

FROM THE EDITOR

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It has been another outstanding year for Child and Youth Care. Our field is continuing to advance steadily, as demonstrated by several significant events over the past twelve months. Certification is closer than ever to being a reality in North America, and the Association of Child and Youth Care Practice and the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations are continuing to give strong leadership to the process. The International Leadership Coalition for Professional Child and Youth Care was convened in March at the Youth Work Learning Center in Milwaukee, to mobilize support for certification and to bring new people on board to discuss next steps in the process. A report on the meeting is in this volume. The Seventh International Child and Youth Care Conference, *Promise into Practice*, was held at the University of Victoria last summer and was a huge success, with over 300 presenters from all over the world. Our literature continues to grow...and this journal has had more submissions this year than ever before, with many new writers and researchers coming forward to contribute.

As we develop and grow, however, we need to remain aware of our roots and hold onto the basic principles and practices that are at the core of Child and Youth Care. This volume's chocolate brown cover was inspired by a conversation with Karen VanderVen, a prolific writer, advocate for our field and my predecessor and mentor in my work for this journal. Some of our most meaningful conversations have taken place over late night chocolate sundaes. This therapeutic activity is also a ritual that symbolizes the pleasure we have shared over the years as we have worked. Blending work and play, relationship and development, tradition and change are at the heart of what we do. See Karen's guest editorial for more on the importance of ritual and ceremony in Child and Youth Care Work.

I know you will enjoy this volume of the journal. The contributions are varied, reflecting the voices of front line workers, supervisors, academics, and researchers, as well as those of the youth we serve. Here you will find first-person accounts, qualitative and quantitative research, program descriptions, contributions to theory and stories of the field. I hope you will savour them in the spirit of our "chocolate" cover, and that you will be encouraged, as I am, by the continuing richness and diversity of our field as we move forward.