

## **Putting Children First ECD Initiative**

**Dr. Clyde Hertzman presentation in Whistler and Squamish  
December 2, 2004**

### **Dr. Clyde Hertzman**

Dr. Clyde Hertzman, **Director of The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP)** along with researchers and graduate students from BC's 4 major Universities facilitates the creation of new knowledge, and helps apply this knowledge in the community by directly working with government and communities. HELP works in partnership with MCFD, in particular the BC Minister of State For Early Childhood Development and maintains a close liaison with other provincial government ministries.

### **The Mapping Project – PCFI and HELP in partnership**

Putting Children First (PCFI) is an **Early child development initiative** on the Sea To Sky Corridor which is funded by MCFD and the funding is administered through Sea To Sky Community Services Society. **HELP and Putting Children First** work in partnership on the **ECD Mapping Project**. This project maps 3 components; **community assets, child development and socio-economic characteristics of communities**. The information being gathered and mapped is beginning to provide us with a better understanding of where the programs and resources are located, how accessible those programs are to the families and children they are designed to support, and reveal where the gaps are in children's development and where change is needed. We can assist communities to use the maps to monitor early child development and to create effective, community-based responses that support the needs of children and families in their communities.

### **The Early Development Instrument (EDI)**

Every region of the province is engaged in the ECD Mapping Project. A key piece in the ECD Mapping Project (under child development) is the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI is a research tool that enables communities to assess children's readiness to participate in and benefit from school activities. The kindergarten teachers complete the checklist which covers 5 areas of development as listed below. By mapping the school readiness of children, we can identify and understand the influence of community and socio-economic factors on child development.

### **Overview of December 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation – EDI sampling 2004**

The purpose of Dr. Hertzman's presentation on December 2<sup>nd</sup> was to share the results from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) sampling that took place in School District 48 kindergarten classes last February. 300 students were tested; 96 in Squamish South, 95 in Squamish North, 50 in Pemberton and area, and 59 in Whistler. 5 Domain areas were measured; physical health and well being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge. "Measuring children's development at kindergarten is important because it

reflects children’s early experiences and influences school success, health, and well-being later in life.” Clyde Hertzman, note from slide presentation.

To view EDI results – please see Clyde’s presentation and maps on The Mapping Portal at <http://ecdportal.help.ubc.ca>. The Sea To Sky Community Services Society offices in Squamish and Pemberton are designated **Mapping Portal Sites**. The general public is invited to use the mapping portal computers and colored printers at each site.

Squamish: Monday through Friday: 9:00 – 4:00 (office is closed from 12:00 – 1:00 pm)  
 Pemberton: Tuesday through Friday: 9:00 – 4:00 (office is closed from 12:00 – 1:00 pm).  
 Please contact Jane Ballance for further information.

## THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT RESULTS

### Howe Sound EDI results from 2004

#### 300 children sampled in School District #48 kindergarten classes

% deemed vulnerable based on Provincial cut-offs

Domain area	Community	Children sampled	% vulnerable
<b>Social Competence</b>			
	Squamish South	96	18.75
	Squamish North	95	10.53
	Pemberton	50	4.00
	Whistler	59	1.69
<b>MOST VULNERABLE: Squamish South</b>			
<b>Physical Health &amp; Well Being</b>			
	Squamish South	96	18.95
	Squamish North	95	8.42
	Pemberton	50	30.61
	Whistler	59	6.78
<b>MOST VULNERABLE: Pemberton</b>			
<b>Emotional Maturity</b>			
	Squamish South	96	13.54
	Squamish North	95	17.02
	Pemberton	50	2.04
	Whistler	59	1.69
<b>MOST VULNERABLE: Squamish North</b>			
<b>Language &amp; Cognitive</b>			
	Squamish South	96	14.74
	Squamish North	95	6.32
	Pemberton	50	2.00
	Whistler	59	0
<b>MOST VULNERABLE: Squamish South</b>			

### **Communication Skills and General Knowledge**

Squamish South	96	16.67
Squamish North	95	7.37
Pemberton	50	6.00
Whistler	59	1.69

### **MOST VULNERABLE: Squamish South**

Proportion of students vulnerable on one or more subscales: By Neighbourhood:  
Pemberton 34%, Squamish South 31.25%, Squamish North 24.21% and Whistler 10.17%.

Proportion of students vulnerable on one or more subscales of EDI compared to the total number vulnerable:

Squamish South	39.47 %
Squamish North	30.26 %
Pemberton	22.37 %
Whistler	7.89 %

This information can be viewed on the mapping portal site. If you have internet access at home you will be able to access this information. PCFI has produced a video of Clyde's presentation in Squamish and 3 copies are available to share with community organizations. Please contact Jane Ballance.

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