

# Child Intervention System Review

## Panel Member Bios

### **Nico Trocmé, MSW, Ph.D. (co-chair)**

- *Philip Fisher Chair in Social Work at McGill University*
- *Scientific Director of the Canadian Centre of Excellence in Child Welfare*

Nico Trocmé is considered among the leading researchers in the field of child welfare in Canada.

He was principal investigator for a national incidence study about reported child abuse and neglect. He also directed the development of a framework for tracking child welfare service outcomes, which is currently being implemented by governments across the country.

Dr. Trocmé served as a research advisor for a child welfare service transformation program in Ontario. He has spent the last five years developing a national network of researchers and policy makers to promote and support evidence-based child welfare policy.

He has presented expert evidence at several coroner inquests and provides evaluation and service planning consultation to a number of child welfare organizations in Canada.

He is currently focusing on developing an interdisciplinary community-researcher partnership to conduct and disseminate research for effective programs and policies for vulnerable children, youth, and families.

### **Peter Dudding, MM, MSW, RSW (co-chair)**

- *Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of Canada*

Peter Dudding has three decades of senior management experience in the fields of child welfare, public health and international development.

Mr. Dudding's career includes service as the associate director of the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, executive director of the Children's Aid Society of Lanark County, and social services director for the Government of Yukon. He currently serves as the co-director of the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare and co-chairs the national steering committee for the Canadian Incidence Study on Reported Child Abuse and Neglect.

His work includes conducting applied research, establishing best practice models, policy and program development, evaluating outcomes, advocacy, knowledge building, and promoting child and youth rights.

### **Dorothy Ahlgren**

- *Co-chair of the CACP Crime Prevention Committee and Chair of the Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-being*

Dorothy Ahlgren has extensive experience in issues related to crime prevention, public safety, social development, youth justice renewal and youth mental health. Currently, Ms. Ahlgren is the co-Chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) Crime Prevention Committee, and an active volunteer chair of the Coalition on Community Safety, Health and

Well-being, a multi-disciplinary coalition of national non-governmental organizations with social mandates and shared vision.

As the former Director General of the RCMP's National Youth Strategy, Ms. Ahlgren led the development and implementation of strategies related to two of the RCMP's five national priorities: youth and services to Aboriginal communities. She revitalized RCMP work on restorative justice based on analysis of international developments, national trends, and cultural appropriateness; participated on intergovernmental committees on youth, victims, crime prevention and child sexual exploitation; and served as a representative and advisor on numerous federal initiatives related to the safety and security of children and youth, including child maltreatment/neglect and sexual exploitation.

**Mike DeGagné, Ph.D.**

- *Executive Director, Aboriginal Healing Foundation*

Mike DeGagné is the founding Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, a national Aboriginal organization dedicated to addressing the legacy of Canada's Indian Residential School System. He has worked in the field of addiction and mental health for the past 25 years, first as a community worker on-reserve in northern Ontario and later with the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF), the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), and the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP).

With the federal government, Mr. DeGagné has been an Executive manager in Aboriginal health and a land claims negotiator. He lectures and teaches nationally and internationally on issues of Aboriginal health, Residential Schools, reconciliation, and governance. He serves on a number of Boards, including Algoma University, and is currently the Vice-President of the Child Welfare League of Canada, and past Chairman of the Queensway Carleton Hospital. His PhD focuses on Aboriginal post secondary education.

**Jane Fitzgerald, B.A., M.S.W.**

- *Executive Director, Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex*

Jane Fitzgerald has worked extensively with children and families as a clinician and administrator within the children's mental health and child welfare fields.

Ms. Fitzgerald joined the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex as Executive Director in July 2005. Prior to this, Ms. Fitzgerald was Vice President of Major Partnership Development and Government Relations for Invest in Kids, a national, charitable organization dedicated to ensuring the healthy social, emotional and intellectual development of children from birth to age five.

Ms. Fitzgerald was also the Executive Director of Family and Children's Services for the Province of Nova Scotia. She was the founding Chairperson of the Children and Youth Action Committee (CAYAC), a cross-departmental initiative designed to integrate children's policies across government. She was also a Co-Chair of the Children's Mental Health Restructuring Project of the Government of Nova Scotia.

Ms. Fitzgerald has held a number of key volunteer positions, including National Advisor to The Lawson Foundation TLC3 Project, member of Invest in Kids' Board of Advisors, member of the Board of the Child Welfare League of Canada, and member of the Steering Committee on the

National Children's Agenda. In 2002, Ms. Fitzgerald was a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Special Session on Children in New York which has led to the recent publication of A Canada Fit for Children, which documents the Canadian government's commitment to the nation's children.

