

#### Past & current projects:

Recruiting Blackfoot Foster Families (2017)

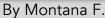
Ai'aoksiikowaata (providing guidance to youth)

 Supported by Making the Shift: Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab, 2019-2024

Mapping the Landscape of Indigenous Child Welfare

 Supported by SSHRC, 2021-2023, and University of Lethbridge CREDO, 2021-2022















By Faith M.

# Transitions from Child Welfare

#### Developmental perspective

Successful transitions depend on having the psychological, social, & cultural resources needed for healthy development

#### Child-centred approach

<u>Listen</u> to what young people say & do (Kinewesquo & Bonnah, 2015; Navia, Henderson, & First Charger, 2018)

### Key Findings

Prioritizing & compensating kinship caregivers
Youth know what they need but can't easily
self-advocate

System limits foster parents' ability to parent, impairs development & skill building

Misalignment in objectives: youth, care providers, social workers/system, researchers



By Curtis T.



By Letisha T.

# Transitioning to the Future

Protecting children – Who defines "harm?"

- Redefining "best interests of the child" (National Inquiry on MMIWG, 2019)
- Aligning system & care objectives to redefined "best interests" for youth (Victor & McIntyre, in development)

Monitoring & evaluation (TRC, 2015)

Federal & provincial/territorial data collecting
 & sharing – investigations, removals, #s in care, & youth <u>post-transition</u>

### References

- Kinewesquo [Richardson, C.] & Bonnah, S. (2015). Taking children's resistance seriously: A response-based approach to children experiencing violence. In Sohki Aski Esquao (J. Carriére] & S. Strega (Eds.). Walking this path together: Anti-racist and anti-oppressive child welfare practice (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Fernwood.
- National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (2019). *Reclaiming power and place*, (Vol. 1a & 1b). <a href="https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/">https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/</a>
- Navia, D., Henderson, R. I., & First Charger, L. (2018). Uncovering colonial legacies: Voices of Indigenous youth on child welfare (dis)placements. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, 49(2), 146-164. DOI:10.1111/aeq.12245
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) (2015). Honouring the truth, reconciling for the future: Summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

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- Victor, J. & McIntyre, D. (in development). Aging out narratives.