



Fort St John Child Development Centre  
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This has been an exciting and eventful year here at the Child Development Centre (CDC). Throughout this past year we have been honored by the response and involvement of the community of Fort St John. Their support financially through individuals and businesses have made our events a success, and our dream of expanding our building a reality! Our partnerships within the community, with our stakeholders, and families have been rewarding and beneficial to all involved. Thank you to all of the community members, businesses, volunteers, as well as, staff and families of the CDC for making 2007 & 2008 so memorable.

## **Events and Happenings**

Once again, the Day for the Kids and our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual CDC Talent Show were huge successes. I would like to take this time to sincerely express my thanks to *Moose FM* and *ArcTech Welding and Machining* for their contributions to the Day for the Kids. With their help we **exceeded our goal of \$40,000.00!** I would also like to thank all of the staff, volunteers, performers, and supporters of this year's Talent Show. We **exceeded our goal of \$100,000.00** which will go directly towards our building expansion – Project Build-A- Fort.

As a kick off to our new building expansion campaign, the CDC hosted a very successful Open House which saw the unveiling of "Project Build-A-Fort" to the public and the media. This Fall the community can expect to see the ground-breaking of the building expansion. The community of Fort St John has offered wonderful support to the CDC over the years and we continue to appreciate the ongoing contributions to make our expansion a reality!

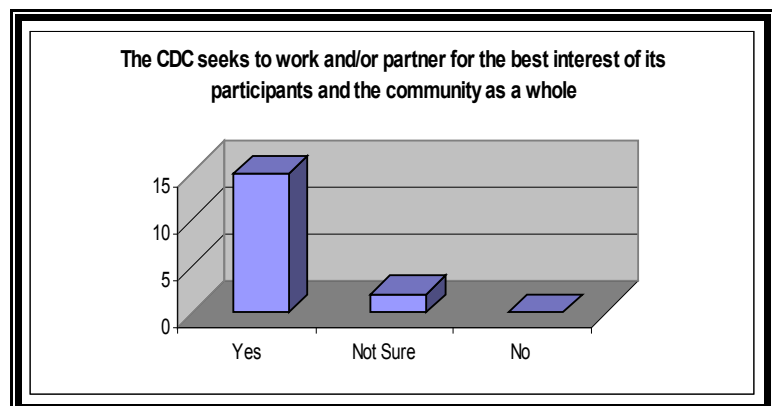
## **Stakeholders**

Stakeholders were given an opportunity to provide written feedback. Their comments were:

- **CDC is highly regarded in the Community.**
- **Welcoming atmosphere.**
- **Highly recommend services.**
- **CDC is outstanding.**

Generally, our stakeholders are pleased with the CDC's ability to respond to the referrals they make and the professionalism of our staff.

Generally, the Parent/Caregiver survey reflected that we are meeting our service goals and making a difference. Staff is friendly, professional and supportive. We provide a family-centered environment with a positive experience. We have established great partnerships throughout the community. One area of concern remains to be the lack of the Speech-Language Pathologist. The Board and Executive Director have set-up some incentives and full-time effort has gone into the recruitment of this position and will be on-going until the position is filled.



## Who we Served

Number of children served in the past year was **475**

Average Age of Children **3.9 years**

Male: **291**

Female: **184**

Most common reasons why children are referred to our Centre:

- ✓ Delayed in more than one area of their development
- ✓ Motor delays
- ✓ Speech-language delays
- ✓ Behaviour concerns

## Our Programs

All programs were very busy throughout the year. The entire team at the Child Development Centre is committed to providing the highest quality of services for our community and the responses indicate that our dedication is recognized and appreciated.

Little change has been realized this past year in terms of reducing wait lists in the Speech-Language program. Factors contributing to this include high birthrate and above average incident of special needs. Staff vacancies remain to be a major factor. The Centre is actively trying to fill these positions. The Executive Director has attended job fairs and universities. We have posted the position consistently with TherapyBC and CASLPA with hopes of recruiting a full time Speech-Language Pathologist.



