exemple, le travail de bureau que
comportait la rédaction d’une police
se réduit maintenant à l’inscription du
nom, de l’adresse et de certains autres
documents du client dans une machine
de traitement de mots. La machine, à
l’aide de paragraphes préétablis
emmagasinés dans sa mémoire et des
données personnelles inscrites, fait le
restant.
Dans une banque, le traitement des
données en direct permet au personnel
de transférer les données de ces deux départements à l’aide de paragraphes passe-partout à des lieux éloignés. Les employés comptent ainsi 45 % des personnes présentes dans le centre de données du personnel et ce 100 % du personnel de bureau reçoit l’aide de ces paragraphes.
Dans le service des systèmes infor-
maticiens de la société. Les employés
du service au cours des dix années
sont passés de 11 % (soit 8 000 personnes) de 1975 à 1980, et cela par
attrition.
L’analyse de ces tendances, il est possible de prévoir que 30 % des millions de femmes qui doivent vraisemblablement travailler ou chercher un travail d’ici 1990 pourraient, d’ici 2 ans à être en chômage. Les deux tiers des femmes actives sont en panne de leur population active.
Pour les femmes et pour l’écono-
die dans son ensemble, l’avenir est
sombre. Depuis vingt ans, les femmes
sont devenues une composante de
l’emploi en plus importante et perma-
nente de la population active cana-
dienne. Selon un rapport publié en
1979 par le Conseil national du bien-
être, 60 % des femmes qui travaillent
se sont trouvé obligées de faire. Elles sont soit seules, soit parent unique, soit épouse d’un conjoint gagnant moins de 10 000 $ par année. Lorsque
les deux époux travaillent, on a estimé que si la femme perdait son emploi, le nombre de familles cana-
diennes vivant sous le seuil de pau-
vreté augmenterait de 50 %.
Les femmes ne peuvent se permet-
dre de voir leur emploi être déclaré
de manière à ne pas aurégerät l’auto-
matisation éliminer le travail de bureau et accroître la portée du travail spécialisé. Pour sa part, l’Etat qui a permis le travail à féminin ne peut se
permettre de faire fi de leurs besoins d’adaptation, car la économie a plus que jamais besoin des femmes.
On prévoit que le taux accru de dissociation des femmes au marché du travail sera le grand responsable de la croissance de la population active au cours des années 1980—en particu-
ier les femmes âgées de plus de vingt-
cinq ans qui travaillent déjà et qui prévoient continuer au cours des années de procréation ou recom-
rence après une courte absence. Ce
ci signifie qu’au moment où l’in-
dustrie s’efforcerait de répondre à la demande croissante de travailleurs techniques et spécialistes de l’infor-
mation, ces femmes—les mêmes qui occupent actuellement les rôles professionnels que l’automatisation des bureaux est en bonne voie de détruire—constitueront la principale source d’offre.
Enfin, dans le domaine de la vie actuelle, il est en fait peu probable que ces femmes puissent satisfaire les exi-
gençes de ces postes; elles auront besoin d’aide.
Elles ont besoin de programmes de formation, idéalement et perma-
nent de l’aide, de l’accompagnement, sur Jes lieux du travail afin d’accueillir les compétences et les concepts néces-
ses à l’information industrie. En
faudra utiliser la création de postes, des accords relatifs à l’action positive et d’autres stratégies de mobilité professionnelle afin de préserver aux femmes d’accéder aux professions où le recours croissant à l’information rend le travail plus valorisé et complexe, mais où l’em-
nployé est aussi à la hausse. Une fois l’accès à ces professions obtenus, ces derniers pourront avancer au rythme des progrès technologiques. Si on les pousse à participer à ces pro-
gressions technique, la demande de compétences de spécialistes de travail de bureau, cependant, les perdron de plus en plus de terrain et peuvent-être tout à fait inaptes au travail.

**COBBETT ON THE PRESS**

"If ever there was in the world a totally perverted from its original design and tendency, it is the press of England; which, instead of
cherishing notions of liberty, tends to the making of the people slaves; and which, instead of being their guardian, is the most efficient instrument in the hands of those oppress, or wish to oppress them.
—William Cobbett

### Indigenous Children at Risk

**Child welfare services need radical changes**

March of this year, approximately 400 people gathered in Regina to attend a conference sponsored by the Canadian Indian Lawyers’ Association (CILA). The delegates included not only Indigenous lawyers but band chiefs, elders, members of the band councils, representatives of Indian, Metis, and Inuit political organizations, and a variety of interested individuals. However, they were not, as one might have assumed, discussing land claims, treaty rights, or the constitution. Rather, they were talking about children.

More specifically, they were discussing the effects of Canada’s child welfare system on Indigenous families and children—Indian, Metis, and Inuit.

