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Making Connections



ECDSS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE 3 VOLUME 2
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Wow, where did the summer go? Hopefully the nice weather sticks around for a while. September is JUST around the corner and we have a full-line up of courses coming up this month. Start the fall season off by joining us at an upcoming professional development opportunity. Register soon to ensure your spot!



Register Online at
www.ecdss.ca

Mental Health First Aid

This two day training will provide a comprehensive introduction to common mental health disorders that impact many of the families supported by ECD programs. While practitioners are often well versed in physical first aid, there is often a lack of understanding related to mental health first aid. Four sessions will cover areas including common mental health problems, addictions, anxiety disorders, depression and psychotic disorders.

Date: September 15 - 16, 2011 (2 day)
February 9-10, 2011

Cost: \$105.00



"Working together for our children's future."

Calling All Past Leadership Challenge Participants...

We are offering you the opportunity to take the Leadership Practice Inventory (LPI) again to be able to assess how your journey has progressed and provide you with further insight into your leadership development. We will be focusing deeper into the 5 Exemplary Leadership Practices to support your ongoing Leadership Journey.

This one day workshop will only be offered to those of who have participated in the 3 day workshop at least 6 months prior to these events.

Date: September 21, 2011
October 26, 2011
October 27, 2011
November 23, 2011

Cost: \$90.00

Nothing so conclusively proves a man's ability to lead others as what he does from day to day to lead himself.

~Thomas J. Watson

ECDSS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Relationship Based Practice—Level I

(Formerly known as Core Home Visitation)

This session focuses on building the knowledge and skills of relationship based practitioners, exploring values and beliefs, and gaining practical strategies for reaching, engaging and supporting hard to reach families. This training will increase awareness and knowledge of child abuse, duty to report, establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries. Practitioners will explore communication strategies, safety practices for working alone, confidentiality and self-care.

Date: September 26-30, 2011 (5 days)
November 28-December 2, 2011
January 23-27, 2012

Cost: \$255.00

Relationship Based Practice—Level II

This session focuses on deeper exploration of relationship based practices. Participants will explore interdisciplinary practices and how to collaborate with other professionals. Participants are challenged to look at their own values and beliefs and to explore the impact on their ability to support families. Participants will drill deeper into the topic of maintaining healthy boundaries, case-note writing, ethics and leadership.

Date: October 3-4, 2011 (2 days)
January 12-13, 2012

Cost: \$105.00

The Child in Relationship

(Formerly known as Relationship Based Child Development)

This two-day session focuses on child development within the context of relationships. Participants will explore the basic concepts of brain development, relationship development and how interactions between child and caregiver create the crucial foundation for healthy development. Participants will explore the roots of challenging behavior and learn strategies to positively engage children in ways that build relationships.

Date: September 19-20, 2011 (2 day)
November 8-9, 2011 (2 day)

Cost: \$105.00

Kouzes and Posner Leadership Challenge

Backed by 25 years of original research and data from over three million leaders, The Leadership Challenge® is a leadership development program by bestselling authors Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner. Approaching leadership as a measurable, learnable, and teachable set of behaviors, this proven leadership model proclaims Leadership Is Everyone's Business.

Date: October 13-14, 2011 with follow-up day
November 18, 2011(3 days)

January 18-19, 2012 with follow-up day
February 16, 2012

Cost: \$450.00

ASQ:SE Developmental Screening Tool Training

Assessments of infants and young children should be done on a regular basis due to the rapid developmental changes in the early years (Meisels & Provence, 1989). The ASQ system relies on parents and/or caregivers to observe their child and to complete the simple questionnaires about their child's abilities in five areas of development. The ASQ:SE is a screening tool that identifies infants and young children whose social or emotional development requires further evaluation to determine if referral for intervention services is necessary. The tool addresses seven behavioural areas. The ASQ:SE is most effectively utilized in collaboration with the ASQ screening tool.

Date: September 14, 2011 (1 day)

Cost: \$52.50

Register Online at
www.ecdss.ca



ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR REGION

Alberta FASD Conference

This multidisciplinary conference will focus on how FASD impacts individuals, families, communities and society at large. The two-day conference will feature half-day plenaries with keynotes Dr. Gabor Maté and Dr. Martin Brokenleg, breakout sessions and a community showcase. This year's conference will also feature a special focus on mental health and addictions issues.

