



Report to Senior Inter-Ministry Steering (SIMS) Committee - September 2013

1. Highlights of 2012-13

Early Years Strategy- It is widely accepted that early childhood experiences set the trajectories for mental and physical health, student achievement and employment. Positive early childhood experiences can be protective factors for adult criminality. Our Early Years Strategic Planning session held on October 4, 2012 set the stage for our work plan. Our aim is to increase school readiness as measured by the Early Development Instrument (EDI). We developed four broad strategies to influence early childhood outcomes: 1.) measure and monitor progress towards our aim, 2.) cultivate expectations for the best possible care, 3.) increase parent and community engagement, and 4.) support parents to be the best. The RIC and the 0-3 Years Early Childhood Task Force developed a plan which focuses on parent and community engagement and supporting parents to be the best. In 2013—14 the RIC and the 0-3 Years Early Childhood Task Force will use a conversation café process to gather parent perspectives or their stories behind the baseline of the data. The goal is to work with the communities and service providers to support parents to be the best. To date we have consulted 82 parents representing 166 children from across the region.

Early Years Data presentations were delivered to Primary Health Care teams, interagencies and integrated services committees with the goal of building community capacity to support early childhood development. Kelsey Trail Health Region has used the early years data to inform and build capacity for child care centres to address childhood obesity through physical activity policies and programming. The North East School Division continues to focus efforts on improving student outcomes through enhanced early learning supports in pre kindergarten and kindergarten and increased focus on literacy development for grades 1-3. The 0-3 Years Early Childhood Task Force has worked with community, public health and to distribute 800 book bags for babies containing resources and information for new parents.

Nipawin Community Mobilization Initiative—Hub - The Nipawin Community Mobilization Initiative—Hub is a collaborative integrated multi-agency team, building safer communities, reducing crime and victimization; accomplished through the mobilization of resources. The initiative will contribute to a broader focus on long-term community safety and well being, and articulate to Nipawin Integrated Services Committee and the Northeast RIC possible systemic recommendations. Following presentations by Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime and a visit to the Prince Albert Hub, the Nipawin Integrated Services Committee, with support and leadership from the RIC, established the Nipawin Community Mobilization Initiative Hub Steering Committee to lay the foundational structure for the Nipawin Hub. The Nipawin Hub is a team of designated staff from community agencies and government ministries who meet regularly to address specific situations regarding individuals facing elevated risk to develop immediate and integrated responses through the mobilization of resources. The

Hub began operation in September 2013 with participating agencies: RCMP, MSS Child and Family Services and Income Assistance Services, North East School Division, Ministry of Justice Adult Probations and Young Offenders, Kelsey Trail Health Region and Nechapanuk Centre Child and Family Services.

Housing - One of the goals of the RIC is to build community capacity to respond to the housing needs. In 2012-13 there have been a number of developments of which involved contributions by the RIC. Community leaders in Nipawin working under the umbrella of Prince Albert Habitat for Humanity constructed a Habitat home in Nipawin and are working towards a second. In December of 2012 a Melfort Habitat for Humanity formed with plans to construct a home by 2015. On March 20, 2013 the Government of Saskatchewan announced funding for Northeast Outreach and Support Services for the construction and operation of a 16 bed safe shelter for women and children victimized by domestic violence. This facility is expected to be completed by 2015. Nipawin, Melfort and Tisdale civic administration are using their RIC supported strategic housing plans to address housing supply and housing quality. The NE RIC supports the Poverty Reduction Task Force initiated by the Salvation Army which brings together service providers and community once a month to build awareness of challenges of individuals living in poverty, develop short term practical plans assisting individuals in poverty (including housing) and engage the community to address longer term systemic changes.

2. Challenges and Opportunities

The RICs offer a unique opportunity for the Government of Saskatchewan. The RICs bring together human services ministry decision makers. The RICs are structured to connect to the community and human services ministry decision makers at the regional level. It is an effective mechanism to respond to community and regional needs. The RIC supports and implements policy and programs and facilitates community consultation to address community, regional and provincial priorities including the Child and Family Agenda. It is necessary to enhance mechanisms of communication between the RIC co-chairs and SIMS in order to respond to regional needs and address provincial priorities.

The RIC acknowledges the North East School Division, for their leadership in completing the Early Development Instrument and Kelsey Trail Health Region nurses for facilitating the completion of the In Hospital Birth Questionnaire. Thank you to the Ministry of Education for their work in preparation of the Early Years Data packages which include the Community Risk Indicator data and EDI and IHBQ information. Provincial support of systematic collection and review of the Early Development Instrument, a population early childhood measure, is necessary in order to support early childhood development at a community, regional level and provincial level.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Ives, Coordinator

Eric Hufnagel and Delphine Grandguillot – Co-Chairs

Northeast Regional Intersectoral Committee, Box 6500, Melfort, SK S0E 1A0