



# Caring Network News

A quarterly publication  
brought to you by the Caring  
for First Nations Children Society

Autumn 2006



## Message from the Executive Director

Although the summer months tend to be quiet, the fall is gearing up to be full of activity. The Caring for First Nations Children Society staff have been busy preparing for:

- the Aboriginal Social Worker Training and scheduling delegation training for the September to March calendar
- development of Week 2 Cultural Awareness Training Curricula as well as developing the training schedule
- organizing the September Directors Forum and Partnership meeting and continued follow up from the June 2006 Directors Forum and Partnership meeting
- ongoing Curriculum Review and Competency Review Project
- AOPSI – Operational Standards Review
- work from the Tripartite Committee and a major project about “actual costs for children in care”

Further, the society has received numerous requests for policy and standards reviews from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (*see Policy Analyst newsletter submission for more details*). Currently, I am in discussions with MCFD about how to address some of these outstanding requests.

Grace Atkinson, Training Manager with CFNCS, and I delivered Board of Directors Training in Cranbrook. We would like to thank Debbie Whitehead and the Ktunaxa-Kinbasket staff for welcoming us to the territory and hosting the training. The participants were from Métis Family Services, Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Child and Family Services, Secwepemc Child and Family Services, as well as Carrier Sekani Family Services. Overall, the training was well received and the evaluations indicated that the participants benefited from the board training.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months and hope you had a relaxing summer.

Regards,

Linda Lucas

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# CFNCS Training News

Submitted by Grace Atkinson

The summer has been busy with both the ABSW and CAT curriculum being revised/rewritten. Instructors spend long days researching on the internet for the latest and greatest in Aboriginal social work practice; consulting with experts in the field; ensuring we have copyright permissions and putting the information into a “teachable” format. In addition, all instructors have now taken the first two modules of the Provincial Instructors Diploma Program which requires a huge amount of work.



Hand in hand with the writing is the incredible work being done by the vetting committee. Representatives from Carrier Sekani Family Services; Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Family Services; Lalum’utul’smun’eem; Nil’tu,o Child and Family Services; NIha’7Kapmx Child and Family Services; Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child and Family Services; Scw’exmx; Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society, Xyolhemeylh Program and the Ministry of Children and Family Development have spent long hours reading and providing valuable input into the ABSW curriculum. Thank you to Sandra/Patricia, Bart, Karen/Yvonne, Nita, Connie, Betty; Cyril; Chris; Melanie; Marika; Denise and Leslie for their commitment to the vetting process.

With no further input in the Supervisory training needs assessment, the Society will now begin writing 3, 3 day modules of training. We are still hoping to deliver this training before the end of this fiscal year.

One Board training session has been held this summer. Board members from Carrier Sekani Family Services; Métis Family Services; Secwepemc Child and Family Services and Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Family Services came together at St. Mary’s Reserve in Cranbrook. All members found the training to be useful to their positions on the Boards of the 4 agencies and their participation helped to make the training session a huge success.

In addition to our regular contract deliverables, the CAT instructors are working with the Aboriginal agencies in the mid-Island area and the Ministry in Nanaimo to put together a pilot training program for foster parents who are caring for Aboriginal children. The first planning meeting is scheduled for September 20th in Nanaimo and everyone is quite excited about this project. Stay tuned for updates in future newsletters.

None of this work would be possible without the dedicated work of our staff and contractors, I would like to thank Cheryl, Crystal, Kim, Laurie, Shawn, Bev, Sheri, Anne, Sandy, Carol, Frances, Linda and Norma.



