38th Annual Virtual Protecting Our Children
Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations
Virtual Conference Mobile App

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- Download the conference app by going to the App Store (iOS) or Play Store (Android) and searching for "NICWA"
- Select the 38th Annual Virtual Protecting Our Children Conference event
- Enter the conference password of "NICWA2020"
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Please note all times in the app and the agenda are in mountain time.

### Virtual Conference Schedule

*Note all times listed are in mountain time*

**Monday, March 30**

9:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m. MT  
Opening Welcome by Sarah Kastelic, MSW, PhD, NICWA executive director

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**  
Child Welfare as Medicine: Terry Cross, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, DHL, NICWA founder and senior advisor

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. MT  
Session One

**FAMILY HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS AND ACTIVE EFFORTS**  
(Carrie Garrow, JD, and Lauren van Schilfgaarde, JD)

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. MT  
Session Two

**WORKING WITH SUBSTANCE-ABUSING FAMILIES**  
(Terry Cross, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, DHL)

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. MT  
Session Three

**PROMISING PRACTICES IN TRIBAL-STATE CHILD WELFARE COLLABORATIONS**  
(David Simmons, MSW)

5:30 p.m.–6:15 p.m. MT  
Annual Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, March 31**

9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. MT  
Session Four

**THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT: IS IT A TOOL FOR PROVIDING CULTURALLY BASED SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AT RISK?**  
(Jack Trope, JD, and David Simmons, MSW)

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. MT  
**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**  
Community Healing through Intergenerational Exchange: Living Our Cultural Values and Beliefs  
Cindy Blackstock, PhD, executive director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

Followed by honoring of NICWA Champion for Native Children, Cindy Blackstock, PhD

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. MT  
Session Five

**EVALUATING CULTURALLY BASED PROGRAMS: POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING**  
(Puneet Sahota, MD, PhD; Deana Around Him, DrPH; and DeeAnna (D.J.) Personius)

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. MT  
Session Six

**RECRUITING AND ENGAGING FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**  
(Alicia Groh, Rebekah Main, and Mary Boo)

**Wednesday, April 1**

9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. MT  
Session Seven

**ICWA IN THE COURTS AND STATE LEGISLATURES: A LEGAL UPDATE COVERING THE FEDERAL COURT CHALLENGES TO ICWA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATE ICWA LAWS**  
(Dan Leiererenz, JD; Erin Dougherty Lynch, JD; and Kathryn Fort, JD)

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. MT  
**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**  
Community Healing through Intergenerational Exchange: Living Our Cultural Values and Beliefs  
Don Coyhie, President and Founder, White Bison, Inc.

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. MT  
Session Eight

**A RELATIONAL APPROACH TO TRANSCENDING ACEs AND INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA**  
(Jessica Elm, PhD; Jessica Saniguq Ulrich, PhD; and Lakeme Vwegg Gemezoff, PhD)

3:30 p.m.–5:15 p.m. MT  
Session Nine

**WE R NATIVE, HEALTHY NATIVE YOUTH, AND CELEBRATE OUR MAGIC: PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
(Michelle Singer, Morgan Thomas, and Thomas Ghost Dog)

Followed by closing Remarks by Sarah Kastelic, MSW, PhD, NICWA executive director
Dear NICWA Members and Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the National Indian Child Welfare Association Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to the 38th Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

I am grateful that you are able to join us as we gather together virtually. Our 2020 theme for the Protecting Our Children Conference is “Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations: Living Our Tribal Cultural Values and Beliefs.” During our virtual conference, I hope that you are able to spend time considering the intersection between formal service delivery systems, traditional teachings, and cultural values. Intergenerational healing and wellness will take all of us—tribal elders, families, and youth—supporting, uplifting, and honoring each other in many ways as we approach this important work.

I wish to thank the many people who have worked hard to make this conference a success: our presenters, sponsors, attendees, volunteers, board, and staff. Your efforts on behalf of Native children and families, especially during challenging times such as these, are important acts of service for our people. Together we are strengthening the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children, families, and communities.

