

Estelle Marie Simard

CURRICULUM VITAE

OBJECTIVES:

- ⇒ Preference to work with Aboriginal and non –Aboriginal people in areas of culturally competent practice.
- ⇒ Preference to work within the field of mental health, social policy, community intervention, and or community activism.

PERSONAL:

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Tribal Affiliation:

Couchiching First Nation

PROFESSIONAL AND UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Doctoral Candidate:

Presently enrolled in the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction Program with the University of Phoenix. Expected Graduation in 2012.

Master of Social Work:

Received from the University of Minnesota Duluth. 2008. Master of Social Work.

Bachelor of Arts:

Received from Bemidji State University: Bemidji, Minnesota. 1997. Bachelor of Arts in Indian Studies.

Associate in Arts Degree:

Received from Rainy River Community College. International Falls, Minnesota. 1995. Associate in Arts Degree. Graduated Phi Theta Kappa

THESIS:

This thesis entails the examination of Culturally restorative child welfare practice and how this type of practice is one of the cornerstones for the rebuilding of a Nation. For centuries, governmental laws, regulations, policies, and practices have impacted First Nation people, families, and communities. These laws have had latent consequences for First Nation people and have resulted in the creation of generations upon generations of social welfare casualties. Although these federal and provincial laws have negatively influenced First Nation people, there is a quality of resiliency that has persevered within the Nation. The innate resiliency of cultural attachment theory has resurged as the central premise of purpose for Native child welfare initiatives across Canada. The need to build these services on Traditional Law to support the Cultural Identity Formation of a First Nation child is a big part of culturally restorative child welfare practices. The building of systems to support the development of culturally competent service delivery in addition to the administrative harmonization between two distinct governing Laws is a threshold of competence emerging across the First Nations of Canada. Examining the promotion of culturally restorative child welfare practice and providing an analysis of the relevance to native child welfare initiatives is the central theme of this paper.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:**⇒ Executive Director**

October 2009 to Present ~ The Institute for Culturally Restorative Practices ~ Fort Frances, ONT

- **Service structure build on a culturally restorative practice model**
- Organizational development in areas of administration, management, and program delivery
- Contract, consultation, and clinical mental health services
- Curriculum development and Research component services

⇒ Program Manager

May 2010 to Present ~ Association of Native Child and Family Service Agencies of Ontario ~ Fort Frances, ONT

- Coordinate and program manage the delivery of Ontario wide training (11 sessions) on the Native Provisions
- With the help of a curriculum development committee create and develop the Native Provisions curriculum
- Creation of quick reference document and DVD

⇒ Researcher and Program Evaluator

January 2010 to April 2010 ~ Kuuwanimano Child and Family Services ~ Timmins, ONT

- Completed a program evaluation design
- Implemented a program evaluation process
- Created a Program Evaluation Report

⇒ Researcher and Consultant

January 2010 to April 2010 ~ Association of Native Child and Family Service Agencies of Ontario ~ Thunder Bay, ONT

- Designed research strategy for consultation process on the Child and Family Services Act 2010 Review
- Implemented the consultation
- Created a 2 reports on consultation findings

⇒ Social Policy Analyst

November 2009 to December 2010 ~ Grand Council Treaty #3 ~ Kenora, ONT

- Researched all material pertaining to Child welfare in Ontario.
- Presented and drafted social policy briefs for the Ogitchitaa of Treaty #3
- Draft a strategic direction for implementation of the Child Care Law.

⇒ Therapist

November 2009 to Present ~ Anishinaabe of Nanogashing ~ Big Island First Nation, ONT

- Provision of mental health counseling to children, youth, families of AON First Nation
- Provision of grant writing for service delivery
- Created mental health plans as a part of a multi-disciplinary team.

⇒ Manager of Training Services

November 2008 to April 2009 ~ Caring for First Nations Children Society ~ Victoria, BC

- Managed the overall coordination of provincial required native child welfare training and development.
- Supervision of several staff and contract staff to facilitate the efficient delivery of the training program
- Work towards achieving the strategic direction of the CFNCS: such as information sharing with stakeholders, liaisons with FN and governmental stakeholders, etc.

