

**Regional Report to the Infant Development Program of BC
Provincial Steering Committee
December 4, 2008**

**Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Barnes – Regional Advisor
Vancouver Coastal**

It has been a very busy fall in the region. In October, I was fortunate enough to attend the Children and Youth Summit hosted by the Children's representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond. It was a very inspiring 2 days with a focus on the rights of children world wide.

In November, the Vancouver Coastal MCFD team hosted a one day regional congress on B.C.'s children and youth entitled Strong, Safe and Supported. The event was mostly attended by frontline MCFD staff and some community service providers. Minister Tom Christensen – Minister of Children and Family Development opened the congress. Deputy Minister Lesley Du Toit presented an update on the Ministry's transformation process. The rest of day was filled with presentations by successful MCFD supported regional programs or projects focusing on youth and children in care. It was rather disappointing that there was no mention at all of early childhood development or children and youth with special needs.

Also in November was the Provincial IDP in-service. The week was well attended by many Consultants from around the region. There was extremely positive feedback with respect to the Gesell training, the presentation from Dr. Mahoney on Responsive Teaching and Dr. Wendy Hall's presentation on sleep. I have had several requests from around the region to have Dr. Hall back for a regional in-service and spend more time.

I have met with Annie Wolverton, Regional Advisor for the Fraser region to discuss feedback from lower mainland supervisors with regards to a request for a combined regional meeting with the AIDP. The meeting will be an opportunity for everyone to get together and to find out more about what each of us does. Annie and I plan to meet with the Regional Advisors of AIDP of the respective regions to discuss and plan this very positive day.

The majority of my regional time this fall has been spent on the LINKED DISK project. I sit on the project steering committee, the design team and I am supervising the pilot at the Vancouver IDP. The Consultants of both the Vancouver IDP and the Richmond IDP have provided very positive feedback and are looking forward to the next system releases.

On December 2, 2008 I attended the Provincial Steering Committee for the MCFD SIRF (Service Indicators Reporting Framework). Herb Chan presented the LINKED DISK to the committee and it was very well received. There was positive discussion on the benefits of the system and the need for the support and collaborative efforts of MCFD.

There are number of programs throughout the region who have expressed an interest in participating in the system.

The other exciting project that I have been working on is the Vancouver Coastal MCFD Developmental Screening Project for Children in Care. To date we have developed a very comprehensive steering committee with representatives from MCFD, IDP, Vancouver Coastal Health and Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society, HELP, Ministry of Housing and Social Development and Community Living of BC (CLBC). The first phase of the project will be to screen all children 0-6 years that are in foster care including those who are in restrictive care and out of care options. The screening tool to be used is the Ages & Stages Questionnaires and the Ages & Stages Social Emotional Questionnaires. The second phase will include all children in the care of a relative .A second objective of the project is to provide training and support to MCFD staff and caregivers the use of the ASQ and the ASQE. Additional training will be developed around providing optimal developmental environments to capitalize on the importance of the early years. In January 2009 a project coordinator will be hired and the work plan will be further developed. One additional part time IDP Consultant will be hired to assist in the clinical work.