



OCTOBER 20-21, 2008  
SHERATON VANCOUVER WALL CENTRE



CHAMPIONS FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
THE 2008 BC SUMMIT



REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH



# I Am

*(Excerpt)*

I am not perfect and have never claimed to be  
I am not the heiress of a future with a written destiny  
I am not silicon injected  
Trying to be respected  
I am the blood, sweat, tears of generations that  
have gone before  
The creation of a lifetime struggle for equality  
I am the product of a pilgrimage for a better life  
The emergence from dark days of oppression  
I am the hope for a brighter future  
True believer  
Thought provoker  
Freedom fighter  
Hear me roar  
In numbers too big to ignore  
I am reluctant reverie  
Female ferocity  
And I am confident without conformity  
A force to be reckoned with  
I am power waiting to be proven  
Unlimited potential for a future free from  
The need to fight

— Lindsey Richardson  
Grade 12, Summerland Secondary School



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*The Great Below*  
~ B. Tiveddle, Vancouver, Wordscapes Youth Arts Journal





*Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond  
B.C.'s Representative  
for Children and Youth*

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Welcome to our inaugural Champions for Children and Youth BC Summit. I am so pleased that your schedule has allowed you to join us for this important event. The Summit is a unique two-day event that will identify and explore critical issues and emerging opportunities facing British Columbia's most vulnerable children and youth. It will also examine our collective roles and responsibilities as parents, communities, corporations and governments. It will challenge us to shape a future that protects and improves the well-being of these children.

More than 14,500 vulnerable children and youth in British Columbia live outside their parents' home and are receiving a designated government service. Of those, about 60 per cent are in government care. More than half of B.C. children in care are Aboriginal.

Research shows that for many of these vulnerable children, the path ahead will be an uphill struggle. Only about 20 per cent of children in care are graduating from high school. There is a substantial incidence of mental health issues among children in care and they are often heavily involved with the justice system.

As a civil society, we have an obligation to push beyond these challenges, with hope, that we can affect real change. Children and youth look to families, to communities and to us for nourishment – physical, emotional, cultural and intellectual. They look to us for shelter from the harshness of the world that too often defines their lives. When our children and youth turn to us for this help, we must stand up for them with our voices, our strength, our courage and our actions. Your attendance and participation in the Champions for Children and Youth Summit demonstrates, in a very real way, your commitment to this.

I would like to recognize our presenting sponsor, The Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children, and thank them, along with our sponsors and community partners for their invaluable leadership and support. The generosity and shared vision of these community and corporate leaders has helped make possible this world class opportunity to engage in these critical discussions. I would also like to welcome my youth co-chairs Lindsey Richardson and Justine aka 'Fraggle' Goulet – their voices are important, as they will inherit the responsibilities of the future. Thank you for being here, and I look forward to the innovative thought and productive discussions.



**Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond**

*British Columbia Representative for Children and Youth*



*Lindsey Richardson  
Summerland, BC  
Youth Co-Chair  
October 21, 2008*

I am a sixteen-year-old grade 12 B.C. student who would like to change the world. It is events like this which empower me, and others, to do so. I believe it is extremely important for the youth of our province, nation and global community to have equal opportunities to lead fulfilling, successful lives. For a number of years, I have helped to build schools in developing countries to help provide hope for children born without the same amazing opportunities children in BC are born with. Recently, I have come to realize there are many young people, here in BC, who struggle just as much as children in developing countries. I have taken initiative within my own community to make a change and enhance education through my own project, Smiling Back. This program provides backpacks filled with school supplies to children in my school district who wouldn't be able to afford it. If we all take action, big or small, within our communities we undoubtedly have the power to change the future and give the youth of today the hope and tools they need for tomorrow.

— **Lindsey Richardson**, *Summerland BC, Youth Co-Chair October 21, 2008*



*Fraggle Justine Goulet  
Youth Co-Chair  
October 20, 2008*

I am very happy to be part of this Summit and am grateful for the opportunity. I know a great deal about what is being discussed here. I am Justine (aka Fraggle), an ex street youth who has successfully transitioned out of life on the street. From the age of 12, I lived on and off the street as a homeless youth. In 2006 I found myself pregnant and homeless. Since then, I found stability with the help of vital resources and support here in Vancouver. I believe that without an extensive dialogue leading to action, youth like me may never have the fair chance that they deserve.

— **Justine aka 'Fraggle' Goulet**, *Vancouver BC, Youth Co-Chair October 20, 2008*



As we prepared for this Summit, we have had the great pleasure and privilege of being assisted by some extraordinary young people representing several Lower Mainland

youth organizations. I'd like to acknowledge the support of Leave Out Violence (LOVE), led by Camyar Chaichian and Sara Kendall, and the young people that they support, encourage and empower to stop the cycle of violence in their lives. LOVE's artwork and creative writing selections – part of their unique educational programs based around media arts - have been incorporated into the Summit program, the room décor and the creation of the video introductions for the Summit sessions. We are honoured to have them join us at the Awards of Excellence dinner to share their meaningful stories and their creative expression. I'd also like to thank Jennifer Wolowic whose collaborative work with Planet Youth and Street Spirit of the Prince Rupert Friendship House allowed for us to share in some of their remarkable photographs and moving youth video - part of the Ethnographic Film Unit at the University of British Columbia. My gratitude also to the Broadway Youth Resource Center for sharing the stunning works of art from their Youth Arts & Media Gallery, and to Michelle Berry and youth participants from the Take A Hike Foundation for their creative and thought-provoking masks, created with the guidance and support of Arts Umbrella.

All of their contributions to our Summit have added energy and wonderful powerful perspectives, and I thank them most sincerely.

Finally, I want to acknowledge with great respect the hard, courageous, compassionate and important work that is being embraced by all of these organizations to ensure that better paths are being created for all of our youth in B.C.

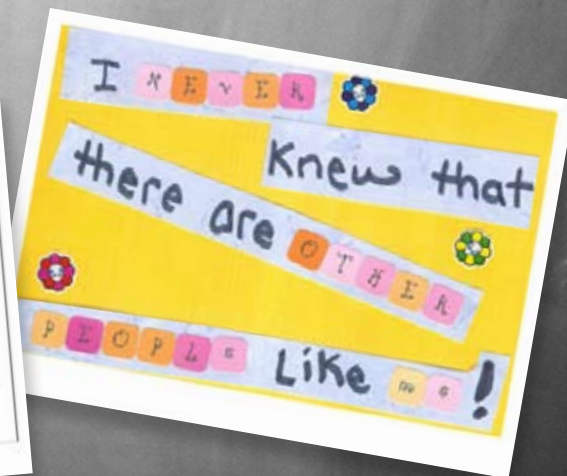
*meatupellafund*

# Untitled

I've been to a school with more dropouts, no shows, and late registrations  
Gangsters and pregnancy were an all time high  
Teachers try hard to make school comfortable and pleasant  
But when you enter it, all you want to do is CRY . . .  
Momma's on welfare and daddy never shows up  
Sister is hungry and brother wants to die  
Laugh it off and fake a smile so nobody knows it  
Live life today and hope I'll get by . . .  
Arriving at youth centers makes life well worth it  
We're all for one and we're all gonna go try  
Live life in peace and forgive all tribulations  
One day we're gonna spread our wings and fly . . .

— Adrian Starblanket  
Broadway Youth Resource Center  
October 7th 2007

Reality doesn't  
exist in my world.