⇒ Director of Program Development

August 2006 to November 2008 ~ Weechi-it-te-win Family Services ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- The provision of competency development in the First Nation areas - to assess, counsel, and provide direct child welfare services mentoring, liaison, and supportive development of the Community Care Program
- Forming collaborative relationships with First Nation communities to assist in child welfare capacity building initiatives in a cultural competent and congruent manner.
- Develop programming and services to support the cultural and capacity development of the First nation communities

⇒ Director of Program Development and Residential Services

August 2005 to August 2006 ~ Weechi-it-te-win Family Services ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- The continued supportive development of the Community Care Program and the provision of competency development in the First Nation areas - to assess, counsel,

and provide direct child welfare services mentoring, liaison, and supportive development of the Community Care Program

- Forming collaborative relationships with First Nation communities to assist in child welfare capacity building initiatives in a cultural competent and congruent manner.
- Develop programming and residential services to support the cultural and capacity development of the First nation communities

⇒ **Family Violence Project Coordinator**

January 2005 to August 2005 ~ Weechi-It-Te-Win Family Services ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- The provision of competency development in the First Nations area to assess, counsel, and provide direct services to women and children in family violence situations
- Forming collaborative relationships with First Nation communities to conduct group and community interventions with women and children in family violence situations
- Develop community protocols with tribal organizations, First Nation communities, tribal policing, and crisis homes.

⇒ **Treatment Services Director / Interim Executive Director**

October 2004 to January 2005 ~ Giizhikaandag Healing Center ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- The provision of clinical supervision and overall management of all residents within the treatment program
- The supervision and management of all staff employed with the Center, specifically, the training in clinical and risk assessment, therapy techniques, family therapy, and training for collaborative work with families and communities.
- The overall management of case documentation, reporting requirements, Ministry requirements, and direct liaisons with Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

⇒ **Clinician**

March 2003 to January 2005 ~ Giizhikaandag Healing Center ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- The provision of clinical assessment, risk assessment, and therapy with adolescent sex offenders. Family therapy and training for the caregivers whom work with adolescent sex offenders.
- Community training and development, restorative justice practices, sexual abuse and offender trainings with First Nation and Non-First Nation people.
- The provision of on-going clinical direction as a part of the overall clinical management of the program

⇒ Family Counselor

1997 to 2003 ~ Weechi-it-te-win Family Services ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- Bi-cultural mental health counseling and assessment for children and families involved with child protection services.
- Development of community liaisons with First Nation with special emphasis on mental health issues.
- Community workshops and capacity training with First Nation members and mental health professionals working with First Nations people.

⇒ Indian Child Welfare Worker / Families First Worker

2000-2001 ~ Fond du Lac Tribal Social Services ~ Fond du Lac Minnesota

- Completed first half of graduate field placement as an Indian Child Welfare Specialist. Family support, liaisons and advocacy with county workers and federal courts were key responsibilities.
- Second half of graduate field placement specialized in working with First Nation's families whose children were on the verge of child welfare apprehensions.

⇒ Group Facilitator

1994-1995 ~ WFS-Training and Learning Center ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- Conducted group treatment for First Nation adolescents.
- Therapeutic interventions consisted of life skills development, addiction awareness, family violence and abuse awareness; as well as clinical assessments and individualized service plans.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:**⇒ Instructor**

- September 2010 ~ Laurentian University ~ Kenora Campus, Ontario
 - Indigenous research methodologies

⇒ Instructor

- September 2010 ~ Wilfred Laurier University ~ Fort Frances Campus, Ontario
 - MSW Field Liaison

⇒ Instructor

- September 2009/10 ~ Seven Generations Education Institute ~ Fort Frances, Ontario
 - Substance Abuse Assessment and Counseling
 - Native Families and Parenting

⇒ Instructor

- November 2002 ~ Seven Generations Education Institute ~ Fort Frances, Ontario
 - Introduction to Addictions

⇒ Instructor

- July 2001 ~ Seven Generations Education Institute ~ Fort Frances, Ontario
 - Introduction to Addictions

⇒ Instructor

- August 2001 ~ Seven Generations Education Institute ~ Fort Frances, Ontario
 - Crisis Intervention

CONTINUING EDUCATION:**⇒ Emotional Intelligence and Leadership**

Rav Bains ~ Certification in Emotional Intelligence ~ March 2007 ~ Weechi-it-te-win Family Services

