



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

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report

**July, August, & September 2013**

Activity Report for the Provincial Advisor  
Submitted by Danielle Smith



## Highlights of Provincial ASCD Advisor Activities:

In efforts to be visible and introduce myself to ASCD programs I have strived to visit as many programs as I could these past summer months. Fortunately, I was able to meet with several Executive Directors, ASCD Program Coordinators, and ASCD staff, despite programs shutting down or navigating staff vacations. All the programs visited were very welcoming and eager to share their ASCD successes and needs. Throughout these sites visits I met many creative and dedicated ASCD staff, and witnessed the range of ASCD services being offered.

With just over half of the programs in a position to offer full ASCD services and many others positioning themselves to offer full service delivery, the need for more specific information beyond our ASCD guidelines manual seems necessary. Many programs are feeling caught between mainstream SCD policies and ASCD Guidelines. With this in mind, the timing for Aboriginal specific policies seems relevant.

Additionally, what has stood out during these past months is the strong commitment the ASCD programs have towards Aboriginal children with extra needs. Many programs are functioning with very little, but continue to do what they can in meeting children's needs.

The following is a brief update on the various committees I have participated on:

Assessment Committee: Participated in a conference call on Aug 22, 2013. Committee made decisions to move forward with piloting process start with those agencies that are willing and interested. Testing/early implementation of DAYC and Brigance will take place in Coast Fraser and Interior, the Battelle already being piloted on Vancouver Island. Next few months committee members will be gathering information from the various programs using the Battelle, DAYC and Brigance regarding relevance, usefulness and ease in administration. From here further evaluation from the committee will take place around training i.e. ease of access, cost, how hard to learn.

Aboriginal Early Years Advisory Circle: Joined the AEYA Circle in July. The AEYA Circle continues to advocate for the quick release of resources related to the \$5 Million AECD Reinvestment funds and continues to advocate to MCFD with recommendations. Recommendations focus on emphasizing the need for continued culture and language support and resources, promoting equitable access to funding for AECD programs, encouraging alignment with the Creating Pathways Strategic Plan or the First Nations ECD Framework, and urging consultation with the AEYA Circle.

Partnership Project Steering Committee: Have linked with the Partnership Project Steering Committee as Provincial Office previously had a role. Participate in teleconference Sept 19, 2013. Hope to partner with the Partnership Project to look at creating a 20 hours curriculum that targets Support Workers on understanding their roles and responsibilities within ASCD/SCD Program. Many ASCD programs finding it challenging to find Support Workers in addition to many support workers coming into the field with very little experience and/or knowledge of working with young children with extra needs.

First Call Coalition: Have linked with First Call as the Provincial Officer previously had a role on this committee. Was not able to participate in the most recent meeting as it conflicted with preplanned site visit. Hoping to continue participation.

Aboriginal Head Start Review Committee: Have linked with Executive Director for Aboriginal Head Start, who has put forward my name to participate on the Review Committee. This provincial committee that works with the Public Health Agency of Canada to review funding and PHAC projects for AHS. No meetings plans in the near future, however I will be participating.

Data Collection: In efforts to support all the ASCD programs and Regional Advisors in the province through the data collection process regarding the \$2.5 Million Reinvestment AECD Funds focused on addressing waitlists for AIDP/IDP/ASCD/SCD and Early Intervention, the Provincial Office worked with MCFD to provide program and waitlist information. A report was submitted to Dena Carroll (MCFD) on Aug 15<sup>th</sup>.

In transitioning into this role and following this information gathering process with MCFD it is clear an annualize data collection is a priority area for strengthening in ASCD. Consequently, an annual process for data collection for ASCD is being created. The goal will be to gather data through either Survey Monkey or on a basic excel spreadsheet on an annual basis that will also be useful information for ASCD programs. The roll out of annual data collection will begin in December 2013.

Seasonal Newsletter: The first edition of the ASCD Connections newsletter was distributed by mail in July 2013 and will continue to occur on a seasonal basis. The intention behind the newsletter is to create linkages with the front line ASCD staff across the Province with the Provincial Office as well as provide sense of community amongst ASCD programs.

Professional Development Funds: Continuing to encourage ASCD staff to access the professional development funds for training opportunities available in the province. Many ASCD programs do not have professional development resources available within their programs therefore having the Pro-D fund is helpful. Many programs report, however, that they still do not access the funds because if there is travel and accommodation involved in the training opportunities, the expense is too great beyond what the Pro-D fund will assist with.

