

# This month's čičyε circle teaching



I'd like to talk about my experience with the legal adoption of my grandson.

Going through the Ministry and the courts took a really long time. That's why I wanted to join the čičyε Circle. I was really happy that we - as the Tla'amin Nation – are working to take that over, and that we have a say about what happens to our children. So now hopefully our children will get to stay here, and not have to go into foster care. That was my big concern. I just knew he was going to be with me, even if I had to quit both jobs. My family, especially my mom and sister, were with me every step of the way. They supported me with everything, emotionally and practically. My mom always knew when I was having a hard time.

My grandson has gotten a lot of love from the both of us, my mom and me. And family. He knows his extended family and he knows his culture. He knows he belongs here. I don't know if he would have had that if he'd gone into foster care.

I really want people who are going through something like this to know they're not alone. I was fortunate to have my mom and sister with me every step of the way, so I didn't really feel alone. But there are people who might not have family, so they could approach somebody in the čičyε Circle if they have to. That was my initial reason for joining: to be there if anybody needed help or somebody to talk to who had gone through it. If you can help one person, it's a big thing.

- Sally Dominick, čičyε Circle member