



Annual Report April 1 2020 - March 31 2021

Big Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Society)

Together...A Better Outcome for Everyone



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SOCIETY'S PURPOSES

Our Vision

To have a community where every child & youth is respected and heard and child maltreatment is not tolerated.

Mission Statement

To provide a collaborative response to child maltreatment through advocacy, intervention and continued support in a child-friendly environment.

Outcomes

- Increased support and protection for children/youth who have been maltreated
- Increased support for families of children/youth who have been maltreated
- Increased quality of life for children/youth and their families who have been maltreated
- Increased collaboration, consistency and sustainability of service delivery
- Reduction of trauma for maltreated children/youth and their families, staff and partners
- Reduction of tolerance for maltreated children/youth in the Community and Region

Principles

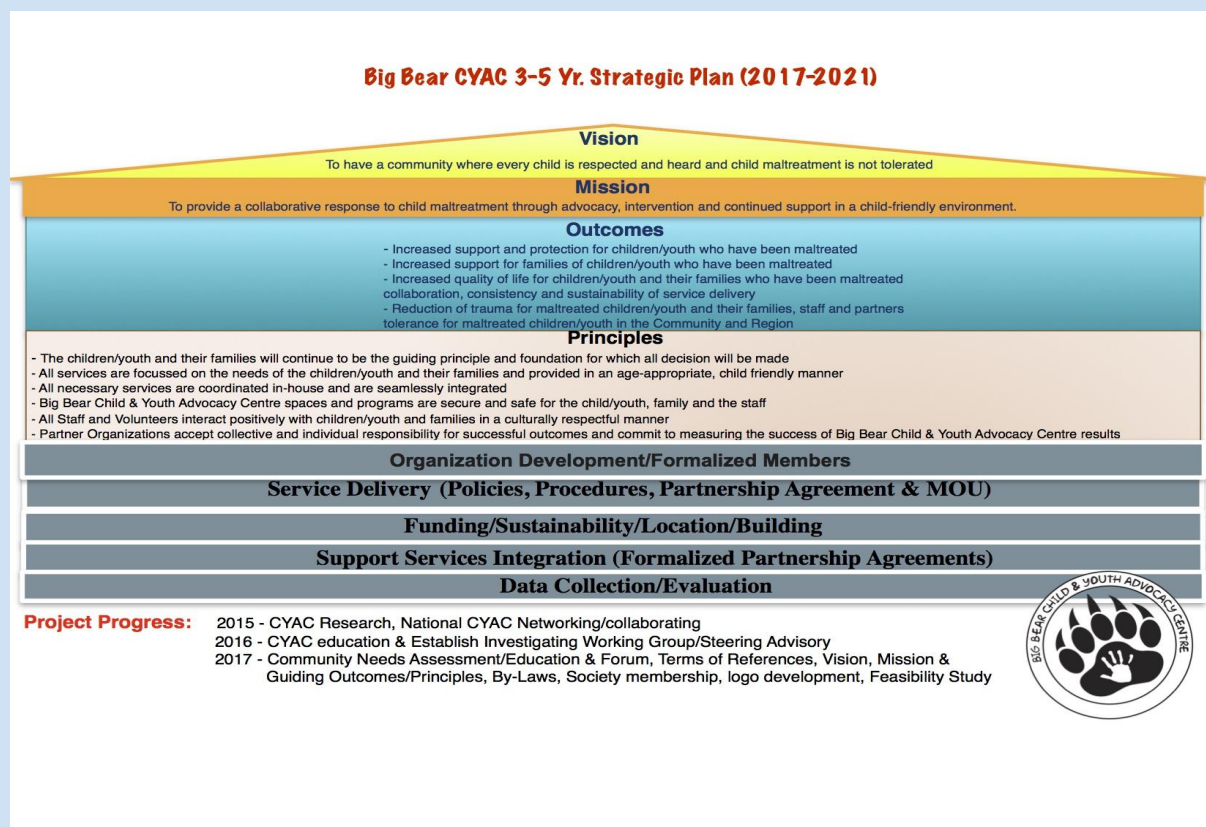
- The children/youth and their families will continue to be the guiding principle and foundation for which all decision will be made
- All services are focussed on the needs of the children/youth and their families and provided in an age-appropriate, child friendly manner
- All necessary services are coordinated in-house and are seamlessly integrated

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- Big Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre spaces and programs are secure and safe for the child/youth, family and the staff
 - All Staff and Volunteers interact positively with children/youth and families in a culturally respectful manner
 - Partner Organizations accept collective and individual responsibility for successful outcomes and commit to measuring the success of Big Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre results



Big Bear 3-5 yr. Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

We are proud to say that we have been successful in completing our 3-5 year strategic plan in developing Big Bear CYAC and have stayed true with our #1 Principal - children/youth and their families will continue to be the guiding principle and foundation for which all decisions will be made.



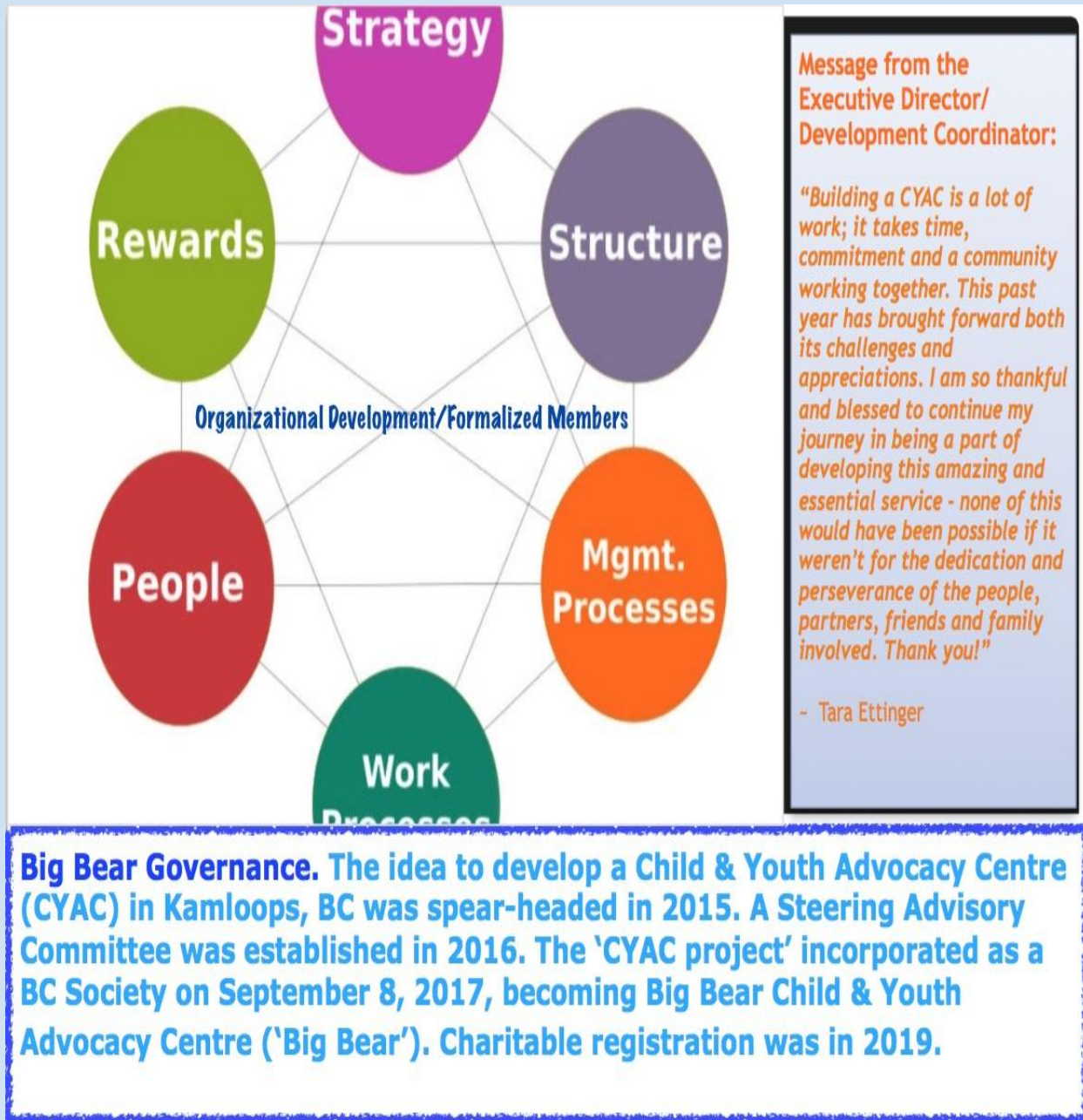
Inclusion & Diversity

Continually working towards safe, trauma-informed and socially inclusive approaches and practices that apply to all populations who may face inequities based on their identity (i.e.: race or skin colour, Indigenous Identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity or culture, age, gender, disability).

Our commitment through:

- On-going training/workshops
- Reflexive practice/discussions/debriefings in how we can do better
- Evaluation links/surveys and gaining feedback from those we serve and work with
- Maintaining partnerships
- Learning from other CYACs
- Independent research to better understand best approaches when working with Indigenous children, youth and their families during investigations of child abuse.

