

## 2014-2015 Program Reports



### **The Child Development Centre**

of Prince George and District Association

*“Developing potential,  
exploring possibilities!”*

### **Our Mission:**

To assist children of all abilities from Prince George and surrounding communities to develop to their highest potential through family-centred, child focused rehabilitation, early childhood education and support services.

### **Our Vision:**

“Developing potential, exploring possibilities!”

## **Executive Director’s Report**

It is interesting to reflect on how the Child Development Centre has changed and evolved over the years.

As we approach the end of the 2014/15 fiscal year, the Child Development Centre is preparing for our next CARF accreditation survey. One of the most important benefits of accreditation has been the strategic focus the process has promoted. Externally, accreditation also shows that we have met or exceeded numerous international standards for quality, while affirming our commitment to family-focused care.

Beyond CARF, the CDC’s Board of Directors has also been working toward meeting Imagine Canada’s accreditation governance guidelines. This has the potential of providing many potential benefits in relation to our board governance.

A constant that we have faced over the last several years is the need to do more with less. Unfortunately and for many years, the Province of BC has failed to cover the increased costs of undertaking their contracted child developmental services. It was particularly dismaying to hear that the Ministry of Children and Family Development was not going to cover former provincially negotiated and approved costs increases in the 2015/16 fiscal year.

In the face of reduced financial resources and increasing demand we have been working to ensure that our services are as effective and efficient as possible. We have shifted as much resources as is practical to funding front-line staff to provide direct services – a full 86% of our resources is allocated to staffing.

In the last several years we have made significant reductions to our administrative costs, while concurrently improving some areas of this support. Our move to paperless charting system facilitated increased access to children’s charts for our staff and the staff of the Northern Health Authority’s Speech and Language Clinic. Full credit also needs to go to our Administrative Support Team; they have been doing a ton of

work, helping to keep things running smoothly at the centre.

We have also made important changes to our services. We have adjusted our childcare services in several ways, allowing us to continue providing most of those services into the coming fiscal year. We have made increasing use of specialized groups to help children with special needs; these groups have been highly effective while allowing us to provide programming to many more children than would be otherwise possible.

We have also been working with parents. Our Therapy program receives twice as many referrals for service than we did 17 years ago, but we still have the same number of therapists. This means that on average, we are only able to provide half as much services to each child in need of our services. Parents play a critical piece in filling this gap. We work with parents and rely on them to help them continue to work on their children's developmental care plans between CDC sessions.

While we work in an undeniably challenging fiscal environment, we have reason to celebrate our accomplishments. We have a fantastic group of individuals that we are fortunate enough to have on staff. I am constantly amazed the level of improved developmental outcomes they achieve with so many of the children they support.

I also need to sincerely thank all of the businesses and individuals that continue to support the CDC. We would not be able to achieve what we do without their support.



Darrell Roze

## Guiding Principles

### **Collaborative:**

We use a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to improve service outcomes to the region's children. This philosophy extends internally as well as externally with complementary service providers and medical practitioners.

### **Accountable**

Our core purpose is to improve the lives of the children we serve. Given available resources, our staff members are each responsible for providing the best services possible in their area of responsibility.

### **Respectful**

The Centre's staff members operate within a culture of respect for each other, the children and families we serve, and other regional stakeholders. Family input and participation is respected as an integral component of each child's development.

### **Holistic**

Our services are designed to help the whole child, including the balanced development of social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and communication skills.

### **Sustainable**

We commit to running sustainable programming, ensuring the highest level of services over the long-term.

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## **Clinical Services Report**

Submitted by Les Smith,  
Director of Programming

### **Training**

The CDC hosted a workshop on holding difficult but necessary conversations in the workplace called Fierce Conversations. This was a 2-day workshop for people in supervisory positions. Many of our Supported Child Development (SCD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff attended the Every Child Belongs Conference in April 2013. This conference is hosted by SCD in partnership with Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR). The conference had 175 registrants.

### **Early Childhood Education Services**

Our Early Childhood Education Services experienced a significant deficit this year. The program had lower than expected numbers of children in its classes, which caused less money to come in than was being spent. Due to this, further changes to the program will be happening in the upcoming year.

### **Specialized Preschool Groups**

Continued funding through the Gaming Branch has allowed the CDC to keep running our very successful specialized preschool groups. These groups allow children to access much needed therapeutic services such as Speech Language Pathology (SLP), Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physiotherapy in a group setting. The groups also allow children who may have been waiting for services to be seen. Other groups operated through this funding include the Sunbeams Grief and Loss and Parenting Programs.

### **Therapy Services**

Our therapy services have continued to provide services to children in need. There were 323 new children referred for these services this past year.

The Therapy Program said hello to three new physiotherapists: Nina Young, Jenny Hogan, and Sandy Van Kleeck (PT). In addition, Regan Daoust (PT) took a one year leave of absence, to return in April 2016.

### **Supported Child Development**

Supported Child Development continues to be in demand. This program provides additional support to over 25 community programs to assist children to be successful in preschool, daycare and after school programs. They provided support to over 70 children this year, with approximately 30 children waiting for their services. There were 55 new children referred to this program in 2014-15.

### **Family Services**

In 2014-15, the Family Services section ran Sunbeams Grief and Loss Programs and Second Step Violence Prevention Programs. Family Services also benefitted from the assistance of a number of volunteers to assist with these programs.

