

**INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**Provincial Steering Committee**  
**February 21, 2008**  
**Report from the North Region**

It seems we are enjoying some spring like weather here but I know my friends and colleagues in the North region are still knee deep in snow and cold. Spring is on the way!

It has been a busy and productive 2 months. December I went to Vanderhoof to complete staff evaluations. I was able to join in the new sponsoring society's Christmas party and to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of Connie Neilson work with the Infant Program.

January started off quickly with a week long of training at the Justice Institute on instructional skills called the Facilitator Development Workshop. This was a very experiential workshop that gave me many new skills to work with trainers to improve their facilitation skills. Everyone who teaches the Partnerships Programs will now get some training on facilitation skills. It was also a great opportunity to work with new (and one familiar friend) colleagues in SCDP and ASCDP.

I attended the first meeting of the Hands and Voices BC Branch, this is a parent run group for families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. I am sitting at the table to bring the voice of families from outside the lower mainland and again look forward to working with this wonderful group of committed parents and professionals.

Lynn, Dana and I spent two days revising the Mitchell Scale. This was a very useful process to update the scale and address some of the more current issue and changes in our field. Thanks to Lynn for taking the lead on this and it is anticipated that this will be used in the Interior region for smaller programs that do not complete accreditation. It is my hope that it can also be used in the North and with other programs.

We had a Regional Conference call on January 18 and have one scheduled for Friday Feb. 22. These continue to be well used by consultants to connect and up date each other on community events and practice. We also discuss regional and provincial news as well cover a clinical question.

January 28-30<sup>th</sup> and then Feb. 6-8<sup>th</sup> were 6 days of excellent training on the SKI-HI curriculum from Utah. This is a family centered program for Infants and young children and hearing loss. This was an excellent opportunity to work collaboratively with SLP, TDHH, Specialized service providers and to build strong working relationships!

The Early Years conference was a fantastic success with 800 delegates. It was attended by a few programs from the North, all commented on the high caliber of presenters and how much they value participating in a national conference.

Contact with the programs has been primarily around staff support, questions regarding data collection etc. I will be providing training on the ASQ, ASQ-SE and the AEPS in the Queen Charlotte Island next week. I have also been asked to do this training in Terrace in April. We have a regional Inservice booked for Weds. April 23 in Prince George and Gesell training in Prince George with Aboriginal IDP and ECD colleagues on April 24-25<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Stewart