



## Working Together to Help Children and Youth In Ottawa Grow Up Great

Winter 2014 Update

### **Growing Up Great Network: Where ideas move into action**

The *Growing Up Great Network* is not only where ideas for change are generated, but also put into action. Membership is open to all those interested in moving forward our common vision and strategic priorities.

The *Network* provides oversight to subcommittees, provides a platform for members to explore key issues, learn about innovative activities in our community, and generate ideas for action. The group meets 6 to 8 times a year.

**All members are encouraged to join one of our action groups.**

*Upcoming Network meetings :*

**Thursday, April 10, 2014**

Supporting Safe & Healthy Communities for Child & Youth Development  
*Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre*

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

### **Strategic Priorities and Recent Activities**

#### **School Readiness**

This task group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month 1:30 pm at Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre

The School Readiness Task Group is a multi-disciplinary subcommittee working to promote supports for young children and their families for child development and school readiness.

- We hosted four Supporting Child Development workshops with over 200 registrants. The training was to provide strategies and tools for professionals working with families for the early identification of developmental delays and tips to integrate these strategies into daily practice.
- Made possible through funding from Ottawa Best Start, the group has developed a French version of the Renfrew County training video and supporting materials on talking to parents about sensitive issues.
- Currently, we are supporting the Nipissing District Developmental Screen in translating their materials into Arabic and Farsi.

#### **Critical Hours**

Working together to promote promising practices, applying common evaluation, and implementing practice standards for critical hours programs. To learn more or join, please contact Jama ([jwatt@growingupgreat.ca](mailto:jwatt@growingupgreat.ca)).

## **Summer Literacy Achievement**

Building on strategies and practices already in place, and working in collaboration with the Ottawa Public Library and Community Houses across the city, a pilot project was implemented to explore best practices in staff training and program delivery within a summer camp setting. The full pilot report can be found on our website.

Building on the Summer Literacy Achievement Pilot results, a task group has formed to further develop staff training and program delivery. A draft work plan will be available at the next meeting. To join, please email Jaime at [info@growingupgreat.ca](mailto:info@growingupgreat.ca)

## **Research into Action**

Meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 10:00am at United Way Ottawa. Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

The research group has been at work validating and confirming child and youth outcome indicators and community action measures which has been developed into a report. The report, *Charting Outcomes: Community Actions for Healthy Development of Children and Youth in Ottawa*, represents the first phase of a data collection process and step towards sustainable and systematic improvements in child and youth healthy development outcomes. Look for the release of this first phase of work in March 2014.

## **Partnerships**

### **Collaborative Parenting Support Strategy**

On January 22, we launched the draft Parenting Support Strategy and literature review. Learn more about the strategy on our website [www.growingupgreat.ca](http://www.growingupgreat.ca). We are looking for your input on implementing the action plans developed at the session—look for the survey in mid-February.

## **Learning Opportunity**

Join Robert Marleau, Integrity Commissioner, as he present on what is lobbying in Ottawa and how to lobby with City Councillors.

### **Event Details:**

February 10, 2014

1:30 pm to 3:30p.m.

Ben Franklin Council Chambers

101 Centrepointe Drive