

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 26, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Edmonton Student Health Initiative Partnership: Overview and Service Provision by Edmonton Public Schools

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE  
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### INFORMATION

The Edmonton Student Health Initiative Partnership (ESHIP) is in its third year of service provision. The intent of this service is to provide health services to enable students to participate in their school programs and attain their potential. The required partners are the two Edmonton school jurisdictions, Capital Health, Mental Health Board and Ma'mōwe Child and Family Services. In addition, there are 38 additional partners, from early childhood, charter and private schools, for a total of 43. The partnership is governed by a steering committee composed of representatives from the required partners as well as three persons representing the other sectors. In addition, there is an operations committee composed of managers from the various service providers who meet regularly to resolve front line issues and to improve the coordination across services. The ESHIP Coordinator ensures that the day-to-day operations run smoothly and that the committees have the information they require to carry out their work.

To foster collaboration and commitment, the steering committee determined that all required partners should have a role in service provision. As a result, Edmonton Catholic Schools was identified as the banker; Edmonton Public Schools, through Consulting Services, was contracted to provide services to the sensory multi-handicapped (SMH) population and students with severe physical disabilities (SPD); Ma'mōwe Child and Family Services was contracted to provide emotional/behavioural services to the mild and moderate population; and Capital Health and the Mental Health Board were contracted to extend existing services and to provide new services. The range provided by Capital Health and the Mental Health Board includes the Bright Program for students with brain injuries, the Community Mental Health Classrooms, Home Care for students with complex medical needs, augmentation of the Neurodevelopmental Clinics, nursing support, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language pathology.

The focus of this report and presentation is the ESHIP services provided by Edmonton Public Schools. Consulting Services ESHIP staff provide a multi-disciplinary, educational rehabilitative service for students to assist them to be successful at school and at home. Occupational therapists, physical therapists and communication disorders specialists provide therapeutic interventions for integrated SMH and SPD students and for students in the

Independent Support Program and the Interactions Program (autism). This work also assists schools in implementing their instructional focus as part of the Blueprints for Teaching and Learning initiative. As well, it involves collaboration with other service providers. Currently, Consulting Services ESHIP Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy staff are collaborating with Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy staff from Community Rehabilitation Services of Capital Health and ESHIP Home Care on the development of a position paper that will keep the involved service providers current in 'best discipline practice' for students in schools.

GC/EP:ee