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Foster Care Alumni of America  
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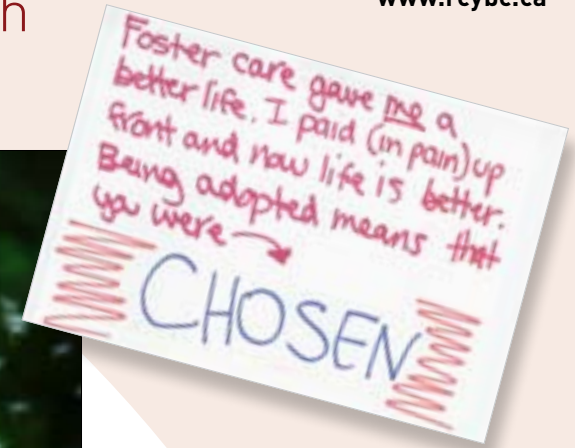


**QUEEN**  
**ALEXANDRA**  
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

Helping the Island's kids be kids.

# The Office of the Representative for Children and Youth

The creation of my office was a key recommendation of the BC Children and Youth Review, by the Hon. Ted Hughes, and I assumed my role as Representative for Children and Youth in April, 2007. Now, for the first time in BC, an independent Office of the Legislature has three regional offices to support vulnerable children and youth. Offices in Prince George, the Lower Mainland and Victoria help ensure that more vulnerable children and youth have easier access to the services and support they need. Working from these locations, my truly dedicated staff provide outreach, advocacy, information and support to children and youth, families and caregivers province-wide.



## Mandate

The mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth's office includes:

**Advocacy** – Every child and youth in British Columbia has the right to be healthy, safe, educated and to be heard. The dedicated team of advocates in the Representative for Children and Youth's office are committed to providing information, advice and support to vulnerable young people from birth to 19 years who need help dealing with services or programs provided or funded by government.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Research** – Ensuring children and youth across the province have access to the services and programs they need to support their health, safety, education and well-being is a significant focus for the Representative for Children and Youth. The office's monitoring team evaluates government-funded programs and services, publicly reports on them and performs research with the objective of improving the lives of vulnerable children and youth.

**Reviewing and investigating critical injuries and deaths** – If a child or youth receiving services reviewable under the Representative's legislation dies or is critically injured, particularly where abuse or neglect are factors, the Representative works with other public bodies to help recommend improvements to services to prevent similar injuries or deaths in the future.



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## MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH – SHERATON WALL CENTRE • VANCOUVER, BC

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 7:00 am – 8:45 am          | <b>Registration</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom Foyer</b><br>Coffee and Muffins   |
| <b>7:00 am – 7:45 am</b>   | <b>Speakers Breakfast</b>   <b>Port McNeil Room</b>   |
| 8:45 am – 9:10 am          | <b>Welcome/Blessing by Deanna George, Respected Elder Tsleil-Waututh Nation</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br>Welcome: <b>Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond</b> , British Columbia’s Representative for Children and Youth   |
| 9:10 am – 9:15 am          | <b>Welcoming Remarks on Behalf of the First Nations Leadership Council</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br><b>Chief Shawn Atleo, A-in-Chut</b>  |
| 9:15 am – 9:20 am          | <b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Presenting Sponsor</b><br><b>Chuck Chandler</b> , Vice-Chair of Board of Directors, Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children   |
| 9:20 am – 10:20 am         | <b>Opening Keynote Address</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br><b>LGen (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire</b> , Canada   |
| <b>10:20 am – 10:40 am</b> | <b>Coffee</b> Compliments of The Justice Institute of British Columbia   <b>Grand Ballroom Foyer</b>  |
| 10:40 am – 12:15 pm        | <b>Plenary #1</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br><b>Caring for Our Kids: An Ounce of Prevention, a Pound of Cure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Nico Trocmé</b>, The Philip Fisher Chair in Social Work, McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families, Director, Montreal, Quebec, Canada</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Ron Abrahams</b>, Clinical Professor, Dept. Family Practice, UBC, Medical Director, Perinatal Addictions and Fir Square at BC Women’s Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada</li> <li>• <b>Evelyn Wotherspoon</b>, M.S.W., Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Calgary Health Region, Alberta, Canada</li> </ul> Moderator: <b>Dr. Perry Kendall</b> , Provincial Health Officer, British Columbia Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, Canada |
| <b>10:15 am – 10:25 pm</b> | <b>Courtesy Break</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom Foyer</b>   |
| 12:25pm – 12:30pm          | <b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Sponsor Lawrie Ferguson, Vice-President, Marketing, Coast Capital Savings</b>   |
| <b>12:30 pm – 1:50 pm</b>  | <b>Lunch</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br>Keynote Speaker: <b>Mr. Stephen Lewis</b> , Professor in Global Health, Faculty of Social Sciences, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada   |
| 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm          | <b>Concurrent Panel Session A</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom CD</b><br><b>Rights and Safety of Children and Youth: In Their Homes, Their Cultures, Their Communities and Internationally</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Eileen Munro</b>, Reader in Social Policy, London School of Economics, England</li> <li>• <b>Howard Dubowitz</b>, M.D., M.S., Professor of Pediatrics, Chief – Division of Child Protection, University of Maryland Medical Centre, Maryland, USA</li> <li>• <b>Aron Shlonsky</b>, Associate Professor, Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare, University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work, Canada</li> </ul> Moderator: <b>Krista Thompson</b> , Executive Director, Covenant House Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada                                  |

## SESSION OVERVIEWS

### *Caring for Our Kids: An Ounce of Prevention, a Pound of Cure*

Early interventions promote resilience in children. They must be supported, coordinated and effective. Our capacity to work with the most vulnerable moms and infants can be a measure of the strength of our child-serving system. This session will explore early interventions to promote resilience and better outcomes for our children, and will remind us to look at the evidence to see how research – especially emerging research – can inform best practice.

### *Rights and Safety of Children and Youth: In Their Homes, Their Cultures, Their Communities and Internationally*

A strong child-serving system prevents the abuse, neglect and maltreatment of children, effectively intervenes when there is abuse, neglect and maltreatment of children, and supports families to be successful to overcome these circumstances.

This session will explore effective child protection systems that are committed to strong child outcomes with a high degree of transparency and public accountability. Effective child outcomes ensure that not only are children safe, but that those children who are looked after by the State have opportunities equal to those children who remain within their families.

In those instances where a child dies or is critically injured within the child welfare system, reviewing, learning and supporting change must be part of that system.

## MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH – SHERATON WALL CENTRE • VANCOUVER, BC

### Mental Health: *The Fragile Balance*

Among key indicators of health safety and wellbeing of children are measures of mental health, and how we support those who experience significant challenges to their mental health. A strong child-serving system must prevent and support those who experience mental health difficulties during childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

This session will explore prevention of mental disorders such as anxiety and trauma in children, and the critical mental health supports necessary in successful child-serving systems. The evidence, coordination of systems, and outcomes for best practice must be developed, evaluated and improved.

### My Story: *Insights and Lessons from Living in Care*

One of the most significant responsibilities that a State has is when it performs the role of parent when a child comes into government care and is placed in foster care, with relatives or in youth agreements.