Framework of Professional Practice: The Revised FOPP document has been sent out to all regional advisors and staff in ASCD/SCD/AIDP/IDP for a final feedback gathering. The feedback deadline is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The FOPP Committee will review the final feedback and make final edits to the document at the upcoming face to face meeting being held Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 held in Richmond, BC. This will be reviewed annually as a living document.

UBC ECD Curriculum: Aboriginal Early Childhood Development. Funded by UBC, Cathy Richardson has written this nine unit, three credit course designed for blackboard delivery to span over 13 weeks. The course will be available to our programs and other service providers who work with Aboriginal children and families. The working group has reviewed the curriculum and support the pilot of the course tentatively scheduled for January 2014. Cathy has her Phd in Child and Youth Care and M.Ed Counselling Psych. and works in the department of School of Social Work at the University of Victoria. Upon first reviews of the curriculum, it appears as though it will be very useful/relevant for

students wishing to expand their knowledge in working with Aboriginal families and communities in an ECD capacity.

Program supports: Have received various calls from different ASCD programs sharing their difficulties providing SIRF data to MCFD. It seems many programs have not been reporting their data to SIRF due to not being able to access the site and some programs have misunderstood some of the indicators therefore reporting inaccurate information. As a result I have made a connection with Saara Jackman the Technical Lead for SIRF, who provided me with some information on how to support the programs to provide their program data. I have connected Saara with 3 different programs, and I am hoping to hear back from them regarding the outcome. To date data collection has been a challenge for many ASCD programs.

In addition to various call regarding SIRF, the following inquiries

- Programs available to families in various areas of BC.
- Data collection templates
- Training opportunities for Non-Aboriginal ASCD staff



### **Committee/Meetings Attended:**

#### **July:**

1. July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Framework for Professional Practice (FOPP) Committee – conference call
2. July 9<sup>th</sup> - Aboriginal Early Years Advisory Circle (AEYAC) - conference call
3. July 15<sup>th</sup> - Framework for Professional Practice (FOPP) Committee – conference call
4. July 16<sup>th</sup> – ASCD Regional Advisors Meeting – Face to face (Kamloops)
5. July – Coast Salish Employment and Training – Ada Mawson (Duncan)

#### **August:**

1. August 6<sup>th</sup> - MCFD – Dena Carroll \$2.5 Million Reinvestment Funds
2. August 14<sup>th</sup> – MCFD – Lisa Martin – Early Years Report
3. Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – Meeting Executive Director Aboriginal Head Start (Joan Gignac)
4. August 21<sup>st</sup> – Assessment Committee – conference call  
(Regrets sent for 1 meeting because I was on route to site visit)

#### **September:**

1. September 9<sup>th</sup> – 2016 Canada ECD Conference Planning Committee – conference call
2. September 11<sup>th</sup> - Aboriginal Early Years Advisory Circle (AEYAC) - conference call
3. Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – Partnerships Project Committee - conference Call



### **Program/Community Visits:**

1. White Buffalo ASCD – Kamloops
2. Secwepemc Child and Family Services – Kamloops
3. Lii Michif Child and Family Services – Kamloops
4. Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre – Surrey
5. Vancouver ASCD – Vancouver

6. Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, USMA Family & Child Services ASCDP Tofino
7. Laichwiltach Family Life Society ASCD – Campbell River
8. Heiltsuk Kaxla Child and Family Services ASCD, Bella Bella
9. Victoria Native Friendship Center, ASCD - Victoria
10. Splatstn Tsm7aksaltn (Splatstn Teaching Centre) Society ASCD - Enderby
11. Vernon Friendship Centre - Vernon
12. Métis Community Services Society of BC - Kelowna
13. Westbank First Nation – Westbank
14. Okanagan Nation Alliance - Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Coordinator – Westbank
15. Brent Kennedy Learning Centre – Castlegar
16. Sto:lo Nation Society: ASCD - Chilliwack



### **Workshops/Conferences/Gatherings attended:**

1. Aug 8th – Community ASCD training workshop – Positive Approaches to Behaviour, Bella Bella
2. Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> – Meeting with Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Coordinator for Okanagan Nation Alliance – Stacy Turcotte.



### **What's ahead?**

- Workshops/Presentations: Scheduled presentation with co-presenter with Diana Elliot in North Region ECD regional conference October.
- Continue Collecting ASCD Information: Will continue meeting or calling various programs to confirm ASCD program information.
- Data Collection for ASCD: Will finalize data information that will be collected from all ASCD programs and will be rolled out in December 2013.
- Exploring a process for developing ASCD Policies.
- Site visits: Will continue to complete site visits throughout the upcoming months focusing more in the lower mainland.

Respectfully submitted by:

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