

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 10, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Provincial Early Childhood Development Initiative: Region 10 Plan

ORIGINATOR: Bob Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE

STAFF: Gloria Chalmers

INFORMATION

Background: The Government of Canada and provincial and territorial governments agreed on the terms of an early childhood development framework, with an investment by the federal government of \$2.2 billion over five years, starting in 2001-02. The framework enables each provincial or territorial government to tailor its early childhood development services to meet locally identified needs.

In June 2002, school jurisdictions were advised by Alberta Learning of Alberta's Early Childhood Development (ECD) strategy, which falls within the agreed upon framework described above. The strategy's four priority investment areas are:

- Enhanced services to expectant parents, new parents and infants
- Enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills programs
- Enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs
- Enhanced capacity to effectively plan with government and non-government partners and to provide services

While Alberta Learning has played an influential role in designing programs to support young children, Children's Services and Health and Wellness were given the lead in specific ECD investment areas. Regional children's services and health authorities were advised of funding available and required to develop and submit plans. The focus of this report is the plan developed and submitted by our Region 10 Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child and Family Services Authority. A board report on the Capital Health Authority plan will be brought to board once it is approved by the authority.

Region 10 Ma'mōwe Early Childhood Development Initiative Plan: The overall goal of the plan is to provide a range of health, social and learning programs and services for parents, families and children from preconception to age six to ensure that children get the best start in life. The plan (Attachment I) covers all of Region 10, the Capital Region. The region received a total of \$3,265,000 for 2002-2003. Based on a formula using live birth statistics and child welfare statistics, the City of Edmonton was allocated \$2,556,495, Strathcona County \$168,083, St. Albert \$106,961 and Leduc and area \$106,961. The remaining

\$326,500 will cover the regional evaluation component. Implementation began in July 2002 and continues through to September 2002.

The plan was built around existing programs that are research based and have a strong evaluation and accountability framework. For the City of Edmonton component of the plan, funds were allocated to the following:

1. home visitation programs received \$850,000 - This translates into 14 additional full time equivalent staff and will enable service to 300 additional families.
2. head start programs received \$800,000 – This translates into 3 additional non-aboriginal classes and 2 additional aboriginal head start classes and will enable service to 77 additional families.
3. childcare and full day head start programs received \$450,000 – This translates into four resource teams of three staff consisting of a social worker, early learning coordinator and early childhood worker and will enable enhanced supports to children and families in seven pilot sites.
4. child and family resource centre programs received \$200,000 – This translates into respite care to children and families in two pilot sites plus an outreach worker at a third centre and will enable service to 150 families
5. multi-cultural brokers programs received \$256,000 – This will enable support to 368 refugee families in seven communities, to children at risk from the Mennonite Centre for newcomers and community-based parent and children programs.

Link to the District: The district had representation on the umbrella planning committee for the development of the Ma'mōwe plan and on the childcare and full day head start subcommittee. The district provides space, at an advantageous rate, for some of the targeted programs. In partnership a continuum of services for children and families is provided. As a result of these social service and health initiatives, the district will benefit by receiving children who are better prepared for school, as well as having parents who have improved parenting skills and supports and who are more knowledgeable and confident about parenting a special needs child.

GC/ee

ATTACHMENT I - Provincial Early Childhood Development Initiative: Ma'mōwe
Capital Region Child & Family Services Authority Region 10
Service Plan

PROVINCIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child & Family Services Authority
Region 10 Service Plan

Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child and Family Services representatives invited a number of key stakeholders to participate in a Regional Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) Planning Committee to determine the allocation of the Region's \$3.265m ECDI funds. Core member partners as identified in the Ministry's ECD Initiative's partnership requirements were included. These core partners are FCSS, Health Authorities and School Authorities. Many other community representatives were also invited to participate, and they did.

Ma'mōwe and the (ECDI) Planning Committee chose to use the ECDI funding in both of the key investment areas identified in the Provincial Funding Criteria. These two areas are:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills programs;
- enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs.

The Committee agreed to distribution of the dollars based on a funding formula designed using live birth statistics and Child Welfare statistics over the following four geographical areas:

- Strathcona County;
- St. Albert;
- Leduc/Leduc County, Beaumont;
- Edmonton.

Dollars were also set aside for a comprehensive evaluation. An evaluation sub-committee was formed to develop and implement a framework for evaluation of the ECD Initiative that would ensure appropriate evaluations are in place for all components of the ECD Initiative (Appendices 9 and 10).

Within the group representing Edmonton, the original thought was to have six sub-committees, including one committee to focus specifically on Aboriginal initiatives. After much discussion it was decided that a better approach would be to integrate the Aboriginal perspective strongly into each of the sub-committees. Five sub-committees were subsequently formed and allocations for expenditure agreed upon. All of the sub-committees, including the suburban committees, were charged with the task of developing a proposal for the expenditure of allocated funds. The sub committees invited other potential stakeholders in their related areas and worked collaboratively to develop and submit proposals. Initiatives were planned using the criteria outlined by the Ministry and through considering expansion opportunities of current services that have proven effectiveness and, or will, address gaps in services.

Partners involved in the planning process were impressive both in the quality of work they accomplished and in the collaborative process they used.

All committee proposals were drafted, reviewed and submissions were subsequently agreed upon and are attached as Appendices 1 – 9 in this Regional Service Plan.

The geographic area served by Ma’ mōwe’s Service Plan includes Edmonton, St. Albert, Leduc, Leduc County, Beaumont and Strathcona County.

ECDI Consultation and Planning Committee Members (This list does not include the many other individuals who served on various sub-committees. Thanks to everyone who participated.)

