



TimiSkaming BeSt Start

Meilleur départ • Mīn O-m'be-măd-Sāy-wīn

# VISION

The District of Timiskaming will be a provincial leader in helping children realize their social, intellectual, cultural, economic and physical potential. Children will be ready and eager to achieve success in school by the time they start school, and will have the supports and skills necessary to maximize their success.

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# SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS: HOW WE GOT THERE... CHILD CARE SECTOR

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Child care expansion: more than doubled the spaces and sites across the district

Creation of Francophone and Aboriginal spaces and sites

Early Learning Program Framework for the District of Timiskaming has been developed to guide the implementation of the program (Based on the ELECT document)

ELP universal program is offered in 22 locations across the District of Timiskaming that include Child Care Centres, Wrap-Around Programs in schools, home childcare, Brighter Futures Programs, providing school linkages

Addition of rural Home Child Care ELP pilot (1 to 5 ratio)

Service over 90 children with special needs; an enhancement compared to 3 years ago when only 15 children were seen

Client Information Management System (CIMS)

# SUCCESSSES AND HIGHLIGHTS: HOW WE GOT THERE... CORE PROGRAMMING

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PPMD program engaged in the process of being recognized as a Northern/Rural/Remote best practice

Preschool Clinics to screen children with potential special needs

Well Baby Clinics established across the District of Timiskaming see 99% of the children; 18 month visits done in Timiskaming by Physicians, Nurses, and Nurse Practitioner

Timiskaming District Enhanced 18 Month Flow Chart adopted as provincial standard by Health Nexus

18 Month Literacy packs were developed in partnership with the Early Literacy Specialist and local High School students; these Reading Activity Packs will be given to parents during the 18 month Well Baby visits

# SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS: HOW WE GOT THERE...CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY

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Adoption of the Politique d'aménagement linguistique

Development of integration framework: How to be culturally and linguistically competent

Development of Aboriginal Parenting Manual

Development of Aboriginal Early Learning Curriculum

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## **CHALLENGES AND MITIGATIONS: LESSONS LEARNED**

Recruitment of qualified Early Childhood Education staff (culturally and linguistically competent)

Engaging parents in the planning process

Creating healthy relationships between ECEs and Teachers

Lack of transportation

Streamlining of a variety of Children's Service committees into one Best Start Network

Defining roles and responsibilities of the Best Start Network and the DSSAB

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## **CHALLENGES AND MITIGATIONS: LESSONS LEARNED**

Investment in capital and operational projects

Focus on integration for Children's Service Providers across the District of Timiskaming

Creation of the Virtual Hub concept and Community Liaison Workers to make services work for families

Increased opportunities for professional development for all working with children

# WHERE ARE WE HEADING...

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1. Alignment of the Virtual Hub concept with the BSCFC
2. Redefinition of Accountability and Integrity Framework for the Best Start Network
3. Struggling with long term planning
4. Challenge of working with 2 Ministries
5. Continue to develop tailor made services for rural and remote areas
6. Timiskaming Children and Families Charter unveiled recently providing a framework for local decision makers



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