Organization Development/Formalized Members



Developmental Board of Directors. *We recognized it was crucial to develop Big Bear CYAC with a Board that had direct experience and knowledge of children/youth and families who were involved in the Justice System due to cases of child maltreatment.*

Big Bear CYAC is currently transitioning from a Development Board of Directors to an Operational Board of Directors.

Tara Ettinger (President, Acting Chair, since Sept/2017), Executive Director/Development Coordinator, Co-founder of Big Bear.

Tracy Scott (Vice-President, Acting Secretary, since Oct/2018), Clinical Nurse Specialist, Co-founder of Big Bear.

Nadine Ryan (Director since Sept/2017), Director of Operations, Ministry for Children & Families Development.

Brian Donaldson (Director since Oct/2020), Ops Support NCO, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Robert Daly (Director, Sept/2017 - Sept/2020) - Senior Staff Sergeant, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Bradley Armstrong (Sept/2018 - Sept/2020) - Director of Aboriginal Health, Interior Health (Director)

Steering Advisory Committee (during 2020/21 fiscal). *Bringing unique knowledge and skills to effectively guide the organization development. It was key to have the expertise, direct experience and knowledge for the investigational practices of child abuse within the Justice system.*

-**Ben Chobator** (Member (Member 2018 - Present) - City of Kamloops

-**Brian Donaldson** (Member 2020 - Present) - Kamloops RCMP

-**Deanie Stevens** (Member 2019 - Present) - Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services, DAA

-**Dr. Denise Chapple** (Member 2017 - Present) - Pediatrician, Interior Health

-**Dr. Heather Price** - (Member 2017 - Present) - Thompson Rivers University (Canada Research Chair in Culture and Communities: Children and the Law) & Big Bear CYAC

-**Gerry Desilets** (Member 2020 - Present) - Interior Health

-**Joceylyn Barratt** (Member 2019 - Present) - Interior Health

-**Nadine Ryan** (Member 2016 - Present) - Ministry for Children & Family Development

-
- Natasha Marshall (Member 2017 - Present) - Secwépemc Child & Family Services, DAA
 - Tara Ettinger (Member 2016 - Present) - Championed with Department of Justice Canada & Development Coordinator, Big Bear CYAC
 - Tracy Scott (Member 2016 - Present) - Interior Health & Big Bear CYAC
 - Sarah Firestone (Member 2017 - Present) - Crown Counsel

Members who retired from Big Bear Advisory Committee in 2020:

- Bradley Armstrong (Member 2018 - 2020) - Interior Health
- Brian Young (Member 2017 - 2020) - Ministry for Children and Family Development)
- Charlene Gladue (Member 2020) - Kamloops RCMP
- Richard Jewitt (Member 2018 - 2020) - Interior Health
- Karen Delorey (Member 2019-2020) - Kamloops RCMP
- Michael Caron (Member 2020) - Interior Health
- Robert Daly (Member 2016 - 2020)- Kamloops RCMP

Acknowledging some of our previous members:

- Celina Gammie (Member 2017 - 2018) - Kamloops RCMP
- Jen Casorso (Member 2017) - City of Kamloops
- Jennifer Thur (Member 2016) - Interior Health
- Kendra Martin (Member 2016) - Kamloops RCMP
- Kris Kristjanson (Member 2018) - Royal Inland Hospital
- Lorne Wood (Member 2017) - Kamloops RCMP
- Michelle Kerpan (Member 2016) - Kamloops RCMP
- Sunny Parmar (Member 2017)- Kamloops RCMP
- Tami Lund (Member 2016) - Kamloops MCFD



Business Team.

- Heather Robinson, Audit/Financial Reviewer (Since 2018), Key Financial Group
 - Mark Bartle, Legal representative (Since 2018) - Gillespie & Company LLP
 - Morly Bishop, Insurance representative (Since 2019) - CapriCMW Insurance Services
 - Vicki Scott, Bookkeeper (Since 2018), KamCity Accounting
-

Service Delivery of Big Bear

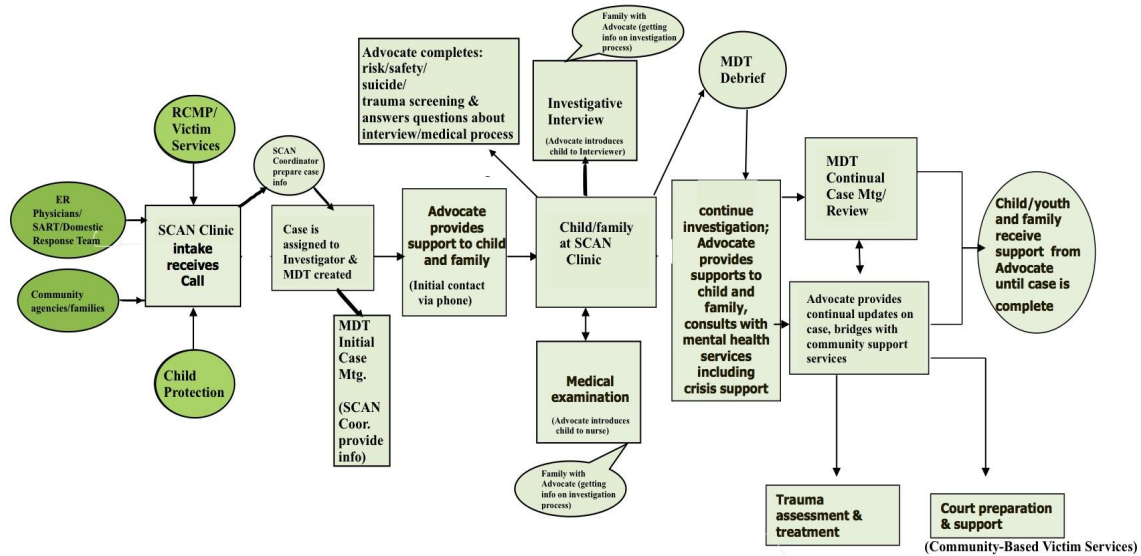
Phase 1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Formal sharing of information and practise agreement signed between: Kamloops Big Bear CYAC, Kamloops RCMP with Police-based Victim Services, Ministry for Children & Family Development, Secwépemc Child & Family Services (DAA), Interior Health, Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services (DAA),

Our Phased Development Model for Service Delivery

Big Bear CYAC developed in Phases. Our first piloted phase (March 2020-April 2021) was in partnership with the Interior Health (IH) Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect Clinic (SCAN Clinic) at the Kamloops Royal Inland Hospital. The SCAN Clinic has an interview and monitor room and a family room. When the SCAN Clinic first developed in Kamloops (about 20 years ago), it coordinated many RCMP-led child forensic interviews. In the last several years, the average number of child forensic interviews held at the SCAN Clinic were 7-8; the majority occurred at the RCMP detachment. With Big Bear CYAC *Partnership Agreement* with IH & the SCAN Clinic last year; **Phase 1** of Big Bear CYAC was developed and an agreement with Big Bear CYAC, Kamloops RCMP with Police-based Victim Services, Ministry for Children & Family Development, Secwépemc Child & Family Services (DAA), Interior Health, Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services (DAA), Thompson Rivers University (Canada Research Chair in Culture and Communities: Children and the Law) and the Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre (KSACC) for Community-based Victim Services as court support. Phase 1 helped coordinate child interviews at the SCAN Clinic, provided the Family Advocate immediate and long-term support for children, youth and their families with case tracking, data collection and monitored quality assurance through evaluations. During Phase 1 of Big Bear CYAC (partnership with SCAN Clinic), we coordinated 49 cases of child maltreatment. Our evaluations have demonstrated that the MDT coordination has been very effective for improving working relationships, and has benefitted children and their families. At the start of fiscal 2021/22, Big Bear CYAC will be in Phase 2 of its development, with its own secured building/location. **Phase 2** will include both child forensic interviews and medical evaluations/wellness checks under the roof of Big Bear.

BB CYAC Service Model - Phase 1 (SCAN Clinic)



SCAN Clinic at Royal Inland Hospital

Our Impact. *Investigations of child abuse and this involvement with the Justice System can be very scary for children/youth and their families. When this work is not done collaboratively by professional, there can be gaps in services and inevitably, the children can fall through the cracks (which may lead to poor mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, etc.). Not collaborating as a professional, can often lead to working in isolation (leading to burn-out/poor mental health).*

Big Bear CYAC directly helps to coordinate child abuse investigations with: RCMP, MCFD, Two Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (Secwépemc Child and Family Services & Lii Michif Otipemisiwak) and Interior Health. We prioritize the children/youth and the family during the process so support is provided at the onset, throughout investigations and continues thereafter to decrease the chances of 'the child slipping through the cracks' within the system. We also prioritize consistent collaboration and support for the professionals who do this work, to encourage well-being.

