



Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee

Annual Report 2012-2013

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Acronym List

Acronym	Meaning
AHA	Athabasca Health Authority
BPRC	Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDS	Cognitive Disability Strategy
CGP	Community Grant Program (Community Initiatives Fund)
CIF	Community Initiatives Fund
CMPA	Community Mobilization Prince Albert
CNCP	Complex Needs Case Protocol
CNDP	Child Nutrition and Development Program
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECIP	Early Childhood Intervention Program
FRC	Family Resource Centre
KFN	KidsFirst North
KYRHA	Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority
LLRHP	Lac La Ronge Homelessness Partnership
LLRCM	Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization
LLRIB	Lac La Ronge Indian Band
MCCRHA	Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region
NAD	Northern Administration District
NEX	Needle Exchange
NEYC	Northern Early Years Coalition
NHSP/NRIC	Northern Human Services Partnership/Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee
NHSP - W	Northern Human Services Partnership - West
NITHA	Northern Intertribal Health Authority
NLSD	Northern Lights School Division
NSCRD	Northern Sport, Culture, Recreation District
NSN	NorthSask Special Needs Inc.
NSSHC	Northern Symposium for Safer and Healthier Communities (Formerly the Northern Justice Symposium)
PHU	Population Health Unit
RIC	Regional Intersectoral Committee
RICCT	Regional Intersectoral Committee Coordinators Team
SCFA	Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda (Formerly the Saskatchewan Child and Youth Agenda)
SIMS	Senior Interministry Steering Committee (Formerly the Human Service Integration Forum - HSIF)
SROI	Social Return on Investment
SSOP	Scattered Site Outreach Program
SSW	Student Summer Works
SVAW	Sexual Violence Awareness Week
UAS	Urban Aboriginal Strategy

Introduction

The Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP) also known as the Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee (NRIC) is one of ten (10) Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) in the Province of Saskatchewan. Originally founded in the mid-nineties, the NHSP consists of leadership from human service provider organizations within the Northern Administration District (NAD). The membership of the NHSP works to provide a collaborative approach to northern human services. It is the goal of the NHSP that this collaborative approach will result in strong, healthier people, families and communities with well-functioning agencies who work to improve northern quality of life.

Message from the Co-Chairs

The past year has marked many notable successes for the Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP). With strong buy-in and commitment from NHSP members, and the dedication of the NHSP staff, the partnership has come a long way towards building stronger, better integrated human services for northern Saskatchewan residents.

In the fall of 2012, Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (LLRCM) initiated its Hub with significant financial support from the NHSP and the direction of many NHSP members. This has contributed to building a safer and healthier region and in identifying key issues and opportunities within the Lac La Ronge Region. Other northern communities are expressing interest in similar initiatives to help improve the health and well-being of their residents and communities.

In the spring of 2013, the Northern Early Years Coalition (NEYC) delivered Early Brain Development Workshops in the communities of La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Île-à-la-Crosse, Pinehouse, Stony Rapids, Black Lake, La Ronge, Sandy Bay and Creighton. The workshops were an opportunity to share the importance of a child's formative years in an interactive and strength-based community format. In addition to this initiative, the NEYC will also be launching a northern children's charter in the fall of 2013 as they continue to build momentum.

The NHSP is also committed to building community and organizational capacity within the northern region. Coordinators have been working with communities, agencies, individuals and developing initiatives over the past year. This work has contributed to the growth and development of the Sexual Violence Awareness Week (SVAW), the Homelessness Partnership Initiative, NorthSask Special Needs (NSN) and other worthwhile initiatives. The NHSP grant administration committee is pleased that the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and Student Summer Works (SSW) northern allotment was expended to increase capacity of northern organizations. These funds assist many northern organizations in the delivery of worthwhile services and programs for northern residents.

We are appreciative of the provincial support provided to the NHSP and we sincerely thank all NHSP members and partners for their dedication and commitment.

Daina Lapworth
Executive Director
Children North

Rhonda Hueser
Assistant Director
Ministry of Justice

Andrew McLetchie
CEO
Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region



Creighton - Photographer: Carrie Wasyliv

Message from the Coordinator

As the Central Coordinator for the Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP), I wish to begin my report by offering my sincere appreciation for the leadership of my Co-Chairs: Rhonda Hueser, Daina Lapworth and Andrew McLetchie for their significant and ongoing contributions to the work NHSP. I also wish to commend the efforts of all NHSP members and partners who make the NHSP, and its initiatives, an opportunity to improve the lives of northern residents through their time, dedication and contributions.

This past year has marked significant progress for the work of the NHSP priority areas identified through NHSP's strategic planning session in summer of 2012. Progress has been made over the past year in areas including Community Mobilization, Early Childhood Development, Homelessness and Vulnerable Persons Initiatives, Grant Administration, Capacity Building, Communication and Evaluation.

With the leadership of many NHSP members, the Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization – Hub has come to fruition over the past year. Funding was secured through the NHSP and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) to hire a full-time Coordinator for the Lac La Ronge Region and the Hub has been active since October of 2012. Hub members are committed to attending twice weekly meetings and are supported by their management to do so. Discussions at the Hub table allow for better, streamlined and efficient human services for Lac La Ronge Region residents.

The Northern Early Years Coalition (NEYC) has been working diligently to address concerns and issues related to early childhood development in northern Saskatchewan. In December of 2012, data was released pertaining to children's readiness to learn in northern Saskatchewan. Utilizing this data, initiatives including the Dr. Jean Clinton Northern Tour and the development of a Northern Children's Charter are currently taking place. Dr. Jean Clinton, noted Early Childhood Psychiatrist presented workshops in nine (9) northern communities during May and June of 2013. Her message that *love builds brains* was heard by 500 northern residents and is serving to build community capacity and energy around positive child development. The NEYC membership will continue to support communities in raising strong, healthy and resilient children.

Many NHSP members have mobilized around homelessness and vulnerable persons initiatives. Members are currently working on initiatives related to embracing life, disability supports and homelessness in an effort to secure supports which are both geographically northern based and culturally relevant to participants.

In winter of 2013, I was offered the opportunity to attend Tamarack Institute's Evaluating Community Impact Conference. This Conference offered many evaluative and community development tools which have been embedded in my core work. Since this time, the NHSP has renewed its commitment to evaluation in a multitude of forms focused on highlighting success in both qualitative and quantitative formats. This year alone, the NHSP has completed a provincial evaluation, several sub-committee evaluations and is currently undertaking an NHSP governance model evaluation aimed at identifying and utilizing core competencies and interests of its members. The feedback received through all of these evaluative tools will be used for continual self-improvement of the NHSP and its initiatives.

The NHSP has also been working diligently to create capacity within northern based organizations (CBOs). Grant administration and support is a key component to this capacity building and I am pleased to report that for the second year in a row, the northern allotment for both the Community Initiatives Fund

– Community Grant Program and the Student Summer Works Program were disbursed for northern based programming.

Provincially, the NHSP remains committed to developing a strong relationship with the Senior Interministry Steering Committee (SIMS) based on effective communication and clear expectations of both partners. This will ensure that the NHSP is delivering quality results that have a real and meaningful impact for the northern residents and the province of Saskatchewan. We look forward to the continuing development of this relationship and the capacity and value it will provide to both partners.

On behalf of myself, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our accountable partner for 2011-2012, Kikinahk Friendship Centre. I would also like to thank our many member agencies who have provided in-kind supports which make our work possible and sustainable.

In appreciation,

Rachael Steinke

Central Coordinator, NHSP

(306) 425-6640 or (306) 370-5806



About the Northern Human Services Partnership

Our Region

The NHSP serves the Northern Administration District (NAD) from approximately the fifty-fourth parallel to the borders of Manitoba, Alberta and the North-West Territories. The NHSP region represents 46% of the geographical area of Saskatchewan and has a population of roughly 40,000 residents in over seventy (70) communities, both on and off reserve. Of this total population, 85% of northern residents identify themselves as Aboriginal and approximately 46% live in First Nations communities.

The following information is taken from the 2011 Northern Saskatchewan Health Indicators Report Summary which is published every five (5) years¹ and from Early Childhood Statistics compiled by the Ministry of Education.²

Population

- In 2010, 32% of the population within the NHSP region was under 15 years of age. Only 4.5% was over the age of 65.
- The northern birth rate is almost double the provincial rate.

Pre-Natal and Early Childhood

- Between 2007 and 2011, 53.8% of pregnant mothers reported smoking during pregnancy.
- As of 2010-2011 data, 48.8% of children within the NHSP area were not fully ready to meet the demands of school compared to the provincial median of 30.2%.

