



## **New Grad/New Hire Document**

This resource was created for Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, or Speech-Language Pathologists new to working in a paediatric rehabilitation setting in BC. The Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Recruitment and Retention Coordinator (PPTRRC) has developed this quick reference guide to help facilitate your acclimatization to BC therapy services for children and youth with special needs.

### **Paediatric Rehabilitation in BC**



\* Diagram from “A Framework for Action: Making it work!” available at:  
[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec\\_needs/pdf/CYSN\\_FrameWorkForAction\\_Combo\\_LR.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/pdf/CYSN_FrameWorkForAction_Combo_LR.pdf)

There are two primary ‘Tier 4’ resources for paediatric rehabilitation services in BC, the Sunny Hill Health Centre and BC Children’s Hospital. Both centres complement the therapy services available in the community. Specific information regarding some of the specialty services available at either centre is located in the Clinical Resources section of this document.



Community based rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs in BC can be divided into two age populations: birth to school entry, and school entry to 19 years of age.

### *Birth to School Entry*

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funds the Early Intervention Therapies program (EIT). The EIT program provides community-based services and supports to children from birth to school entry, and the primary method the program is delivered is through non-profit community agencies that have a contract with MCFD to deliver OT, PT, and SLP services. Guidelines have been created to support organizations providing the Program:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec\\_needs/pdf/ei\\_therapy\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/pdf/ei_therapy_guidelines.pdf).

SLP services for children from birth to school entry are also delivered by Health Authorities.

### *School Entry to 19 Years of Age*

MCFD and the Ministry of Education fund the School Aged Therapy (SAT) program. The SAT program provides occupational therapy and physiotherapy services to assist eligible children and youth in achieving optimal participation and meeting their educational goals. There are 60 school districts in BC, and each district decides how to have these services delivered. The majority of districts contract with a local agency, and others directly hire OTs and PTs.

SLP services for school aged children are funded by the Ministry of Education, and are directed by each school district in BC. All school districts directly hire their own SLPs to provide this service.

## **Networking**

BC understands the importance of being connected to your professional colleagues, and supports a number of networking resources specific to therapists working in paediatrics:

### **1. Provincial Paediatric Therapy Councils**

OT, PT, and SLP each have a provincial paediatric therapy council that meets on a regular basis (typically once a month) via a teleconference supported by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development. The councils are comprised of therapists from each region of BC, and activities include acting as an advisory body to government and engaging therapists in discussions regarding issues impacting paediatric therapy services. The terms of reference documents and a list of members for each of the



paediatric therapy councils can be located on the website: [www.therapybc.ca](http://www.therapybc.ca). Go to the 'Clinicians' drop-down menu on the home page, select 'Council Information,' and then select the appropriate council for your profession. Use the information provided to contact the council member representative for your region of BC and request to be added to their distribution list. Some of the councils have a 'New Graduate/New to BC Resource' position, a therapist that has recently been through a transition to paediatric practice in BC. This therapist is able to share suggestions and strategies for integrating into your new BC community.

## **2. The Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Recruitment and Retention Coordinator**

The PPTRRC was created to advise government on strategies to address the issues of recruitment and retention for public sector therapists working with children from birth to age 19. The PPTRRC is involved in a variety of recruitment and retention related projects and initiatives. Visit the 'Projects & Initiatives' menu on the [www.therapybc.ca](http://www.therapybc.ca) homepage to learn more about the larger initiatives supported by the Office. To keep informed of the activities of the PPTRRC through quarterly reports and email updates please register to join the therapybc therapist email database: [http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician\\_register.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_register.php)

The PPTRRC also has a contact list of agencies delivering early intervention services for children and youth, and a link to the Principals of Student Support Services for each school district in BC. You can locate this information on the therapybc website in the therapist resources section.

Please feel free to connect anytime with the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Recruitment and Retention Coordinator to discuss any issues related to paediatric therapy practice in BC: [consultant@therapybc.ca](mailto:consultant@therapybc.ca).

