

# **Director of Children and Family Services**

# Annual Report 2012/13

Department of Family Services Government of Nunavut Prepared by: Peter Dudding MM, MSW, Director



### 2012/13 Annual Report – Director of Children and Family Services

#### Introduction

It is my pleasure to release my first report as the Director of Children and Family Services (CFS). The year 2012/13 was an important transition year for this program in preparation for the new Department of Family Services which officially occurred on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The support and assistance of our colleagues in the Department of Health in preparing for this transition as well as the work of our new colleagues from Education, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Nunavut Housing Corporation and Economic Development and Transportation has been invaluable to create the vision for this new department.

The Department of Family Services provides a range of programs and services to support self-reliance within an environment where protection is provided to those who are vulnerable and where standards of living are comparable to national standards. Program delivery will be structured to reflect Inuit societal values and to respect Inuit traditional practices. The creation of Family Services provides an opportunity to focus on the important social issues that affect Nunavummiut including child and youth wellbeing, supports to families, assisting persons with disabilities and caring for our Elders. Children and Family Services has the important mandate and responsibility to ensure that vulnerable persons in our communities receive the protection and support they require to enjoy a high quality of life. The wide range of Children and Family Services programs include dealing with social issues such as child abuse and neglect, family violence, gender equality, disability support services, persons requiring care and supervision, adoption, foster and kinship care, residential care and Elder care facilities. Children and Family Services programs support persons across the life span from new born to Elders.

As well during this year, CFS has continued to pursue an ambitious program development agenda to achieve the goals identified in the Nunavut Social Service Transformation Plan and to implement the recommendations to improve legislation, policy and services as identified in the extensive community consultations of the Nunavut Social Services Review and the report of the Office of the Auditor General.



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This annual report will provide a summary of the programs, statistical review of the services provided in 2012/13 and the highlights of our achievements.

By definition the most important resource that a child and family service program has to offer the people it serves is the skill, experience, dedication and commitment of staff, volunteers, foster parents, students and other care providers. We are particularly fortunate in Nunavut to have excellent human resources who provide a very high standard of care often under challenging and difficult circumstances.

#### Children and Family Services Programs

- Child Welfare providing protection and support to children and youth who are in need of protection as a result of abuse or neglect, including family support, prevention and early intervention services.
- Adoption providing services to support children, youth, birth parents and adoptive families in Public adoption, Private and International adoptions. Support the Aboriginal Custom Adoption program.
- Foster Care, Kinship Care providing both short term and long term care for children and youth under the care of the Director in foster homes and extended family homes (kinship).
- Family Violence Strategy and Implementation supports family violence protection and prevention through the community-based Family Violence shelters, Safe Homes program, and coordination with other family violence/domestic assault programs of Justice and Health.
- Social Advocacy promoting the economic, legal and social status of disadvantaged populations in Nunavut with specific reference to age, disability and gender.
- Adult Residential Care providing residential and alternative family care to persons living with a physical and/or mental disability and supporting communitybased residential care for Elders.
- Public Guardianship providing services, protection and decision making support to adults who require guardianship as a result of disability.



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## Statistical Summary of Child and Family Services Operations

Child Welfare Statistics as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

#### Table 1 – Children/Youth in Care in Nunavut

STATUS	NUMBER
Temporary Wards	38
Permanent Wards	105
Plan of Care	65
Voluntary Support Agreement	106
Support Services Agreement	43
Courtesy Supervision*	6

\*Note: From other provinces/territories

## Table 2 – Children/Youth Receiving Services in Nunavut

STATUS	NUMBER
Apprehension	8
Supervision	11
Court Adjourned	24



### Table 3 – Child Welfare Services by Region

	IN NUNAVUT	OUTSIDE NUNAVUT
Qikiqtaaluk	173	20
Kivalliq	77	12
Kitikmeot	59	13
Iqaluit	97	13

#### Table 4 – Foster/Kinship Care and Residential Care

TYPE OF CARE	NUMBER
Foster Care*	138
Kinship Care	128
Other Care (in Nunavut)	14
Out of Nunavut	58

\*Note: There are 215 approved foster homes in Nunavut



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### **Statistical Summary of Child and Family Services Operations**

Adult Services Statistics as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

PLACEMENT TYPE	NUMBER
Reside in Familial Home	11
Supported Living Program	4
Alternative Family Care	6
Adult Group Home	16
Elders Homes	21
Continuing Care Centre	10
Outside Nunavut Placement	97

\*Operated by Department of Health

### Table 6 – Adult Screening Reports

TYPE OF REPORT	NUMBER
New Adult Screening Report	848
New Case Openings	31



## Table 7 – Family Violence Reports to CFS Program

TYPE OF REPORT	NUMBER
Incidents Reported to CFS	217
Referrals to Family Violence Shelter	51

## Table 8 – Public Guardianship Program

SERVICE TYPE	NUMBER
Persons Under Guardianship	108
New Referrals to Guardianship	14
New Guardianship Orders Made	13



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### **Program Initiative Highlights**

During this past year the Children and Family Services program has moved ahead in implementing a number of new initiatives in the three key identified areas of Legislation, Services and Management. These initiatives are summarized as follows:

#### Legislation

- A review of required changes to the *Child and Family Services Act* occurred resulting in legislative amendments (Bill 51) being approved by the Legislative Assembly and proclaimed in May 2013.
- The new legislation includes the incorporation of Inuit societal values, enhanced protection for children from sexual exploitation, child pornography and family violence, improved reporting requirements regarding child abuse and neglect, longer transition from care provisions to 26 years of age for youth, and improved accountability reporting requirements.

#### Services

- Implementing a new Alternative Family Care pilot project to provide family based care for persons over 16 years who have impaired cognitive functioning. This program seeks to prevent admission into more restrictive institutional residential programs.
- Created a new manual and provided training for the 26 Commissioners responsible for the implementation of the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act.*
- Implemented new CFS staff training initiatives including Joint Child Abuse training sessions with the RCMP, Core training for Community Social Services Workers, and Management training for Social Services Supervisory staff.

#### Management



- A Residential Care Project was established with the Director of Client Services and Operations to improve the planning and decision making through the Placement Planning Review Committee (PPRC), assess the quality of care that Nunavummiut are receiving, and improve planning for the return of residents to Nunavut. This project is working to improve quality of care, better outcomes and best use of financial resources.
- A Residential Services Client Information Database has been established for all persons (children, youth, adults and Elders) who are placed in residential care. This database now provides timely and detailed information to CFS staff to support care and planning for these persons in residential care.

#### Summary

This year was one of considerable transition and change for the Children and Family Services Program. The planning and preparation for the creation of the new Department of Family Services and ensuring that the transition of services, staff and resources was seamless continues to be a key priority for the Program.

There was a considerable amount of work accomplished in focusing on the implementation of recommendations from the Auditor General's Report and the Social Services Review. Most notably the work in advancing legislative change to better protect our children and youth, create an alternative family care program, training for staff and Custom Adoption Commissioners, improve our information systems and establish the Residential Care project will establish a stronger foundation to continue to develop and improve our services.

There is a great deal more to be done in building strong child and family services to improve quality and outcomes for the vulnerable people we serve; and to move beyond reacting to problems and crises. Our goal is to become more focused on prevention and promotion to develop a positive social environment for our children, youth, adults, Elders and families. To succeed, this work must be done in partnership with our communities and many others. We are committed to reaching out further in these collaborative efforts.

I want to thank our staff, volunteers, care providers and partners for their dedication and hard work in making this year a successful one, and look forward to working with you all to build upon these accomplishments.



Peter Dudding MM, MSW Director, Children and Family Services Department of Family Services Government of Nunavut July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013