# Moving Child Welfare Forward

## Achieving Positive Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families

### Suggested Readings:

- Bernstein, Nina. (2001). *The Lost Children of Wilder: The Epic Struggle to Change Foster Care*. New York: Random House. Part two.
- Cohen, Neil, A. (2000). *Child Welfare: A Multicultural Focus*. 2nd Ed. Chapter 3: The Continuum of Child Welfare Services. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, pp. 41-86. Describes various problems impacting children, youth and families with an emphasis on changes in the family structure and the increased role of women in the workplace.
- Crosson-Tower, Cynthia. (2002). *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect*. 5th Ed. Chapter 16: The Social Worker and the System. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, pp. 350-364. Describes a 'typical' day in the life of a child protective worker.
- McCroskey, J. and Meezan, W. (Spring 1998). *The Future of Children: Protecting Children From Abuse and Neglect. Family Centered Services: Approaches and Effectiveness*. Vol. 8, No. 1. Describes an approach to serving

children that helps stressed families prevent child abuse/neglect before it begins or enables families to provide appropriate care for their children.

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (November 2000) *Rethinking Child Welfare Practice Under the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, pp. 28 - 42. Provides a framework for reframing child welfare practice, supervision and management to reflect the intent of ASFA.

### Suggested Videos:

- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. *Introduction to Mediation, Family Group Conferencing and Concurrent Planning: Pathways to Permanence*. Time 30:00. The video can be ordered, at no cost, from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, 4288 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Dublin, OH 43017 by calling 1-800-275-3832 or on line at [www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org](http://www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org). Looks at child protective services through the eyes of a former foster child.

- Rhode Island Child Welfare Institute and the Children's Friend and Service of Rhode Island. *Changing Child Welfare Practice*. Time 12:00. This video can be ordered from the Rhode Island Child Welfare Institute, 401.456.4627 or [www.ric.edu/cwi](http://www.ric.edu/cwi). The cost is \$15.00 for the video (VHS or DVD format). This video defines Family Centered Practice and the related benefits to families, children and workers.
- Rhode Island Child Welfare Institute and the Children's Friend and Service of Rhode Island. *Best Practices Approaches*. Time 23:00. This video can be ordered from the Rhode Island Child Welfare Institute, [www.ric.edu/cwi](http://www.ric.edu/cwi) or 401.456.4627. The cost is \$15.00 for the video (VHS or DVD format). This video explores the components of Family Centered Practice and provides an understanding of the positive results.

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## Policy Support

Submitted by Norma McAllister

Well, I have been the Policy Analyst for CFNCS for a whole year now and it has been a great experience so far! I have learned a lot and met some great people. This coming year looks to be even busier than the first. Here is some of what we're working on:

- Child Rights Public Awareness Initiative
- Steering Committee to Implement Smoke Free Environments for Children in Care

- AOPSI Operational Standards Review
- Child and Family Development Service Standards – Caregiver Support Service Standards
- Provincial Forum meetings
- Forum/Partnership meeting coordination and support
- Caring Network news quarterly newsletter.

I look forward to working with many of you over the next year!



# Feature Program

Submitted by Debbie Whitehead, Director

ʔa kuk pukam ʔa kuk pukamnam. These Ktunaxa words are translated to finding your roots, finding yourself. These words are key to the success of Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society (KKCFSS). The Ktunaxa Nation's traditional territory is located in South Eastern British Columbia, Western Alberta, and the States of Idaho and Montana.

KKCFSS has been in operation since the early 1990's. Ktunaxa grandmothers wrote a letter to the Province of British Columbia demanding more involvement in the lives of children that had been removed from their families and communities and in supporting families so children did not require to be placed in foster care. KKCFSS was first located in a tiny old trailer at Aqam (St. Mary's Indian Band) and provided supports to the 5 Bands of Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council.

In 1999 KKCFSS began the process of becoming a delegated Aboriginal Child Welfare agency. Over the next six years KKCFSS has received full child welfare delegation (Level 15 – C6), has expanded to off reserve services, has entered into a protocol agreement with the Kootenay Region Métis Association, has grown to have offices in ʔAqam (St. Mary's), ʔAkisqnuk (Columbia Lake) and Yaqa·Nuʔiy (Lower Kootenay) communities, and has partnered with the Ktunaxa Nation Social Sector.