Over the course of the two-day conference, participants can expect to:

- increase their knowledge on recent developments in the field of FASD in Alberta and Canada;
- network and share with people from all areas of the FASD field;
- increase their understanding of lives affected by FASD.

Date: November 21-22, 2011

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel,
Calgary, Alberta

Cost: \$150.00

Visit www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca for more information or to register.

Edmonton Social Planning Council Lunch and Learn Series

Bring your lunch and head to the library for the next session in the lunch and learn series. Welcoming Guest Speaker Fay Orr, Alberta Mental Health Patient Advocate. Fay will be speaking on the topic of Mental Health.

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Location: Centre Court, Main Floor,
Stanley Milner Library, Edmonton

Cost: FREE

For more information, visit the Edmonton Social Planning Society website at www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca.

Identification and Management of ADHD

The Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta welcomes internationally acclaimed ADHD expert, Dr. Russell Barkley to Edmonton. Dr. Barkley will conduct a 6 hour workshop on the basics of ADHD, its different variants and the range of management strategies. This session will benefit a wide range of individuals with varying knowledge about ADHD. The expert physician or mental health specialist will gain knowledge from this session, as will the teacher or service provider struggling with strategies to address the needs of students/clients with ADHD. Parents of children with ADHD or people affected by this disorder will gain insight into their condition by attending this session.



Date: Monday, November 7, 2011
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Location: In person at the Horowitz Theatre, U of A,
OR via the internet as a webcast

Cost: \$110 (in person or webcast)

For more information or to register, please visit www.ldalberta.ca/barkley-session.

Ideas Worth Spreading

The TEDTalk discussion series is based on the popular internet website Ted.com. TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) is an eclectic lecture series with something for everyone and is devoted to ideas worth spreading. Spend a few minutes watching a TEDTalk online and then join in the discussion. TEDTalk discussions groups last approximately 45 minutes. It's a great way to open your mind to other's perspectives. It might have you changing your attitude, your life and even the world.

This month's topic: Jeremy Rifkin, "The Empathic Civilization"
In this talk from RSA Animate, bestselling author Jeremy Rifkin investigates the evolution of empathy and the profound ways it has shaped human development and society.

Date: September 8, 2011
(2 sessions) 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Location: Centre for Reading and the Arts, Main Floor,
Stanley Milner Library, Edmonton

Cost: FREE

For more information, visit www.epl.ca/programs-and-events/programs-detail?evid=14234

LEGAL ISSUES WORKSHOPS

Edmonton Public Library is offering a series of workshops on legal issues this fall in various branches throughout Edmonton. Some of the topics included are:

Immigration

This workshop covers the various forms of status in Canada (for example, Permanent Residence, Temporary Residence, Temporary Foreign Worker, Refugee). The workshop provides an outline for how to apply for a friend or family member to come to Canada as a visitor or on a permanent basis. The workshop also provides information for people who wish to apply for Permanent Residence status in the Refugee class while in Canada on another type of permit/visa. Additional topics are the rights one possesses as a Permanent Resident, Temporary Foreign Worker, Refugee applicant, etc.

For more information or specific dates and locations, visit: www.epl.ca/programs-and-events/programs-detail?evid=17757



Your Rights as a Tenant

This workshop covers what to consider when moving in, living in, and moving out of a rental unit; the acts which govern you and your landlord when you are renting, such as the Residential Tenancy Act, Mobile Homes Act, etc. This session also covers things a tenant must always do no matter what the circumstances, landlord rights to enter the premises, and when your landlord is acting in violation of your rights as a tenant.

For more information, visit: www.epl.ca/programs-and-events/programs-detail?evid=17752

Debt and Bankruptcy

The debt and bankruptcy seminar covers what to do when a collection agency is harassing you. The workshop also defines what is bankruptcy and outlines how claiming bankruptcy will affect people in the future? This workshop will also explore methods for how one can collect money and alternative options to bankruptcy.

For more information or visit: www.epl.ca/programs-and-events/programs-detail?evid=17756

PROMOTING LITERACY THIS MONTH

September is Life Literacy Month

As the summer winds down, many of us get a "back-to-" feeling; not only do kids go back to school but work gets busier and a fresh feeling of starting over sets in. September is Life Literacy Month. A perfect time for a fresh start – time to embrace learning and try something new, whether it be going back to school, upgrading your skills or learning a new activity.

