



# An Overview of Initiatives Affecting Early Childhood Development in BC

May 2007

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## An Overview of Initiatives Affecting Early Childhood Development in BC

This compilation provides an overview of recent major initiatives that are affecting Early Childhood Development (ECD) in British Columbia, Canada. Most comments are excerpts from the relevant web sites. This is a work in progress as the initiatives are continually changing. The latest updates can be found at [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org). Please contact First Call at [info@firstcallbc.org](mailto:info@firstcallbc.org) with any suggested additions.

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## INTERNATIONAL

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/14/32/37425999.pdf>

### ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

An OECD report on early childhood policy, *Starting Strong II*, (2006) shows that more countries are making early childhood education and care a priority, with greater attention paid to service quality. Increasingly, it shows, the early years are viewed as the first step in lifelong learning and a key to successful social, family and education policies.

Attitudes to education are deeply embedded in country contexts, values and beliefs, and the 20 countries reviewed – Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States – all have diverse strategies in this field. Their variations reflect differing attitudes and cultural and social beliefs about young children, the roles of families and government and the purposes of early childhood education and care.

*Starting Strong II* provides a comparative analysis of policy developments and issues, highlighting innovative approaches and proposing policy options that can be adapted to different national contexts.

In October 2004, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released a report: *Early Childhood Education and Care Policy - Country Note for Canada*. The Country Note for Canada is an output of the Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy, a project launched by the OECD's Education Committee in March 1998. Prior to the visit a Background Report on ECEC policy was commissioned by Human Resources Development Canada (now Social Development Canada). Both the report and the backgrounder are available on the OECD website.

The Country Note for Canada is an intensive review of early childhood policies and services in Canada centered on the provinces of Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The study identifies strengths but notes that overall significant energies and funding will need to be invested in the field to create a universal system in tune with the needs of a full employment economy, with gender equity and with new understandings of how young children develop and learn.

## 2002 “A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN”

[www.unicef.org/specialsession](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession)

The United Nations Special Session on Children, attended by 190 country delegations, including Canada, adopted a World Fit for Children in May 2002. This session on Children was convened to review the accomplishments since the 1990 World Summit for Children and the entry into force of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and to formulate an action plan for the first decade of the 21st century.

Principles and Objectives of the Declaration:

1. Put children first
2. Eradicate poverty; invest in children
3. Leave no child behind
4. Care for every child
5. Educate every child
6. Protect children from harm and exploitation
7. Protect children from war
8. Combat HIV/AIDS
9. Listen to children and ensure their participation
10. Protect the Earth for children

Five articles specifically reference ECD: Article 36e, Article 37.10, Article 37.15, Article 39a and Article 40.14. These articles call for the development and implementation of national early childhood development policies and programs to enhance children’s holistic development and to provide services and supports to parents. Article 40.14 clearly recognizes the importance of early childhood educators.

The Canadian government’s report to the Special Session, *National Report of Canada: Ten-Year Review of the World Summit for Children, September 2001*, can be found at: [http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/how\\_country/edr\\_canada\\_en.PDF](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/how_country/edr_canada_en.PDF)

The alternative report submitted by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, entitled *How Does Canada Measure Up?*, and their 2003 update, can be found at: <http://www.crin.org/resources/treaties/list.asp?ID=39&type=ctry>

Countries at the Special Session committed to develop national and regional ‘Plans of Action’ over the following two years and to allocate the additional national and international human, financial and material resources required for implementation. A *Canada Fit for Children*, <http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/sdc/socpol/publications/2002-002483/page00.shtml> released in April 2004, is Canada’s plan.

## **2000 WORLD EDUCATION FORUM (DAKAR FRAMEWORK)**

[www.unesco.org/education/efa/wef\\_2000/index.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/education/efa/wef_2000/index.shtml)

In April 2000, 1,100 participants, from 164 countries including heads of state, adopted the Dakar Framework. The World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal was held to examine the progress made since 1990 on Education for All (EFA) and to reaffirm international commitment to achieve EFA by the year 2015. Six educational goals were agreed upon, the first specifically focused on ECD: “expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.” Countries were urged to have national EFA plans developed by 2002. The most recent update for Canada can be found at

[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=39078&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=39078&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

## **1989 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)**

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>

In November 1989, the Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly and signed by 191 countries, including Canada. The Convention spells out the full range of human rights of children worldwide – civil, political, economic, social, and cultural. It describes 3 categories of rights:

- rights of provision, e.g. the right to adequate education and health care
- rights of protection, e.g. the right to be protected from abuse and neglect
- rights of participation, e.g. the right to be heard in matters affecting the child

## **WORLD BANK**

[www.worldbank.org/children](http://www.worldbank.org/children)

The World Bank has joined the international community in recognizing the importance of ECD as “an investment in a country’s future workforce and capacity to thrive economically and as a society”. The Bank has publications entitled: *From Early Childhood Development to Human Development (2002)*, *Early Childhood Development: Investing in the Future (1996)*, and *The Benefits of Early Childhood Development Programs, An Economic Analysis (no date)*. The international meeting *Measuring Early Child Development*, organized by the Centre of Excellence, took place from April 26 to 28, 2006 in Vaudreuil, Quebec. More than twenty speakers from around the globe took the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss best practices and evidences concerning measurement in early child development. The speakers’ presentations are online at

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTCY/EXTECD/0,,menuPK:344945~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:344939,00.html>

## FEDERAL

### GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE PLAN

<http://www.universalchildcare.ca>

[http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/comm/sd/news/agreements\\_principle/index.shtml](http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/comm/sd/news/agreements_principle/index.shtml)

<http://www.socialunion.gc.ca/news/feb11.html>

In 2003, the federal government dedicated \$900 million over five years in federal funding for early learning child care programs. In 2005, funding was increased through budget commitments and bilateral agreements. The provinces agreed to develop and implement plans to advance the four principles of early learning and child care, referred to as “QUAD” (Quality; Universally Inclusive; Accessible; and child care with a Developmental focus).

The current federal government announced the termination of these bilateral agreements effective March 31, 2007 creating, instead, the **Universal Child Care Plan for Canada**.

