



## **Report to Senior Inter-ministry Steering (SIMS) Committee-December 2013**

### **Highlights and Areas of Focused Attention**

#### **Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime - Nipawin Community Mobilization Initiative**

- ❖ Hub weekly meetings held since September 2013 with more than 11 cases closed to date
- ❖ As anticipated the process has contributed to: positive relationship building among agencies; collaborative problem solving; addressing issues for individuals and families in real time; and demonstrated commitment from Town of Nipawin
- ❖ The following lead agencies have dedicated human resources each week to respond to issues: Ministry of Justice, RCMP, Social Services, Kelsey Trail Health Region - Mental Health & Addictions and Nipawin Hospital, North East School Division
- ❖ The Northeast RIC continues to support the Hub by facilitating communication and monitoring progress both regionally and through the Nipawin Integrated Services Committee
- ❖ The City of Melfort Protective Services Committee has scheduled a presentation by Matt Gray, BPRC on January 14, 2014. Ministry of Justice representatives and RIC members will be in attendance to gauge interest in developing a Melfort initiative.

#### **Early Years**

- ❖ The NE RIC Parent Engagement Strategy report on the Parent Conversation Cafes will be presented to the Northeast RIC and the 0-3 Years Early Childhood Task Force on January 9, 2014. The project report will provide parent perspectives on the strengths and gaps in community supports, program and services for parents and their young children. The RIC and the 0-3 Task Force will be formulating an action plan with the goal of supporting parents to be the best parents.
- ❖ Community Capacity Building – National Child Day celebration was held in Hudson Bay; Hello Parent - parent child group has been re-initiated in Melfort; Hello Parent will be replicated in Nipawin at Nipawin Oasis; Healthy Start LEAP training program implementation in licensed daycares; Books for Babies and 18 month Book Bags continue to be distributed throughout the region
- ❖ Licensed Child Care – Ministry of Education building plans for a new school in Hudson Bay will include a licensed child care facility
- ❖ Nipawin Kids First Targeted - In partnership with the NESD and Kelsey Trail Health Region - Nipawin Primary Health, regular monthly health clinics will be held at Central Park School.

#### **Poverty Reduction Task Force**

- ❖ In partnership with the Salvation Army, RIC member agencies are participating in Task Force activities in Melfort, Tisdale and Nipawin. Awareness building and community engagement “Poverty Buster” activities have been successful. Mayors of Melfort, Nipawin and Tisdale declared – *Poverty No More Day* in October. Other events and activities include: distribution of a home winterizing kit, PLEA brochures on landlord tenant rights and a Christmas hamper newsletter -“The best things in life can be free or inexpensive”. The RIC

along with our integrated services partners be organizing Poverty Awareness Workshops in Melfort and Nipawin- coming soon in January or February. In March we are mobilizing volunteers to assist with income tax form completion assistance. As project funding winds up the RIC and its partners are seeking opportunities to sustain and enhance the poverty reduction efforts.

### **Challenges and opportunities in our region**

- ❖ **Reducing Community Violence** – This is an emerging area of concern for our region. Community Based Organizations, Eastern Region II Métis Nation and North East Outreach and Support Services and Provincial Association of Transition Houses (PATHS) have been involved in community research funded by the Government of Canada identifying gaps in prevention, programming and services. North East Outreach and Support Services is proceeding with the construction of a Women’s Shelter for Domestic Violence in partnership with the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Justice. ERII Métis Nation has been working with the community and intersectoral partners to develop a community action plan addressing violence.
- ❖ **Community Initiatives Fund** - On December 10<sup>th</sup> the Northeast RIC was informed of changes to the Community Initiatives Fund program and new adjudication system. The CIF will create four multi- sectoral committees for the Community Grant directly supported and managed and supported by CIF. The partnership between the Regional Intersectoral Committee grant adjudication committees and the CIF has been dissolved. The NE RIC will no longer receive the administration fee of \$7400 for reviewing the regional grant applications and making recommendations to the CIF board. The CIF and the RIC share the goal of building community capacity for strong healthy children and families and safe inclusive communities. The newly created CIF adjudication committees may not have all relevant community information to distribute the grant funds for the most efficient use to benefit communities. We are concerned that small rural communities and organizations with limited capacities for proposal writing may be disadvantaged in the larger pool of applications. On the other hand this change will free up some time for the RIC Grant Review committee and the RIC coordinator who supported the grant review process. We anticipate that the RIC partner organizations will continue to submit applications to the CIF to support integrated/ intersectoral projects that support healthy growth and development of children and families.

### **Provincial Challenges and Opportunities**

- ❖ The RIC Coordinators’ Team welcomes Janet Mitchell from the Ministry of Education/ the Host Ministry. We look forward to a close working relationship between the SIMS and the RICs.
- ❖ The RIC/SIMS Forum to be scheduled in the New Year is an opportunity to build a strong foundation of communication, consultation and collaboration to move the Child and Family Agenda forward, enhancing the successes of previous RIC/SIMS Forums.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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