



**Office of the Provincial Advisor
Aboriginal Supported Child Development Programs**

1st Quarter Report

April 2014 to June 2014

Activity Report for the Provincial Advisor
Submitted by: Nadine Gagné - L'Hirondelle



Highlights of Provincial ASCD Advisor Activities:

The first quarter of the 2014 fiscal year has been one of transition. Danielle Smith took a new position with MCFD's Early Years office in May 2014 and I stepped into the ASCD Provincial Advisor role on June 9th 2014. Despite there being a temporary lapse in the position, I have worked hard to try and "hit the ground running" and continue the many areas of work that Danielle was involved in. I am excited to bring my 16 years of working in various positions of Aboriginal Early Childhood Development to this leadership position. My passion for early childhood development is driven by a strong belief that Aboriginal children deserve the right to be supported to reach their fullest potential, with culturally safe early childhood programs, no matter where they reside in our province. I have sent out a formal letter of introduction to the programs, as well as a summer issue of the ASCD Connections e-newsletter. Coming into the position I have personally called all of the ASCD programs and ASCD Regional Advisors to further introduce myself and connect. It's been a wonderful couple of months in this position and I look forward to the year ahead.

One project of considerable importance is the Partnerships Project. The process of changing over the host agency for the Partnerships Project from the Comox Child Development Association to the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres has been completed. We want to thank Lorraine Aitken and Tanya Brown for all of their past work with the Partnerships project. The ASCD Provincial Advisor and the Provincial office will now oversee the Partnership Training in the province. Elaine Zamardi who is the Project Officer for the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office is now the new Partnership Coordinator.

Other priorities that have been concentrated on in this quarter has been advocating and seeking out funding for an AIDP and ASCD Provincial In-service, sharing ASCD data collection information, transitioning the new ASCD Provincial Advisor into office, meeting and emails to MCFD and the Assistant Deputy Minister seeking support for AIDP and ASCD programs ongoing challenges and support for ASCD policy development. Although MCFD, Assistant Deputy Minister, Randy Mjolsness and Dena Carroll (Director - Aboriginal Policy and Legislative Team), are supportive of the idea of policy development, a funding request of \$30,000 from the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office to MCFD for the 2014/15 year for ASCD policy development was unfortunately not provided. Currently the Provincial Office has no funding resources to complete this project, however preliminary work is moving forward regardless. The Provincial Office will continue conversations with MCFD for support on this project.

The Provincial AIDP and ASCD Provincial office has been working to organize an AIDP and ASCD Provincial in-service for April 2015. We are sad to inform the Province and the IDP/AIDP and SCD/ASCD programs that due to lack of funding, the Provincial office is unable to organize a provincial training for 2015. The previous ASCD Provincial Advisor had submitted a proposal to MCFD's Aboriginal Services Innovations- Early Years proposal call in May 2014, but our office was unsuccessful as the funding was targeted for "direct service delivery." This is an area that the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office will be continuing to advocate for. The need for ongoing professional development in the field is crucial for our early intervention programs to provide quality services to the most vulnerable population in our province; children with special needs. Regional and agency funds for professional development remain limited; as well the IDP/AIDP and SCD/ASCD Professional Development fund will be depleted in approximately 18 months. Staff turnover in the field, as well as

MCFD's recent funding given to "new" and "emerging" AECD programs again makes it critical that they support ongoing professional development in our specialized field.

Within ASCD, a variety of activities were completed included continued participation in various committees, assistance in the development of protocol agreements between non-aboriginal programs and Aboriginal AIDP/ASCD. The ASCD Information Gathering Questionnaire and data collection process was completed in the last quarter. 35% of ASCD programs reported back and I will be looking to connect with the remaining programs to assist them with providing information. A report summarizing the gathered information was made available to the Steering Committee and programs at the end of the March 2014.

The following are updates from the various committees Danielle and I have participated on:



Committee Updates:

Professional Development Fund:

The Professional Development Fund Committee continues to meet and is realizing how limited this resource base is. Currently there is just over \$125,000 remaining in this fund and will be exhausted within the next 18 months. The Committee is considering options for enhancing this fund and we continue to encourage ASCD programs to continue to access this opportunity to assist with professional development costs.