KKCFSS believes in integrated holistic services to children, families, and communities. A family can see a health nurse, social worker, and employment counsellor in one visit to KKCFSS. Our office at St. Mary's is co-located with all Ktunaxa Nation Social Sector Health and Employment programs. Families receiving services and Staff see this model as much more helpful. Services offered by KKCFSS include:

- Early Intervention
- Headstart
- Family Support
- Parenting Programs
- Group Programming
- Family Group Meetings
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Support

- Justice Advocacy and Support
- Child Protection
- Guardianship
- Kinship Care
- Cultural Camps
- Gatherings
- Elder's Support

In 2003 KKCFSS signed a protocol agreement with the Kootenay Region Métis Association. Upon this being signed, and with Interior MCFD's support KKCFSS was recognized to provide all delegated Aboriginal child and family services throughout the East Kootenays. KKCFSS assumed responsibility



*Ktunaxa Dancers at a Gathering*

for the delivery of all Aboriginal child and family services in the Cranbrook and Creston area, will be soon delivering all Aboriginal child and family services in the Invermere area, and is in planning stages for the rest of the East Kootenays. Whether an Aboriginal person is Métis, Status, Non Status, On Reserve, or Off Reserve they will receive service from KKCFSS. This unique model of service delivery was recently recognized by the Premier of British Columbia at the 2006 Premier's Awards of Excellence.

Family and Community Participation are valued at KKCFSS. This is reflected in many of the programs KKCFSS offers.

In 2003, prior to KKCFSS having responsibility for children in care, we began to have children's gatherings where children in care were brought together to visit with each other, their families, and their communities. For many children this was the first time in years that they had



*Ktunaxa cradle board used in parenting programs*





*Director Debbie Whitehead, Governance Coordinator Gwen Phillips, Minister Hagen, Doug Hughes, MCFD Interior*

seen family members or been in their communities. These gatherings regularly occur in all communities and have grown from gatherings for children in care to gatherings for all Aboriginal children, families, and community. These gatherings include learning about culture, participating in traditional games, visiting with Elders, and so much more. In 2003, at the Ktunaxa Kinbasket AGM the children in care of the Ktunaxa Nation were welcomed home by their families and communities. In addition to these gatherings KKCFSS, over the past 2 years, has been providing cultural camps for Aboriginal Youth. These camps have been based on the "Circle of Courage".

KKCFSS has an Elder's Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of an Elder from each of the 5 Bands and a Métis Elder. This committee provides guidance to the staff of KKCFSS.

Involvement of Family and Community in decision making for children continues to be an area where KKCFSS makes effort to be more inclusive. When the safety of a child must be addressed or the best interests of a child in care is in question, involving family has resulted in better outcomes for children.

If you would like to learn more about KKCFSS check out our website at [www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org)

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## *Working Hard on Curriculum*

Just when we all thought that we would have a break this summer, things heated up ...and it was more than the drought in Victoria. Curriculum writing and re-writing is keeping us all very busy as there are revisions being made to the Aboriginal Social Work material and the second week of Cultural Awareness Training is brand new. The ABSW instructors are enjoying the opportunity to work collaboratively with their CAT colleagues and to have an active role in this program area too.

In addition to the curriculum writing, all of the instructors in the ABSW program are involved in other projects. Kim is currently working on the Foster Family Retention and Recruitment Provincial Advisory Committee which is at the beginning stages. The 2006/07 provincial budget included initiatives to support regional/local ministry and Aboriginal agency foster home and retention and recruitment. Generally, this committee is to work on public awareness of the role and contribution of foster parents in their communities and becoming a foster parent. Crystal will also be involved in the Education Committee that is forming as part of this initiative.



