-matter-too

- June 11, 2014
- Build a mailbox in your community, have community members march to the mailbox with letters supporting Jordan's Principle, Shannen's Dream and I am a witness campaigns

OUR DREAMS MATTER TOO Walk for culturally based equity for First Nations children

Encourage children, youth, families, schools and organizations in your area to write letters to your MP and the Prime Minister supporting culturally based equity for First Nations children and organize a walk to a mail box in your community!

Postage is free for letters to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament

Walk date: June 12, 2012
Location: Throughout Canada

www.fncaringsociety.com/our-dreams-matter-too

www.fnwitness.ca
Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Hearing

www.shannensdream.ca
safe and comfy schools: equitable education

[Jordan's Principle.ca](http://Jordan'sPrinciple.ca)
students voting for equality

sponsor logos to come



Book signing 1:30 today outside Howe's Theatre
All proceeds support child participation in
reconciliation based activities.

Reconciliation means doing the right thing for this generation of children

www.fncaresociety.com



Jordan's Principle