The Provincial AIDP and ASCD program and Liz Cox (Professional Development Fund) have put together a briefing note and will be meeting with MCFD, Assistant Deputy Minister, Randy Mjolsness and Dena Carroll (Director - Aboriginal Policy and Legislative Team) on September 25th 2014 in Victoria to discuss the depleting Professional Development Funds. As well, a letter from the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office has gone out to the IDP/AIDP and SCD/ASCD Regional Advisors asking for input and assistance on how best to spend the remaining Professional Development Funds. Within this funding pot there is \$60,000 specifically earmarked for curriculum development. We hope to get input from the Regional Advisors at the next face to face meeting Sept 22nd in Vancouver before our next Professional Development Fund committee meeting and the Sept 25th meeting in Victoria.

Partnerships Project:

The process of changing over the host agency for the Partnerships Project from the Comox Child Development Association to the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres has been completed. The ASCD Provincial Advisor and the Provincial office will now oversee the Partnership Training in the province. Elaine Zamardi who is the Project Officer for the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office is now the new Partnership Coordinator.

Elaine Zamardi the Partnership Coordinator organized a very successful partnership training in Terrace in May 2014 in three of the Partnership Modules. The Provincial office is pleased to accept the responsibility of this important training initiative and will work to uphold the integrity of this training project. There are approx. 7 Partnership training requests from various areas of the province and we will be looking at facilitating some of these training in the fall of 2014 in the Lower Mainland and possibly the Interior region.

Maternal Child and Family Health Committee:

I was able to participate on this Committee Conference Call on behalf of Diana Elliot and the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office. The Maternal Child and Family Health Committee will be providing a representative to the AIDP and ASCD Provincial Steering Committee. Diana Elliot will sit on their committee to ensure continued partnerships and collaboration between AIDP,

ASCD and Maternal Child and Family Health. I have begun working with a representative from the First Nations Health Authority to map out ASCD, AIDP and Maternal Child Health programs on-reserve in the province.

FOPP:

The finalized FOPP document was distributed in the last couple of months to IDP/AIDP and SCD/ASCD. There have been no FOPP meetings within this fiscal reporting period

Assessment Working Group:

The Assessment working group had a teleconference on June 19th 2014. Currently there are a number of IDP and SCD programs piloting one or two of the six identified assessment/screening tools identified by MCFD (Battelle, Brigance, DAYC2, ASQ, ASQ-SE and AEPS). The interior region is completing a collaborative pilot project with the Brigance and DAYC2. The Fraser region hosted three – one day DAYC orientation sessions that was well attended by IDP/AIDP and SCD/ASCD. There is no formal training for the DAYC but Michaela Wooldridge from Surrey IDP has put together a one day learning session on DAYC and will be organizing a DAYC orientation for the Interior in the Fall. At this time there is no funding from MCFD to support assessment training in the tools identified and programs are looking at grandfathering out the Gessell assessment in the next year. The Provincial and Regional Advisors for both IDP/AIDP and SCD/ASCD will need to be creative and collaborate and share resources for the ongoing training in these tools. As well, we will all need to advocate to MCFD for funding to support ongoing professional development in these assessment tools to ensure quality “best practices” in assessment and screening. The assessment committee has created an assessment feedback form to document pilot projects.

International Indigenous Early Childhood Development Conference Planning Committee

The IIECE Conference is set for July 18th – 23rd 2016 in Victoria on the Songheas First Nations territory. Initial planning and fundraising has started. At this time there is no secured funding to support this event. I have started working on a funding proposal request to Scotia Bank for \$10,000 each year over 2 years to support this conference and will submit it on behalf of the AIDP and ASCD Provincial office in August 2014.

Training Opportunity:

Diana and I attended the Interior Region In-service in Kamloops at the end of May 2014. I was able to provide feedback to the Interior regional advisors on the planning and facilitation of it. Diana and I will also be attending the Vancouver Island In-service on Oct 3rd 2014 to give a provincial update, as well as attending the Northern region In-service Oct 6th-8th in Prince George. I will also be arranging to finish facilitating 3 sessions of Partnership training in New Aiyansh in the early fall on “Positive Approaches to Behaviour.”

