

December 1, 2007

*All our dreams can come true,
if we have the courage to pursue them.*

Walt Disney

I chose this quote after attending the Buffalo Lake launch of a DVD on Family Violence. The children from Caslan School are producing a compelling and moving video about the impact of family violence. Their courage to dream a dream and turn it into a reality is remarkable. I arrived home late that night, and in spite of the time, I was in absolute awe and so inspired by the experience. Oh, the possibilities... I extend my sincere thanks to all those who have worked with the children, school, RCMP and Settlement to make this endeavour meaningful and successful.

The past two weeks have also come with other activities and news. The "Stand Up and Stop Bullying" Youth Campaign was chosen for the Gold Premier's Award of Excellence. This provincial group includes Debbie Gauchier, who attended the ceremony on Nov. 28, 2007.

The Management Team and the Board met this past weekend. The Annual Report was released to the Board members, along with reports on all of the activities and achievements that we have been involved with for the first half of the fiscal year. The list was extensive and it clearly demonstrates that, while often times we do not think we are getting anywhere, there is positive direction to all that we do on a daily basis.

Staffing:

There have been no changes to our staffing compliment since my last message. The Office and Business Managers have met and discussed how the three sites will all operate in a consistent fashion. As decisions are made, they will be conveyed to all our staff.

Upcoming Events:

*On December 11, 12, and 13/07, there will be a **Collective Forum** for all our Settlement staff. There are three major focuses to this Forum. Training is being offered to Settlement staff both from the Region on legislation changes and from Bow Valley College on parenting and managing challenging behaviours. Focus group discussion will include family violence, child care, youth networks/forums and mediation. The opportunity for all participants to develop partnerships and share solutions and*

strategies will form the last day of the meetings. The agenda has been circulated to your Team leads.

*At the same time, the **Youth Network** will also be meeting to strategize their Forum. All in all, the gathering of representatives from all eight Settlements offers opportunity to do strategic planning.*

*Also planned is a campaign on the dangers of **Internet Luring** by the province. You will see a media campaign just before the school break at Christmas.*

*We have recently had a proposal approved by the Ministry to provide **Mediation Services** to all court contested cases in the Child Intervention stream. This alternate dispute resolution process is mandated in the legislation and is proven to achieve earlier permanence for children and provide families the opportunity to voice concerns that yielded better planning for their children. You will be receiving information, orientation and training in the New Year.*

In closing, I must return to a variation of my original remarks.

Continue to dream, together we have the courage!

With regards,

Lillian