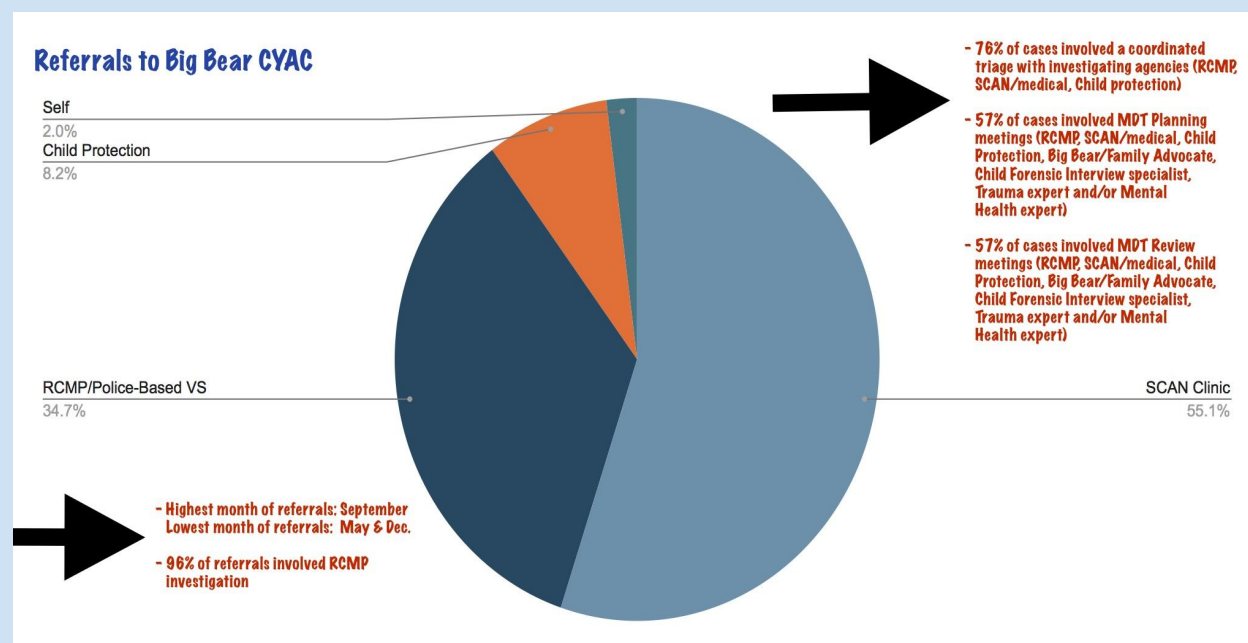
We collaborate with community agencies (such as Victim Services, Counselling Centres, YMCA) to ensure clients are connected with appropriate healing services and help mitigate any possible barriers in accessing them for a better opportunity to follow through.

Phase 1 of Big Bear CYAC with SCAN Clinic (Stat Report)

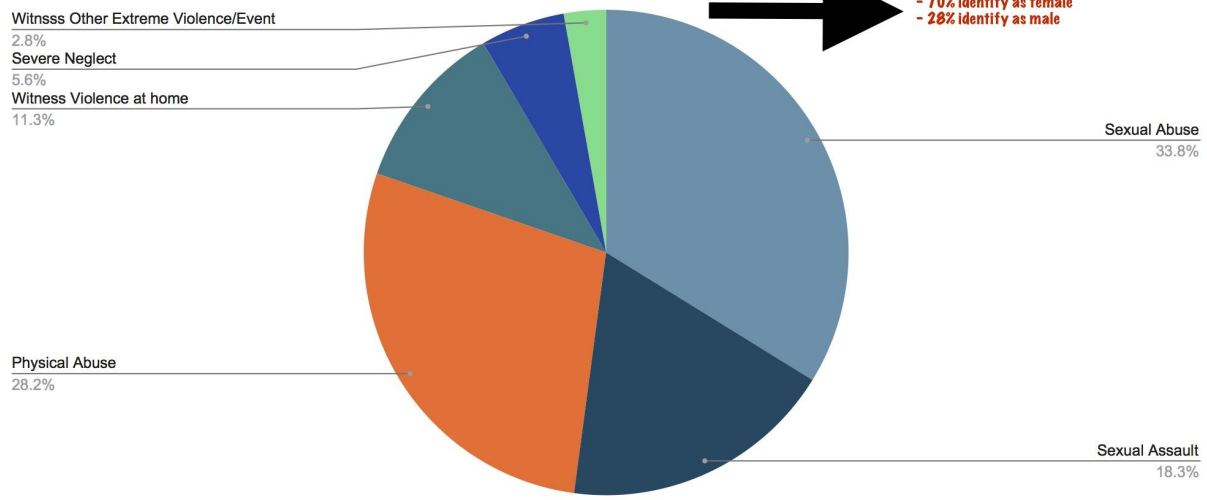
49 cases investigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>96% involved RCMP investigations</u>• <u>76% of cases were triaged</u>
75 children & youth were supported by Advocate services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>19 Child forensic interviews at SCAN Clinic (doubled from previous years)</u>• <u>6 Child forensic interviews at RCMP detachment</u>
51 children & youth indirectly supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Average age 6-12 yrs</u>
TOTAL # of children supported = 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>55% are Caucasian</u>• <u>40 % are Indigenous</u>
80 parents & caregivers indirectly supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Most of the child/youth's first disclosures were to the mother</u>
39 parents & caregivers supported by Advocate services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 58% were moms• 18% were grandparents• 15% were dads

TOTAL # of parents/caregivers supported = 119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 17% were getting prior support from a community agency
245 Total - supported during 2020-21 Child abuse investigations	
Providing clients on-going information, education, advocacy before and during the investigational process.	Providing crisis intervention, safety planning and coping/anxiety-reducing strategies.
Connecting clients to community services that meet their individual and cultural needs...Promoting long-term healing with follow-up services after investigations are complete.	Helping caregivers/parents to be effective in supporting their children with what they need.

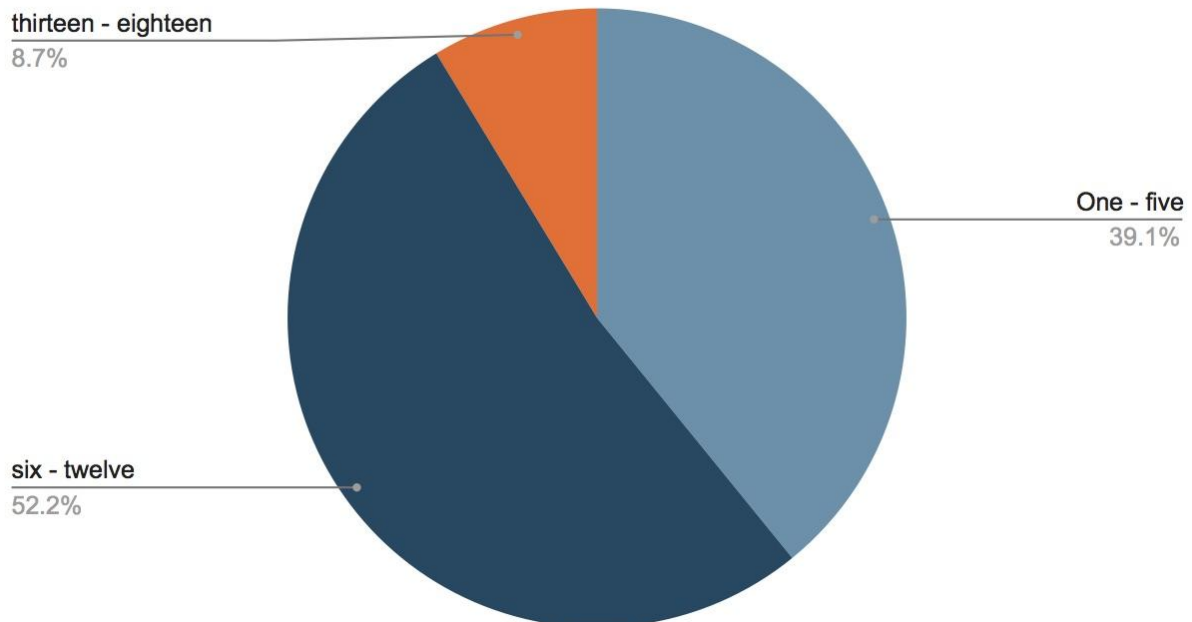
Without adequate support, children who experienced abuse have a higher probability for poor mental health and developing negative coping strategies that can lead to adverse outcomes such as, substance abuse/addiction, not finishing school, homelessness, self-harm/suicidal, etc. A CYAC practice, like Big Bear CYAC, offers the best form of early intervention and helps change the trajectory of child abuse.



