

# Coordinator's Report

March 2014

One of the aspects of my position as a Coordinator that I appreciate, is the variety of activities and events I am able to participate in, and the many different and fascinating people I get to meet. February was a month filled with activities and interesting people.

On February 6, I helped facilitate our second Administrative Staff Pro-D Day. Like the previous week, it was well-attended and well received by participants. On February 7 I met with the 'Counsel of Partners" (the Early Years Coordinators of the Eastern Fraser Valley) for our bi-monthly meetings. We discussed with staff from the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre the benefits of having Coordinator's trained to carry out developmental screening.

The week of February 10-14 was Chilliwack's Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. As part of the Community Action Team I helped to plan and attended the events. It was very timely that a few days previous to the rally held at the courthouse, the case of David Thomas Hilpert, 53, charged with multiple counts of sexual assault, sexual interference, procuring a person to become a prostitute, being a householder permitting sexual activity and obtaining sexual services of a person under the age of 18, was before the Chilliwack courts. The charges date back to 2010, when a 14-year-old Chilliwack girl connected with the case was also arrested for allegedly recruiting other young girls into the sex trade. Also during that week 3 Kamloops boys were charged with distributing child pornography. It affirmed the relevance and necessity of creating awareness around sexual exploitation in our community. The community events were well attended and the school events were well received. I think the most disturbing information was to learn that the average of recruitment into the sex trade is between 12-14 years of age. Intervention at the high school level may be too late for some.



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On February 19 I had the privilege of being a facilitator for the Healthy Communities Counsel forum on Housing and Homelessness. Lots to be learned and great ideas and feedback from participants.

February 20 was "All 4 Kids" a family resource and kindergarten readiness fair that was held at Cottonwood Mall. We had great participation from agencies and the feedback from the event was very positive. We hope to use this venue again for next year's event.

During the month I also participated in the Aboriginal Lunch and Learn. I do encourage everyone who has opportunity to attend; there are so many interesting things to learn about Aboriginal culture and tradition and how it effects day to day life. I was also invited by Sto:lo Health to be part of a planning committee bringing the play "Beneath the Surface" to the community. It is part of a suicide prevention campaign and deals with a number of painful issues that Aboriginal families may be facing. The hope is to hold the event on March 22.

I have a number of responsibilities around the planning this year's Conversation on Chilliwack's Children, which include promotions, registration, logistics, and all kinds of other stuff all to ensure the day runs smoothly.

Never a dull moment in the life of a Coordinator, and for that I'm grateful!