## **3. Professional Associations for OT, PT, and SLP**

Each of the three professions has their own provincial professional association that is very supportive of therapists working in paediatrics. Contact the professional association applicable to you for information regarding membership and the supports and services available:

Occupational Therapy: <http://www.bcsot.org/cms>

Physiotherapy: <http://www.bcphysio.org/app/index.cfm?fuseaction=pabc.home>

Speech-Language Pathology: <http://www.bcaslpa.ca>



#### 4. UBC Professional Training Programs

The professional training programs for OT, PT, and SLP are all located at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Taking a student is a great way to network and get connected with colleagues! For more information:

[http://www.therapybc.ca/employer\\_take\\_student.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/employer_take_student.php)

#### Provincial Resources

##### 1. Sunny Hill Health Centre

Sunny Hill directs two resources for BC paediatric therapists, the website [www.childdevelopment.ca](http://www.childdevelopment.ca), and ongoing access to telehealth/videoconference opportunities. Visit the [www.childdevelopment.ca](http://www.childdevelopment.ca) website for elearning opportunities, evidence for practice reviews, information on paediatric related projects currently underway in BC, and links to professional resources, health conditions information, and best practices. Contact Sunny Hill's Telehealth Coordinator Linda MacLean at [LMacLean-02@cw.bc.ca](mailto:LMacLean-02@cw.bc.ca) or 604.453.8319 to be added to her event distribution list so you are informed of upcoming telehealth learning opportunities.

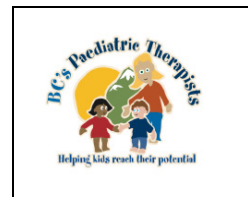
Sunny Hill also has a provincial positioning and mobility team providing service at Sunny Hill and during regional outreach visits. The team has developed numerous resources in the area of positioning and mobility that can be found at this link: <http://www.seatingandmobility.ca>

Sunny Hill also has several other specialty clinics and outreach services for children and youth with special needs in BC. Visit the following link for more information regarding Assistive Technology support, the Feeding and Swallowing team, and other services: <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/SunnyHillHealthCtr/TeamsServices/default.htm>

##### 2. BC Children's Hospital

BC Children's Hospital is home to many provincial specialty clinics that are a resource to children and families in BC. Therapists are associated with the following clinics:

- |                       |                                     |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| - Cerebral Palsy      | - Brachial Plexus                   | - Club Foot       |
| - Torticollis         | - Hemophilia                        | - Spinal Cord     |
| - Neuromuscular       | - Neonatal follow-up                | - Cystic Fibrosis |
| - Illizarov           | - Rhizotomy                         | - Oncology        |
| - Complex Pain        | - Limb deficiency                   | - Scoliosis       |
| - Biochemical disease | - Home Tracheostomy and Ventilation |                   |



To contact the therapist associated with any of the BC Children's Hospital clinics please call the Therapy department at 604.875.2123 and they will forward you to the appropriate contact.

The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Program:

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/SurgeryAndSurgSuites/CleftPalateCraniofacialSurgery/default.htm>

For more information on BC Children's Hospital's other specialized paediatric clinics: <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/SpecializedPediatrics/default.htm>

### **3. Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health**

Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health is located in Victoria and offers many specialty clinics and services for families living on Vancouver Island. Some clinics may only be available for those living in the South Island area:

- Cleft Lip/Palate
- Swallowing Disorders
- Plagiocephaly
- Neuromuscular Clinic
- Visual Impairment
- School Age Clinic
- Spinal Deformities

For further information call 250-519-5390 and ask for the Clinic Coordinator of the clinic you are interested in.

### **4. Support Services and Resources for Aboriginal Children and Families**

There are two seminal papers developed in BC that discuss providing therapy services to aboriginal children and families:

- [A Guide for Culturally-Focused Early Intervention Therapy Programs for Aboriginal Children & Families in British Columbia](#)
- [Steps in the Right Direction](#)

BC also has several provincial programs and organization dedicated to supporting aboriginal children and families:

- [BC Aboriginal Child Care Society](#)

-A provincial organization serving Aboriginal early childhood programs throughout British Columbia



- [First Nations Education Steering Committee](#)

- The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) is an independent society that is committed to improving education for all First Nations learners in British Columbia

- [Aboriginal Infant Development Program](#)