Reason for Referral



Age of Child/Youth referred



Unique Needs

For children/youth where unique needs were explored:

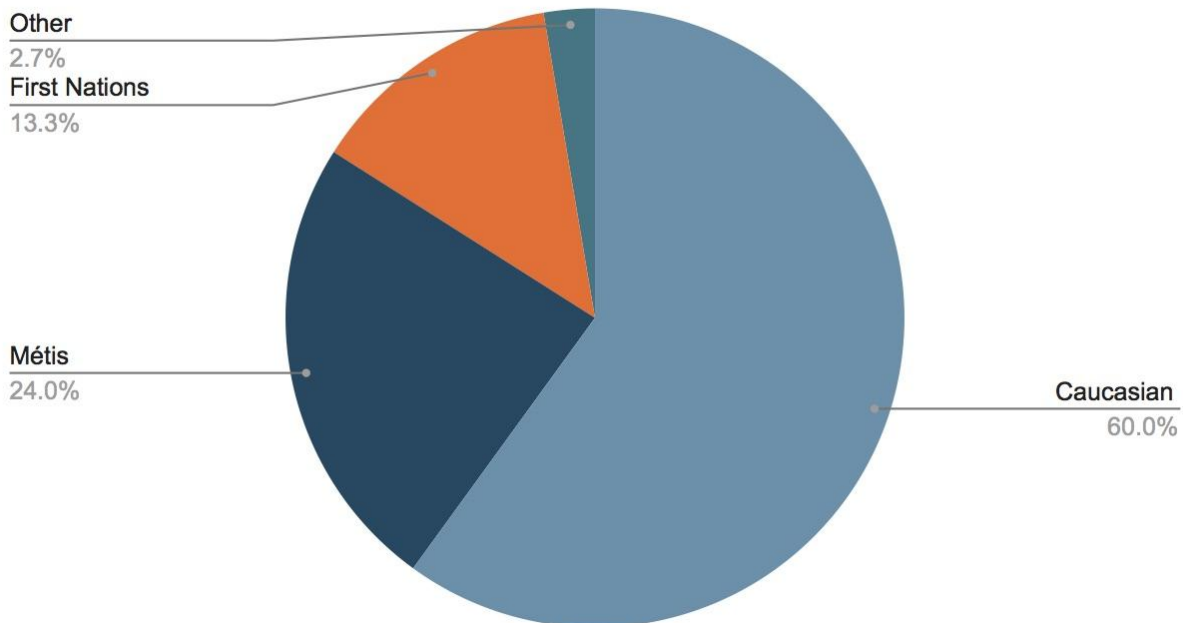
- 44% had no unique needs
- 58% had unique needs (Common unique needs were diagnosis of Autism, ADHD, were identified below development level, were below language development level and/or had significant mental health needs).

For 39% of the children that had the Child Forensic Interview, it was known a disclosure of abuse occurred.

It was unknown or the child did not disclose abuse for 41%.

41% of cases involved Forensic medical evaluations and/or medical check-ups. 100% of the Medicals, children/youth/families had the Family Advocate support.

Ethnicity/Culture



Funding/Sustainability

After our Steering Advisory Committee conducted both a Community Needs Assessment and Feasibility study for the development of a CYAC in 2017, we applied for development funding from the Department of Justice Canada. We entered a 4 year funding agreement with the Department of Justice Canada (for the period of May 7, 2018 to March 31, 2022) to develop Big Bear CYAC.

Big Bear CYAC has also applied each year for the Civil Forfeiture Grant from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and so far has been successful each year (2018/19, 2019/20 & 2020/21).

Proposal and grants Big Bear CYAC was successful with during fiscal 2020/21 were:

- BC Multiculturalism Grant
- Department of Justice Canada additional funding grants
- Stollery Charitable Foundation
- BC Interior Community Foundation/Emergency Community Support Fund
- Community Initiatives, BC Responsible & Problem Gambling

Thank you to our 20/21 Funders!



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

FONDATIONS
COMMUNAUTAIRES
DU CANADA

Fundraising

Fundraising was challenging for 2020/21 - the COVID-19 pandemic played a large factor, and just like the rest of the world, it brought many other challenges and hardships. Big Bear CYAC and all of its professional partners (RCMP, child protection and health) saw a decline in reported cases of child abuse. We also directly witnessed with our clients how the pandemic increased levels of stress, anxiety, mental health and financial concerns. 2020/21 was a difficult time for many individuals and businesses.

We focussed on creating awareness about Big Bear CYAC. We spent a week during November and focussed on advertising which included a small fundraising drive - we received some of the proceeds of 'take-home' dinners by two different catering businesses.

BIG NEWS for BIG Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre!
Learn more during our November 23-27 Awareness & Fundraising Week

In partnership with Kamloops RCMP, Ministry for Children & Family Development, Secwépemc Child & Family Services, Interior Health, City of Kamloops, Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services and Thompson Rivers University (Canada Research Chair in Culture and Communities: Children and the Law), Big Bear Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) announced that we launched Phase 1 in March/20 - this brought the team together to collaborate on investigations of child abuse and we have been going strong ever since!

Now we are proud to announce that we are in Phase 2; working on a 2-3 year plan to build a Big Bear Centre of Excellence in Kamloops so the team can work together more effectively under one roof. There is an urgent need for a temporary location in the meantime. We are very excited that Big Bear has secured a temporary central location to offer children and youth services in a timely manner and we anticipate a move in date early in the New Year. This means that children, youth and their families will be able to go to the one child-friendly and culturally safe location that will make support the top priority.

BIG BEAR AWARENESS/FUNDRAISING WEEK aims to spread awareness about this wonderful development and gain funding that will help towards renovations and operations in Big Bear's new space! This year we have both Nourishing Gourmet and Columbo Lodge involved where proceeds go to Big Bear CYAC! Nourishing Gourmet is doing "TAKE & BAKE" dinners where you can order between Nov 23-25 and pick up on the 27th. Columbo Lodge is doing Pasta & Meatball take out dinners on Nov 25th and members from the Kamloops Firefighters Union will bring them to your car when you go to pick them up! On Nov 27th, the City of Kamloops and Kamloops Firefighter Union will be helping us again to light up St. Andrew's on the Square with hundreds of white lights and a bright star will go on top of the large tree. These lights are for our children and youth and demonstrate a community working together. Unfortunately, due to our current pandemic situation, this will not be a gathering event, but these **BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH** will shine for the entire winter season.

Please join us in creating awareness about Big Bear CYAC. Support us through your orders with Nourishing Gourmet and/or Columbo Lodge and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and our website at www.bigbearcyac.ca for more information on how to order the take out dinners and to learn more about making further donations.

If other food services or businesses are interested in supporting this fundraising campaign in the future, please email info@bigbearcyac.ca.

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER
PASTA + MEATBALLS
@ COLUMBO 3:00PM - 6:00PM PICK UP
614 LORNE ST
EAT @ HOME
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BIG BEAR CYAC
\$24.95 FOR 2 SERVINGS
ORDER ON EVENTBRITE OR CALL 250-374-8718

FRIDAY NOV. 27 Take+Bake BY NOURISHING GOURMET PICK UP 101388 1ST AVE 3PM-6PM
ME NVA
BUTTERNUT
SQUASH
LEGGHORN
APPLE WOOD
SMOKED RIBS
GARLIC TOAST
Special thanks to CHEF BRYAN
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BIG BEAR CYAC
PRICES: 2 FOR \$40 / 4 FOR \$75 / 6 FOR \$115
ORDER ON EVENTBRITE

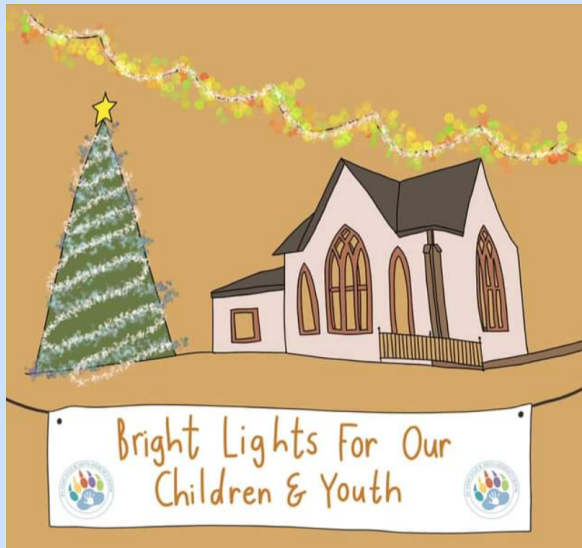
Thank you....A Community Working Together for a Better Outcome for Everyone



Thank you to the four Kamloops Fire & Rescue

members for all your help in delivering some of the dinners!

In 2018 & 2019, Big Bear CYAC had its first and second Annual Bright Lights for Children & Youth event - a fun evening in November that is full of family activities and the Kamloops Fire & Rescue using their ladder truck to bring the City of Kamloops' Mayor up to place the star upon a tree. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 3rd Annual Bright Lights event could not involve a crowd - so members from the Kamloops Fire & Rescue and members from the City of Kamloops set up the tree, the star and hundreds of lights within the park at St. Andrew's on the Square to allow for some beautiful brightness during such challenging times.



Thank you City of Kamloops, Kamloops Fire & Rescue & St. Andrew's on the Square/Heritage Society for your partnership in Bright Lights for our Children & Youth!

