



The **Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare** (CECW) is a network of researchers, major service provider organizations, and policy makers in numerous Canadian sites. Its focus is to promote effective practice in the field of child welfare through conducting substantive collaborative research and disseminating child welfare knowledge in a wide variety of ways. The CECW also emphasizes policy development in child welfare and has a special emphasis on child welfare as it relates to Aboriginal children.

Key Messages

- A number of socio-political factors influence child welfare in Canada today.
- Child welfare is closely related to early development, poverty, community resources, and family support.
- The incidence of reported child maltreatment has risen in recent years.
- Aboriginal communities and children with special needs are considerably over-represented in child welfare.
- In spite of ongoing provincial/territorial funding for child welfare programs, little is known about their effectiveness. Part of the Centre's mandate is to fund and/or synthesize research that measures the impact of existing child welfare programs.
- Canada has 13 separate child welfare systems, administered by the provinces and territories. Canada's federal government also has a strong interest in promoting the well-being of children. Branches of these governments and organizations they support benefit considerably from the information-sharing that the Centre facilitates.

Key Successes

Conferences and symposia

- Hosted the 4th National Child Welfare Symposium, bringing together senior child welfare policy makers and service providers. Montréal, May 2005.
- Held international conference featuring reconciliation in Aboriginal child welfare. Niagara Falls, October 2005.
- Co-hosted Prairie Child Welfare Symposium. Edmonton, November 2005.

Policy development

- Completed 6-month secondment to Ontario government to provide advice.
- Almost completed second policy advice book on resilience and permanence.
- Hosted founding meeting of UN sub-committee on Rights of Indigenous Children.

Dissemination and networking

- Produced numerous Information Sheets, reports, and documents

Research and data analysis

- Released CIS-03, the second national study of reported child abuse and neglect.
- Finalizing 19 research projects initiated in first 5-year period.