

Happiness is not so much in having as sharing.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Norman MacEwan

Good morning to all of you,

It seems that our relaxing break was a long time ago. Each of us has been busy in the past few weeks and we continue to march on through the calendar.

The Board and management team met for two days each this week and there were some events I would like you to know about. The Business Plan is currently being written; Bryan Huygen has taken on this immense task and submitted a draft to the Board. There are plans to have a meeting with our partners to share the Business Plan prior to finalizing and submission. We have not set a date yet, but hope to shortly. The youth have selected the dates of March 28, 29 and 30/08 for their Youth Forum. There will also be upcoming training to the caseworkers on mediation services that will be provided for contested Court cases. Those dates will be in February and more information is coming. Three more Private Guardianship Orders were granted this month. The amazing part is that the Permanent Guardianship Order proceeded in Court in the morning and the Private Guardianship Order was granted that same afternoon. This is what I call concurrent and permanency planning. No child languished in care in this case. Outstanding job!

Some time ago, I began writing these short messages to you with the intention of keeping you informed on decisions and activities in the Region. Upon reflection, I think that I would like to turn the tables here and give you all an opportunity to share your thoughts, high points and learning with your colleagues. To that end, I would like to encourage each of you to become a participant in our biweekly messages. You can choose your theme, submit your article to me and I will include one or two of these into this message every time. Who knows, maybe we will all become writers of a small newspaper!!!

Please have a wonderful weekend,

Lillian

January 25, 2008