

# The Community Action Program for Children

There are 450 CAPC Projects operating in more than 3,000 communities across Canada.

In Atlantic Canada, CAPC is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, in collaboration with the four provincial Departments of Health and in cooperation with the 40 community-based Atlantic CAPC projects.

The South shore Family Resource Association received funding for one project in 1993 and started programming in Lunenburg, Queens and Shelburne counties.

## CAP-C Guiding Principles

### Children First

- ◆ Children must be the primary consideration in CAPC programs

### Strengthening & Supporting Families

- ◆ All sectors of Canadian society share the responsibility for children by supporting parents as they raise their children.
- ◆ CAPC projects work with parents, volunteers, community groups and governments to help promote the health and social development of young children and their families.
- ◆ CAPC tries to help empower families and communities as they carry out programs to promote the health and well-being of their children.
- ◆ CAPC Projects encourage participants to see themselves as part of a community of parents who share many challenges and strengths and who are part of, and can participate in, a larger community.

### Equity & Accessibility

- ◆ Children, regardless of culture and socio-economic status, are entitled to equal opportunities to develop to their full potential.
- ◆ CAPC programs are free and developed to meet needs that parents identify.
- ◆ CAPC projects create a setting that encourages the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills among parents, staff, volunteers and partners.

Through this interaction, interests and needs emerge. CAPC projects can respond quickly to meet these needs. This is quite different from more traditional programs where someone else decides what the participants need before the program even starts.

## Partnerships & Coalitions

- ◆ Holistic support for children and their families can only be achieved through the combined effort of parents, families, communities, governments and service providers. Partnerships and collaborative activities at the community level are considered an essential component of CAPC.

## Community-Based

- ◆ The community is viewed as the focus for decision-making and action.
- ◆ Placing the community at the centre of decision making and action increases cooperation and coordination of activities.
- ◆ When different people from different backgrounds come together as they do in a CAPC project, they begin to trust one another and to see that they have a responsibility to work together to enhance their lives and the community they live in.

## Flexibility

- ◆ In order to respond to the diversity of communities across Canada and the particular circumstances and changing needs of children and families, CAPC programs must be flexible.