

HOUSING FIRST FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

PILLARS OF HOUSING FIRST

Mainstream Approach

- Immediate access to permanent housing with no readiness requirements
- Consumer choice and self-determination
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized and client driven supports
- Social and community integration

Indigenous Approach

- Immediate access to permanent housing with no readiness requirements
- Consumer choice and self-determination
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized and client-driven supports
- Social and community integration



A CHILD IS WAITING

Happy, Playful Girl



Sherri, 3 . . . loves to be hugged and cuddled.

Three-year-old Sherri can quickly win your attention with her wide smile and big brown eyes. An attractive girl, she has straight black hair cut in a pixie-look which matches her little personality.

Sherri loves to be hugged and cuddled. At first, she is shy with strangers until she knows that you can be trusted. A playful youngster, she loves to tease.

In her three years, Sherri has had some medical problems. She was born with a cleft palate — a crack in the roof of the mouth — which was repaired and is no longer causing her problems. It was felt that she had a hearing loss but

she is talking, repeating what others say and is more attentive. She is attending a speech therapy program once a week and her foster mom does speech exercises with her at home.

Sherri enjoys play-time with her furry animals, pulltoys and the kitchen pots. She loves to listen and dance to music. She plays well by herself but it would be good if she could be in a permanent home where there are older children.

We are looking for adoptive parents who will give Sherri a secure home along with extra help with her speech. She needs love,

A CHILD IS WAITING



JASON, A LOVABLE LITTLE CHARMER . . . is all-boy.

Youngster loves outdoors

Don't let his serious look fool you, twenty month old Jason is a happy boy who enjoys playing with boy's children and adults.

Now that Jason is walking he loves to explore and get around. He loves playing outdoors in the sand with pots, pans and little objects. Going for car rides is his favorite activity.

Jason is talking, repeating words, pointing and naming objects.

He enjoys attention, sitting on your knees, telling you stories and sometimes poking at your nose or mouth. A boy of many lates, Jason gives many laughs when he tries to copy you

has fine dark brown hair, big brown eyes, chubby cheeks and a dark olive complexion.

For the first months of his life, Jason had a few health difficulties. Other than the occasional cold, he is in good health now. He gets an eczema-like rash on his face. The rash comes and goes and is treated with ointment.

Jason is an alert and active boy who loves attention and cuddling yet plays well by himself. He needs a permanent family and would be a delightful addition to any family.

To discuss the adoption of Jason, contact the Department of Social Services by

The "SIXTIES SCOOP"

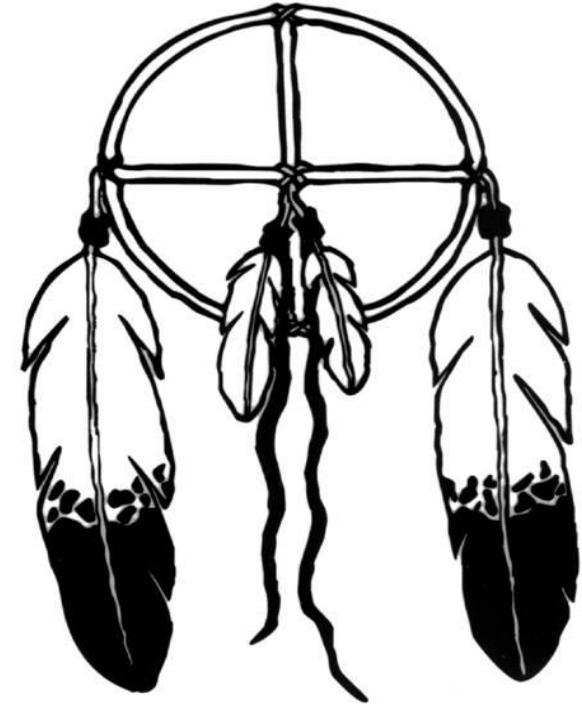
-attempted to address the lack of Aboriginal parental skills by forcibly removing thousands of Aboriginal children from their parents. The children were made wards of a poorly monitored child welfare system, and most of them were placed into non-Aboriginal foster homes.



