

Welcome to our Fall Edition of the Visions Newsletter! Fall is traditionally the time when most of the regional initiatives shift into high gear in their local Early Childhood Development (ECD) programming. Like the local initiatives, the Provincial Office has been active on a number of fronts – the launch of the Success By 6 Knowledge Centre, the piloting of the Credit Union ECD Calendars, the completion of a very successful Fall Conference and a new chair for the Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership (ECDPP). This month's Visions will look at all these activities and the direction set by the ECDPP in its Strategic Plan.

In this month's edition:

- A message from the Chair – Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership
- The ECDPP Strategic Plan
- Conference Highlights - SB6 Fall Conference, Oct. 21-24, Richmond, BC



A Message From The Chair:

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." – John F. Kennedy

As a Vice President with United Way of Canada-Centraide Canada, I am pleased to assume the role of Chair for the ECDPP that has been so ably led by my colleague, Kim Andres, Senior Vice President of Strategic Solutions with Central 1 Credit Union. United Ways across North America recognize the importance of the early years, and so it is an honour for me to take a leadership role in support of Success By 6's work in BC.

The ECDPP is entering into our 5th year working together on behalf of all children and we see strong evidence that the network of Success By 6 initiatives around the province is becoming more mature and effective each year. Councils of Partners and planning tables are active and engaged in their local plans and priorities. Through the ECD Evaluation Project, stakeholders and coordinators report that they are achieving good results in their efforts to improve community driven planning, increase awareness about the importance of the early years, make positive changes to programs and services, and improve accessibility. Aboriginal ECD action plans, and resources to support them, are in place throughout the province.

The strategic priorities that the ECDPP presents in this edition of *Visions* are designed to move the provincial-level support into a new phase. With our key mission in mind – to jointly advance ECD in British Columbia – we endeavour to continue to support the work of Success By 6 initiatives around the province. We have identified our work with Aboriginal ECD as a strategic priority. As we go forward, we also endeavour to improve our effectiveness, to create sustainability, and to act as leaders and champions in our own sectors.

I look forward to a productive term. On the ECDPP's behalf, I invite your thoughts and comments about how we can be successful partners with you in our shared vision for young children and their families in BC.

Kim Lockhart,
Chair ECDPP

The ECDPP Strategic Plan - Planning To Meet The Needs Of Early Childhood Development

The Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership was created in 2003, made up of representatives from the voluntary/non-profit; business and public/government sectors. The current representatives come from the United Ways (currently UWLM and UW Canada), the Credit Unions (currently Central 1 and Vancity) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD - Early Years Branch and regions).

The ECDPP have adopted a mission that sees each of them helping to jointly advance ECD in British Columbia. They will work towards building the capacity of parents and communities throughout BC so that children 0-6 can be healthy, safe and secure, socially engaged and responsible, and successful learners.

Six strategic priorities have been outlined by the ECDPP for 2008 to 2010 that will guide their work in advancing ECD in the province. These priorities, along with some current activities and projects, are presented here:

1. To increase the CAPACITY of communities to provide ECD services.

Capacity to communities will be increased by:

- Disbursing resources from the provincial budget in a timely manner;
- Delivering training and support through conferences, site visits and the Knowledge Centre;
- Communicating and providing tools such as Visions, Knowledge Centre, Calendars, and the Annual Report;
- Developing accountability mechanisms in the form of reporting and the ECD Evaluation project.

2. To secure and leverage RESOURCES

The following resources go towards funding SB6 in the province:

- MCFD funding - \$5 M in 2008 – 2009;
- Credit Union dues funds - \$380K in 2008 – 2009;
- United Way-lead fundraising - \$2.34M in 2007 - goes to local initiatives;
- Support for fundraising at the local initiative level.

Currently there is a focus on developing additional partnerships and collaborating with other businesses and organizations to leverage resources, through the development of an ECDPP Partnership Model.



The ECDPP Strategic Plan – continued.....

3. To raise AWARENESS about the importance of the early years

Current activities include:

- Supporting the SB6 Brand and vision through the adoption of a new word mark and publications such as the Annual Report;
- Allocating financial support for public awareness and fundraising projects undertaken by local initiatives;
- Distributing SB6 ECD Calendar through the support of Credit Unions;
- Increasing access to early years services through supporting local strategic planning and providing Strategic Implementation funding.

4. To add VALUE to the social change movement

The ECDPP's commitment is to:

- Stay connected to thought leaders in Early Years;
- Review research and indicators;
- Leverage partners competencies and knowledge to aid in the governance of SB6 and to provide leadership in sectors and organizations.

5. To create a SUSTAINABLE framework for social change

The ECDPP will use the following measures to monitor it's effectiveness:

- ECD Evaluation Project;
- Aboriginal Community Capacity Evaluation Project.
- The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is being investigated as one measure of joint effectiveness.

Wherever possible, the ECDPP will strive to leave a legacy by;

- Looking for ways to implement change within partners' organizations;
- Supporting the development of skills and capacity in communities;
- Providing resources and tools.

6. To develop an ABORIGINAL ECD (AECD) framework for SB6 that reflects Aboriginal identified priorities

Our focus here includes:

- Identifying an Aboriginal partner to participate on the ECDPP
- Developing an Aboriginal framework for SB6
- Supporting the planning and evaluation of an:
 - Aboriginal Community Capacity project;
 - Aboriginal Strategic Planning project;
 - Aboriginal ECD Kit - Leadership DVD.
- Continuing to inform governments and stakeholders by participating in various forums and policy tables

The ECDPP will sustain participation at all levels of AECD strategic work.

To the best of its ability, the ECDPP is committed to meeting the goals set out in the six priority areas in order to achieve their vision for every child in BC to experience healthy development. With their guidance and leadership at the table, the SB6 team will continue to implement actions aimed at meeting the needs of early childhood development in BC.

Success By 6 Coordinators' Conference Fall 2008

Over 50 Success By 6 coordinators and close colleagues from around BC met in Richmond on Oct 21-24. Topics included:

- Keynote by Dr. Lee Brown;
- Workshop with Kathi Camilleri;
- Introduction to the Success By 6 "Knowledge Centre", a networking and resource sharing site for our community;
- Updates from the Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership and the Provincial Implementation Team.

There were great networking and learning opportunities, and even some fun! Thanks to all who came and made this a memorable event.

Snapshot of the event:



Deb Bryant and Stephen Akhurst at the stakeholders session.



Coordinators at the internet training session.



From left to right: Duane Jackson, Cheryl Webster and Bob Moore.



The Provincial Team from left to right: Stephen Akhurst, Deb Bryant, Cheryn Wong, Marcia Dawson, Nimmi Bangert & Hanna Critoph.