



# 2021 Online International Gathering

**Signs of Safety: A Warrior's Perspective**

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**Metis Settlements Children's Services, Canada**

Inier Cardinal



# “A tool in the Toolbox” – Inier Cardinal

Honoring Family

Low Apprehension

Family led Safety

We were doing this already.

Families Worked with us

We were nice

# Caara created a Scale

When you think about where MS CFS is at in regards to implementation of the Signs of Safety Practice framework, where are you at on the following scale where:

10 = Even though there have been bumps in the road over the past while within our own leadership team, we are all fully committed to and understand the 4 areas of implementation and are able to support our teams to continue to grow our knowledge, skills, and depth to do the best work we can under this practice framework and grow our capacity for participatory work in Metis communities

# Caara created a Scale

When you think about where MS CFS is at in regards to implementation of the Signs of Safety Practice framework, where are you at on the following scale where:

0 = I am not sure what you mean by implementation? I think that we have been working with the Signs of Safety for a while now and there are some good tools we have been using, but we really have learnt all we can learn and already do really good work with people and that should be enough. This idea of implementation and building capacity for participatory work in Metis communities seems redundant as we have been doing this all already.

- Choosing a File and Picking up on Safety Planning after the Assessment was Clear with worries for Dad Caring for his Children
- We Can't Stop at the Worries we had to have Vision the Journey to the Goal of Dad getting his children Back

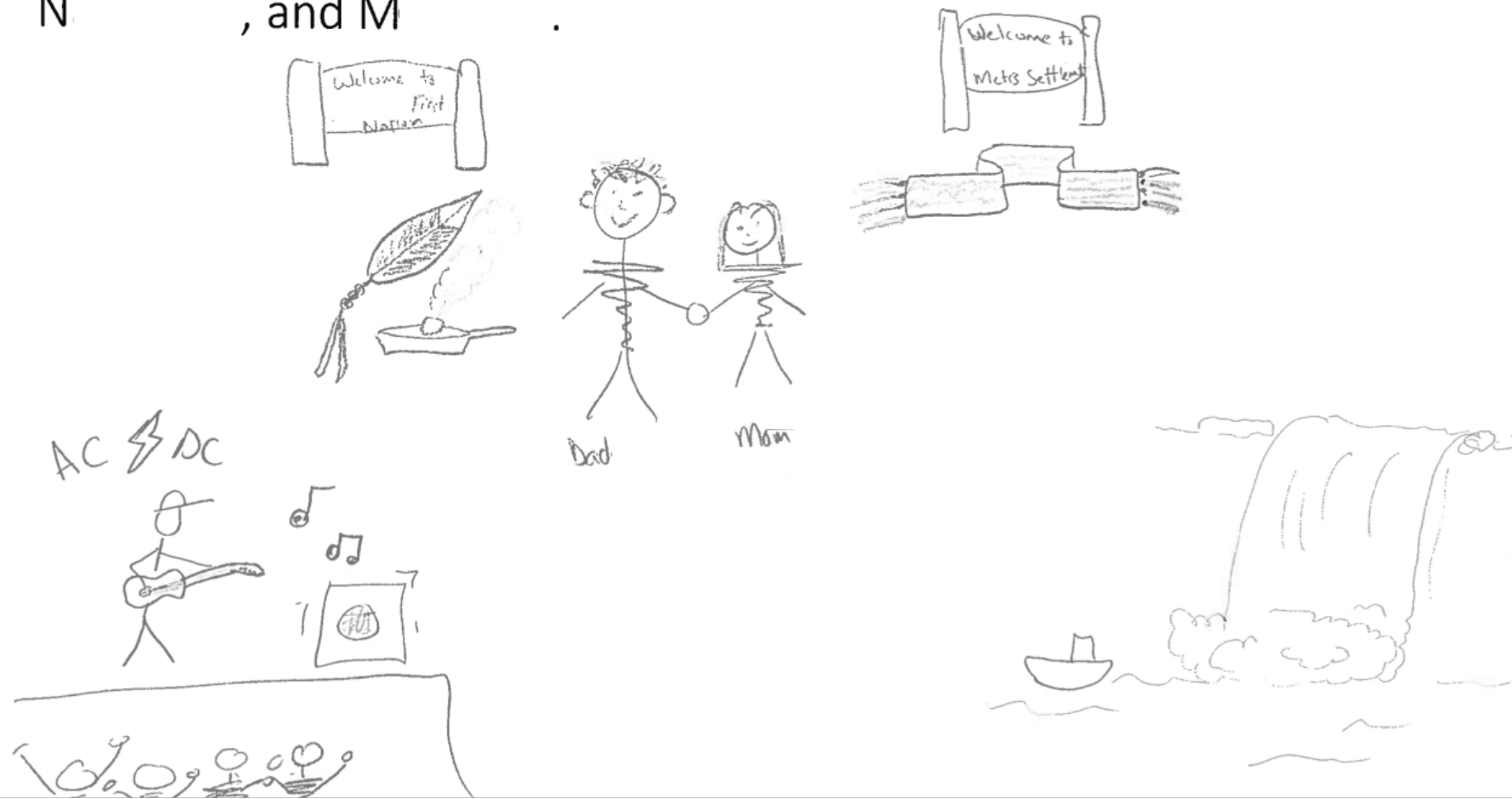
I needed to lead by example. I needed to navigate a path through a Words and Pictures to demonstrate to my staff it can be done.



