

Improving Service Delivery for Families: *BC Parenting Centres*

Overview

Services for families in BC are fragmented. We are proposing that the Ministry of Children and Family Development and other ministries work with stakeholders including the BC Association of Family Resource Programs to effectively link early child development programs and other family development services to provide a cost effective continuum of support services for BC families with young children, particularly those with vulnerabilities.

Structure

This plan recommends building on existing family service agencies as designated *BC Parenting Centres* to function as service hubs in approximately 80 locations in the province. *BC Parenting Centres* will be home to a service continuum that includes Family Resource Programs and a spectrum of other family development services. Parents will have access to vital information / support and when necessary referral and health services to mitigate vulnerabilities. Through partnership / service agreements with a range of community agencies including but not limited to: **Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Neighbourhood Houses, Pregnancy Outreach Programs, CAPC/CPNP, Strong Start Early Learning Centres, Child Care Resource and Referral Programs, Neighbourhood Learning Hubs, Community Health, Infant Development Programs and Aboriginal Infant Development Programs**, *BC Parenting Centres* will offer onsite services or serve as portals through which families can access services in several communities within a geographic region. For example, a *BC Parenting Centre* could offer parent education or informal counselling delivered in a StrongStart Early Learning Centre.

BC Parenting Centres must provide five core research-based services either independently or through partnerships with other community agencies. These include Family Support, Play-based Learning, Early Learning and Literacy, Parent Education and Learning, and Information and Referrals.

Sites

The BC Association of Family Resource Programs is proposing the development and implementation of a four-year plan to establish:

- 60 *BC Parenting Centres* located in communities throughout the province with particular emphasis on locations with low service and high need thresholds (e.g. Northern, Interior and Northern Vancouver Island regions).
- 20 *BC Parenting Centres* located in Aboriginal Friendship Centres throughout the province.

Quality Assurance

BC Parenting Centres will be centres of excellence that comply with province-wide operational and programming standards. Parents will have access to comprehensive, high quality, publicly accountable, community-based programs, services and supports. A provincial framework will ensure that all parents have access to similar types of services and the same standards of excellence.

Intended Outcomes

- An increase in the number of children and families who do not require family preservation services
- An increase in the overall number of parents who report improvements in parenting skills and knowledge of child development
- An increase in the number of Aboriginal parents and children who participate in early child development and early learning programs
- An increase in the number of early detection of children with special needs who are referred to appropriate services

Investment

\$300,000 annual funding for each *BC Parenting Centre*