Sustainability. *Just like every non-profit society, Big Bear CYAC relies on proposal grant writing and community fundraising to maintain operations. To help with sustainability, Big Bear CYAC will not have a large number of employees due to its partnership with the SCAN Clinic and the moving under the Big Bear roof (ie: many of the IH employees will fulfil some of the essential roles within Big Bear). In addition, Big Bear fulfills other roles, where possible, as contract positions.*

Current roles with Big Bear CYAC:

- Executive Director/Development Coordinator (employee)
- Family Advocate (employee)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist & Investigation Triage/MDT Coordination (shared contract position between Big Bear & Interior Health)

- Forensic interview specialist & MDT/Client quality assurance evaluation (contract position)
- Mental Health Consultant (contract position)
- Social Media Manager (contract position)



BIG BEAR CYAC Supports & Services:

- **Collaborate** the response to child abuse investigations (with Law Enforcement, Child Protection & Interior Health (Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect Clinic (SCAN clinic) & making the family a part of this team! - **TOGETHER...A BETTER OUTCOME FOR EVERYONE!**

- **Multi-disciplinary team** planning (involving Law Enforcement, Child Protection, Interior Health, child forensic interviewing specialist, mental health expert and trauma expert)

- Helping to create a **prepared and tailored child forensic interview** experience.

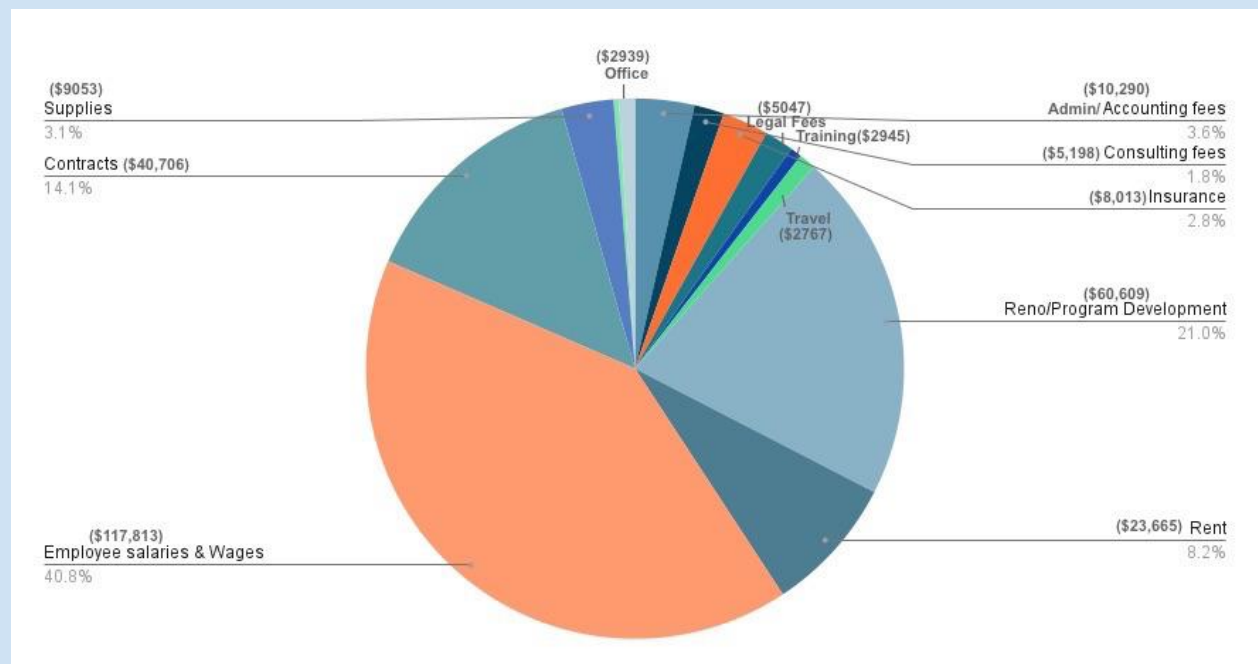
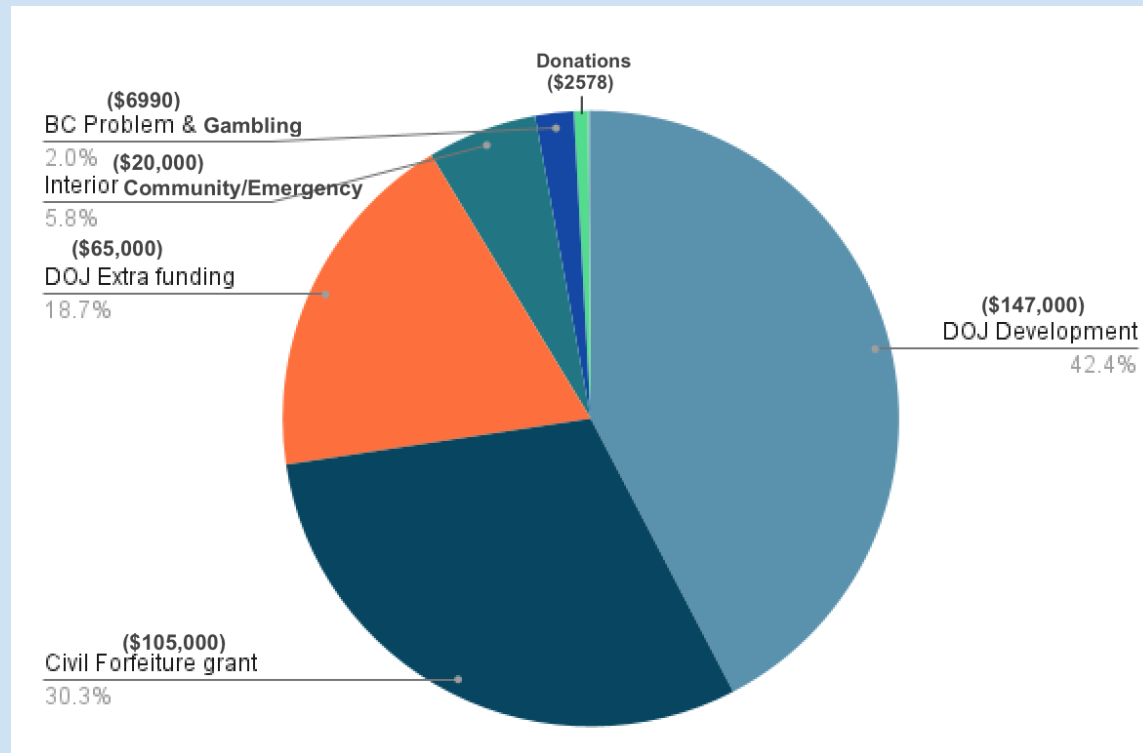
Family Advocate Services – Provides continual support, advocacy and shares information with the child/youth/family from the onset of the investigation. For example, the advocate supports the child/youth/family during the child forensic interview and medical evaluations. The advocate provides continual follow up services to help decrease barriers and enhance connection to appropriate services based on each client's unique set of needs to promote long-term healing and wellness!



Mental Health and Wellness support - for all cases referred to Big Bear to have access to mental health screening - to help learn what children/youth/families need in order to promote long-term healing.

REFERRALS to Big Bear CYAC are through Law Enforcement, Child Protection (MCFD, DAA), Interior Health medical practitioners & the Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect Clinic)

2020/21 Revenue & Expenses Summary



Phase 1 of Big Bear CYAC Mental Health and Wellness support

Being able to identify urgent mental health needs with children, youth and families that have been impacted by abuse is crucial. Our stats demonstrated that almost all of our clients were not previously involved with other outside agencies before coming to Big Bear CYAC. A grant we received allowed us to create and implement a pilot project that screened, assessed and helped to bridge clients in need of mental health services - especially needed when COVID-19 escalated the need for mental health services for many of our clients. Dealing with the impacts of child abuse is traumatic enough, but dealing with the impacts of child abuse during a pandemic demonstrated to be beyond overwhelming for many of our clients. During Big Bear CYAC's fiscal year (March/20 - April/21), we were able to provide screening/brief assessment for 107 children, youth and their families. Our stats and evaluations demonstrated that when things were assessed (i.e: the situation really understood first) and streamlined with the other community agencies that provide mental health intervention - then clients were much more likely to follow through with services. This is very important, as currently research demonstrates that many children, youth and their families do not follow through with mental health referrals after being involved with investigations of child abuse. However, our stats also demonstrated that waitlists for mental health services are still an issue and have been an even larger issue during COVID-19. This tells us that along with our assessment and streamlined approach, we need to work more with community partners (that provide mental health services) to break down barriers in getting clients with more urgent needs to be a priority.

In Big Bear CYAC Phase 2, we are improving our Mental Health & Wellness program to better address the urgent mental health needs of children/youth and their families.

Phase 1 of Big Bear CYAC with SCAN Clinic

(MDT/Client quality assurance evaluation) *Dr. Price created*

online survey links to measure both MDT feedback (for both triage and interview processes) & client feedback (for experience and service).

