

# **Children First Society Year End report 2016-2017 Operational**



**Submitted by:**

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**Date:** April 29, 2017

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**Program Date:** April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

## Executive Summary

Today I spent the day exploring Propulsion and team work, surrounded by giggles of excitement and laughter. Child development and support is a passion by which I am driven. The Children First Society (CFS) is where I choose to invest my time and energy, because at Children First Centre (CFC) we believe in helping children reach their greatness, whatever that greatness is for each child.

It has been a good year this year because of the support of our incredible funders, the hard-working staff and the dedicated board members. The cut backs we made this year have balanced our budget. The main cut was condensing staff positions. This is always a hard decision. The staff have worked hard to ensure that those cuts have not had a negative impact on our programming. Taking on dual roles, putting in extra energy the staff of CFS have managed to add programs and maintain creative programming on a tight budget.

Thanks to the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), CanNor, Arctic Energy Alliance and Bullfrog industries we had money for capital projects to keep our building safe and help us go green.

With programming dollars from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Tides Canada- NWT On the Land Programs we could maintain a strong tradition culture base of activity. The on the land trips with the elders is certainly one of the children's favorite parts of our curriculum.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) reevaluated the Early Childhood Program (ECP) formula, increasing the payments to Centres significantly as of October 2016. This has helped ease some of the financial pressure moving forward.

Our on-going partnership with Aurora College, particularly the ECD program has kept us fresh and our or toes. The students have contributed to the overall success of the programs and challenged us to be our best. The support of the Beaufort Delta Rehabilitation Team, has assisted us in the support all children.

The importance of the early years from birth to 5 years of age is now well documented with research. The more brain research that is completed the higher the importance of early childhood development is recognized. The rest of the world is discovering things we have known in early childhood. Discovery's like the importance a language rich environment is for infants, the impacts of Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). While STEM becomes a new curriculum goal for the academic world, it is what CFC's curriculum is based on. We call it learning through play.

This space, this Centre, the whole community of came together to build has opened the doors more this past fiscal year to community groups. Rarely a weekend goes by where there is not an outside user accessing the facility.

Our commitment is to provide early learning and care for families in Inuvik.

In the next fiscal year, this will grow as we increase programming and our newest partner, Aboriginal Head Start, moves into our Centre.

It is with the deepest respect and gratitude that I thank all of our patient partners for having confidence in us over the years. With this ongoing support, our vision will come true.



Patricia Davison  
Executive Director

## Vision

We envision a future where happy and healthy children grow up to become healthy and happy adults who benefit Inuvik and society as a whole. The Children First Society's child development services help children to achieve their greatness!



Learning about chemical reactions, spatial placement, colour and team work

## Family Participation

"I am very impressed with the support given to my son, a child with special developmental needs. As a mother, I am grateful for their commitment to helping them be prepared for school and be able to interact more naturally with his peers. "

Meghan - Mother

"Our family is so happy to have the children at CFC. The staff care so much about the kids, and it shows! The variety of programming, the reliability and quality of service, the rich learning environment, the opportunities for field trips, and the time spent with community Elders: these are a few of the reasons why CFC is so fantastic, and why the care there is so exceptional."

Annika – Mother

"My child is a very picky eater and at the Centre she has tried foods that I have fought relentlessly to get her to try."

Parent - Annual Parent Survey

## Child Participation

**Number of children participating in the program this fiscal year:**

**Under 2 years old: 23**

**2 years: 16**

**3- 4 year olds: 56**

**5 & Over: 41**

Condensing staff positions, we are staffed to meet the needs of enrollment, this meant less flexibility for programming options and meeting family's needs. Quality of the programs waivered as we adjusted the new system to meet the needs of families. Some staff and families moved on during this time. The cuts were important to get CFS in a strong financial position. By the third quarter of the fiscal year all programs regained the quality and creativeness for which Children First is known. This included increasing community drop in programs.





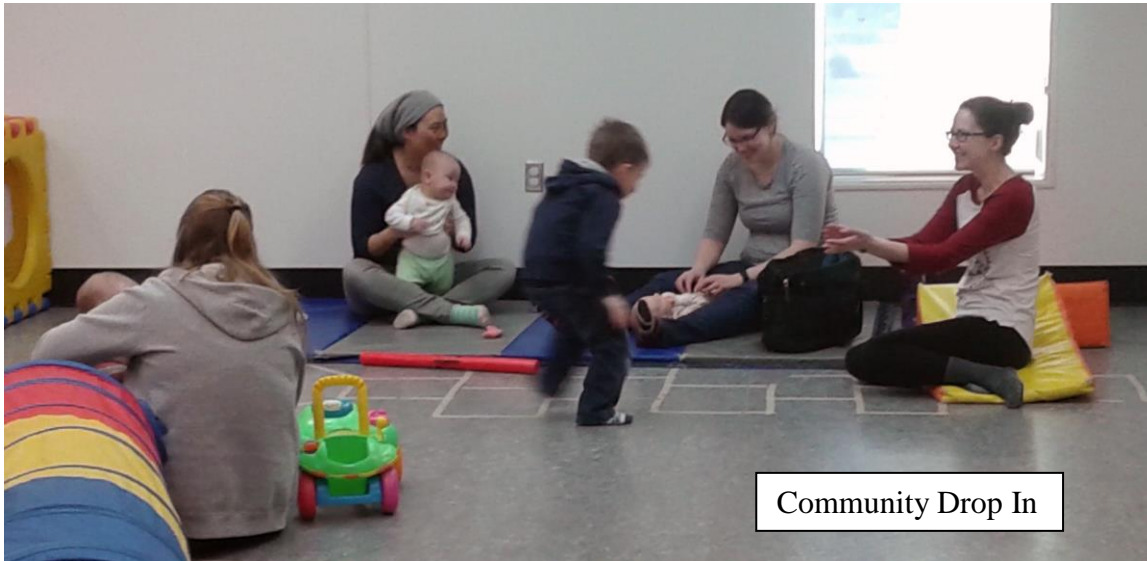
## Family Participation

The families of the children are our primary partners. From the 2017 annual family survey:

