

Infant Development Program of British Columbia
Report to the Provincial Steering Committee
March 26th, 2009
Vancouver Island Region
Submitted by Judith Oldfield, Regional Advisor

It has been a long winter and now is finally beginning to feel like spring. We have had excellent participation on our regional teleconference calls which are scheduled every 6 weeks. This has been a useful way to connect and to discuss issues and share information. It has been helpful to have Julia Rose and Dana on these calls.

Julia arranged to have Susan Winter from MCFD join our call to address questions consultants have in regards to funding for education/training as well as wage inequities across programs. In this region there are such differences amongst programs in funding and time allotment for consultants to participate in education/training opportunities regionally and provincially. Consultants have expressed that they would like to see funding allocated for regional and provincial in-services written into the contract. The funding available presently allows a consultant to attend one regional in-service and one training workshop, or one provincial in-service a year. New consultants who are recommended to participate in a Gesell training at UBC have few funds left over for other training because of the expense of travel and accommodation costs. Training and education in this field is important for all consultants to keep us abreast of the newest research findings and also provide us with information on a variety of issues that we may be faced with because of the complexities of the population we serve.

The Comox program is hosting our regional in-service this year which will be held at the Kingfisher Resort in the Comox Valley on May 8th and May 9th. On the afternoon of the 8th Kathi Camilleri will present her workshop titled *Building Bridges through Understanding the Village*. On Friday morning a workshop on Purple Crying is planned, and we will have the opportunity to watch and discuss a documentary on *Capturing a Short Life*, as well as share resources and network with each other. Thank you to the Comox Valley Program for organizing this, you have done a wonderful job.

In February I attended the BC Early Hearing Program Training in Vancouver. This was very well organized and excellent information to share with programs.

I have had the opportunity to continue my participation in the Make the Connection master training with Claire Watson and Mary Stewart in Nanaimo. This is an excellent program and such a good fit for consultants working with infants and their families. We have had a lot of interest and requests for this training from every region in the province. I would like to thank Dana and the Provincial office for supporting our training for this excellent program.

This week I am working on the development of the Home Visiting module for Infant Development Programs with Dana and the other regional advisors and I will be participating in the *Instructional Principles Workshop* with trainer Liz Cox.