The **Universal Child Care Plan** consists of two parts:

- **The Universal Child Care Benefit** provides parents with \$100 per month for each child under six and came into effect July 1, 2006.
- **The Child Care Spaces Initiative:** The Canadian Government website reports that the Child Care Spaces Initiative is intended to provide incentives to create 25,000 new child care spaces a year across Canada starting in 2007. In addition, Budget 2007 proposes to transfer \$250 million per year to provinces and territories, beginning this year, to support the creation of child care spaces. A transfer allows provinces and territories sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of families within their respective jurisdictions.

Although announced May 2006, the specifics of the Universal Child Care Plan are still under review. A Ministerial Advisory Committee was struck in September 2006 to develop the Child Care Spaces Initiatives component. See:

<http://www.gardedenfants.ca/en/spaces/intro.shtml>

## RECENT HISTORY

### FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL AGREEMENTS<sup>1</sup>

Since 2001/02, three agreements between the previous federal government and the provincial and territorial governments (FPT agreements) resulted in substantial new federal funds transferred to provinces and territories specifically to advance services and supports for young children and their families. In 2005-06, the provinces and territories were expected to receive \$1.2 billion in federal funding for early childhood development, including child care. This is an increase of \$375 million from the previous year.

Below is a summary of the FPT agreements and resulting federal funding assured to the provinces and territories for 2005/06 (\$ millions):

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Making the Connections* Fact Sheet #1, Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, 2005.

**1. First Minister's Early Childhood Development Agreement (ECDA) \$500m**  
[http://socialunion.gc.ca/ecd\\_e.html](http://socialunion.gc.ca/ecd_e.html) and [www.ecd-elcc.ca](http://www.ecd-elcc.ca)

Signed in 2000, this agreement provided federal funding to provinces and territories for a range of early childhood development programs and services for children under six, including child care. While provinces and territories determined their own priority areas, they agree to:

- work together in four areas (promote healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy; improve parenting and family supports; strengthen early childhood development, learning and care; and strengthen community supports);
- develop shared guidelines to track progress; and
- report annually to the public.

*Federal/Provincial/Territorial ECD reports available at*  
[http://socialunion.gc.ca/ecd\\_e.html](http://socialunion.gc.ca/ecd_e.html)

**2. Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care (MLF) \$225m**  
[http://www.socialunion.gc.ca/elcc\\_e.htm](http://www.socialunion.gc.ca/elcc_e.htm) and [www.ecd-elcc.ca](http://www.ecd-elcc.ca)

Building on the ECDA, this 2003 agreement specifically directed previous federal government funds to improve access to affordable, quality, regulated early learning and child care for children under six years of age.

**3. Agreement-in-Principle on Early Learning and Child Care (Bi-lateral) \$500m**  
[http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/comm/sd/news/agreements\\_principle/index.shtml](http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/comm/sd/news/agreements_principle/index.shtml)

In its February 2005 budget, the federal government committed \$5 billion over 5 years towards a national child care system, working in cooperation with provinces and territories. Since May 2005, bi-lateral agreements were signed between the federal government and some provincial/territorial governments. While there are variations between each of these agreements, to date all build on the Multilateral Framework requirement to invest in regulated child care. Further, these agreements commit the provinces and territories to develop Action Plans that are based on four principles for child care called the QUAD principles (see page 8)

The following table summarizes the previous federal government's funding to the provinces and territories:

| (\$Millions) | 2001/02    | 2002/03    | 2003/04    | 2004/05    | 2005/06     | 2006/07     | 2007/08     | Total       |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| ECDA         | 300        | 400        | 500        | 500        | 500         | 500         | 500         | 3200        |
| MLF          | 0          | 0          | 25         | 150        | 225         | 300         | 350         | 1050        |
| BI-LATERAL   | 0          | 0          | 0          | 200        | 500         | 650         | 1150        | 2500        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>400</b> | <b>525</b> | <b>850</b> | <b>1225</b> | <b>1450</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>6750</b> |

The following table summarizes the previous federal government's funding to British Columbia:

| (\$Millions) | 2001/02     | 2002/03     | 2003/04     | 2004/05     | 2005/06      | 2006/07      | 2007/08      | Total        |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ECDA         | 39.4        | 52.5        | 65.6        | 65.7        | 65.8         | 65.9         | 65.9         | 420.8        |
| MLF          | 0           | 0           | 3.3         | 19.7        | 29.6         | 39.5         | 46.2         | 138.2        |
| BI-LATERAL   | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 92.0         | 85.6         | 151.7        | 329.3        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>39.4</b> | <b>52.5</b> | <b>68.9</b> | <b>85.4</b> | <b>187.4</b> | <b>191.0</b> | <b>263.8</b> | <b>888.3</b> |

**Federal government reports available at [http://www.socialunion.gc.ca/elcc\\_e.htm](http://www.socialunion.gc.ca/elcc_e.htm):**

- Early Learning and Child Care Activities and Expenditures, Government of Canada Report 2003-2004, February 2005
- Early Learning and Child Care Activities and Expenditures, Government of Canada Baseline Report 2002-2003, November 2003

### **Three Year Review Social Union Framework Agreement (SUFA)**

<http://socialunion.gc.ca/sufa/toc/toc.html> contains the Three Year Review.

In June 2003, after broad consultation and review, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal submitted its Three Year Review of SUFA. Overall, the review found that SUFA continues to provide a useful framework for governments in their efforts to respond to the social policy needs of Canadians. The Council's view is that governments have demonstrated a commitment to SUFA and its undertakings:

- to improve mobility;
- to inform Canadians through public accountability and transparency;
- to work in partnership to improve social programs for Canadians; and
- to avoid and resolve disputes.

At the same time, the Review's recommendations include repeated calls for improvement in governments' reports to the public on their social programs.

The report is divided into sections that follow the same order as SUFA. Each section summarizes the undertakings of governments, reviews the progress made to date in meeting the provisions of that section, and provides recommendations on best practices or improvements to the implementation of the Agreement.

## **The Social Union Framework Agreement (SUFA)**

[http://socialunion.gc.ca/news/020499\\_e.html](http://socialunion.gc.ca/news/020499_e.html) contains a copy of the agreement.