Education and Employment

- The proportion of the northern population ages 25-29 years who completed high-school was 46% in 2006, which is substantially lower than the provincial rate of 80%.
- The long-term unemployment rate is over four (4) times the provincial rate and there is a growing potential work-force.

Housing and Cost of Living

- The NHSP region median income was less than 60% of the provincial median income in 2006.
- The cost of healthy food has remained substantially higher in northern Saskatchewan compared to locations in southern Saskatchewan.
- Housing issues include almost four (4) times the proportion of homes requiring major repair, and over ten (10) times the rate of crowding compared to the province.

At Risk Behaviors

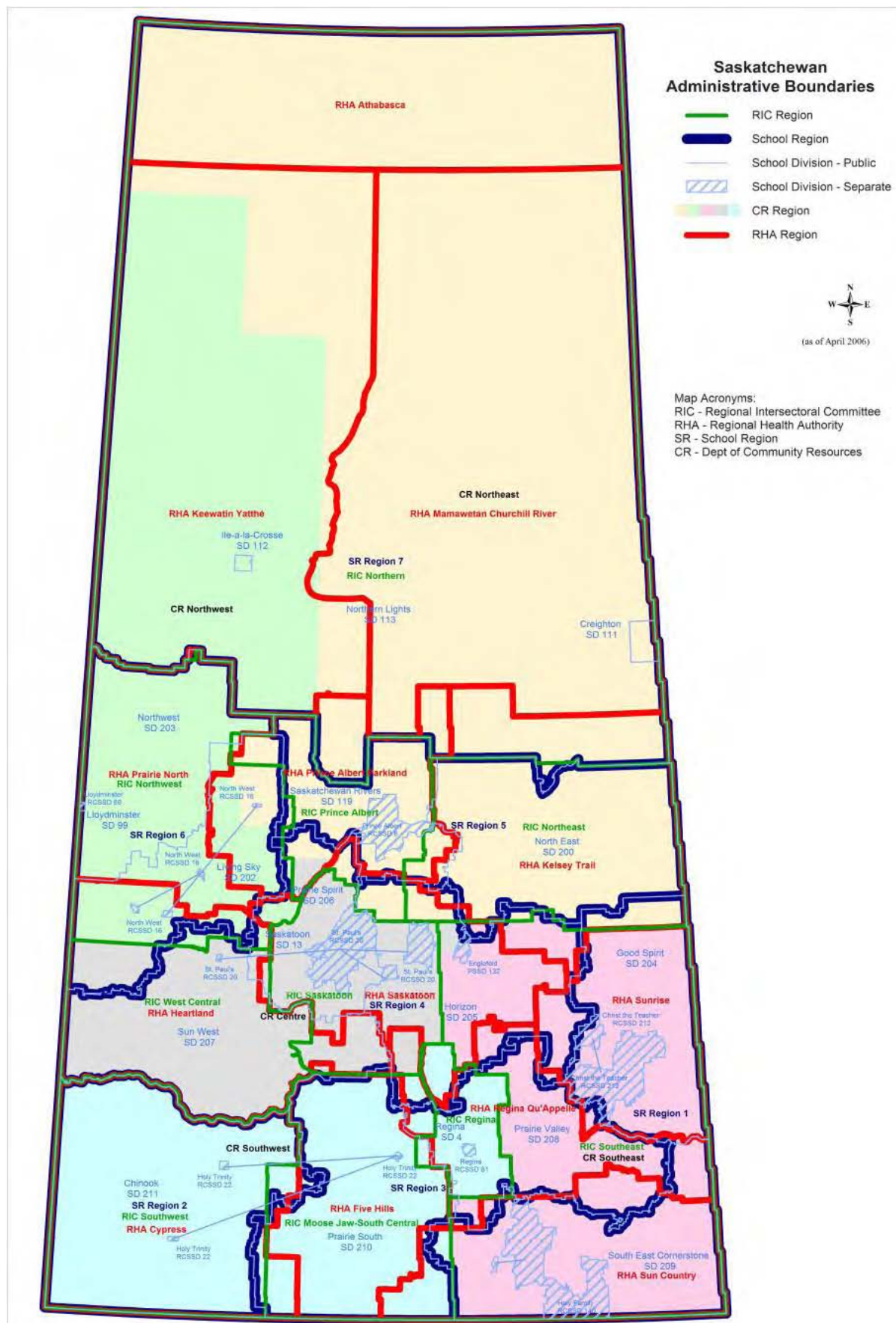
- Crime rates are higher in northern Saskatchewan than across the province.
- Suicides make up 25% of injury deaths in northern Saskatchewan with rates three (3) times as high as in the province.

It is the goal of the NHSP to engage stakeholders and work collectively to address these social challenges and take positive steps together to improve the lives of northerners.

¹ The full report can be viewed at <http://www.populationhealthunit.ca>.

² Please contact your RIC Coordinator for more information on early childhood statistics.

Map



Membership and Key Collaborators

Our membership is focused on human services and is open to all provincial government ministries and secretariats; all federal government human services departments and secretariats; First Nations agencies; non-government agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) with mandates focused on the delivery of human services on either a north-wide or regional basis within the NAD.

We would like to express our gratitude to each committee member for their time, commitment and effort in the interagency work of the NHSP. The progress made in the past year demonstrates that these efforts are essential in multi-disciplinary work and service integration.

NHSP Position	Name	NHSP Committee	Working Groups/Areas						Agency
			NHSP - West	Grant Administration Committee	Northern Early Years Coalition	Community Mobilization	Communication and Evaluation	Housing and Vulnerable Populations Initiatives	
Member	Daryl Arnott	X	X	X	X	X			Ministry of Education
Member	Scott Boyes	X					X		Ministry of Government Relations - Northern Engagement
Member	Melissa Cote	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Ministry of Government Relations
Member	Carla Frohaug	X				X		X	Ministry of Justice - Adult Community Corrections
Member	Justin Galloway	X		X	X				Mamawetan Churchill River Health Authority
Member	Rebecca Galloway	X		X	X			X	KidsFirst North
Member	Matt Heley	X		X			X	X	New North Inc.
Member	Michelle Hewison	X							Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District
Co-Chair	Rhonda Hueser	X	X	X	X	X		X	Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Member	Dr. James Irvine	X		X				X	Population Health Unit
Member	Betsy Kelly	X				X			NorthSask Victim Services
Member	Amanda Laboucane	X	X	X	X		X		Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority
Co-Chair	Daina Lapworth	X		X	X			X	Children North - ECIP, CDS, Family Support
Member	Marc L'Heureux	X				X		X	Ministry of Justice - Adult Community Corrections
Member	Al Loke	X		X				X	New North Inc.
Co-Chair	Andrew McLetchie	X		X		X			Mamawetan Churchill River Health Authority
Member	Clarence Neault	X		X			X		Keewatin Career Development Corporation
Member	Lori Patrick	X				X			Ministry of Justice - Young Offender Programs
Member	Bev Peel	X							Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Ex-Officio	Rachael Steinke	X		X	X	X	X	X	Northern Human Services Partnership
Member	Michael Quennell	X	X		X				Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority
Member	Darlene Trumier	X		X	X				Ministry of Education - Early Years Branch
Member	John Ulsifer	X				X			Northern Lights School Division #113
Member	Tyra Watt	X	X	X	X		X	X	Ministry of Social Services - Community Services
Member	Jenn Weatherbee	X		X		X			Ministry of Justice - Adult Community Corrections
Member	Mark Williment	X				X			Northern Lights School Division #113
Member	Ron Woytowich	X		X					Kikinahk Friendship Centre
Member	Jason Young	X				X			Northern Lights School Division #113
Collaborator	Laura Kuley				X		X	X	Northern Healthy Communities Partnership

We encourage those interested in participating in NHSP initiatives to contact Rachael Steinke, Coordinator for the NHSP for more information.

Vision, Mission, Mandate and Values

OUR VISION:

The Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP) provides a coordinated and collaborative approach that will result in strong, healthy people, families and communities with well-functioning agencies who work together to improve northern quality of life.

OUR MANDATE:

To further the ability of agencies and communities to make the best use of opportunities and to develop and nurture northern responses to complex and serious issues and challenges.