Clear measures of how well children are supported in care including the stability of their placement, permanency planning, and their transition to adulthood — are critical components of an effective system. There is a need to regularly measure and report to the citizenry to ensure that we have a strong system that can be demonstrated through meaningful relationships, stability and support.

Our objective must be to ensure that children in government care have equally good outcomes and opportunities as those who remain within birth families.

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

**Concurrent Panel Session B | Junior Ballroom**

#### Mental Health: *The Fragile Balance*

- **Charlotte Waddell**, MSc, MD, CCFP, FRCPC, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Children's Health Policy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada
  - **Dr. Richard Meen**, D.Psych., CRCP, Kinark Child and Family Services, Ontario, Canada
- Moderator: **Michael Hayes**, PhD, Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada

3:15 pm – 3:35 pm

**Coffee | Grand Ballroom Foyer**

3:40 pm – 5:10 pm

**Plenary #2 | Grand Ballroom AB**

#### My Story: *Insights and Lessons from Living in Care*

- **Angie Cross**, Director of Social Engagement and Communications, National Youth in Care Network, Canada
  - **Grand Chief Stewart Phillip**, President, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Canada
  - Representatives of youth in care, including members of the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks
- Moderator: **Teresa Lum**, Child and Youth Advocate, Representative for Children and Youth, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Reception | Grand Ballroom Foyer**

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**The Representative's Awards of Excellence Dinner | Grand Ballroom AB**



Photo Credit: Anonymous  
LOVE Youth



Photo Credit: Simon, 17

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 21ST – SHERATON WALL CENTRE • VANCOUVER, BC

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 6:45 am – 7:25 am          | <b>Registration</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom Foyer</b>  |
| 7:25 am – 7:30 am          | <b>Welcome/Blessing from First Nations Elder</b>   |
| <b>7:30 am – 8:30 am</b>   | <b>Delegate Breakfast</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br>Welcome: <b>Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond</b> , British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth  |
| 8:30 am – 8:45 am          | <b>Role of the Business Community in Creating a Civil Society</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br><b>Virginia Greene</b> , President and Chief Executive Officer, Business Council of British Columbia   |
| 8:55 am – 9:00 am          | <b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Youth Co-Chair –Lindsay Richardson , Summerland, BC</b>  |
| 9:00 am – 10:15 am         | <b>Opening Keynote Address</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br><b>Nigel Fisher</b> , President and CEO, UNICEF Canada  |
| <b>10:15 am – 10:35 am</b> | <b>Coffee</b> Compliments of Shepell FGI   <b>Grand Ballroom Foyer</b>   |
| 10:40 am – 11:55 am        | <b>Concurrent Panel Session A</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom CD</b><br><b>Education: <i>Narrowing the Education Gap ,Celebrating Windows of Opportunity</i></b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philip A. Fisher</b>, PhD., Research Scientist, Oregon Social Learning Centre and Senior Scientist, Centre for Research to Practice, Oregon, USA</li> <li>• <b>Sterling K. Clarren</b>, MD, FAAP, CEO and Scientific Director, Canada NW FASD Research Network</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Clyde Hertzman</b>, Director, Human Early Learning Partnership, University of British Columbia, Canada</li> </ul> Moderator: <b>Dr. Lorna Williams</b> OBC (Lil'wat), CRC Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, Director of Aboriginal Education, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada |
| 10:40 am – 11:55 am        | <b>Concurrent Panel Session B</b>   <b>Junior Ballroom</b><br><b>First People's Perspective: <i>A Better Path for Aboriginal Children and Youth</i></b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sandra Edgmon</b>, Program Manager for Intake and Investigations, Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare, USA</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Cindy Kiro</b>, Children's Commissioner, New Zealand</li> <li>• <b>Grand Chief Edward John</b>, First Nations Summit</li> </ul> Moderator: <b>Dr. Evan Adams</b> , Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, British Columbia Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, Canada   |
| 11:55 am – 12:00 pm        | <b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker by B.C. Representative for Children and Youth – Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond</b>  |
| <b>12:00 pm – 1:50 pm</b>  | <b>Lunch</b>   <b>Grand Ballroom AB</b><br>Keynote Speaker: <b>Paul Gillespie</b> , President and CEO, Kids' Internet Safety Alliance, Ontario, Canada   |

## SESSION OVERVIEWS

### **Education: *Narrowing the Gap, Celebrating Windows of Opportunity***

The education system is the main social serving system for vulnerable children. Strong education systems allow children from vulnerable families and difficult circumstances to have equally as enriching outcomes as those who have not experienced social or economic disadvantage.

A true measure is whether equal opportunities are available for vulnerable students to progress in the education system. Findings indicate that vulnerable students do not progress and we need to make improvements; The quality supports have not met their mark.

In B.C. this is of particular concern for Aboriginal students, children in care, and children with special needs.

This session will frame these issues, with a big picture look at education as a social leveler, a place to nurture the learning spirit and a system which cultivates our humanity as a society.

### **First People's Perspective: *A Better Path for Aboriginal Children and Youth***

A focus of this session is addressing inter-generational trauma and barriers that Aboriginal children and youth face. In B.C. this is a major social policy challenge. It has Human Rights dimensions and real implications for meaningful reconciliation. Aboriginal children are significantly over represented in our provincial child care system. We must look at the important inter-relationship among the main determinants of health, safety and education throughout life from infancy through childhood to adulthood. We must look at every opportunity to promote resilience while improving outcomes.

*Continued...*

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 21ST – SHERATON WALL CENTRE • VANCOUVER, BC

Evidence is compelling that we have not built effective supports to ensure the well-being of Aboriginal children. In some instances the lives of Aboriginal children are more vulnerable today than they have been in the past.

A strong child-serving system must ensure that Aboriginal children have equal health status to other children and that their languages, cultures and communities are recognized and protected.

### **A Child's World: International Success Stories**

B.C. strives to have the best child serving system. This is a laudable goal.

Looking internationally at children serving systems in which indicators demonstrate more social cohesion, stronger early childhood outcomes and greater resilience for vulnerable children, we can inform and improve our strategies and approach in BC. What would it take to achieve this vision?

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child requires that we report regularly on how we are doing. British Columbia is ranked against the performances of other countries and in this regard, our performance is not always as good or as high as it should be. In particular, the challenges of dealing with children experiencing social economic disadvantage children in vulnerable communities such as Aboriginal communities and special needs children – these are further indicators of strong national systems and regional systems around the world.

We must reflect on where we are and what we can learn to be more child-focused and child-inclusive. We must ask ourselves honestly if vulnerable children who live in our communities are part of our communities.

**1:50 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Courtesy Break | Grand Ballroom Foyer**

**2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Plenary Session #3 | Grand Ballroom AB**

### **A Child's World: International Success Stories**

Learning from success and embracing excellence is the theme of this panel.

A selection of child advocates from around the world come together to share their experiences and insights. Presenters include:

- **Professor Harriet Ward**, Director of the Centre for Child and Family Research at Loughborough University, England
- **Helen Jones**, Advisor, Department for Children, Schools and Families, England
- **Maria Kaisa Aula**, Ombudsman for Children in Finland
- **Jim White**, President of Covenant House International

Moderator: **Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond**,

BC Representative for Children and Youth, Canada

**3:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

**Champions for Children and Youth 2008 Summit Wrap Up | Grand Ballroom AB**

**Chuck Chandler**, Vice-Chair of Board of Directors, Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children

**Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond**, British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth



*Photo Credit: Anonymous LOVE Youth*



*Photo Credit: Anonymous LOVE Youth*

# Keynote Speaker Profiles



## LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret)

*Commander of UN Forces in Rwanda*

LGen The Hon. Roméo Dallaire (Ret) is a true hero and an outspoken leader for the 21st century.

