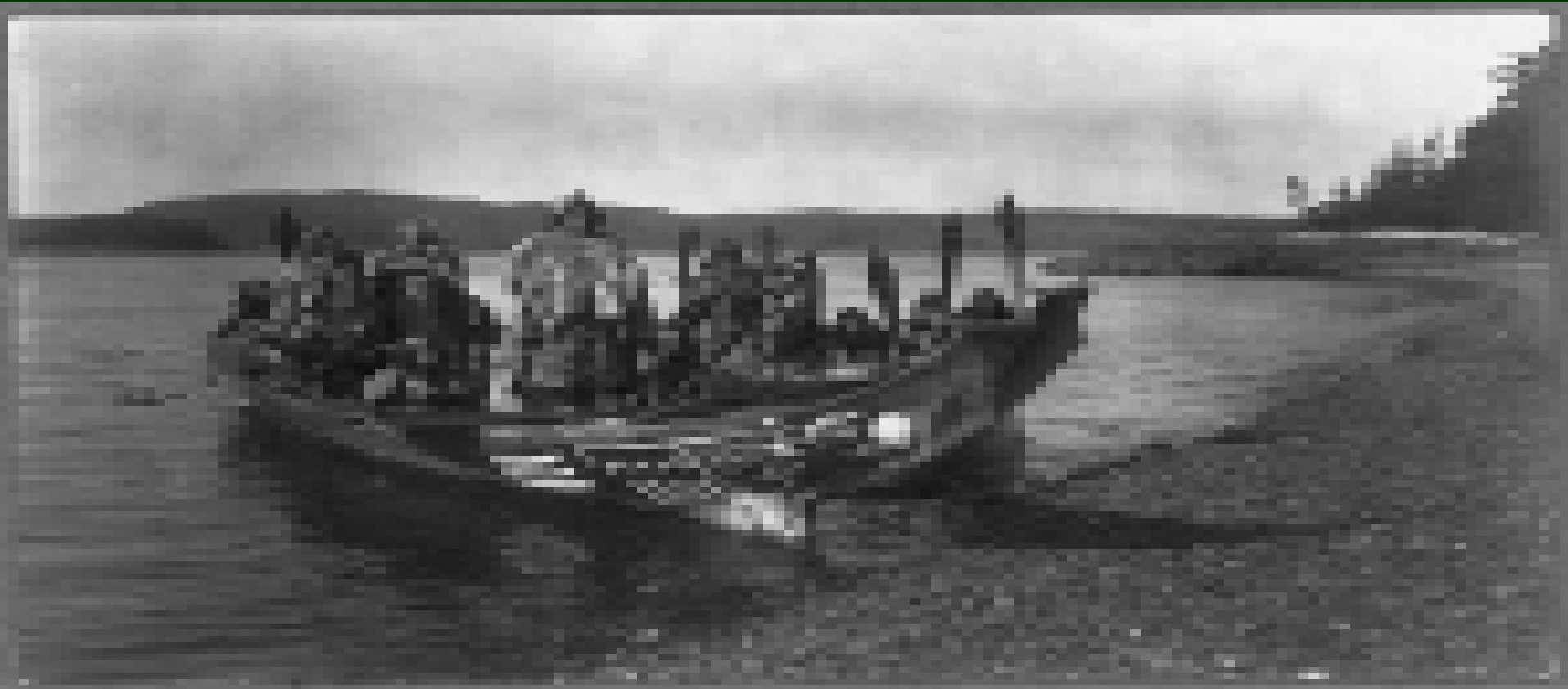




Caring for the
Generation we
will never know
and always love

Rethinking Development Conference: Antagonish, Nova Scotia, June 21, 2005

Call them and they
were never gone



Five hundred years ago,
Europeans thought they could
raise our children better than we
could - here are the results

Residential Schools



“What if they squeeze
all the Indian out of us?
What will be left? What
do they want, Howard?
We’re Indians. That’s
it. That’s what we are”