In February 1999, the federal, provincial and territorial governments (except Quebec) signed SUFA. SUFA is an agreement about how the governments will cooperate on new social programs in Canada — including social programs for children. In addition to setting the rules for how the federal and provincial governments should work, (it requires the consent of a majority of provinces to initiate a new program in an area of provincial jurisdiction like child care), the Agreement also lays out principles of equity and fairness in social programs; codifies rules for the federal spending power; and promises collaboration, accountability and transparency. Agreed upon principles included:

- guaranteeing access to reasonably comparable services for all Canadians
- helping those in need
- respecting the 5 principles of Medicare:
  - universal/accessible/comprehensive/portable/non-profit administration
- promoting the active participation of all Canadians in social and economic life
- ensuring adequate, stable, and sustainable funding for social programs
- respecting Aboriginal treaty and other rights
- ensuring Canadians have meaningful input into social policies and programs
- a review of SUFA by the end of the third year

## **National Children's Agenda (NCA)**

[http://www.socialunion.ca/nca\\_e.html](http://www.socialunion.ca/nca_e.html)

In May 1999, federal, provincial, and territorial governments (except Quebec) agreed to work together to develop a strategy to improve the well-being of Canada's children. The NCA sets out a broad vision, values and goals for Canadian children along with six policy areas in which governments could cooperate to better support children. Enhancing early childhood development was one of the six areas identified. The shared vision is:

- that children be loved and thrive
- that children be valued and have the opportunity to develop their unique capacities
- that children be respected and protected and in turn respect and protect others
- that children belong and contribute to caring and sharing communities

Key goals are:

- physical and emotional health, including strong self-esteem, life skills, and healthy lifestyles
- safety and security, such as meeting basic physical and emotional needs, and protecting children from abuse, neglect and other harmful situations
- success at learning, including physical, emotional, and social development, language skills, literacy, numeracy and general knowledge

- social engagement and responsibility, such as forming stable attachments and supportive relationships, valuing diversity and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a citizen

### **National Child Benefit**

<http://www.nationalchildbenefit.ca>

Starting in 1998, the National Child Benefit (NCB) initiative is a partnership among the federal, provincial and territorial governments (except Quebec) and First Nations that aims to help prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty for children in working families, support parents as they move into the labour market and reduce overlap and duplication of government programs. The National Child Benefit includes the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) and the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS).

Under the NCB, the Government of Canada has increased the benefits it pays through the NCB Supplement to low-income families with children, regardless of their source of income. In turn, most provinces, territories and First Nations, including BC, have lowered social assistance benefits provided on behalf of children by the full or partial amount provided under the NCB Supplement. These social assistance “savings” have allowed provinces and territories to pay for new and enhanced benefits and services for low-income families with children.

### **Community Concerns about the NCB**

Groups such as First Call, Campaign 2000 and the National Council of Welfare argue that all children, including children in families on social assistance, should benefit financially from the National Child Benefit Supplement. Families on social assistance live significantly below the poverty line and have mostly seen decreases in their buying power over the past several years.

#### ***See:***

First Call <http://www.firstcallbc.org/chilyouth/poverty.htm>

Campaign 2000 <http://www.campaign2000.ca/rc/unsscMAY02/unintro.html>

National Council of Welfare <http://www.ncwcnbes.net> in *Welfare Incomes 2005 Report*

## NATIONAL - GOVERNMENT

### **A Canada Fit for Children**

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/sdc/socpol/publications/2002-002483/page00.shtml>

In April 2004, Canada published a plan of action in response to the May 2002 United Nations Special Session on Children. *A Canada Fit for Children* contains a declaration of Canada's commitment to children, a Canadian vision for children that highlights Canadian governments' agenda for children, and a plan that reflects a consensus on goals, strategies and opportunities for action on key priorities within four central themes: supporting families and strengthening communities; promoting healthy lives; protecting from harm; and promoting education and learning.

### **Human Resources and Social Development Canada**

In February 2006, the Departments of Social Development Canada (SDC) and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) were joined together to form Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). The department's mission is to build a stronger and more competitive Canada, to support Canadians in making choices that help them live productive and rewarding lives, and to improve Canadians quality of life.

The department is responsible for the following programs that impact ECD:

**Understanding the Early Years** an initiative that enables communities to understand the needs of young children and families so that they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs (see page 14 for further details).

The **Universal Child Care Benefit** provides direct financial assistance to parents to support their child care choices. The Universal Child Care Benefit is paid to parents in monthly installments of \$100 per month per child under the age of six. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/benefits/uccb/menu-e.html>

The **Child Care Spaces Initiative** aims to create new child care spaces that will help parents balance their work and family responsibilities. This initiative is currently under development and is expected to be operational during the 2007 fiscal year. <http://www.gardedenfants.ca/en/spaces/intro.shtml>

**Employment Insurance Maternity and Parental Benefits** are paid to individuals who are pregnant, have recently given birth, are adopting a child or are caring for a newborn.

The **Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements (AHRDAs)** include a component that provides funding for the First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI). The Initiative provides access to quality child care services for First Nations and Inuit children of parents entering the labour market or who have entered into a training program.

Additional information about Human Resources and Social Development Canada can be found at: <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml>

In 2006 **Service Canada** was formed and is responsible for the delivery of many HRSDC programs and services. Service Canada integrates services from a number of federal departments to form a single service delivery network. It will bring federal services and benefits together making it easier for Canadians to get the help they need in one place, whether by phone, Internet or in person.

Additional information about Service Canada can be found at: <http://servicecanada.gc.ca/en/home.html>

### **Federal Employment Insurance Act of 2001**

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/ei/types/special.shtml&hs=tyt>

Remunerated parental leave for up to a maximum of 35 weeks has been enacted. To receive parental benefits you are required to have worked for **600 hours** in [the last 52 weeks](#). Although this benefit is not yet extended to all nursing mothers/parents, the federal Employment Insurance Act of 2001 is a very important contribution to both equal opportunities for women, and for infant well-being and development.

