

*President's Report  
ICDA-BC Infant and Child Development Association of BC  
Fall, 2008*

*At the end of September, Sandy Crossley and I (as representative of your Association) met with provincial and regional advisors from AIDP, ASCD, IDP and SCD in Vancouver, and James Vitti and Liz Cox, representing the ID/SCD Consortium.*

*Our intent was to discuss how the ID/SCD Consortium and their various projects, the Provincial Offices and the Professional Association fit together, both in terms of roles, governance and funding streams.*

*This is a dynamic and insightful group who are trying hard to develop a comprehensive plan that will meet the various needs for each of the organizations that they represent. The discussions at the table were at the personal, grass roots level of what would best support the Programs and the consultants. The group is calling itself The Infant and Child Development Network and plans to meet again in November.*

*Liz Cox did a great job of facilitating the meeting and keeping us on track. One of the activities was to draw a personal logo representing who we are in our work and what values we bring to this meeting. I can only remember a couple of them which I will share with you. One person drew a picture of two moms joined at the feet who were holding babies—the 'U' of US, another drew a picture of a hand holding a light (holding the light of her culture), another was a circle with equal size circles inside it. Another drew a tree which she said symbolized, growth and change, with the roots symbolizing the community's input. These logos reflected our thoughts and intentions and that was what was of key importance to the day. The common themes that appeared in the group were open minds and listening to others; equal leadership and links or connections with everyone.*

*As a group we came to realize that we have many common visions. It was recognized that in this time of transitions there is an opportunity now to change how we do things. Everyone acknowledged that in the past throughout the province, the relationship between the consultants in the various organizations may not have been as supportive as it could have been. The group shared and heard from each other about disappointment, misunderstandings, different program needs and visions, the need for communication and information, and future possibilities. Unfortunately, we can't change the past, but we are resolved to do better in the present and the future.*

*For the Professional Association it is a new "Era". We want to begin with a clean slate and not repeat the history. To begin this process, I would like to hear from you, the consultants in these 4 organizations, what the Association needs to do to help this process, and the healing. The executive wants to better serve and support its members—that is the bottom line in all that we do.*

*Consultants across the disciplines have many common goals that they work towards with their families and children. If we can bridge and connect our professions, the families and children that we all serve will benefit.*

*In the process of forming the newly expanded Association, the transition created some unease for both old and new members. As with all new things- it takes time to adjust to the changes and to find a fit. Both past IDP members, whose Association had existed for 28 years, and new consultants who were coming in, expressed valid concerns from their perspectives. All perspectives are important to hear and consider. It is a valid question to ask, what is this association, what is their purpose and how does that relate to me?*

*I am going to bring that question back to you. To have it relate to you, we want you to tell us what a professional association represents to you and what role you see it performing. Here is our short- term plan.*

- Within the next month the Association will be sending all consultants information the background of Association as well as some questions that we hope you will take the time to answer.*
- We will use time at Provincial In-service to obtain some of this information from attending consultants, and begin dialogue about the Association. Liz Cox and I will be coming to the lunch (Monday/Tuesday) during the AEPS and Gesell training to help to facilitate this discussion amongst the consultants and the Association.*
- The information gathered during these sessions, will be displayed for everyone to read and add to it, in the refreshment room at In-Service. There will also be an information table to help answer questions.*
- We will gather together all your input and bring it back to The Infant and Child Development Network for discussion and hopefully action. Your comments will shape the future look of the Association and our connections. We are listening.*

*Thank you for your time  
Linda Hunter*