



UAKN
Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network

RCdU
Réseau de connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu urbain

RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

Western Research Centre

Name of Project:

Giving Voice to Urban Aboriginal Families

Research Start-up Summary and Abstract:

Experiences in early childhood are fundamental determinants of lifelong well-being. In this project we will give voice to urban Aboriginal families and caregivers on what they believe is important to the well being of their young children. A methodology adopted from social psychology, called 'echo' enables the values and beliefs of the population of interest to be articulated. The population of interest is individuals working with or raising young urban Aboriginal children (ages 0-6 years) in the Greater Victoria Capital Region. The outcome is a unique and important perspective to inform early childhood services and practice.

The research allows those working with or raising young urban Aboriginal children to define a conceptual framework of early childhood development (ECD), thereby providing a unique perspective on ECD. Conducting this research conveys respect to the individuals most directly involved with young children, facilitates engagement and networking, raises the profile of early years development and assists service providers and policy makers in making effective public policy and resource allocation.

Engagement Objectives:

To understand the strengths, needs and barriers of raising young children in urban Aboriginal families.

Collaborating Friendship Centre and/or other urban Aboriginal organization:

Hulitan Family Services Society and Coordinator, Aboriginal Engagement Initiative

Main contact:

Beverly Smith, D.Phil. (Oxon)

Associate Director, Centre for Early Childhood Research and Policy University of Victoria

reach@uvic.ca (250) 472-5992

uvic.ca/research/centre/cecrp