

# Annual Report 2006 - 2007



## International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)

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## *A Message from the Executive Director*



2006 - 2007 was an important year for IICRD in applying our strength-based developmental approach to supporting children's rights around the world. This is reflected in our annual report through the myriad of applied programs, systems change initiatives, and capacity building events promoting innovative ideas for international, regional, national and local child rights practice and policy.

For example, in completing the "Seeds of Recovery" project with Save the Children Canada and our Indian partner ASSEFA, IICRD worked directly with 200 communities in building on Tamil cultural strengths and the inherent resilience of local children and their families to create post Tsunami recovery, and build long lasting support systems for children along this severely damaged coastline. IICRD's global work for children includes important programming grounded in our own Canadian province of British Columbia, and this year witnessed important strides in our action oriented research, changing opinions amongst the provinces leading judiciary as to the benefits of meaningfully including children's participation in family law through the *Hear the Child* project. Similarly, the YouthScape initiative brought together representatives from five Canadian cities to develop and pilot local participatory, community learning projects, exploring the ways in which youth engagement can foster community well-being and resilience.

All of this work is led by a dedicated team of IICRD core staff, whose numbers have grown again with the addition of William White Xelimuxw/Kasalid (Indigenous Coast Salish Elder), Vanessa Currie (Applied Child Protection Specialist), and Jennifer Wheeler and Rob Parker (Community Project Assistants). The work in the field is frequently enhanced through our Associates who bring their own unique expertise in fields ranging from nature-based therapeutic interventions to child rights based strategies for social paediatric practice. We are also very grateful to the children and youth, Elders, students, and diverse volunteers who help breathe life into our *Child Rights in Practice (CRIP)* trainings, local capacity building initiatives, and systems change research.

Finally, 2006 was also an important year in strengthening our own organizational base and we look forward to strategically moving forward on this in the year ahead. By being true to our core values of dignity, belonging and justice, we are able to deepen our own learning and capacity for critical reflection ensuring that these values are reflected in the lives of the children and communities we serve, in essence learning rights and development from the inside out and bottom up.

Respectfully,  
Philip Cook

## IICRD OVERVIEW

The *International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)* is a non-profit organization based in Victoria, Canada, devoted to advancing the quality of life and development of vulnerable children around the globe. We have been working on issues affecting children's lives locally, nationally and internationally since 1994.

### *Our Mission:*

*To enhance the capacity of individuals, organizations, and governments, to effectively use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to transform systems and create peace and dignity for children and our world.*

### *Our Approach:*

IICRD uses a developmental, strength-based approach that applies innovative "Top Down - Bottom Up" research, education, capacity building approaches centred on the lived realities of children, their families and communities to make a positive difference for children. By working in partnership with a multidisciplinary network of academics, front-line workers, community members, policy-makers and professionals from universities, professional associations, NGOs, government agencies, UN organizations, families and children, IICRD strives to change systems to positively affect children and their communities and make child rights a reality.

### *Our Values:*

IICRD's key values of Belonging, Dignity and Justice for children and their communities are the compass by which we work together and engage with our partners on initiatives.

*Whether working to equip local communities in Africa to improve support for vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, assisting governments in North America to transform state child protection systems from risk focused to strength-based in support of Indigenous child rights, or helping create more child centred paediatric practice in Latin America, IICRD applies our values in building on cultural strengths in moving child rights from rhetoric to reality.*

# IICRD PROJECTS

## *Child Protection: Fostering Resilience to Protect Vulnerable Children*

### Seeds of Recovery:

#### Psychosocial Support for Tsunami Affected Children in Tamil Nadu, India

**Funders:** Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) - International Humanitarian Assistance Branch (IHA), Save the Children Canada, Save the Children Finland, Three on a Tree Society, Pender Islands Elementary and Secondary School and Pender Island Recycling Society (PIRS)

**Length of Project:** 2005 - 2007

**Partners:** Save the Children Canada, Save the Children Finland, Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA), teachers, community workers and children in Cuddalore and Chidambarum districts of Tamil Nadu State



As part of a coordinated response to the Tsunami in Southern India, IICRD has continued to work with Save the Children Canada and ASSEFA, an Indian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), to support the meaningful involvement of vulnerable children, provide psycho-social support and help reconnect traumatized young people to the natural environment.

Following comprehensive community consultations and the application of the Triple "A" participatory action research approach, IICRD supported the development and implementation of English and Tamil community training materials. These materials drew on the lived experiences of Tamil children and experiential nature based learning to provide the knowledge, skills and self awareness to adults working with children. Implemented using IICRD's Practitioner Model, the trainings focused on Child Development, Child Rights, Child Psycho-social Recovery and Protection, Child Participation, Experiential Nature Based Learning, The Triple "A" Participatory Approach, and "Seeds of Recovery" Program Implementation and enabled these key adults to assist the affected children in their own recovery and facilitate the rebuilding of community. Two child rights games (*Birds and Turtles* - Snakes and Ladders with a rights twist and *Know your Rights* - a memory game) were also developed and used as tools in the training and recovery process.

*"This was the most useful training we have ever had. Rather than being academic, it was very practical. It gave us a chance to think about what we, as teachers, are to children and how we have to act to support them."*

*Teacher, Merrakanam*

Over the 2.5 year initiative, Save the Children, ASSEFA and IICRD worked in over 200 communities in Cuddalore, Chidambaram, Merrakanam and Pondicherry and through the extensive training of 140 preschool teachers, 28 regular teachers, 12 self help group leaders, and 18 office staff, over 8400 children were reached.

