



Child Care Connection Nova Scotia (CCCNS), located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is a community-based development organization incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act. Since December 1988, CCCNS has developed a modest infrastructure to provide support and resources to early childhood practitioners and others interested in quality child care in Nova Scotia. CCCNS serves a constituency that includes early childhood practitioners, owners and boards of child care facilities, families, early childhood studies programs, government departments, university faculty, business, the media and the community as a whole. In applying a community-based development approach to all its projects and activities, the results are reflective of and responsive to the needs of our clients and provide additional resources for them to increase the quality of their early childhood practice.

The Board of CCCNS articulates and evaluates the ends of Child Care Connections, annually reviewing and revising CCCNS policies as part of its governance process. The means to achieve these ends is determined by the Executive Director within the parameters outlined in executive limitations policies.

In 2008-2009, in accordance with the ends determined by our Board of Directors, CCCNS focused on the goals of:

- Ø Building capacity in the Child Care Sector through community-based development,
- Ø Promoting the value of child care, and
- Ø Sustaining an infrastructure to support the child care sector

Building Capacity in the Child Care Sector

In 2004, CCCNS conducted a review of its services and sector forums to identify the key priorities for the sector. Five priorities were identified and these will continue to guide the activities of CCCNS through to 2010. Two of these priorities guide our capacity building activities. They are:

- ◆ Developing a strong professional infrastructure
- ◆ Building relationships and working together within the sector

Child Care Connections builds capacity within the child care sector through support of early childhood organizations, its Board and its community-based development projects. We support and consult with child care practitioners, organizations, programs and services, assisting them in strategic planning, communications and organizational structure; providing current research updates and information on issues and trends; and providing an access point for information, resources and support. Our professional development activities and partnerships develop skills, build support networks and increase professionalism.

Connections operates from a model of a professional child care delivery system developed in 1995, supporting existing organizations linked to professionalism and developing proposals to secure funding to carry out its community-based development projects.

Support of Child Care Organizations:

Child Care Connections (CCCNS) provides meeting space, develops and sustains web sites, maintains registers, manages finances, mail outs and conference/ professional development registrations and other administrative tasks for the Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia (CCECENS), the Nova Scotia Child Care Association (NSCCA), and Partners In Practice Mentoring Group (PIP). Both NSCCA and CCECENS appoint representatives to the CCCNS Board of Directors.

May 30 & 31, 2008, *Caring Relationships~ Des relations qui comptent*, the first provincial child care conference jointly convened by provincial partners, CCCNS, the Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of NS, Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires and the Nova Scotia Child Care Association. Each organization had representatives on conference committees to design and execute the conference. Workshops in both English and French increases the accessibility of resources to Acadian colleagues. The experience contributed to an entire revamping of the conference as is evident in this year's conference, *Engaging Creative Minds!... Éveillons l'esprit creative!* (June 12 & 13, 2009).

January 2008, the organizations formed a committee to dialogue on coming together as one association that supported child care professionals. Each organization appointed representatives to the committee and since then the committee has been examining what that coming together would mean for the sector and for each organization. At the annual conference May 2008, committee members shared the progress of the dialogue with others in the sector; received comments, concerns and considerations from the sector; and added that feedback to the dialogue. The organizations acknowledged that professional recognition was a key function that was missing in the sector. The *challenge* was how to address the need for professional recognition while continuing to develop and provide services that respond to current and emerging service needs in our sector. This *challenge* was resolved by agreeing in principle on a model of a child care organization that maximizes current resources and moves us toward establishing an organization that has professional recognition as one of its functions in addition to the functions that the four organizations provide at this time. Over the next year, the Boards will meet together in the fall, winter and spring to build relationships and discover what is realistic to expect in developing this child care organization.

CCCNS involves our partners in the planning and shaping of activities and promotions which have traditionally been led by CCCNS. The ECLC Awards of Excellence for Program and Practice, Child Care Awareness Days, and the annual conference are examples of working together to maximize our resources.

Connections Ends

"Investments in children will be maximized through recognizing, valuing and supporting the development of an effective, quality early childhood community in Nova Scotia.

- ◆ *There will be a comprehensive, coordinated early childhood community that maximizes resources.*
- ◆ *Early childhood practitioners in Nova Scotia will be self confident, skilled and professional*
- ◆ *There will be a favourable public image of early childhood practice."*

Board of Directors

CCCNS Board Members are representative of administrators of full and part day programs. Also included are representatives from the Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia, the Coalition of Non Profit Directors of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Child Care Association and the Private Licensed Administrators Association. Other appointed board members provide the perspectives of post secondary training institutions, women's issues and unions as they relate to child care. With this make up, the CCCNS Board is well equipped to set the direction of the organization and establish relevant and practical ends for the organization to support the child care sector.