Member	Organization
Audelle White	St. Albert FCSS
Avril Pike	Oliver School Centre
Barbara McDougall	Ma’ mōwe Capital Region
Betty Ann Nemish	County of Leduc
Betty Carrier	Success by Six – Capital Health Authority
Bev Parks	Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
Colleen Keenan-Zdebiak	Ma’ mōwe Capital Region – Foster Care & EIP
Debbie Bryson	Success by Six – Ma’ mōwe CW
Doug McNally	Success By Six
Gloria Chalmers	Edmonton Public Schools Board
Harry Oswin	Community Services, City of Edmonton
Hope Hunter	Boyle Street Co-op
Jackie Winter	Strathcona County Family & Community Services
Jane Hewes Development	Grant MacEwan College Early Childhood
Jeff Bisanz	Community University Partnership
Judith Padua	Success by Six
Katherine Caine	Capital Health Authority
Laura Vinson	Ben Calf Robe Society
Laurie Schnirer	Community-University Partnership
Linda Miersch	Native Counselling Services of Alberta
Lucenia Ortiz-Marquez	Multicultural Health Brokers
Marj Krevenchuk	City of Leduc, FCSS
Martin Gerber-Conrad	Success by Six
Michelle Craig	ABC Head Start
Mike Woodman	Success by Six – Edmonton Police Services
Natalie Weller	Town of Beaumont Childcare ECPAA
Pat Beck	Ma’ mōwe Capital Region – Child Care & SCD
Pat Hagemann	Boyle Street - Stepping Stones
Pat Hauck	Edmonton Catholic Schools Board
Richard Feehan	Catholic Social Services
Roxanne Tomkinson	Ma’ mōwe Capital Region – Early Intervention
Shauna Seneca	Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
Sue Languedoc	Aboriginal Consulting Services

Susan Meunier
Wendy Yewman
Yvonne Chiu

Town of Beaumont
Ma'mōwe Capital Region
Multicultural Health Brokers

Key investment areas:

- there are four programs targeting enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills programs;
- There is one program targeting enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs;
- There are three programs that cover both key investment areas.

Brief Description of the Ma'mōwe ECDI Initiative

The following is a brief outline of each of the planned initiatives in the four geographic areas of Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child and Family Services – Strathcona County, St. Albert, Leduc/Leduc County, Beaumont and Edmonton. For more detail on each of the committees and local initiatives please refer to the appropriate Appendix.

Strathcona County (Appendix 1)

This component of the Initiative proposes to:

- build a spectrum of resources based on community needs by working with existing programs and services, establishing linking mechanisms, and facilitating interagency collaboration to increase resources and services;
- coordinate and deliver services to targeted groups of children as well as support groups for parents;
- provide home visitation to families with special needs children who currently are not eligible for intensive home visitation services, and families with children 0 – 6 years of age.

St. Albert (Appendix 2)

This component of the Initiative proposes to:

- develop a Head Start program that offers services to children in both a centre based setting and through intensive work with the child and family at home.

The Head Start program delivers a comprehensive and high quality service designed to foster healthy development in low-income families who will benefit from this opportunity. The program provides a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition and parenting. This program will comply with the Head Start standards developed in Ma'mōwe Capital Region.

Leduc/Leduc County, Beaumont (Appendix 3)

This component of the Early Childhood Development Initiative provides enhanced support and skill development to all sectors of childcare and preschool providers and parents of children 0 – 6 years. As well, early identification of at risk families and gaps in services will be identified within the service area – Leduc City, County, Beaumont, Calmar, Thorsby, Warburg and New Sarepta.

Goals of this component are to:

- provide enhanced ECD programming in child care centres so they become more family focused preschool resource centres based on best practice principles;
- enhance parenting supports and parents knowledge regarding the needs of their children ages 0 – 6;
- provide early identification of “at risk” children and families.

Edmonton – Home Visitation (Appendix 4)

The Edmonton Region Home Visitation Initiative will be an umbrella organization for a network of existing home visitation programs that will serve families in Edmonton. The expanded regional program will provide intensive home visitation services to approximately 300 additional families than are currently reached through existing programs (based on 14 new FTE home visitors with an approximate annual caseload of 20 families each).

Edmonton – Head Start (Appendix 5)

The goals of this component are to:

- increase the number of Head Start spaces;
- provide health services for the increased spaces;
- increase the outreach component;
- develop a Head Start Daycare Partnership.

Within each agency involved in the Head Start partnership families will have access to regular parent education and support groups in addition to support through outreach services. The focus is on supporting parents in their role of ensuring their child’s best possible physical, mental and social development.

In each agency the children’s educational program will include preschool educational programming in accordance with Alberta Learning standards and requirements. This will include an early childhood development approach with qualified teaching staff (one teacher and one or more teacher assistants) and small classes (15 to 16 children). A number of additional services will be available to ensure early identification and treatment of educational, health, or social-emotional needs and to provide support and information to the families. These services will include speech-language pathology, psychological assessment and consultation, mental health, health screening and follow-up (vision, hearing, height, weight and dental) and other services as necessary. This service may also reduce the instances of ‘service shopping’, thereby reducing the overall costs to the health and social services systems (Dr. Gina Browne, personal communication 2002).

Edmonton – Multi-cultural Initiatives (Appendix 6)

The goals of this component are to provide:

- cultural brokering support to refugee families for 368 families in 7 communities involving cultural brokers (One-to-one holistic support, connecting families to

relevant services & community resources, developing culturally & linguistically relevant parenting information and facilitating parenting groups.);

- integrated multi-disciplinary professional support to children at risk from the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. This will provide a focused and integrated professional support to children who have experienced traumatic events in their home country. The multi-disciplinary team of Securing Hopeful Futures includes a chartered psychologist trained in post-traumatic stress disorder, an art therapist, and computer instructor and group facilitator;
- community-based parent and children programs. The plan will also support programs geographically accessible to where most community members live. These programs will include family-based parenting programs such as early literacy classes, bicultural parenting, Rhymes that Bind etc. It will also organize informal gatherings appropriate to the cultural context of the community.

Edmonton – Childcare/Full Day Head Start (Appendix 7)

This initiative proposes to develop a model of Head Start child care that provides additional learning and family supports to at risk children and their families in child care and family day home settings. In keeping with the Alberta Response Model, it is preventive in orientation, connecting children and families with timely community supports, thereby enhancing the possibility of early identification and response to developmental delay and family crisis. Seven pilot sites within the existing community of service providers will be served by resource teams consisting of a social worker, early learning coordinator and early childhood worker to provide enhanced supports to children and families, and the child care program.

Criteria for selection include:

- programs with 40 children or more in regular attendance;
- at least 75% of those children in receipt of child care subsidy;
- Aboriginal children attending the program; a mix of high, high-medium and low priority centres for comparison;
- must be in a geographic area with high risk populations. These are Northeast Edmonton, Central Edmonton, West Edmonton and Millwoods.