Training materials were also distributed to other organizations and government agencies working with children, and a follow up train-the-trainer workshop was conducted in December 2006 for NGO and government workers to further build local capacity to effectively support children affected by trauma.

*"We (community leaders) have never encouraged or allowed children to participate in anything as we always felt that they were kids and that they have very little knowledge about organizing things. But, after seeing the things that they have put forward as the problems of their community, we will encourage their present and future participation."*

*Community Leader, Merrakanam*

## **International Child Protection and Rights Consortium (ICPRC): Innovative Rights Based Approaches to Child Protection**

**Funders:** Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA), Innocenti Research Center

**Length of Project:** 2007 - 2009

**Partners:** CIDA, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, University of California at Davis and the Oxford University Centre for Refugee Studies

IICRD is the lead organization of the International Child Protection and Rights Consortium (ICPRC): a core group of researchers from the University of Victoria, Oxford University, University of California and UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre exploring the development of a new child protection paradigm.

The themes child protection, child rights, children's cross-cultural development and children's agency are being rigorously analyzed through an extensive literature review, and learning from international good practice case studies. An empirically oriented conceptual framework is being developed to provide clear indications on how a new paradigm will ensure that policy and programming responds to children's day-to-day realities. The new approach seeks to incorporate an *ecological perspective to childhood*, emphasizing the holistic nature of child protection and development, and the role of culture and other social systems in vulnerability and protection, and draws on *children's own lived experiences* and the associated risks to violence, protection, and agency. The research seeks to help inform a contextualized understanding of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* and addresses challenges and opportunities in applying child rights in diverse global challenges from extreme poverty to conflict to environmental degradation.

To demonstrate effective protection programming, good practices are currently being documented in Brazil, Lebanon, Uganda, Canada, and Venezuela and further linkages are being sought with the "Young Lives" international children's research project.

Finally, a symposium of leading academics and experts is being organized for March 2008 at the University of California at Davis providing an opportunity to present information on child rights and protection issues, and garner international interest and support.

## **South East Asia Regional Cooperation in Human Development (SEARCH)**

**Funders:** Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

**Length of Project:** 2005 - 2011

**Partners:** Salasan and Four Worlds International

IICRD continues to provide child rights and cultural/strength-based expertise to the 6 year CIDA funded Search Project in South East Asia focusing on better supporting children affected by trafficking and migration through community based interventions and the rule of law in seven Southeast Asian countries (Thailand, Columbia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia and Timor Leste).

In partnership with the Canadian NGOs Salasan and Four Worlds Development Agency, IICRD is working with ASEAN, UNIAP and Forum Asia in these SE Asian countries to assist in developing the capacity of law makers, the judiciary, and civil society to support women and children's rights.

Specific initiatives undertaken this year include:

- ◆ Assisting in the development of a regional child rights strategy for the SEARCH project partners
- ◆ Working with ASEAN to develop a regional women and children's human rights commission
- ◆ Partnering with UNIAP and Kohn Kaen University, Thailand in hosting a regional human rights training for law enforcement officers and NGOs
- ◆ Helping scale up a community based, multidisciplinary professional team approach to supporting child victims of trafficking in Thailand, and
- ◆ Assisting in a regional mapping of ethnic minority children's rights issues in Southeast Asia

## Child Rights in Juvenile Justice: Child Rights and Participation Training in the Russian Federation



Funders: CIDA

Length of Project: 2006 - 2007

Partners: Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), Russian NGOs

The Improving Services to Youth at Risk in the Russian Federation Project (YAR Project) is a four-year multi-dimensional project led by AUCC facilitating the social integration of youth at risk and their families. Children's rights are used as the standard by which the provision of services to youth at risk is assessed in the social, judicial, educational and other spheres of public life.

In June 2006, IICRD shared its child rights and youth participation expertise with juvenile justice stakeholders in Russia, including government representatives, psychologists, judges, front-line youth workers, youth leaders, and penal colony staff. IICRD's work addressed the project's cross cutting themes of child rights, youth participation and gender sensitivity, and provided knowledge and experiential tools to assist participants in implementing child/youth participation and the actualization of child rights in their work. From these trainings, three Russian delegates were selected to attend IICRD's *Child Rights in Practice: Tools for Social Change* training in order to further explore child rights strategies that could be applicable within the Russian context. IICRD will provide further training and broader strategic input into human rights approaches to development in the YAR Project in 2007.

## BC Ministry of Children and Family Development Transformation Task Team

Funders: British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development

Length of Project: 2006 - 2007

Partners: British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development

IICRD Executive Director Philip Cook has been seconded by the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development for 1/3 of his time to support a 4 year province wide transformation process led by

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Deputy Minister Lesley duToit. Philip Cook will be co-chairing the Transformation Task Team, leading a province wide assessment of *What's Working for Children and Families*, and assisting with a regional Indigenous service delivery plan in Northeast British Columbia.

In the Northeast region of British Columbia, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is moving forward with a regionalization plan to ensure that families and communities are actively engaged in influencing the government services they receive. IICRD has been invited to implement the Triple "A" participatory action research process with Treaty Eight First Nations, Urban Aboriginal Agencies, and Metis Organizations, working in 14 Northeastern communities. Over the next year, the team will work closely with youth, Elders, and care providers in these communities to provide training and develop services that build on existing cultural strengths to meet the needs of children and their families.

## *Children as Partners: Engaging Children as Agents of Positive Change*

### Children as Partners (CAP)

IICRD continues to manage and update [www.iicrd.org/cap](http://www.iicrd.org/cap) to ensure the latest news, research, publications, tools and other information on child participation is available on-line globally.