### **Understanding the Early Years**

[http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/hip/sd/300\\_UEYInfo.shtml](http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/hip/sd/300_UEYInfo.shtml)

Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a federal government initiative that provides communities with information on the "readiness to learn" of their children, the family and community factors that influence child development, and the local resources available to support young children and their families. This neighbourhood-specific information can be used by communities to design and implement focused policies, programs and investments that enable their young children to thrive in the early years.

The first five pilot UEY sites ended in 2005 and the next grouping of seven sites will end in March 2007. Twenty-one communities across Canada began their UEY projects in fall 2005. There will be 15 sites added across Canada in February 2007 and one more call for proposals for 14 communities across Canada will happen in 2007. All UEY projects funded in 2005, 2006, and 2007 will have funding for three years. Once those three-year terms are completed in 2010, funding for the UEY will end. The BC sites are Abbotsford (ending March 2007), Greater Victoria, Mission, Okanagan Similkameen, Sunshine Coast, Campbell River and North Shore (North and West Vancouver). The six latter projects were funded in 2005 and will end in 2008.

### **Ministry of Health**

The Ministry of Health is responsible for a number of health bodies including "Health Canada" and the "Public Health Agency of Canada". Under a Minister of State (Public Health), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) was established in September

2004. The previous Population and Public Health Branch of Health Canada was transferred to the new Agency.

### **Health Canada**

Health Canada's Community Programs Directorate works in partnership with First Nations and Inuit (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb-dgspni/fnihb/index.htm>) to deliver a wide range of programs in key community health sectors. The Directorate has a Children and Youth Division with the following programs: Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP); Aboriginal Headstart on Reserve; Fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects; and, maternal health.

### **Public Health Agency of Canada**

[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/main\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/main_e.html)

Contact in BC is: Suzanne LeBlanc at 604-666-2528.

The main focus of the Public Health Agency of Canada is disease and injury prevention and to respond to public health emergencies and infectious disease outbreaks. However, one of the components that make up PHAC is the Centre for Healthy Human Development (CHHD). Within this Centre, the Division Childhood and Adolescence is a focal point for policy development, research, and strategic analysis of trends regarding broad determinants of health regarding children and youth in Canada.

The Division Childhood and Adolescence includes:

- The Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being
- Aboriginal Head Start
- Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
- Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)
- The CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome / Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/FAE) Initiative

The Public Health Agency of Canada has identified 4 national priorities for which they are working on developing resources that will support CAPC and CPNP projects across the country. These include infant attachment, family violence and young parents.

### **Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being**

[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/allchildren\\_touslesenfants/centres\\_main\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/allchildren_touslesenfants/centres_main_e.html)

In the 1997 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada committed \$20 million over five years for the creation of Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being. Part of the federal contribution to the National Children's Agenda, the centres' mandate is to enhance our understanding of, and responsiveness to, the physical and mental health needs of children and youth and the critical factors for their healthy development.

The four Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being are:

- The Centre of Excellence for Early Child Development  
<http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca>
- The Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs  
<http://www.coespecialneeds.ca>

- The Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement  
<http://www.tgmag.ca/centres/index.html>
- The Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare  
<http://www.cecw-cepb.ca>

The centres bring together front line health care practitioners with academics and researchers to address issues of national significance affecting the health and well-being of Canadian children. A consortium of organizations, networked together to share information, carries out the work of each centre.

The *Centre of Excellence for Early Child Development* (CEECD), under the administration of the University of Montreal, works to improve our knowledge of the social and emotional development of children and the policies and services that influence this development by providing useful information on the development of children from birth to age five.

Their products include:

- CEECD's **liaison bulletins** provide a synthesis and analysis of each committee's work, covering child development from the time of conception to age five.
- CEECD's **encyclopedia** contains knowledge on issues pertaining to early childhood development. The encyclopedia is partially complete and is posted on the CEECD website.
- A **directory** of Canada's foremost researchers specializing in the field of early childhood development will be provided.

The *Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs*, under the administration of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, investigates the most appropriate ways to diagnose and treat young people with special needs in rural and remote communities. The goal is to ensure a future where children and adolescents with special needs can combine the riches of life in rural, remote and northern communities with the best services Canada has to offer.

The *Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare*, under the administration of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Social Work and the Child Welfare League of Canada, works to identify the most effective prevention and intervention options for children who have entered or are at risk of coming into contact with Canada's child welfare system.

### **National Child Day**

[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/ncd-jna/index\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/ncd-jna/index_e.html)

National Child Day, November 20<sup>th</sup>, marks the day of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. By ratifying this Convention in 1991, Canada made a commitment to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect.

## **NATIONAL – COMMUNITY**

The following are some national coalitions involved in major initiatives for ECD. There are numerous other organizations that are active in ECD. For additional community groups see “Other Community Initiatives” page 28.)

### **Aboriginal Children's Circle of Early Learning (ACCEL)**

<http://www.accel-capea.ca>

Lunched in November 2004, the Aboriginal Children’s Circle of Early Learning (ACCEL) is a web portal clearinghouse on Aboriginal early childhood development. You can consult the site to review research and discuss best and promising practices; to exchange with a highly engaged network of Aboriginal ECD practitioners and researchers; and to keep in touch with the emerging needs of aboriginal communities across Canada.

The ACCEL is being developed by and for Aboriginal communities in partnership by two national non-profit organizations –the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCS) and the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF).

### **Campaign 2000**

<http://www.campaign2000.ca>

Campaign 2000 is a coalition of over 120 national, regional and local partner organizations united in calling for the end of child poverty in Canada. The implementation of a universal system of ‘Quality, Affordable Early Childhood Education and Care services for All Children’ is seen as one of the core strategies for addressing the needs of young children disadvantaged by poverty. Campaign 2000 produces annual reports on child poverty in Canada and recommends clear steps for achieving solutions. First Call is the BC partner for Campaign 2000 and produces an annual report on child poverty in BC.

### **Canadian Child Care Federation**

[www.cccf-fcsge.ca](http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca)

CCCCF is a national organization comprised of over 21 provincial/territorial affiliates representing approximately 11,500 early learning and child care practitioners, academics, parents and policy makers across Canada. The focus of this group is on best and promising practice, capacity building, networks and partnerships. Recent initiatives include an Aboriginal project, Early Childhood Training issues and childrens’ rights.

