



*"I firmly believe that the answers to the issues facing our communities lie in the imaginations of our children, the knowledge of our families and communities and the experience and traditions of our Elders."*

*Raymond Shingoose*

*Executive Director*

*Yellow Thunderbird Lodge*

*Yorkton Tribal Council Child & Family Services Inc.*

Raymond Shingoose is an Anishinabek from the Cote First Nation and is the Executive Director for the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services Inc (Yellow Thunder Bird Lodge).

Raymond has experienced traditional adoption, the 60's scoop and residential school; the life lessons of each of these experiences contributed to his vision for child welfare.

Raymond went on to continue his education at the First Nations University of Canada and has attained over 30 years of experiential knowledge in the profession of Indian Social Work and Child Welfare.

Raymond's vision for Control of Child Welfare began with his home First Nation and went on to develop and implement with the support of the Yorkton Tribal Council Leadership to build the foundation for a one of a kind First Nation controlled child welfare program in Saskatchewan.

Raymond has broken down many barriers and has established innovative approaches to governance, administration and program services in the child and family services sector, and his efforts have set a strong precedent for many other First Nations developments. He has successfully established the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services as a leading example of a First Nation Treaty Based governance structure. He has led the Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services into uncharted territory and with First Nation Community Support, he has defied the odds and has successfully asserted a significant level of First Nation Jurisdiction, asserting our inherent rights in Child Welfare.

Raymond is one of the leaders and founders of the establishment of many Institutions in Saskatchewan and Canada such as the First Nations Caring Society of Canada, Saskatchewan First Nations Family and Community Institute and Four Directions Child and Family Services.

Throughout Raymond's life experiences, he remains humble and continues to practice his culture and traditions passed down to him by his family, Elders, mentors and Leadership. Raymond is a strong advocate for our children and will continue to be the voice of the child and always and forever honor the spirit of the child.