A decorated Lieutenant General, Dallaire served 35 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. His best-selling book, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, is a stirring account of his experience as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda, which exposes the failures of the international community to stop the worst genocide in the 20th century. The book was released as a full-length feature film *Shake Hands With the Devil – The Journey of Roméo Dallaire* and won the Emmy Award for Best Documentary in 2007.

Dallaire's story shares the most extreme results of being given responsibility without authority. He was limited by immovable parameters, overseen by an organization that didn't fully support the mission, and put into situations that forced him to question ethics every step of the way.

Dallaire's presentations discuss leadership and conflict resolution, illustrated with stories of his own experiences. He inspires listeners to address the ethical and moral issues in conflicts and insists that governments put humanity above political and economic interests.



## Stephen Lewis

Stephen Lewis is Co-Director of AIDS-Free World ([www.aids-freeworld.org](http://www.aids-freeworld.org)), a new international AIDS advocacy organization, based in the United States. He is Chair of the board of the Stephen Lewis Foundation in Canada ([www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)) and he is a Professor in Global Health in the Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University.

Stephen Lewis' work with the United Nations spanned more than two decades. He was the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa from June 2001 until the end of 2006. From 1995 to 1999, Mr. Lewis was Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF at the organization's global headquarters in New York. From 1984 through 1988, Stephen Lewis was Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr. Lewis was an elected member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly from 1963 to 1978. In 1970, he became leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, during which time he became leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Lewis is the author of the best-selling book, *Race Against Time*. He holds 28 honorary degrees from Canadian universities and is a Companion of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement. He was awarded the Pearson Peace Medal in 2004 by the United Nations Association in Canada; the award celebrates outstanding achievement in the field of international service and understanding. In 2007, the Kingdom of Lesotho (a small mountainous country in Southern Africa) invested Mr. Lewis as Knight Commander of the Most Dignified Order of Moshoeshoe. The order is named for the founder of Lesotho; the knighthood is the country's highest honour.

# Keynote Speaker Profiles

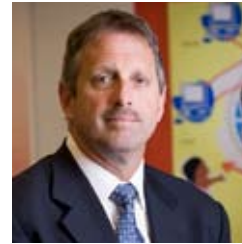


## Nigel Fisher

Formerly an Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations since 2002, Mr. Fisher was most recently Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), a position to which he was appointed in August 2003, by the U.N. Secretary-General.

Mr. Fisher was Regional Director for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in South Asia (1999-2002), overseeing UNICEF's country programmes in South Asia and Afghanistan. He worked on development partnerships for children, which included a number of private sector initiatives and a partnership with MTV Asia. He served as UNICEF's Special Representative for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries in the immediate aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001, coordinating and profiling UNICEF emergency operations in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Mr. Fisher worked with UNICEF for over 20 years in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, as well as at UNICEF headquarters in New York.

Appointed on November 1, 2005, Nigel Fisher is the current President and CEO of UNICEF Canada.



## Paul Gillespie

A former Toronto Police Services Detective Sergeant, Paul Gillespie established himself as an expert investigator during his 27 year career, particularly when it comes to tracking criminals who use the internet to exploit children. Paul spent his last 5 ½ years building and leading the Child Exploitation Section of the Toronto Police Service to become world leaders in this area.

In 2003, Paul sent an email to Bill Gates, the founder and Chairman of Microsoft, to solicit his support in stopping the exploitation of children on the internet. Gates responded to Paul's passion and together law enforcement from around the world and Microsoft collaborated to create CETS – the Child Exploitation Tracking System – which is now widely regarded as the most advanced investigative tool available. CETS is now being used by over 35 different agencies in Canada and has been deployed in Indonesia, Italy, The United Kingdom, Brazil, Chile, Spain, Romania and Australia.

Paul is now the President and CEO of the Kids' Internet Safety Alliance, and is also the Cyber Crime Director in Residence at the University Of Ontario Institute Of Technology.

# Caring for Our Kids: *An Ounce of Prevention, a Pound of Cure*



## Nico Trocmé, MSW, PhD

Nico Trocmé is a professor of social work at McGill University where he holds the Philip Fisher Chair in Social and directs the Centre for Research on Children and Families. He has been the principle investigator for the 1998, 2003 and 2008 cycles of the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, the Scientific Director of the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare, and lead researcher for the child welfare services National Outcomes Matrix. Dr. Trocmé is actively involved in supporting research based child welfare policy and practice, providing research and policy advice to a number of social service agencies, to the governments of Québec, Ontario and Alberta.



## Dr. Ron Abrahams

Ron Abrahams is a Family Physician in Vancouver and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia. As Medical Director of Perinatal Addictions at BC Women's Hospital he was responsible for the development of the BC Women's Hospital's "Combined Care Unit" for pregnant women with addictions - the first of its kind in North America. The unit reduced the incidence of withdrawal in newborns requiring treatment, and increased the number of mothers going home with their babies. A recognized expert in the field of Perinatal Addictions, he received the Kaiser Foundation's 2008 National Award for Leadership in Excellence in Harm Reduction Programming.



## Evelyn Wotherspoon

Ms. Wotherspoon is a social worker and consultant specializing in child maltreatment. She is currently the spokesperson for the Infant Mental Health and Family Law Initiative, a collaborative effort to educate child welfare and family law professionals about the unique needs of infants in family court. She has authored numerous articles and papers on the needs of maltreated infants for a variety of journals and publications. Ms. Wotherspoon is a fellow in the Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship program sponsored by Zero To Three, a U.S. organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of infants and young children.



## Dr. Perry Kendall

Born in the United Kingdom, Dr. Perry Kendall completed his undergraduate medical training at University College Hospital Medical School in 1968. In 1995 he was appointed and remained President and CEO of the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, until the Foundation's amalgamation with three other hospitals to form the Addiction and Mental Health Services Corporation in 1998. He held a number of Medical Health Officer positions in both Toronto and Vancouver prior to assuming the position of Provincial Health Officer for the province of British Columbia in 1999. In June 2005 Dr. Kendall was awarded the Order of British Columbia for his contributions to Public Health practice and to harm reduction policy and practice in BC.



# Rights and Safety of Children and Youth: *In Their Homes, Their Cultures, Their Communities and Internationally*



**Eileen Munro**

Eileen Munro is a Reader in Social Policy at the London School of Economics. She has extensive experience as a social worker and in teaching and research. Her key interests are in risk assessment and management in child protection work. Recent publications include 'Effective Child Protection', (Sage Publications) and, with Fish S. and Bairstow S. 'Learning Together to Safeguard Children (SCIE publications); outlining a prototype adaptation of a systems approach to investigating child abuse deaths.



**Howard Dubowitz**

Dr. Howard Dubowitz, is a Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Center for Families at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore. He is on the Council of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and a board member of Prevent Child Abuse America. Dr. Dubowitz is a clinician, researcher, and educator, and he is active in the policy arena. His main interests are in child neglect and prevention. He edited *Neglected Children: Research, Practice and Policy*, co-edited the *Handbook for Child Protection Practice*, and has over 100 publications.



