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PPTRRC Quarterly Update

March 2011

This is a 'quarterly report' from the Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Recruitment and Retention Coordinator (PPTRRC). The intent is that this update will increase awareness amongst stakeholders involved in paediatric therapy services in BC of the activities of this Office. Feel free to contact the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for further discussion or clarification regarding the content of this update. This is the fourth and final quarterly report for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

2011-2012 PPTRRC Work Plan

The AGM for the Office of the PPTRRC is April 15th. This is when the steering committee meets face-to-face to form the work plan for the next fiscal year. The 2010-2011 work plan was informed by feedback received from therapists during a survey last spring, and we look forward to your feedback and suggestions for what the Office should focus on during the upcoming fiscal year. Please follow the link to a brief 10 question online survey to provide your input:

<http://app.fluidsurveys.com/s/PPTRRCTherapistFeedback>

The 2011 PPTRRC Awards!

Throughout the past twelve months the Office has solicited nominations for the inaugural Office of the PPTRRC Awards. The award nomination announcement and process was disseminated through the OT, PT, and SLP paediatric therapy councils, through the therapybc email distribution list, the PPTRRC quarterly reports, the therapybc blog, and hopefully spread via word of mouth as well. An informal recognition was made during the Monday evening social for the three award winners who attended the 2011 Update Symposium, and what follows is the Office's official announcement of this year's recipients. So please, if you know these esteemed therapists, make sure congratulations are sent their way.

There are two categories, the Mentorship/Education Award and the Dedication to the Profession/Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients for both awards were selected for each of the three professions: OT, PT, and SLP.

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The Mentorship/Education Award

Nomination criteria:

- Nominee must have a minimum of 10 years paediatric clinical experience
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the profession through the education of others (e.g. - student practicum supervisor, lecturer/presenter for continuing education opportunities)
- Nominations may be based on education directed towards students, peers, other health care team members, patients / clients / families, the public or other groups

Your 2011 Mentorship/Education Award Recipients:

OT - Les Smith, Director of Programming, Prince George CDC

An excerpt from Les's nomination letter:

Les has presented at lectures, published articles, and participated in working forums to represent rehabilitation positions, particularly occupational therapy and their roles in early childhood development. Key examples of his achievements include:

- *Ministry of Children and Families Development 2010: CDC services and future integration and partnerships for Infant Mental Health Services*
- *Children's First 2010: Early Childhood development and Children and Youth with Special Needs frameworks*
- *BC Academic Health Council 2009-2008: British Columbia preceptor development and support forum*
- *Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists conference 2009: A conceptual viability model for sustainable rural rehabilitation service*
- *Leaders in Rehab 2009: A framework for strategic planning of rural rehabilitation services*
- *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences 2008: The prevalence of cerebral palsy in British Columbia*
- *International seating symposium 2008: Use of a family centred satisfaction survey to guide intervention for children accessing a positioning and mobility clinic*
- *Supported Child Development conference 2007: Seeing is believing: the relationship between early visual skills and fine motor development*
- *Rehab Management: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Rehabilitation: October/November 2000 Weathering the winter in a wheelchair*

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PT - Yvette Jollet, Department Head, Fraser Valley CDC

An excerpt from Yvette's nomination letter:

As a Department Head, Yvette leads by example and is a guiding force to the Physiotherapists that work for our organization. She is committed to helping her staff grow, and develop their skills as practicing clinicians, as well as supporting them in their growth as individuals. A mentor is someone who is a shining example of what we aspire to be, yet sees the gifts each individual brings and helps them develop those gifts. She offers guidance, support and encouragement to her staff, which is her gift. Yvette is a big picture thinker and has wisdom beyond her years. She is interested in and has a strong connection to the physiotherapy community at home and abroad. She demonstrates through her actions the importance of commitment and involvement which she has shown over the years in her dedication to the CPA, College of Physiotherapists, and various Pediatric Interest groups. Yvette is always up to date on the current issues and shows her involvement by sharing her opinions and encouraging others to get involved.

