

March 30, 2012

Deputy Minister, Stephen Brown
Ministry of Children and Family Development
PO Box 9721 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9S2

Dear Deputy Minister,

On behalf of the BC Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP-BC) we are pleased to respond to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) 2012/2013 – 2014/2015 Service Plan and offer our support. We are particularly pleased that the *“primary focus of the ministry is to support vulnerable children and their families using a client-centred approach to service delivery that builds on their existing resources and capacities”*.

FRP-BC supports the MCFD Objective 1.1 *Children and families are supported by a strong network of coordinated, family-centered, culturally relevant and responsive early childhood development and child care services.*

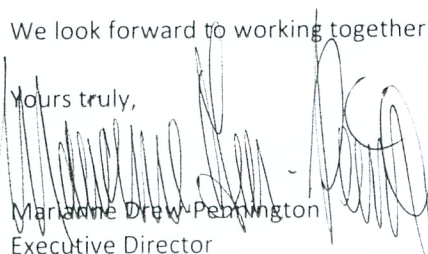
This Objective parallels the FRP-BC *Parenting Centre Plan* that *“recommends building on existing family service agencies to function as a service continuum that includes Family Resource Programs and a spectrum of other family development services. While open and available to all families in the community, BC Parenting Centres would focus their efforts on strengthening the most vulnerable families and supporting the healthy development of children most at risk of being in need of protection”*.

FRP-BC has joined with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and the Association of Neighbourhood House BC (ANHBC) to offer a collective voice for families. FRP-BC, BCAAFC and ANHBC represent over 300 agencies in communities throughout the province and the needs of thousands of families. Many of these agencies offer a continuum of individualized family development services.

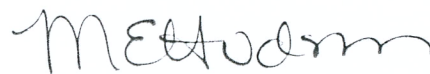
As provincial organizations with a long history and broad awareness of service delivery, we believe our collective voice can assist MCFD in the development and implementation of an ECD provincial framework. In partnership with BCAAFC and ANHBC, we will be forwarding you a detailed outline which we believe will assist in the development of this Framework.

We look forward to working together to build a continuum of ECD services for families in British Columbia.

Yours truly,



Marianne Drew-Pedington
Executive Director
BC Association of Family Resource Programs



Mimi Hudson
Board President
BC Association of Family Resource Programs

CC: Randi Mjolsness, Assistant Deputy Minister, MCFD, Integrated Policy and Legislation
Joan Easton, Executive Director, MCFD, Research, Evaluation & Accreditation
Paul Lacerte, Executive Director, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
Mamie Hutt-Temoana, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC