



Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority Highlights of Accomplishments in 2005-2006

Core Business 1: Promoting the development and well-being of children, youth and families.

- ✚ A regional process was put in place to ensure client access to the Youth Bursary (Advancing Futures) program.
- ✚ A regional process was implemented to ensure a more consistent, equitable access to the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program across the region.
- ✚ The region facilitated and sponsored its first conference for FSCD parents.
- ✚ The region facilitated and sponsored a conference for foster families.
- ✚ The region supported the Aboriginal Foster Parent conference in funding and manpower.
- ✚ The Peace River and Area office implemented a Forever Families Program.
- ✚ The region implemented a Permanency Planning strategy at the site and regional level, and exceeded its target for adoptions and permanent guardianship orders.
- ✚ In partnership with First Nation agencies of the Northwest, Region 10 and the department's First Nations Liaison unit, we developed and piloted a Cultural Awareness Training module for staff
- ✚ The region coordinated mandatory training sessions on Child Sexual Abuse and Shaken Baby Syndrome; this was done in partnership (included cost sharing and training delivery) with the RCMP.
- ✚ The region was a partner and sponsor of a Youth Conference in Grande Cache.
- ✚ The region conducted review of Youth Assessment Services and implemented critical policies, change in leadership and new program management processes.
- ✚ The region developed and implemented year one of its Regional Early Learning and Child Care plan.
- ✚ The region developed a strategic mapping of Early Intervention services. This is phase 1 of a multi-year strategy.
- ✚ The region provided months of manpower and funding support to the provincial Allocation Framework Initiative to help address resource distribution considerations among Child and Family Services Authorities.

Core Business 2: Keeping children, youth and families safe and protected.

- ✚ The region implemented a regional Transition Planning policy for youth 12 years of age and older.
- ✚ Joint, quarterly foster care meetings were held in each service area with foster parents.
- ✚ The region implemented Family Group Conferencing services in each service area.
- ✚ The region supported the training and involvement of a regional Special Case Review investigator for the province.
- ✚ The region established a Parents' Tag Line for FSCD parents.
- ✚ The region worked in collaboration with a local School Division and FCSS to develop and implement a plan for the piloting of a Roots of Empathy program in Grande Prairie in 2006.
- ✚ The region was one of 5 areas of the province that piloted a Mediation Program for families.
- ✚ The region established regular monitoring and feedback processes relating to permanency and key safety standards.
- ✚ The region conducted multiple admin reviews within region and on behalf of other regions and First Nation agency partners.
- ✚ An accreditation committee was established for the Youth Assessment Centre to ensure appropriate and safe practices and policies.
- ✚ In collaboration with the RCMP, the region explored collaborative models of investigation for a pilot program to be implemented in the fall of 2006. This is a first of its kind of the RCMP.
- ✚ The Grande Prairie delivery site piloted provincial case assessment tools and greatly influenced the future direction of the Assessment Process under the Casework Practice model.

Core Business 3: Promoting healthy communities for children, youth and families.

- ✚ Quarterly, joint meetings were held between CFSA area office and local FCSS partners.
- ✚ The region initiated and conducted an internal FSCD file review and participated in the Ministry's program review.
- ✚ Peace River site was an active participant of a local Aboriginal Interagency group and its significant cultural accomplishments.
- ✚ A partnership with Peace River School division resulted in a program for Aboriginal Youth and a new approach to address case management.
- ✚ The region developed and promoted (to the Ministry for Personnel Admin Office of the Government) a document addressing Recruitment and Retention in the High Level area.
- ✚ In partnership with Health Authorities and School Divisions, the region provided mandatory training to staff on the Complex Cases program.
- ✚ The region worked with dozens of community groups and agencies to lay the groundwork for the establishment of Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Networks in each service area (full implementation in 2006)
- ✚ The region implemented Communications Plan strategies to connect and provide updates to hundreds of community partners and stakeholders during the year.
- ✚ The region was an active partner of the Community Partnership Enhancement Fund Committee and activities.
- ✚ The region managed all activities relating to two rounds of Community Enhancement Fund allocation processes; this community-based process resulting in multiple new Prevention of Family Violence Initiatives across the region.
- ✚ The region supported the sole representative of a CFSA on the Provincial Women's Shelter Review committee.
- ✚ In partnership with multiple local agencies, (Grande Prairie and Area Network), the region developed a series of 3 training conferences for professionals relating to Family Violence.
- ✚ The region developed a regional Strategic Plan for Prevention of Family Violence which includes piloting a Domestic Family Violence Handbook project (government of B.C. initiative)
- ✚ Each service area implemented local operational plans for community involvement and engagement with partners such as Mental Health, schools, Day Cares, Health services, FASD partnerships etc.
- ✚ The region provided considerable support and assumed delivery responsibilities on behalf of two Ministry Partners (Region 9 and 10) to help offset their temporary manpower shortages in their organizations.
- ✚ The region became a more active partner and advocate for improvements and adjustments to the Student Health Program in the far north of the region. Implementation and adjustments anticipated for 2007.
- ✚ Worked with community representatives to develop and implement Phase 1 of the regional Parent Link Centre plan.
- ✚ The region implemented the provincial Agency Wage Increase initiative in the region.
- ✚ The region helped pilot the development of an ACS e-learning training module for supervisors relating to Prevention of Family Violence.

Regional goal: Building organizational capacity

- ✚ Succession management training attended by managers
- ✚ Regional representatives were active participants and involved in over a dozen provincial committees and initiatives.
- ✚ The region redesigned High Prairie and Area service delivery model and boundaries.
- ✚ The Quality Assurance unit, roles and responsibilities were redefined and redesigned.
- ✚ The region developed Terms of Reference for Regional Contract Committee for implementation in 06-07.
- ✚ All staff completed the online information security training.
- ✚ Each regional site developed OH&S Job Hazard Assessments and Safety plans
- ✚ Business Resumption Plans were developed in each service area.
- ✚ All managers and supervisors performance contracts included learning plans.
- ✚ Electronic Information Management training for management and staff.