

CEO MESSAGE FOR September 15, 2007

I would like to welcome everyone back from their summer activities. I hope that you have had a restful summer and that you enjoyed the many activities of summer with your families.

NEW FACES

*W*ith September upon us, the Region is now commencing the last half of our business year. As you look around you will see that there are some new faces. Please take time to welcome Pam Cunningham to the High Prairie Office as a caseworker. Shannon Ballas has accepted the Team Leader position for the St. Paul Office and Joy Ohashi has commenced duties as the Manager of Strategic Initiatives. I am confident that the skills and knowledge they bring to our team will enhance our service to the families and children in the Region.

UPDATES

*T*he Board is meeting on September 22 and 23, 2007. We will be presenting the highlights of the Annual Report and reviewing the many achievements of the past six months. There are also two vacant positions on the Board (Fishing Lake and Paddle Praire) recruitment activities have commenced to fill these vacancies.

*N*ovember is Family Violence Awareness month and we are planning our involvement in activities that will keep our families safe. You will hear the phrase “End the Silence, Stop the Violence” and information will be forthcoming on this campaign. We are also involved in developing a Youth Forum and we will be relying on frontline staff to assist in working with the youth and their mentors on this initiative.

*T*here have been a couple of mandatory training sessions sent out electronically. Please take the time to register for FOIP Training and Managing Information in the Workplace. If you did not receive this e-mail, contact your Team Leader for details.

*T*here have been several meetings of the Champion sites to the Casework Practise Model. Feedback from the people who are using the model is essential for the full rollout of this model; remember your site contact is Marcia Halfe.

*T*he province has commenced a Foster Care Review and I have participated in meetings to discuss the challenges and the development of strategies for recruitment and retainment of foster parents. I did stress that the focus on identifying family members to provide care is paramount for the success of our children.

*F*rom the three day Management meeting that took place this week, a decision has been made to commence a Regional OHS and Wellness group. The Business Managers and Team Leaders for each site will begin working on OHS strategies. I have asked that this working group also focus on the commitment we have to ourselves and our colleagues with respect to wellness including the areas of professional development, morale and

recognition. The four values from government will also be included; they are respect, accountability, integrity and excellence. I know that there is strengths and expertise in each of you and we will be drawing on these as we continue on.

*I*nterviews have been scheduled to fill the current casework vacancy and the secondment position. I would like to express my gratitude to all our staff for taking on extra challenges during this time. I am proud of each of you for ensuring that our services remain at a high standard. Thank you.

I hope you have a pleasant weekend. The weather is slightly more fall like, but if the forecast holds, there is time for one more picnic and campfire. Take care and be safe.

Lillian