One child care program will be provided with the resources to implement a full day Head Start program for all children in attendance. The program will demonstrate a willingness to follow the Head Start model as closely as possible, by integrating Head Start programming and family supports into the framework and full day routines of a child care setting. Assessment of developmental outcomes in all settings will be aligned with existing Head Start programs. The remaining six programs will receive supports on a half-time basis.

Child and Family Resource Centres (Appendix 8)

Family Resource Centres have the capacity to utilize a range of community resources to promote and support children, youth, adults, families and community. The activities for these Centres are driven by local needs and are sensitive to diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. This initiative will be supported by agencies that work with a holistic approach

to provide programs that are family centered, and support principles that focus on prevention and the promotion of the individual's well being.

As there is not one single model of a family resource program nor are there specific program components required, the committee decided to focus on respite care that is provided to the children and families within the Centre's own clientele. Based on the limited dollars available for the initiative it was decided that there would be two pilot sites. As well, programs look different in each agency, so it was decided that one additional agency would receive an Outreach Worker.

Regional Evaluation (Appendix 9)

The goal of Alberta's Early Childhood Development Initiative is to provide a range of health, social and learning programs and services for parents, families and children from preconception to age six, to ensure that children get the best start in life. Under the Early Childhood Development Initiative five particular areas have been identified: Home Visitation, Child Care, Head Start, Family Resource Centres and Multi-Culturalism. The committee's task is to:

- develop and implement a framework/model for evaluation of the ECD Initiative;
- ensure appropriate evaluations are in place for all components of the ECD initiatives.

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

The Regional ECD Initiative has been planned within the context of the Alberta Response Model, the Early Intervention Framework, the Home Visitation and FASD Initiatives and a strong collaborative of stakeholders working in the area of early childhood development. A flow chart showing the various initiatives all coming under the umbrella of Early Intervention/Early Years Initiatives is attached (Appendix 11). The ECDI Planning committee focused on an approach to allocating the dollars around existing programs, knowing that they are already well supported and have a strong evaluation accountability component that will demonstrate the greatest impact in the long term.

Building on the work of the Early Intervention Framework, the Home Visitation and FASD Initiatives, Ma'mōwe and the collaborative planning committee was ready to strategically plan for the ECD Initiative. Allocations were made to geographical areas that had been previously determined. Building on those well-established networks of service providers, services and partnerships we believe that we will maximize our new investments through our existing resources. The various sub committees were designed to provide the most comprehensive planning through the membership that provides a broad range of expertise and local community and program approach perspectives.

Implementation Dates

Some components of the Initiative are ready to begin July 1, 2002 and others will begin between July and September 2002 as they have resources in place.

Forecast Expenditures 2002-2003

Edmonton	\$2,556,495	
Leduc/Leduc County/Beaumont	\$106,961	
Strathcona County	\$168,083	
St. Albert	\$106,961	
Evaluation	\$326,500	
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$3,265,000</u>

ECD Initiative Partners & Contributions

The Regional Planning committee and all of the sub committees were made up of local representatives from FCS, Capital Health Authority and the jurisdictions' School Boards. All representatives were active participants in the committee work, often serving as chairs and co chairs in their respective areas. Existing infrastructures of various initiatives will also contribute resources to program expansions. Capital Health has been approached to provide financial support for some of the community and mental health services in the various programs. They and the Public and Catholic School Boards already contribute resources under existing initiatives and are extremely valued partners in ongoing consultation and planning. Members of the Success By Six Council of Partners have also been key consultants in the development of the planning process and in the development of various components.

Outcomes and Measures

An ECDI Evaluation Framework is being developed that will include a review of the Provincial Framework to ensure program outcomes are consistent with the outcomes identified by the Ministry and include the Alberta Response Model goals. The framework will also include the development of common program outcomes and outcome measures.

Provincial Outcome Measures

- Children are born healthy
- Reduction in child welfare caseloads
- Reduced likelihood of child abuse and neglect
- Improved positive parenting skills and supports
- Parents are more knowledgeable and confident about parenting a special needs child
- Children are better prepared for school
- Early identification and referral of families and children at risk and children with special needs

This ECD Initiative will serve approximately 2045 families in Region 10.

Other ECD Programs in Region 10

A more comprehensive list of preschool and ECD programs in Region 10 will be compiled through a Community Asset Mapping project that will be taking place over the next 5 months.

- Home Visitation programs
- Early Intervention funded programs
- Health for Two
- COWS (Bus on Wheels Program – Success By 6)
- Edmonton Early Intervention Program
- Head Start
- Parents Place – Toy Lending Library
- Nursery Rhymes/Story times
- Schools – R.E.A.C.H., P.U.F.F.,
- Robin Hood Association – e.g. Early Intervention (playgroups, parent support), summer program, Family support
- Strathcona County Health Centre e.g. New Mom’s Network, Young & Parenting Teens Group Library – e.g. Baby and Me, Fun for One, Tales for Two
- Ma’mōwe Child and Family Services/Community Adult Learning Council – parenting courses including ADD, Self-esteem, and Anger Management

FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Edmonton

- Well Communities Well Families
- First Steps
- Glenrose Rehabilitation
- FAS Learning Module

Appendix 1

Strathcona County

Planning Committee Members

Strathcona County Family and Community Services
Strathcona County Health Centre
Robin Hood Association
Ma’mōwe Child and Family Services Strathcona County Neighbourhood Centre

Key Investment Area:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program.

Brief Description of Initiative

The Strathcona County Early Childhood Initiative will:

- build a spectrum of resources based on community needs by working with existing programs and services, establishing linking mechanisms, and facilitating interagency collaboration to increase resources/services;
- coordinate/deliver services to targeted groups of children and support groups for parents;
- provide home visitation to families with special needs children who currently are not eligible for intensive home visitation services, and families with children 0 – 6 years of age.

An Early Childhood Resource Worker supervised by Family and Community Services will:

- provide supports to children (age 0-6) and their families who are at-risk and ineligible for existing services (i.e. their needs ‘fall through the cracks’ of existing services);
- explore and assess the need for an early head start type program, family literacy programs, parent-child resource centres, and other services for parents and children in need;
- explore opportunities for a weekly parenting group at A Safe Place Women’s Shelter on topics such as child development and opportunities to observe positive child/adult role modeling. It is anticipated that this may also facilitate connectedness to the community and hopefully make it easier for women leaving the Shelter to reach out to community resources. It may be necessary to develop an enhanced child care component (or children’s program) in order that parents can be ‘freed up’ to participate in the program as currently the Shelter has limited resources for this;
- provide weekly group facilitation to YAPP (Young and Pregnant or Parenting – Teen Parents Program) in conjunction with other existing community supports (i.e. Home Visitation, Nurse).