### **Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada**

<http://www.childcareadvocacy.ca/index.shtml>

CCAAC is a voluntary, non-profit advocacy organization calling for a publicly funded, not for profit, universal, accessible, affordable high quality child care system at the pan-Canadian level. In September 2004 they produced a position paper, *From Patchwork to Framework, A Child Care Strategy for Canada*, which sets out a strategy and agenda for advancing such a system. This document was well received and referenced by key political leaders as a template for action to pursue and achieve this goal. In 2005, the

CCAAC produced *Making the Connections* aimed at supporting communities and the federal, provincial and territorial governments better understand and analyze early learning and child care policy and investments. View their Fact Sheets at:

<http://www.childcareadvocacy.ca/mtc/en/factsheets.html>

### **Child Care Human Resources Sector Council**

<http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/>

This organization focuses on human resource issues in the child care workforce. Key issues include recruitment, retention, recognition and respect. In 2005, the Sector Council released a document entitled *A Snapshot of the Child Care Workforce*. The information in this backgrounder comes from the 2004 labour market update study *Working for Change: Canada's Child Care Workforce* which profiles those who work in regulated child care and recommends eight solutions to address wages, working conditions, training, and labour shortages in the sector.

### **National Alliance**

<http://www.na.com>

A group of more than 60 national organizations committed to the well-being of all children and youth in Canada. The Children's Alliance was founded in the spring of 1996, and has worked to promote the development of a National Children's Agenda by the federal and provincial/territorial governments.

### **Canadian Coalition on the Rights of Children**

<http://www.rightsofchildren.ca/>

This Coalition's mandate is to ensure a collective voice for Canadian organizations and youth concerned with the rights of children as described in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children Declaration. They prepared the alternative non-governmental report for Canada to the May 2002 UN Special Session on Children and produce toolkits for monitoring the rights of children.

## **PROVINCIAL - GOVERNMENT**

### **Representative for Children and Youth**

[www.rcybc.ca/](http://www.rcybc.ca/)

As part of government's core review process, agencies involved in providing oversight and review of children's services in BC were reviewed. The results of this review, authored by Jane Morley, were published in the *Report on the Core Services Review of the Children's Commission and Overlapping Services Provided by the Child, Youth and Family Advocate, the Ombudsman, the Coroner, and Ministry of Child and Family Development* in December, 2001.

[http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/Public/PubDocs/bcdocs/351045/morley\\_childrens\\_comm.pdf](http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/Public/PubDocs/bcdocs/351045/morley_childrens_comm.pdf)

In February 2002, Cabinet approved the establishment of a new Office for Children and Youth, and the concomitant elimination of the Children's Commission and the Office of the Child, Youth and Family Advocate, as recommended in the core review report.

In April 2006, the Ted Hughes report was made public and the provincial government agreed to implement all 62 recommendations including the appointment of an independent children's advocate. A copy of the review can be found at:

<http://www.childyouthreview.ca>

A year after the Hughes review of British Columbia's child welfare system, the doors opened at the new office of the representative for children and youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond.

"Bringing into force the substantive provisions in the Representative for Children and Youth Act demonstrates this government's commitment to act on the valuable advice provided by Mr. Hughes to improve the lives of children and youth in this province," Children and Family Development Minister Tom Christensen said in making the announcement on behalf of Attorney General Wally Oppal.

Effective April 1, Ms. Turpel-Lafond will assume responsibility for advocating for children receiving services from child welfare agencies and for monitoring services provided by those agencies to children and youth in B.C. Other regulations are expected in the months ahead to bring into force legislation governing the representative's authority to review critical injuries and deaths. <http://www.rcybc.ca>

In May 2007 the office of the Representative for Children and Youth and Office of the Provincial Health Officer produced a Joint Special Report "Health and Well-Being of Children in Care in British Columbia: Educational Experience and Outcomes."

[Representative for Children and Youth BC](#)

### **Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)**

[www.gov.bc.ca/mcfd](http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcfd)

The Ministry of Children and Family Development works to ensure that some of our most vulnerable children and families have the best chances possible to succeed and thrive.

Responsibilities include:

- Early Childhood Development
- Child Care

- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Children and Youth with Special Needs
- Adoption
- Foster Care
- Protecting Children

Currently the ministry is organized into the following five child and family development service delivery regions: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/regions/index.htm>

- North
- Interior
- Fraser
- Vancouver Coastal
- Vancouver Island.

Each region is lead by a Regional Executive Director. In addition, Provincial Services is responsible for specialized provincial programs. Similarly, Community Living Services are delivered through five regions, coordinated across the province from a central office. These provincial and regional offices are responsible for delivering a variety of services for children over 6, youth, adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) became an independent authority in the summer of 2005. <http://www.communitylivingbc.ca>

### **MCFD - Early Childhood Development**

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early\\_childhood](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood)

Minister of State for Child Care Linda Reid leads an Inter-ministry ECD Coordinating Committee that includes MCFD, Ministry of Health Planning, Ministry of Health, Regional Health Authorities, Ministry of Advanced Education, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Human Resources. Information on 18 cross government early childhood development programs is featured on the website.

The 2005/2006 Annual Report can be viewed at the website listed above (including reports dating back to 2001). These reports summarize ECD services for children aged birth to six years across five ministries. A program expenditure summary compares the baseline expenditures of 2000/01 with expenditures in 2005/06. BC is also committed to report regularly on an agreed to set of indicators of child well-being. *Indicators of Early Childhood Health and Wellbeing in British Columbia Third Report* can be found online at the above website address.

### **Community Concerns about ECD Expenditures in BC**

As of 2004/05, annual investments in ECD have increased by \$66 million over 2001/02 (DNI CC); 2/3 of increase in MCFD, almost 1/3 in Health. MCFD 2006/07 operations budget increased by 16% over 2005/06 – 4% provincial contribution, 12% federal cc

transfers. Federal transfers included in MCFD service plan through 08/09, despite announced cancellation. BC's child care budget is back up to 2001/02 levels. BC has additional funds available for child care now

The following table is an excerpt from *Taking Stock* and is drawn from the provincial government MCFD budget and fiscal plan for 2006/07 to 2008/09 as well as information from the Federal Provincial Territorial Agreements. Please refer to [www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org) for the full report.

