

Celebration of Achievements – February 2009

For many years, Revelstoke's social sector has worked hard together with community partners to maintain and expand services for all ages. Quality service and support enables citizens to participate more fully as members of our active and vibrant community.

Recently, Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society has been awarded the management of two specialized contracts from BC Housing. The Housing Outreach Coordinator provides client focused, community-based housing services to adults who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. As well, a Tenant Support Worker provides support to the residents of one of Revelstoke primary subsidized housing complexes.



On January 29th and 30th, 2009, Anne Cooper, Superintendent of Schools (pictured left) traveled to Montreal to participate in the Pan Canadian Summit "Connecting Early Childhood Development and Schools". At the summit, her presentation outlining Revelstoke's early learning partnerships provided details as to how Revelstoke has been successful nurturing the community-wide response to early childhood and early learning. There were over 225 participants from across Canada and the territories. At this session, she was also able to chair a panel presentation showcasing the work of the provinces and territories. By all accounts it was an outstanding conference and the Revelstoke story was well received, particularly when Dr. Clyde Hertzman made several references to Revelstoke when he shared the Early Development Indicators data.

The Revelstoke Screen Smart committee has developed a website to help parents understand why 'screen time' matters, and what we can do to better to manage screen technology at home. The website gives parents research-based information on how 'screen time' affects the lives of children at various stages of their development and provides recommendations from doctors, educators, and child development experts. The 4th Annual Screen Smart Challenge is coming up March 29th-April 4th, 2009. Internet Safety expert, Merlyn Horton, will speak on April 2nd, 7 pm at the Community Centre. Visit www.screensmart.ca

Planning for seniors is well underway with the Social Development Coordinator currently working on 2 projects. 'Supporting our Seniors', funded by CBT, will provide a new resource guide for seniors as well as new programs and capacity-building for the Seniors' Association. 'An Age-Friendly Plan' for Revelstoke, funded by UBCM and due to be completed in July, will provide input into Revelstoke's OCP as well as help guide community planning processes as the senior population grows.

Okanagan College has received funding to create partnerships to focus on immigration, multiculturalism, workplace diversity and issues related to building and sustaining welcoming and inclusive communities. Through a new 'Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program' Revelstoke has the opportunity to improve conditions for immigrants, newcomers, and visible minorities living in our remote community.