



BLAME THE PARENTS FOR SUFFERING OF CHILDREN ON THE MARGINS

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Blame the parents for suffering of children on the margins. Developmentally delayed children come into a failing welfare system due to irresponsible parents placing substance abuse ahead of their children. More than half of Winnipeg's Indigenous homeless population are former wards of Child and Family Services (CFS). A former CFS ward explained on CBC recently that the 50 per cent figure was too low, not taking into account the significant number of former wards who "couch surf." This

group relies on the kindness of acquaintances (or, more ominously, strangers) for a place to sleep. Although not counted as homeless, they are just a small step away from being in that category. But it gets even worse. At least half of the Indigenous children in care are referred to as being "developmentally delayed" - code used by child welfare bureaucrats. It means children born with irreversible brain damage caused by alcohol in their mother's womb at a crucial time, resulting in fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). When these unfortunate children turn 18, some special programs and services are

available to delay the day when they must leave the child welfare system. But that day eventually comes. They often have no responsible family members to help them. Since adoption became all but unavailable to Indigenous children, no adopting parent is there to give them what assistance they can. They often have no one - except a social services worker with a huge caseload - to help them. Adults with FASD form a large percentage of the neglected souls sleeping on Winnipeg's river banks and back alleys. In winter, they find heat where they can. Some freeze to death. Almost all have addic-

tion and mental health issues. How about the former CFS wards who are neither couch surfing nor sleeping on the streets? Many are in and out of jails or living on the margins, dependent on others for their support. Some will become tomorrow's missing and murdered Indigenous women. Most have bleak and uncertain futures. The finding that Indigenous child welfare wards are doing poorly as adults will be met by cries of outrage from Indigenous advocates. Governments and agencies will be blamed. The public will be scolded. Demands will be made to reorganize child wel-

fare services to be more Indigenous-centred, increase government funding, again, and hold yet more inquiries. The problem is that all of these things have been done many times but with no appreciable result. As long as Indigenous children keep getting dumped into a swamped child welfare system, more funded studies and revamped agencies won't make much difference. And why do these developmentally delayed children keep coming into that failing and faulty system? Mostly because of irresponsible parents, who placed their own selfish drinking and drug taking ahead of their duties as

parents. Many of these irresponsible mothers are children themselves and some suffer from FASD. Putting aside blaming the government, child welfare agencies, colonialism and residential schools, what we have is a fairly straightforward problem. Blame should instead be squarely placed on irresponsible parents drinking their children's future away. There are no positive results to come from outraged blaming of others. Society's indignant and self-righteous people continually give irresponsible parents exactly the excuse they need to keep on failing their children.

RADICAL IDEOLOGY FORCED ON STUDENT

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) promotes not just "English" instruction, but a radical "social justice" and critical theory agenda. NCTE trains teachers to indoctrinate students with radical ideology, under the guise of classroom English assignments, and in violation of parental rights.

Liberty Counsel represents concerned parents in the Coweta County School District where Language Arts teacher Kima Brown and

other Northgate High School English teachers were workshop "presenters" at the NCTE 2017 National Conference. The conference agenda instructional sessions included:

- "Enacting Social Justice-Focused English Curricula"
- "Who Are We as Activist Allies? Storying Our Work as Social Justice Educators"
- "Using LGBTQ Texts in Middle School..."
- "Why Are All the Trans Youth So 'Normal'?"

Intersectionality and Absence in Current Trans[gender] Fiction for Youth"

- "Race Radical Literacies"
- "Sexuality, Power, and Rape Culture: Understanding Feminism in Adolescence"
- "Consciously Designing ... Resistance Pedagogy for 21st Century Youth"
- "Using Graphic Novels to Spark Political Activism"
- "Rejecting Neutrality: Literacy & Political Engagement in the ELA Classroom"

One of the conference's three "Featured Sessions" was entitled "Queering English Studies: Navigating Politics, Policies, and Practices..." The session description stated, "Queer K-12 teachers and students must continue... constructing learning spaces, creating projects, and pursuing research agendas that move English studies ... to transformation so that participants can be proactive in their schools and communities."

At Northgate High School, Ms.

Brown required her students, without parental consent, to complete an individual "dossier" containing confidential and personally identifiable information including a photograph, a strand of hair, a handwriting sample and fingerprints. These "dossiers" were posted in the classroom where the data could have been taken by students, staff, faculty and school guests, thus violating students' privacy. The assignment was not part of the school's curriculum and was not required of other

classes. Concerned parents view this unauthorized data collection as conditioning of their students to accept privacy violations by the state.

Brown also required her students to "Create a Propaganda Meme" regarding the "Syrian Crisis and War." Among other things, the "propaganda" assignment required students to answer, "Are you for OR against the war?" "What should be done to protect children?" "Should the US accept more Syrian refugees?" "What should all Americans do about the crisis?"

The "dossier" and "propaganda" assignments are consistent with the radical agenda promoted by the NCTE. Liberty Counsel has demanded this school district forbid teachers from requiring students to create "dossiers" on themselves or "propaganda" about any subject. Liberty Counsel also demands that teachers must be counseled regarding parental rights and student privacy and disciplined if they bring radical NCTE ideologies into the classroom.

"Teachers cannot require students to provide hair samples, fingerprints, or other personal information, or force them to create propaganda without parental knowledge and consent," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "Teachers must be accountable to parents and parents must be vigilant and aware of inappropriate classroom assignments designed to indoctrinate, not educate," said Staver.


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