

Title:

Culturally Restorative Child Welfare Practice –
A Special Emphasis on Cultural Attachment Theory © Estelle Simard, 2009

Presenters:

Estelle Simard, MSW
Doctoral Candidate - Education

Purpose of Workshop:

The purpose of the workshop is to provide the participants with an introduction to culturally restorative practice. Participants will learn about the foundation of culturally restorative practice through the mechanism of cultural attachment theory. Specifically, participants will learn some of its principles that create new methodologies for services directed at First Nation people. The rebuilding of communities through the language, teachings, customs, ceremonies, roles and responsibilities, as well as societal structures is a significant feat of this workshop. The mechanisms of cultural attachment theory to achieve cultural restoration has suggested the greater the application of cultural attachment strategies the greater the response to cultural restoration processes within a First Nation community. This directly proportional proposition suggests an alternative strategy with First Nation people, which is based on reinvestment in cultural attachment strategies in First Nation communities.

Workshop Objectives

1. The participants will be able to discuss what culturally restorative child welfare practice is and how current forms of child welfare laws and policies have created implications for First Nation people.
2. The participants will be able to discuss concepts of cultural attachment theory and its various principles and standards.
3. The participants will be able to apply concepts of natural cultural resiliency and protective factors into service practice.

Biography:

Estelle Simard is from the Anishinaabe Nation, from the territory of Treaty #3, and a member of Couchiching First Nation. Estelle is the Executive Director of the Institute for Culturally Restorative Practice and much of her experience is in the culturally competent management of integrated children's mental health and child welfare services. She has direct supervisory and clinical services expertise with Aboriginal people and has specialized in family preservation strategies by incorporating cultural activities into service delivery and practice. In addition, she has presented at National and International forums on child welfare on "cultural attachment theory". This workshop is based on her experience with Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and contains excerpts from her MSW research project. Estelle is currently pursuing Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction with the University of Phoenix. Her dissertation is entitled "An exploratory study on cultural attachment theory".

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"The greater the application of cultural attachment strategies the greater the response to cultural restoration processes within a First Nation community" Simard, 2008.