

# Alberta Children's Services

Highlights  
2007-08

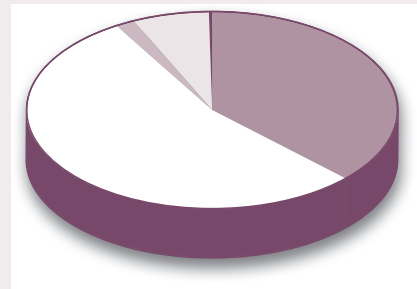


Alberta

In 2007-08, the ministry invested nearly \$976 million to promote the development and well-being of children, youth and families, keep them safe and protected and promote healthy communities.

## 2007-08 EXPENSES\* (IN - THOUSANDS)

- Promoting the development and well-being of children, youth and families - \$364,491
- Keeping children, youth and families safe and protected - \$527,515
- Promoting healthy communities for children, youth and families - \$16,497
- Support Services - \$63,592
- Other - \$4,028



\*Excludes \$10,013 in inventory and equipment purchases

## Key accomplishments:

- Supported the creation of about 3,500 new child care spaces through the Space Creation Innovation Fund.
- Introduced the Staff Attraction Incentive Allowance and launched a bursary for child care staff to enrol in leadership and post-secondary training, to help attract and keep child care staff in the field.
- Developed a funding framework for out-of-school care to help families access child care for children aged six to 12.
- Implemented the Safe Visitation Initiative to provide children in high-risk family violence situations with a safe, supervised place to connect with their parents. Over the past year, five pilot safe visitation sites opened throughout Alberta.
- Launched *The Art of Peace* Challenge to encourage youth to motivate Albertans to reach out and help those affected by family violence or bullying.
- Continued to lead the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 10-year cross-ministry strategic plan, focusing on awareness and prevention, assessment and diagnosis, training and education, and support for individuals and caregivers. Seven service networks were formed to deliver a range of services to support those affected by FASD.
- Developed a strategy for recruiting more Aboriginal caregivers through extensive consultations with First Nations and Métis communities.

## Highlights 2007-08

- Supported a 28 per cent increase in the number of Aboriginal children and youth experiencing permanency through adoption and private guardianship.
- Partnered with First Nations in Alberta and the federal government, to secure funding for Delegated First Nations Agencies to deliver early intervention and prevention services to children and families living on reserve. This funding will allow First Nations to work with families before they reach crisis.
- Continued to roll out the Casework Practice Model – a new way to work with children and families that builds on leading practices in social work and focuses on thorough initial assessments and increased collaboration with families.
- Invested \$10 million to help human services agencies recruit and retain qualified staff.
- Hosted the Uniting for Children and Youth Forum 2007 in Edmonton, with over 1,000 delegates from across Alberta.
- Helped 459 youth who are or have been in government care to continue their education through the Advancing Futures Bursary program.

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