

“How to Love a Child”

The Janusz Korczak Lecture Series

Lecture #4



Co-organized by the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada
and the Faculty of Education, UBC

At the UBC Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre 2015/16
Centennial Sessions

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The Human Rights of Aboriginal Children

Children's Rights

January 21, 2016
at 7:00 PM

UBC Centennial
100 Session

INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Jo-Ann Archibald, Associate Dean for Indigenous Education, NITEP Director and Professor in Educational Studies: Acknowledgement of Traditional and Unceded Musqueam Territory. An Overview Indigenous Education Research at the Faculty of Education, UBC

Jerry Nussbaum, President of the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, British Columbia Representative for Children and Youth

Dr. Mike DeGagné, President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University

MODERATOR:

Dr. Grant Charles, Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia

LECTURE ABSTRACT:

Children are among the most vulnerable of

Canada's citizens. Despite protection under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child many young people remain marginalized in our society. Aboriginal children are amongst those who are the most at risk. They are more likely to live in poverty, have poorer health status and are disproportionately represented in the youth justice and child welfare systems. They have higher suicide rates, lower high school graduation rates and are more likely than their non-Aboriginal peers to become homeless. Aboriginal girls and young women are at particular risk of becoming victims of violence and sexual exploitation. This joint lecture will focus on the significant challenges Aboriginal children face in exercising their human rights.

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond is British Columbia's first Representative for Children and Youth, an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. Her office has a mandate to advocate for children and youth in British Columbia and protect their rights. She has worked as a criminal law judge in youth and adult courts, with an emphasis on developing partnerships to better serve the needs of young people in the justice system, particularly sexually exploited children and youth and those with disabilities. A graduate of Carleton University, York University and Cambridge University, she also holds a doctorate from Harvard Law. Dr. Turpel-Lafond has received numerous honours throughout her career and is widely acknowledged as an expert on the rights of children.

Dr. Mike DeGagné is President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University. Mike

served as the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation throughout its duration. He previously held senior positions with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Health Canada. Dr. DeGagné is a member of the Board of Directors for the Mental Health Commission of Canada and has served as Chairman of the Child Welfare League of Canada. He is a graduate from the University of Toronto, Central Michigan University and Osgoode Hall and holds a doctorate from Michigan State University. The recipient of various honours he was recently appointed a member of the Order of Canada. He is internationally recognized as an expert on the impact of residential schools on Aboriginal peoples.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

Grant Charles is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at UBC and Affiliated Associate Professor in the Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine at BC Children's Hospital. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the College of Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba and an Associate Adjunct Professor in the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria. He is also a member of the Prato International Research Collaborative on Children of Parents with Mental Illness. His current research focus is on young carers, the ethics of international service learning and the development of practice and legislative response regarding child sexual abuse images on-line.

This session has been co-ordinated by Dr. Grant Charles, School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia.

Next up: **Lecture #5 – Feb 18, 2016, 7pm**

JANUSZ KORCZAK'S ENDURING LEGACY: SOCIAL PAEDIATRICS IN CANADA AND VANCOUVER

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Dr. Gilles Julien, one of the principle founders of the field of social paediatrics

Mrs. Hélène Sioui Trudel, a key proponent of actualizing the Conventions on the Rights of the Child in Canada

Dr. Christine Look, led the creation and development of the RICHER Social Paediatrics program in Vancouver.

MODERATOR:

Dr. Curren Warf, Head of the Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine of the Department of Paediatrics of BC Children's Hospital and UBC.

LECTURE ABSTRACT:

Social Paediatrics focuses on addressing the social determinants of health of children, including poverty, marginalization and racism through protecting vulnerable children from the cumulative negative effects of toxic stress and traumatic experiences on human development. Social Paediatrics focuses on building and nurturing the network of support around the child – the Circle of the Child – founded on an appreciation of children's inherent resiliency, and nurturing their capacity. It is a model based on science and evidence and promises to prepare children and adolescents for a successful and fulfilling adult life, in particular children and adolescents confronting the burden of stress and trauma. "Promoting Child and Youth Health and Rights in Vancouver through the RICHER Social Paediatrics Model"

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