96% indicated as satisfactory or above, "My child is happy at the centre"

96% indicated, "The types of programs offered at the Centre meet my families needs." as satisfactory or above.

100 % indicated as satisfactory or above both "My child enjoys the food served at the centre." and "The rotating menu provides a variety of nutritional and high quality meals and snacks that are fun to eat."



Community Drop In



Dental Therapist Visit

## Community Participation

Currently we have the following involved in the project:

- Children First Board of Directors
- Executive director
- 1 full time office Manager
- 1 full time team leader
- 4 full time Early Childhood practitioners
- 8 Early Childhood supports
- 1 full time language educator
- 1 full time kitchen staff
- 1 part time kitchen staff
- 1 part time custodial position
- Parents
- Elders
- Community members

We continue to develop many strong partnerships with various organizations and departments. The following is a list of some of our ongoing partnerships. These too will increase as we continue to grow and strengthen our program.

This year we held:

### **Community events: x10**

Fishing Derby

International Mud Day

Community Picnic

Mental health event

National Child Day

Dance Play x 2

Childrens Christmas Party

Santa visit

Family Dance

National Literacy day

Children's Halloween Party

End of the Road Music Fest –

Family Day

### **Get active Events: x 6**

Across generations and cultures

Yoga with elders x 2

Adult Yoga x 2

Moms and Daughters Aqua fit

### **Community sessions x 77**

Gym Drop In = 52

Baby Moving = 16

Literacy = 16

### **Community Workshop**

#### **Partnerships:**

Food safe

Stained glass

First aid

Breast feeding

**Visits to Elders = 7**

**Elders visits = 27**

**On the land = 3 days**

Community Guests





Partnerships		
Organization	Description	Goal
Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services	Foster Families utilize our service.  Children with Disabilities	Ensure all families have access to safe, reliable early learning and support programs.
Community Health Representative	Presentations on Hand washing, nutrition, healthy hears, personal safety etc.	Children, staff and families have the information and know of local resources they need to be safe and healthy
	Handouts on health issues, diseases, safety and nutrition	
	Public displays on health safety and nutrition topics	
Healthy Families	Co-sponsor community events, including Baby Get Active Network and share ideas and resources.	Support pregnant women, young children in healthy choices
Aurora College	Host ECD students for observations, field placements and various assignments.	Increase potential and professionalism in the field of early childhood. So stronger support is available for families.
Aurora Research Institute	Presentations on current research and work	Children are informed about their surroundings and impacts of decisions regarding environment and social issues.  Children have a basic understanding of people in the community and the work they do
	Visits to the research facility	
Inuvik Fire department	Fire hall visits	Children have a solid understanding of fire safety and people in the community and the work they do
	Presentations on safety	



Partnerships Continued		
Organization	Description	Goal
Town Of Inuvik	Use of MSRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swimming</li> <li>- Play zone</li> <li>- Racquet courts</li> <li>- Ice rink</li> </ul>	Children are exposed to a variety of environments and participate fully in the community
	Sharing of equipment and resources	
	Visits to public library	
	Jim Koe park sliding hill	
	Parks and walk ways	
	Back up emergency facility	
Inuvik Youth Centre	Visit to programs  Co-sponsor community events	Children are exposed to a variety of safe environments and options and participate fully in the community
Inuvik Interagency	Member Co-sponsor community events Network and share ideas and resources.	Develop a strong foundation for community life
Inuvik Justice  Victim Services	Co-sponsor community events  Network and share ideas and resources.  Support families receiving services from Victim services	Creating safe healthy environments for children and their families

Organization	Description	
Inuvialuit Language nest funds, Local elders & community members	Staffing	Traditional culture and language programs to rejuvenate the local culture and language and increase wellness and empowerment.
ECE	Canada Jobs Fund  Programming and materials  Funds towards Staff wages, materials and equipment	Staff training and development   Child Care for families entering the workforce or taking training to ensure a productive society
GTC	Staffing and training	Ensuring local staff are trained and working in the program
IRC	Staffing and training	Ensuring local staff are trained and working in the program
United Way	Operating costs for free Community Drop in once a week.  Private donations	Ensure access to early learning programs for all children 0-5 years of age.



Staff Training -First Aid

## Exploring and Learning





## How were the requested funds used?

The money that we received went directly to wages, rent, utilities and supplies. Attached you will find a detailed financial statement as well as a proposed budget for moving forward.

A facility this size has a large operating cost, to staff the building and keep it warm and secure. We were responsible for the day to day maintenance costs as well as all utilities. This year for the first time in Children First Operations, we maintained a balanced budget, as funding is organized and allocated.

Using the 8 points from our service vision we strive to provide accessible quality care and learning for children birth to 12 years of age.



Cutting reindeer Head with the Elders