



## **Our Children, Our Future:**

### *First Nations Child and Family Services and Self-Determination*

#### **Dr. Helaina Gaspard, Director, Governance and Institutions, New Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, University of Ottawa**

Helaina is a researcher, advisor, teacher and convener. Her work focuses on the state institutions that incentivize and govern the behaviour of actors, influencing the performance of organizations and public policy outcomes.

#### **Kevin Page, Chief Executive Officer, New Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, University of Ottawa**

Kevin Page is the current Chief Executive Officer of the New Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy at the University of Ottawa. Prior to this position, he was the Jean-Luc Pepin Research Chair in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa from 2013 to 2016. He was Canada's first Parliamentary Budget Officer from 2008 to 2013. He has 27 years of experience in the federal public service with most of those years spent at three central agencies responsible for budgeting. He was the Assistant Secretary to Cabinet for Macroeconomic Policy at the Privy Council Office before becoming Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer. He has a Master's degree in Economics from Queen's University. He was born in Fort William (Thunder Bay) Ontario. He is married and a father of three children.

#### **Cindy Blackstock, PhD, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society**

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Cindy is honoured to serve as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University's School of Social Work. She has over 30 years of experience working in child welfare and Indigenous children's rights and has published more than 75 articles on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, First Nations child welfare and human rights. Cindy was honoured to work with First Nations colleagues on a successful human rights challenge to Canada's inequitable provision of child and family services and failure to implement Jordan's Principle. This hard-fought litigation has resulted in hundreds of thousands of services being provided to First Nations children, youth and families.

She recently served on the Pan American Health Commission on Health Equity and Inequity and fundamentally believes that culturally-based equity is fundamental to meaningful reconciliation. Cindy is frequently sighted in the company of the Caring Society's reconciliation Am-bear-rister, Spirit Bear, engaging children in meaningful actions to implement the TRC Calls to Action.