**Aron Shlonsky**

Aron Shlonsky is associate professor and Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare at the University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and the director of the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit. He is co-author of 'Child Welfare Research: Advances for Child Welfare Practice and Policy' (2008, Oxford University Press) and has authored and co-authored numerous manuscripts appearing in scholarly journals and books highlighting the use of actuarial tools in child welfare settings, the predictors and effects of sibling separation in foster care, issues surrounding kinship foster care, the implementation of subsidized legal guardianship for relative caregivers, and the teaching and implementation of evidence-based practice.



**Krista Thompson**

Krista Thompson is the Executive Director of Covenant House Vancouver, a charitable organization that provides shelter and service to homeless and runaway youth. It is the largest privately funded agency of its kind in Western Canada. In the past 17 years, Krista has been a leader in the charitable sector having served as the Director of Development at the Arthritis Society of British Columbia, the CEO of the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation and a Founding Director of Catalyst House, an innovative residential program for young women at risk. Krista is the immediate past- Chair of the Association for Fundraising Professionals Canadian Council.

# Mental Health: *The Fragile Balance*



## Dr. Charlotte Waddell

Charlotte is a child psychiatrist with longstanding interests in health policy and population and public health. Associate Professor and Director of the Children's Health Policy Centre in Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Health Sciences, she also holds the Canada Research Chair in children's health policy. Charlotte's research addresses mental health disparities, starting in childhood, by improving the connections between research and policy. In her capacity as a child psychiatrist, Charlotte also continues to work with children involved with the child protection and youth justice systems. It is working with these children that ultimately informs and inspires her research and teaching.



## Dick Meen

Born in Leicester in the UK, Dr. Richard Meen received his MD from the University of Western Ontario. Since 1968 he has been the Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine, specifically the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. His current appointments also include Clinical Director of Kinark Child and Family Services, and Psychiatric Consultant for the National Ballet School of Canada.



## Dr. Michael Hayes

Dr. Hayes played a central role in establishing the new Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU where he is Professor and Associate Dean. Dr. Hayes' research interests concern health inequities, social geographies of health, and health and public policy. He has coedited three books, including *Too Small to See, Too Big to Ignore* about the health and well-being of children in BC, and authored more than 50 papers. He was North American editor of *Health and Place* (Pergamon) until the end of 2003, and is a nongovernmental representative on the Public Health Agency of Canada's Network on Population Health Promotion.

## My Story: *Insights and Lessons from Living in Care*



### Angie Cross

An alumna of the Canadian Foster Care System, Angie has supported the development of many networks/chapters throughout Canada and the United States for 15 years. She has been an active and founding member of several youth/alumni networks, including the Federation on BC Youth in Care Networks and Foster Care Alumni of America. Along with work at a provincial and local level, she served four years as an executive board member of the National Youth In Care Network. Angie is also a founder of several programs in Canada including the Welcome Project for Youth in Care, Youth Housing Registry, Putting Youths Lives on Track, and Youth Speak.



### Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

Currently serving a fourth consecutive four year term as Chief of the Penticton Indian Band (PIB), Grand Chief Stewart Phillip has served the Band as Chief for a total of 14 years, and the Council for a total of 24 years. In addition, he served as an elected Band Councilor for a 10-year period. In October 2006, the Okanagan Nation, led by the Elders of the Penticton Indian Band, acknowledged his lifetime commitment to the defense of Indigenous Peoples' Title and Rights by bestowing on him and his family the rare honour of the name of Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. He is proud to be in his fourth three-year term as the President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.



### Teresa Lum

Teresa Lum' career has included service with the Boys and Girls club, the Gove Inquiry, the Children's' Commission, The Child, Youth and Family Advocate, the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks and she is currently with the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth as a child and youth advocate. Teresa has more than 15 years of experience in child welfare and public health. Previously she was the Director of External Relations with the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks. As a founding member of the internationally recognized Youth in Care Network she understands the power of young people coming together to make a difference.

# Education: *Narrowing the Gap, Celebrating Windows of Opportunity*



**Philip A. Fisher, PhD**

Dr. Philip Fisher obtained his Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1993 from the University of Oregon. He is currently a senior research scientist at the Oregon Social Learning Center and the Center for Research to Practice, both in Eugene, Oregon, as well as being a Professor in the University of Oregon Department of Psychology. Dr. Fisher is particularly interested in prevention research in the early years of life. He is Principal Investigator on the Early Intervention Foster Care project, a 10-year randomized clinical trial funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to evaluate the effectiveness of the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care Program for Preschoolers.



**Sterling K. Clarren**

CEO and Scientific Director of the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network, Dr. Clarren is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at both the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington. Educated at Yale, the University of Minnesota and the University of Washington, Dr. Clarren has applied his extensive training to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder since 1975 including clinical diagnosis and evaluation, intervention and basic neurodevelopmental research. He has written over 100 scientific papers, review articles, and chapters on FASD. In 2001, he was given the Henry Rosett Award by the Fetal Alcohol Study Group of the Research Society on Alcoholism and in 2006 he received the Award for Career Excellence from the National Organization for FAS in Washington DC.



**Dr. Clyde Hertzman**

Dr. Clyde Hertzman is the Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership and a professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. Nationally, he is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, a Canada Research Chair in Population Health and Human Development, and President of the Council on Early Child Development. He has played a central role in developing the conceptual framework for the “determinants of health” and elucidating the special role of early childhood development as one of those key determinants.



**Dr. Lorna Williams**

Dr. Lorna Williams is Lil'wat from the St'at'yem'c First Nation, she holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning at the University of Victoria. Dr. Williams is an educator with many years of experience in Aboriginal Education, Aboriginal Language Revitalization, Curriculum Development, Teacher Development, Mediated Learning, Cognitive education, effects of colonization on learning, and Indigenous ways of knowing.

# First People's Perspective: *A Better Path for Aboriginal Children and Youth*



**Sandra Edgmon**

A mother of two natural sons and four bonus sons ranging in age from 28 to 8 years, Sandra is a grandmother of 2 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Born and raised in a Traditional Cherokee community and family, she was placed in the hands of her great-grandparents at an early age, for the instilling of cultural norms, values and morals. Sandra was selected as the first Child Protection Social Worker for the Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare. She is recognized as an expert on the Cherokee child rearing practices, as well as the Cherokee traditions, values and culture. She is recognized as an expert in State courts as well as Tribal court on the Indian Child Welfare Act.



**Dr. Cindy Kiro**

Dr Cindy Kiro is New Zealand's Children's Commissioner and was appointed to the position on 1 September 2003. She has a PhD in Social Policy, and has previously worked in the areas of public health and advocacy for children and young people as a social worker, researcher and manager. Dr Kiro is a strong advocate for promoting children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and continues to work to ensure the rights of every child and young person in New Zealand are recognized and each enjoys good health, education, safety and economic wellbeing.



**Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh)**

Grand Chief Edward John is a lawyer, and a Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation located on the banks of the Stewart Lake in Northern BC. He served as an elected Councillor of Tl'azt'en Nation from 1974 to 1992, and served as an elected Chief from 1990 to 1992. He now is the Grand Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation. He has served in leadership roles for many organizations in BC. He is a former Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (1984 to 1988), a former Minister of Child and Family Services for the Province of BC (2000-2001) and a former member of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board of Canada.



