

Alberta Children and Youth Services

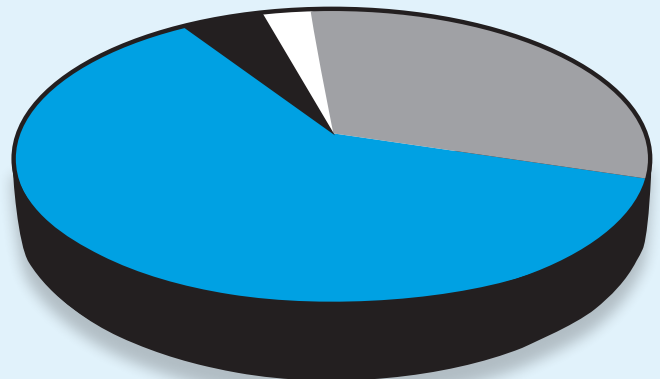
HIGHLIGHTS 2010-11

In 2010-11, the Ministry invested approximately \$1.18 billion to help ensure the safety and well-being of children, youth, families and communities in Alberta

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Hosted the historic, inaugural *Gathering Today for Our Aboriginal Children's Future* meetings in June and November – bringing together representatives of Delegated First Nation Agencies, Co-Chairs from Child and Family Services Authorities (CFSAs) and leaders from First Nations served by CFSAs, to specifically discuss enhancing services and supports for Aboriginal children, youth and families.
- Established the Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team. The first of its kind in Canada, the team involves caseworkers, public health nurses and police working closely together, at one site, to provide intensive guidance and support for at-risk families with infants, up to three months of age. The integrated approach will provide immediate resources and supports for the safety and well-being of vulnerable infants.
- Successfully completed the *Creating Child Care Choices* initiative, to increase parents' access to quality child care in Alberta. The Ministry created nearly 20,000 new spaces since 2008 – well exceeding the original target of 14,000.
- Supported the accreditation of child care programs to help ensure safety and quality care for children. More than 96 per cent of Alberta's licensed day cares and contracted family day home agencies are accredited or are participating in becoming accredited.

2010-11 EXPENSES* (in thousands)



- Prevention - Promoting the development and well-being of children, youth and families: \$305,439
- Preservation and Protection - Preserving families and protecting children and youth: \$732,676
- Partnership - Working with communities to build relationships and share planning and decision making to improve outcomes: \$77,884
- Support Services: \$56,272
- *Other: \$5,025
Includes Equipment/Inventory purchases, Valuation Adjustments and Other Provisions

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HIGHLIGHTS 2010-11

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

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- Began implementing 10 recommendations from the *Closing the Gap Between Vision and Reality: Strengthening Accountability, Adaptability and Continuous Improvement in Alberta's Child Intervention System*, to help make the system stronger and enhance the safety and well-being of children and youth in care.
- Worked successfully with community partners to find permanent, loving homes for 551 children and youth in care through adoption and private guardianship – well exceeding the Ministry's target for the year.
- Continued to work with communities to help prevent bullying and family violence through public education and awareness, while expanding the family violence Victim's Supports Outreach sites, to provide more services to Aboriginal and immigrant families.
- Enhanced protection for people affected by family violence by amending the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* to include strong penalties for breaches of protection orders.
- Expanded Triple P, the Positive Parenting Program, to all 46 Parent Link Centres through a \$1 million investment from Safe Communities. Based on 30 years of research, the program promotes positive, caring relationships between parents and their children, helping parents learn effective strategies for dealing with a variety of childhood development and behavioural challenges.
- Increased the capacity of communities to provide mentoring to children and youth through the Alberta Mentoring Partnership (AMP) website, (www.albertamentors.ca), which provided on-line training and social marketing tools for local mentoring programs. The AMP has contributed to a 21 per cent increase in the number of mentors in Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations across the province.
- Expanded the Outcomes-Based Service Delivery (OBSD) Initiative, establishing pilot sites in seven Child and Family Services Authorities. The primary goal of OBSD is to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families by strengthening both government practice and relationships with the contracted agency sector.
- Provided family enhancement services to more than 6,300 children, youth and 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 people affected by FASD.
- Through the Success in School Provincial Protocol Framework, Children and Youth Services worked with the Ministry of Education and school authorities, to provide more co-ordinated services that support better educational outcomes for children and youth in care.
- Supported 610 youth (who are or have been in government care) through the *Advancing Futures* bursary to cover their costs and provide guidance while they attend post-secondary education, learning a trade, earning a license, upgrading high school marks or earning a diploma.
- Incorporated input from parents caring for children who have a disability to clarify, simplify and streamline the delivery of specialized services – including the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) process – and to increase communication with and support for families.

For additional copies of this document or to view the complete 2010-11 Alberta Children and Youth Services Annual Report, visit www.child.alberta.ca or call 780.422.3004 (310-0000 toll-free).