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to create and maintain a forum for planning and delivery of integrated human services for Northern people. We do this by:

- Facilitating collaboration to address north-wide socio-economic opportunities and issues;
- Using data driven dialogue and incubating “best practice” to address issues;
- Keeping agencies and service providers informed and connected north-wide;
- Building community, regional and agency capacity regarding training, grants, networking and project support;
- Identifying gaps and avoiding duplication through data driven advocacy to influence leadership and shape policy; and,
- Establishing a strong, collective northern voice for social change.

WE VALUE:

- Integrated teamwork and respectful communication;
- Utilizing a community development approach to strengthen communities and organizations;
- Data driven dialogue focused on solutions;
- Avoiding duplication by promoting and supporting each other in jurisdictional inclusion;
- Advocacy with and on behalf of Northerners; and,
- Celebrating and sharing success.

Committee and Initiative Reports

Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP) – West

Focus:

The focus of NHSP – West is to better engage northern human service representatives around key issues of concern for the west-side of northern Saskatchewan and to make strides to improve the quality of life for north-western residents.

Highlights:

- Development and continual expansion of the NHSP – West Committee;
- Ongoing support of local interagencies to build on west-side strengths and capacities; and,
- The NHSP – West Strategic Planning Session was held in March of 2013 and was attended by representatives from the Government of Saskatchewan, Government of Canada, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Northern Lights School Division #113, Île-à-la-Crosse School Division, Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority, KidsFirst North, Friendship Centres and other CBOs with presence in north-western Saskatchewan. Key areas for collaboration were identified including the healthy development of children and suicide prevention/embracing life.

Measurables:

The development of the strategic plan for NHSP – West will provide oversight and direction for the committee. Continued development of west-side initiatives within the NHSP work plan and the development of an NHSP – West work plan will assist in the monitoring of the impact of NHSP – West and its initiatives.

Next Steps:

NHSP – West will continue to work together to identify key areas for collaboration and integration over the course of 2013-2014. These include:

1. Articulation of relationship with the Northern Human Services Partnership through participation and leadership in the NHSP/NHSP – West Forum;
2. Development of an NHSP – West Action Plan with core actions and deliverables; and,
3. Continue to support west-side organizations to build capacity to address key issues in a collaborative and interactive manner utilizing a northern community development approach.



Buffalo Narrows - Photographer: Carrie Wasyliw

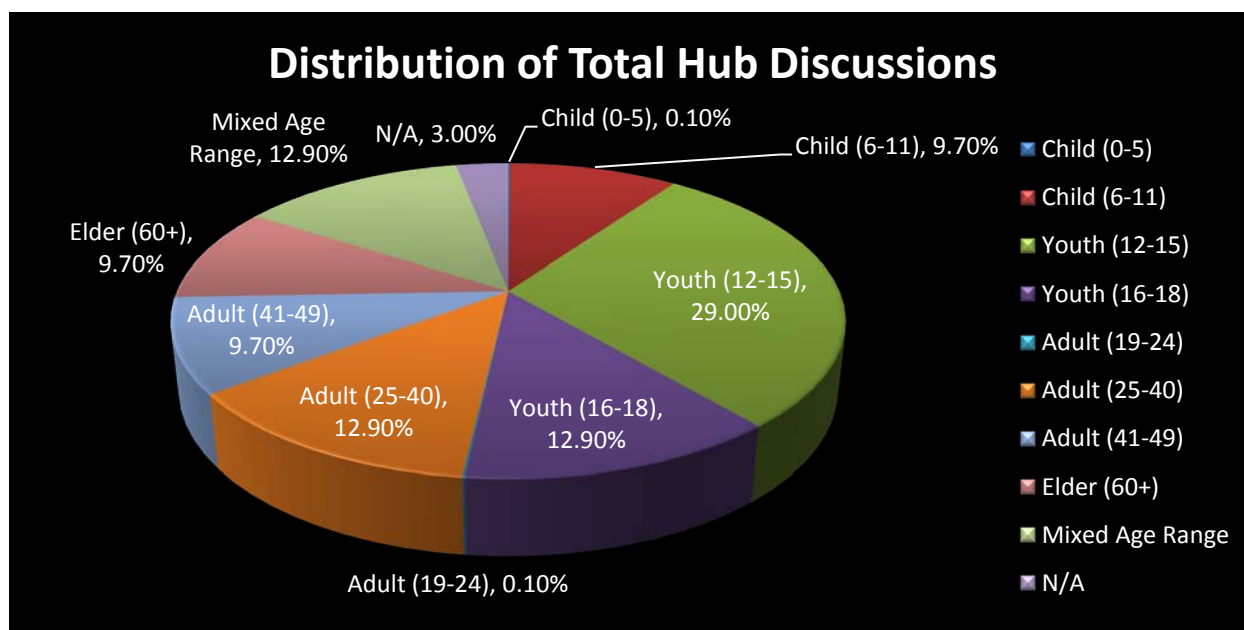
Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (LLRCM)

Strategic Aim:

Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (LLRCM) aims to provide a coordinated and integrated response through the immediate mobilization of Lac La Ronge region resources (Hub) to address situations facing individuals and/or families with acutely elevated risk factors, as recognized across a range of service providers. It is the goal that through the mobilization of regional resources that the Lac La Ronge region will achieve improved community safety and wellness and that citizens and families at risk in these communities will gain the supports they need to build positive and healthy lives, community members will grow and be educated in environments free from fear and risk, and businesses will operate in a safe and positive marketplace. Further, it is the intention that through the implementation of the LLRCM – Hub and with oversight from the LLRCM – Steering Committee, chronic and ongoing systemic issues will be addressed in a collaborative and effective method.

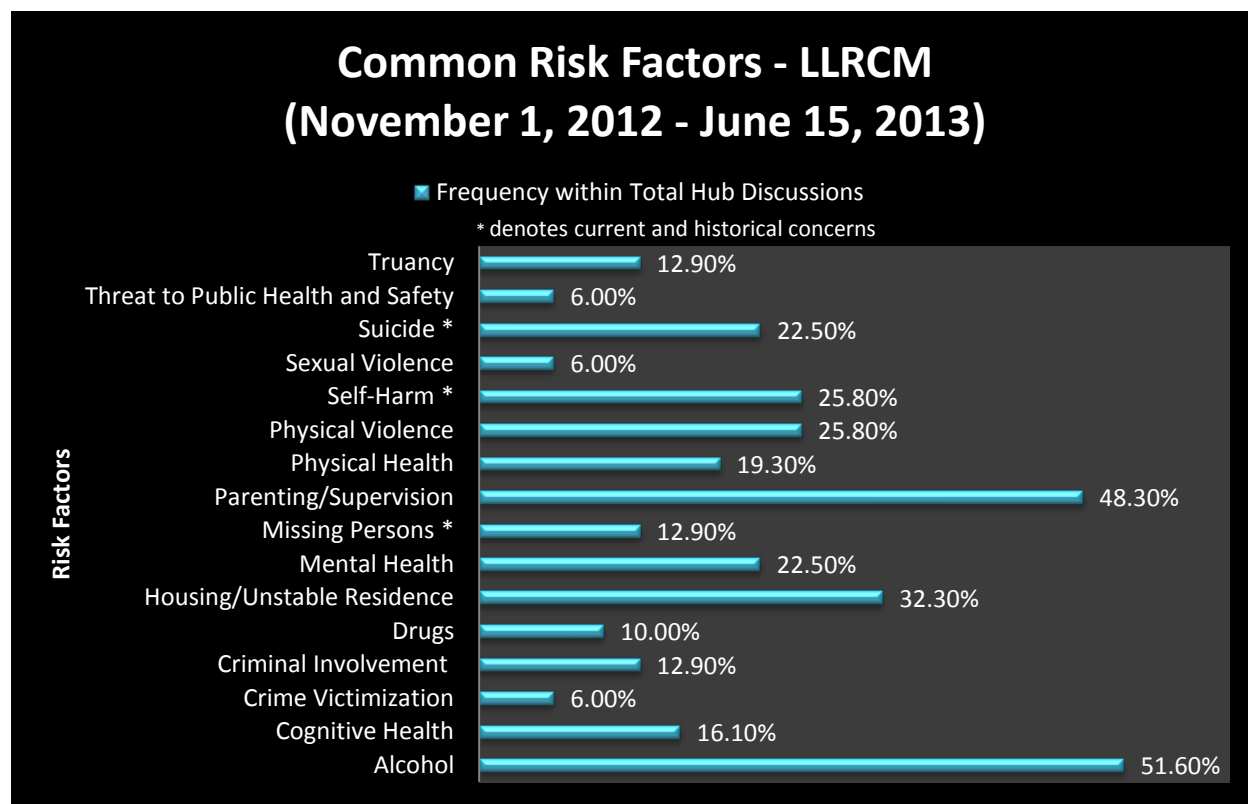
Highlights:

- Development and expansion of Steering Committee to include both First Nations, Federal and Provincial Human Service Management towards the development of LLRCM – Hub;
- Securing contributions to hire full-time Coordinator for LLRCM through the Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP) and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS);
- Hiring of full-time LLRCM Coordinator;
- Finalization of key documents to support the work of LLRCM in partnership with the Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime Strategy (BPRC);
- Delivery of workshop for Hub agencies on team building and conflict resolution;
- Delivery and analysis of internal survey focused on continual initiative improvement;
- Implementation of LLRCM – Hub in October of 2012. Between implementation and June 15, 2013, thirty-one (31) situations, both familial and individual, were discussed to address situations of elevated risk at the twice weekly Hub meetings. Thirty (30) of these accepted assistance with an average of four (4) agencies involved per situation; and,
- Through the increased networking that occurs at the Hub table, more than a dozen situations have been diverted prior to reaching crisis level requiring Hub intervention.