Yvette has given much of her own time and expertise to make a difference in the lives of others. Yvette spent 2 years in Nepal and 6 months in Bhutan volunteering as a Physiotherapist. During these trips, Yvette has given of herself and shared her skills with the local people. She helped to create a lasting effect by educating the local people, and helping them develop skills. Yvette shared her experiences through articles and a blog which allowed her experiences to be shared by many.

SLP - Zoe Watt, Speech-Language Pathologist, Prince George CDC

An excerpt from Zoe's nomination letter:

I would like to nominate Zoë Watt for the Mentorship/Education award. Zoë has worked with children of many ages and abilities for over fifteen years both in the United Kingdom and in Canada. I would like to nominate Zoë based on her work to create a DVD for parents of late-talkers, on her work as a team member in the Robson Valley and for her dedication as my mentor. With her years of experience, her open mind and her willingness to pass on her knowledge, Zoë is a natural mentor and teacher for everyone she works with.

In addition, as part of her job at the Child Development Centre of Prince George and District (PG CDC) Zoë does outreach to the Robson Valley once a month. In the Robson Valley Zoë has worked hard to build relationships in the community. She is very dedicated to teaching the daycare staff about strategies for children with speech/language delays. She also works very closely with the Infant Development and Supported Child Development Programs helping the workers best serve the needs of children on their caseloads. I have no doubt that Zoë's work with childcare providers in

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the Robson Valley has had a significant impact of the quality of service the children receive.

Zoë is never too busy to answer a question or to offer a suggestion. She also always makes time to observe me with a client I have questions about or to allow me to observe to her to gain ideas. I know that no matter how busy Zoë is with her own work she will always make time to mentor me. I sincerely feel that Zoë's mentorship has increased not only my clinical knowledge but it has allowed my ability to think about speech/language difficulties to broaden and become more multi-faceted. I am very appreciative of all the mentoring that I have received from Zoë and I know that all of my clients and their families benefit from it as well.

The Dedication to the Profession/Lifetime Achievement Award

Nomination criteria:

- Nominee must have worked in a clinical and/or administrative capacity for a minimum of 30 years in a paediatric rehabilitation environment
- Nominee should have been involved in activities that support, enhance, or develop political/public awareness of the importance of rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs
- Nominee must have acted/currently act as a resource for their colleagues
- Nominee must have demonstrated significant involvement in professional activities, both internal and external to their place of work
- One OT, one PT, and one SLP award

Your 2011 Dedication to the Profession/Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients:

OT - Lori Roxborough, Associate Director of Therapy, Children and Women's Health Centre (including Sunny Hill Health Centre)

An excerpt from Lori's nomination letter:

Lori has dedicated her career to advancing the professions of OT and PT in paediatric rehabilitation, locally (within Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Children's Hospital, and throughout the Lower Mainland's paediatric therapy community), provincially, nationally and internationally. She was one of the founding members of the International Seating Symposium-now in its 27th year, and was chair of its planning committee for many years. She has been an active member of the treatment outcomes committee of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AAPDM) for many years, and was one of the forces behind organizing the AAPDM here in Vancouver in 2007. She has presented at numerous conferences, workshops, and lectures, and has been an invited speaker at home in BC, in Canada and abroad. She has published in peer-reviewed journals, and contributed to several textbooks. She has been

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principal investigator on numerous research studies, and has served on several research and peer review committees including:

- *Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC*
- *BC Children's Hospital Telethon for New Research,*
- *Vancouver Coastal Research Institute,*
- *Bloorview MacMillan Foundation, in Toronto Ontario*
- *Canadian Institute for Health Research- Health Technology Exchange*
- *Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation research and scholarship grants*
- *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy journal*
- *Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy conference*
- *AACPDM conference*

Lori's energies are devoted to enhancing evidence-based practice, as well as to ensure cost-effective use of resources. She is often sought for her extensive knowledge, insight, and creative- "big picture" thinking from colleagues, administrators, educators, researchers and government representatives. She is very approachable and tries to make time for anyone that needs her counsel.