**Dr. Evan Adams**

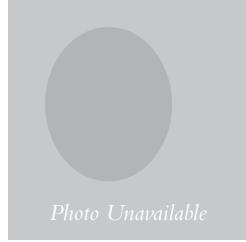
Evan Adams is a Coast Salish actor and physician from the Sliammon Band near Powell River. He has a Medical Doctorate from the University of Calgary, and completed a Family Practice residency in the Aboriginal Family Practice program at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Dr. Adams is the 2005 winner of the (provincial) Family Medicine Resident Leadership Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and the 2005 national winner of the Murray Stalker Award from the CFPC Research and Education Foundation. The Director of the Division of Aboriginal Peoples' Health at UBC, he is an MPH-candidate with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health while working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.

# A Child's World: *International Success Stories*



## Professor Harriet Ward

Harriet is a Professor at Loughborough University and Director and Co-founder of the Centre for Child and Family Research. She has undertaken extensive research in the field of assessing need and evaluating outcomes in children's services. Her leadership of the Looking After Children programme (1993-2001) has been a highly influential contribution to government policy and practice in the UK and abroad. The current research programme led by Harriet explores the relationship between the costs and consequences of placing children in care, transitions to adulthood for young people leaving care, and the decision-making processes that determine the life pathways of very young children at risk of significant harm.



## Helen Jones

Helen Jones has a background in social work with children and families including the management of family placement services and policy development and implementation in local government. She is now an advisor within the Department for Children, Schools and Families on policy for looked after children. Helen has been involved in a range of initiatives and evidence-based programmes to improve outcomes for looked after children including responsibility for developing and managing the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care programme and Multi-systemic Therapy in England. Most recently Helen has been involved in writing the Care Matters White Paper and is now working on its implementation.



## Maria Kaisa Aula

Maria Kaisa Aula is Finland's first Ombudsman for Children and holds a Licentiate of Political Sciences. Prior to this appointment, she was a Member of Parliament for twelve years and during that time, spent a few years as a special assistant to the Prime Minister of Finland. From 2004-2005 she chaired the NGO Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland. Her term as Ombudsman began 1 September 2005. Other current positions held include being a member of the board of the Finnish Broadcasting Company and a board member of the Finnish funding agency for Technology and Innovation.



## James Morgan White

James M. White is the Chief Operating Officer and Interim President of Covenant House International. He has held the COO position for two years and has worked to align the visions, plans and operations of the organizations' 21 sites throughout North and Latin America. To this end, he created the organization's first inclusive and collaborative strategic plan, initiating an unprecedented opportunity to leverage and support the incredible work undertaken by Covenant House's frontline workers and leadership with over 65,000 homeless street kids each year. Jim's roots at Covenant House began in 1982 when he was a full-time volunteer at 41st Street in New York City, and he has been with the organization now for 25 years.

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# Addicted

Want to be thin  
Take me for a spin  
I'll drive you wild  
I won't settle for mild

Have a little stress  
Want to worry a little less  
Come and mellow out with me  
It'll be relaxing, you'll see

Want to go deep down  
Spend a night out of town  
Want to forget everything's gone wrong  
Just drown with me all night long

Want to see through new eyes  
Well let me be your disguise  
We'll go high up on a trip  
Higher and higher, until you slip  
Have you ever tried crazy  
Does the world seem dull and hazy  
Let me take you for a ride  
On and on until your fried

Mix and Match all for fun  
Party hard until the sun  
"Try us together" is what they said  
"We'll play with you until your dead"

— Anonymous LOVE Youth



LEFT | Postcard Project,  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
[www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)





ABOVE | Postcard Project,  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
[www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)



Photo Credit: Anonymous LOVE Youth

# The Representative's Awards of Excellence

We have come together at the Summit to examine broader influencing factors of social well-being with the clear and emphatic purpose of improving vulnerable children's lives. While we are looking beyond our provincial borders to other jurisdictions to showcase excellence and to explore other holistic approaches that better lives for children and youth, it is important that we also recognize the very good work that is being undertaken here at home. In that regard, I am very proud to introduce at the Champions for Children and Youth 2008 Summit, the Representative's first annual Awards of Excellence honouring British Columbians – individuals and organizations - whose work with children and youth exemplify innovation, respect and a commitment to professional excellence.

*Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond*

**Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond**

*British Columbia Representative for Children and Youth*

## Awards Categories are as follows:

- The Advocacy Award of Excellence
- The Cultural Heritage and Diversity Award of Excellence
- The Innovative Services Award of Excellence
- The Service Provider Award of Excellence
- The Youth Leadership Award of Excellence
- Lifetime Achievement



# Awards Categories

## Award of Excellence in Advocacy

The winner of the **Advocacy Award of Excellence** is a tireless supporter (individual or organization), that speaks for children, youth and their families, and advocates for positive change. The award winner is a champion in ensuring the voice and views of young people are heard and their rights and interests are upheld.

## Award of Excellence in Cultural Heritage and Diversity

The winner of the **Cultural Heritage and Diversity Award of Excellence** is an individual or organization that recognizes, supports and builds on a unique sense of place, culture, language and community while preparing a better path for children. This individual or organization focuses on leadership, services and outcomes that support children to embrace the present while preparing for their futures.

## Award of Excellence in Innovative Services

The winner of the Innovative **Services Award of Excellence** is an individual or an organization that delivers services in a new, innovative and effective manner. The individual or organization has developed or is administering a program that leads to better and more beneficial program outcomes and is a model of professional excellence.

## Award of Excellence in Service Provision

The winner of the **Service Provider Award of Excellence** is an individual or office that demonstrates exceptional commitment, creativity and dedication in their work with children, youth and families. The recipient could be a foster parent, a social worker, a teacher, a children's services worker, or any other service provider, or an integrated office or organization that is making a difference in the lives of children, youth and their families.

## Award of Excellence in Youth Leadership

The winner of the **Youth Leadership Award of Excellence** is an individual between 12 and 24 years of age, whose leadership and innovation has made a positive contribution to the youth community, who has set and reached personal goals and who has contributed time and energy to benefitting or improving their community



# The Representative's Award of Excellence: Advocacy

## Fred Ford

For over 30 years, Fred Ford has demonstrated an unwavering dedication in his professional life, plus contributed countless volunteer hours, to improving the lives of children and youth, and the organizations that support them. Fred has been a key driver in building relationships between the non-profit sector, government and communities to increase supports available to vulnerable children in B.C., and communicating the need to take action as a community on child sexual abuse issues.

He is also a strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities, particularly those who were institutionalized and abused as children. His work with the BC Self Advocacy Foundation was critical in creating the Institutional Legacy Trust Fund.

Fred has led numerous influential campaigns to raise awareness and funding for Vancouver Island service agencies delivering the Sexual Abuse and Intervention Program (SAIP). His advocacy on behalf of sexually abused children has helped boost support for counseling programs across the province.

For eight years as Executive Director, Fred provided thoughtful and energetic leadership to the Mary Manning Centre in Victoria. Year after year, when funding issues challenged the Centre's ability to provide the timely services sexually traumatized children and youth require, Fred wore the Centre's cause on his sleeve. He helped to

inspire the public, resulting in countless petitions signed and letters-to-editors written. He also inspired organizations, who donated services and capital. Throughout all challenges, Fred has remained focused on the rights of children and youth to rehabilitation.

Fred is now an instructor at the University of Victoria specializing in Disability Studies, and an independent consultant and advocate.