Measurables:

Ongoing evaluation takes place through the logging of key data as per Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime Strategy and the Privacy Commissioner's Guidelines. This data is continually utilized for LLRCM purposes.



Next Steps:

- Maintain LLRCM and advocate for the development of a centre for policy and resource development based out of La Ronge;
- Secure ongoing funding for the sustenance of the initiative;
- Continually highlight the success of the initiative within other northern communities. Support and link other northern communities to BPRC; and,
- Ensure systemic gaps are identified and address these issues collaboratively.

The following comments were made by participating agencies of the Hub and Steering Committee regarding the benefits of Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization – Hub:

“Hub became a great learning resource for me. Being new to La Ronge, I was unfamiliar with many community agencies and attending Hub provided me with information about what community organizations exist, what their primary services/mandates are, and who works for them. Hub has also allowed me to meet other helping professionals and build relationships with them that help compliment our outside-of-Hub interactions.”

“The connections and trust that is built will extend beyond confines of the Hub table to other work taking place in the community.”

“This really brings service providers together, creates linkages between sectors, organizations and people.”



“Networking has proved to be a huge asset and agencies are constantly learning more and more about other agencies.”

Northern Early Years Coalition (NEYC)

Vision:

As a result of our collaborative efforts, services and supports are fully integrated and all northern children will have a healthy start in life.

Mission:

To collaborate, promote and facilitate effective integrated services and supports that will provide more equitable opportunities for all northern children and their families.

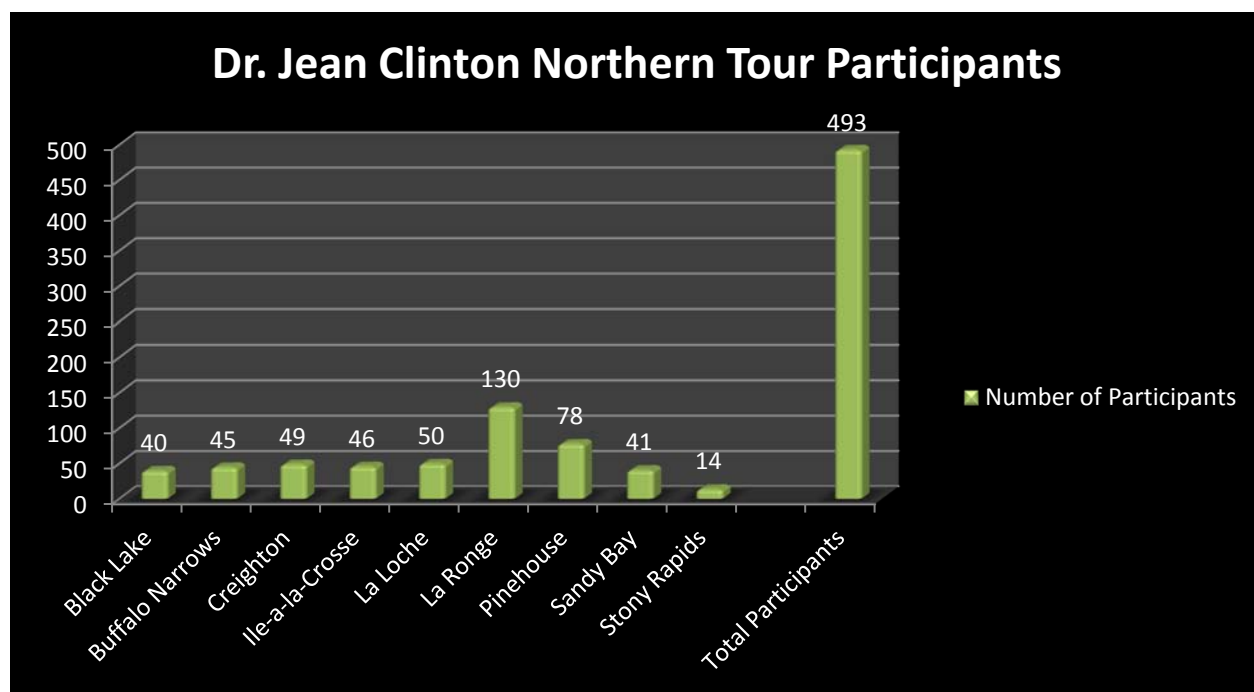
Highlights:

- Significant expansion of NEYC membership and partners, regardless of jurisdiction;
- Finalization of NEYC Terms of Reference and development of annual work-plan;
- Establishment of regular meetings including several conference calls and bi-annual face-to-face meetings to network, communicate, provide professional development opportunities, develop and delivery interagency initiatives based on common priorities;
- Secured funding and significant partnerships to deliver Early Childhood Brain Development Workshops in partnership with Dr. Jean Clinton in nine (9) northern locations including La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Île-à-la-Crosse, Pinehouse, Stony Rapids, Black Lake, La Ronge, Sandy Bay and Creighton in May and June of 2013.



Dr. Jean Clinton Northern Tour Contributors include:

Athabasca Health Authority
Black Lake Band
Cameco
Community Initiatives Fund
Creighton Community School
Ducharme Elementary School
Elder Hermeline
Flora Wagner
Georgina MacDonald
Hector Thiboutot Community School
Henry Roberts
Hoop Troupe
Ina Fietz Ray
Ida Tremblay
Île-à-la-Crosse Friendship Centre
Île-à-la-Crosse Fundraising Group
Île-à-la-Crosse Preschool
Île-à-la-Crosse Radio Station
Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority
KidsFirst North
Kikinahk Friendship Centre
La Loche Community Radio Station
La Loche Friendship Centre
La Loche Interagency
Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region
Marie Favel
Mikisew Preschool
Missinipe Broadcasting Corporation
Northern Early Years Coalition
Northern Human Services Partnership
Northern Tobacco Strategy
Northern Village of Buffalo Narrows
Northern Village of Pinehouse
Northern Village of Sandy Bay
Osprey Wings
Pinehouse Elder's Group
Prince Albert Grand Council
Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Saskatchewan Prevention Institute
Stony Rapids Community School
Ted Robillard
The Northerner
The Tinker Family
Therese Daigneault
Toni Lemaigre
Transwest Air



Participants Comments:

“The message is powerful! I hope stakeholders take the message seriously and act on strategies to mobilize community to address concerns...”

“Thank you... for mentioning elder’s wisdom because my Papa and Mama taught us a lot about child raising.”

“I really enjoyed the presentation, it was very heart touching and really opened my eyes as to how much a child can learn in such little time because they are little followers.”

“I learned a lot about the health and mental state of my baby. What she said really opened my eyes to be and play with my baby more often. Knowing that the father also plays a heavy role on a child’s life really amazed me!”

“I loved Dr. Clinton’s presentation in Île-à-la-Crosse. I have a son with a learning disability. He is 10 now and has not been diagnosed. I am doing everything I can to help him, but feel lost sometimes. Your talk was awesome.”

Long Term Measurables:

The measurables in this area will include ongoing analysis/comparison of data including the In-Hospital Birth Questionnaire, the Early Development Instrument, the Northern Health Indicator’s Report and other qualitative and quantitative information collected on an ongoing basis.