This interest in child welfare is not new, but it is an emotional and painful topic for Indigenous people. Many have personally experienced the trauma of being separated from their families and culture. Many others have had their own children taken away by child welfare agencies. The trauma that children have experienced is theoretically the most serious of the child welfare system, in that it affects the children for life. The relationship between the child and the family is forever altered. The trauma that children have experienced is theoretical in the best interests of the child. The Indian Child Welfare Conference attempted to bring the relatives of children together at Regina. Conference delegates at the Regina conference, the concrete problems of Indigenous people about child welfare appear to be the result of overreacting and assuming a sharper focus. There are many emotions, not the least of which is the fear of not being there, giving rise to great deal of attention to the Health a

By Patrick Johnston

- Significant data and information is contained in a book entitled *Foster Care and Adoption in Canada*, which was published in 1960 by the Canadian Council on Social Development. Much of the data has never before been published. The authors, a group of social workers, focus on the children and families affected by the foster care system. The book includes recommendations for improving the foster care system in Canada and is currently available online.

- The data presented in the book is based on various sources, including interviews with foster care workers, child welfare advocates, and Indigenous people. The book also includes case studies and examples to illustrate the challenges faced by Indigenous children in the foster care system.

- The book highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach to child welfare in Canada. It calls for increased support for Indigenous families, including funding for Indigenous child welfare agencies and programs. The book also advocates for the involvement of Indigenous voices in the development and implementation of child welfare policies.

- The book is a valuable resource for those interested in Indigenous child welfare in Canada. It provides important insights into the challenges faced by Indigenous children in the foster care system and offers recommendations for improving the system. The book is available online and is a must-read for anyone interested in Indigenous child welfare.

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population figures, the proportion of registered Indian children in care has increased dramatically over the last few years. Heepworth arrived at several other conclusions on the basis of the available data. For example, the long-term care system in British Columbia, for example, children of Indigenous families are more likely to be placed in residential care than other children to be returned to their natural parents or to be placed for adoption. In fact, more than 70% of foster children, it is more likely to be with a non-Indigenous family. In addition, Heepworth notes that the adoption rates, although the only solid data available are restricted to regist-

ners of Indian families and children. The figures show that for the 10-year period 1969-1979, slightly more than 7 per cent of registered Indian children who were placed for adoption were adopted by non-Indian families.

Those are the facts, but what do they mean? Quite clearly they sug-

gest that the care systems for providing child welfare services is failing Indigenous families and children. How else do we explain statistics that show that 40 per cent or 50 per cent of children placed in residential care, while children living in the care of provincial child welfare authorities are from Indigenous families, are placed in foster homes, or are seriously at risk. In any effort to address the problem, however, it is essential to identify the causes, and to do so it is necessary to peel back the layers of legislation, policies, and practices that have contributed to the situation. The particular shortcomings have the potential to affect all Indigenous families: status Indian on or off the reserve, non-status Indian, Métis, and Inuit. Another flaw in the child welfare system, although it only affects some reserve Indian families and chil-
dren, is the lack of a stable, safe, and supportive environment where children can develop relationships and skills.

This situation places many Indigen-
ous children in a position of double-judgement. Not only is the child removed from his or her natural par-

ents, which is a traumatic experience in itself, but the Indigenous child is often removed from his or her culture and placed in another environment with substantially different attitudes toward and approaches to life.

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ents, which is a traumatic experience in itself, but the Indigenous child is often removed from his or her culture and placed in another environment with substantially different attitudes toward and approaches to life.
Political leaders as of 2023 in various provinces of Canada would be surprised to hear that child welfare services to Indigenous children has not been a priority for federal and provincial governments. This might prove to be satisfactory in a province like Ontario where a comprehensive agreement is already in place. However, this is not the case in other provinces. It would bear little fruit in a province like Ontario where a comprehensive agreement is already in place. However, this is not the case in other provinces.

Changes in the child welfare system will happen neither easily nor quickly. Child welfare has a relatively low priority for governments and hasn't been able to compete for the political and public attention given issues like energy or the constitution. The topic of child welfare and Indigenous people, in particular, has received even less attention because it requires the co-operation of both the federal and provincial governments. Such co-operation appears to be in short supply at this point in our history.

Nevertheless, there are some important developments in various parts of the country that appear to hold some promise for the future. In June, the progress of the Spallumcheen Band in B.C. is being watched very closely and a number of other band councils have started to draft their own child welfare bylaws.

Some of the recent work of tripartite committees—especially those in Manitoba and Ontario—may have an important bearing on the future of child welfare. In fact, a master agreement is about to be signed by Manitoba and Ontario, the federal government, and the Four Nations Confederacy. The agreement would begin the transfer of responsibility for child welfare to status Indians from Children's Aid Societies to tribal councils and bands.

The Tripartite Task Group on Social Services in Ontario recently submitted its second report, entitled "Community Care: Toward Indian Control of Indian Social Services." The report describes six transitional steps that would lead to Indian-controlled social services. The child welfare system was one of the key social services discussed in that report. Indigenous people in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador have also begun to assume more responsibility for the delivery of their child welfare services.

Ontario is the location of another program that is gaining significance. The Ontario Task Force on Native People in the Urban Setting has been engaged in a massive research programme in that province.

Satisfactory options may be devised, the change in attitude referred to earlier will become permanent only to the extent that the existing policy and legislative framework that describes the child welfare system is altered to incorporate such a change.

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