As always, I am honored to serve this organization, and you, as NICWA’s board president. I sincerely hope you find our time together valuable, enjoyable, and beneficial to the vital work that you do, and that you are inspired to carry on forward and honor past, present, and future generations.

Thank you,

Gil Vigil (Tesuque Pueblo)
President, Board of Directors
National Indian Child Welfare Association

Dear NICWA Members, Sponsors, Donors, and Friends,

On behalf of our board of directors, board of trustees, staff, partners, and the families we serve, welcome to the 38th Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. For 38 years, we have been meeting in April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, to gather together and share our collective wisdom about how to draw on our cultural traditions and teachings to strengthen American Indian/Alaska Native families and children. This year's theme, “Honoring Our Past, Present, and Future Generations: Living Our Tribal Cultural Values and Beliefs,” focuses on the opportunity we each have to exemplify our tribal values and beliefs in our attitude and conduct, in the work we do in our communities, for the benefit of children as well as in the way we carry ourselves in our own extended families. At our core, Indigenous worldviews are relational. We orient ourselves to the world through our relationships with human beings, animals, and our environment. According to our worldview, all things are related with one another, and we make meaning of the world around us through holding these relationships in context.

This conference gives us the opportunity to summon the collective power of our cultural values and traditions in service to our communities and families. We know best how to apply the wisdom encoded in our values and beliefs to nurture our children and support Native families. In our plenary sessions, dozens of workshops, and many other activities, you'll experience and be inspired by our culture in action. As you attend these sessions, look for concrete examples of our Native values and beliefs in service to our past, present, and future generations.

One of the things I most look forward to each year is the NICWA conference. While I'm fortunate to travel to many tribal communities throughout the year, there are many dear friends and partners that I only see at our conference. This opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones motivates and sustains me for the work we do all year long. This chance to hear from you about the strengths and challenges of your work in your community helps me to be a better advocate and to continually iterate and adjust NICWA programming. When we're here together in Denver this week, I invite you to take a minute to introduce yourself to me and tell me about the work in your community that you're most excited about.

Finally, for the first time in many years, I have two host sponsors to thank. It is with heartfelt gratitude that I thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Cowlitz Indian Tribe for making the work we do at our annual conference possible. Seminole Tribe of Florida, who has provided conference sponsorships for nearly a decade, has been joined by the Cowlitz Tribe, who also partner with NICWA through membership and programmatic activities. When you see representatives from Seminole Tribe of Florida and Cowlitz Tribe, please thank them, along with our other sponsors, for their unwavering support of our mission: strengthening the well-being of Alaska Native and American Indian children and families.

Quyanaa for participating in the NICWA annual conference, and enjoy your time with us!

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Kastelic, PhD, MSW (Alutiiq)
Executive Director
National Indian Child Welfare Association
This year’s NICWA Membership Meeting is virtual. Despite the new setting, we will join together as members, vote on board nominees, hear from leaders, and win prizes. Like in previous years, members will vote on a slate of nominations for the NICWA board. As members, your voice is important, and we rely on your support to help guide our mission.

If you’re a NICWA member attending conference, you’ll have the opportunity to win a Pendleton blanket by completing our Member Profile. The survey can be accessed [https://www.nicwa.org/membership/member-profile/](https://www.nicwa.org/membership/member-profile/). The winner of the Pendleton will be announced at our virtual annual conference during the keynote on Wednesday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m. MT.

This keynote explores strategies to make child welfare a good medicine. Terry Cross (Seneca), NICWA Child welfare programs and services should be oriented toward helping to heal and strengthen families. This includes working with substance-abusing families in ways designed to help them on the path to recovery. This keynote will address trauma and the need to be well-informed about the many aspects of trauma, how untreated trauma can be transmitted from generation to generation through adverse childhood experiences, and the impact of loss and grief on children who experience the child welfare system. Child welfare workers can be therapeutic-not therapists-and conduct their practice in ways that heal instead of compounding the hurt.