PT - Llaesa North, Director of Physiotherapy, Prince George CDC

I would like to nominate Llaesa North as the recipient of this award in the Physiotherapy category. Llaesa is a 1970 U.B.C. graduate of the School of Rehabilitation Medicine. She has spent almost her entire career working in paediatrics in B.C. She is currently director of physiotherapy services for the Prince George Child Development Centre. Although I have never worked with Llaesa, I am the co-chair of the Provincial Paediatric Physiotherapy Council of B.C., and Llaesa is also a member of this council. I have always been impressed with her thoughtful contributions to our discussions. She is often able to give a historical and a "bigger picture" perspective. She obviously is passionate about service provision to children with special needs throughout B.C., and in particular, the most vulnerable populations. She represents the eastern half of the North of the province and does a wonderful job.

I also know that Llaesa is well respected by her colleagues in Prince George and she has established an outstanding program serving the Prince George region. I first met Llaesa at one of many courses we have attended together. She has always kept her skills and knowledge current, and in fact, is very interested in innovation. When I first met Llaesa in the late 70's, she was just helping to establish the splinting program at the "Variety Treatment Centre for Children", now known as the Centre for Child Development in Surrey (now a very successful and dynamic program).

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SLP - Kate Wishart, Director of Speech-Language Pathology, BC Centre for Ability

I have had the pleasure of working with Kate for only the past four years, and her passion and dedication for her profession was evident from the first time I worked with her. Over the course of the past four years it seems as though any time and every time SLP representation was requested or required for a board or committee, Kate stepped forward. She is relentless in ensuring early intervention SLP services are an item on any agenda involving children and youth with special needs, and she brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The accomplishments I am aware of (and I know I'm missing several!) include working with the BC Paediatric SLP Council and Knowledge Impact Strategies Consulting Ltd to create a user-friendly database of research articles on language intervention for preschool children; committing to a term on the Provincial Paediatric SLP Council; twice representing SLP on the planning committee for the Paediatric Update Symposium (2009 and 2011); participating on BCASLPA's continuing education committee; and representing SLP on the Primary Therapist Transdisciplinary Model task force. Indeed, it is professionals like Kate that inspire the creation of Lifetime Achievement/Dedication to the Profession Awards in the first place. She is truly a deserving candidate for the Office of the PPTRRC SLP Lifetime Achievement Award.

Promoting Manageable Workloads

WAT-T: A Workload Assessment Tool for Therapists

The WAT-T developed by Kathy Davidson as a points-based method of measuring therapist workload is now available on the therapybc website in the Promoting Manageable Workloads section: http://www.therapybc.ca/promoting_manageable.php.

Test-retest and intra-rater reliability has been established for this tool, and the Office of the PPTRRC will continue to work with Kathy to pursue funding and support for phase 3 of the project. Phase 3 will set the goal of establishing statistically supported points-based guidelines, taking into account the factors influencing the manageability of caseloads in the early intervention paediatric therapy context in British Columbia.

If you have questions about the measure and its development please contact Kathy Davidson at kathydavidson1@gmail.com.

Update Symposium

- One of the strong themes emerging from the Symposium was participation and recreation community-based opportunities for children and youth with special needs in BC. The child development and rehabilitation website hosted by Sunny Hill Health

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Centre has some excellent resources in this area located in the 'Sport & Fitness' section:
<http://www.childdevelopment.ca/sport.aspx>

I'm working with the folks at Sunny Hill to add many of the resources you shared at the Symposium.

- Update Symposium videoconference attendees should have received a link to the web-casts of both OT break-out sessions and Nancy Thomas-Stonell's FOCUS SLP break-out session. Connect with me if you didn't receive this email

- Those of you that requested participation certificates should have received an emailed electronic version. Again, contact me if you didn't receive yours yet.

- Thanks to all of you that took the time to complete the online evaluation!

UBC OT/PT Job Fair

Friday, June 3rd from 4:30 – 7:30pm at the Thea Koerner House – Graduate Student Centre at UBC. Contact Andrea at ptotjobfair@gmail.com to register. Therapybc will be there, so if you are unable to attend but would like to provide some resources and information to this graduating class of OTs and PTs please connect with me. We will make arrangements to make sure your information is displayed at the Job Fair.

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- Please, make sure your colleagues and employees are registered in the therapybc database (http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_register.php). Therapists who have registered their email information with the site and have chosen to receive updates from the PPTRRC will ensure they are informed of any new initiatives generated by this Office.