



Resources for Aboriginals with Intellectual Disabilities

In an interview for *A Human Future*, Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Shawn A-in-chut Atleo stated that for First Nations people with disabilities “Marginalization is compounded many times over.” Unfortunately, this seems to be the case for not only First Nations people, but for Canadian Aboriginals in general.

British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)

<http://www.bcands.bc.ca/>

BCANDS is a provincial, non-profit and charitable organization that provides health and disability resources and services to the First Nation and Aboriginal population of British Columbia.

Community Living British Columbia - Aboriginal Initiative

<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/individuals-families/aboriginal-initiative/>

Currently in development, the Aboriginal Initiative is intended to develop further relationships with Aboriginal communities, explore ways to increase accessibility and availability, identify those living outside their community of choice and help them reconnect, and identify strategies to assist Aboriginal people with developmental disabilities.

Community Living Wikwemikong Anishinaabek

<http://connectability.ca/2010/11/10/wikwemikong/>

This resource, posted on ConnectABILITY.ca and shared by Community Living Wikwemikong Anishinaabek, has links to resources in Ojibwe and Ojicree. This page provides information on how to use the Medicine Wheel for Person-Centred Planning and has a tip sheet on how to develop services in First Nations’ communities so that young people and their families do not have to leave in order to gain access to services.

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada - Jordan’s Principle

<http://www.fncfcs.com/jordans-principle>



This resource, created by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society gives a summary of the history of Jordan's Principle, which grew out of a tragic failure of cooperation between levels of government. It explains what full implementation by provincial, territorial and federal governments would involve.

To see the Jordan's Principle Fact Sheet, visit:

<http://www.fncfcs.com/sites/default/files/jordans-principle/docs/JPfactsheet2011-en.pdf>

To learn more about the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, visit:

<http://www.fncfcs.com/>

First Nations Social Development Society

<http://www.fnsds.org/>

The FNSDS is a “non-profit society that represents the Band Social Development Workers of BC.”

It Takes a Community: A Resource Manual for Community-Based Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects

<http://www.turtleisland.org/healing/fasfael.pdf>

This report provides a look at prevention and response to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, as well as guidance to communities.

National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)

<http://nafc.ca/>

The NAFC website provides links to the many Friendship Centres found across Canada. Programs and services offered vary by region, but most Friendship Centre programming involves health, family and youth initiatives, including work on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Supporting Aboriginal Children and Youth with Learning and/or Behavioural Disabilities in the Care of Aboriginal Child Welfare Agencies

<http://www.fncfcs.com/sites/default/files/docs/SupportingAboriginalChildren.pdf>

This sobering report highlights the many gaps in service provision and specific challenges for Aboriginal families of children with disabilities.

Yellowknife Association for Community Living – FASD Services

<http://ykacl.ca/content/fasd-services>



The Yellowknife Association for Community Living provides a series of resources for those wishing to learn more about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, especially families of children with FASD. In particular, they have two videos which show how children with FASD can be supported to live productive and satisfying lives.

**If you know of any other good Aboriginal organizations engaged in advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities or helpful resources, please share them on our Facebook page.*