### GUIC+10

### Growing Up in Cities 10 Years on



**Funders:** UNESCO, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)  
**Event Partners:** Cornell University, UNESCO

In June 2006, Natasha Blanchet-Cohen co-hosted the GUIC+10 workshop, which preceded the World Urban Forum, in partnership with David Driskell of Cornell University, the current UNESCO Chair for Growing Up in Cities. Growing Up in Cities is an international action research initiative developed to create better cities with children and youth. This event provided an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned throughout the various international Growing up in Cities experiences, welcome new network partners, and plan for new collaborative initiatives to engage children and youth in action research for community change. As a result of the event, the following guiding principles were developed: 1) young people's voices and participation are essential, 2) research should lead to action and tangible change, and 3) networks and partnerships at all levels bring about real change for young people.

## Hear the Child: Supporting Meaningful Child Participation in Family Justice Processes

*"It is rare for me to find that the information provided by children is not helpful. My experience has been that the discussion with children generates not only useful information, but frequently a powerful tool in the continuing dialogue with the parents or social workers."*

*Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield, BC Provincial Court, Through the Eyes of Young People published by IICRD, 2006*



Jeff Peterson and Ron Smith share their experiences with the Hear the Child Interview Practice, piloted by IICRD and continuing in Kelowna



Dr. Joan Kelly (California), Chief Judge Stansfield (BC Provincial Court), Judge Ellen Burdett (BC Provincial Court) and Tarryl McNamara (in distance) (youth advisor) during a break at IICRD's Meaningful Child Participation stakeholder session, August 29 - 31, 2006, Vancouver Law Courts

**Funders:** Law Foundation of BC & BC Attorney General (continued pilot work only)

**Length of Project:** Phase I: 2003 - 2006 Phase II: 2006 - 2007

**Partners:** Representatives from key stakeholder groups involved in BC family justice processes such as lawyers, judges, governments, and child advocates; Continuing Legal Education Society of BC

Building on Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and relevant British Columbia (BC) law, IICRD project research unveiled that children are being heard in only a small number of BC family court (custody/access and child protection) processes, and further, they rarely receive information that is easily understood, explaining the court process. To help overcome these challenges, IICRD worked in partnership with dedicated family justice stakeholders in Kelowna to successfully pilot the Hear the Child interview practice, enabling children to share their views, if they wish to do so, in family custody/access cases with decision-makers.

Although the pilot has ended, Kelowna is committed to continuing this practice, and other BC jurisdictions have expressed their desire to do the same. To learn from, and build on the process, IICRD is currently evaluating the pilot. In the upcoming year IICRD intends to roll-out the Hear the Child interview practice in other interested BC jurisdictions, contextualize it for child protection cases, and launch a child participation course with the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC on November 15 - 16, 2007.

This work is pivotal in ensuring meaningful child participation adheres to the recommendations made in the BC Attorney General's review of the *Family Relations Act*, whereby children's participation is a key area of focus to improve the state of things for children and their families.

## YouthScape - Community Based. Youth Paced.

### A National Initiative to Build Resilient Communities through Youth Engagement

**Funders:** J. W. McConnell Family Foundation and United Way of Calgary and Area

**Length of Project:** 2006 - 2010

**Project Partners:** Heartwood Institute for Community Youth Development, Halifax; Boscoville 2000, Montreal; Action for Neighbourhood Change, Thunder Bay; Children for Change, Saskatoon; Child and Youth Friendly Calgary, Calgary

**Advisors:** Hon. Landon Pearson, Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights, Carlton University; Elizabeth Barot, UNESCO Commission Canada; Claude Perras, ALCAN; Ginger Gosnell, Center for Native Policy and Research; Denise Andrea Campbell, City of Toronto

*Imagine if we stopped perceiving young people, especially marginalized and diverse youth as "problems" and, instead, acknowledged them as competent and enthusiastic contributors to our community - as "problem solvers".*

*Imagine if we involved young people in building and running our communities and supported their involvement with policies and legislation?*

*Imagine creating a society where the engagement of young people is an automatic reflex . . .*

For the past 1.5 years, IICRD has been working with the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation and the Advisory to implement a national initiative focusing on engaging young people as a process of creating more resilient communities and fostering innovative change. Through these consultations, YouthScape has emerged.

#### YouthScape...

- Builds on the previous success of IICRD's Growing Up in Cities Canada project and strives to create and strengthen frameworks for meaningful youth engagement across Canada;
- Is based on the notion that young people contribute to resilient (*healthy, inclusive, adaptable*) communities all across the country, but that these contributions are not always recognized by communities and systems;
- Focuses on engaging young people, especially those who have traditionally been excluded, in changing these systems and creating stronger communities; and
- Comprehensively seeks to involve public, private, and voluntary sector partners to renew community organizations, programs, and spaces in partnership with young people.

Through YouthScape's 'place-based' approach, the initiative strives to enhance social opportunities for young people through innovative program, policy and advocacy networks, and contribute to sustainable change through youth-led initiatives, action-based research, and capacity building.

Currently, five Canadian cities have been selected to bring YouthScape to life with support from the National Advisory, IICRD, and TakingITGlobal (a youth led, technology empowered organization connecting, inspiring, and informing youth). These communities include Thunder Bay, Calgary, Saskatoon, Halifax and Rivière des Prairies.

IICRD is serving as the national convening agency, to facilitate and support cross community learning and research, increase local capacity, establish a national youth engagement community, and produce resources to inform and leverage policy and practice across Canada in local, provincial and federal governments.

