

# SNAICC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

27-29 July 2010, Alice Springs



**FOR OUR CHILDREN**

Local Strengths,  
National Challenges

**AMPE ANWERNEKENHEKE**

Rlierrke Akwete  
Aneye



## Getting into trouble for doing the right thing Cindy Blackstock, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society

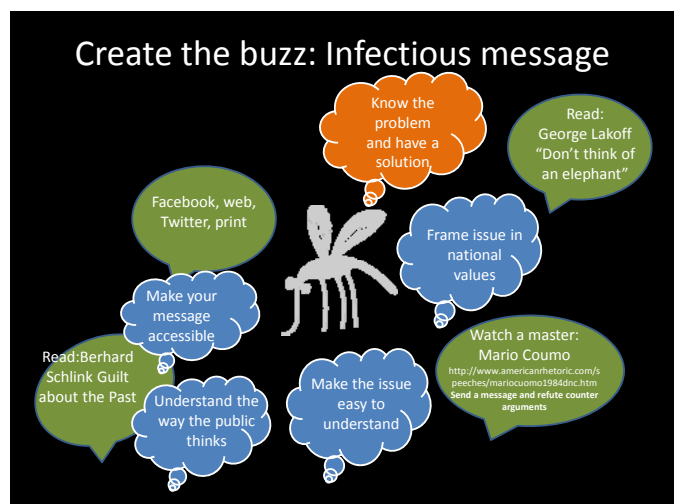


[www.fncaringsociety.com](http://www.fncaringsociety.com)

**Workshop presentation by Cindy Blackstock to the SNAICC National Conference, 27 July 2010 Alice Springs. Cindy's keynote speech can be heard online at [www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference](http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference)**

Cindy Blackstock, M.M., PhD is the Executive Director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada [www.fncaringsociety.com](http://www.fncaringsociety.com). This national organisation seeks to promote, and support, First Nations child and family service. A member of the Gitksan Nation, she has worked in the field of child and family services for over 20 years. Key interests

include exploring the over representation of Aboriginal children in child welfare care, structural drivers of child maltreatment in First Nations communities, and human rights and the role of the voluntary sector in expanding the range of culturally and community based responses to child maltreatment. Her current professional interests include serving as an Atkinson Economic Justice Fellow, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation Social Innovation Generation Fellow, and a board member of the National Aboriginal Youth Organisation.



**SNAICC: Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc.**

The national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family services in Australia  
PO Box 1445 North Fitzroy Victoria, Australia 3068 Ph: 03 9489 8099 [www.snaicc.asn.au](http://www.snaicc.asn.au)



## The swarm: Come with friends!

See: [fncaringsociety.com](http://fncaringsociety.com)

- Create easy to use public relations materials and get friends to share with their swarm!
- Create a way for the public to help that is free and takes under 2 minutes
- Get unexpected allies to sign on publicly to your campaign
- Go to gatherings where you don't know anyone and share the message!
- Encourage allies to publicize issue and solution in their publications

See: [Manyhandsone.dream.ca](http://Manyhandsone.dream.ca)

## Avoid the swat: multiple strategies

- Engage Elders, spiritual people and artists
- Get children and youth involved – great letter writers to government!
- Access to information requests
- Awards of Excellence
- Get the Indigenous and mainstream media involved
- Engage politicians to ask the government questions or force a vote on your policy
- Get partners to write about your issue in academic journals

## The sting--binding action

See: [fnwitness.ca](http://fnwitness.ca)

- Prepare for push back from government
- Find one non-voluntary action that is binding on government and launch it!
- Ensure your binding action (court case etc) is linked to swarm strategy
- Keep to facts, be reasonable and be transparent
- Use webalizer to track government hits on your website page featuring the non binding action

## Buzz 4: Swarm and don't give up!

See: [fnwitness.ca](http://fnwitness.ca)

- Keep community informed and engaged
- Launch multiple strategies at once and change direction
- Learn from success and failure and keep to the facts
- Know your bottom line
- Know what you are prepared to risk and what they are prepared to risk
- Be clear about what you want to achieve and be reasonable

## Other keys to success

- Ensure all work reflects indigenous values and respect for all
- Have a key champion who is a good public speaker
- Remember most movements defeat themselves – so be disciplined
- Grass roots are key!

## free child welfare resources

- First Peoples Child and Family Review* on line peer review journal
- Databases* over 3200 annotated articles relevant to Aboriginal child welfare
- Research:* i.e.: First Nations child welfare funding (Wen:de reports, Canadian Incidence Study on Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS), FASD, communities in crisis)

Please support us by taking a membership so we can continue to provide services cost free – [www.fncaringsociety.com](http://www.fncaringsociety.com)

## 7 free ways to make a difference at [www.fncaringsociety.com](http://www.fncaringsociety.com)