

Highlights of Strong, Safe and Supported A Commitment to BC's Children & Youth

The recent release of *Strong, Safe and Supported, A Commitment to BC's Children & Youth*, is a government-wide integrated framework for children and youth, developed on behalf of the Provincial Government and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

The framework outlines the expectations, outcomes and opportunities set by the Provincial government for children and youth in BC and represents a cross-ministry collaborative vision between the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Enhanced coordination is a primary characteristic of this long term initiative. Five Pillars have been identified as key characteristics, these are:

1. Prevention
2. Early Intervention
3. Intervention and Support
4. The Aboriginal Approach
5. Quality Assurance

The first pillar, Prevention, represents programs or actions which decrease the chance of vulnerability. Early Childhood Development and Early Years Programs and Initiatives are recognized under this first Pillar.

The Government's framework document features Family Resource Programs as a service to families to help them connect with other community members and parent support programs for parents with children aged birth to six and operating within five core service areas: **family support, play-based learning, early literacy and learning, parent education and information and referrals.**

Although described correctly, Family Resource Programs were not identified as one of the five key programs of the governments focus to continue and strengthen healthy child and family development. Instead, Family Resource Programs were mentioned under the broader program heading of Success by 6.

The five key programs which were identified are:

1. The *FRIENDS for Life* Program
2. Success by 6
3. StrongStart Learning Centres
4. Roots of Empathy
5. FASD Prevention Program
(Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder)

On June 9 & 10, Executive Director, Marianne Drew-Pennington attended a forum event hosted by MCFD, directly related to this framework document. Hundreds of stakeholders attended and connections with key government officials were established.

The FRP-BC office is confident that future communications with the three collaborative Ministries will be heard and recognition of Family Resource Programs will be placed within their own context.



A copy of *Strong, Safe and Supported, A Commitment to BC's Children and Youth*, can be found on the FRP-BC website at www.frpbc.ca/News & Events/Reports

Partnership with BCAA's Traffic Safety Foundation

Because the safety of all children in BC is very important, the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation's (TSF) **Boost BC** initiative, provided Family Resource Programs (FRP-BC members), Friendship Centres, Child Care Resource & Referral offices and similar organizations across the province with a significant number of booster seats. From the summer of 2007 to the spring of 2008, 4,000 booster seats were distributed to families in need all across BC. TSF and FRP-BC would like to take this opportunity to thank the FRP-BC membership for their participation in this initiative in ensuring that the seats provided make their way to the families in need within their community.

To help ensure that as many children as possible have the benefit of a proper child seat, BCAA's Traffic Safety Foundation has launched **A Perfect Match** and has allocated up to \$100,000 for this program. When a donation is made, BCAA/TSF will match the donation dollar for dollar, with these funds being used to purchase child car seats for contributing communities. The overwhelming positive feedback received from our membership has prompted the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation to partner with Family Resource Programs. Through **A Perfect Match** program, child car seats purchased by way of these matched contributions will be distributed primarily through Family Resource Programs two or three times a year.

The focus of the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation is child passenger safety. TSF has produced resources and information that you may find helpful when speaking with parents about child passenger safety. These resources can be ordered free of charge by calling 1-877-247-5551. When **A Perfect Match** child car seats are distributed, every recipient will also receive a packet of educational materials on the importance and proper use of child car seats.

For more information about **A Perfect Match** program and how your community can participate, contact Marg Deibert at marg.deibert@bcaa.com. If you have questions about the new laws regarding proper use of child car seats, call the Child Seat Info Line (toll free) at 1-877-247-5551 or visit TSF's website at www.ChildSeatInfo.ca. You can also link to the TSF website from the FRP-BC website at www.frpbc.ca/links.

We encourage you to share how the child car seats will be distributed with TSF. Letters of thanks regarding the booster seats distributed in 2007 and 2008 can be directed to:

BCAA's Traffic Safety Foundation

3020 Beta Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5G 4K4
marg.deibert@bcaa.com



LEAP BC™ Update from 2010 Legacies Now

Since March 2008, almost 1,000 people attended 45 LEAP BC™ one-day workshops in communities throughout the province. Feedback has been positive, and we look forward to the workshops starting up again in September.

For those unfamiliar with LEAP BC™ (Literacy, Education, Activity and Play), it's a 2010 Legacies Now program, developed in partnership with the province of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. This program helps provide children from birth to age five with a strong foundation in literacy, physical activity and healthy eating, through fun activities and play. LEAP BC™, which offers free resources for families, values the learning and bonding that happen when children and caregivers play together.

Free family resources from LEAP BC™ include MOVE™ (Move with Me from Birth to Three) and HOP™ (Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers). MOVE™, for families with children under the age of three, and HOP™, for families with children aged three to five, each contain 40 fun-filled activities incorporating physical activity, early language and literacy, and healthy eating.

For more information about these resources or the one-day community workshops, please contact LEAP BC at:

Email: LEAPBC@2010LegaciesNow.com

Website: www.2010LegaciesNow.com/LEAP_BC/



FRP-BC Staff Update

The BC Association of Family Resource Programs has hired Debbie Fairhurst as the new Administrative Assistant. Help us welcome her when calling into our office. Her email address is info@frpbc.ca

Debbie Jackson has been promoted to the position of Program / Member Services Coordinator. Debbie (DJ) Jackson's email address is debbie@frpbc.ca

Executive Director, Marianne Drew-Pennington's email address is marianne@frpbc.ca