

President's Report
ICDA-BC Infant and Child Development Association of BC

Last fall I was talking about this new “era” that we are in. Now that we have gotten through some of the mechanics of changing our name and our by-laws we can move on to more colourful and fun things such as getting a new logo and starting our own web site. We will keep you posted every step of the way and I hope that you will participate by giving your opinions and ideas as we go along.

Your executive is divided into committees. As we go forward with these new initiatives, we want to make sure that we continue to maintain our contact with you as a member. Shelley and Judie from Prince George, the membership arm of the public relationship committee, will continue to be your contact regarding any component of membership registration.

Gaye Jackson from Vancouver's North Shore has joined Kjerstin Dunk from 100 House and Linda Funk from Vancouver to continue to provide you with a first class newsletter. You are welcome to submit information that you have found helpful in your practice so that we can continue to learn from each other.

Merrily from the Sunshine Coast will continue to have an assortment of articles for sale. She is looking into increasing the variety of merchandise for sale so that they will reflect the diversity of our members. Merrily can be contacted at any time if you have promotion ideas or you want to order something. She is looking for some new photos that can be used for IDP, SCD, AIDP and ASCD posters. So, if you have a child on your caseload that might fit, all you need to do is get permission from the family and send Merrily the picture. She'll do the rest.

We have also increased our Regional Reps from one to two in each area. I wanted to see more diversity in your regional reps and I think that if they can support each other in each region, then perhaps that will make their job easier. They are your regional contact, just as your programs have regional advisors. They are there to hear what you have to say, what you might be interested in learning more about and in connecting you up with other members that can support you in your profession.

We are very pleased to have Laura Rhodes from AIDP and Penny Ogasawara take on the role of Interior regional rep. They both have many years of experience in their field and would welcome your questions.

Sandi Morgan from Haida Gwaii and Anne Falvo from Prince Rupert will be your Northern regional reps.

Shelia Walsh from Port Hardy will be your Vancouver Island regional rep. We are looking for a second rep in this area. Please contact me if you have an interest in partnering with Shelia.

Linda Funk and Linda Thoreson are your Vancouver Coastal reps.

We have no regional reps from the Lower Mainland. If you have an interest in being on our executive in that capacity, please contact me.

With pressure from some political bodies to further break up regions, your Association continues to believe in a provincial model where each part of the province, and members from each part of the province all have a common and equal voice. When I first took over the role of President, I used the analogy of a tree—the tree would be the association, the large limbs would be each of the provincial

programs and the smaller limbs each of the individual programs, and we would be the leaves.

The tree is feed by our history, our beliefs and culture and our desire to flourish. A tree can not thrive if it ripped apart or if one part of the tree crowds out another part of the tree. We are all the same tree, even though we are different. We need to think of our sameness as well as our differences if we wish to be strong. I can not imagine where the Infant Development Program would be today if we had not had a strong Provincial Voice.

In the fall, we told you that we would be sending out background information on the Association. Have your received it?

We told you that we would take the information that you gave us at the fall in-service and take that information to the Infant and Child Development Network—where all provincial advisors, some regional advisors, the consortium (the educational arm of our organizations) and your association meet. We did. This information stimulated a lot of discussion on what the mandate and vision of the Network would be. We talked about what goals we want to move forward with and what risks there were for consultants in our various fields. Thanks to all of you who gave your time and thoughts to those questions. Your comments help to shape future goals.

I know we are busy people. Some time ago Shelley and Judie sent out membership reminders. If you have not done so, take a moment, right now, to fill in your form and send it back to them. Only you can do it.

Thank you for your time
Linda Hunter