BIG BEAR CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE - PHASE 1 EVALUATION

Big Bear Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (BBCYAC) began evaluating the first phase of their model implementation in the second half of 2020. To assess this process, BBCYAC used four feedback tools that were developed as part of the British Columbia Provincial Network of CYACS evaluation strategy:

1. Multidisciplinary team (MDT) member feedback - brief version
2. Multidisciplinary team (MDT) member feedback - full version
3. Caregiver feedback
4. Child feedback

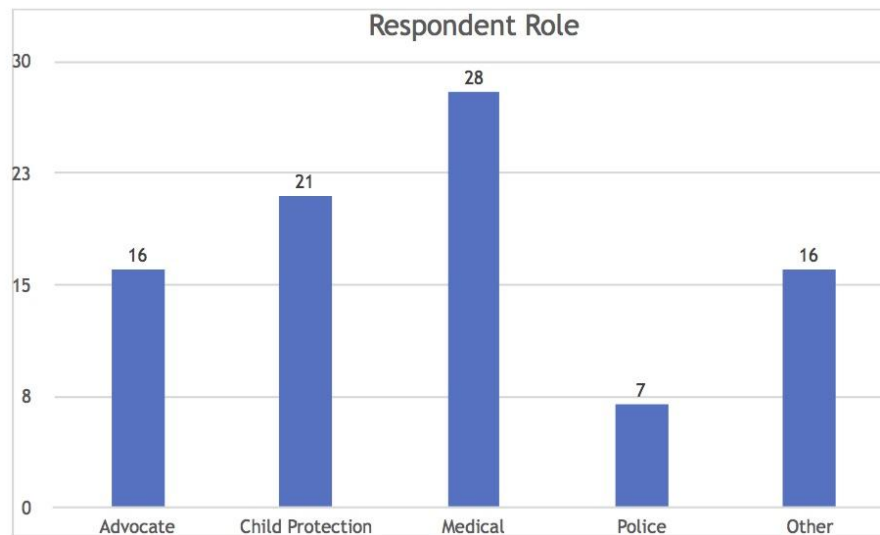
The first feedback was received June 22, 2020 and the last response included in this report was received April 30, 2021.

Because of the ongoing process of BBCYAC implementation, the caregiver and child feedback tools were not immediately administered to allow the BBCYAC team to assess appropriate timing of administering this sensitive survey. Conversations about the best strategy for distributing these surveys are ongoing at all CYACs throughout British Columbia and are under regular discussion at BBCYAC. As a result of this sensitive approach to data collection, only one response was received from a child and only one response was received from a caregiver. Due to concerns with anonymity, child and caregiver responses will not be reported here.

Below, summaries of the data received from the MDT Brief survey and the MDT Full survey are provided.

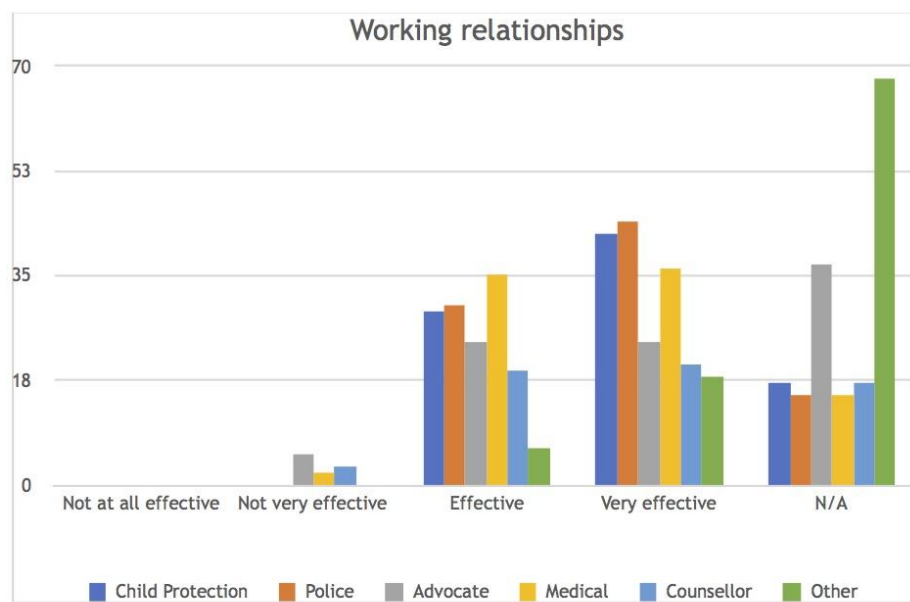
MDT BRIEF

- 88 responses were received between August 5, 2020 and April 30, 2021.
- Following each weekly meeting, the BBCYAC coordinator sent a link to all meeting attendees.
- Responses came from all regular MDT participants, with strong representation from child protection workers and medical professionals, in particular.



EFFECTIVENESS OF WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

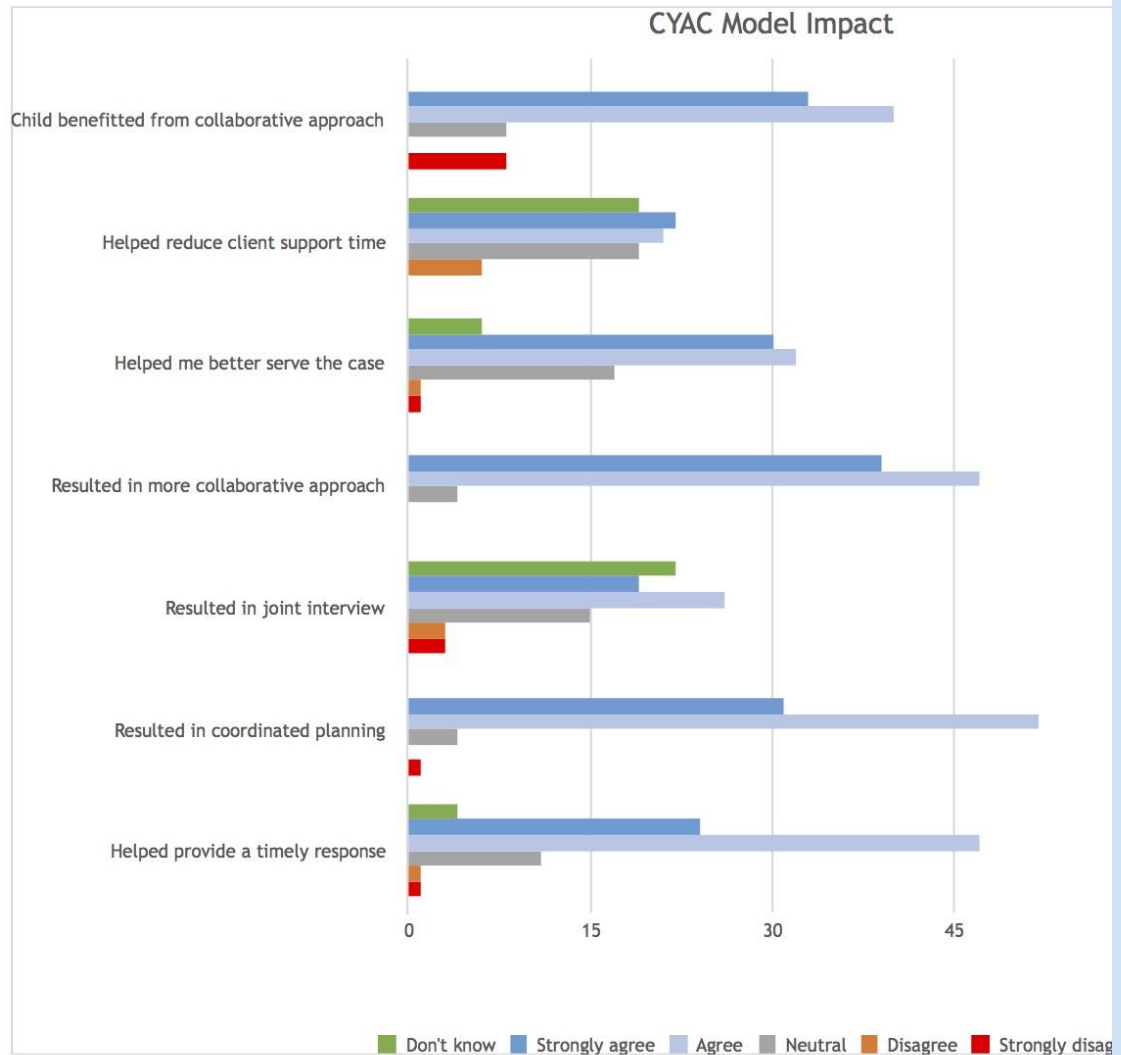
- Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of their working relationship with each of the other partners on the target case. The chart indicates the number of respondents rating each partner's effectiveness.
- Responses were overwhelmingly positive.



Note. Examples of “other” included mental health consultant, victim services, and interview consultant.

IMPACT OF THE CYAC MODEL ON THE CASE

- The chart below shows the number of respondents indicating level of agreement with each statement about the model's impact.
- Respondents most often 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with the assessed model aims.



WRITTEN COMMENTS

A total of 45 written comments were received. All comments were positive or neutral in nature and highlighted benefits of the process, collaborative discussions, and sharing information.

This possible child physical abuse investigation benefited greatly from the timely referral and the investigator's ability to speak directly with medical professionals.