### **Sandra Harrison**

- *Mental Health Patient Advocate, Alberta*

Sandra H. Harrison, was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on October 1, 2006 as the third Mental Health Patient Advocate for the Province of Alberta.

Sandra Harrison holds a Masters of Social Work from the University of Manitoba and a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Calgary. She has more than 20 years experience ranging from front line to executive management in the mental health and corrections fields, in government and private consultancy.

As the Alberta Mental Health Patient Advocate Ms. Harrison has a range of responsibilities, including assisting formal (certified) patients involuntarily detained in facilities designated under the Mental Health Act to understand and exercise their legal rights; investigating and facilitating redress for concerns and complaints relating to formal patients; advocating for amendments to mental health and other protective legislation as these relate to formal patients; supporting client perspectives in the development and implementation of mental health policies and procedures; and promoting public, professional and consumer awareness of rights related to issues in mental health.

### **Josie Hill**

- *Executive Director, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre*

Within the Winnipeg community, Josie Hill has long been recognized as an advocate and ambassador for the Aboriginal community. She has worked for the betterment and well being of her community for over 25 years, developing many services directly related to the needs of children and families.

Working and volunteering at such organizations as the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Native Women's Transition Centre, Ndinawemaaganag, Andrews Street Family Centre, Circle of Life Thunderbird House, C.L.O.U.T. (Community Lead Organizations United Together), P.O.W. (Power of Womanhood), Taking Charge, and the United Way of Winnipeg, Ms. Hill put many unique community development approaches into action, resulting in meaningful community involvement in the care of its members.

Since 1997, Ms. Hill has served as the Executive Director of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. In this time, she has led the agency on a journey of renewal – moving from the perspective of a traditional client-centred approach toward a new appreciation of engaged citizens as the ultimate resource for families. The organization has been refocused to deliver services using a community service delivery model.

As a result of Ms. Hill's vision and leadership, many organizations throughout Winnipeg have embraced a community development process that has enabled local empowerment and provided a voice for families that builds capacity for self-care.

### **Kenn Richard**

- *Executive Director, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto*

Kenn Richard holds an M.S.W. from the University of Manitoba and has been a practicing social worker, mainly within Aboriginal child welfare, since the mid-seventies. Kenn has been Executive Director of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, a mandated Society and Children's Mental Health Center, since 1989.

Kenn teaches intercultural social work practice at the University Of Toronto Faculty Of Social Work. He also holds an appointment within the Native Studies program at Trent University. He is published in the areas of Child Welfare and urban Native issues.

He has been the recipient of the Civic Award of Merit, The Chief of Police Community Award, and the Salute to the City Award for outstanding civic contribution.

Kenn is a strong children's advocate at both the national and the local level and is often called to lend advice to government in the field of Native Child Welfare and its related issues. He has appeared as expert witness to the courts and Parliamentary/Legislative committees on matters associated with Native children. He has also been active in the both the print and the visual media on issues associated with the welfare of Native children.

### **Dr. Gayla Rogers**

- *Dean, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary*

Dr. Gayla Rogers began teaching in the Faculty of Social Work in 1978 on a part-time basis. In 1987, she became the director of field education and in 1998 became the Faculty's first female dean.

Rogers has been directly involved in curriculum development, teaching and research administration, and academic leadership. She has co-authored or edited four books; published over 45 journal articles and book chapters; delivered over 100 papers; and has received federal funding for her research.

Over the past 20 years, Rogers has served as a director on the boards of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Jewish Family Services, YWCA of Calgary, and the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work as well as its Board of Accreditation.

She currently serves on the Professional Social Work Education Board of the Alberta College of Social Workers, the member committee of the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research and the Council of Champions for the United Way of Calgary's Children's Initiative. Dr Rogers is presently a director on the boards of three voluntary sector organizations: HomeFront Society for the Prevention of Family Violence, the Telus World of Science Creative Kids Museum, and Katimavik.

### **Cal Dallas**

- *Member of Legislative Assembly, Red Deer South*

Cal Dallas was elected to his first term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Red Deer-South on March 3, 2008. In addition to his regular duties as MLA, he currently serves as a member of the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Committee on Health and the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Prior to service with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Mr. Dallas was executive director of the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce, and before that, he worked in the printing and publishing industry for 25 years, including nine years as publisher of a local newspaper.

An active member of his community, Mr. Dallas has been involved in numerous organizations including the Red Deer Rotary Club, the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, vice-president, the United Way of Central Alberta, Red Deer College, and the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness. In recognition of his community involvement, Mr. Dallas received the Canadian Chamber of Commerce volunteer of the year award in 2002 and a Queens Jubilee Medal in 2003.