Committee/Meetings Attended:

April 2014:

- April 1st - Meeting with Deputy Minister Mark Seiben, Randi Mjolsness (Policy and Provincial Services ADM), Allison Bond (ADM Service Delivery), and Dena Carroll (Director of Aboriginal Policy)
- April 2nd - BC Healthy Child Alliance Meeting Vancouver
- April 3rd - Provincial In-service Planning Committee
- April 7th - IIECDG Professional Development Conference Call
- April 8th to 9th - Kamloops AIDP/ASCD Draft Protocol Meeting
- April 11th - Aboriginal Early Years Circle Meeting Conference Call
- April 14th - Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) Conference Call



- Meeting with Cheryl Casimer representative of the First Nations Summit Task Group
- April 17th - Aboriginal Services Innovation – Early Years Conference Call
- April 22nd - AIDP and ASCD Steering Committee
- April 23rd - Networking Meeting Conference Call
- April 24th - Partnership Project Special Link Call to New Brunswick
- April 25th - AEYC Conference call
- April 25th - Regional Advisors Conference Call
- April 29th – Interior AIDP and ASCD Conference Call

May 2014:

- May 1st - Assessment Training Conference
- May 7th - ASCD Website Meeting
- May 8th - Meeting with Kamloops and Brent Kennedy Conference Call
- May 8th - Provincial In-Service Conference Call
- May 9th - AEYC Conference Call
- May 13th - Northern Region Conference Call
- May 16th - Partnership Steering Committee Conference Call (Danielle's last day)

June 2014:

- June 10th and 11th - ASCD Provincial Office orientation in Victoria, BC
- June 12th - Provincial In-Service Planning Committee Conference Call
- June 12th - Partnership Project Committee Conference Call
- June 17th - Maternal Child & Family Health Plan Committee Conference Call
- June 18th - Interior Region AIDP and ASCD Regional Conference Call
- June 18th - Vancouver Island Regional In-service Planning Conference Call
- June 19th - Assessment Working Group Conference Call
- June 20th - Partnership Conference Call
- June 23rd - Indigenous Early Childhood Conference Planning Conference Call
- June 24th - Interior Region In-service Debriefing Call
- June 25th - AIDP and ASCD Provincial Steering Committee Conference Call
- June 26th - Professional Development Fund Committee Conference Call

Program/Community Visits:

1. Kamloops AIDP/ASCD Draft Protocol Meeting (Face to face contact with White Buffalo Aboriginal & Metis Health Society AIDP/ASCD; Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency AIDP/ASCD; Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services AIDP/ASCD)
2. Victoria Native Friendship Centre – Site Visit
3. Spirit of the Children, New Westminster – By Phone
4. Squamish Nation ASCD – By phone
5. Belle Belle, Heiltsuk Kaxla ASCD program - By phone
6. N'Quatquo Child and Family ASCD – By Phone
7. Sechelt Indian Band ASCD – By Phone
8. Seabird Island Indian Band ASCD – By Phone
9. Langley Child and Family Services ASCD – By Phone
10. Osoyoos Indian Band ASCD – By Phone
11. Cariboo Friendship Centre, Williams Lake – By Phone
12. Desniqu Society Services – By Phone

13. Prince George Native Friendship Centre – By Phone
14. Nuxalk Nation, Bella Coola ASCD Program – By Phone
15. Victoria Native Friendship Centre – By Phone
16. Mount Currie ASCD program- By Phone
17. Splotsin ASCD program – By Phone
18. New Aiyansh ASCD program – By Phone
19. Dawson Creek ASCD – By Phone
20. Vernon ASCD program (North Okanagan Neurological Association – By Phone



Workshops/Conferences/Gatherings attended:

- May 1st – Assessment Training Conference Vancouver
- May 26th and 27th – Attended and assisted with the Interior Region In-service in Kamloops with Diana Elliott
- I hope to continue with another workshop in the fall to finish off the Partnership Project on in New Aiyansh that Danielle started last year



What's ahead?

- Continue exploring a process and funding for developing ASCD Policies
- Meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister and MCFD to discuss ongoing challenges with ASCD and AIDP and advocate for ongoing support from Ministry for Children and Families to the Professional Development Fund for training for SCD/ASCD and IDP/AIDP
- Site/Program visit to Okanagan Nation, Westbank First Nations, Williams Lake, Osoyoos, Kootneys and Victoria
- Finalize protocol between 3 AIDP/ASCD programs in Kamloops
- Continue to create awareness of ASCD through meetings with leadership and relevant stakeholders
- Fall issue of ASCD Connections Newsletter in conjunction with AIDP
- Continue Supporting ASCD programs through site visits, support on protocol development.
- Improve Website for ASCD and Partnerships Project
- Implement Partnerships Facilitator Training

Respectfully submitted by:

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