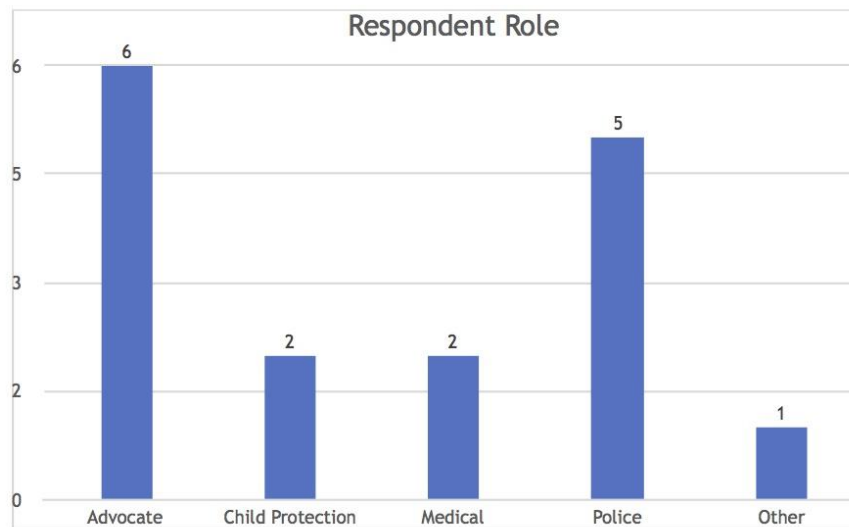
Very helpful to have all the key team members on one call. Save a lot of time to have everyone at the table to speak about their roles/ concerns etc.

Incredible opportunity to do some case planning and triage priorities and resources for the family/child. As usual there was information that not all of the agencies had the info they required. The timing of the triage was brilliant because Dr. Chapple had just completed the medical exam and was able to share her results with RCMP and MCFD. RCMP was needing to hear from her whether or not she thought it was inflicted trauma or not in order to make a decision about interviewing. Now steps are being taken to arrange the interview with the assist of OAK centre in Vernon to utilize their advocate as well as an expert RCMP child interviewer.

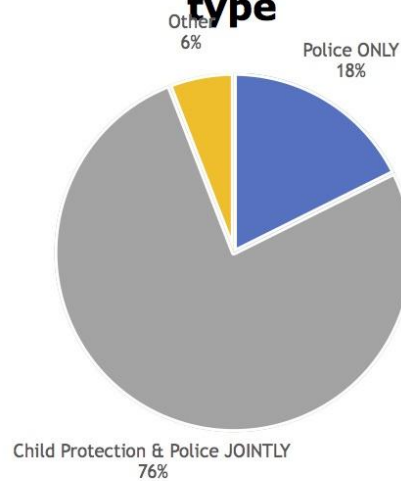
This possible child physical abuse investigation benefited greatly from the timely referral and the investigator's ability to speak directly with medical professionals.

MDT FULL VERSION

- 18 responses were received between June 22, 2020 and April 30, 2021.
- Respondents came from all regular MDT participants, with strong representation from police and the advocate, in particular.

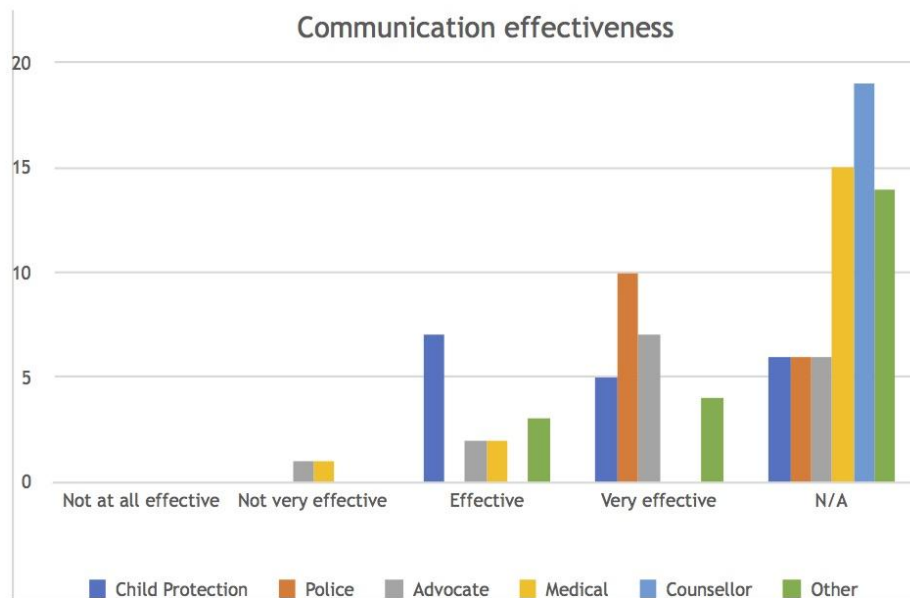


Investigation type



COMMUNICATION EFFECTIVENESS

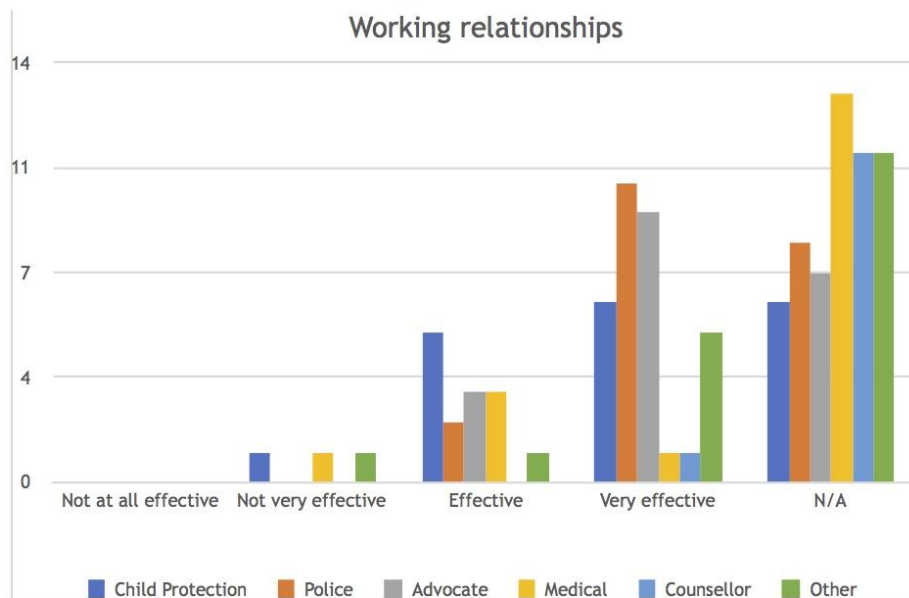
- Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of their communication among MDT members. The chart indicates the number of respondents rating each partner's communication effectiveness.
- Responses were generally positive.



Note. Examples of “other” included mental health consultant, victim services, and interview consultant.

EFFECTIVENESS OF WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

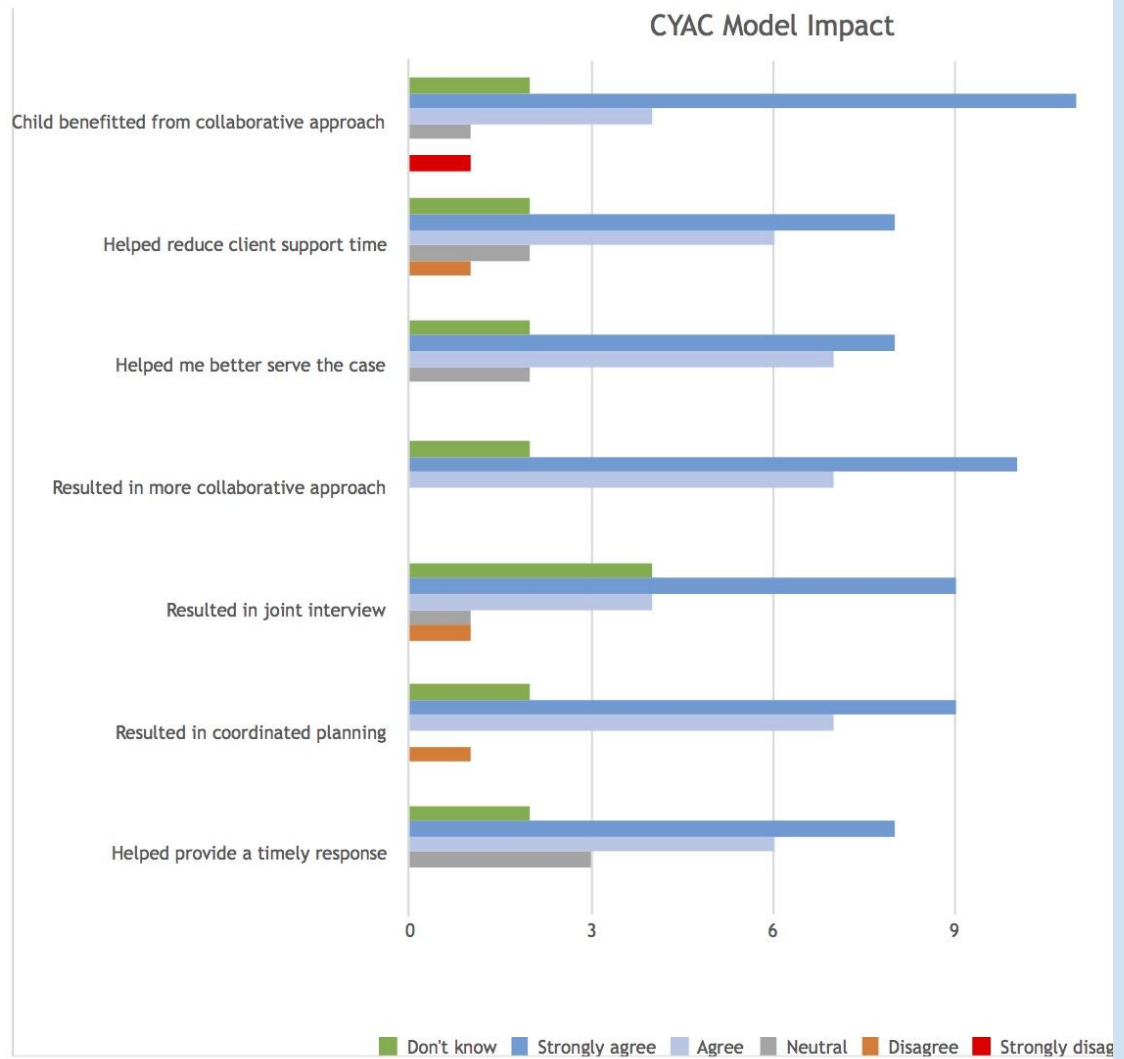
- Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of their working relationship with each of the other partners on the target case. The chart indicates the number of respondents rating each partner’s effectiveness.
- Responses were generally positive.