Low levels of literacy affect everyone, everywhere, in many different ways: employment, health, and financially, to name a few.

September 8, 2011 is International Literacy Day

On September 8, get involved and take the **International Literacy Day Challenge**. This year's challenge focuses on literacy and essential skills for everyone, everywhere. Try out some of these activities:

1. Read a book to a child
2. Have a child read a book to an adult
3. Start a blog
4. Take a professional development course
5. Join a social media platform – Facebook, Twitter, etc.
6. Write a letter to an old friend – the snail mail way!
7. Share this list with friends and coworkers – and dare them to take the challenge!
8. Play a game of Scrabble
9. Look up and learn a new word (and continue to do so every day for a month!)
10. Use a new form of technology (Smartphone, self-serve checkout, etc.)
11. Download the International Literacy Day [Social Media Guide](#) to take part in raising awareness of the day. The more noise we make, the more impact we make!

CANADIAN VIEWS ON HOMELESSNESS

Canadians have spoken and they have something to say about homelessness in Canada.

A survey from Angus Reid Forum of more than 1,000 Canadians was conducted to determine public perceptions about individuals experiencing homelessness. The recently released report, "Canada Speaks", provides a unique look into how Canadians feel about the more than 150,000 homeless living on the streets in cities across the country. The report is a part of The Salvation Army's ongoing Dignity Project, a national effort to educate and engage Canadians about the reality of poverty in the 21st century.

Findings from the report revealed that Canadians are divided on their opinions of individuals experiencing homelessness. Many are sympathetic; believing that homeless people deserve dignity and that housing is a fundamental right for all Canadians. A significant minority, however, take a less charitable view, believing that homeless people are always to blame for their situation and that a good work ethic is all you need to get off the streets. This is contrary to The Salvation Army's experience in serving homeless populations for more than a century.

The findings also revealed that a surprising number of Canadians have had first-hand experience being homeless – nearly one-quarter of Canadians have received assistance from a food bank or charitable group while seven percent reported that they have had to sleep on the street or in a shelter due to lack of housing at some point in their lives.

The entire report is available for download at www.homelesshub.ca/.

Taken directly from "Canada Speaks" Exposing Persistent Myths About the 150,000 Canadians Living on the Streets, May 2011.

Additional key findings include:

- **40%** of Canadians believe that most homeless people want to live on the street and in shelters.
- Almost **30%** of Canadians believe that a good work ethic is all you need to escape homelessness.
- Nearly **1/5** of Canadians believe that individuals experiencing homelessness are always to blame for the situation they are in.
- **43%** of Canadians never give money to a homeless person on the street.
- More than **60%** believe that money given to a homeless person is likely to go to drugs or alcohol.
- **40%** believe that most homeless people are mentally ill.
- More than **1/3** of Canadians are scared of homeless people.

Also:

- Nearly all of the respondents believe that individuals experiencing homelessness deserve a sense of dignity.
- **93%** agree that no one in Canada should be homeless.
- **86%** of Canadians believe that housing is a fundamental right for all Canadians.
- More than **80%** believe that being homeless robs you of dignity.
- **75%** of Canadians acknowledge that once you become homeless it is exceptionally difficult to get into housing.

When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."

~Author Unknown

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) and Edmonton Multicultural Coalition have joined forces to promote community league membership to newcomers and other ethno-cultural communities.

In a joint meeting in July, the two organizations agreed to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding to support the federation's Cultural Inclusion project. David Dodge, EFCL President, thanked the coalition for its support and said that the project is a milestone in bridging cultural and social gaps between ethno-cultural communities and mainstream community leagues.

Tessie Olva, Coalition President, congratulated the EFCL for launching the project and helping newcomers join the mainstream society. She noted her agency's strong ties with different multicultural groups and communities and offered their full support to the EFCL on this initiative.

Newcomers face numerous challenges when they arrive in Canada, including cultural, language and financial barriers. These barriers often force them to remain close to their 'ethnic group' for help and support, instead of joining a community league. Leagues are places that can help newcomers end their 'isolation' in their new country.