Short-Term/Ongoing Measurables:

The measurables in this area will include continue to focus on:

- Increased Parental/Caregiver Engagement
- Awareness Building around the Importance of Positive Early Childhood Development
- Improved Resource Accessibility/Development

Next Steps:

- Continue to monitor and develop positive and solution focused relationships with all northern organizations;
- Finalize the Northern Early Years Coalition Logo;
- Launch the Northern Early Years Coalition: Northern Children's Charter on National Child's Day (November 6, 2013);
- Explore the development of a matrix of early childhood services within northern Saskatchewan in partnership with the 211 initiative;
- Demonstrate need for Family Resource Centres in northern Saskatchewan; and
- Provide northern specific feedback to the Government of Saskatchewan promoting the development of an Early Childhood Strategy for all Saskatchewan residents.

Housing and Vulnerable Populations Initiatives

Strategic Aim:

The Northern Human Services Partnership has identified Housing and Vulnerable Populations Initiatives as a core priority. In this area, the partnership serves to build capacity in areas related to housing and homelessness, disability supports, addressing at-risk behaviors and harm reduction initiatives. By working with key stakeholders and organizations on these initiatives, it is the strategic aim to address northern gaps in service towards the development of resources to improve the lives of northern residents experiencing vulnerability.

Highlights:

- Supporting and building capacity of NorthSask Special Needs and the Scattered Site Outreach Program to improve disability supports and harm reduction initiatives within northern Saskatchewan;
- Participating and assisting in the delivery of the 9th Annual Northern Justice Symposium;
- Meeting with Minister June Draude (Social Services) to discuss and address northern gaps in services related to disability and support cost-sharing partnerships to address specific case plan for vulnerable individuals; and,
- Partnered with key regional stakeholders to form the Lac La Ronge Homelessness Partnership to pursue funding for a homeless shelter within the Lac La Ronge region.

Measurables:

Securing funding to pursue programs in the areas harm reduction initiatives and development of northern disability and homelessness supports.

Next Steps:

- Develop sustainable and ongoing plan to address issues related to homelessness and vulnerable populations initiatives;
- Continue to build capacity of current initiatives including the Northern Symposium for Safer and Healthier Communities (NSSHC), NSN, LLRHP; and,
- Secure resources, both human and financial, to build on current and future initiatives.



Grant Administration Committee

The NHSP Grant Administration Committee administers the Community Initiatives Fund – Community Grant Program (CIF – CGP), the Community Initiatives Fund – Summer Grant Program (CIF), the Student Summer Works (SSW) Program and the Child Nutrition and Development Program (CNDP). The Grant Administration Committee meets approximately four (4) times annually to review and provide recommendations on northern grant applications received for Community Initiatives Fund and the Student Summer Works Program.

Current Grant Administration Committee Members Include:

Children North
Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority
Kikinahk Friendship Centre
Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Government Relations
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Social Services
New North

NOTE: Membership on the Grant Administration is open to all member agencies of the NHSP.

Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) – Community Grant Program 2012-2013

- The 2011-2012 northern allotment was expended with a total of seventeen (17) organizations receiving funding. The 2012-2013 northern allotment is \$281,328.00 with one of two annual reviews complete. It is anticipated that the northern allotment will, once again, be expended to increase the capacity of northern organizations and initiatives. Thus far, a total of 8 organizations have received funding through the Community Grant Program for the 2012-2013 year.

Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) – Summer Grant Program 2013

- The 2013 northern allotment totaled \$70,322.00. All funds were expended to fund seventeen (17) northern summer initiatives.

Student Summer Works Program – 2013

- A total of \$60,200.00 was the northern allotment for the SSW 2013 Program. These funds were used to create twenty-one (21) jobs within nineteen (19) organizations north-wide.



Communication and Evaluation

Strategic Aim:

Communication: To effectively communicate with key stakeholders and to build awareness of the NHSP and its work on an ongoing basis through a variety of mechanisms.

Evaluation: To provide a qualitative and quantitative approach to evaluation which serves to validate the work of the NHSP to its members and key stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

Highlights:

- Coordinator attended Social Return on Investment (SROI) workshop and hosted overview presentation for NHSP membership;
- Coordinator attended Tamarack Institute's Evaluative Community Impact Conference and implemented evaluation techniques on a variety of initiatives;
- NHSP membership completed governance evaluation aimed at identifying and utilizing core competencies of members; and,
- Initiatives including the Northern Early Years Coalition (NEYC) and Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (LLRCM) utilized a variety of qualitative and quantitative evaluation techniques in order to gain insight regarding initiative progress and impact.

Next Steps:

- Update the NHSP website to an increasingly user friendly format; and,
- Utilize results of bi-annual RIC evaluation and internal membership survey to inform the priorities of the NHSP.



Media Coverage Listing

Radio Coverage

Date	Coverage Provided by:	Subject/Title
August 2012	CBC Radio (Interview)	Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (Rachael Steinke)
May/June 2013	Community Radio Stations	Public Service Announcements for Dr. Jean Clinton Northern Tour
June 2013	MBC Radio (Interview)	Early Childhood Brain Development (Dr. Jean Clinton)

Paid Advertisements

September 2012	The Northerner	Community Initiatives Fund Information
May 2013	The Northerner	Dr. Jean Clinton Northern Tour Information

Written Media Coverage

General

December 2012	The Northerner	"A Year in Review "(SVAW, LLRCM, Homelessness Initiative)
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Northern Early Years Coalition (NEYC)

May 2013	The Northerner	"Early Years Coalition to Host Northern Tour"
June 2013	The Northerner	"Early Childhood Specialist Makes Presentations in Northern Saskatchewan Communities"

Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (LLRCM)

August 2012	The Northerner	"Tri-Partied Community Mobilization Partnership Creation Underway"
October 2012	The Northerner	"Erin Carter Coordinates New Initiative"
November 2012	The Northerner	"Newly Formed: First Hub Meeting Held October 30"
November 2012	The Northerner	"CBOs Hear About Community Mobilization Initiative"

Housing and Vulnerable Persons Initiatives

September 2012	The Northerner	"Sexual Violence Awareness Week Events Planned"
September 2012	The Northerner	"Howard Walker Speaking on Traditional Response to Violence"
September 2012	The Northerner	"Sexual Awareness Week Launched with Public Event"
September 2012	The Northerner (Editorial – Valerie's Voice)	"Slut Walk Meant to Correct Derogatory Comments"
February 2013	The Northerner	"Initiative Working Toward Establishing Homeless Shelter"
February 2013	The Northerner (Editorial – Valerie's Voice)	"Homelessness – Bottom Line, It's about Life and Death"
July 2013	The Northerner	"Community Kitchen Program at Scattered Site Centre"
July 2013	The Northerner	"AIDS Outreach Opens in La Ronge"

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Kikinahk Friendship Centre Inc.

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Kikinahk Friendship Centre Inc.** which comprise of the balance sheet as of March 31, 2013 and the statements of members equity, revenue and expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility of the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for non-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of non-consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

The audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of **Kikinahk Friendship Centre Inc.** as at March 31, 2013, and the results of its operation and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for non-profit organizations.

Other Matters

The Supplementary information included is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not required disclosure under Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
May 10, 2013



Chartered Accountant.

KIKINAHK FRIENDSHIP CENTRE INC.SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
for the year ended March 31, 2013NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICE PARTNERSHIP (9000)

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
REVENUE:		
Contribution - Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health	\$ -	\$ 220,000
- Community Initiative Fund	358,399	18,303
Expense recoveries	9,132	-
Transfer to Community Mobilization	(100,000)	-
	<u>267,531</u>	<u>238,303</u>
Deferred revenue - beginning of the year	137,873	-
- end of the year	(158,866)	(137,873)
	<u>246,538</u>	<u>100,430</u>
EXPENSES:		
Administration fee (Note 9)	12,000	-
Occupancy costs (Note 9)	12,074	-
Advertising and promotion	980	629
Conference	-	9,500
Evaluation	8,570	2,880
Professional fees	-	3,929
Office supplies	952	96
Program materials	1,258	833
Wages and benefits	179,569	67,492
Telephone	1,583	-
Vehicle	8,687	-
Training	2,999	341
Travel and sustenance	<u>17,866</u>	<u>14,730</u>
	<u>246,538</u>	<u>100,430</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$ -	\$ -

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES SUBJECT TO
AUDITOR'S REPORT DATED MAY 10, 2013

NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

June 2013

BACKGROUND:

In 1992, the Assistant Deputy Minister's Forum on Service Integration was formed and between 1995-1998, nine Regional Intersectoral Committees were established in the Province of Saskatchewan to assist in the development of an integrated approach to the delivery of human services. The RICs focused on the identification and removal of barriers to service integration and served as a regional and community linkages to improve human resources and services. In 2000, the Assistant Deputy Minister's Forum, the over was renamed the Human Service Integration Forum(HSIF). In 2011, the HSIF was formally dissolved and the Senior Interministry Steering Committee (SIMS) was established. Provincial oversight of the RICs is shared by the SIMS through the Ministry of Education, Early Years Branch.