Note. Examples of “other” included mental health consultant, victim services, and interview consultant.

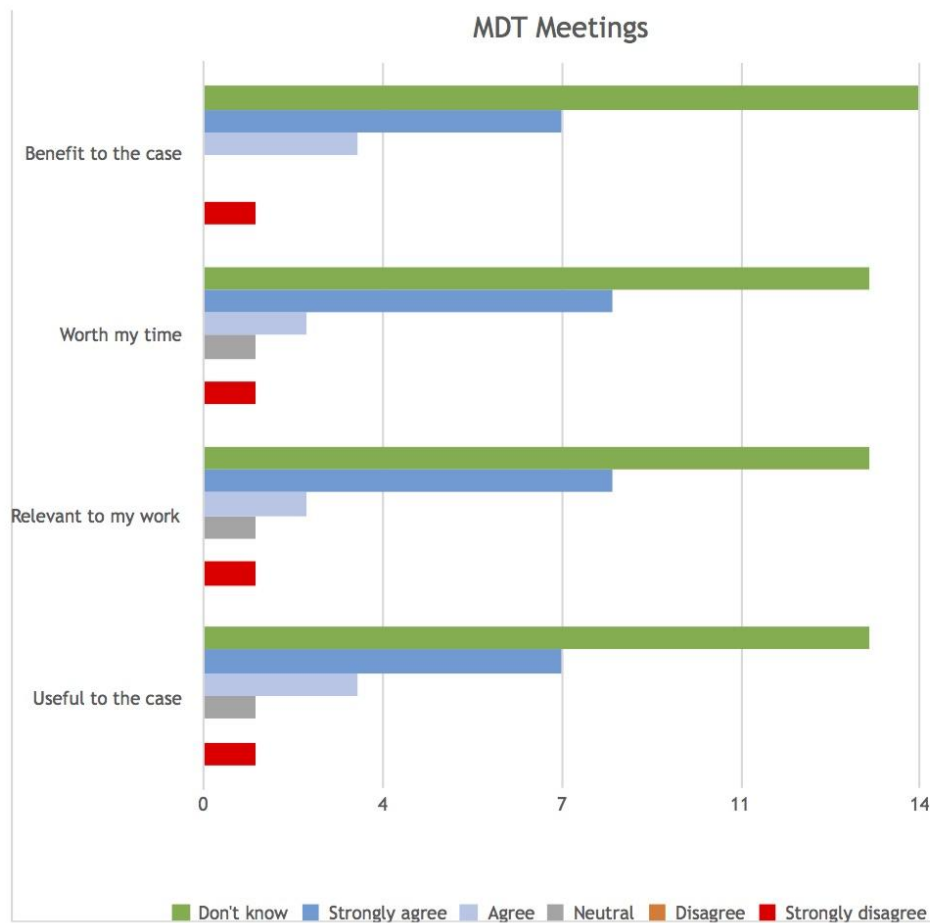
IMPACT OF THE CYAC MODEL ON THE CASE

- The chart below shows the number of respondents indicating level of agreement with each statement about the model’s impact.
- Respondents most often ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with the assessed model aims.



MDT MEETINGS

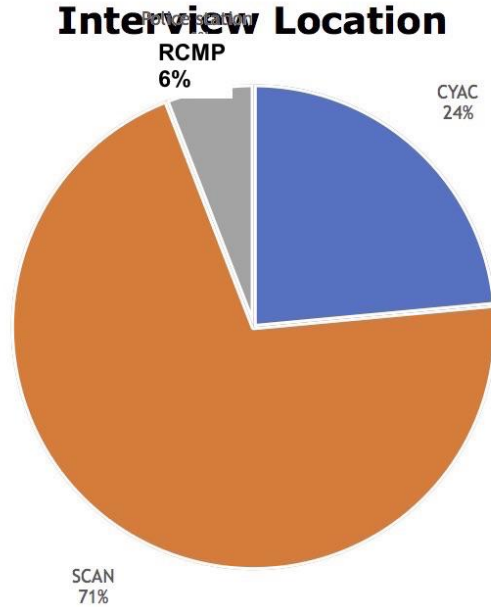
- Participants were asked to report their perspectives on the MDT meetings.



INTERVIEWS

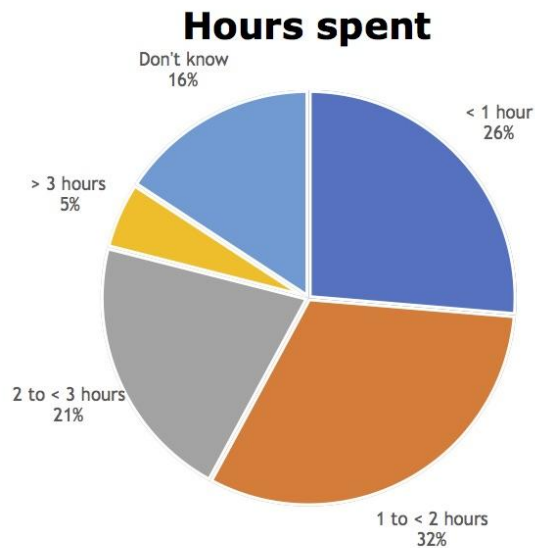
- No child received more than one interview.
- 18 caregiver interviews were conducted.
- 8 interviews of child/youth witnesses were conducted.

Interview Location



TIME SPENT ON FILE

- Participants estimated the number of hours spent in communication/support with the child and family/caregivers.



WRITTEN COMMENTS

Was by far the smoothest MCFD/POLICE joint investigation.

The CYAC model helped tremendously to plan an informed, well detailed interview plan. This allowed the interviewer to obtain evidence in open-ended, non-intrusive way. The child spoke in a pure-version way for most of the interview and very few questions were asked. The result was a reliable, quality disclosure.

The more I see families impacted, I the more I value this approach and want to see this model expand.

The lead investigator in this case did not make use of the CYAC model at the time the matter was reported to police, and this caused a significant delay in serving the family. The CYAC did have an overall positive impact, however, in this case it could have been used much sooner to make use of it's excellent service.

The Urgent Need for a Building

The Big Bear Steering Advisory Committee identified the urgent need to attain a temporary location as a 2-3 year plan. Launching operations in March/20 really highlighted the need for the MDT partners of Big Bear to fully come together as a group so collaboration on cases of child abuse can be done more effectively. In addition, the current pandemic situation added to the already stressful situation of children having to come to the SCAN/hospital for a forensic interview and/or forensic medical. Between COVID-19 screening and often having to use alternate walkways throughout the hospital to get to the SCAN Clinic; we have received feedback from families that these processes can be intimidating and scary.

Big Bear was very fortunate to have found a more than suitable temporary location that does not require extensive renovations; a move-in date was looking to occur within 3-4 months. The location has easy accessibility, has a private entrance and will allow enough space for the entire SCAN Clinic and their staff. The location also has the ability to have two separate child and family-friendly debriefing rooms, an interview room, monitor room, education/Board room and staff work areas.

Big Bear worked with Brandon Shaw Realty and Columbia Property Management on a Lease Agreement on Nov/21. Renovations began in December and were completed by the end of April/21. Big Bear CYAC is ready to Pilot Phase 2 of its development for fiscal 21/22.

Big Bear has a home!



Thank you to the amazing team that helped Big Bear CYAC come together!



Transforming an old office into a Child/Youth space!





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Changing a dark lobby into a warm and inviting place!



Thank you to our 4 local artists: Vaughn Warren (Carved tree in Child/Youth room & Wooden carved Bear Paw Plaques), Ray Webster (Carved wooden signs throughout centre), Meg O'Riordan (also our Social Media manager who happens to be an amazing artist - the outside murals and 'Big Bear'), Alexx Moir-Porteous (Tree murals and chalkboard) & Tony Antione (Indigenous artist - Welcome sign).



Thank you



We are so grateful for the support, partnerships, volunteers and donors. Despite the challenges with the COVID pandemic, together we supported 245 individuals who have been impacted by child abuse.

Together...A better outcome for everyone



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