The inaugural YouthScape Launch will be held in June 2007. We look forward to working together with our new partners to create a Canada-wide movement that encourages and supports young people's contributions and provides the opportunity for communities to work together to facilitate strategic systems change.

## *Children and Culture: Drawing on the Strengths of Child Participation and Traditional Cultural Teachings*

### Indigenous Children's Rights Book

The Indigenous Children's Rights Book is nearly complete. Look for this exciting publication by Transnational Press next summer.

## Establishing Cultural Relevancy in Child Protection Services for Urban Aboriginal Children and Families Project

**Funders:** Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS), BC Ministry of Children and Family Development

**Length of Project:** Undetermined

**Partners:** Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS), local First Nations

IICRD continues to work with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) to support research on restorative aboriginal child protection programs. This project has been extended and will resume in 2007 when IICRD will work in partnership with local First Nations to create a culturally appropriate youth engagement/participation strategy for Urban Aboriginal child protection and intervention services.

## *Tools for Change: Creating a Culture of Children's Rights*

### Child Rights in Practice: Tools for Social Change



*Left: Leordan Lopez Cayupare from Venezuela offers the group a unique perspective into the lives of indigenous children with developing nations, illustrating the important role culture plays in the healthy development of children.*

*Right: Hereditary Kwagwiltz Clan Chief Adam Dick (Kwaxistala) provides an opening song and traditional advise on respecting children.*

**Funders:** The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Conference Secretariat, Health Canada

**Length of Project:** Ongoing

**Partners:** IICRD Project Partners, Associates and Advisors, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development

From February 25 through March 2, 2007, IICRD conducted the inaugural *Child Rights in Practice: Tools for Social Change*, bringing together child rights experts from across the globe to discuss, share experiences and learn about child rights approaches, paradigms and practices to facilitate systems change. One hundred and twenty-one participants took part, including 30 MCFD staff, 15 traditional elders both from the BC MCFD Transformation Team and local communities, 12 local and international youth, 15 international delegates, 12 IICRD staff and 37 local and national delegates and presenters, representing a cross sector of UN agencies, youth and adult led NGOs and government organizations working with and for children.

Guest presenters included:

- ◆ *Prof. Jaap Doek, Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;*
- ◆ *Adam Dick, Kwaxistala, Hereditary clan chief, Kwalicum, BC*
- ◆ *Brent Parfitt, Canada's Representative to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;*
- ◆ *Dr. Cindy Kiro, New Zealand Children's Commissioner;*
- ◆ *Landon Pearson; Director, Centre for Child Rights and Childhood Studies, Carleton University;*
- ◆ *Honourable Hugh Stansfield, Chief Judge, Province of BC;*
- ◆ *Anne Skelton, University of Pretoria, South Africa;*
- ◆ *Lesley duToit, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Children and Family Development;*
- ◆ *Youth leader, Adrianna McKenzie, Destination UP, Nova Scotia;*
- ◆ *Youth leaders Rebecca Jules, KAYA, Vancouver, BC;*
- ◆ *Youth leader Winnie Chow, Antidote, Victoria, BC; and*
- ◆ *Youth leader Kimia Ghomeshi, TakingITGlobal, ON.*

Key themes included:

- ◆ CHILD RIGHTS IN CONTEXT
- ◆ CHILDREN AS PARTNERS: SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S AGENCY
- ◆ CHILD RIGHTS AND CULTURE: SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN
- ◆ DEVELOPMENTAL STRENGTH-BASED APPROACHES TO CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION; and
- ◆ CREATING A CULTURE OF CHILD RIGHTS

The presentations, workshops, and interactive activities focused on:

1. IICRD's developmental asset-oriented child rights approach and other strategies and tools to facilitate "top down - bottom up" systems change;
2. Modeling effective partnerships - both with young people and traditional elders;
3. Focusing on assets and strengths to address risks to young people;
4. Sharing international and local child rights experiences and practices;
5. Working with participants to integrate child rights approaches and tools into existing program and child policy development; and
6. Building stronger networks of child centered specialists and youth.

**Impact**

Overall, the experience gained at the conference helped equip practitioners with the tools to: 1) implement programs that reconnect, re-instill and recreate hope and possibility for children as participating members of the human family; and 2) improve the systems, laws and policies that impact the rights of children.

There was a greater sense of commitment to:

1. Build deeper relationships with youth and elders within their communities;
2. Involve and engage youth, and ask their opinions in matters affecting them; and
3. Apply specific tools for policy and practice.

#### Next Steps

In coming years, IICRD will follow-up with participants to learn how they are progressing, and assess the impact of their actions on young people and the systems in which they work. In addition we hope to:

- o Support a Child Rights in Practice network through IICRD's web site and facilitate on-line learning sessions;
- o Define metrics to measure the effectiveness of interventions in supporting children's rights; and
- o Continue a yearly introductory *Child Rights in Practice* training and to develop and deliver shorter more targeted trainings for various stakeholders.

## From Text to Context

### University of Ghent, International Interdisciplinary Course on Children's Rights



In cooperation with the University of Ghent, Centre for Child Rights, IICRD co-hosted a 5 day child rights course in Ghent, Belgium in November 2006 entitled: *FROM TEXT TO CONTEXT: Bringing child rights to reality through the social practices of those working with and for children.*

The course brought together professionals and practitioners from around the globe to explore the challenges of implementing children's rights. It highlighted the opportunities, practices and strategies for professionals and social practices to advance children's rights - bridging the gap between commitments and intentions and constructive practices serving the best interests of children, their families and communities.