PURPOSE:

- Stimulate regional action to address the 4 goals of the Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda:
 - Children Get a Good Start;
 - Families are Strong;
 - Youth are Prepared;
 - Communities are Supportive.
- Mobilize human service providers to solve complex issues within a community/regional context;
- Build capacity at the community/regional levels;
- Adjudicate and facilitate accountability through the administration of grant programs;
- Support programming and projects which address areas of local/regional concern as identified by human service providers, communities and data.

WE VALUE:

- Integrated Teamwork and Respectful Communication;
- Utilizing a Community Development Approach to Strengthen Communities and Organizations;
- Data Driven Dialogue focused on Solutions;
- Avoiding Duplication by Promoting and Supporting each other despite jurisdictional boundaries;
- Advocacy with and on behalf of Northerners;
- Celebrating and Sharing Successes.

CODE OF ETHICS

As members of the Northern Human Services Partnership and its sub-committees, we hold ourselves accountable to the following guidelines. In our work together, we will:

- Discard old disputes and ideologies at the door;
- Be mindful of what really matters: our communities, our residents and our futures;
- Show respect in what we say and do;
- Focus on possibility and positive futures rather than debate the past
- Listen and learn – a different opinion does not make the other person wrong;
- Racism (in any form or manner) will not be tolerated;

- Professional behavior always:
 - Be on time for meetings;
 - No cell phone or texting distractions during meetings;
 - Be an active participant;
 - No side conversations.

VISION

The Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP) provides a coordinated and collaborative approach that will result in strong, healthy people, families and communities with well functioning agencies who work together to improve northern quality of life.

MANDATE

To further the ability of agencies and communities to make the best use of opportunities and to develop and nurture northern responses to complex and serious issues and challenges.

MISSION

Our mission is to create and maintain a forum for planning and delivery of integrated human services for Northern people. We do this by:

- Facilitating collaboration to address north-wide socio/human opportunities and issues;
- Using data driven dialogue and incubating “best practice” to address issues;
- Keeping agencies and service providers informed and connected north-wide;
- Building community, regional and agency capacity regarding training, grants, networking and project support;
- Identifying gaps and avoiding duplication through data driven advocacy to influence leadership and shape policy;
- Establishing a strong, collective northern voice for social change.

GOALS (2013-2014)

- Positioning the NHSP as the Northern “Go To” Organization
 - Development of Communication Plan
 - Development of Evaluation Framework
- Revitalizing and Broadening Membership
- Improving Staff Support
- Development of Sub-Committees including
 - NHSP – West
 - Community Mobilization
 - Northern Early Years Coalition

MEMBERSHIP and ROLES

- Membership of the NHSP is open to ensure broad Northern focus:
 - All provincial human service ministries and agencies;
 - All federal human service departments;
 - All First Nations agencies and organizations;
 - All community based organization.
- Each member organization is encouraged to name an delegate and alternate to ensure continuity within the member organization
- The Coordinator(s) is/are an ex-officio member of the NHSP.

Co-Chairs:

- The NHSP will have two-three (2-3) Co-Chairs, or as determined by the NHSP membership;
- One Co-Chair will be a representative from Provincial Government;
 - It is the goal that the Co-Chairs will represent the diversity of the NHSP membership.
- Co-Chairs will serve for a period of two years on an overlapping basis to promote continuity.

Membership currently includes representatives from the following agencies: (*represents current Co-Chairs)

*Ministry of Justice – Justice and Attorney General	*Children North
New North Inc. – SANC Services	Ministry of Education
North Sask Victim Services	Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Ministry of Government Relations	Keewatin Career Development Corporation
Ministry of Justice – Corrections and Policing	*Mamawetan Churchill River Health Region
Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District	Population Health Unit
Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority	Northern Lights School Division #113
Ministry of Social Services	KidsFirst North
Kikinahk Friendship Centre	Northern Healthy Communities Partnership

MEETINGS

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis with exception of the summer months (July/August). Meetings may take place via conference call or in-person, as deemed appropriate by NHSP membership.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committees are developed on the recommendation the Northern Human Services Partnership to address complex issues or support opportunities. Co-chairs for the sub-committees will be developed from existing NHSP membership or non-member experts deemed appropriate by the NHSP membership. The Coordinator may fulfill a sub-committee co-chair role only if deemed appropriate by the NHSP membership.

DECISION MAKING

All decisions of the NHSP membership will be made by consensus.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

In development.



**Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee (NHSP/NRIC)
COORDINATOR WORKPLAN 2013-2014**

1. Saskatchewan Government Growth Plan Goals:	2. Saskatchewan Child and Family Agenda Goals:	3. SIMS Terms of Reference: RIC Scope of Work	4. NHSP Strategic Plan and Action Plan:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Investing in the infrastructure required for growth. b) Educating, training and developing a skilled workforce. c) Ensuring the ongoing competitiveness of Saskatchewan's economy. d) Supporting increased trade, investment and exports through international engagement. e) Advancing Saskatchewan's natural resource strengths, particularly through innovation, to build the next economy. f) Ensuring fiscal responsibility through balanced budgets, lower debt and smaller more effective government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Children get a good start in life. b) Youth are prepared for their future. c) Families are strong. d) Communities are supportive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Building on existing interagency partnerships. b) Working with communities, agencies and human services agencies to identify barriers and solutions for increased integration in human services program delivery. c) Facilitating collaborative problem-solving processes and resource-sharing commitments. d) Facilitating the collection, distribution, analysis, and community engagement in the use of data to improve evidence-based decision making. e) Addressing needs of vulnerable residents through an integrated case management plan, and utilizing the Complex Needs Case Protocol (February 2011) as appropriate. f) Promoting and facilitating community development strategies. g) Making recommendations to facilitate innovations in the delivery of human services. 	<p>Strategic Goals 2012-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sustain the NHS Partnership, Governance and Structures. b) Build Capacity – Incubate and Promote Best Practice. c) Host an Annual Forum for Professional and Community Development. <p>Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Position and Advocate Effectively. e) Revitalize Membership. f) Develop NHSP – West. g) Support Community Mobilization Initiatives. h) Support the Northern Early Years Coalition. i) Provide Support to Staff. j) Communicate Effectively and Efficiently. k) Support Evaluation.

June 2013




Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee (NHSP/NRIC)
COORDINATOR WORKPLAN 2013-2014

Initiative	Actions	Tangibles	OBJ	Lead	Status/Timeline	Intended Impact
	Provincial					
RICCT Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent NHSP on RICCT Represent NHSP on one RICCT Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend regular RICCT meetings and support 	2abcd 3abcdeg 4aj	Rachael	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional representation on provincial committee
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure accountability and reporting requirements are completed and submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit proposed budget by June 15th Submit financial year end report May 31 Submit audited financial statement by March 31 	1f 4a	Co-Chairs/Rachael	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhering to contract requirements within Order in Council; accountability.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure accountability and reporting requirements are completed and submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and submit annual evaluation of Coordinator Complete and submit bi-annual RIC self-evaluation (2013) 	1f 3bdg 4aijk	Co-Chairs/Rachael Membership	Annually Bi-Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhering to contract requirements within Order in Council; self-improvement.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure accountability and reporting requirements are completed and submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit RIC annual report by August 15 Submit Coordinator work plan by Submit quarterly one-pagers 	1f 2abcd 3abdf 4abdj	Rachael/Co-Chairs	Annually Annually Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhering to contract requirements within Order in Council; accountability.
KidsFirst Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent NHSP on KidsFirst North Management Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend regular KFN Executive Support and advocate for region as needed Support the development of Family Resource Centres 	2acd 3abceg 4bdh	Rachael	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic relationship and linkages.



Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee (NHSP/NRIC)
COORDINATOR WORKPLAN 2013-2014

Initiative	Actions	Tangibles	OBJ	Lead	Status/Timeline	Intended Impact
 NHSP Meetings	Northern Human Services Partnership					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate NHSP meetings Host Annual Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop improved meeting structure Draft and disseminate meeting packages Alternate membership and NHSP - W/C 	1f 3abcdefg 4abceij	Rachael/Co-Chairs Membership	Ongoing Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication, Networking, Interagency
Administration and Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and adhere to 2013-2014 budget 		1f 3c 4a	Rachael/Co-Chairs	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial accountability and budgeting
Membership Revitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategic approach to membership buy-in and retention Pursue additional partners Support community and regional interagency projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a yearly meeting plan Conduct internal survey regarding NHSP member satisfaction and initiatives Develop FN and Far North partners Explore partnership b/t NHSP/NHCP Highlight successes of NHSP 	1f 2d 3abcfg 4abdeij	Rachael/Co-Chairs/Membership	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase and maintain partners and credibility of NHSP
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek professional development opportunities for Coordinator and membership 		1b 3d 4abcei	Rachael/Membership	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge building, retention, networking
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop communications strategy with NHSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete annual work plan, annual report, one-pagers. Update core documents including T of R, orientation package, membership listing, organizational chart, ppt presentation Build user friendly website. Maintain. 	1f 2d 3abdf 4abcdefgh ijk	Rachael/Sub-Committee	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of success, building awareness of NHSP



Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee (NHSP/NRIC)
COORDINATOR WORKPLAN 2013-2014

Initiative	Actions	Tangibles	OBJ	Lead	Status/Timeline	Intended Impact
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop evaluation framework for NHSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize results of biannual RIC evaluation and internal membership survey to inform structure, membership and priorities Research innovative evaluation techniques. Share and utilize. 	1f 1bcg 4abdj	Rachael/Membership	Ongoing	Committee improvement and development
Grant Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer and support CNDP, SSW and CIF-CGP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update/maintain grant database/filing system Support community initiatives/organizations in accessing grants through a variety of mechanisms 	1f 2abcd 3bcfg 4b	Admin. Ass't/Rachael/Sub-Committee	Ongoing	Capacity Building within region
NHSP - West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop NHSP - W 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support and guidance to NHSP - West Coordinator 	3abcfg 4abdef	Rachael/Co-Chairs	Ongoing	Interagency Support; linkages and equitable representation
Initiatives						
Community Safety and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime (BPRC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support, link and advocate for developing initiatives 	2bd	Membership/Rachael	Ongoing	Strategic relationships, capacity building
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization (LLRCM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build awareness in communities of BPRC and community mobilization Serve as chair of LLRCM SC Oversee LLRCM Coordinator 	3bcfg 4bdgk	Rachael	Ongoing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Symposium for Safer and Healthier Communities (NSSHC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure key documents are developed Support and participate in the planning and delivery of NSSHC 		Rachael	Annually	



Northern Regional Intersectoral Committee (NHSP/NRIC)
COORDINATOR WORKPLAN 2013-2014

Initiative	Actions	Tangibles	OBJ	Lead	Status/Timeline	Intended Impact
Early Childhood Development - Northern Early Years Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing guidance and support to Co-Chairs and Committee of NEYC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide key Northern recommendations to Government for the development of an early years strategy for all Saskatchewan residents • Develop and launch Northern Children's Charter • Develop matrix of Northern early childhood services in Northern Saskatchewan • Deliver EC brain development workshops in Northern Saskatchewan • Examine opportunity for development of Family Resource Centres • Assist in development of evaluation framework 	2abcd 3abcd 4bdhjk	Rachael/NEYC Co-Chairs/NEYC Sub-Committees	2013-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthier, happier children who are ready to learn • Improved data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Evaluation 					
Housing/Vulnerable Population Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NorthSask Special Needs • Lac La Ronge Homelessness Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally support NSN • Support and advocate for housing and support for individuals with cognitive disabilities/vulnerabilities • Support and advocate for a NEX and point of care testing through SSOP Mobile Outreach • Assist in the development of grant proposals for a Northern Homeless Shelter 	2d 3bcfg 4bd	Rachael	2013-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease criminalization, development of northern options for support; improved health and wellbeing of vulnerable population.

Newly formed: First HUB meeting held Oct. 30

Community presentation being planned for near future

BY VALERIE G.
BARNES-CONNELL

The first meeting of the HUB, which is part of the newly formed Lac La Ronge Community Mobilization Corp., was held on Tuesday, Oct. 30. The HUB will meet twice weekly bringing representatives of various agencies together to work with people at risk in the three communities.

The three communities, Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB), Northern Village of Air Ronge and Town of

La Ronge partnered to create the Community Mobilization Corp.

"The point of the (HUB) meetings is to discuss situations of acutely elevated risk and how we can best work together to mitigate them," said Erin Carter, coordinator for the Community Mobilization.

The other component of the organization is the steering committee, which discusses and makes decisions.

"The steering commit-

tee looks at complex issues that arise at the HUB level, we don't deal with specific cases, but we deal with policy gaps, or system gaps ... it's the longer term issues," said Rachael Steinke, who works with the Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP), which is the organization, which guided

the process to fruition.

NHSP will assist the Community Mobilization Corp over the next year as a funder and will sit on the Steering Committee. "We'll be providing the transition assistance ... to the coordinator looking to pursue sustainable funding and sit at the steering committee level

to do some of that systemic policy advocacy.

The next step in the project will be a community presentation in the near future to ensure CBO (community based organizations) are being engaged in the process. "All of those groups that do

play a key role, we want to engage them ... basically meet with them to have that back and forth conversation," Carter said.

Also a local artist is working on a logo for the Community Mobilization Corp.

CBOs hear about Community Mobilization Initiative

BY VALERIE G.
BARNES-CONNELL

Erin Carter, coordinator for the La Ronge Community Mobilization Corp., offered two presentations to representatives of community-based organizations in the area at Kikinahk, the Friendship Centre, on Thursday, Dec. 6. One of the presentations was held at 4 p.m. and the other at 6 p.m.

The HUB is the part of the Community Mobilization process, which is made up of representatives of agencies throughout the three communities, Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB), the Northern Village of Air Ronge and the Town of La Ronge, who work directly with people in need of services.

The purpose of the meetings was to "engage the

CBOs and to answer questions how they can be involved in the Hub and the Community Mobilization process," Carter said in an interview with *The Northerner*.

Representatives from CBOs would not sit at the HUB table, but would often have partnerships with some of the agencies, which do with the HUB.

"It's touching base with them. They do good work and we want to be part of that good work in supporting each other."

Rachael Steinke, who works with the Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP), outlined how the Community Mobilization Corp model was developed in the La Ronge area during the sessions.

Early Years Coalition to host northern tour

BY VALERIE G. BARNES-CONNELL

The Northern Early Years Coalition will host Dr. Jean Clinton, an internationally-renown early childhood development specialist for a tour to offer communities across the north the opportunity to attend a presentation.

She will tour the west side communities of La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Meadow Lake in May.

Clinton will be on the eastside in June: Pinehouse; Far North (undetermined); La Ronge for two presentations; Sandy Bay and Creighton.

Clinton has extensive experience working with early years and childcare programs i.e., she is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Welcome to Kindergarten Program with The Learning Partnership and a founding board member and Fellow of the Fraser Mustard's Council for Early Child Development along with Hamilton's Best Start Network. She leads the Primary Care Engagement Strategy for an enhanced 18-month well-baby-visits and the provincial primary care education strategy.

She authored papers on early year's development and poverty, infant neglect, children's mental health, resilience

and adolescent brain development and "advocates for a system for children's well-being and promotes Asset Building believing All Kids are our Kids."

The Coalition has representatives from KidsFirst North, ECIP, the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Association (NITHA) and the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and other northern organizations working with children between birth and five years of age.

Initiative working toward establishing homeless shelter

BY VALERIE G.
BARNES-CONNELL

Representatives from several agencies have come together to seek funding, through a Homelessness Partnership Strategy, to hire a consultant who would develop a vision to address homelessness for the region from a collective approach.

Agencies involved in the initiative are: NorthSask Special Needs, the Scattered Site Outreach Program represented by Jackie Ballantyne, The Northern Human Services

Partnership (NHSP) represented by Rachael Steinke, who also represents the Town of La Ronge, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) represented by Councillors Sam Roberts and Annie Ratt, Adult community Corrections represented by Carla Frohaug and Joan Johnson, the Lac La Ronge Food Bank represented by Sheila Woytowich, and the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) Justice represented by Theresa Irving.

Chief Tammy Cook-Scar-

son, of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) spoke to The Northerner about the initiative.

She said representatives of the Band work working together with other partners to develop a concept to address the homelessness situation in the region. "It's all conceptual right now ... sometimes we think it's a simple fix, but it's not because there's so many issues and people have their ideas. We're hoping to come up with a shared vision so that way we can

work a lot quicker because we know there is a need ... They are trying to come up with a shared vision because we realized that there are homeless people in our area and we need to do something to keep them safe and support them the best way we can."

