

Indigenous Data Sovereignty is Being Undermined

Victoria International Privacy & Security Summit

March 13, 2025



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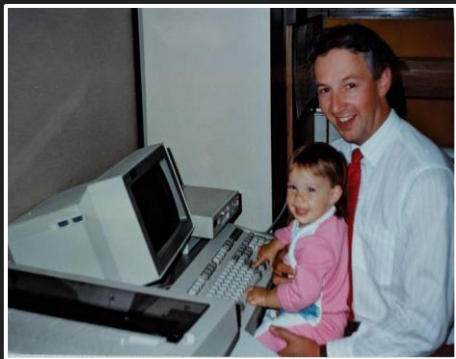
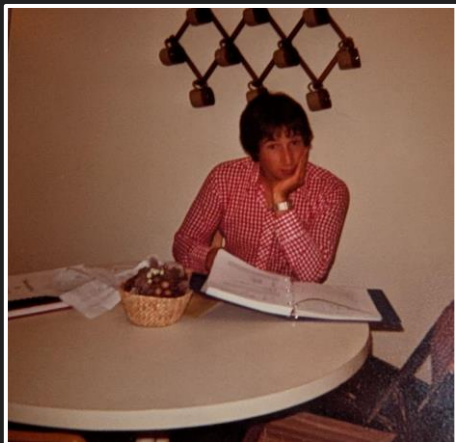
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Chelsea Nakogee



Shaun McCumber



Chelsea and Shaun are sharing their insights based on personal lived experience working within Indigenous communities to break down policy, technical, and cultural barriers to data sovereignty.

Neither Chelsea nor Shaun are speaking on behalf of any organization or community.

We invite you to amplify this conversation by posting and sharing. We have provided some approved quotes you may use. We ask that you request approval prior to publishing or posting any other direct quotes to ensure that nothing is taken out of context.

Please feel free to research the social movement [#DataBack](#) and if it feels appropriate, use the hashtag.



Download Slides
and Approved
Quotes

Indigenous

Data

Sovereignty

Ontario Child Welfare System Overview

Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)

oversees, administers, enforces

Child, Youth and Family Services Act 2017 (CYFSA)

sets mandate, authority, obligations for

Children's Aid Societies (CAS)



Indigenous Child and Family Wellbeing Agencies (ICFWA)

Non-Indigenous Agencies

Association of
Native Child and
Family Services
Agencies of
Ontario



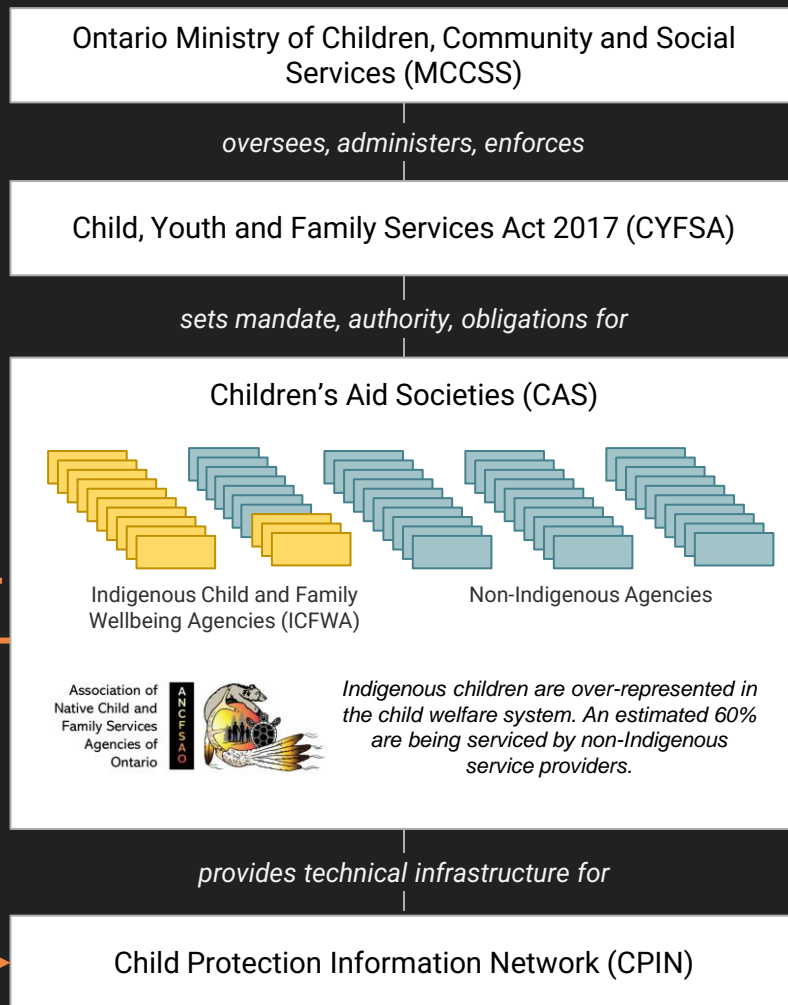
Indigenous children are over-represented in the child welfare system. An estimated 60% are being serviced by non-Indigenous service providers.

