



Dawn Wightman



Dawn Wightman is the acting Associate Deputy Representative for Aboriginal and Community Relations and Youth Engagement. Prior to joining the Representative's office in January 2010 as an Investigator on the critical injury and death review and investigation team, Ms. Wightman worked in the field of Aboriginal child welfare for 12 years.

She has worked in child protection with delegated Aboriginal agencies and the Ministry of Child and Family Development. In 2002 she joined the Aboriginal Services Branch of MCFD. She worked as a Practice Analyst, Quality Assurance Analyst and Manager of

Aboriginal Policy and Manager of Quality Assurance. She also served on an acting basis as Deputy Director. She was a member of MCFD's Aboriginal Adoption Exceptions Committee and regularly presents to Adoptive Parents Education meetings on the topics of special needs and Aboriginal adoptions. A member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, her name is Aa ap waa iik, which translates to the "one who always says the right words or right speeches about chiefly business." It is a Nuuchuhnulth name because her grandmother's family is Nuuchuhnulth.

Ms. Wightman has her Bachelor of Arts (Youth and Child Care) from the University of Victoria, and is currently completing her Master's Degree in Dispute Resolution at UVic.

She is passionate about working to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and their families, as well as making improvements that will allow children with special needs to reach their full potential. She is committed to a conciliatory approach to making change, and the need to involve families and communities in the decisions that affect them.

In her role as acting Associate Deputy Representative, Ms. Wightman is responsible for overseeing issues relating to the delivery of services to Aboriginal children and families and to continue the Representative's program of outreach to Aboriginal organizations. This work is connected very closely to the Representative's ongoing work on community outreach more generally and more particularly to youth.

She will also maintain effective collaborative relationships with all levels of government, First Nations and Métis organizations, community leaders and organizations.

Ms. Wightman and her spouse are proud parents of three children, and she works from the Representative's Victoria office.