Cook-Scarson said there were about 30 people who have self-declared themselves homeless, but there are probably more.

"We do have full support from our councillors, also our programs ICFS and Health."

She said the communities are doing their best to work together.

The Town of La Ronge is supporting the initiative. "We've written a letter of support, we've appointed an employee as well as a councillor to sit on the grant submission committee," said Mayor Thomas Sierzycki.

Council members appointed Coun. Rachael Steinke to the committee along with the Town's administrator, Dave Zarazun, who can "offer any administrative support."

Sierzycki said, "We're very excited about the process ... There is a need in this region for a facility of this nature."

Sierzycki said the establishment of such a facility doesn't fall under a municipal mandate, "however the municipality needs to be a partner in the long-term solution in making sure that residents of our community, that may be in difficult times to have an avenue to get support and the assistance they may require."

Homelessness - bottom line, it's about life and death



VALERIE'S VOICE

Valerie G.
Barnes-Connell

A discussion on homelessness took up some of the time during a community meeting in the Northern Village of Air Ronge Dec. 5.

Many of us in the community, and I am including the three communities here when I refer to community, know people who are homeless in the area.

Questions arose about why people are homeless, what would best be done to help them and what resources could be provided.

There seemed to be reluctance on the part of some residents to see the need for people to be given shelter if it wasn't going to make a lasting change in their lives, or if there was a possibility they would become dependent on a shelter.

I am never sure what makes people able to separate others' lives from their own. What makes us believe we are somehow worth more than other people, that we have more rights because life dealt us some different cards or that we can ignore those who may have just received a bad hand?

I'm not much of a card player; it's just an analogy to make a point.

Are people who don't see themselves connected to others who live in different circumstances any less than those who do? I don't think so. It seems to be a reality in our very broken society. Because something is very broken when this kind of thing happens.

The bottom line is: We have many homeless people living in our communities, whether it's people who couch surf - which is the reality of the lives of many youth in the area - or whether they are on the street with no place to live; it is a matter of life and death.

Every winter I receive news of a body being found in the bush somewhere. Death is by natural causes. The deaths are brushed off as from among some of the homeless people. I hear it all

the time.

Maybe some of us need to do some heartfelt thinking about a couple of issues - issues such as our humanity. We have a responsibility to ensure all our citizens, including people who are homeless, have shelter. As someone said at the meeting, it is a basic human right of everyone.

People become homeless in a variety of ways. For some it may be through addictions, for others a loss of job, or a variety of other reasons.

Take a moment to imagine what you would do if you had to survive with no home and no means of really taking care of yourself. It takes some ingenuity to survive. For many, and an increasing number of people, living paycheck to paycheck is a reality of life.

When that paycheck suddenly disappears, people can easily become one of, what seems to be growing in numbers, the homeless.

Seniors in our country are at particular risk in the near future as the age for Old Age Security advances and other issues arise.

People who are homeless are no different than the rest of us; they are people who

need our care and compassion in a fair and non-judgmental way.

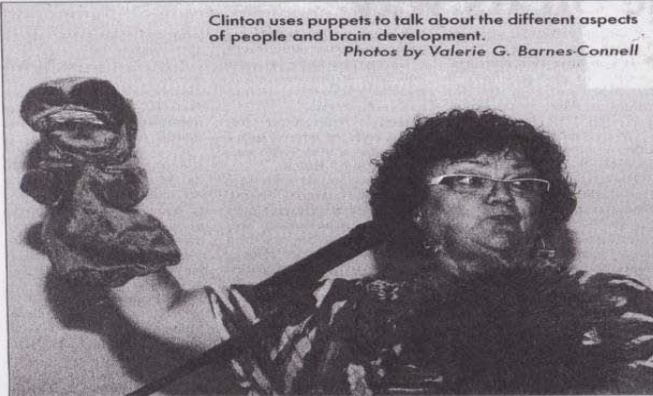
I appreciate there is a group of people who are committed to changing that situation in our community by working towards the development of a shelter for people don't have a home. Only from that kind of action can change have a possibility of occurring.

The spin-offs ... people would be safer, they would have more opportunities, the crime level would likely drop and safety levels would increase. For example, it could mean the lessening of fire hazards in the area.

People find places that are not necessarily safe when they are cold and hungry. Some deliberately commit crimes to get arrested so they have shelter, even if it is a prison. Who can blame them? We might all do the same if faced with a similar situation.

Everybody deserves an opportunity to come in out of the cold; it is a human right. Bottom line, it's a life and death issue. Let's choose the hope of a life option for people and offer support to the people who are attempting to make change by developing a shelter. It's needed desperately.

Early years specialist makes presentations in northern Saskatchewan communities



Clinton uses puppets to talk about the different aspects of people and brain development.
Photos by Valerie G. Barnes-Connell



Dr. Jean Clinton talks with Otto Feitz, a Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) member and PAGC educator, following her presentation.

**BY VALERIE G.
BARNES-CONNELL**

The old saying goes something like, if you can't bring Mohammad to the mountain, you bring the mountain to Mohammad.

That is what the Northern Early Years Coalition did in May and June; they brought Dr. Jean Clinton, an internationally recognized early years specialist, from Ontario to northern Saskatchewan communities to meet with people and make a variety of presentations to a wide variety of groups in communities.

Clinton was in La Ronge on Wednesday, June 12 at the Kikinahk Friendship Centre where she met with members of the Northern Early Years Coalition, did an afternoon presentation for professionals working with children and an evening presentation for families.

Clinton has been a child ^{psychiatrist} psychologist for close to 30 years and she talked about bringing along her teachers.

Dr. Clyde Herzman, she credits with bringing an idea about what happens as you are developing and how that affects your DNA.

"If you've had abuse, neglect, it's like a signature put on your DNA," Clinton said.

And Dr. Dan Offord, who made the connections between the importance of language and communication in brain development.

And her own five children were also her main teachers over the years.

"Love builds brains; it's all about relationship. Relationship is the building block to all learning," Clinton said.

She talked about babies years ago who were left to cry, were not touched and many of them died.

"It's human contact, it's love and once

they started doing that the babies started living."

How parents interact with babies affects the brain. How people interact with the baby not only affects the baby, but his/her life later on and how she or he will parent their own children.

When it comes to teenage brains, temperament is vitally important. While one child is easy going, the next child may be quite intense.

She spoke about the sacredness of children in the First Nations culture. "They are the sacred ones, they are the heart of the nation. It is the sacred responsibility of the community to raise the children. When we think about our non-aboriginal teachings about raising children, we do not have these kinds of core beliefs. ... The best time to influence a child is 100 years before they are born."

She spoke about recent United Nations figures about the condition of children. Canada ranked 17 out of 29. "We need to be paying much more attention on how are the children. This is the heart of mental health".

She talked about concerns about school readiness in children ... "we have been duped into believing that cognitive development is more important than social emotional development, which you learn from play, not watching television. Children are arriving at school and not knowing how to get along."

The role of the father is important. Fathers and mothers interact differently with babies, for example, and they need both, she said.

She also noted that signs of FASD are now coming from fathers who drink alcohol.

Clinton talked about babies being born with brain cells and are "little scientists."

They will figure out language and the things they need.

She recommended reading to babies as much as possible, which helps the brain to develop at an early age.

Brain cells continue developing until a person is approximately 24 years old, for boys a bit longer, Clinton said.

She ended her presentation by talking about the benefits of the Roots of Empathy program.

Clinton is an internationally recognized expert in early years brain development Dr. Jean Clinton, who works with the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital, McMaster University in children's psychiatry. "She has been a consultant to child welfare and children's mental health programs for 25 years," quoted from her on-line biography.

Clinton has extensive experience working with early years and childcare programs i.e., she is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Welcome to

Kindergarten Program with The Learning Partnership and a founding board member and Fellow of the Fraser Mustard's Council for Early Child Development along with Hamilton's Best Start Network. She leads the Primary Care Engagement Strategy for an enhanced 18-month well baby visits and the provincial primary care education strategy.

Clinton authored papers on early year's development and poverty, infant neglect, children's mental health, resilience and adolescent brain development and "advocates for a system for children's well-being and promotes Asset Building believing All Kids are our Kids."

The Coalition has representatives from KidsFirst North, ECIP, the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Association (NITHA) and the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and other northern organizations working with children between birth and five years of age.

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