*Newsletter ABSW crew*

Grace and Laurie are involved with the Social Worker Competency review project that includes MCFD, CLBC and Delegated

ACFSA. The meetings have been at the Justice Institute in Vancouver and work has been completed on replacing the outdated competencies and performance criteria. New Competency Statements along with identified Skills and Knowledge have been drafted for Child Protection, Guardianship and Resource workers. Approval has been given by the Reference Group.

These new competencies will be used in the Schools of Social Work and Child and Youth Care as well as in the delegation training provided by the Justice Institute and the Caring for First Nations Children Society. It is exciting to be a part of this process which will directly affect the training required for social workers in the province of BC.

Shawn has been busy with MCFD's Presumption in Favour of Alternative Dispute Resolution project. The Presumption's intention is that families will be routinely referred to ADR processes earlier in the case management continuum, and that most contested cases will be resolved using these collaborative processes. MCFD hopes to have the Presumption in place this fall.

We are honoured to have input in these processes to ensure cultural and First Nations/Aboriginal issues are incorporated into foster family recruitment and retention, ADR and the competencies.

# The Audit is Over, What Can We Learn From It

Submitted by Frances O'Donovan, CGA



Frances O'Donovan

The auditors have packed up their pencils and laptops, and tiptoed back to their hallowed offices, leaving you with a thin package of statements, and greater or lesser degrees of understanding as to what those audited financial statements are telling you. What exactly have you got for the fees you paid?

A set of audited financial statements contains at minimum the following:

- Auditor's Report
- Statement of Financial Position – Statement 1
- Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances – Statement 2
- Statement of Cash Flow – Statement 3
- Notes to the Financial Statements.

The primary function of the auditors' report is to present an opinion that the financial statements do not contain any material errors, and that they present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at the fiscal year-end. The opinion serves to assure other readers that the financial statements can be relied upon for accuracy for all manner of subsequent finance-related decision-making.

The Statement of Financial Position shows the financial net worth of the organization. This statement identifies the organization's assets, liabilities, and the net equity in the assets. In a 'not-for-profit', or funded, organization, the equity is segregated into 'restricted' and 'unrestricted' funds.

- Restricted equity represents funds that can only be spent as per the funding mandate
- Unrestricted funds are those monies that the organization is free to spend in a manner of their choosing.

The Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances is an annual summary, prepared on an accrual basis, of money

received and receivable, and money spent or owing, and identifies:

- Contributions and Other Revenues – where the money came from
- Expenditures – what the money was spent on – the costs of operating the programs
- Excess or deficit of contributions over expenditures from operations

The operating result is adjusted for money spent on other than operating costs, e.g., capital items, and meshed with the opening equity balances to arrive at the equity position at the end of the year.

The Statement of Cash Flow is an analysis of the flow of physical cash in and out of the organization, taking into consideration cash flow from operations and adjustments for changes in non-cash items, for example, accounts receivable and payable, and purchases of capital assets.

This third statement may sound like a duplication of the second statement, but there is a distinct difference. The Statement of Operations reflects the element of credit that is integral to business operations. Given that many readers look at financial reports with a view to actual cash position, this third statement seeks to identify the physical flow of cash from the start to the end of the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements are employed to provide further information about:

- Significant accounting policies and procedures employed
- Changes to management policy that impact significantly on statement presentation
- Material statement items, including changes in capital assets, long-term debt and other contingency commitments.

## Handle with Care – Promoting Children’s Mental Health in Child Care Settings

This 43-page resource booklet is rich with direct quotes and examples from 81 quality child care centres across the country, including 8 centres in BC. It was prepared as part of the Early Childhood Care and Mental Health Project, carried out by the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre. The purpose of the project was to explore ways that the mental health of young children can be promoted in community-based child care centres. In this context, mental health promotion is seen as development of age-appropriate and culturally relevant life skills that benefit all children’s social and emotional development. This booklet is timely given the need for out-of-home child care as a vital support for working parents, the awareness that the foundations of mental health are shaped from the earliest days of life and the growing trend toward child care for increasingly younger children. Centre-based child care has been suggested as a particularly good site for mental health promotion given the large number of children enrolled.