**Family Services** has been very active this year providing support and services to families and coordinating three SunnyHill Psychology Outreaches. This year Family Services offered two new services. One is to accompany parents when they attend the first local specialized medical appointment/assessment outside of the Centre and the second one was to tour schools with the parents of children with special needs who will be entering kindergarten in the fall. Both have been received very positively.



**Infant Development** continued to offer Infant Massage and Parent/Child Mother Goose groups. Both were always well attended. IDP has enjoyed a successful partnership with the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre.



**Supported Child Development** has been concentrating on providing services for rural communities. They have been working in collaboration with Blueberry Aboriginal Head Start to increase education and/or awareness for their community members.



**Preschool** – Program planning/transition committee met on a regular basis over the past year, and as a result, initiated a change to the program beginning September 2008. The new program will be called the "*Early Learning Program*." This program will be learning enriched and will include curriculum in the areas of early literacy, early mathematics concepts, and science.



**Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy** – Implemented a "Movers and Shakers" group, Yoga classes and offered Snoezelen training for parents. A second Rehabilitation Therapist position was created. The therapists finalized their Needs Assessments and Program Logic Models which will assist with measuring outcomes for their departments.



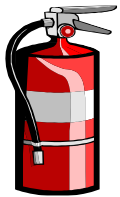
**Special Services** – The past year saw many changes to the department such as a new referral process mandated by Community Living British Columbia. Staff attended training sessions within and outside the community. Recruitment and retention of Respite workers is ongoing so we can provide support in outlying communities, specifically Hudson’s Hope.



**Complex Developmental Behavioral Condition (CDBC)** – This is a new position for our key worker and for the Centre. The Key worker provided continuous education within our community and geographical area on FASD. She implemented a parent-to-parent mentor/support group. CDBC had received funding from Success by Six for education and prevention stickers.



**Speech-Language** – Recruitment and Retention has remained difficult for a full time Speech-Language Pathologist. We had a contract with NONA CDC in Vernon where one of their pathologists traveled here for a week about every six months. This has allowed a Speech Assistant to manage a few small group therapy sessions.



**Occupational Health and Safety** – Some of the recommendations noted for this year were the following:

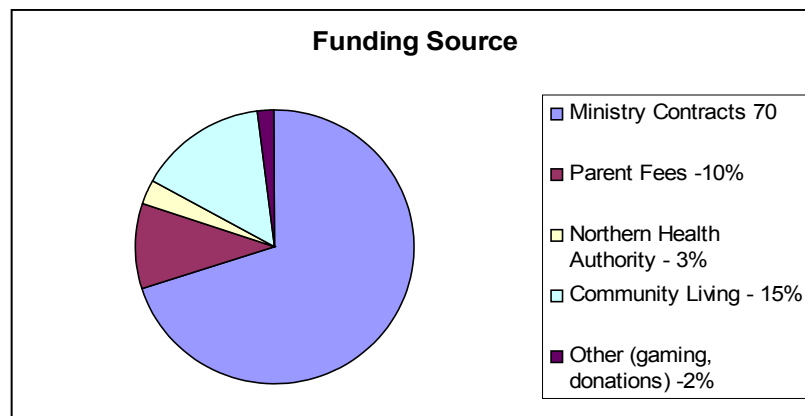
- More attention to staff’s spatial awareness of self and client(s). Behaviour plans to be put into place addressing each individual child’s needs to assist with the elimination of outbursts.
- Make posters asking staff/clients to remove outer footwear during winter months.
- Provide staff with a Back Care Workshop due to the high number of Back injuries.



**Staff Development** – This year the staff development committee focused on providing staff with Team Building workshops. A variety of educational workshops were accessed by various departments.

## Our Funding

The Child Development Centre continues to rely on the Provincial Government to provide funding to operate the majority of our programs. Most of our programs are offered free of charge for participants with the exception of Preschool and Special Services. As per our contractual obligations, the Centre undergoes an annual independent audit of our finances and financial practices. The audited financial statements are presented to the staff and membership at our Annual General Meeting which will be held in October 2008.



## **In Conclusion**

**We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has assisted the CDC this past year – from assisting in fundraising efforts, helping out on Special Days in Preschool, and for the numerous other ways the community assisted the Centre in achieving its service goals!**