- Aboriginal Infant Development Programs in British Columbia offer support to families of infants who are at risk for or have been diagnosed with developmental delays. Programs are voluntary, family centered, and primarily focused on children ages 0-3 (in some communities 0 - 6)

- [Aboriginal Supported Child Care Program](#)

- ASCD provides culturally appropriate support services to children with special needs. Services are provided in child care centres or home and community environments. Developed and run by local Aboriginal communities, programs are culturally responsive to their community

- [Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC](#)

- The Head Start Association is dedicated to the development of Aboriginal children and their families and works in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure consistent quality standards

**5. BCAAN – BC Autism Assessment Network**

<http://www.phsa.ca/AgenciesAndServices/Services/Autism/default.htm>

BC Autism Assessment Network is a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority and consists of teams of specialists and health care professionals involved in the assessment and diagnosis of Autism. Services are provided by each of the five geographical health authorities.

**6. CDBC Network – Complex Developmental Behavioral Conditions Network**

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/fasd/assessment.htm>

Multi-disciplinary assessment services for children with complex developmental behavioral conditions, including children who may have FASD. Regional assessment services.



**7. Autism Funding Programs**

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/funding\\_programs.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/funding_programs.htm)

The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides two Autism Funding Programs, one for children under six and the other for children ages 6-18.

**8. At Home Program**

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at\\_home/index.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/index.htm)

This program assists parents with some of the costs of caring for a child with severe disabilities at home through a range of health supports and services. There are two main components, respite benefits and medical benefits. View the At Home Program Guide for more information regarding eligibility and the application process:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at\\_home/pdf/ahp\\_guide.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/pdf/ahp_guide.pdf)

Families who qualify can access additional funds for therapy services through the School-Aged Extended Therapies portion of the program (see page 19 of the Guide).

**9. CMERLS – Children’s Medical Equipment Loan Service**

CMERLS, in partnership with MCFD, provides basic medical equipment such as wheelchairs, standers, walkers, bathing and toileting needs, and biomedical equipment to children eligible for the At Home program and for children-in-care across the province. Equipment must be prescribed by a therapist or other health care professional. For more information visit the CMERLS section located at the following link:

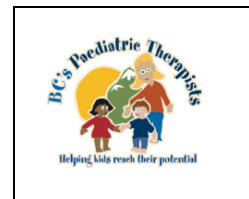
[http://www.therapybc.ca/pt\\_resources.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/pt_resources.php)

**10. SET-BC** <http://www.setbc.org>

This program assists BC school districts in supporting students whose access to curriculum is restricted. The program provides assistive technology, and helps school based teams acquire the skills needed to implement assistive technology.

**11. POPARD - Provincial Outreach Program for Autism Spectrum Disorder** <http://www.autismoutreach.ca>

Consultation, training and support services to schools across BC with a focus on increasing the capacity of school district staff to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



**12. POPFASD - Provincial Outreach for Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder** <http://www.fasdoutreach.ca>

Provide support and training for school district staff to support children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder.

**13. PISP – Provincial Integrated Support Program** <http://www.pisp.ca>

The Provincial Integration Support Program is an outreach service mandated to assist schools throughout British Columbia, in meeting the educational needs of students with multiple severe/profound physical and cognitive disabilities. A team consisting of a teacher, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, and speech-language pathologist provide support through a variety of services.

**14. Other Ministry of Education Special Education Services**

For information on other Ministry of Education directed provincial programs view the document: Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/ppandg.htm>

**15. Health Link BC** [www.healthlinkbc.ca](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca).

Offers the public access to non-emergency health information and services 24/7. Call 8-1-1 or use the website. Translation services are available in over 130 languages on request. For deaf and hearing-impaired assistance (TTY), call 7-1-1.

The public can speak with a nurse about symptoms, consult with a pharmacist about medication questions, or get healthy eating advice from a dietitian. It is also a resource for locating health services and resources.

**16. Community Brain Injury Program**  
<http://www.centreforability.bc.ca/?page=14>

A provincially funded rehabilitation program designed for children and youth with special needs. Funding and coordination of short-term rehabilitation and support services to assist the child or youth as they transition from hospital or rehabilitation centre to home, school, and community.