

Make lives better for Aboriginal children

The case for courage in research




Cindy Blackstock, PhD

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First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

www.fncaringsociety.com



“We now recognize that, in separating children from their families, we undermined the ability of many to adequately parent their own children and sowed the seeds for generations to follow, and we apologize for having done this.”

P.M. Harper, 2008

Key steps to effective advocacy

Involuntary-voluntary advocacy

1. Document the problem

2. Evidence based solutions

3. Ensure gov't has resources

4. Launch planning for voluntary and involuntary advocacy simultaneously

5. Mosquito Advocacy

Moral Courage in Child Welfare

- **Right versus Right:** When one right (loyalty to employer) supersedes another right (loyalty to a child).
- **Right versus wrong:** Choosing a clear wrong or perpetuating a clear wrong when there is a right
- **Wrong versus chance:** When doing the wrong thing seems better than taking a chance on doing the right thing.

Checklist for Moral Courage

- ✓ **Assess the situation:** Do I need to be courageous?
- ✓ **Scan for values:** What values are you standing up for?
- ✓ **Stand for conscience:** What principles need to be articulated or defended?
- ✓ **Contemplate the dangers:** Do I have a clear idea of the risks?
- ✓ **Endure the hardship:** Am I willing to deal with the consequences or will the risk make me give up?
- ✓ **Avoid the pitfalls:** Am I too timid or foolish?
- ✓ **Develop Moral Courage – Do it!**

Perils to Moral Courage

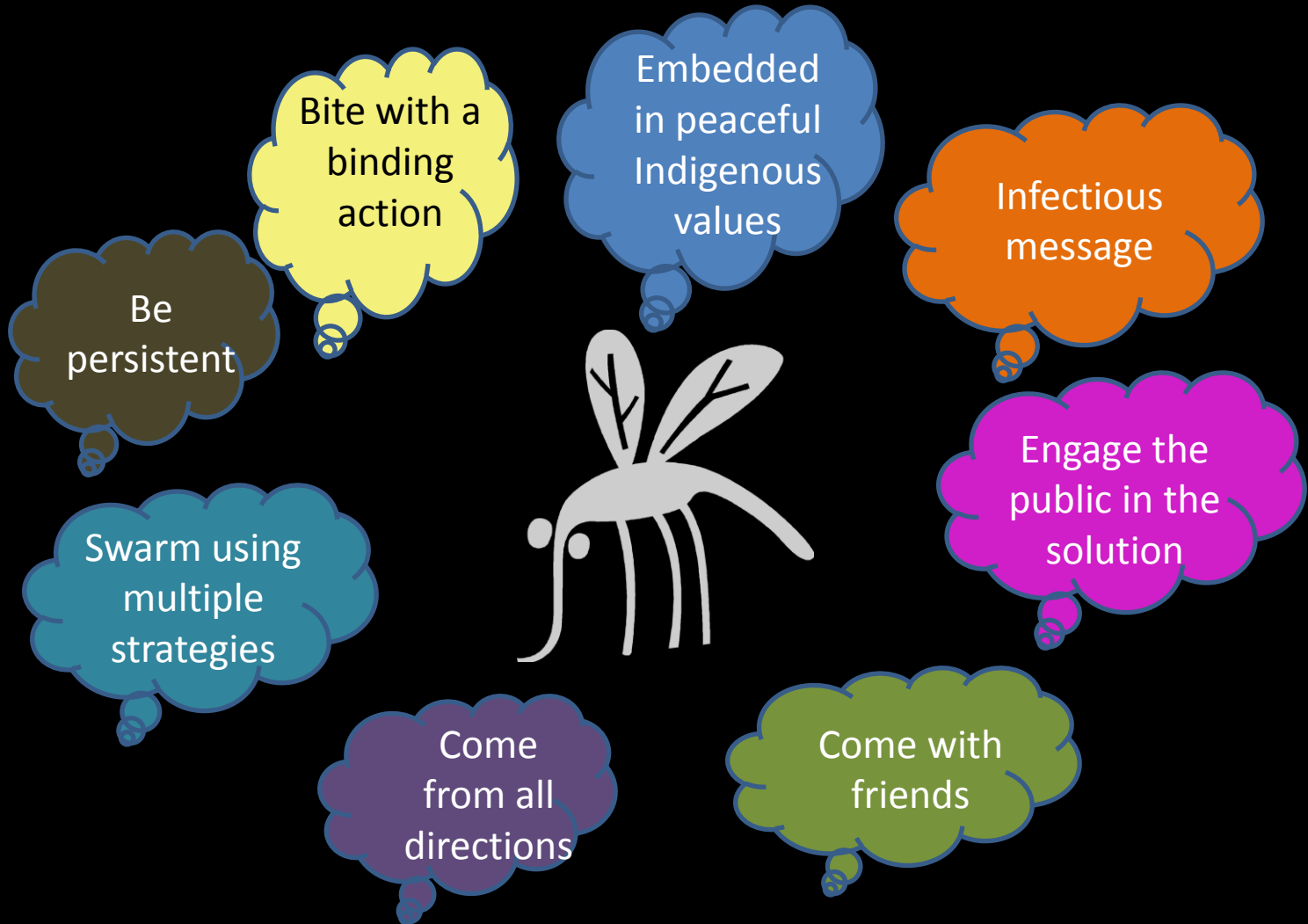
1. Assume benevolence and courage of the group (we are the good guys, we stand up so we can do no harm and don't wimp out)
2. Ability to minimize harmful consequences experienced by people outside of your group
3. Diffusion of responsibility (i.e.: it is the system -not me)
4. Normalizing failed practices or policies (FN over-representation at 75 percent is new normal)
5. Warped loyalty to avoid insubordination to bad ideas
6. Ignore or minimize dissenting and expert opinion
7. Too much reflection leading away from action and toward rationalizing inaction (Aboriginal people – complex)
8. Bystander apathy (someone else can change it)
9. Rewarding conformity and punishing moral courage