No time to Say
Goodbye

The last residential
school closed in 1996

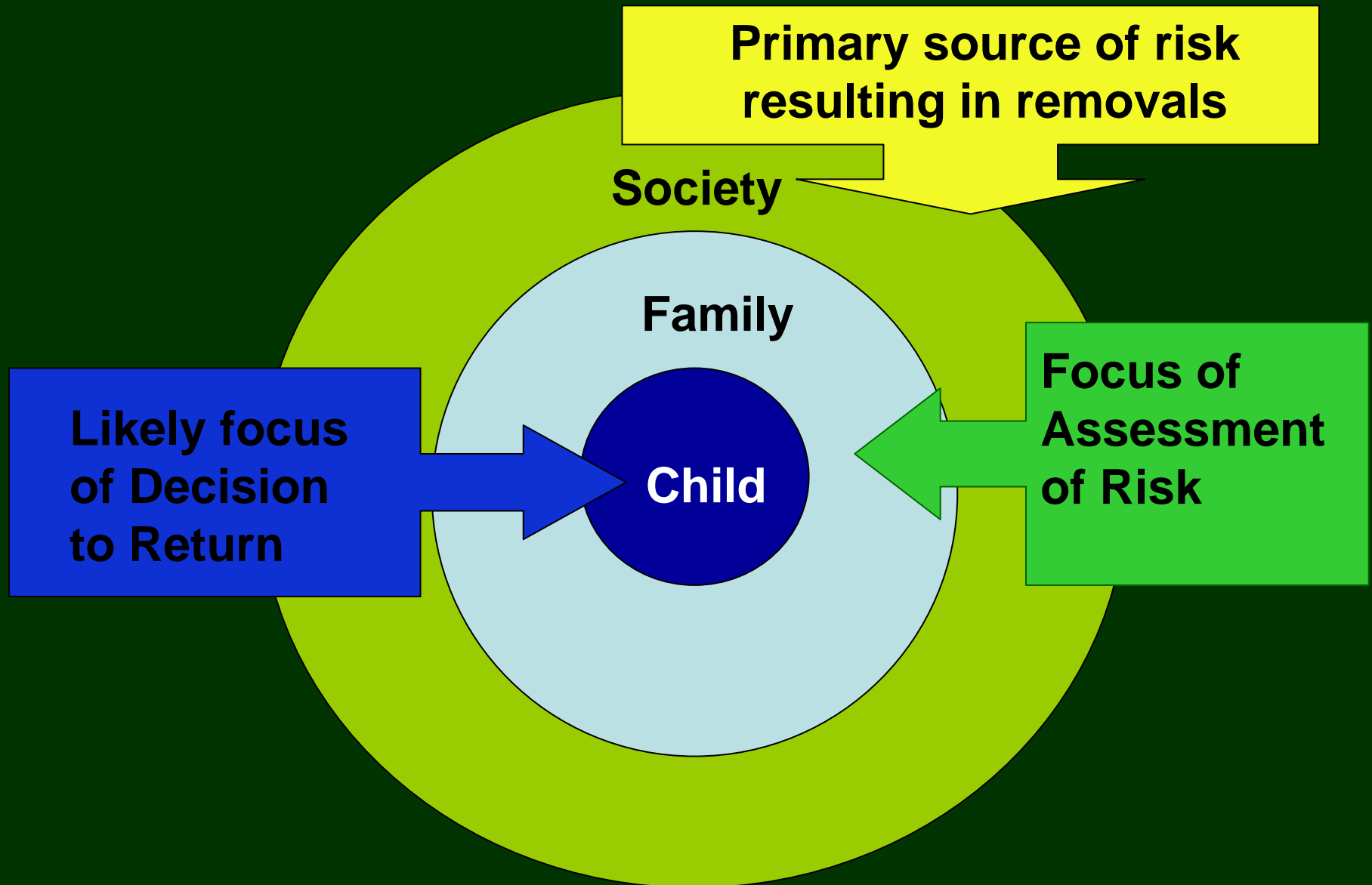
There are between 22,500 and 28,000 First Nations children in the care of the Canadian child welfare system... three times the number that attended residential schools in the 1940's.

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, 2002; Child Welfare League of Canada, 2003; Blackstock, 2002

Aboriginal children are less likely to be reported for physical and sexual abuse than non Aboriginal children – neglect (poverty, substance misuse, and poor housing) are the key reasons why Aboriginal come into child welfare care

Trocme, Knoke Blackstock, 2005

Disconnect between judgment of risk and source of risk



The Way Forward

- Respecting that Indigenous peoples are in the best position to care for Indigenous children (Cornell and Kalt, 2002; Chandler and Lalonde, 2003)
- Equal access to resources (MacDonald and Ladd, 2000; Nadjiwan and Blackstock, 2003)
- Focused and broad based social activism to address structural risk to communities

It begins with understanding that
Reconciliation is before us not behind us



Reconciliation: Its about the best of our love





Let our biggest
legacy to the
generation we will
never know be the
best of our love



Reconciliation is more than
freeing an oppressed
people, it is about freeing
our oppressed humanity