A Special Needs Home Visitor supervised through Robin Hood Association will:

- develop a strong partnership with the Association. (Positioning this worker at Robin Hood Association allows for increased access to specialized resources and expertise);
- work with special needs children with disabilities such as developmental delays, autism, physical disabilities, or sensory impairments (Referenced from Ministry document);
- provide supports to special needs children (age 3½ - 6) and their families. Currently there is a gap as these children and families transition from the Early Intervention Program (Capital Health’s program for children age 0-3½). Transition support to education programs is also needed for some children and families. (i.e. REACH, PUFF). (Note: This service is NOT intended to duplicate or enhance baseline services currently provided through Early Intervention Health – including addressing waitlists. Such issues should be forwarded directly to Health for discussion on the use of their ECD allocated resources.)
- provide parenting groups / play groups that target this population;

- provide liaison/advocacy/training for child care settings accommodating special needs children.

This Special Needs Home Visitor is an integral part of the Home Visitor Team, which includes FCS Home Visitors and a Community Health Nurse, and will participate in weekly meetings and efforts to integrate services for children 0-6 yrs. Caseload is driven by demand. It is recognized that the other Home Visitation staff also have training and expertise in working with special needs children.

This component of the ECD Initiative will also provide enhancements to the existing Home Visitation Initiative that is delivered through Strathcona County Health Centre and Strathcona County Family and Community Services. An additional half time home visitor will provide intensive in-home services to families with children aged 0 to 6 years.

Other enhancements will be made to the program to allow for sustainability and lead to increased staff retention.

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

Community input indicates the target for this funding in Strathcona County should be used for enhancing parenting supports and parenting skills programs. The Connections Interagency Committee identified a number of service gaps. These gaps included services for families with special needs children without a dual diagnosis, families with pre-school children who would benefit from intensive home support, and groups for parents.

Additionally, the need to facilitate interagency collaboration to increase resources and services is an important component of this initiative.

Implementation Date **July 1, 2002**

Forecast Expenditures \$168,083

ECD Initiatives Partners and Contributions

Strathcona County Health Centre, Robin Hood Association, and Strathcona County Family and Community Services are contributing to this program by offering office space; administrative support; supervision; liaison and consultation.

Outcomes and Measures

Program outcomes and measures will be developed through the Regional ECDI Evaluation Framework.

This Program will serve approximately 95 Families.

The intensity of involvement with families will vary depending on which component of the service they access. Home Visitation provides a more intensive service so fewer families can

be served. The Early Childhood Resource Worker will facilitate groups, provide families with linkages and support to access existing resources, as well as focusing on interagency collaboration to identify and coordinate services around existing gaps.

Other ECD Programs in Strathcona County

Pre-schools – 11
Day home Agencies – 3
Playgroups – 6
Parents Place – Toy Lending Library
Nursery Rhymes/Story times
Schools – R.E.A.C.H., P.U.F.F.,
Robin Hood Association – e.g. Early Intervention (playgroups, parent support),
summer program, Family support
Strathcona County Health Centre e.g. New Mom’s Network, Young & Parenting
Teens Group Library – e.g. Baby and Me, Fun for One, Tales for Two
Ma’ mōwe Child and Family Services/Community Adult Learning Council –
parenting courses including ADD, Self-esteem, and Anger Management

There are no FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Strathcona County

Appendix 2

St. Albert

Planning Committee Members

St Albert FCSS
Capital Health Authority
Ma’ mōwe Child and Family Services
St Albert Parents’ Place
St Albert Protestant Schools
Greater St Albert Catholic Schools

Key Investment Areas:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program;
- enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs.

Brief Description of Initiative

We are proposing a combination Head Start program. It offers services to children in both a centre based setting and through intensive work with the child’s parents and family at home. The program will employ three staff members or two FTE’s and contract the services of a Psychologist, a Speech Therapist and an Occupational Therapist. It is our intention to comply with the Head Start standards developed in Ma’ mōwe Capital Region. The Head Start

program delivers a comprehensive and high quality service designed to foster healthy development in low-income families. The program provides a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition and parenting.

There are five objectives of the Head Start Program:

- enhance children's growth and development;
- strengthen families as the primary nurturers of their children;
- provide children with educational, health and nutritional services;
- link children and their families to needed community services;
- ensure well-managed programs that involve parents in decision-making.

The Program will employ child development principles that form the foundation of every Head Start program. It must also reflect the families and community it serves. The Head Start curriculum is a written plan that includes the following:

- goals and objectives for children's development and learning;
- sound child development principles and experiences or activities to meet the goals;
- roles of staff and parents;
- materials, space, and equipment necessary for optimal development and learning.

The goals describe what competencies we want children to develop. While each child is unique, there are some all-encompassing goals for children in Head Start. They are to:

- develop positive nurturing relationships with adults and peers;
- develop a sense of trust and security;
- identify and solve problems;
- express thoughts and feelings;
- think critically;
- increase self- confidence;
- respect the feelings and rights of others;
- use creativity and imagination;
- work independently and with others;
- develop literacy, numeracy, reasoning, problem solving and decision making skills that form a foundation for school readiness.

Although the overall curriculum is planned for a group of children the plan should be individualized to support each child's rate of development, interests, temperament, language, cultural background and learning style.

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

St Albert does not currently have a Head Start program. St Albert Parents' Place Early Childhood Outreach Coordinator as well as other social service agencies and the school system identified a need for one in 2001.

Implementation Dates July 1, 2002 to September 1, 2002

Forecast Expenditures \$106,961

ECD Initiative Partners and Contributions

St Albert FCSS
Capital Health Authority
Ma'mōwe Child and Family Services
St Albert Parents' Place
St Albert Protestant Schools
Greater St Albert Catholic Schools

The partners will form the selection committee, assist with recruiting families and maintaining a waiting list. They will continue to be a resource and play an active role in the hiring of the program staff.

