



COORDINATOR'S REPORT MAY 2013

April was a busy month filled with final preparations for our Annual Consultation. It was a pleasure working alongside the planning committee and all the extra people that got drawn into the work of Consultation planning. Distributing Consultation posters in the community gave me opportunity to speak with business owners, managers and people in our community. I did hand deliver invitations to the Liberal and NDP MLA candidates, as a way to make a connection with those who can affect policies. I was hoping they would participate in the Simulation Exercise. Patti Macahonic and Laurie Throness joined us for lunch and Mr. Throness remained to hear Honorable Steven Point speak. I hope that people got an opportunity to speak with them and ask questions or share concerns. It was very enjoyable for me on the day of the Consultation, to see participants thoroughly engaged in the speakers and activities. It truly was a successful day of learning and networking!

At the beginning of April, I attended the Eastern Regional CYC and HC meeting which was hosted by members from the Abbotsford CYC at UFV in Chilliwack. These meetings have proved to be very beneficial in sharing ideas and in collaboration; the most recent being regional support for a grant application by ACS to Health Canada for VYPER (Valley Youth Partnership for Engagement and Respect).

On April 10 I was given the opportunity to present information about the CYC to the Safe Communities Committee at City Hall. Unfortunately I was told the night before at 4:30 pm that I was on the next morning's agenda so I wasn't as prepared as I would have liked. But what I shared was well received, a lot of people on the committee having no idea what the CYC is, and I have been asked to do the same presentation for other groups.

This month I was given the opportunity to present the Early Years Strategic Plan to Early Family Literacy and they were able to determine how they can continue to support our Early Year's table.

On April 18 I participated in the Early Childhood Development Framework for Action webinar. The last provincial document was completed in 2003 and the plan is to have a new framework in place by June of this year. When it comes to Early Years, BC's vision is unclear and fragmented. ECD identity and services are not very strong in our province. One thought is to simplify and make the language around Early Childhood Development, consistent by calling everything "Early Years". An interesting point that was made is how governments act based on the values of the public who elects them. Public awareness is key in helping to bring necessary changes. According to HELP, high functioning tables, are those that have people with decision making authority.



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On May 5 I attended the strategic planning meeting of the committee which is working towards making Chilliwack "Baby Friendly". They are hoping to have a website and presentations promoting their campaign ready soon.

On May 6, I participated in another webinar "Generation Squeeze" hosted by Paul Kerkshaw. He had lots of good information to share and encouraged everyone to join in on the GenSqueeze campaign; getting information out in the community and to campaign for government budgets to include more funding to support young families or those wanting to start young families. Today, younger Canadians work and study more to have less. Their earnings have dropped by 11% since 1976, even though they are twice as likely to have post-secondary education. In our province, the cost of child care is often more costly than university tuition.

On Friday I will present at the "Strong Start Regional Meeting" on the subject of "Reaching Vulnerable Families".

I am grateful for the varied experiences that I am able to enjoy in my position. Knowledge gleaned from one involvement has proved to be useful and beneficial to another.