provides technical infrastructure for

Child Protection Information Network (CPIN)

Indigenous Data Sovereignty Issues

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Communities



1. MCCSS asserts custody and control of FNIM data within the CPIN system, and there is no support for alternative systems
2. MCCSS uses FNIM data without consultation and disregarding opposition from rights holders and agencies
3. Lack of clear direction and legislative guidance is used to block information sharing with FNIM communities

3

1

2

Calls to Action

1. Ontario should amend the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA) to explicitly acknowledge Indigenous data rights (in partnership with ICFWBAs and Indigenous communities).
2. The Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) should exercise the authority granted to it by the CYFSA to require Children's Aid Societies to share information with Indigenous communities (in partnership with ICFWBAs and Indigenous communities).
3. MCCSS should engage with Indigenous communities and data rights holders in a meaningful way by:
 - Respecting the authority of First Nations and data rights holders in the governance of data
 - Involving decision makers throughout the engagement process in order to improve accountability and efficiency
 - Being transparent around decisions to deny requests to limit the collection and use of Indigenous data

Indigenous Digital Journey

Digital Divide

Digital Identity

Digital Colonialism

Digital Sustainability

Digital Sovereignty



MUSTIMUHW

VIPSS 2025

**Indigenous Data
Sovereignty**

Mar 13, 2025

www.mustimuhw.com

➤ **Mustimuhw Information Solutions Inc.**



- Indigenous software development company for health and human services
- A Cowichan Tribes owned company
- 34-year track record (10 Mustimuhw, 24 Cowichan Tribes)
- Currently operating in 7 provinces, 1 territory
- Relationships with 270+ First Nations across Canada
- culturally sensitive solution designed from the ground up to align with the holistic health perspectives of Indigenous communities
- anchored in key principles of data sovereignty such as OCAP™





Indigenous Digital Health Ecosystem



- a landmark initiative aimed at revolutionizing the way Indigenous communities manage and utilize data for health and social services
- a custom-developed digital platform that enables the seamless integration of various third-party applications.
- a culturally sensitive solution designed from the ground up to align with the holistic health perspectives of Indigenous communities; encompassing physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and environmental well-being.
- its foundational components empower First Nations with the autonomy to manage their data across essential domains like healthcare, education, and housing, supporting self-governance and cultural integrity

ReconciliACTION is hard.

It will be expensive.

It will be uncomfortable.

It is going to slow you down.

You'll probably get it wrong at first.

People are going to be mad at you.

You will have to give up control.

You will have to give up data.

It might go against what feels right to you.

It might get in the way of revenue or profit goals.

It might increase your risk or exposure.

If it's easy, you're doing it wrong.