Outcomes and Measures

The St Albert Head Start program plans to work in conjunction with the existing Head Start programs in Edmonton with respect to outcome measures and program standards. We plan to take part in the evaluation conducted by Community Services Consulting Ltd through the Regional ECDI Evaluation Framework.

This program will serve approximately 15 families.

Other ECD Programs in St. Albert

There are two programs in St Albert. One is with the Greater St Albert Catholic Schools and the other is with St Albert Association of People with of Disabilities.

There are no FASD (FAS/FAE) programs in St. Albert.

Appendix 3

Leduc, Leduc County, Beaumont

Planning Committee Members:

City of Leduc FCSS
County of Leduc FCSS
Blackgold Regional School Division

St. Thomas Aquinas School Division
Leduc- Strathcona Services for Children
Beaumont Child Care Centre
Family Connections
Capital Health
Ma'mōwe – Leduc Office
Robin Hood Association
Town of Beaumont FCSS

Key Investment Areas:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program;
- enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs.

Brief Description of Initiative

The Early Childhood Development Initiative will provide enhanced support and skill development to all sectors of childcare and preschool providers and parents of children 0 – 6 years. As well, early identification of at risk families and gaps in services will be identified within the service area – Leduc City, County, Beaumont, Calmar, Thorsby, Warburg and New Sarepta. The Initiative will include 2.0 FTEs.

Goals:

- to provide enhanced ECD programming in Child Care – preschool centers based on best practices that are child and family focused;
- to enhance parenting supports and parents knowledge regarding the needs of their children ages 0 – 6;
- to provide early identification of “at risk” children and families.

Activities of the Initiative:

- recruit and hire two Early Childhood Development Liaison Workers;
- link with child care providers, preschool teachers to determine training needs;
- provide training opportunities to child care providers and parents;
- provide training in detection of abuse and neglect and ensure connection with family violence service providers;
- act as a resource in identifying “at risk children / families” through the child care and preschool centres, community resources /agencies, Health, Children’s Services;
- provide assessment and support to identified “at risk” child/families;
- participate on case management or service delivery teams as required;
- provide referrals and support linkages to community resources;
- develop partnerships to oversee and manage the ECD program.

Appendix 4

Edmonton – Home Visitation

Planning Committee Members:

Capital Health Authority
Health for Two
Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
Regional Coordinator for Home Visitation
Success by Six
Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child and Family Services
New Parents Association
Ben Calf Robe Society
Boyle Street Co-op and Bissell Centre
Terra Association
Grant MacEwan Early Childhood Development Program
Multicultural Health Brokers
Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre
City of Edmonton FCSS

Key Investment Area:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program.

Brief Description of Initiative

The Edmonton Region Home Visitation Initiative will be an umbrella organization for a network of existing home visitation programs that will serve families in Edmonton. The expanded regional program will provide intensive home visitation services to approximately 300 additional families than are currently reached through existing programs (based on 14 new FTE home visitors with an approximate annual caseload of 20 families each).

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

All of the existing home visitation programs were developed in response to real gaps in the type and level of service that was available to new parents and young families. Each home visitation program conducted its own needs assessment and identified gaps in their geographical area or the demographic population they target. All identified the need for increased intensive, long-term home visitation programs. Successful home visitation programs in the U.S., including Healthy Families, Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start, have shown that intensive, long-term home visitation programs can make a significant difference for parents and children in families facing the greatest challenges. Thus, the home visitation programs initiated in Edmonton represent a new way of working with at risk families to achieve better family and child outcomes.

Implementation Date:	July 1, 2002
Forecast Expenditures	\$850,000

ECD Initiatives Partners and Contributions

Capital Health Authority – part of a nursing position and Co-Chair of HV Steering Committee

CASA

Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

Ben Calf Robe Society

Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre

Multicultural Health Brokers

New Parents Association

Terra Association

Boyle Street Co-op and Bissell Centre

Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation – Early Head Start Program

Outcomes and Measures

Program outcomes and measures will continue to be developed through the Regional HV and ECD Evaluation Framework Plan and will build on some of the following outcome measures:

- children and parents are connected with community resources;
- children will have healthy growth and development;
- parents will develop positive parent-child interactions;
- families will develop increased structure, stability and routing in their environments;
- families get culturally relevant health, infant care and parenting information;
- decreased isolation and increased feelings of support.

Each agency will be responsible for administration of the following measurement tools to assess family needs and promote the outcomes established by the province:

- Maternal Social Support Index;
- Child Development Inventory;
- Carey Infant Temperament Inventory;
- DISC, Denver or Nippissing.

The scores and interpretations will be tracked on the HOMES system where aggregate data can be collected and used to further improve service delivery in the future.

This program will serve approximately 300 families.

Other Home Visitation and ECD Programs FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Edmonton

Health for Two

First Steps

COWS

Edmonton Early Intervention Program

Head Start and Early Head Start

Well Communities Well Families

Glenrose Rehabilitation

FAS Learning Module

First Steps – Catholic Social Services

Appendix 5

Edmonton – Head Start

Planning Committee Members

ABC Head Start
Oliver School Centre for Children
Atonement Home
Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre
Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
Ben Calf Robe Society
Success by Six
Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child & Family Services
Grant MacEwan College

Key Investment Areas:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program;
- enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs.

Brief Description of Initiative

Head Start is a comprehensive preschool and family support program for low-income families. Head Start provides an early childhood education program (in accordance with Alberta Learning Guidelines), health services program (dental, medical and mental health assessment and treatment or referral) and a social services program which includes parent support and learning opportunities. Parent involvement is facilitated and promoted in all aspects of Head Start. The Head Start ECDI funds will be used to increase the number of head start spaces available, increase the outreach support available to families requesting and requiring a more intense service and to support the development of a full-day head start program.

Within each agency families will have access to regular parent education and support groups in addition to support through outreach services with the focus on supporting parents in their role of ensuring their child's best possible physical, mental and social development. This will be achieved by providing regular parent education and support groups, outreach support services, facilitating the family's development of a community support network, and encouraging parent involvement in their child's educational program. Each outreach worker will provide this service to approximately 30 families.