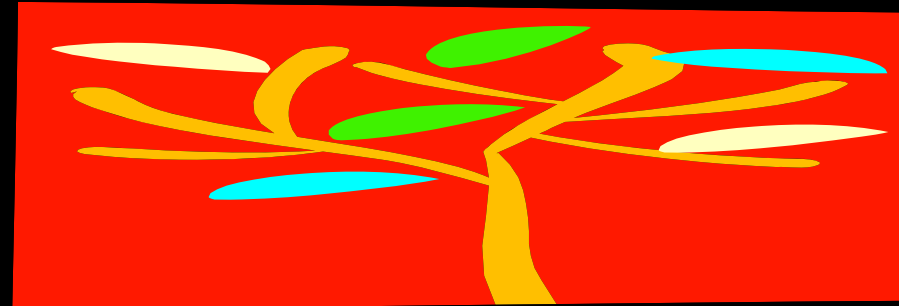
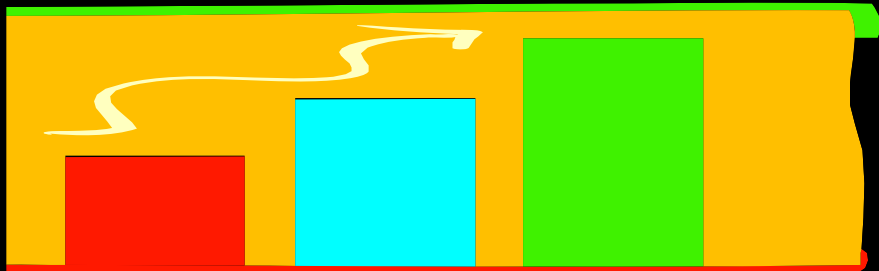




It means understanding we all
have one hand for giving and
another for receiving ... just
like she does



It means teaching children to
give the best of their love and
respect to themselves, to
others and to Mother Nature



amplify

desire

budding

DEVOTED

d r e a m o n

CELEBRATE

THE CHILDREN

Be Part Of
History

Simply Irresistible

character

s c e n e + h e a r d

winners

WHO

WATCH WORLD

all your own

It means
having
fun
together



It means honoring what
has been true since the
beginning



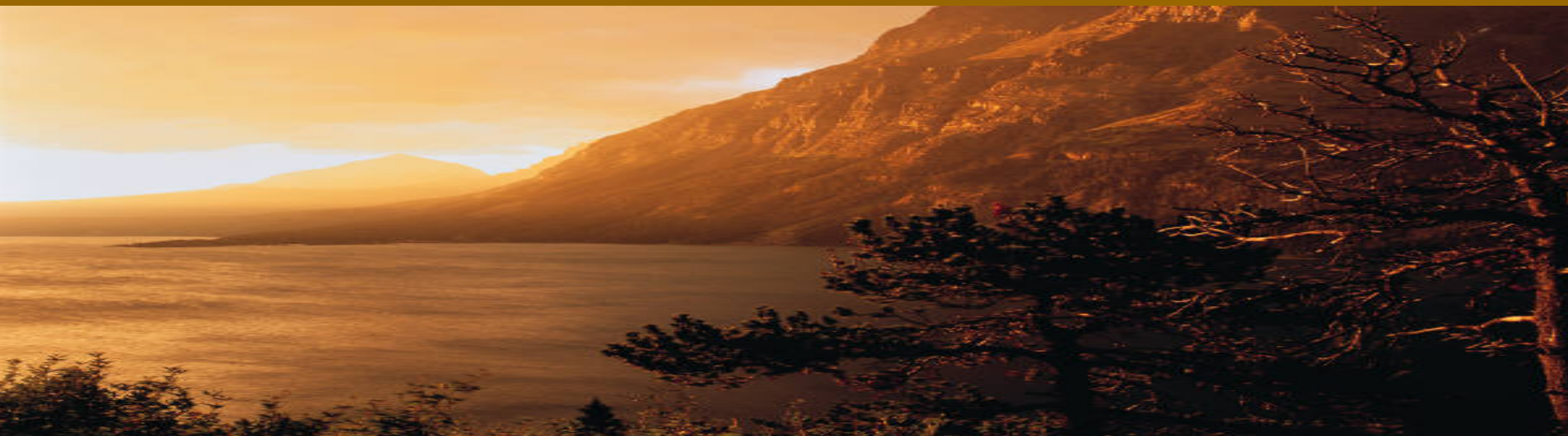
It is about sharing our culture and wisdom from one generation to another... to another... to another...



IN THE FUTURE, CHILDREN WILL BE...



Its about feeling safe and
welcome in the lands that have
been our home for millennia



Its about understanding that
one of the greatest gifts we
can give a child is the ability to
dream....

"In the future, children will..."

have

Peace

and

be

stronger

healthy

safe

special

John Deere

Its about understanding that culture is passing a society's essence from one generation to another... including its love



Its about understanding that
youth engagement is about
building the next generation

Jocelyn Formsma

Words of an Aboriginal Youth

This is a beautiful new
world in which we can
learn to work together-
A wonderful new world that our
children can thrive for inner
peace, and happiness always
and forever

Olivia Sam

It means understanding that
the Creator gave each culture
a different way of
understanding the world- only
together can we save it and
each other

savanna

seven





www.fncfcs.com

Reconciliation: Give
the best of our love...
another generation is
depending on us

*First Nations Child & Family
Caring Society of Canada*

Children's art work courtesy of Caring for First
Nations Children Society,