Operational models included lectures, discussion groups, and workshops facilitated by well-known and respected experts, participant generated interest groups and incidental discourse.

IICRD has been asked to host this course in the future and will be working with our CRED-PRO partners to implement regional Interdisciplinary Child Rights courses.

## Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO)

**Funders:** The Oak Foundation

**Length of Project:** 2005 - 2007 (2 of 10 years secured)

**Partners:** Professional Associations, University Centers, and Child Focused Agencies, including but not limited to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, PAHO, Education International, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the International School Psychology Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the European Society for Social Paediatrics, FLACSO (Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales), International Children's Centre (Bilkent University, Ankara, TURKEY; representing organizations in 12 nations), Children's Institute Board (University of Cape Town, South Africa), Children's Environmental Research Group (CERG), City University of New York (CUNY), New York, New York, USA, Children's Rights Centre, University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium, School of Education, Exeter University, Exeter, United Kingdom, College of Family Sciences, University of Dubai, Dubai, Metropolitan University, Mexico, Centre for Child Rights Law, Pretoria University, South Africa, Program in International Human Rights Law, Indiana University Law School, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, USA, Institute for Dispute Resolution, School of Law, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

CRED-PRO is an international initiative designed to develop, expand, and provide educational human rights programming for professions working with and for children across the globe in partnership with relevant professions and interested Non-Governmental and Governmental Organizations. The work of CRED-PRO is intended to foster an epidemic of respect for children, their needs, their rights, and their best interests among and through professionals who influence the lives of children, their families and communities.

Specifically the goals of the CRED-PRO initiative are to

- ◆ Produce and make available an electronically retrievable international resource base of existing educational/training materials on the application of children's rights to professional practice for all relevant professions;
- ◆ Produce a child rights foundational module for all professions and extended profession-specific adaptations and advanced practice, policy and research modules -- with optional versions to fit different cultural, economic and social environments;
- ◆ Develop and implement strategies and systems for ensuring the implementation of child rights education for relevant professions at pre-service preparation and continuing education levels throughout the world;
- ◆ Share and implement the child rights education curricula-modules internationally through creation of an interdependent network of higher education, professional, governmental, and child advocacy organizations dedicated to the improvement of children's lives;
- ◆ Increase the number of professional leaders fostering child rights through the establishment of an accredited higher-education, doctoral, curriculum that can be implemented on a virtual, online basis;
- ◆ Establish a network of cooperative centres of higher learning throughout the world as a means of sustaining specific actionable education and training initiatives; and

- ◆ Achieve marked improvement in the protection, health, development, and education of children through better service, treatment, and community influence by all relevant professionals.

#### **Progress/Status**

Currently the CRED-PRO team has identified, analyzed and archived existing child rights curricula/programs for professionals, and developed child rights education curricula and programs for health professionals. Contextual adaptation and implementation of CRED-PRO is planned in South American, South Africa, Central Eastern Europe, and British Columbia in 2007. Opportunities for similar work in Southeast Asia and Central America are also on the horizon.

IICRD is also

- ◆ Working on a generic CRED-PRO foundational child rights education curriculum for professionals that builds on the AAP, RCPCH and South American partners work. This should be available in the fall of 2007;
- ◆ Forming an alliance with the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect for joint child protection projects to identify and promote good practices, stimulate and guide systems changes, and design, promote and achieve capacity building. Formed a preliminary advisory committee to develop child rights education curricula for legal professionals; and
- ◆ Submitting child rights education proposals for early child care professionals and child protection professionals.

## 2006-2007 IICRD News

### Staff Changes

**Jen Wheeler** joined the IICRD team as Administrative and Project Assistant in November 2006. Jen has a background in International Development and Anthropology and has worked in the Victoria non-profit sector since graduating with a BA with honours from the University of Victoria.

**Rob Parker** joined IICRD to assist with the *Child Rights in Practice* training conference held in February 2007 and is providing technical and project support to the team. This home grown Victorian has obtained his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Sociology.

**Bill White** (*Xelimumw/Kasalid, Coast Salish*) has left our Board to join the IICRD team as our Traditional Tribal Specialist.

**Vanessa Currie** has returned from her post with IICRD's Tsunami project and is currently working to complete her Masters in International Child Welfare at the School of Social Work and Psychosocial Sciences, University of East Anglia and will rejoin the IICRD staff in Canada following her course work.

### Welcome to all of you!!

**Renée Lormé-Gulbrandsen** is off on maternity-leave and celebrating the birth of her first child, Anders. We look forward to having her join the team again and wish her health and happiness in motherhood. CONGRATULATIONS!!

**Derek Peterson** has moved to associate status with IICRD and is focusing his energies on his new NGO (ICARUS) and the youth development field in the United States. Wishing you all the best Derek and we look forward to working with you more in the future.

**Jocelyn Helland** has moved on to become the Executive Director of the BC Child and Youth Care Network. We wish you all the best and we look forward to working together in this new capacity.

IICRD's Board of Directors welcomes **Martin Golder**, an architect and conflict resolution consultant and sadly bids farewell to **Valerie Fronczek**, **Maria Le Rose** and **Fran Grunberg**. We all extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for all of their hard work and dedication and wish them all well.

### Our Office

Our University of Victoria office has relocated to:  
3930 Shelbourne St., Suite 219 Victoria, BC V8P 5P6  
Phone: (250) 472-4762 Fax: (250) 853-3215

While we are also enjoying our Pender Island Office we will be consolidating our offices in Victoria late this summer.

### Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for IICRD's second annual *Child Rights in Practice: Tools for Social Change* training coming to BC in the Spring of 2008.