Who are we working with?⁴

We will be working with First Nation, Metis and Inuit individuals and families that are, “lacking permanent, appropriate housing, or the prospect, means or ability to acquire such housing.”

Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, 2012



Definition of Homelessness

FROM AN INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEW

- The goal of successful housing is promoting **Interdependence**
- Building community capacity and prioritizing the development of strong healthy relationships is much more valuable than providing support to individuals in isolation with one another
- It is only through community that we can imagine and end to homelessness

(Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, 2012)



OUR RELATIVES

**We are on a healing journey
with someone's:**

Uncle

Auntie

Mother

Father

Brother

Sister

Niece

Nephew

Daughter

Son

Grandfather

Grandmother

Cousin



OUR RELATIVES⁷

Housing First must not be seen as a program but as a **feeling**, a feeling to care, understand, support, protect and shelter those who are temporarily vulnerable and in need.

Elders meeting Fall 2018 Winnipeg



WHAT VALUES GUIDE OUR WORK?

UNITED NATIONS

- The United Nation's Declaration that housing is a human right
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



WHAT VALUES GUIDE OUR WORK?

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

- As a path to ending Indigenous homelessness
- Social inclusion and working to end all forms of discrimination and racism



WHAT VALUES GUIDE OUR WORK?

SOCIAL INCLUSION

What is it and how do we make sure we are walking on that journey?

- Is the act of making all groups of people within a society feel valued and important
- Ensuring that we are not doing for people but are behaving as a team member
- Ensuring that we are encouraging people to take on leadership roles



WHAT VALUES GUIDE OUR WORK?

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Ensuring that the physical environment contributes to a sense of emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual safety
- Ensuring that people can “see” themselves reflected in the program



WHAT VALUES GUIDE OUR WORK?

- The voice of people with lived experience of homelessness
- People, organizations and sectors working together around a common Vision and shared goals
- Integrity, accountability and transparency in all that we do



WHAT VALUES GUIDE OUR WORK?

How do we show this in our programs, services and interactions?



BUILDING SAFETY

IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE

- Means that we are aware of our Values
- Means that we are aware that we have biases
- Means that we are aware that we have beliefs and they guide our thoughts and decisions
- Means that we are aware that when we make a choice , we have made a judgment about something – No decision is ever non-judgmental

**“VALUES ARE LIKE FINGERPRINTS. NOBODY’S
ARE THE SAME, BUT YOU LEAVE THEM ALL OVER
EVERYTHING YOU DO.”**

ELVIS PRESLEY

© Lifehack Quotes



WHOLE PEOPLE¹⁵

ENSURING WE ARE NOT FRACTURING PEOPLE

- Ensuring that we are supporting the person in their life and not just concentrating on one area and ignoring the other areas of their lives that are impacting them;
- Ensuring that we are not viewing the person as a being of “needs” only but an individual that has knowledge, strengths, wisdom and gifts;
- Ensuring that we understand who are the supports in peoples lives and what areas they assist the person in order to not create confusion or sense of disloyalty to other helpers;
- Looking at the person as a being with emotional, physical, psychological and Spiritual strengths and needs;
- Always remembering that the person lived before us and will continue long after we are gone;



TRUST WHAT YOU KNOW!

- The Elders shared with us the importance of healing and supporting those without shelter was not simply providing a home. It was to know and understand the deeper histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada
- This teaching underscores the importance of the local and that often national approaches lose impact if they fail to recognize and celebrate the distinctiveness of people and place by acknowledging that each place has the right to shape their own approach.

Elders meeting fall 2018 Winnipeg



TRUST WHAT YOU KNOW!

- What will work in one community may not be useful in another community.
- Use the knowledge, wisdom, skills and gifts that have been passed down to you to journey with people into their hopeful future
- Use the knowledge, wisdom, skills and gifts of your Elders/Leaders/Teachers to set your programs up in a culturally respectful manner that meets the needs of your community