In each agency the children's educational program will include preschool educational programming in accordance with Alberta Learning standards and requirements. This will include an early childhood development approach with qualified teaching staff (one teacher and one or more teacher assistants) and small classes (15 to 16 children). A number of additional services will be available to ensure early identification and treatment of educational, health, or social-emotional needs and to provide support and information to the families.

These services will include speech-language pathology, psychological assessment and consultation, mental health, health screening and follow-up (vision, hearing, height, weight and dental) and other services as necessary.

The Program will offer:

- 3 classes non-aboriginal Head Start (a total of 47 children and their families);
- Teacher: 1.5 FTE;
- Teacher assistant: 3 FTE ;
- Speech-language pathologist: .75 FTE;
- Outreach worker: 1.5 FTE ;
- 2 classes Aboriginal Head Start (total of 30 children and families);
- Teacher: 1 FTE;
- Teacher assistant: 2 FTE;
- Speech-language pathologist: .5 FTE;
- Outreach worker: 1 FTE.

Health services provide families and children with early identification and follow-up of any health concerns. This service also provides ready access to health services and information that the families would otherwise be unable to access (i.e., due to lack of knowledge of how to access the service, lack of transportation, etc.). Early identification, follow-up and education about health reduce the costs associated with delaying access to these services when the health concern has become acute. This service may also reduce the instances of 'service shopping', thereby reducing the overall costs to the health and social services systems (Dr. Gina Browne, personal communication 2002). This will be provided through the following positions:

- Mental health: 1.9 FTE;
- Nurse: .4 FTE;
- Dental Hygiene: .3 FTE;
- Nursing Assistant: .3 FTE;
- Psychologist: .15 FTE.

The goal of the outreach positions is to increase our capacity to successfully help families assess their needs and access services that will build upon their individual and family strengths to meet their own needs. This is achieved through the following activities: community outreach, recruitment and enrolment, family needs assessment, provide information about community resources and how to access them, referrals, assistance and support in crisis situations (i.e., food bank visits, working with child welfare) and advocacy for the family and child. This will be provided through four, full-time Outreach Worker positions.

Head Start Daycare Partnership - \$50,000 was allocated to support the pilot of a full-day head start program. See the Child Care Committee proposal for further details.

and Ben Calf Robe Society will provide the administrative support (i.e., supervision, clerical) and infrastructure (i.e., communication systems, office space) to support provision of these programs.

Capital Health Authority – Public Health, Child and Adolescent Services Agency (CASA) and the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital will be contracted to provide health and mental health services to children and families involved in the Head Start programs and will provide administrative and infrastructure support to their staff.

Outcomes and Measures

To be determined by the ECDI Evaluation Framework, however Head Start programs have a number of child and family measures currently in place that would provide the required information.

This Program will serve approximately 77 families.

Other ECD and Head Start Programs

Existing Head Start Programs
Home Visitation
Family Resource Centres
Quality Child Care pilot
Multi-Cultural ECDI.

FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Edmonton

Well Communities Well Families
First Steps
Glenrose Rehabilitation
FAS Learning Module

Appendix 6

Edmonton – Multicultural ECDI

Planning Committee Members

Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
Catholic Social Services
Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Cambodian Canadian Friendship Society
Canadian Friendship Association
Community Representatives from the Eritrea, Somali, Sudanese, Afghani and Congolese communities

Key Investment Area:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program.

Brief Description of Initiative

Main components:

1. Cultural brokering support to refugee families for 368 families in 7 communities involving 3.5 FTE for cultural brokers (One-to-one holistic support, connecting families to relevant Relevant services & community resources, developing culturally & linguistically relevant parenting information and facilitating parenting groups.)
2. Integrated multi-disciplinary professional support to children at risk from the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. This will provide a focused and integrated professional support to children who have experienced traumatic events in their home country. The multi-disciplinary team of Securing Hopeful Future includes a chartered psychologist trained in post-traumatic stress disorder, an art therapist, and computer instructor and group facilitator.
3. Community-based parent and children programs. The plan will also support programs geographically accessible to where most community members live. These programs will include family-based parenting programs such as early literacy classes, bicultural parenting, Rhymes that Bind etc. It will also organize informal gatherings appropriate to the cultural context of the community.

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

The diversity of immigrant and refugee population can be described in their pre-migration experience that influences their survival and adaptation in a new environment. Many immigrants who come from impoverished countries voluntarily migrate to seek better opportunities for themselves and their families in Canada. The complexity of the refugee experience starts from pre-migration conditions of torture and trauma, involuntary departure from their home country and adaptation to an entirely new culture and environment. There are profound issues arising from these experiences and most often impact the health and well being of families and children. It is within this context that we need to frame early childhood development as parents and children struggle to survive and adapt to a new culture.

The initiative stresses the need to implement an integrated community-based approach to address early childhood developmental needs as well as concerns in immigrant and refugee communities to foster resilient children & families.

Implementation Dates August 1, 2002

Forecast Expenditures \$256,000

ECD Initiatives Partners and Contributions

Catholic Social Services
Mennonite Centre for Newcomers – groups and space
ASSIST – groups and space
Kurdish Friendship Association
Somali Friendship Association
Multi-cultural Health Brokers – program infrastructure

Outcomes and Measures

Program outcomes and measures will continue to be developed through the Regional HV and ECD Evaluation Framework Plan, and building on some of the following outcome measures:

- children and parents are connected with community resources;
- children will have healthy growth and development;
- parents will develop positive parent-child interactions;
- families will develop increased structure, stability and routing in their environments;
- families get culturally relevant health, infant care and parenting information;
- decreased isolation and increased feelings of support.

Each agency will be responsible for administration of the following measurement tools to assess the family needs and promote the outcomes set out by the province.

- Maternal Social Support Index
- Child Development Inventory
- Carey Infant Temperament Inventory
- DISC, Denver or Nippissing.

The scores and interpretations will be tracked on the HOMES system where aggregate data can be collected and used to further service delivery in the future.

This Program will serve approximately 368 Families.

Other Multicultural ECD Programs

ASSIST Chinese Nobody's Perfect
New Parents Home Visitation

FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Edmonton

Well Communities Well Families
First Steps
Glenrose Rehabilitation
FAS Learning Module

Appendix 7

Edmonton Childcare/Full Day Head Start

Planning Committee Members

Grant MacEwan College
Success By 6
Capital Health Authority
Success By 6
Community University Partnership U of A
United Way of the Capital Region
Edmonton Public School Board
Oliver School Centre for Children
Ben Calf Robe Society
City of Edmonton FCSS
Ma'mōwe Child & Family Services Authority

Key Investment Areas:

- enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs.