### **Medical Services**

This year saw the continuation of strong relationships with the Prince George paediatric medical community once again. Many of the paediatricians in the city conduct sessions at the CDC throughout the year. These sessions are funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and may take the form of case

conferences or individual appointments. We were also very lucky to have Dr. Rachel Boulding, Child Psychiatrist, hold appointments at the CDC every Tuesday afternoon. Dr. David Nelson, Orthopedic Surgeon, participated in a few orthopedic clinics at the CDC through the year as well. The CDC has also established a relationship with Dr. Joanne Crandall, Child Psychologist, to work with a number of our children and families.

This will be my last report as the Director of Programming. I will be leaving the CDC at the end of May. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the CDC for the past 6 years.

### **Challenges**

Funding for the services we provide is our #1 challenge. We were informed by our primary funding source, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, that we should expect a flat budget this year. What this means is that we will likely not receive sufficient funding to fulfill our contracted services.

A second challenge is dealing with increasing number of children in the Prince George area with developmental vulnerabilities (approximately 34% versus the provincial average of 32.5%) while having a budget that is stagnant.

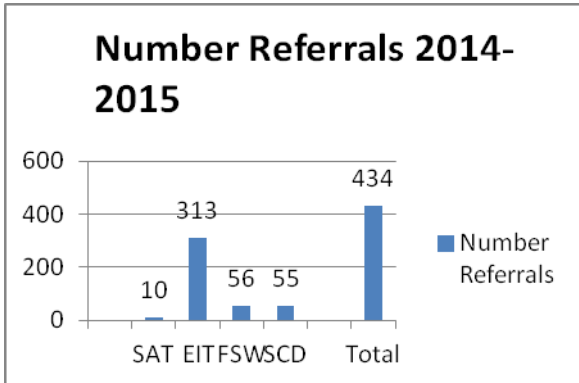
### **Thank you**

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who works in all of our clinical services. This has once again been a year of changes and challenges. Everyone has shown a lot of resilience and patience. Please know that all your work is noticed and appreciated.

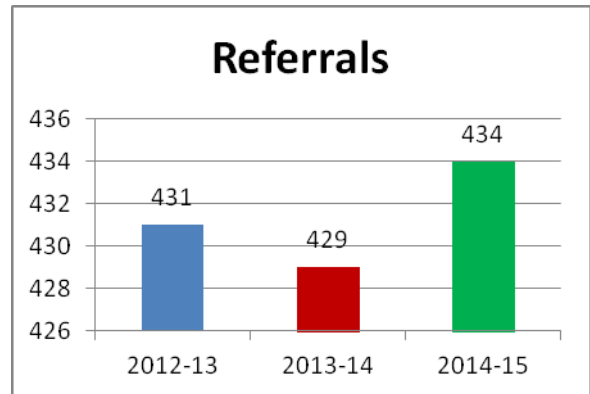
Thank you also to our funders and donors. Without you, the children could not receive all of the services that we are able to provide.

## By the Numbers

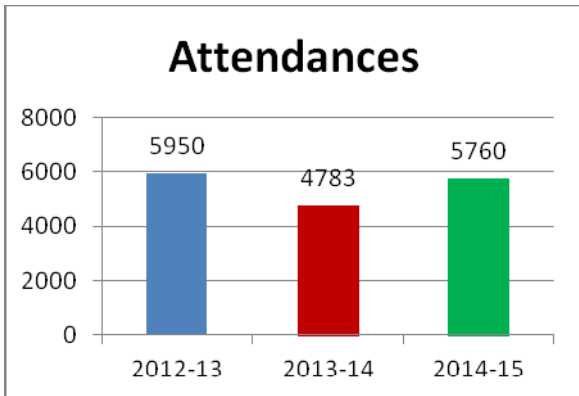
### Referrals for 2014-15



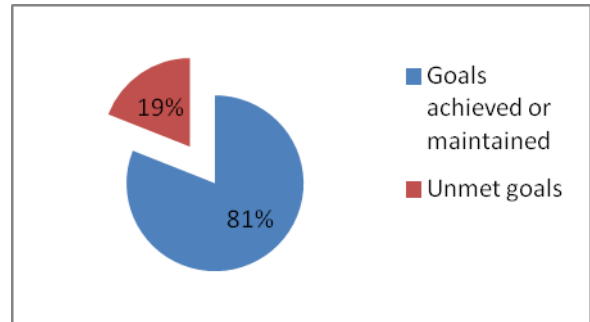
### Comparison of Referrals 2012-13 to 2014-15



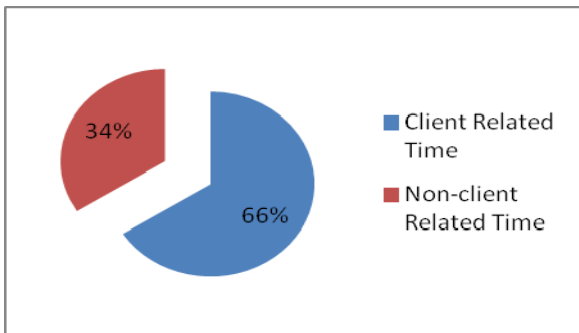
### Comparison of Sessions/Attendances 2012-13 to 2014-15



### Met/Unmet Developmental Goals



### How We Spend Our Time



## Thank You to our Community Supporters!

Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations that supported our services last year, including but not limited to the following:



McDonalds Prince George



TD Waterhouse



Art Knapp Prince George



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
The Best Place on Earth  
Community Gaming Grant



Pace Realty



Aberdeen Helicopters



The Jim Pattison  
Broadcast Group



UNBC Faculty  
Association



Gingerbread Toys



Global Roadway Maintenance



Prince George Construction

