

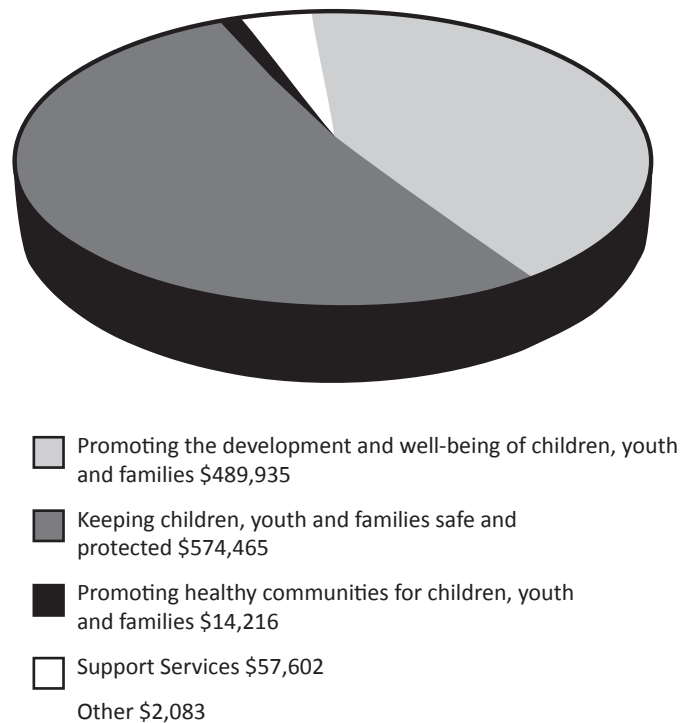
# Alberta Children and Youth Services Highlights 2009-2010

In 2009-10, the Ministry invested approximately \$1.14 billion to promote the development and well-being of children, youth and families; keep them safe and protected; and promote healthy communities.

**Key Accomplishments:**

- Continued to implement *Creating Child Care Choices* - a comprehensive plan to support the development of additional affordable, quality child care spaces in Alberta. The Ministry is on track to achieve its goal of 14,000 new spaces by March 31, 2011.
- Launched the Women’s Shelter Child Care Program, to increase access to quality child care for families receiving services from women’s emergency shelters. The Ministry provided funding for 270 new specialized child care spaces in 26 shelters, under the *Creating Child Care Choices* plan.
- Worked successfully with community partners to find permanent, loving homes for 579 children and youth in care through adoption and private guardianship – exceeding the Ministry’s target for the year.
- Continued a provincial recruitment campaign to attract new foster parents and Aboriginal caregivers, including the launch of [www.achildshope.alberta.ca](http://www.achildshope.alberta.ca) – a website that encourages Albertans to foster or adopt, or mentor a child in need.
- Enhanced supports for Albertans impacted by family violence, including supports for Aboriginal and immigrant families and communities through:
  - print resources and publications translated into seven languages (five ethno-cultural and two Aboriginal) to increase the awareness and understanding of family violence;
  - public awareness advertising in Aboriginal and multicultural publications and Aboriginal and multicultural radio stations promoting the Family Violence Information Line (310-1818) available toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to all Albertans, in more than 170 languages; and
  - expanding to nine community-based victims’ supports outreach pilot sites to support Aboriginal and immigrant communities affected by family violence.

2009-10 Expenses\* (in thousands)



\* Excludes \$2,380 in inventory and equipment purchases

# Alberta Children and Youth Services Highlights 2009-2010

## Key Accomplishments (continued):

- Continued public awareness and education initiatives to increase awareness and change attitudes about bullying behaviours across Alberta through:
  - a successful online advertising campaign, for youth aged 13-24 and their parents, highlighting the Bullying Helpline (1-888-456-2323) available toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to all Albertans and two bullying prevention websites, [www.bullyfreealberta.ca](http://www.bullyfreealberta.ca) for adults and [www.b-free.ca](http://www.b-free.ca) developed for youth by youth; and
  - multiple print resources including a number specifically for Aboriginal and immigrant communities.
- Supported 561 youth (who are or have been in government care) through the Advancing Futures Bursary to cover their costs and provide guidance while attending post-secondary education, learning a trade, earning a licence, upgrading high school marks or earning a diploma.
- Provided parenting support and education to 35,000 parents at Parent Link Centres (PLCs) in Alberta, helping to promote child development and family well-being.
- Expanded Triple P – Positive Parenting Program to PLCs across the province. Triple P is an evidence-based parenting skills training program that helps parents manage their child's behaviour so that further intervention is not required.
- Partnered with contracted social services agencies to begin developing a new Outcomes-Based Service Delivery relationship to make a positive difference for children, youth and families they assist. Launched pilot sites in Edmonton and Area and Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authorities.
- Provided family enhancement services to more than 6,500 children, youth or young adults – helping families before child protection services are necessary and ensuring children can be cared for safely in the home.
- Supported 12 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Service Networks across the province to provide prevention, diagnosis, assessment and life-long supports for Albertans affected by FASD.
- Worked with First Nations and Alberta's Aboriginal and Métis communities to improve outcomes for children, youth and families by:
  - Supporting kinship care as a permanent placement option for Aboriginal children and youth – giving them the opportunity to maintain a strong connection with their family, community and culture.
  - Supporting the implementation of the Casework Practice Model in all 18 Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNAs) – a new way of working with families by thoroughly assessing a family's situation and partnering with families and their support networks to build on their strengths and provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children ; and
  - Awarding 21 bursaries to Métis and non-status Aboriginal people studying in the social services field, to help increase the number of Aboriginal social workers in the province.
- Launched the Alberta Mentoring Partnership (AMP) social marketing campaign, which increased awareness among Albertans about the positive impact of mentoring and included the new AMP website ([www.albertamentors.ca](http://www.albertamentors.ca)). The website provides resources to educate the public on mentoring opportunities, particularly in rural areas. (AMP includes 29 government, community and agency partners).