

# Children First Society Year End report 2017-2018 Operational



**Submitted by:**

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## Executive Summary

This year has been an exciting year. Nature and outdoors was a priority for us. We hiked the trails and explored everything Inuvik as to offer in the outdoors world. We took winter picnics by Boot Lake and exploration trips around the ski trail. Our hands on emergent curriculum has strengthened with exploring nature, the world around and making connections to the world and others.

People often ask about the fees we charge for programs and why we need help with volunteer time. We have a expenditures of 1,382,000. Out of that program fees make up \$575,000 of our revenue. Program fees cover less than 42% of our expenditures. Children First Society staff continue to work hard, including taking on dual roles, putting in extra energy to add programs and maintain creative programming on a tight budget. Even with our condensed staff positions, initiated last year, we have maintained our drop-in programs where families can utilize the building at various times throughout the week. We have also been able to implement some exciting staff training, field trips and guest speakers. We have had an incredible amount of support from our funders.

Thanks to the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), CanNor, Arctic Energy Alliance, GNWT Department of Industry, Investment and Tourism, and Bullfrog industries we had money for capital projects to keep our building safe and help us go further in our green projects. We completed the installation of the solar panels and the pellet boiler system. The pellet boiler alone will save us about \$10,000 annually during the cold months. The solar panels have generated about \$5,000 worth of power so far this year.

With programming dollars from the GTC, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) 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 GNWT, Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) second increase in the Early Childhood Program (ECP) formula, has once again helped ease some of the financial pressure moving forward.

Having the Aboriginal Head Start program in the building has added another positive dimension to the Facility. Our on-going partnership with Aurora College, particularly the ECD program has kept us fresh and our toes. The students have contributed to the overall success of the programs and challenged us to be our best. We will miss the program next year as it moves to Yellowknife. The support of the Beaufort Delta Rehabilitation Team has assisted us in the support all children, we are able to support developmental challenges.

The importance of the early years from birth to 5 years of age is now well documented with research. The rest of the world is discovering things we have known in early childhood for decades. In response to this The GNWT Board of Education has unfolded Junior Kindergarten (JK) in our region. CFS was able to support family's needs with part time and full-time programming for families who make a variety of choices around JK programs. We continue to respond to family's needs as JK moves to full time at East Three Elementary in September 2018. We will provide programs that meet the needs and interest of the children of the community. We call it Emergent Curriculum.

This space, this Centre, the whole community of came together to build, continues to open the doors more 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.

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. We are helping children reach their greatness.



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!

## Family Participation

" Our child is learning, growing and benefitting so much from Children First. "  
Parent - Annual Parent Survey

"Love the hands-on approach. I like that there are activities first thing in the morning to ease the children into their routines."  
Parent - Annual Parent Survey

"The meal plan has a lot of variety, is very balanced and healthy, and we love how country foods are integrated. Amanda takes such great care in nourishing our little ones and we are so grateful."  
Parent - Annual Parent Survey

The cultural programming and outdoors activities are what make the care exceptional. Thank you and please keep it going!  
Parent - Annual Parent Survey

We are so pleased with everything at the day care since our children have been enrolled. It has been a seamless transition and we see how hard everyone works at the center.  
Parent - Annual Parent Survey



On The Land Program with the Elders



## Child Participation

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

**Under 2 years old: 32**

**2 years: 23**

**3- 4 year olds: 55**

**5 & Over: 49**

With the implementation of Junior Kindergarten and increased days of school age children being in our program full time, coupled with condensing staff positions from last fiscal ,we have worked hard to offer flexibility for programming options and meeting family's needs. We continue to look at ways to cut our budget 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.



## Family Participation

The families of the children are our primary partners. From the 2018 annual family survey:

100% indicated as satisfactory or above, "My child is happy at the centre"

100% indicated, "The types of programs offered at the Centre meet my families needs." as satisfactory or above. "Our child is learning, growing and benefitting so much from Children First."

90 % indicated as satisfactory or above, "My child enjoys the food served at the Centre." And

100% indicated satisfactory or above "The rotating menu provides a variety of nutritional and high quality meals and snacks that are fun to eat."

Nutrition Program



Multi Age Arts Session



Utilizing Nature







Exploring our gross motor skills Trough balancing, climbing, crawling, sliding, bending, and jumping.





Story Time



Harvesting Country food



Exploring Science





## 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
- Rehab department supports
- Elders

We continue to develop many strong partnerships with various organizations and departments. This year we held a variety of community events that included:

International Men's Day  
International Mud Day  
Community Picnic x 2  
Mental health event  
National Child Day  
Dance Play x 4  
Childrens Christmas Party  
National Literacy day  
Children's Halloween Party  
End of the Road Music Fest – Family Day  
Across generations and cultures

### Community sessions

Gym Drop In = 52

Baby Moving = 52

Literacy = 24

### Community Workshop Partnerships:

First aid

Breast feeding

**Visits to Elders = 7**

**Elders visits = 16**

**On the land = 4 days**



Field trips





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	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	Staffing	Traditional culture and language
Local elders & community members		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.
Inuvik Community Green House Society	Gardening and plots	Children are exposed to a variety of safe environments and options and participate fully in the community



Veggies from our greenhouse plot



Caring and empathy for others

## 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 second year in a row in Children First Operations, we maintained a balanced budget, as funding is organized and allocated.

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



Our emergent curriculum allows children to explore the world around them. They learn through play and the events happening around them. The adults Scaffold on their interests to meet the children's needs.