Olva noted the need for agencies who assist immigrant families to share community league information with newcomers upon their arrival. She suggested EFCL brochures be translated into different ethnic languages to help newcomers understand the philosophy of community leagues and the value of volunteering. She also suggested holding cultural competency workshops for league executives so that they can make leagues a welcoming place for newcomers.

The Memorandum of Understanding is set to be signed on October 4.

September 17, 2011 is Community League Day.

This fun-filled festival has different events happening in 80 neighbourhoods throughout the city.

The annual event is a great way for leagues to increase their membership and a great way for community members to meet neighbours.

Visit efcl.org for the listing of all events, times and locations.

Living Local—2011 Neighbourhood Arts and Heritage Pilot Project Grant

Edmonton's neighbourhoods are places where arts and heritage matter and where artists and historians live. Together the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues have launched a unique project to connect people and their neighbourhoods through arts and heritage.

This grant has available 2/3 of project funding to a maximum of \$20,000 towards qualifying projects.

Examples of qualifying projects:

- an event (festival, community celebration)
- artwork (mural, book, video, musical recording)
- interpretive presentation (exhibit, interpretive program, publication, performance)

ELIGIBILITY

The pilot project grants are available to Edmonton Community Leagues, as well as **partnerships of community and neighbourhood organizations** that include at least one Community League partner. Project artists must be residents of the applying Community League's neighbourhood.

Application deadline is November 18, 2011. Funded projects must be completed: by June 30, 2012 .

For more information and project application forms, visit:

www.edmontonheritage.ca

www.edmontonarts.ca

www.efcl.org

Or contact:

David Ridley, Program Manager

Edmonton Heritage Council

livinglocal@edmontonheritage.ca

780.429.0166 ext. 232

DID YOU KNOW...

Alberta's Minimum Wage is Increasing...
to \$9.40 per hour, effective September 1, 2011.

Alberta is Ramping Up Efforts to Improve Fairness in the Workplace...

with a combination of better enforcement and education. To respond to more complaints and to expedite investigations, six new Employment Standards officers are being hired and the use of third-party auditors will increase. To ensure that employers have better information about workplace rights and responsibilities, new training materials are being launched.

The actions are part of the Alberta government's efforts to improve compliance with employment standards. A new 24/7 online complaint system was introduced in December 2010, and it has resulted in an increase in the number of complaints filed by workers against their employers.

Approximately one-third of complaints are resolved through an early resolution process. More complex files require additional time for investigations and can extend into several months. The Alberta government recently introduced a more transparent complaint process and more stringent audit procedures for cases where employers are suspected of violating the *Employment Standards Code* or Regulation. When necessary, external auditors will be brought in to review an employer's records. The cost for these audits will be borne by the employers themselves.

A new [Employment Standards Tool Kit for Employers](#) has also been created to improve awareness of standards and to give employers a clear picture of their rights and responsibilities.

For more information on employment standards, labour laws and minimum wage, visit Government of Alberta—Immigration and Employment at employment.alberta.ca/.

Studies Show...

that the skills of those who are not integrated into their fields of expertise degrade over time and after 3 years, 90% do not return to their occupation of training.



"Working together for our children's future."

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This newsletter is researched and produced by Nicole Vogel, Communication Consultant, ECDSS. We welcome your comments and suggestions, including research findings, fundraisers, events, resource connections, site visits, etc.

Please contact Nicole at nmv@shaw.ca with any suggestions.

Newsletter Resources

- www.efcl.org
- employment.alberta.ca/
- <http://abclifelifiteracy.ca/take-challenge>
- http://www.homelesshub.ca/Resource/Frame.aspx?url=http%3a%2f%2fwww.salvationarmy.ca%2fDPresources%2fCanadaSpeaks_report_May2011.pdf&id=51395&title=%93Canada+Speaks%94+Exposing+Persistent+Myths+About+the+150%2c000+Canadians+Living+on+the+Streets&owner=121



Edmonton & Area
Child & Family Services Region 6

Early Childhood Development Support Services is supported by funding through the Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA). This funding is provided to assist Early Childhood Development funded service providers with program delivery, program development, data collection, evaluation and training. Through ongoing collaboration with the CFSA, this newsletter is intended to provide information to service providers pertaining to these services.