

Aboriginal Policy *and* Practice Framework

An Overview

A pathway towards restorative policy and practice that supports and honours Aboriginal peoples' cultural systems of caring and resiliency

What does the APPF apply to?

- To all DAA and MCFD practice and policy involving Aboriginal children, youth and families.
- Across all 6 service lines (Early Years, CYSN, CYMH, Child Safety, Family Support and Children in Care, Adoption Services and Youth Justice).

Our Shared Context

- The context that we must understand, including history and its ongoing influence on the present, to support a compelling response to current and past realities.
- Achieving healing and well-being for Aboriginal children, youth and families means that practices and policies must be culturally safe and inclusive of Aboriginal cultures, worldviews and values.
- Aboriginal peoples have demonstrated immense resiliency and unique strengths, and are actively restoring and revitalizing their cultures, languages and systems of caring for their children.
- The framework is grounded in community input, recognized research, national and international laws, and provincial commitments.

Our Foundations

- **Roles of Ancestors, Community, Elders, Family, and Extended Family in Upholding the Sacredness of Children**
- **Culture, Tradition, Values, Language and Identity**
- **Interconnectedness and Relationships**
- **Diversity, self-determination, and autonomy**

Our Values

- **Respect**
- **Inclusion**
- **Truth Telling**
- **Wisdom**
- **Belonging**

Our Collective Responsibility

Together, with an in depth understanding of our shared context, values and foundations, we can implement the Circle as a restorative process leading to a model of policy and practice that supports and honors Aboriginal peoples' cultural systems of caring and resiliency.

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The Circle

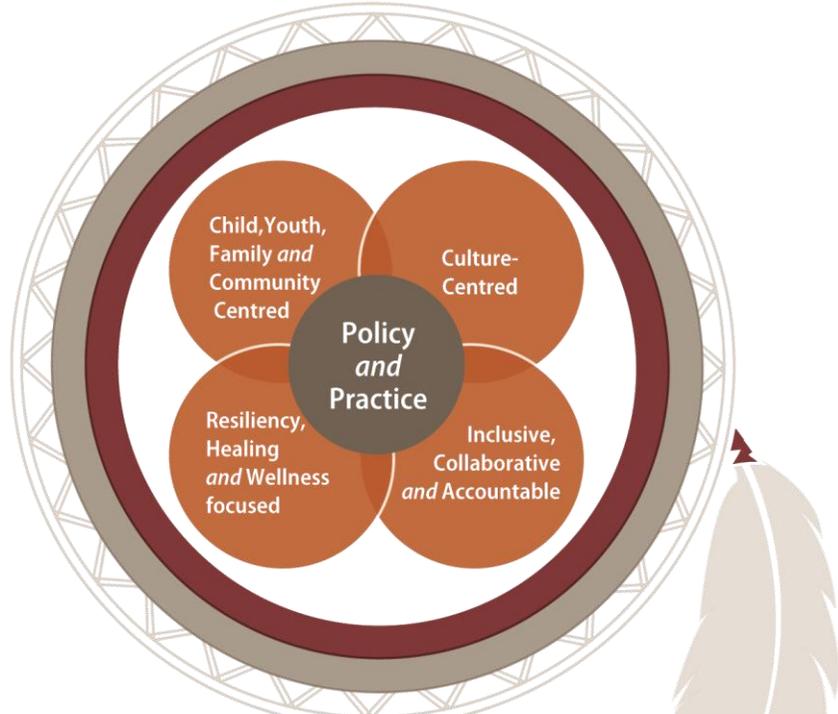
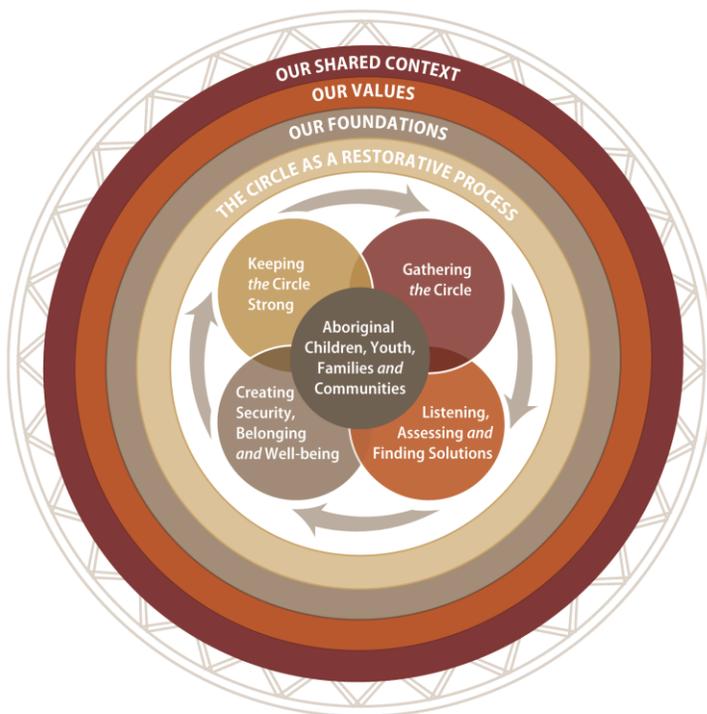
- The Circle is a sacred and restorative process that is strength-based and holistic. Grounding the Circle process in our shared context, our values, and our foundations, provides a pathway towards improved outcomes for Aboriginal children, youth, families and communities through restorative policies and practices.

There are four parts to the Circle:

- Gathering the Circle;
- Listening, Assessing and Finding Solutions;
- Creating Security, Belonging and Well-being; and
- Keeping the Circle Strong.

The Circle is:

- Child, Youth, Family and Community-Centred;
- Culture-Centred;
- Culturally Safe;
- Inclusive, Collaborative and Accountable; and
- Focused on Resiliency, Healing and Wellness.



Diverse perspectives and needs can be shared and respected where equality exists. The Circle is the sacred space where healing can occur, interconnectedness and interdependent relationships with one another are emphasized and unity, respectful of our diversity, may be found.