**Child Care/Supported Child Development (SCD), Special Needs (SN Supports and Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

| <i>(\$ Millions)</i>                                    | <b>CC &amp; SCD</b> | <b>SN</b> | <b>ECD</b> | <b>One Time</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|---------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2005/06 Reinstated estimates                            | 260                 | 110       | 24         | 25              | <b>419</b>   |
| <b>Less: one-time investments in SN, per MCFD staff</b> | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>-25</b>      | <b>-25</b>   |
| Add: 2006/07 Budget increases, per budget notes:        |                     |           |            |                 |              |
| Net federal transfers                                   | 127                 | 0         | 0          | 0               | <b>127</b>   |
| Provincial contribution                                 | 0                   | 10        | 0          | 0               | <b>10</b>    |
| 2006/07 Budget  | 388                 | 120       | 24         | 0               | <b>531</b>   |

**MCFD - Provincial ECD Advisors**

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early\\_childhood/provincial\\_ecd\\_advisors.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood/provincial_ecd_advisors.htm)

Five ECD advisors/consultants have been contracted to assist the ministry in developing strategies to ensure services best meet the needs of children and families, and services are provided based on the best evidence and research. They are:

- Provincial Consultant for Pediatric Therapists
- Provincial Child Development Advisor (previously known as Supported Child Care)
- Provincial Advisor Infant Development Program (IDP)
- Provincial Advisor for Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP)

Descriptions of the work of the first four advisors can be found on the website noted above

**MCFD - Children First Initiatives**

[www.bcchildrenfirst.ca](http://www.bcchildrenfirst.ca)

<http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/mapping>

Children First initiatives (formerly Make Children First Learning Sites) support communities to identify and develop an integrated and comprehensive model of ECD service delivery for children 0 to 6 and their families. They are funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

There are initiatives in 46 communities around B.C. and several other communities are currently developing initiatives. The objectives of Children First Initiatives are:

- increased community capacity,
- increased service delivery effectiveness,
- engaging “hard to reach” families,
- increased opportunities for early identification and screening, and
- improving outcomes for children and families.

Children First is not a program that delivers services directly to children and families. It can allocate initiative funds, however, to support service delivery priorities identified by community planning. Children First Initiatives are community driven. Each initiative will develop in a way that is unique to its community. Key to the development of the initiative is this community ownership. Some activities, though, are core to the process and are undertaken in each initiative. Joanne Schroeder is the Provincial Advisor for Children First.

### **MCFD - Child Care**

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/index.htm>

Responsibility for child care programs and services were transferred from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance to the Ministry of Children and Family Development and includes the following:

- **Child Care Subsidy**
- **Child Care Programs and Services Branch**
- **Child Care Policy Branch**
- **Early Childhood Educator Registry**
- **Child Care Resource and Referral**
- **Provincial Child Care Council**

In September 2005, the province signed the 2005 Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in Principle. Under this agreement BC was to receive \$633.3 million over five years. In order to seek advice on the priorities for investment under the agreement, the ministries of Education and Children and Family Development embarked on a series of province-wide consultations during the fall and winter of 2005/06. To review the results of the consultation, please refer to <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/consult.htm>.

In February 2006 a new federal government was elected and the ELCC Agreement in Principle was subsequently cancelled. BC received \$92 million in federal funding in 2005/06 for the first year of the agreement – and a further \$86 million in 2006/07. In September 2006, Minister Reid issued a letter ensuring parents that despite the cuts in federal funding, BC’s Child Care Subsidy Program will be maintained and the government will endeavor to maintain programming until the end of the school year.

### **Community Concerns about the cuts to Child Care**

In June 2006, the Child Care Advocacy Forum released *Child Care by the Numbers #1* on <http://www.advocacyforum.bc.ca/articles.html>. The article discusses the provincial child care budget of \$200 million:

- “This amount does not include the federal funds that the province has used to reinvest in child care.”

- “It’s still \$40 million less than BC spent on child care when this government took office.”
- There is a lack of clarity and no answers forthcoming about the \$455 million. In cuts to federal dedicated child care funds, “Five years without a child care plan, no new provincial dollars and no commitment to save or replace the federal child care dollars.”

In January 2006 MCDF announced significant cuts to a wide spectrum of child care services as a result of the cancellation of the ELCC Agreement. See [http://www.advocacyforum.bc.ca/pdf/CCcuts\\_summary\\_jan07.pdf](http://www.advocacyforum.bc.ca/pdf/CCcuts_summary_jan07.pdf). In early February 2007 some funding was restored to the Child Care Resource & Referral Programs

In the Feb 2007 “Reid Report” the Minister of State for Child Care outlined how the remaining federal funds will be expended.

- \$126M Child Care Subsidy Program
- \$54 M Supported Child Development Programs
- \$9M for reframed Child Care Resource and Referral Programs
- \$40 M for current Child Care Operating Funded Centres for quality improvement investments in professional development, minor capital improvements, equipment and supplies. (\$20M sent out March 2007)

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/minister/reid/newsletter/reid\\_report\\_feb\\_2007.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/minister/reid/newsletter/reid_report_feb_2007.pdf)

### **Community Concerns about Access to Child Care Subsidy**

The BC government has been trying to address the concerns regarding access to child care subsidy. Those concerns include the process to receive the subsidy, the forms themselves are daunting, there is a need for other languages and there is concern for Aboriginal families to get access as well. Child care resource and referral programs, which provide support, resources and referral services for child care providers and parents in all communities in the province, have received one time only funding to assist with their programming and address concerns of access.

### **MCFD - Child and Youth Mental Health Plan**

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental\\_health/mh\\_publications/cymh\\_plan.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/mental_health/mh_publications/cymh_plan.htm)

In February 2003, the BC government approved the B.C. Child and Youth Mental Health Plan. The Plan proposes to develop coordinated approaches over the next 5 years in the following areas:

- timely and effective treatment and support services for children with serious mental illness
- programs to reduce risk by preventing and reducing the effects of mental illness
- building community and family capacity to prevent and/or overcome the negative impacts of mental illness in children and youth
- better systems to coordinate services, monitor outcomes, and ensure public accountability for policies and programs.