⇒ Quality Assurance

National Quality Institute ~ Quest for Quality Improvement Tools ~ January 2007

⇒ Project Management

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Society ~ training and orientation ~ September 2006

⇒ Grief Recovery Specialist

Grief ® Recovery ©Certification ~ Grief Recovery Institute Edmonton, Alberta, 2005

⇒ Conflict Resolution - Train the Trainer

Weechi-it-te-win In House Training ~ April 2005

⇒ Men's Non-Violence Program – Train the Trainer

Domestic Abuse Intervention Project ~ Duluth, Minnesota, 2005

⇒ Women's Advocacy - Train the Trainer

Domestic Abuse Intervention Project ~ Duluth, Minnesota, 2005

⇒ National Adolescent Perpetration Network Continuing Education Conference

NAPN 2004 Conference ~ Portland Oregon ~ 16 hours

⇒ Adolescent Sex Offender Therapy - Clinical Practice, Training, Mentoring, and Supervision

Wood's Homes March 2003 ~ January 2005 - supervision of therapy with adolescent sexual Offenders ~ 2,300 hours direct practice

⇒ Trauma Assessment and Treatment

Ontario Safeguards Training ~ October 2002

⇒ Ontario Child Welfare Risk Assessment Module

Gina Wonfor Keast ~ Weechi-it-te-win In House Training ~ October 2002

⇒ Forensic Interviewing

University of Minnesota Duluth ~ Department of Social Work ~ November 2001

⇒ Attachment – Helping Children when They Must Move Training

University of Minnesota Duluth ~ Department of Social Work ~ March 2001
Debbie Cantrell PhD ~ Weechi-it-te-win In House Training ~ 1998

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- ⇒ **Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory Training**
Dr. Lawrence Hunt ~ Weechi-it-te-win In House Training ~ February 2001
 - ⇒ **Cultural and Language Institutes**
University of Minnesota Duluth ~ American Indian Projects ~ 2000 - 2001
 - ⇒ **Sexual Offender Profile, Assessment, and Treatment**
Dilico Child and Family Services ~ November 2000
 - ⇒ **Train the Trainer**
Ontario Native Association of Native Child Welfare Associations ~ March 2000
 - ⇒ **Brief Therapy Training**
James DuVall ~ Weechi-it-te-win In House Training ~ April 1999
 - ⇒ **Sexual Abuse Disclosure Interventions with Children and Families**
Debbie Cantrell PhD ~ Weechi-it-te-win In House Training ~ 1999
 - ⇒ **Grief and Loss Training**
Bea Shewanda ~ Fort Frances Ontario ~ November 1998
 - ⇒ **Hollow Water Training**
Hollow Water Training Institute ~ Kenora Ontario ~ November 1997

HONORS AND RECOGNITION:

- ⇒ UMD graduated with honors – 3.82 GPA, 2008
- ⇒ Eagle Feather Awarded, Weechi-it-te-win Family Services, 2007
- ⇒ Phi Theta Kappa, 1995

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

- ⇒ Culture and Language Institute Participant Presentation, University of Minnesota Duluth - American Indian Projects ~ Child Welfare Training, March 2002
- ⇒ Council of Indian Students ~ President position ~ Bemidji State University ~ September 1996 to 1997
- ⇒ Anishinaabe Student Council ~ President position ~ Rainy River Community College ~ September 1994 to 1995

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS:

2010 ~ Presentation ~ Re-thinking Attachment Theory: Natural Protective and Resiliency Factors in Aboriginal Child Welfare System ~ Weechi-it-te-win Family Services Best Practice Conference ~ Fort Frances, ONT

2010 ~ Presentation ~ Re-thinking Attachment Theory: Natural Protective and Resiliency Factors in Aboriginal Child Welfare System ~ Uniting One Voice Conference ~ Orillia, ONT

2010 ~ Presentation ~ Re-thinking Attachment Theory: Natural Protective and Resiliency Factors in Aboriginal Child Welfare System ~ Sudbury Mental Health Conference ~ Sudbury, ONT

2009 ~ Culturally Restorative Child Welfare Practice – A special emphasis on cultural attachment theory ~ PUBLISHED ~ <http://www.fncfcs.com/pubs/vol4num2toc.html>

2008 ~ CULTURALLY RESTORATIVE CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE – A special emphasis on cultural attachment theory ~ MSW Plan B research project ~ University of Minnesota Duluth.