## *Year at a Glance*

### Meetings, Project Visits, & Highlights

#### April 2006

- Meetings with Susan Bissell, Marta Santos-Pais colleagues at UNICEF's Innocenti Research Center in Italy to discuss next steps the Innovative Culturally Grounded Rights Based Approaches to Child Protection- Florence, Italy
- Meeting with Save the Children - Toronto, and the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation - Montreal, QC

#### May 2006

- Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO) Foundational Retreat - Whistler, BC
- "Seeds of Recovery" monitoring trip and meetings with Save the Children Canada in India
- Meeting in Thailand with UNDP, Commit and other SEARCH partners to plan child rights and anti trafficking strategies for the region
- Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO) curriculum review and revision meeting with pediatric/child health experts from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay, PAHO and UNICEF - Buenos Aires.

#### June 2006

- Philip Cook meets with IPSCAN to discuss CRED-PRO partnership
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen and Renée Lormé-Gulbrandsen attend GUIC +10 and World Urban Forum - Vancouver, BC
- Jocelyn Helland works with Child and Youth Office to role out their Child Rights Campaign with a special focus on better supporting youth in care in BC
- Kelowna Law Foundation trip to pilot curriculum ideas

#### September 2006

- Initial YouthScape Community Gathering of short listed applicants - Victoria, BC
- Philip Cook travels to Thailand and the Philippines for the SEARCH Project

#### October 2006

- Philip Cook travels to Vietnam on for the SEARCH Project
- Jennifer Wheeler joins the IICRD team
- Gerison Lansdown represents the CRED-PRO initiative in an exploratory meeting to determine the feasibility of organizing a CRED-PRO program for child health professionals - South Africa
- Meetings held with VACFASS - Vancouver, BC
- Philip Cook co hosts Child Protection Consortium meetings - Sacramento, CA, USA

#### November 2006

- Philip Cook meets with faculty and graduate students at the Department of Human and Community Development University of California at Davis to discuss IICRD's approach to child protection
- YouthScape project development meetings and ongoing site visits - Montreal, Halifax, Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Saskatoon, Calgary and Victoria

#### Jan 2007

- IICRD meets Kaldor to begin rebranding process

#### Feb 2007

- Hosted International Forum on impact of CRC implementation on Child Protection issues in BC
- NGO Working Group meeting on Indigenous Child Rights - Sidney, BC
- Hosted International Child Protection Consortium Meetings - Victoria
- Indigenous General Comment Meeting - Sidney, BC

#### March 2007

- Stuart Hart and Gary Robinson, meet with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) - Washington DC, USA

## Presentations / Courses

### April 2006

- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen presents at the American Education Research Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, USA
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen moderates a workshop at the International Mayor's Conference of Francophone Mayor's on social inclusion of young people - Montreal, QC

### June 2006

- Philip Cook presents the Circle of Care model and results at the International Child Rights and Protection Conference hosted by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) - Ottawa, ON
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen presents at the Human Security in Urban Spaces Conference - Vancouver, BC
- Philip Cook and Suzanne Williams conduct Juvenile Justice Child Rights and Youth Participation Training - Russian Federation
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen co-facilitated GUIC +10 session with David Driskell (Cornell-UNESCO Chair) - Vancouver, BC

### August 2006

- IICRD hosts "Through the Eyes of Young People: Meaningful Child Participation in BC Family Justice Processes", Stakeholders Session with key experts, judges, lawyers, young people, government representatives and other family law stakeholders - Vancouver, BC Session chaired and presented by Suzanne Williams.

### September 2006

- Stuart Hart presents a "Masters Lecture" and two additional presentations on psychological maltreatment at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

### October 2006

- Suzanne Williams gives a guest lecture to UVIC International Human Rights Class - Victoria, BC
- Jocelyn Helland attends the Community Collaborating Institute hosted by Tamarak - Waterloo, ON
- Michele Cook and Lorelle Posten attend Enterprising Non-profits Orientation- New Westminster, BC

### November 2006

- CRED-PRO and the relevance of Child Rights to Paediatricians presentation to the BC Medical Association's Grand Rounds by Stuart Hart and Jocelyn Helland - Vancouver, BC
- Philip Cook, Suzanne Williams and Stuart Hart co-host and co-facilitate the Interdisciplinary Course in Child Rights and Development in Ghent, Belgium

### December 2006

- Training of Trainers on the Psychosocial "Seeds of Recovery" Program in Tamil Nadu, India
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen presents on Child Rights and Community Development at the International Conference on Children - Mexico
- Philip Cook, Suzanne Williams and Stuart Hart co-host the International Interdisciplinary Course on Children's Rights - Ghent, Belgium
- Suzanne Williams presents "Child Rights in Practice" at Western University of Science and Technology (Moi University) - Kakamega, Kenya

### January 2007

- Suzanne Williams presents on the Parenting and Access Coordinators Panel
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen presents at Pluri-Elles Conference - Winnipeg, MB

### February 2007

- IICRD's Child Rights in Practice Training: Tools for Social Change Training Workshop - Sidney, BC

### March 2007

- Philip Cook and Suzanne Williams conduct the Child Rights and Juvenile Justice Training - Russia
- Suzanne Williams meets with the Institute for Indigenous Governance
- Suzanne Williams presents to the Surrey Joint Courts Users Committee, "Child Participation in Family Justice Processes" - Surrey, BC
- Suzanne Williams presents to the Canadian Bar Association (Westminster County), "Hear the Child" - New Westminster, BC

