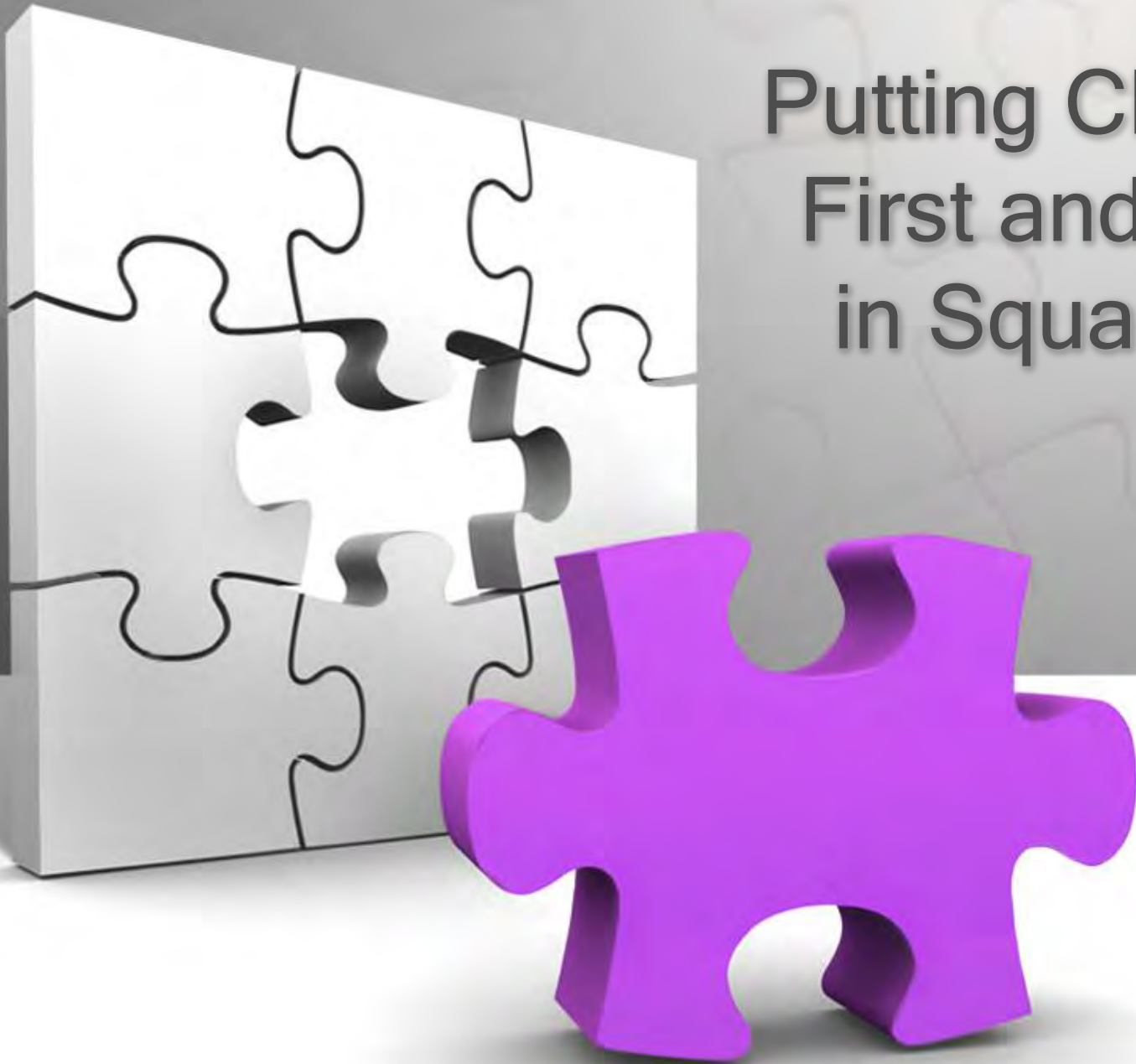


# Putting Children First and ECD in Squamish





# PCFI- Who are we?

- 2002, a collaboration of stakeholders dedicated to meeting the developmental needs of children 0-6 and their families.
- Partners include: VCH, MCFD, , SD #48, First Nations (SN, MCB, SSHS) & ECD service providers.

Success By 6  
Helping all children succeed for life.



United Way Success By 6® Partners





# PCFI- What do we do?

**Role:** To identify gaps in services and attempt to understand the needs of children and families through both qualitative and quantitative methods: the EDI, anecdotal evidence shared by families & service providers and community asset mapping.

