



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Child Welfare League of Canada

#ExpertsinResidence

### **KENN RICHARD**

Both sides of Kenn Richard's family come from the original Métis and Francophone settlements along the Red and the Assiniboine River in Manitoba. He is of the first generation in his family to be raised in an urban environment and graduate from university. He holds a Masters in Social Work, University of Manitoba, and has been practicing social work, principally within Aboriginal child welfare, since the mid-seventies.

Kenn is founder and until recently was Executive Director of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, a mandated Children's Aid Society and Children's Mental Health Center, since 1989. He currently acts as Director, Indigenous Spirit Fund, a fund dedicated to supporting Indigenous children at risk.

Kenn has been the recipient of multiple awards including the Toronto Civic Award of Merit, The Aboriginal Affairs Award, The Chief of Police Community Award, and the Salute to the City Award for outstanding civic contribution, the Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of HRH Elizabeth 60 years on the throne. In 2016, he was honoured with the Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to city life. In 2018, Kenn received the Meritorious Service Cross, one of the highest civilian honors awarded Canadians,



from the Governor General, for his achievements for his actions toward contributing to the quality of Canadian life.

Kenn is a strong children's advocate at both the national and the local level and is often called to lend advice to government in the field of Native Child Welfare and its related issues. He has appeared as expert witness to the courts and Parliamentary/Legislative committees on matters associated with Native children. He has also been active in the both the print and the visual media on issues associated with the welfare of Native children.

He has been a consultant on a diverse range of projects focused on the interface of Native peoples and the human service system.

**Click here to book a session with Kenn or email [experts@cwlc.ca](mailto:experts@cwlc.ca) if you need more info.**