

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

JUNE 2013

Hard to believe, 9 months ago, I had the privilege of attending my first CYC meeting as the Child and Youth Community Coordinator. It has been a very full few months of gaining knowledge, understanding and skills, as I have navigated my way through the business of the CYC.

Along with Agency Orientations, one of my first tasks, in accordance with the strategic plan, was to complete the "CYC Aboriginal Partnerships Document". This document became useful to Theresa Point as she collected data for the Aboriginal Youth Engagement project. My next project was co-ordinating the celebration and presentation at City Hall on National Children's Day. With the help of agencies represented on the Early Year's sub-committee, the event was a great success with the most children ever, in attendance. The CYC also got good media coverage as a result of the presentation to Council.

I was part of the working group for the CYC Consultation and one of the first tasks Rob Lees gave me was to ask the Honorable Steven Point to be a keynote speaker. I wasn't going to let him down. After knocking on his door a few times, I was able to secure him for our April event. Being part of the Consult working group and part of all of the sub-working groups kept me very busy and gave me much opportunity to promote the CYC. The CYC pens and magnets are part of the branding we have been working towards.

Once the CYC adopted the new logo, I worked with the graphic artist from City Life to create our CYC banner. I worked with our website creator to update the look of childand youth.com and through Annette Williams, have learned how to update events etc. on the website. During this time I was also working with Liz Lynch from the Progress to create our anniversary CYC insert. For B.C.'s first "Family Day" I put together the community engagement art project "As a Parent I want..." This project got much positive feedback and has also guaranteed us a spot in the mall for next year's "Family Day". Other projects include prettying up the Early Years Strategic Plan, updating the CYC Strategic Plan, creating the Chilliwack version of the "Success by 6" Brochure and a "CYC" brochure. I am part of the committees updating the "Child Development Guide" and the "Collaborative Practice Handbook."

Throughout the year I have attended relevant workshops and webinars which have been most helpful in increasing my knowledge and confidence in my role and as a Child and Youth Coordinator. In the Fall I received training as the Community EDI Trainer and was able to participate with Charlotte DeBruyn, the District EDI trainer in training new kindergarten teachers on how to administer the EDI. I have done presentations for Credit Unions to emphasize the importance and value in their partnership in regards to Success By 6. At the beginning of May I did a presentation at the regional Strong Start meeting on the topic of "Reaching our Vulnerable Families; Identifying the Barriers to Service". Also in May I prepared a power point for the Chilliwack Learning Community Society volunteer training session on Early Year's



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Vulnerability. I was part of the planning committee for "Healthy Kids Day" at the YMCA, and this past weekend participated at the very successful event. I sit on a number of committees local and regional, which has proven to be extremely valuable in acquiring and dispersing information to other committee members and agencies.

I recently learned of three communities in BC (North Shore, Richmond and Vernon) which have adopted a "Children's Charter of Rights" based on the UN Convention; the process in each of these communities being initiated by the Early Years Coordinator. The reports from these communities indicate that the process of engaging and informing their community was invaluable. Communities were forced to recognize such things as child poverty in their backyard and come up with plans on how to address this; businesses became cognizant of being "family friendly" and so on. My goal is to see Chilliwack work towards something similar and consequently create greater community support, awareness and more significance around child and youth programming and events like "National Child Day", "Challenge Day", "Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week" etc. It seems it ties in well with what City Council is working towards in their "Safe and Healthy Community" initiative. Along with a number of other projects, my hope is to use the "quieter" months of summer to research what these communities did and come up with a start plan for Chilliwack.

I am very grateful to have a position, serving our community of Chilliwack, that I thoroughly enjoy. I admire what each of the agencies represented at the CYC accomplish to support children, youth and their families and I especially respect each of you as I see the passion and the heart you have to see children, youth and their families be well and thrive. Thank you for the opportunities you have given me.