

# Alberta Children's Services



## Highlights 2006-07



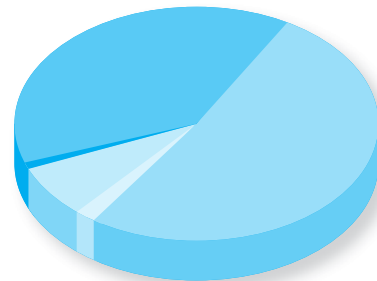
Building a stronger Alberta starts with strong children, youth, families and communities.

In 2006-07, the ministry invested approximately \$900 million to promote the development and well-being of children, youth and families, keep them safe and protected and promote healthy communities.

### 2006-07 Expenses\*

(IN THOUSANDS)

- Promoting the development and well-being of children, youth and families – \$367,914
- Keeping children, youth and families safe and protected – \$458,061
- Promoting healthy communities for children, youth and families – \$13,583
- Support Services – \$56,775
- Other – \$3,516



\*Excludes \$2,909 in inventory and equipment purchases

## Key accomplishments

- Developed the *Child Care Licensing Act* which focuses on the quality of child care programming and makes child safety a priority. The Act will:
  - give more options to parents, especially those in rural areas;
  - monitor operators more effectively to ensure they comply with the Act; and
  - allow child care operators who demonstrate excellence to obtain a multi-year licence so they spend less time doing paper work and more time caring for children.
- Awarded the first Alberta Child Care Professional Awards of Excellence to professionals who had a significant, positive impact on children and supported parents in their role as their child's first and most important teachers.
- Established 10 new Parent Link Centres and a virtual centre, [www.parentlinkalberta.ca](http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca), to connect parents with resources, community supports and training to help their children reach their potential. In 2006-07, the centres helped more than 13,000 parents.
- Worked to improve outcomes for youth whose family circumstances, lifestyle and behaviours affect their development and well-being. This initiative included two high-risk youth pilot projects in Edmonton and Calgary.
- Introduced the *Stand Up and Stop Bullying* youth campaign to encourage Alberta's young people to intervene in bullying situations in a safe way. The campaign included [www.b-free.ca](http://www.b-free.ca), a website designed by youth for youth, and a 24-hour helpline (1-888-456-2323) that provides information and support.
- Launched two highly successful public education and awareness initiatives to help protect children and youth from sexual exploitation: [www.badguypatrol.ca](http://www.badguypatrol.ca), developed in partnership with Microsoft Canada, teaches children five to 10 how to stay safe on the Internet, and [www.weron2u.ca](http://www.weron2u.ca), a youth education website that includes safety tips, true stories and predator tactics. Together these sites have received nearly 600,000 hits since they were launched.
- Developed and began implementing a Casework Practice Model to improve the way we work with children and families. The model builds on leading practices, gives children, youth and families more input into decisions and helps caseworkers create more strength-based solutions and build relationships with families.
- Awarded \$3.6 million in Community Incentive Fund grants to help 95 communities take action to prevent family violence and bullying.
- Launched *End the Silence. Stop the Violence*, an award-winning campaign that encourages friends and neighbours to reach out and help someone experiencing family violence. The campaign included the creation of a family violence information line (310-1818) to direct Albertans to resources in their communities.
- Helped create new child care spaces by providing \$2 million to increase child care staff wages and make it more attractive to enter the field.
- Created four bursaries to promote leadership in several ministry-related programs: child care, Family and Community Support Services, Parent Link Centres, women's shelters and agencies contracted by the provincial government to provide social services. These bursaries will help retain staff and ensure Alberta's children, youth and families continue to receive high-quality services.

For additional copies of this document or to view the complete 2006-07 Alberta Children's Services Annual Report, visit [www.child.gov.ab.ca](http://www.child.gov.ab.ca) or call (780) 422-3004. (310-0000 toll-free).