To use this data to direct funding throughout the region in ways that improve accessibility, build capacity, strengthen families and demonstrate shared responsibility and collaboration.



# Past & Current Projects



## Capacity Building:

- Building food security with families of young children.
- Parent-Child Mothergoose facilitator training and program funding (current)
- HighScope Preschool Educational curriculum training & certification of teachers throughout the Sea to Sky (2004- current)
- Funding local community-based ECD groups in each of our 10 communities. (current)
- Professional development funding to train local early childhood educators (current)



# Past & Current Projects



## Family-Centred & Increased Accessibility :

- Outreach to remote communities, building local ECD capacity to offer programs within each community. The procurement of capital funding for the construction of a new early childhood facility in Douglas. (current)
- Translation of early childhood resources and referral forms.
- The annual Squamish Children's Health Fair (16 years) (current)



# Past & Current Projects



## Family-Centred & Increased Accessibility :

- The annual 2-day Play-Learn-Love ECD Conference (6 years) (current)
- Ready-Set-Learn events (currently co-partner with SD#48)
- Cultural worker at the Ayas Lam Family Program (current)
- Kindergarten Readiness Summer program with Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy



# An EDI Success Story

Using Wave 2 (school years 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07) as our baseline and Wave 5 (2011/12, 2012/13) as our comparison, the critical difference in Squamish South showed a **6% critical decrease in vulnerability in the area of social competence.**

1. Does the shift correlate with what we are seeing with clients and in the community?
2. What broader changes have occurred in the community- less/more services/programs; barriers; bigger policy changes; environmental changes, etc?
3. Where has PCFI and our community ECD stakeholders been investing in services/programs between 2004 - 2012?
4. How might these investments correlate to critical difference?



# An EDI Success Story

Squamish South showed a **6% critical decrease in vulnerability in the area of social competence.**

- Opening of Squamish Elementary Strongstart 2007
- Opening of Valleycliffe Strongstart 2009
- Expansion of Squamish Public Library story-times and other family-child programming
- Certification of HighScope Preschool programs downtown Squamish
- Development of AIDP & SCDP within Squamish Nation
- Increased offering of Parent-Child Mothergoose programs





# The EDI and Increased Vulnerability

Squamish North- an 8% critical increase in vulnerability in social competence and a 6% critical increase in vulnerability in the emotional maturity.

## Hypotheses:

- Increased children in formal and informal care
- Commuter families, less available time spent with children (ie: meals together, play together)
- Increased screentime by adults, less time for attachment behaviours (observed in family-child drop-in programs)
- Lack of access to drop-in programs: transit, availability of programs, fragmentation, lack of information
- Quality of the adult-child interactions
- Lack of unstructured play (over-scheduling of children)



# The EDI and Increased Vulnerability

## 2015-2016 EDI targeted programs, funded by Success by Six

- Free Family Drop-In program- Brackendale
- Screen-time and its impacts on attachment & emotion regulation- An awareness campaign- Sea to Sky Corridor
- Workshops for families and care providers on the importance of adult-child relationships & attachment, and problem-solving skills in young children- Sea to Sky Corridor



# New Opportunity: Avenues of Change

- A 5-year investment from the United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Recognize that improving children's outcomes requires a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach aimed at significant systems change.
- The project is a collective impact, place-based initiative that focuses on young children and families in a neighbourhood context.
- Squamish North- Garibaldi Highlands, Mamquam and Brackendale Elementary School catchment areas.



# Time-line: Avenues of Change

## Phase One- Community Engagement & Research

- RFP for an initiative coordinator
- Community engagement- municipality, key stakeholders, research in neighbourhoods, connecting with families.
- Develop a business plan (research, action strategies & timetable, financing and sustainability, evaluation activities).
- 6 months (Jan- June 2016)

## Phase Two- Implementation & Evaluation

- 3-5 year initiative, launched Oct. 2016



# The Role of Local Government

An Example: Surrey

Developed the “Smart Surrey Strategy”-4 areas of action to deliver its vision. Within the area of *Social Engagement & Connectivity*, is Early Childhood Development (p.17), which includes the following key outcomes:

- Establish ECD Leadership Task Force
- Evolve towards an ECD Centre of Excellence
- Commit to a data gathering & sharing strategy
- Create analytics-driven decision making team and tools
- Maximize shared facilities & volunteer community
- Intensify social media outreach



# The Role of Local Government

The possibilities are endless.

- Commitment to making ECD a priority- planning and decision-making through the lens of assessing the impact on ECD.
- Ensuring that early childhood development is present within the OCP
- Presence at the ECD planning table (PCFI)
- Or....?

What will your role be?