The Plan includes few references to Early Childhood Development. It is assumed that the value of attention to the early years would come under risk reduction.

Each of the five MCFD Regions in the province is working on a Regional Child and Youth Mental Health Plan. Resources and funding have been allocated to the regions starting in the 05/06 fiscal year.

### **Ministry of Health (MOH)**

British Columbia Health Authorities:

<http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/socsec/index.html>

B.C.'s health governance structure consists of six governing health authorities - a Provincial Health Services Authority and five geographic health authorities: Northern, Interior, Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal and Fraser. Within these five health authorities are 16 health service delivery areas. Maps and websites for each authority are at <http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/socsec/provmap.html>

### **MOH – Community Care Facilities**

[www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/ccf](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/ccf)

In May 2004, the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* replaced the *Community Care Facility Act*. The Community Care Facilities Branch is part of the Health Protection Division of the Ministry of Health Services, and is responsible for the development and implementation of legislation, policy and guidelines to protect the health and safety of children being cared for in licensed child care facilities.

### **Consultation on Proposed Regulations**

[www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/ccf/consultation/2004consultation/index.html](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/ccf/consultation/2004consultation/index.html)

In support of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, the Ministry of Health Services renewed the regulations for licensed child day care settings, and for licensed residential care settings for adults, children and youth. The Ministry conducted a public consultation which ended on January 31, 2005. Proposed changes to the Child Care Regulations included:

- reduction in the number of categories of facilities;
- standardization of physical plant requirements;
- improve / standardize staff: child ratios;
- improve training requirements for Early Childhood Educators and staff;
- increase maximum hours of care; and
- mandatory emergency preparedness planning.

### **MOH- Child Health Core Review**

The intention is to build a system of health programs and services across BC that has been shown to be effective and needed through research. The evidence papers that will be used in the area of 'Healthy Infants and Early Child Development' were first presented at the Healthy Child BC Forum, November 8, 2004:

- *Preliminary Review of the Evidence Base for Healthy Infant and Early Childhood Development in BC* and

- *Review of Best Practices in Canada and Internationally For Healthy Child Development: Key Legislation*

These are both available at [http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/pub\\_map.htm](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/pub_map.htm)

Once the review is approved, it is expected to take 6-9 months to move from the evidence to programs. Current programs in BC will be identified and compared to what the evidence says is needed. Gaps will be identified and addressed both provincially and regionally. Core Programs will:

- be based on evidence
- be within the mandate of the Ministry of Health Services and Health Authorities, however, where the evidence recommends action or programs in other areas, these would be promoted among the appropriate ministries.
- include a focus on parental support, identification of high-risk families, and universal services.

Once Core Programs are identified, benchmarks will be developed with targets and performance expectations. The Ministry of Health Services and the Health Authorities will be working collaboratively with those with professional expertise and interest to identify Core Programs and their benchmarks. The ECD Core Programs are expected to be announced by Fall 05. **TREVOR IS AWAY ON VACATION TIL NOV 14TH**

For further information contact: Dr. Trevor Hancock  
Population Health and Wellness Division, Business Operations and Surveillance,  
Ministry of Health Services. Phone: 250-952-1794  
[trevor.hancock@gov.bc.ca](mailto:trevor.hancock@gov.bc.ca)

A web site for Child Health Core Review is expected in Spring 05. **COULDN'T FIND.**

### **Ministry of Education**

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/rs1>

In 2004, *Ready, Set, Learn* events were held in schools around BC. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Ministry of Health Services cosponsored this series. Families and their three-year-olds who attended received a book and information about child development and community resources.

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early\\_learning/ss\\_centres.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/early_learning/ss_centres.htm)

In December 2006 the Premier of BC announced *StrongStart BC*. StrongStart is a free, drop-in early learning program located in public schools for preschool-aged children, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Qualified early childhood educators lead learning activities, including stories, music and art to help children get ready for success in kindergarten. Parents and caregivers attending StrongStart BC centres can expect to participate in organized sessions with story time, play activities, and a healthy snack.

## **Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance**

[www.gov.bc.ca/eia](http://www.gov.bc.ca/eia)

A major responsibility of the ministry is to provide financial assistance to people in need. This Ministry relinquished the administration of the child care subsidy to the Ministry of Children and Family Development on October 2, 2006 however, they continue to provide dental and optical benefits under the Healthy Kids program:

<http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/PROGRAMS/other.htm#bcfb>

## **Community Concerns about Income Assistance Rates**

First Call: the BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition at

<http://www.firstcallbc.org/childyouth/poverty.htm> and SPARC BC at

[http://www.sparc.bc.ca/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=overview&Itemid=110#results](http://www.sparc.bc.ca/index.php?option=com_docman&task=overview&Itemid=110#results) have noted that families on assistance do not receive enough money to cover their basic living expenses. SPARC BC also describes the great difficulty single mothers have in receiving income assistance. The BC Branch of the Canadian Centre for Policy

Alternatives, found at [http://policyalternatives.ca/bc\\_office\\_publications/index.cfm](http://policyalternatives.ca/bc_office_publications/index.cfm) notes the challenges of poverty on BC's families in several articles. The Dietitians of Canada, BC Region, in partnership with the Community Nutritionists Council of BC, produced a 2005 report demonstrating that those living on a low income, including families with young children on income assistance, have difficulty accessing safe and healthy food in a dignified manner:

<http://www.dietitians.ca/resources/resourcesearch.asp?fn=view&contentid=1944>

## PROVINCIAL - COMMUNITY

The following coalitions are intersectoral and provincial. There are numerous other BC Provincial organizations and regional and community coalitions that are active in ECD. For additional community groups see “Other Community Initiatives” in this document.

### BC Aboriginal Childcare Society

[www.acc-society.bc.ca](http://www.acc-society.bc.ca)

The BC Aboriginal Childcare Society was established in 1995 to administer the BC share of the of the federal government’s First Nations/Inuit Childcare Initiative. The Society exists to help Aboriginal communities develop high quality, integrated, community child care services and to build an Aboriginal childcare network.

