



NEWS BULLETIN

Monthly news for Family Resource Program providers

Winter 2008

THE BC EARLY LEARNING FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Education, working with stakeholders and an advisory committee made up of various groups committed to early childhood development and education, are currently developing an Early Learning Framework that will help guide future planning and practice in Early Childhood programming in the province. The goal of this framework is to articulate the “vision, principles and key areas of learning for young children birth to five years, in BC”.

Focusing on four key areas of early learning (well being and belonging, exploration and creativity, languages and literacies, and social responsibility and diversity), the framework seeks to describe “a vision, principles, and areas of early learning that reflect most British Columbians’ aspirations for young children.” Once complete, the framework is intended to be implemented in diverse ways according to the specific needs of individual children, families, and communities and to provide a focal point for dialogue that will lead to the development of a “common language that supports enriched early learning experiences” for BC’s children.

Several organizations across the province have already made commitments to the framework including StrongStart BC which has made the decision to implement the framework in their staff training and program planning over the next year. In anticipation of the release of the final version on the document in early 2009, StrongStart staff are already being encouraged to use the Early Learning framework to guide their programming and to assist parents in reflecting on essential elements of their child's early learning and development.

As this framework will be guiding the development and delivery many new early childhood initiatives in the province, we encourage the staff of FRPs to begin familiarizing themselves with the core elements of the framework as well as the impact of its guidelines on their practice and programming.

While the Early Childhood Framework is currently under review with a new draft expected this spring, an earlier draft (April 2007) is available for review online at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts/elframework-draft.pdf>.

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

Beginning this month, renewing members will be given the opportunity to help support and build the FRP-BC endowment fund through an optional \$5.00 donation which can be made when you renew your association membership. We encourage you to consider donating the next time you renew as all of the money raised for the endowment goes directly back to our membership through our yearly Distinguished Service Awards. As the endowment fund grows through your continued support, FRP-BC will have the opportunity recognize the exemplary service that you, our members, provide to your communities in new and exciting ways.

PROGRAM/MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

The FRP-BC office is please to welcome a new addition to our team. James Hoskins will be taking over the Program/ Membership coordinator position from Emily who recently left to begin her maternity leave. James comes to the position with an extensive background in group facilitation, employment counselling, and research in the anthropology of British Columbia. As Program and Membership Coordinator he will be responsible for the numerous projects that the office currently has underway as well as gathering more in-depth data from our membership.

BC Association of Family Resource Programs

106 – 2590 Granville Street Vancouver, BC V6H 3H1
Tel: (604) 738.0068 Fax: (604) 738.0568 E-mail: info@frpbc.ca Web: www.frpbc.ca

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2007 BC Association of Family Resource Programs Annual General Meeting was a huge success and we would like to thank all of our members and guests for their participation. This year's speakers, the Honourable Linda Reid, Martha Lee-Blickstead, and Dr. Clyde Hertzman delivered engaging presentations and announced several exciting new opportunities and partnerships for the year ahead.

Minister Reid's presentation centered on the significance of Family Resource Programs and her ongoing political support of the services that FRPs provide while Ms. Lee-Blickstead provided an overview of her recent research at Ryerson University and articulated the fundamental importance of appropriate post-secondary education in effective staff training and service delivery.

Dr. Hertzman, recognizing the key role that FRPs play in early childhood development, focused his address on the building of new partnerships between Family Resource Programs and the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP). Foremost among these new partnerships is an in depth evaluation of Family Resource Programs across British Columbia. This research partnership will include the application of EDI (Early Development Instrument) mapping to FRPs with the goal of evaluating the effectiveness of current programming as well as the demography/capacity of the communities in which we work. Dr. Hertzman concluded his talk by reiterating his recognition of the importance of Family Resource Programs and committed himself to raising awareness of FRPs in his continuing work in early childhood development.

The winners of the 2007 distinguished service award were also announced at this year's AGM and we would like to congratulate Agassiz-Harrison Community Services for winning this year's Continuum of Service Award for their exemplary work in providing a continuum of services for families with young children. We would also like to congratulate Central Okanagan Family Resource Programs who were awarded the Commitment to Quality Award for their provision of quality services to families in their community.

CANADIAN RED CROSS FIRST AID TRAINING

The Canadian Red Cross is offering two upcoming first aid courses in the Vancouver area that may be of interest to FRP staff and the families you serve. An **Emergency Child Care First Aid** class (formerly ChildSafe First Aid) is scheduled for February 23rd at St. John's United Church in Vancouver for a \$90 fee. A **Babysitters in a Day** class is also being offered on several dates in late March at a cost of only \$50.

For those looking for group training sessions, Red Cross will bring their Emergency Child Care and Emergency First Aid classes to your facility if a group of 10 or more people are interested in registering.

For more information or to book group training sessions, contact Susan Cowan at 604-669-2546, Ext. 2 or by email at susancowan@telus.net.

FREE COMPUTERS FROM THE ELECTRONIC RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

For those seeking to upgrade or bring more computers into your programming, The Electronic Recycling Association, a non-profit group that provides recycled computers to organizations in need, may be an avenue to explore in order to obtain free computers for staff or families to use within your facility. The eligibility requirements are simply that the applicant must be a charitable or community organization, willing to place a link to www.era.ca on their website, provide pictures of the donated computers in use, provide references to other organizations with computers, and to promote ERA as much as possible in print and other advertising materials.

For more information on the Electronic Recycling Association or to apply for free computers visit the ERA website at www.era.ca.

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