Brief Description of Initiative

This initiative proposes to develop a model of Head Start childcare that provides additional learning and family supports to at risk children and their families in childcare and family day home settings. In keeping with the Alberta Response Model, it is preventive in orientation, connecting children and families with timely community supports, thereby enhancing the possibility of early identification and response to developmental delay and family crisis.

Seven pilot sites within the existing community of service providers will be served by resource teams consisting of a social worker, early learning coordinator and early childhood worker to provide enhanced supports to children and families, and the child care program. Criteria for selection include programs with 40 children or more in regular attendance, at least 75% of those children in receipt of day care subsidy, Aboriginal children attending the program, a mix of high, high-medium and low priority centres for comparison, and in geographic areas with high risk populations: Northeast Edmonton, Central Edmonton, West Edmonton and Millwood's.

The FTE compliment includes four resource teams of three staff as outlined above, and a project manager.

One childcare program will be provided with the resources to implement a full day Head Start program for all children in attendance. The program will demonstrate a willingness to follow the Head Start model as closely as possible, by integrating Head Start programming and family supports into the framework and full day routines of a child care setting.

Assessment of developmental outcomes in all settings will be aligned with existing Head Start programs. The remaining six programs will receive supports on a half-time basis.

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

One of the critical challenges in providing enhanced supports to early childhood programs in child care centres and family day homes is the lack of organizational infrastructure. This project is designed to create a cost effective service delivery infrastructure at the community level, by linking existing services to a system of enhanced supports.

Implementation Dates July 1, 2002 – September 1, 2002.

Forecast Expenditures \$450,000

ECD Initiative Partners and Contributions

Success by Six and ECCCC – office space
Oliver School Centre for Children – Administrative support
Grant MacEwan College ECD Program – consultation
Child Care Services,
Ma'mōwe – consultation, subsidy, assistance from licensing
Capital Health – consultation, possible assistance from primary health teams
Edmonton Public School Board – consultation
City of Edmonton Community & Family Services – consultation
Success by Six – consultation, advocacy
Community University Partnership – consultation

Outcomes and Measures

Outcomes and measures will be developed through the Regional ECD Evaluation Framework Plan.

This program will serve approximately 475 families.

Other Childcare Initiatives

Community Options
Jasper Place Child & Family Resource Centre
Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
Candora
Amity Dickensfield

FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Edmonton

Well Communities Well Families
First Steps
Glenrose Rehabilitation
FAS Learning Module

Appendix 8

Edmonton – Child and Family Resource Centres

Planning Committee Members:

CANDORA Society of Edmonton
Dickensfield Amity House
Jasper Place Child & Family Resource Society
Metis Child & Family Services Society
Millwoods Patch Place
Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
Red Road Healing Society
Unity Centre of North East Edmonton

Key Investment Areas:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program.

Brief Description of Initiative

Family Resource Centres have the capacity to utilize a range of community resources to promote and support children, youth, adults, families and community. The activities for these Centres are driven by local needs and are sensitive to diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. This initiative will be supported by agencies that work with a holistic approach to provide programs that are family centered, and support principles that focus on the prevention and the promotion of the individual's well being.

As there is not one single model of a family resource program nor are there specific program components required, the committee decided to focus on the respite care that is provided to the children and families within the Centre's own clientele. Based on the minimal dollars available for the initiative it was decided there would be two pilot sites. As well, programs look different in each agency, so it was decided that one additional agency would receive an Outreach Worker.

The Outreach Worker position was chosen to be attached to the Dickensfield Amity House Teaching Tots program that also focuses on respite care.

The two pilot sites chosen for the initiative were CANDORA Society and Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre.

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

It is very exciting that Family Resource Centres were able to receive funding that was flexible enough to be able to reflect the benefits of using a resource centre model. While there are many benefits that are derived from this type of model and programming, the area of respite care has been one that has not held much credibility in the past. Research is now

showing that respite programs are in fact having a positive outcome for families. Depending on the delivery method of the program, we can see many different positive effects for the participating individuals.

The committee used the following defining characteristics for family resource centres:

- neighbourhood based and easily accessible to children, youth, and families or their caregivers;
- centres are child, youth, adult and family oriented. Drop-in programs are provided along with family events and activities;
- early childhood development programs must allow children to engage in play-based, problem solving learning with other children and adults;
- centres, where possible, should have childcare services and before and after school programs;
- parenting programs must support parents and other caregivers in all aspect of child development. Workshops, discussion groups are available on a variety of topics (other than parent education);
- centres should have toys, other equipment and resource libraries;
- centres have nutrition education groups and community kitchens;
- centres are a place to have fun and get or give help without strings or stigma;
- centres are a gathering place for people, information dissemination, and services;
- centres must have a strong focus on safety, accessibility, social support, meeting the basic needs of individuals, children, youth, families and the community, mutual respect, community enhancement, positive modeling and include skill and knowledge development;
- centres must include individual and family based outreach and follow up support, and referral;
- centres have an overriding emphasis on the common good for all.

Implementation Dates July 1, 2002

Forecast Expenditures \$200,000

ECD Initiatives Partners and Contributions

CANDORA Society
Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
Dickensfield Amity House

Outcomes and Measures

This component will be using a regional evaluation approach. While keeping in alignment with the provincial required outcomes, there has been discussion around some short and long term outcomes that will be developed in each project as well.

The two overall outcomes we will be focusing on are:

- increasing positive functioning of parents and families;
- decreasing the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

This Program will serve approximately 150 families.

Other Child and Family Resource or ECD Initiatives

Jasper Place Child and Family Resource Society
 Metis Child and Family Services Society
 Millwoods Patch Place
 Red Road Healing Society
 Unity Centre of North East Edmonton

FASD (FAS/FAE) Programs in Edmonton

Well Communities Well Families
 First Steps
 Glenrose Rehabilitation
 FAS Learning Module

There are a number of programs reflecting early intervention practices within the geographical boundaries in which these three projects are located. Central and northeast area of the city has programs such as Healthy Families, Early Start, Early Head Start, Head Start, Healthy Beginnings, Health for Two and a number of pre-school programs both in schools and in the communities at large.

