June 18, 2013

Mental Health support worker honoured as a Distinguished Alumni

Edmonton—MacEwan University is proud to announce that Betty Cornelius, who graduated from the Business Administration program in 1976, will be recognized as a Distinguished Alumni during the Spring Convocation.

Betty is the founder and President of CANGRANDS National Kinship Support, a national grass-roots organization dedicated to providing information and support to the 62,500 kinship children being raised by grandparents and other kinship family members.

Betty has persistently worked to get Ontario grandparents rights since 1997 and was instrumental in getting Bill 210 passed, which is commonly known as the kinship bill. She has a strong background in business, addictions and social psychology.

Betty provides encouragement, and moral and emotional support to kinship families, having personally had the experience of being denied access to one grandchild and rescuing another from an abusive situation.

Betty spoke at the First International Kinship Conference, held in New York in 2007, and in 2008 at the AARP in Washington DC, as well as the United Nations Youth round table in Ottawa. In 1980 Betty’s mother was murdered, so she also speaks on issues affecting victims of violence.

On top of all she does, Betty works part time as a Mental Health Support worker and has fostered 32 children over the past 30 years.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is a comprehensive university offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, academic excellence, and providing career opportunities continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.

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