2006 ~ PROMISING PRACTICES IN FIRST NATIONS CHILD WELFARE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE Weechi-it-te-win Family Services: Utilizing a Decentralized Model in the Provision of Bi-Cultural Services ~ Publication ~ <http://www.fncfcs.com/pubs/fncfcsPubs.html>

2006 ~ Presentation ~ Re-thinking Attachment Theory: Natural Protective and Resiliency Factors in Aboriginal Child Welfare System ~ World Forum on Child Welfare ~ Vancouver, BC

September 2006 to January 2007 ~ Seven Generations Education Institute ~ Adjunct Professor ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- Worked with a first Nation cohort who received a undergraduate degree in Social Work through Carleton University.

2005 ~ Presentation ~ Re-thinking Attachment Theory: Natural Protective and Resiliency Factors in Aboriginal Child Welfare Systems ~ National Indian Child Welfare Conference ~ San Diego, California

2005 ~ Abinooji Child and Family Services ~ Historical Trauma and Internalized Oppression Training (contract)

- Coordination and facilitation of historical trauma and internalized oppression training with Abinooji Child and Family Services, Kenora, Ontario
- Historical trauma & Internalized Oppression Power Points presentation

2004 ~ Ontario Native Women's Association ~ Abuse Education and Skill Development Training (contract)

- Coordination and facilitation of abuse education and skills development training with Ontario Native Women's Association – Cedar Lodge Treatment Facility
- Historical trauma Power Points presentation
- Sexual & Physical Abuse Power Points presentation
- Resiliency Models Power Point presentation
- Experiential group facilitation and group debriefing coordination

March 2003 ~ New Brunswick House ~ Sexual Abuse Education and Prevention Workshop ~ Brunswick House First Nation, Ontario

- Coordination and facilitation of sexual abuse education, intervention, and prevention techniques.
- Skills development for working with sexually abused children.
- Development of community organizing efforts.
- Group facilitation and group debriefing coordination.

November 2002 ~ Ontario Native Women's Association ~ Suicide Intervention Training ~ Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

- Coordination and facilitation of suicide risk intervention training with Ontario Native Women's Association – Cedar Lodge Treatment Facility
- Historical trauma Power Points presentation
- Suicide statistics Power Points presentation
- Suicidal risk and protective factors Power Points presentation
- Group facilitation and group debriefing coordination

April 2002 ~ Council of Social Work Education 2002 ~ APM Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, 2002

- Presented on the University of Minnesota Duluth's Culture and Language Institutes to Native social work educators.

October 2002 ~ Native Training Institute ~ Curriculum Development Reviewer ~ North Dakota (contract)

- Reviewed Wrap-Around Training Curriculum for the Native Training Institute.
- Made corrections relevant to Ontario Native Child Welfare system.

September 2000 to 2002 ~ Seven Generations Education Institute ~ Adjunct Professor ~ Fort Frances, Ontario

- Worked with a first Nation cohort who received a diploma in First Nation Community Service Workers through Sault College.
- Classes taught included Introduction to Addictions and Crisis Intervention.

December 2001 ~ National Therapeutic Care Conference ~ Healing the Circle, Families, and Communities ~ Saskatoon Saskatchewan

- Facilitated the presentation of a bi-cultural mental health program specifically for practice with high risk youth
- Incorporated traditional teachings into service delivery models relevant to mental health practice with children and families involved with the child welfare system.

PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Ontario Association of Social Workers, In good standing 2010
- The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW), in good standing 2010
- First Nation Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
- Rainy River Family Violence Network
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- Association of Native Child and Family Services

CREATIVE WORKS:

Power Point Design:

- Coordinated Development of Weechi-it-te-win Family Services Website
- Weechi-it-te-win Family Services
- Historical trauma
- Suicide statistics, Suicidal risk and protective factors
- Preventing Sexual Abuse presentation
- Re-thinking Attachment Theory

Brochures:

- Program Development News letters
- Preserving the Family Circle Conference Brochure
- Family Violence Initiative Brochures

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES:

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1-218-590-2156

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