Indigenous cultures have always provided for the care and safety of the most vulnerable. This keynote explores strategies to make child welfare a good medicine.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. MT

**Community Healing through Intergenerational Exchange: Living Our Cultural Values and Beliefs (Part One)**

Cindy Blackstock (Gitxsan First Nation), NICWA

Indigenous communities facilitate intergenerational healing and wellness by recognizing that the teachings, ideas, and answers to the challenges our communities face are in the hearts, minds, and spirits of what has been, what is, and what is yet to come. Future generations rely on us to shape the environment in which they will live and grow. This keynote will address efforts across Canada to help Indigenous communities heal intergenerationally. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and providing quality resources to support communities. Using a reconciliation framework that addresses contemporary hardships for Indigenous families in ways that uplift all Canadians, the Caring Society champions culturally based equity for First Nations children and their families so that they can grow up safely at home, be healthy, achieve their dreams, celebrate their languages and culture and be proud of who they are.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 11:30 a.m.–noon MT

**Community Healing through Intergenerational Exchange: Living Our Cultural Values and Beliefs (Part Two)**

Don Coyhis (Mohican Nation), White Bison, Inc.

This keynote will address efforts across the US to help Indigenous communities heal intergenerationally. White Bison, Inc. is dedicated to creating and sustaining a grassroots Wellbriety Movement that provides culturally based healing to the next seven generations of Indigenous People. Wellbriety means to be sober and well. Wellbriety teaches that we must find sobriety from addictions to alcohol and other drugs and recover from the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol on individuals, families, and whole communities. The “well” part of Wellbriety is the inspiration to go on beyond sobriety and recovery, committing to a life of wellness and healing every day.
Each year, NICWA holds a grand prize fundraiser with the goal of raising $10,000 to support our services. This fun activity allows us to raise money for our mission - strengthening the well-being of Native children and families - while also giving back to our supporters. Thanks to our Four Directions sponsors for making our Grand Prize Sweepstakes possible: Choctaw Nation, Eaglesun Systems Products, Gun Lake Tribe, and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

**Grand Prize Sweepstakes**

We are excited to announce that our 2020 grand prize is an all-inclusive trip for two to Waikiki, Hawaii! Spend three nights in a luxurious ocean-view room at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Two round-trip tickets from Alaska Airlines will get you there to enjoy all the sun, food, and fun included in this year’s package. Purchase tickets and learn more about this fantastic trip in either our conference app or online at https://nicwa.tapkat.org/winhawaiitrip.

Our winner will have up to a year from their award to schedule their trip.

**New This Year!**

Since our fundraiser is totally virtual this year, anyone can enter, so share the link with your friends and family! We’ll also extend our participation period before the drawing: you can enter the sweepstakes anytime between now and Monday, June 1st at 12PM PDT!

**More than one prize!**

Tickets also enter you to win our second prize of a Microsoft Surface Pro 6 with keyboard donated by Eaglesun Systems Products. This tablet is incredibly powerful and the best laptop replacement by far, making it a great piece of tech to take with you wherever you go. This tablet features a beautiful 12.3-inch touch screen and 13.5 hours of video-playback battery life.

**Enter to Win Online**

You can follow this link to enter the sweepstakes: https://nicwa.tapkat.org/winhawaiitrip

Entries start at just $5 per entry. The drawing will take place on Monday, June 1, 2020.

Thank you to all of our Grand Prize Sweepstakes donors: Alaska Airlines, Bishop Museum, The Cheesecake Factory, Eaglesun Systems Products, Germaine’s Luau, Hawaii Nautical, Uniglobe Travel Partners, and Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa.

**Want to help us continue our work?**

Donate at www.nicwa.org/donate or Facebook/NativeChildren to help us continue to provide critical training and resources that helps those on the frontlines of Indian child welfare, especially amidst our collective efforts to control the spread and respond to COVID-19, keeping families and children safe.