*"Fred continues to make a difference in the lives of children and adults every day and we know he leaves the world a better place because of his many thoughtful contributions."*

*"As a result of Fred's continued efforts to make the issue of under-funding of the SAIP programs a priority, in 2008 MCFD increased the budget to provincially-funded SAIP programs by 50%. ... Your dedication on this issue, Fred, has improved the lives of children, youth and their families who experience sexual abuse, not only at our Centre, but across the Province."*

*"Mr. Ford's visionary leadership has nurtured the creation of a new concept for service integration in BC - the development of initial plans that would see law enforcement, justice, child protection and intake workers collaborating within one agency to provide seamless specialty services to abused children in the region."*

*"He has distinguished himself by 'doing the right thing' and has not wavered in his commitment to serve and advocate for people with vulnerabilities, most notably people with developmental disabilities and children and youth who have been abused."*

*Fred has been working in the field of human services for three decades. He has distinguished himself by 'doing the right thing' and has not wavered in his commitment to serve and advocate for people with vulnerabilities, most notably people with developmental disabilities and children and youth who have been abused.*

# The Representative's Award of Excellence: Cultural Heritage and Diversity

## Peter Thomas McKay

Peter Thomas McKay is from the Nisga'a Nation and he resides in Gitlakdamix (New Aiyansh), BC.

A language and culture teacher at the Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School, Peter has spent his entire life promoting cultural teachings as received at a very young age from his Elders.

Peter demonstrates patience, caring, and sharing in all that he does, and this is reflected in the work he does with children and youth wherever he goes.

Peter has been a cultural dance director or assistant in numerous Nisga'a and Tsimshian ceremonial dance troupes, and is always eager to share the spiritual significance of the songs, stories and dances that are performed. A talented artist, he has in the past gifted his work as a fundraiser for cultural programs and services for youth in the community.

Peter has a quiet yet determined approach in his manner of sharing, retaining and promoting the language, culture and pride of First Nations. His innovative approaches include the creation of "Jack" and "Jeets", videotaped Internet hand puppets he uses to help people from around the world learn and practice the Nisga'a language.

He has worked with the Kermode Friendship Centre as a facilitator for father within the context of traditional parenting, and at the First Nations Education Centre in Terrace, to help ensure students and staff become aware of First Nations values, beliefs, and teachings.

*"There are so many people grateful for all that he has done. He has given away so much of his arts and crafts that he has made himself. He could be very rich, but he chooses to be rich in language and culture rather than with money. He has so much knowledge. And is always willing to learn more and teach what he knows."*

*"He does so much for the people. He doesn't try to be better than anyone, he wants the language and culture to stay alive and for all people to learn. He has so much patience for all people."*

*"Peter demonstrates a thoughtful, caring and professional manner to both students and colleagues. His forthright and respectful way of relating to others enables Peter to give and receive dignity with respect. His quiet pride in his heritage, knowledge of history and culture earn him admiration from district staff and students."*

*"I have observed how his lifestyle has been to reach for and to provide knowledge through a spiritual and culturally relevant way. I believe this is why he is respected amongst his peers and amongst other nations as he speaks from the heart and everything about Peter reflects his cultural life and lifestyle."*

# The Representative's Award of Excellence: Innovative Services

## Fir Square Combined Care Program

The Fir Square Combined Care Unit program at BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre is the first in Canada to care for substance-using women and substance-exposed newborns in a single unit. The unique aspect of this care is that mothers and newborns are not separated after birth, but are cared for together in the mother's room, care described as "rooming-in". Referrals come from all over B.C.

Working within a model of woman-centered care, women participate in and guide every aspect of their care and discharge planning.

The philosophy of care is one of harm reduction, to help reduce substance use and risky behaviors that can cause harm to mothers and their babies. It is about meeting the woman where she is in the process.

The program, which began in 2003, helps women and their newborns stabilize and withdraw from substances, keeping mothers and babies together whenever possible and continuing to provide care from before birth to after the birth, and between hospital and community.

Women at Fir Square have access to counseling and education to enhance critical life skills, parenting techniques, and coping mechanisms. To ensure the healthiest start possible, babies receive specialized care that meets their needs if withdrawing from prenatal substance exposure. The majority of babies room with their mothers on the unit.

The Fir Square Combined Care team offers caring, non-judgmental support to the most marginalized women, and supports them to have a healthy pregnancy and the best chance of parenting.

Fir Square has established a multidisciplinary team approach. They work in close partnership with community agencies such as the Sheway Downtown Eastside program, the Ministry for Children and Family Development, and the alcohol and drug treatment system.

This innovative, compassionate program has broken down stereotypes and broken through old paradigms of care to gain well-deserved national and international recognition.

*"Fir Square is a place of safety for women and infants... even the most stressed, vulnerable women whose lives are characterized by chaos and risks of many kinds can take control of their situations, making themselves and ultimately their infants safer."*

*"This program is the only one of its kind in North America. The outcomes speak for themselves. A reduced need to treat infants exposed to opiates, and many women ready to go home with their newborns, who would otherwise have been back on the streets and their infants removed."*

*"What started as a small unit has now been recognized as best practice across the country and indeed around the world."*

*"It is the vision of programs such as Fir Square that continue to step outside the status quo and deliver services that touch the very heart of women and children across our province, many of whom would not receive the quality and kind of care that Fir Square has become known to provide."*

# The Representative's Award of Excellence: Service Provider

## After Hours Program, Team Members Ministry of Children and Family Development, Fraser Region

The provincial After Hours Program meets the emergency needs of children and families in British Columbia. After Hours Program receives reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, as well as requests for other Ministry services, and has operated continuously in B.C. since the early 1970's.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development program has two 24/7 staffed offices: Vancouver and the Lower Mainland Response Team in New Westminster. There are additional staffed offices in Nanaimo, Victoria, Courtenay, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George and Chilliwack. As well, a centralized Helpline for Children at the Vancouver After Hours Office provides 24-hour access to anyone reporting cases of child abuse or neglect.

A unique aspect of the After Hours program is the Car 86 program. The Vancouver Police Department has been in partnership with After Hours for more than 30 years, through the Car 86 program. This interdisciplinary team consists of police officers teamed up with social workers. The police department supplies the officer and police equipment, while the ministry provides a social

worker and office space. After Hours is an integral and invaluable component of the partnership, which is one of the oldest inter-agency collaborations in the world involving police.

All After Hours offices are staffed with fully delegated social workers, providing knowledgeable, caring response and support to families, caregivers and children in care.

*"After Hours social workers are true professionals who always put the best interests of children and their families first. They strive to implement Ministry programs with dedication, thoroughness, genuine caring and respect."*

*"There is always a calm, supportive voice at the other end of the phone line, providing advice or assistance."*

*"After Hours social workers possess an amazing depth and breadth of experience of working in child welfare and all other*

*program areas of the ministry, and have worked with children of all ages. They have the ability to quickly adapt to the needs of callers."*

*"The Vancouver Police Department has enjoyed an excellent relationship with MCFD through the "After Hours" program and is in full support of "After Hours" receiving an award of excellence from the office of the Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond."*

# The Representative's Award of Excellence: Youth Leadership

## Bacilia "Cia" Ramirez

Cia Ramirez, 19, is an emerging youth leader with a willingness to speak from the heart, to embrace both those who agree and disagree with her, and to give generously of her time, experience and knowledge.

