

Jan Ference, BEd, M.S in Counselling, IPMHF (Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellow)

Jan has spent her entire career working with at-risk children and their families. She completed her Bachelor of Education at the University of Victoria and got her first teaching job in an inner-city school. She quickly realized that she wanted to know more about the social emotional well-being of the complex children she was teaching. She completed a Master's in Counselling program at the University of Portland. About fourteen years ago while managing a behavior resource department for a School District, her colleague suggested she attend a three-day workshop on trauma, and that was Jan's first exposure to Dr. Bruce Perry's model. From that day on, she was inspired to change her practice and the systems that serve the most complex children. Jan currently mentors' clinicians from around the world, who are training with Dr. Perry. She has trained thousands of colleagues in this model with the goal of changing the lens through which we see the most vulnerable families.

In 2016, Jan graduated from the Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship through the University of California. This fellowship was life changing, as the knowledge and understanding of early caregiving experiences is the key to understanding all life experiences that follow. In addition, she has recently completed the Reflective Supervision Academy 2021/ 2022, through UC Davis.

In 2016, Jan created and led a specialized, early intervention, trauma team. This team has had inspiring outcomes working intensely with women in the perinatal period who have Opioid Use challenges. They have been able to facilitate community system change based on the rich learnings gained from the perinatal work.

Jan is currently leading the transformation of the education system in the Yukon. Most significantly, she is supporting the newly formed First Nations School Board to bring education back to their communities. This is an example of reconciliation in action, which is aligned with Jan's intentions, values, and heart.

Lastly, Jan is an active and passionate National Trainer for the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. She has been leading Team Canada and facilitates multiple trainings each year which encourages and supports system transformation.