### First Call ECD Roundtable

[www.firstcallbc.org](http://www.firstcallbc.org)

- First Call’s ECD Roundtable is a provincial network of representatives from a wide variety of community organizations, funders, government agencies, research groups, and others committed to early childhood development.
- They identified a “strong commitment to early childhood development” as one of the ‘Keys to Success’ for BC’s children and youth.
- Members of the ECD Roundtable share information, track trends in ECD supports and programs, discuss policy options and are committed to ongoing action in support of ECD in BC. Communities can join the meetings by teleconferencing. Meetings are held every second month.
- The Roundtable developed the document *Early Childhood Development in BC: First Call’s Framework for Action*, published in March 2003. A copy can be obtained by contacting First Call at [info@firstcallbc.org](mailto:info@firstcallbc.org) or downloaded from their website.
- An EC DECD Presentation Toolkit was developed to assist individuals when speaking to decision-makers and other influential groups and individuals about the importance of the early years and the need for community-based family and early childhood education and care services that are supported by effective social and fiscal policies.

### Healthy Child BC Forum

<http://www.help.ubc.ca/hcbc>

On November 8, 2004, this forum addressed the question; “What should we do in BC, as a matter of policy, if we want to give our kids the healthiest possible start in life?” It was sponsored by government, academic, and community partners and included speakers from Sweden, UK, New Zealand, Canada, USA and Australia. The products of the forum are available on the HELP website above. These include the Working/Evidence Papers that are being used by the Ministry of Health to identify Core ECD Programs. The text and video presentations of the keynote speakers are also available on this site. The BC Healthy Child Development Alliance was developed as a result of the forum and is currently chaired by Dr. Robert Peterson.

## **Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) ECD Mapping**

HELP is an interdisciplinary research partnership to create, promote and apply new knowledge through leading interdisciplinary research to help children thrive. HELP facilitates the creation of new knowledge, and helps apply this knowledge in the community by working directly with government and communities. One of HELP's major initiatives is the Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Project that aims to understand early child development in neighbourhoods across BC. By mapping information by neighbourhood, researchers can better understand how various factors influence children's development and health. Policy makers and community members can use this information to develop effective policies and programs to help children get the best possible start in life. Data is now available for every community in the province.

The Human Early Learning Partnership, led by Dr. Clyde Hertzman, has been designated the [World Health Organization](#)'s Knowledge Hub for Early Child Development. The World Health Organization has set up a global [Commission on Social Determinants of Health](#) in order to promote better health and greater health equity for all. The Knowledge Hub will inform the Commission on Social Determinants of Health of opportunities for fostering leadership, policy, action and advocacy needed to create positive change for children in a range of country contexts.

A detailed overview of the ECD Mapping Project, the Early Development Instrument, and additional research projects sponsored through HELP and lists of community resources are available at <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca>. Neighbourhood and provincial maps can be viewed and downloaded from the "British Columbia ECD Mapping Portal" <http://ecdportal.help.ubc.ca>

## **Success By 6®**

[www.successby6bc.ca/](http://www.successby6bc.ca/)

Success By 6® is an initiative dedicated to ensuring that children ages 0 to 6 have access to programs that support their healthy growth and development. Success By 6® builds community through engaging all sectors in early childhood development and funding programs that strengthen services for young children and families.

In BC, Success By 6® is a unique partnership among credit unions, United Ways and the provincial government through the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Since April 2003, the Provincial Partnership has successfully facilitated the development of Success By 6® initiatives that reach over 150 communities across the province, bringing together hundreds of key leaders from all sectors (business, labor, health, education, social services, Aboriginal communities, etc), and raising millions of dollars worth of contributions, including cash and in-kind donations. Funds raised in local communities will stay in the community to support identified early childhood development priorities.

## ON-LINE ECD RESOURCE DIRECTORIES

- **Child Care Search Tool**  
<http://childcareinfo.gov.bc.ca/childcaresearch/search.aspx>  
This search tool enables you to locate licensed child care facilities in your City/Town/Community.
- **Child Care Resource & Referral Programs**  
<http://childcarechoices.ca> provides child care information and a list of community services for the North, Interior and Fraser Valley Regions.  
<http://www.childcareresource.ca> provides child care information for Vancouver Coastal Region.
- **In Your Grasp** [www.inyourgrasp.bc.ca](http://www.inyourgrasp.bc.ca)  
This on-line resource for BC families covers a wide range of topics and has been developed by the Adoptive Families Association of BC, BC Federation of Foster Parents and Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (FAFP).

## ECD Community Coalitions

**Children First:** The provincially-funded initiative for building ECD community capacity, discussed earlier on page 21, can be found at [www.bcchildrenfirst.ca](http://www.bcchildrenfirst.ca) and provides links to many communities who maintain their own local Children First website.

### Success By 6® websites:

Success By 6® BC [www.successby6bc.ca/](http://www.successby6bc.ca/)

Success By 6® Fraser Valley, BC [www.uwfv.bc.ca/successx6.htm](http://www.uwfv.bc.ca/successx6.htm)

The Calgary Children's Initiative [www.childrensinitiative.ca](http://www.childrensinitiative.ca)

Success By 6® Edmonton's Children [www.unitedthisistheway.com/successby6.htm](http://www.unitedthisistheway.com/successby6.htm)

Success By 6® Ottawa <http://www.successby6ottawa.ca/>

Success By 6® Kingston [www.successby6ofkfla.com/index.html](http://www.successby6ofkfla.com/index.html)

Success By 6® Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry [www.uclc.ca/success/](http://www.uclc.ca/success/)

123 Go - Montreal [www.centraide-mtl.org/centraide/static/where/default.htm](http://www.centraide-mtl.org/centraide/static/where/default.htm)

United Way of American Success By 6® <http://national.unitedway.org/sb6/>

## OTHER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

There are numerous community groups and organizations that are actively contributing to Early Childhood Development. Only major community initiatives are included in the outline above. Thanks to HELP, a comprehensive list of ECD related websites is available at [http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/links\\_comm\\_nat.htm](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/links_comm_nat.htm)

A shorter annotated list is available at:

[http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/resources\\_comm.htm](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/resources_comm.htm)

Please consult these sites for additional community initiatives.