She feels a deep personal responsibility to increase the voice of Aboriginal youth, address environmental issues, re-imagine a more inclusive and welcoming Canada, and look to a brighter future.

Working with the Vancouver Foundation, Cia is a member of the Youth Leadership Council. She has taken a lead role in planning, community engagement and decision-making for Youth Vital Signs - a youth-made research and public opinion initiative that gives fresh voice to experience and knowledge that will inspire change through understanding and action.

With the Reel Youth organization, Cia helped produce and film "Residential Truth - Unified Future", a documentary on the impact of residential schools. It has been chosen by jury to be released at the 2008 Vancouver International Film Festival.

Cia has represented the Fresh Start education program at youth fairs, and actively engages other young people in discussions on the importance of education. Also a member of the Native Friendship Centre, she strongly urges others to look beyond the injustices of the world to be an active part of positive change.

Cia personally undertakes initiatives to implement such change, such as starting recycling programs and being a passionate advocate for the environment.

Her career goal is to be a social worker, and she is currently attending Hastings Education Centre through the Fresh Start Program, towards her goal of graduating in 2009.

Born and raised in Vancouver, Cia is a member of the Cowessess Nation in Saskatchewan and a proud mother to 4-year old daughter Tikiya.

*"Cia's community leadership activities and priorities are informed by personal experience, and by bearing witness to the struggles faced by her friends and family. Part of her gift is an ability to recognize problems and injustices as an opportunity to grow, to heal and to love."*

*"It helped that she saw herself as a warrior. Just like a warrior, Cia knew that she could not give up, and did not ... What she has accomplished and shown to us all is that she is a true warrior, one who leads by example."*

*"Cia's ability to facilitate cooperation, think from an audience perspective, and inspire others to work from a place of passion has made the project a huge success."*

*"Bacilia knows you don't have to look far to see there are injustices in the world. She also knows we can all contribute positive change and she is not afraid to stand up and become a part of the change."*



# The Representative's Award of Excellence: Lifetime Achievement

## Dr. Lois Jean Hlady

Dr. Hlady is a determined leader, in British Columbia and nationally, in diagnosis and support of children experiencing abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

Through creating interdisciplinary teams, new pediatrics programs, and building a clinical model to diagnose and support the recovery of children, Dr. Hlady has given unselfishly of her time, intelligence and passion to ensuring that children's lives are protected and improved. Her work is meticulous and her public service to the children and the people of British Columbia is truly impressive.

A pediatrician at BC Children's Hospital, Dr. Hlady is also a clinical professor of Medicine at UBC. Her primary role is that of Director of the Child Protection Service Unit at BCCH.

She provides leadership and direction to this multidisciplinary team and provides direct medical care to abused and neglected children from around the province. She is a national and international authority on shaken baby syndrome, and provides consultation to general practitioners and specialists across the province on child abuse diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Hlady was instrumental in establishing the first full-service Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Unit at Children's Hospital (the Child Protection Service Unit), which takes a multi-disciplinary approach to diagnosis and treatment for child abuse victims. She is committed to providing education to the community in the field of child abuse and has given countless presentations and workshops.

She is very dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and to public awareness of these issues.

*"Dr. Hlady has spent 25 years in service to children who experience the most difficult circumstances. These children frequently face circumstances that are simply unimaginable to most of the public. These children often don't have the love and support that other children facing illness may have... Those of us who have watched Dr. Hlady do job are in awe of her commitment, skill, and expertise and ability to maintain this level of commitment over such a long period of time."*

*"Dr. Hlady has been an advocate for best practice in the field of child maltreatment for over 20 years. She has been a strong advocate for continuing education, in setting the standard for medical experts in this province and helping them to maintain their expert status within the legal system."*

*"She provides great vision and leadership in her work, exemplified by this extraordinary career of service to infants and children. She has earned the respect and admiration of people from all walks of life: patients, medical students, academic and professional colleagues, the police, the legal profession, the judiciary, public officials, social workers and government and hospital administrators."*

*"She is a true humanitarian who cares deeply for the disadvantaged in our society, and truly a treasure who deserves to be honored with recognition of her lifetime of compassionate and impressive work."*

Thank you very much for your participation and support of this valuable and insightful event. Together we can leave here and work toward ensuring that children and youth are not only *in* our communities, but *of* our communities.

*Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond*

**Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond**

*British Columbia Representative for Children and Youth*



LEFT | Postcard Project,  
Foster Care Alumni of America  
[www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)



ABOVE | Art Credit: Directions, Heather K. Wordscapes, Youth Arts Journal  
 LEFT | Postcard Project, Foster Care Alumni of America [www.fostercarealumni.org](http://www.fostercarealumni.org)

Please visit our website to download clips of Summit sessions, to find our more about the Representative, and to learn about upcoming events.

[www.rcybc.ca](http://www.rcybc.ca)

# What Is Violence?

Violence is all around us,  
Whether we're the victims,  
The witnesses,  
Or the perpetrators.  
Violence is words,  
Violence is hand upon skin,  
And violence is completely unnecessary.  
We must learn,  
To use our words,  
In a way that doesn't hurt others,  
And our hands,  
In a way that shows a loving embrace,  
Instead of using them,  
To abuse and batter.  
We must learn,  
To accept ourselves,  
As who we are,  
Because if we aren't happy with that,  
Then we tend to take it out,  
On those around us,  
Violence is a continuous cycle,  
That has to stop.  
We're hurting ourselves,  
We're hurting the ones we love,  
And we're hurting this world.  
Violence is . . .  
A colossal waste of time.

— Ashley, 16 LOVE Youth

Art Credit: Beginnings, Won C.  
Wordscapes Youth Arts Journal



## We come from different worlds

We come from different worlds  
I see that now as I look into your eyes  
you say things that blow my mind and do things that I would never do  
you think of me as a freak and not normal  
I ask you this define normal because I bet you can't  
I wish I came from your world but I like mine all the same  
I know yours is really cool but I can't change who I am so I'll stick  
with mine and you stick to yours  
but I hope one day that we'll meet again and be in the same page as we  
were before so one time we will be ourselves and we won't have to  
worry about how different our worlds really are  
but put them aside so we can make a new one where we can be together  
again without worrying how our worlds would act  
if we're together then we can face whatever comes our way.

— Anonymous LOVE Youth

Photo Credit: Anonymous  
LOVE Youth

*Art Credit: Colby Gates, Federation of BC  
Youth in Care Networks, Kamloops, BC*

My name is Colby Gates son of Donovan Gates and Lori Knight. I am Haida and Russian.

Art work is and has been one of the only true connections I have ever had with my family history.

As far back as I can remember my father had always been an artist. Some of my best childhood memories are when he was carving.

Now my father is an outstanding artist, and still does it to this very day. However my father and mother have struggled with many demons over the years; my parents were alcoholics and drug users. My father was very abusive, so in Aug 1999 my brothers and I were placed into foster care.

I remained in foster care until I was eighteen. In the time that I was in care I had to learn many things about life that I might have never known had I not been there. On the other hand, I did not learn as much about my history and where I came from. I have only started looking into Haida art for the last three years.

I have found that it is naturally part of who I am which has profoundly changed my point of view. Slowly I'm using my art to build a future not only for me but for the generations to come. The one thing that makes Haida art so beautiful is the fact that it's not just art - it's who we are!



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