

Coordinator's Report

December 2013

The BC Council for Families recently released the results of their study “Let’s Talk About Families, BC”, completed over the summer of 2013. The three big issues facing BC families? Poverty, daycare, and family relationship issues – which includes lack of support for parenting, single parenting, domestic violence, absentee fathers, divorce and relationship breakdown. The child poverty report card issued on November 26 of this year has BC once again in last place; 1 in 5 children in BC are considered statistically poor. As we plan for this year’s Consultation around the theme of “Family Smart”, I believe we need to use the results of these surveys to guide how we shape the theme of the Community Consultation and how we as a Child and Youth Committee approach the issues that are forefront for families in our Province.

November 20 was National Child Day. What a full week it was for the Child and Youth Committee. The Youth Matters Committee was busy heading up the three Challenge Day events and the Early Year’s Committee hosted a National Child Day event at City Hall. I was able to experience a hint of the Challenge Day energy, helping out with registration on one of the days. We are grateful to Collette and Natalie who took the lead on the Challenge Day events, and look forward to hearing from them this morning.

Our National Child Day celebration was held on November 19. We had 53 kids in attendance along with about 20 adults. I was so thrilled that the Second Day participants were able to attend, as I thought this a perfect opportunity to refer to the MDI and to make council aware of the issues facing the middle year’s age group. Particularly the need for free or inexpensive after school programming. Three of the students from the program prepared a presentation for council and did an outstanding job. A party isn’t complete without good dance music and we were so privileged



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to enjoy the talent of John Maleska. You can go to the [childandyouth facebook page](#) to check out the pictures of the event. National Child Day is such a fabulous opportunity to create awareness around child, youth and family issues. People are very unaware, but once they hear the statistics, they want to find a way to respond positively. Getting people to vote is a big first step. Politicians will respond first to those who got them elected, so somehow we have to inspire more people to get their voice heard.

For the past month and a half I have been working hard at putting together an updated version of the beloved "Parent Resource Guide". I am waiting for a couple more updates and then it will be ready for distribution. While we had hoped that the CYC website would eliminate the need for a hard copy of resources, we are continuously made aware that many do not have access to computers or the internet. Throughout the month I have opportunity to update our website and for those who are unaware, the CYC has a Facebook page.

I am very excited for the opportunity to speak about our CYC model at the CQI Conference tomorrow. I also appreciate being part of the Consultation working group; the desire is to make Consultation 2014, both relevant and inspiring to the work all of you do.

While many of the day to day tasks remain constant in my position, I totally love how every day, every week is different from the last. As 2013 comes to a close, we can be very proud of the motivated people who make up the CYC and the CYC sub-committees and celebrate all the ways our partnerships have better served children, youth and their families in Chilliwack.



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