If we were continue to wimp out..

WE WERE
TAKEN TO
RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOLS FROM OUR
FAMILY.



Mosquito Advocacy





5068 Supporters



**“School should be a time for dreams –
every kid deserves this”
Shannen Koostachin (1995-2010)**

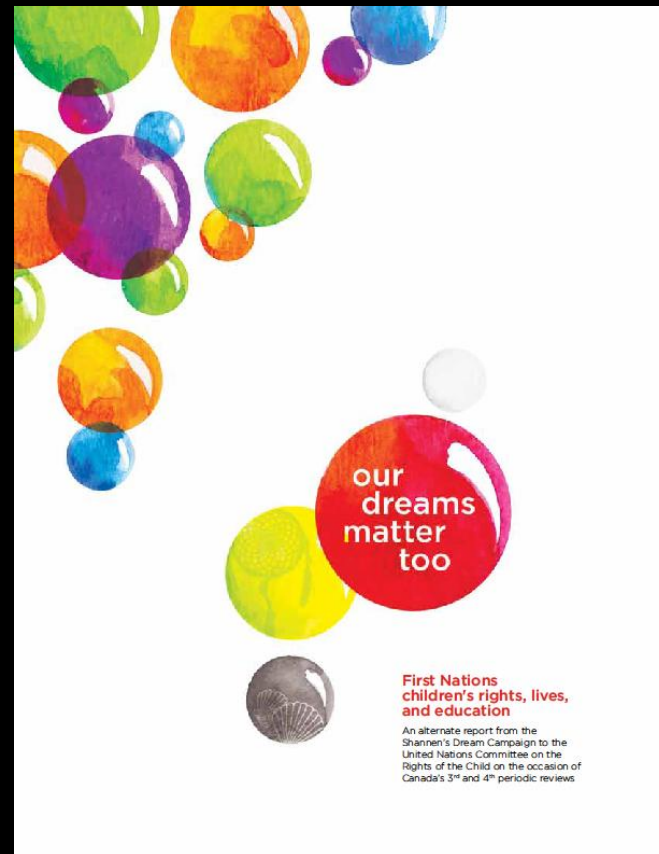
Canada's Minister on the Attawapiskat School Campaign

- Andrew (CBC Newsworld) This may be important to Charlie but from some of the pictures that I saw it's important to the kids, and they were holding up signs saying, please give us a school and we need a school. One of the signs was particularly cynical, but I don't think you can blame them. And it said we don't have a real school and if the federal government has its way we never will.
- Minister Strahl: Right. Well, obviously the kids want new and bigger facilities, I understand that. On the other hand, I think that people understand what's going on here to with Charlie and others. You can build a mighty sign and you can make a pile of noise out of it but the truth is that we have to prioritize based on health and safety...**His (Charlie Angus) proposition that, you know, doomsday scenario that nobody cares and nobody wants to build it is simply not true."**

**First Nations Children
ask UN to study
inequities in
education on reserves**

Launched in Shannen's
memory on June 9,
2011. Covered in
reports by Reuters,
Money Magazine,
CNBC, Canada A.M.,
Toronto Star, Silo
breaker (UK), India
Times, CBS

Our Dreams Matter Too



English copies www.shannensdream.ca
French, Cree and Oji-Cree versions coming
soon

Reconciliation is...

Doing right

Shannen's Mom and Dad walk with children from Ottawa to Parliament Hill in support of Shannen's Dream, 2011



Our dreams matter too, Youth Report to the UNCRC



Now, the government doesn't give us the same amount of money as the others, they give us less. To me I think this is Racism. Christa

I think it is unfair that native schools get more stuff than native schools. Why? Miguwhn

It is good to learn Cree... We can speak Cree with our mosum and kohkom (grandfather and grandmother) They will be very happy because you know how to speak Cree. Rayden

The underfunding is not fair. If everywhere else is getting the funding they need. Jordan

We have dreams and we want to realize them. Without this funding, some of us won't make it to college or university. We need an education to succeed in life. Jeremy

Resources

- George Lakoff, Don't think of an elephant
- Zygmunt Bauman, Seeking safety in an insecure world
- Ruthworth Kidder, Moral Courage
- Cindy Blackstock, Breath of Life theory – Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics
- Cindy Blackstock, Occasional evil of angels, First Peoples Child and Family Review

7 FREE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Jordan's Principle