## Publications

- Blanchet-Cohen, N. (in press). Rainbow Warriors: Environmental Agency of Early Adolescents'. In B. Stevenson and J. Dillon. *International Perspectives on Environmental Learning, Participation and Agency*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers. 28p.
- Blanchet-Cohen, N. (in press). Environmental Health of men in the Little Red River Cree Nation. In. D. Natcher (Ed.), *Linking Social and Ecological Research for Sustainability: A First nations' Approach to Forest Management*. Ontario: Cactus Press, 21p.
- Blanchet-Cohen, N. (2006). Young People's Participation in Canadian municipalities: Claiming Meaningful Space. *Canadian Review of Social Policy*, Vol. 56, p. 71-84.
- Blanchet-Cohen, N. (2006). *Growing Up in Cities Canada: Civic Engagement of Young People in Vancouver*. Victoria: IICRD. 32p.
- Blanchet-Cohen, N. (with Rainbow, B). (2006). Partnerships between children and adults? The experience of the International Children and Environment Conference. *Childhood*. 13:1, 113-126.
- Chawla, L., Blanchet-Cohen, N., Cosco, N., Driskell, D., Kruger, J., Malone, K., Moore, R. Moore and Percy-Smith, B. (2006). Don't Just Listen - Do Something! Lessons Learned about Governance from the Growing Up in Cities Project. [special issue: Children and governance]. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 15 (2). [http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/15\\_2/15\\_2\\_04\\_DontJustListen.pdf](http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/15_2/15_2_04_DontJustListen.pdf)
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children: Workbook 1, Children's Development. Toronto: Save the Children Canada. 48p.
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children: Workbook 2, Child Rights. Toronto: Save the Children Canada. 56p.
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children: Workbook 3, Child Protection & Psychosocial Support. Toronto: Save the Children Canada. 60p.
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children: Workbook 4, Children's Participation. Toronto: Save the Children Canada. 52p.
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children: Workbook 5, Nature-based Experiential Activities. Toronto: Save the Children Canada. 44p.
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children: Workbook 6, The Triple "A" Participatory Approach. Toronto: Save the Children Canada. 64p.
- Cook, M & Currie, V. (2006). Seeds of Recovery, Community Support for Vulnerable Children Research Report. 36p.
- Hart, S. N. (in press). The United Nations. Encyclopedia on Moral Education. Oxford, UK: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Hart, S. N. (in press). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Encyclopedia on Moral Education. Oxford, UK: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Hart, S. N. (in press). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Encyclopedia on Moral Education. Oxford, UK: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Hart, S. N. (2007). Reflections on the implications of re-victimization patterns of children and youth as clarified by the research of Finkelhor, Ormrod and Turner. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31, 5, 473-477.

Williams, S. (2006). Through the Eyes of Young People: Meaningful Child Participation in BC Family Court Processes. 212p.

Williams, S. (February 2007). Hearing from Children Takes a Pro-Active Approach, *Canadian Bar Association BC BarTalk*.

## Media Coverage

- CBC French Television News, live interview, IICRD Child Rights in Practice Conference, February 28, 2007 (Natasha Blanchet-Cohen)
- Victoria Times Colonist, *Can Lesley du Toit fix BC's Child Care System?* Jeff Rudd, November 26, 2006 (Suzanne Williams quoted and work profiled)
- The Lawyers Weekly, *"Hear the Child" interviews help get children's views at lower cost*, Cori McGuire, November 10, 2006 (Suzanne Williams quoted and IICRD work profiled)
- Business Examiner, *Hearing Voices: Children and Family Law*, Rachel Goldsworthy, October 9, 2006 (Suzanne Williams quoted and IICRD work profiled)
- CBC Radio (Vancouver), live ten minute interview with Priya Ramu, *On the Coast, Children's Participation in BC Court Processes*, September 6, 2006 (Suzanne Williams)
- CFAX Radio, Live half hour interview with Terry Moore, *Children's Participation in BC Court Processes* September 5, 2006 (Suzanne Williams)
- Victoria Times Colonist, *Report urges more child input in family court issues*, Richard Watts, Thursday, August 31, 2006 ((Suzanne Williams quoted and IICRD work profiled)
- CBC Radio (Victoria), All Points West, live 15 minute interview, *Children's Participation in BC Court Processes*, August 30, 2006 (Suzanne Williams)

## The Year Ahead

### April 2007

- SAS Training
- Kaldor Branding Meeting/Discussion

### May 2007

- FLACSO/CRED-PRO Training of Trainers Santiago, Chile
- Suzanne Williams presents at Provincial Judges Conference

### June 2007

- McConnell Community Training
- TakingItGlobal (TIG) Workshop
- Natasha Blanchet-Cohen to meet in Geneva to review United Nations Study on Violence Against Children
- Philip to meet with UNICEF, Right To Play, Oxford, Innocenti Research Centre, Save the Children and PLAN to discuss future initiatives
- Team Retreat

### July 2007 and beyond:

- YouthScape Community Visits
- Philip Cook, Bill White and Vanessa Currie to assist the Northern Region to use the Triple "A" process to setup a regional authority
- Suzanne Williams and Natasha-Blanchet Cohen to deliver final child rights and juvenile justice training in Russia
- Philip Cook to co-facilitate child protection meetings in California and Manila
- Philip Cook to present at UNODC Anti-trafficking Conference Thailand
- November YouthScape Learning Symposium - Montreal
- Child Participation Law Training- CLEBC
- CRC and Child Health meeting -Honduras
- BC Pediatric training on Child Rights
- Meaningful Child Participation in Family Justice Processes multidisciplinary training