Projects:

Mentoring Pairs for Child Care

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre in the Niagara Region of Ontario has contracted with CCCNS to develop aspects of their mentoring program for supervisors in Ontario child care. Our Executive Director's expertise in developing the Partners In Practice Mentoring Model has been utilized in developing a matching program on the web, part of the evaluation process and study group training package based on the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council's Occupational Standards for Administrators. This exciting project began early 2008 and will continue until March 2010.

Promotion of the Value of Child Care:

Two of the sector priorities identified in 2004 "increasing awareness within and outside of the sector", and "obtaining increased and sustained government funding" are reflected in our promotion of the value of child care activities.

Awards and Recognition



Caring At Work Awards: During Child Care Awareness Days each June, colleagues and peers nominate early childhood practitioners for the Caring At Work Award in recognition of their commitment and dedication to children. Each nominee receives a pin and certificate at awards events across the province. Attendees at the awards ceremonies hear the stories of the

recipients and celebrate their contribution to child care in NS.



Early Childhood Learning & Care Awards for Excellence in Practice & Program: The Early Childhood Learning and Care (ECLC) Awards of Excellence for Educators and Programs honour the accomplishments and dedication of exceptional early learning and care practitioners and programs. Design and development of the awards process was

completed in 2005. Recipients in 2008 were Janice MacKinnon receiving the ECLC Award for Excellence in Practice and Small World Learning Centre the ECLC Award for Excellence in Program.



Early Childhood Care and Education Service

Award: To celebrate our 20th anniversary, CCCNS has instituted a Service Award to recognize child care programs which have provided child care services to children and families for twenty or more years. Programs will be presented with a certificate at the annual

conference and their stories will be distributed to conference participants and the child care sector.

Media Promotion

CCCNS provides local perspective to the media on child care issues and the findings of national research projects. Our resource library contains a good sampling of these reports plus other statistical and demographically relevant information that is used by media researchers. We provide accurate, relevant information on child care in NS and connect the media with practitioners and parents for their perspective.

Participation in Groups

Early Learning and Child Care Plan Working Group

CCCNS Executive Director co-chairs the Child Care Working Group with Kathy Isnor, Director of the ELCC Plan. The working group serves as an information sharing forum for the ELCC Director and other members of the ECDS Portfolio team regarding aspects of the government's ELCC Plan. It is not a decision making group. Sector members in the group are members of the NS Coalition of Non Profit Directors, Private Licensed Administrator's Association, Acadian child care, Nova Scotia Child Care Association and Family Home Child Care. In addition to sector membership the working group includes members from the Department of Community Services.

Sustaining an Infrastructure to Support the Child Care Sector

CCCNS provides an infrastructure to support child care practitioners in Nova Scotia. The services include:

Communications services.

These include an 800 number, network access, Connections mini-journal, Celebration newsletter, and web site <http://www.cccns.org>. A diverse network of members of the child care sector is kept informed of and consulted on current issues and trends affecting child care in NS, Canada and other countries, through email, mail outs and faxes. Consensus is built when time and resources are available.

Program and Organizational services

CCCNS provides services to child care programs and organizations such as board development, strategic planning, development of promotional materials, resources, consultation, meeting space, mailings and assistance in operational needs.

Web Site

The web site includes an online resource library; a job posting bulletin board; a centre listing that includes three web pages per centre; resources for practitioners including our mini-journal,

publications, professional development opportunities, advocacy campaigns, organization information, relevant links, and a calendar of events. The web site hosts the Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of NS (CCECENS) and the Nova Scotia Child Care Association (NSCCA)

Between Jan 2008 and December 2008 we have had 23105 hits, 436 less than 2007 which included the national conference (23,541 visits) and 18,040 unique visitors, 114 less than 2007 (18,154 unique visitors). There was an average of 38 visits per day overall in 2008; most between 2 pm and 4 pm; most between the months of January to June. The centre search and centre details have the most hits.

