

# COORDINATOR'S REPORT

## FEBRUARY 2013

The other day, my eldest daughter overheard a work related conversation I was having on the phone. Once I hung up, Ariel said, "Whoa Mom, you sound like a professional. But seriously what language are you speaking? Sounds like code." Yes, I'm getting the hang of it! When I started as Chilliwack's Child and Youth Community Coordinator in September, I knew that at some point I would love my job. Five months later, I can say I love what I do! I feel very blessed to wake up each morning and be excited to embrace whatever the day will entail. Interesting people, important subject matter and so much learning!

January took off like a race horse. I sit on a number of committees and in my position find ways to support them through networking, promoting and gathering the information and support they require. In January I attended 2 regional meetings; the Council of Partners and the Eastern Fraser Valley CYC/HC. These meetings have proved very helpful in gathering ideas, opinions and knowledge of programs, as well as networking and bragging...I mean sharing, what we are accomplishing in Chilliwack. It is very valuable to discover what initiatives have been successful in other communities and to evaluate how they can be applied in our community. The communities in the Fraser Valley are looking for ways to work together whether in training, workshops or initiatives.

I am very involved in the working group for the Spring Consultation. I am very excited with the direction the group is taking and feel it is going to be a unique and satisfying experience for all who attend. As part of the promotions for this event, the CYC is supporting a FORCE initiative, T2P, Transition to Parenthood. This is part of the FORCE's Youth Legacy Project. In support the CYC will be setting up a "wall" in Cottonwood Mall with the phrase, 'As a parent I want \_\_\_\_\_' Members of our community are invited to complete the phrase, whether they have children or not. The CYC has permission to use this display to promote our website and our Spring Consultation. We are grateful to Ace Signs and Awnings for their willingness to create and produce what is needed on short notice for a very discounted price. Thank you also to Cottonwood Mall for providing us the space to display. We are very grateful to the team at City Life Centre who have done an amazing job of creating the promotion posters for our Spring Consultation event. They have also agreed to create the design for a free standing banner that can be used as display at events. Once again, Ace Signs and Awnings have agreed to produce this at a reasonable price.



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The VTRA workshop in January was a huge success. Over 50 people attended. Brenda Frisse and the VTRA Team did a fantastic job of presenting a lot of information in a limited space of time. What I thought was really great was that not only CYC members attended, but also a variety of representation from other community members; UFV students, Youth Pastors, Independent School Staff, Restorative Justice reps. Many of the people who attended are interested in the CYC and have visited and subscribed to our website.

Childand youth.com. The hits to our website have gone up over 70%. Please keep in mind that we are working towards adding the research component to the website; any articles that you can forward will add to the relevance our website. Please check out your agency's information and make sure it is current and if it has not been added let me know asap!

One of the interesting meetings I had this month was with the PAC President from Sardis Secondary. She showed me the "Green Card" Sardis Secondary has created as a tool for students who may need the supports available in Chilliwack. She was hoping that I could somehow get the word out to make this a District initiative. As she was explaining the card to me, who happened to walk into the coffee shop but Brenda Frisse from Student Services at the School District. Brenda was very impressed and took the card to bring back to the School District office. The PAC President looked at me and said, "Wow". I casually tilted my head and replied that that was exactly what the CYC was about...results.

The other challenging task I had this month was to present a Success By 6 presentation for Vancity Credit Union. I was nervous, in that I didn't want to give them an overload of information they had already heard. It ended up being a huge success. As it turned out the staff was completely unaware of the long term effects of early years vulnerability, and the statistics in regards to Chilliwack. Because my position covers the Early Years and Youth, the presentation naturally lends itself to promoting childand youth.com .

I am very impassioned to promote the CYC and the agencies represented. Please keep me up to date with what your agency is doing and what your agency requires to accomplish its goals. I am in contact with businesses and individuals who are looking for ways to volunteer, contribute or promote. Even if I have already met with you and your agency, I do see value in meeting on a regular basis so I can stay apprised of your agency's strategic plan.

I look forward to hearing your agency updates. Please note, if we run out of time at our CYC meeting for updates, you are encouraged to email me a written a report which I will gladly forward to our CYC members.