

Report to the Provincial Steering Committee  
Infant Development Program of British Columbia  
February 14, 2007  
Respectfully Submitted by Annie Wolverton  
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It is unusual to have to comment on the weather being so harsh that it has necessitated canceling meetings in the Lower Mainland, however, that has certainly been the case during the past few months. Generally, I think of this as a problem that all the other regions have to contend with but never in the Lower Mainland. It is helpful to have new experiences and it helps to understand what our colleagues outside of this Region have to contend with all winter.

The Infant Development Programs in the Fraser Region are pleased to have an increase in funding for their programs. This funding is desperately needed to address the serious issues of the extensive and lengthy waiting lists for children and families waiting for IDP services and support. Unfortunately the funds many programs received are insufficient to make a significant difference in the number of children waiting and the length of time that they are waiting for IDP.

The IDP Supervisors of the Fraser Region and most of the Supervisors of the Vancouver/Coastal Region had their first meeting since November on January 26, 2007. There were many items to discuss having not been together for such a long time. Bonnie Barnes, the Regional Advisor who oversees the Vancouver/Coastal Region gave us a brief update on the diversity among the Aboriginal IDPs and how they are run. Some of the IDP staff attended the Conference on the Capital Health Early Intervention Program and we had a discussion about this model and how it differs from the IDP model of service delivery. A large amount of time at this meeting was devoted to discussing training the new IDP staff and training more experienced staff. A long list of valuable subjects to receive training in was created. We are also trying to think of how to best combine this training with the Gesell training. We have to keep in mind the enormous financial constraints which many programs endure with regards to staff education and the expense for IDP staff who are coming to Vancouver for training from outside the Lower Mainland area. We generated many ideas and did not arrive at any decisions during this meeting; however, this is on the agenda for our next Lower Mainland Supervisors' Meeting.

Dr. Dana Brynelsen, Bonnie Barnes, and I recently met with Dr. Grace Iarocci and Dr. Nazin Virji-Babul who are from the Down Syndrome Research Foundation. We had a very productive discussion about IDP working collaboratively with the DSRF, particularly focusing on the *Learning And Play Program* that they have developed. Lesley Rappard, the Assistant Supervisor with the Vancouver Infant Development Program will be taking an active role in this project.

Over the past few months I have been involved in a number of conference calls between Dana Brynelsen and the Regional Advisors, the Regional Advisors only, and with the Physiotherapy Services for IDP Group. This conference call technology offers an effective way to communicate with each other when having a face-to-face meeting is not an option. I have found these calls to be an effective way for me to get the work done as well as have the feeling of staying connected when I haven't seen many of my colleagues for months.

Filling the orders for Gesell Assessment kits and Gesell items continues on a regular basis. The Western Canadian Association for Infant Mental Health meetings continue on a monthly basis. The Linked-DISC meetings continue as well.