Consider becoming a monthly donor to bolster our services to Indian Country for as little as $5 a month.
A member of the Gitxsan First Nation, Cindy Blackstock, PhD, is honored to serve as the executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University’s School of Social Work. She has over 30 years of experience working in child welfare and Indigenous children’s rights and has published more than 75 articles on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, and First Nations child welfare and human rights. Cindy was honored to work with First Nations colleagues on a successful human rights challenge to Canada’s inequitable provision of child and family services and failure to implement Jordan’s Principle. This hard-fought litigation has resulted in hundreds of thousands of services being provided to First Nations children, youth, and families.

She recently served on the Pan American Health Commission on Health Equity and Inequity and fundamentally believes that culturally based equity is fundamental to meaningful reconciliation. Cindy is frequently sighted in the company of the Caring Society’s reconciliation Am-bear-rister, Spirit Bear, engaging children in meaningful actions to implement the TRC Calls to Action. Her promotion of culturally based and evidence-informed solutions has been recognized by the Nobel Women’s Initiative, the Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Frontline Defenders, and many others. She also worked with Indigenous young people, UNICEF, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to produce a youth-friendly version of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Testimonials:

“Dr. Blackstock is an amazing person, very gifted and talented, an individual that continues to fight for the rights of Indigenous children and families throughout the world. She truly is a Champion for Native Children.” Charlene J. Ducharme, assistant executive director, Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency

“She is Canada’s Martin Luther King at this moment for Indigenous children—a relentless moral voice holding government to account.” Charlie Angus, Member of Parliament

“Her work in advocating for kids and their rights to equal access to services has advanced the cause immeasurably.” Paul Martin, Former Prime Minister

“She’s always winning with dignity, and she stands there with her head high. She’s just a mountain of power.” Alanis Obomsawin, Abenaki filmmaker

“Cindy is a leader among leaders. I have always relied on her as a sounding board as well as for guidance. I find her work an inspiration for strategic action!” – Terry Cross, NICWA founder and senior advisor

“As Indigenous peoples, we believe that our ancestors were mostly right. The Western world seems to believe their ancestors were mostly wrong. As a result they seem to think we are inferior. They don’t seem to realize that we know what they think of us. It is their privilege to believe we should be more like them. It is ours to not.”

Cindy Blackstock, 2014
Visit www.nicwa.org/call-for-artists to apply.

Artwork and submission forms should be submitted no later than May 1, 2020.

Biography:
Mark Light, whose Mohawk name is Kwasosoton (standing ice), belongs to the Snipe Clan. He is a husband, father, and grandfather who resides on the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory in Northern New York state. He strongly believes in his traditional teachings and values, which he incorporates into his paintings. He is also a pipe carrier and has been sundancing for the past 37 years. He has travelled all across Turtle Island and always enjoyed meeting new relations in Native communities.

Artwork Description:
This artwork is titled “Resilience” because it shows how Indigenous people are able to overcome the hardest of times—from the abuse of residential schools to where they are today. The children's silhouettes in the background represent the broken spirits of the abused, raped, and murdered children who were forced to attend the residential schools. The artwork displays the survival as a people and the ability to defy all odds, while keeping language and traditional teachings intact.

2020 Call for Artists
NICWA is excited to once again provide an opportunity for artists to showcase their talents in support of our 2021 Protecting Our Children Conference in Seattle, Washington. The selected artist will be awarded a cash prize of $1,500 for the use of their work in promotional materials for our 2021 conference.

Artwork and submission forms should be submitted no later than May 1, 2020. Visit www.nicwa.org/call-for-artists to apply.

Seminole Tribe of Florida is proud to sponsor

The 38th Annual
Protecting Our Children
National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Court partners with Broward County Circuit Court, state workers, and our Tribal Family and Child Advocates for better outcomes for Seminole families—like the Puente's family. It is the only partnership of its kind in the country.
39th Annual
Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
For more information visit www.nicwa.org
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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Cowlitz Indian Tribe is proud to sponsor
The 38th Annual
Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Cowlitz Tribe Youth Program