

Coordinator's Report

November 2013

On October 5, I had the privilege of participating in "Chilliwack Connect". I was amazed by the participation, and the resources and services made available to those who needed it. I was able to have many good conversations, particularly in regards to Early Years programs. A couple of young Moms I spoke with, who had accessed the programs at Gateway, had nothing but positive feedback to give. One Mom said that the parenting and literacy programs provided at Gateway for Families, had saved her life.

I continue to try and keep communication with the local credit Unions, partners in the Success by 6 initiative. I had a fantastic meeting with Jeff Knutson, the branch manager of Sardis Envision and together came up with some ways his branch could help make a difference in Chilliwack. He told me that Chilliwack needed people like me who could make people like him aware of where help was most needed.

After many requests I have nearly completed updating the much loved Parent Resource Guide. While I continue to work with our website administrator Annette, to keep childand youth.com updated, it was noted by many program directors, that many families do not have regular access to computers and prefer a paper copy of available resources. I am waiting on a couple of updates and then will distribute the guide.

National Child day and UN Convention is something close to my heart. Once again we will be holding our event at City Hall, this year on November 19, since that is when Council meets, complete with cake and live music. I have been working at getting schools to participate in this event. The Times has agreed to run a number of articles around the UN Convention, essays and artwork prepared by students and a feature on the CYC. All I need are some kids to participate. My dream is that next year we will be able to hold an event at the Cultural Centre and involve many schools in Chilliwack. I recently learned that the UN Convention is part of the grade 6 curriculum and so it should be a doable event.

I am excited to be part of the Consultation working group and am working hard to snag a dynamic keynote speaker. I have been working with the SEA-CAT task group in planning the 2014 Awareness events. Chilliwack events will take place from February 11-13, with an afternoon rally on the 14. Our plan is to have one of the days specifically geared to professionals and offer the event as a lunch and learn. The committee is in the process of securing presenters for each of the days.

Throughout the month I support the various committees by creating documents, forwarding information or whatever I can do to help them move forward. I will also be Chilliwack's Community MDI trainer and will be receiving some training from HELP, via webinar.

As always it is a pleasure to work with so many caring and enthusiastic people!