Appendix 9

Regional Evaluation

Geographic area served: Edmonton, St. Albert, Leduc, Leduc County, Beaumont, Strathcona County

Planning Committee Members

Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
 Capital Health Authority
 Ma'mōwe Capital Region Child & Family Services Authority
 Leduc FCSS
 St. Albert FCSS
 Strathcona FCSS
 ABC Head Start
 Grant MacEwan College
 Multi-cultural Health Brokers
 CUP, Community University Partnership
 Native Counselling Services
 (NB: representation from each initiative area)

Key Investment Areas:

- enhanced parenting supports and parenting skills program;
- enhanced quality programming in childcare settings and pre-school programs.

Brief Description of Initiative

The goal of Alberta's Early Childhood Development Initiative is to provide a range of health, social and learning programs and services for parents, families and children from preconception to age six, to ensure that children get the best start in life. Under the EC DI, five particular areas have been identified: Home Visitation, Child Care, Head Start, Family Resource Centres and Multi-Culturalism. The committee was to:

- develop and implement a framework/model for evaluation of the ECD Initiative;
- ensure appropriate evaluations are in place for all ECD initiatives.

The committee identified established evaluation mechanisms in the area of Home Visitation, Head Start and Multi-Cultural programs. A decision was made to build on those existing structures. The committee developed the following Evaluation Plan.

1. Contract with Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family Consulting (CRILF) to develop an evaluation framework for the EC DI that would include the following components:
 - a process for reviewing all existing evaluations;
 - the development of an outcome evaluation framework and measurement tools for the initiatives that can be implemented and eventually analyzed by in-house program staff (build in house evaluation capacity);
 - a review of the Provincial Framework to ensure program outcomes are consistent with the outcomes identified by the Ministry (Within the Alberta Response Model);
 - an analysis of the data collection required;
 - exploration of the possibility of an amalgamation of existing and new program databases;
 - the skills and training required by staff to implement the evaluation;
 - the cost of the evaluation, including potential start-up costs.

All ECD Initiatives will be evaluated and include the following:

- a description of what the program is doing in the community, to determine if the program is functioning in accordance with the regional plan;
- identification of areas of strength & weaknesses in partnership development, governance structures & program operations;
- all evaluations should be designed to gain, to the extent possible, evidence on all of the seven outcomes identified by Ma'Mōwe;

- measures that indicate the changes made by the programs and participants;
- assessment of how well the goals & objectives are being achieved for children 0 – 6 years of age;
- evaluations should be conducted so as to take advantage of existing data and information that have been collected already, and of data collection systems that are already in place;
- evaluations should be designed and conducted with agencies, communities, and other units to increase their capacity for useful and informative evaluations in the future;
- cost savings analysis of integrated services;
- evaluation should be designed to provide as much insight and new information as possible about the delivery and effectiveness of programs.

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family Consulting (CRILF) project proposal must provide an outline for the development of an Evaluation Framework for the Early Childhood Development Initiatives that includes the following components:

- a) project evaluations in the one or more of the five initiatives;
 - b) coordination that would (a) oversee project evaluations to the extent necessary that guidelines are followed, (b) design and conduct project evaluations for some initiatives and (c) provide a “meta-evaluation” or integration across evaluations.
2. Set aside a small amount of the Evaluation funding to perform research projects in partnership with the Community University Partnership (CUP).
 3. Establish a standing Evaluation Sub Committee to oversee the framework development and implementation.

Committee Responsibilities:

- monitor program implementation, including adherence to provincial goals as well as the Alberta Response Model;
- ensure ongoing contact (through representation of this committee) with other projects;
- liaise with evaluators around contracted jobs;
- review draft evaluator reports and provide feedback;
- develop budget requirements;
- interview and select any evaluators necessary for the projects;

Meetings will be held quarterly, or at the call of the chair and membership will include the following organizations. Others may join if they wish.

- Home Visitation

- Head Start
- Daycare
- Multiculturalism
- Child & Family Resource Centre
- Capital Health Authority
- Ma'mōwe Capital Region Authority for Children Services
- FCSS – Strathcona
- FCSS – St Albert
- FCSS – Leduc

Rationale for Choosing This Approach

The committee felt that a strong evaluation component was critical to accountability and to the success of the Initiatives. However, limited funds allocated to the area of evaluation determined to a great extent the planning process. After much deliberation it was decided that Joe Hornick and the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) should oversee the ECDI Evaluation Framework development and implementation for the following reasons:

- Joe Hornick and the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) has been working with the Healthy Families project since its inception and in a partnership with the Canadian Outcomes Institute, (formerly Homes). CRILF was the successful candidate in a Home Visitation Initiatives Evaluation Framework tender process;
- CRILF has been working with the Children's Services Ministry in the area of outcome measures;
- the Multi-Cultural Initiatives has been working with another evaluator as well as with CRILF within the Home Visitation Initiative. This would be an opportunity to link;
- Through involvement in the Healthy Families and Home Visitation work CRILF and its staff have gained a great deal of knowledge in the area of early childhood issues;
- CRILF can easily build on the work already completed through the Home Visitation Initiatives Evaluation Framework;
- CRILF is very familiar with the Region as it pertains to early years initiatives and issues.

The committee felt that based on the lack of responses received from Evaluation Consultants through the Home Visitation Framework Tender and for the above named reasons, Joe Hornick and the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family would be the best choice to provide the most economical, streamlined, efficient and effective evaluation support to the ECD Initiative. CRILF will be invited to submit a Proposal and based on its content, excellence and understanding of the Framework, a decision will be determined around engaging CRILF as the overall evaluator.

Implementation Dates **July 1, 2002**

Forecast Expenditures \$326,500

ECD Initiatives Partners and Contributions

Partnership contributions will be more clearly outlined when a review of the participating programs and the framework development has been completed.

Outcomes and Measures

Each area was allocated a proportionate amount of dollars to enhance or build new initiatives that would speak to the following outcomes:

- children are born healthy;
- reduction in child welfare caseloads;
- reduced likelihood of child abuse and neglect;
- improved positive parenting skills and supports;
- parents are more knowledgeable and confident about parenting a special needs child;
- children are better prepared for school;
- early identification and referral of families and children at risk and children with special needs.