Professional development activities

Professional development opportunities that CCCNS provides are administrator workshops on the topics of recruiting and retaining staff, participatory decision making, leadership, reflection and self-awareness and effective meetings; and a mentoring skills development series offered. In 08-09, CCCNS partnered with the Early childhood Development support Centre at NSCC's Kingstec

Financial Support of the CCCNS infrastructure (2008-2009)

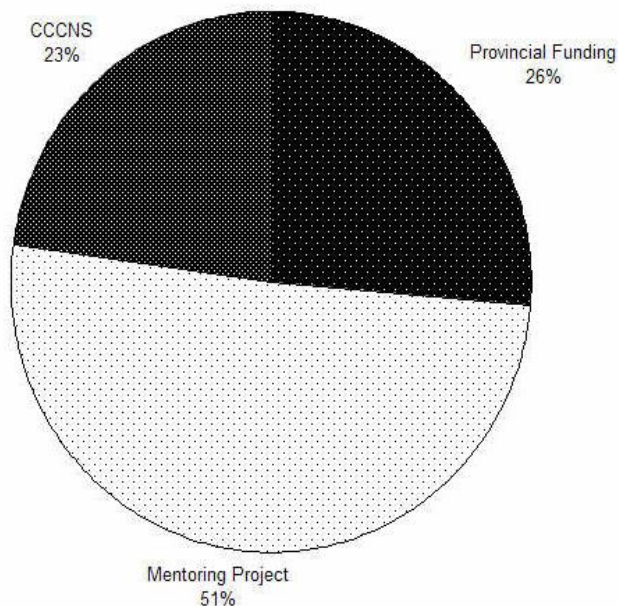
Child Care Connection Nova Scotia's fiscal year runs from April to March of the succeeding year. Audited financial statements for 2006-2007 (April 2006- March 2007) indicate that forty-seven percent of operating income was derived from our own initiatives including the national conference; thirty-one percent from federal projects; and twenty-two percent from a provincial grant from the NS Department of Community Services. Operating expenditures percentages are: Projects-thirty-six percent; services, promotions and workshops & conferences – fifty four percent; and administration and facilities - fourteen percent.

and Burrige Campuses to present the administrator toolbox series. Plans are to present the mentoring Series in 08-09, utilizing NSCC's technological resources to connect with other NSCC campuses to increase professional development opportunities throughout the province. Other professional development services include our resource library, mini -journal, presentations and consultations. Staff and Board Members of CCCNS participate in national and provincial consultations, projects and organizations.

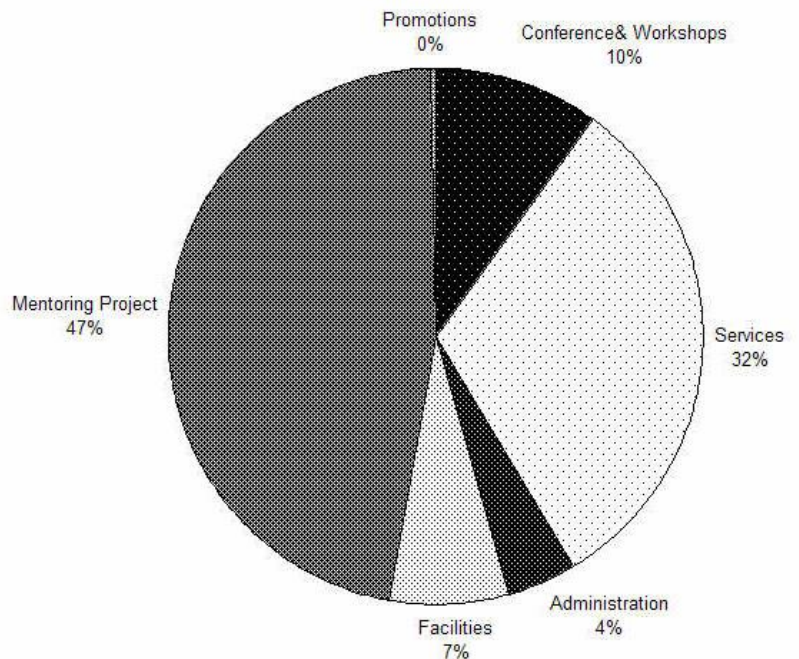
Support services

Support and collaboration is given to the numerous child care organizations and post secondary Early Childhood Education programs in Nova Scotia in the form of information distribution, consultation, meeting space, use of office equipment, mail drops, maintenance of data bases of members, membership services, brochure development, web site postings, handling and routing inquiries. We also provide assistance regarding quality child care to government departments, political parties, media, businesses, parents and community agencies

Income 2008-2009



Expenses 2008-2009





CCCNS Board of Directors:

Barbara Bigelow
Chair, Administrator

Joann Sweet
CCECENS

Sue Melanson
NSCCA

Kathleen Couture
NSCNPD

Denzil David
PLAA

Stella Lord
Women's Issues perspective

Vacant
Union perspective

Kim Elliott
*Post Secondary ECE Program
perspective*

Donna Stapleton
Administrator



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What you can do to assist Child Care Connections in our work-

- Champion the contribution that quality child care makes to our province's social and economic well being
- Support our community based development initiatives
- Participate in our promotional and fundraising activities