

Our imagination is the only limited to what we can hope to have in the future. Kettering

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope that your holiday break was enjoyable and relaxing.

As we launch 2008, I anticipate that there will be many events and goings on and I will attempt to keep you up to date.

Just before Christmas the Auditor General (OAG) met with management staff. The outcome of their annual review of the Region was positive. There is recognition of the challenges that are faced by distance and travel, staff recruitment and retention, and casework pressures. The OAG also remarked that the philosophy of maintaining family connections and the significance of building relationships is working well. There is a sense of appreciation for keeping families together and this is an engrained philosophy within the staff and supports a key message of this Authority. The Audit also indicates that we are succeeding at kinship placements for children in care and are exceeding the provincial levels.

Congratulations to all of you for the good work you do every day!

On a staffing note:

In St. Paul, Marcia Halfe has taken some time off to be with her new grandbabies. Ramona has commenced in St. Paul as of January 7, 2008. Welcome!!!

I want to thank Carrie for continuing to cover off in High Prairie until Judy returns.

Planning is occurring for the Northwest Aboriginal Foster Parent Training Retreat, mediation implementation, child care proposals and the Youth Forum.

Lillian