## *IICRD's Core Team*

*Dr. Philip Cook*, Executive Director  
*Dr. Stuart Hart*, Deputy Director  
*Bill White*, (*Xelimumw/Kasalid, Coast Salish*),  
Traditional Tribal Specialist  
*Suzanne Williams*, Deputy and Legal Director  
*Michele Cook*, Program Director  
*Natasha Blanchet-Cohen*, Research Director  
*Lorelle Posten*, Administrative Director  
*Jocelyn Helland*, Community Liaison  
*Vanessa Currie*, Child Protection Manager  
*Rob Parker*, Project Assistant  
*Renée Lormé-Gulbrandsen*, Administrative and  
Project Assistant  
*Jen Wheeler*, Administrative and Project Assistant

## *IICRD's Advisors - Providing IICRD with International Child Rights Advice*

*Honourable Landon Pearson*, Director, Landon  
Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of  
Childhood and Children's Rights, Carlton University  
*Dr. Roger Hart*, Professor, Director of Children's  
Environments Research Group  
*Chief Kim Recalma-Clutesi OgwiLogwa*  
(*Kwagiulth*), *Qualicum Reserve*  
*Judith Karp*, Former member, UN Committee on  
the Rights of the Child  
*Noeli Pocatererra*, Senator, Government of  
Venezuela (Wayuu)  
*Cherry Kingsley*, International Center to Combat  
the Exploitation of Children (ICCEC)  
*Jaap Doek*, Chair of the UN Committee on the  
Rights of the Child, Geneva  
*Dr. Bill Myers*, Chair, International Child Rights  
Expert, University of California at Davis  
*Victor P. Karunan*, Senior Advisor, Adolescent  
Development and Participation (ADAP), UNICEF  
Head Quarters, New York  
*Cynthia Price Cohen*, J.D.; M.A.; J.S.D. Child  
Rights International Research Institute, New York

## *IICRD's Board of Directors*

*Dr. Gordon Smith*, Director of the Centre for  
Global Studies, University of Victoria  
*Kaija Dixon*, former Administration Director and  
Financial Coordinator, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada  
*Jil Amadio*, communications, marketing and public  
relations consultant  
*Simon Jackson*, founder and Director of Spirit Bear  
Youth Coalition  
*Larissa Streu*, Lawyer, Miller Thomson LLP  
*Martin Golder*, Architect and Conflict  
Management Consultant  
*Dr. Philip Cook*, IICRD Executive Director (ex-  
officio)

## *IICRD's Associates Currently Supporting IICRD's Work*

*Martha Nelms*, formally the child protection focal  
point at CIDA, now living in Lebanon.  
*Derek Peterson*, ED of ICARUS and leader in the  
youth development field.  
*Brent Parfitt*, Member of UN Committee on the  
Rights of the Child, Geneva and former Deputy  
Ombudsman for British Columbia.  
*Julian Norris*, Co-founder of Rediscovery Ghost  
River and founder of Guiding Spirit, extensive  
experience working with traditional Elders and  
youth.  
*Gerison Lansdown*, Director of the Children's  
Rights Office (now known as the Children's Rights  
Alliance for England) from its establishment in  
1992 to 2000, and international consultant in  
children's rights.  
*Mira Dodig*, Children's mental health practitioner  
with experience working in war affected areas.  
*Gary Robinson*, Ph. D.; CRED-PRO Manager:  
organizational, distance learning, higher  
education, research, and Latin America affairs.  
*Jeff Goldhagen*, Academy of Pediatrics - CRED-  
PRO Advisor.  
*Jan Mackie*, director of Spiral Garden with 25  
years experience in art garden therapeutic  
interventions with children at risk in Canada,  
Mexico, India, and Sri Lanka.

IICRD would also like to acknowledge Miller Thomson LLP for their support with our filings, Schell and Associates for completing our audit, and all of our advisors, associates, members, and volunteers who have supported IICRD's work this year.

## Remembering Agnes Pierre



IICRD has gained immensely from its work with many traditionally trained Elders/Sulalewqw particularly around traditions and values which reinforced strong families, communities and ultimately provided protection for children. Agnes Pierre understood and constantly reinforced the immense value of using prayers, advice and traditional ceremonies, and spiritual guidance in our daily lives. Working with young people required being in balance, being clean and having a good heart and attitude. Otherwise very quietly she said, "Fix yourself, this is not the time or the place." With great sadness we note the passing of our teacher, friend and colleague Agnes Pierre/Katzie, BC this past year. In addition to assisting with the delivery of two IICRD/UVIC courses working with Elders and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, she also assisted with framing traditional values especially in relation to Coast Salish Winter Dance ceremonies and the Shaker Church for the video *Echoing of the Elders: Teachings for Coast Salish Youth*. She was also a member of the Board of Directors for IICRD. Agnes Pierre was immensely knowledgeable, humble, and a powerful Sleni/woman who applied ancestral teachings to her work with young people. With her guidance the female human figure in our logo, surrounded by two thunderbirds (Ancestral knowledge/Convention on the Rights of the Child), spoke and together flew in a stronger way. IICRD located in the heart of Coast Salish territory was enriched through very gentle advice from specialists such as Agnes Pierre who understood our relationships with the natural and supernatural worlds.

Of the forest as a sacred place Agnes Pierre (1999) said, "...this is the place that we come to meditate. When we feel that we need to do some soul searching this is where we would come to do it. We come to get strength from every little thing that is here in the woods, the trees, the birds, the animals."

With deep respect and immense honour we thank her and her family for all of her significant contributions in helping many Indigenous children and youth access their Sinyews/traditional values.