# Cheat Sheet to Doing Words and Pictures

- Group Supervision
- DO a group supervision – you will walk out of that situation with about 4 frames to get the ball rolling
- Collaborative Case Review
- Do a collaborative case review to steal more great ideas from your colleagues – another easy 4 frames.
- BOOM - Half way done!!!!

Mom \_\_\_\_\_, who is from the \_\_\_\_\_ Metis Settlement, and  
Dad \_\_\_\_\_, who is affiliated to the \_\_\_\_\_ First Nation, met  
a long time ago on the \_\_\_\_\_ First Nation reserve. They fell in love  
and enjoyed spending time together. Mom \_\_\_\_\_ and Dad \_\_\_\_\_ even  
travelled to Quebec and watched an AC/DC concert and visited Niagara  
Falls. Dad \_\_\_\_\_ and Mom \_\_\_\_\_ love created D \_\_\_\_\_, A \_\_\_\_\_,  
N \_\_\_\_\_, and M \_\_\_\_\_.





One night while Mom was using drugs and Dad was drinking beers they had an argument. This argument got louder and louder until they started to hit each other. Childrn's Services was worried that Mom and Dad fight was very scary for the boys.

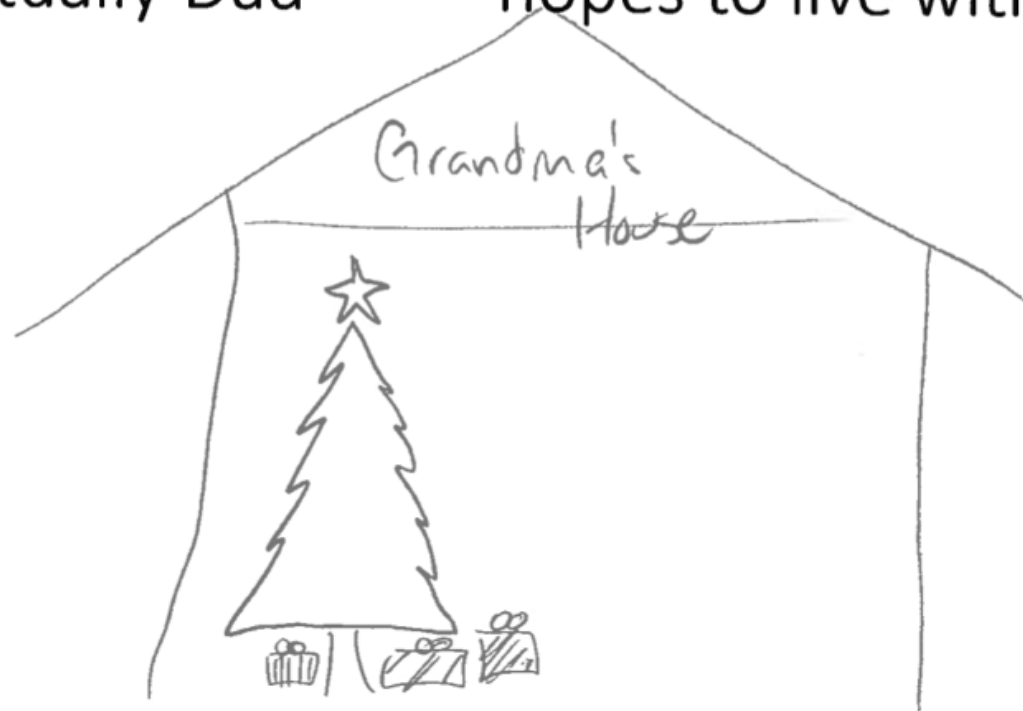
Children's Services wanted Dad and Mom to learn to work on problems without getting angry enough to hit and without drugs or beer. While Mom and Dad work on this Children's Services wanted the boys to stay with other people. This made Mom and Dad , and very sad.



Mom is still working to stay away from drugs that help her head stop hurting. Mom phones her boys when she can and often connects with Metis Children's Services to check on her children. loves her boys and the boys love her. is trying to stay healthy to have more supervised visits. Mom rode the bus for over 9 hours from the Metis Settlement area to attend a visit with and . Mom has recently attended AA, Women's Group, and Church to help her deal with her problems. Mom wants to stay away from drugs to make sure she can arrange more visits with her boys and feel better.



Dad is starting to spend more time with and . The boys started with day visits on Saturday, then day visits Saturday and Sunday. Now they have sleepovers on the weekends. Sometimes they start Friday and go to Sunday. Dad also planned a longer visit with his boys over the holidays in B.C. with Grandma . Dad now has his own place and is planning visits that carry on during the week. Eventually Dad hopes to live with all his boys.



Christmas in British  
Columbia





## Top 3 Learnings from Words and Pictures

- Humanizing our families and seeing them beyond the problem that occurred that got Children's Services
- Sense of belonging – Belonging is a part of culture
- We need to actively seek out culture in the work of Children's Services – In this scenario the kids were able to go back to day but what if that wasn't case how would these children know who they are and where they come from?

# Culture

I need to work in a way that honors who I am as an individual and allows me to honor my culture

# Final Words





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