Available in full on the Canadian Mental Health Association’s website at: [www.cmha.ca/data/1/rec\\_docs/156\\_handle\\_with\\_care.pdf](http://www.cmha.ca/data/1/rec_docs/156_handle_with_care.pdf). Print copies can be ordered from the CMHA and are available in English or French.

## Measuring Early Child Development

**A Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development colloquia held April 26 - 28, 2006**

This meeting provided an opportunity for researchers and policy makers to harness together the global experiences and learnings to date about the application of early years outcome measures and to contribute to a global network that can work together towards comparable measures, application and reporting.

Presentations included:

- Early Child Development - Outcome measures (Dr. Fraser Mustard)
- Is 18 months too early for an Early Development Instrument? (Dr. Richard Tremblay)
- Swedish policies for pre-school children (Dr. Sven Bremberg)
- Seven uses of the EDI: The case of British Columbia (Clyde Hertzman)
- What are the social and economic indicators of nurturing neighbourhoods? (Paul Kershaw, Barry Forer)
- Measuring ECD in Manitoba: Evaluating child-centred public policy at a population level (Dr. Rob Santos) and much more...

The presentations are available on the Centre’s website at: [www.excellence-zarlychildhood.ca/colloques.asp?lang=EN&docID=12](http://www.excellence-zarlychildhood.ca/colloques.asp?lang=EN&docID=12)

## Gone but not forgotten....



Sharon Hobenshield



Nancy Gayou

We finally had the opportunity at the open house to bid a fond farewell to two valued women around the Society whose presence will be felt for a long time. Sharon Hobenshield and Nancy Gayou have moved on to new and exciting opportunities. Sharon was extremely popular in the classroom and her input into the curricula is still being felt today. We wanted to wish Sharon all the best in her new job as the Director of Aboriginal Education at Malaspina College. Nancy’s work on the AOPSI review and curricula editing was a benefit to us all. She has moved on to the wonderful world of retirement where her paint brushes and water colours are the priority. All our best to Nancy and Sharon!

# Open House



*The happy Auntie, Linda Lucas, and nephew, Arrune*

The Open House was a huge success. This well-attended event saw members of the community, colleagues from MCFD, Board members, business associates, politicians, family and friends come through our doors to see the new digs, share a meal and enjoy each others' company. We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to be here. In particular, a huge thanks to Hon. Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Minister responsible for Research and Technology, and ADM of MCFD, Deb Foxcroft, for joining in the celebration.

The barbecued salmon was catered by Rosie Jimmy from the Tsawout community. A fantastic dessert tray was provided by Tecnet – the best technical support people the Society could have. There were also sandwich wraps and salads and the entire spread had everyone raving. Oooh, folks liked the new office too! Can't wait for the anniversary!



*CAT trainers Cheryl and Crystal on sweetie quality control*



*Special guests, Monty Montgomery CFNCS Treasurer, Julie Dawson Director MCFD Aboriginal Services & Deb Foxcroft ADM MCFD*

## **GREAT ONLINE RESOURCE!!**

### **Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development**

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development has recently put their encyclopedia online!

The Encyclopedia was developed for the use of policy makers, planners and service providers. It is a compendium of texts written by leading experts on topics related to the social and emotional development of young children, from conception to five years of age.

Thirty-three topics are covered. These topics refer to different age periods as well as to specific services for children aged 0-5 and their families. Topics are investigated under three perspectives: development, services and policies. Additionally, a simplified synthesis for each topic presents key knowledge to practitioners and planners. The synthesis responds to three main inquiries: why the topic is important, what is the best and up-to-date knowledge about it, and what can be done to improve services, policies and research.

**Go to <http://excellence-earlychildhood.ca>**