

# ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010

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# Centre for Research on Children and Families

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*Research for effective programs  
and policies for vulnerable children  
and youth and their families*

September 2010

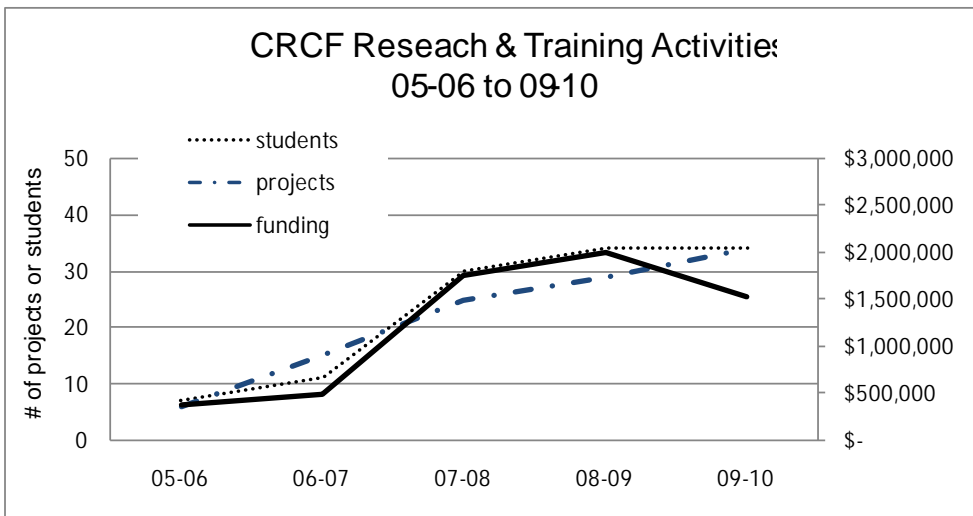


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# 1. Director's Message

On October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2009, T



## 2. Mission and Mandate

### Mission Statement

**The Centre's mission is to conduct and disseminate research on effective programs and policies for vulnerable children and youth and their families.**

Vulnerability is broadly defined to include social, family, emotional, cognitive and health related problems that place children and youth at risk of developing serious psycho-social problems and not being able to achieve their full developmental potential. These can include a range of problems such as poverty, family violence, youth violence, mental health problems and disabilities. Programs and policies include prevention and intervention programs to support vulnerable children and their families that have been developed in a range of settings.

### Mandate

### **3. Research**

This section describes the research projects<sup>3</sup> that were being run out of the Centre in 2009-2010. Five new research grants or contracts were successfully obtained, in addition to 22 continuing grants or contracts and 7 Centre funded grants or contracts. Funding sources included federal research granting agencies, such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

#### **New Centre Based Research Funds**

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3. Describe the implementation process of new social pediatrics clinics in different regions of Quebec.
4. Develop a longer term evaluation proposal focusing on impacts.

## **2) Canadian Child Welfare Data Lab (217017)**

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé  
Funding Source: Canadian Foundation for Innovation  
Period: 2009-2013  
Total Award: \$ 34, 349 (\$ 0 allocated 09-10)

This supplemental CFI grant provides support for maintaining the CFI funded Child Welfare Data Lab infrastructure. It will cover salary costs associated with programming and maintenance of the lab.

## **3) Community Capability & Development in Nunavik: mobilizing knowledge in the transition to self government (217484)**

Principal Investigator: Nicole Ives  
Co-Investigators: V. Sinha, W. Thomson  
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Period: 2009-2011  
Total Award: \$ 147,458 (\$ 147,458 allocated in 09-10)

This project builds on the “Community Capacity and Development in Nunavik” (CCDiN) study, funded by SSHRC (2008-2010), by bringing together researchers, policy experts and community members to mobilize and widely discuss the knowledge gathered through CCDiN and the “Rethinking Social Work Education in First Nations and Inuit Communities” project funded by Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport de Québec (MELSQ; 2006-2008). Conducted in the prelude to self governance in Nunavik (2011), the CCDiN project explored issues of key concern for the new Nunavik government: the relevance and appropriateness of existing social policies in Nunavik and the support/training needed by frontline social service workers who implement many social policies. This project’s activities have extended beyond basic knowledge

### **5) Decline in Sexual Abuse Cases (217575)**

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vezina  
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé, C. Walsh  
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Period: 2009-2012  
Total Award: \$ 181,231 (\$ 69,359 allocated 09-10)

Rates of sexual abuse (SA) reported to and substantiated by Child Protection Services (CPS) have dropped by nearly a third in Canada, from 0.89 per 1,000 children in 1998 to 0.62 in 2003 (Trocmé et al., 2001; 2005). Although we would hope that this decline reflects a true diminution of SA perpetrated on children in the population, it is also possible that victims and non-offending parents are less likely than before to disclose abuse to authorities, and/or that changes in the management of SA cases by CPS could explain this decline. The present study, based on the work of Finkelhor & Jones (2004), seeks to explore various potential sources of explanations for the decline in SA investigations by CPS in Canada, including: (1) stricter measures to retain SA cases reported to CPS, (2) a reduction in CPS involvement in some CSA cases and (3) increasing reserve to report CSA to authorities. In the course of the year 2009-2010, data was collected from child welfare experts in focus group sessions and administrative files from one child welfare agency were reviewed in order to seek potential answers to the second hypothesis.

## **Continuing Centre Based Research Funds**

### **6) Canadian Research Chair Research Support Fund (218437)**

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vezina  
Funding Source: Canadian Research Chair  
Period: 2008-2013  
Total Award: \$ 60,000 (\$ 12,000 allocated 09-10)

Dr. Collin-Vézina's CRC research program has three objectives: (1) to assess the current processes of reporting child sexual abuse (CSA) in Canada; (2) to measure the scope of sequels related to CSA, with the help of multiple youth samples selected from at-risk groups and clinical settings; and (3) to better





Co-Principal Investigators:	L. Lach, D. Kohen
Co-Investigators:	R. Birnbaum, J. Brehaut, R. Garner, M. McKenzie, T. McNeill, A. Niccols, D. Nicholas & M. Saini
Funding Source:	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Period:	2009-2011
Total Award:	\$ 780,114 (\$ 96,000 in 09-10)

Surprisingly little is known about the processes involved in parenting children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD) given the complex emotional, behavioral and social problems that are either features or correlates of these conditions. The main goal of these studies are to gain a better understanding of the extent to which parenting children with NDD differs from parenting in general, what makes a difference to parenting, the difference that parenting makes to child outcomes, and whether there are ways of understanding parenting that is unique to this population.

Four multi-method projects address these questions: 1) Using an internationally recognized protocol for conducting a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative research, parenting behavior, cognition and style as well as social, family and child correlates of parenting will be established; 2) Secondary data analyses of the Canadian population-based National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) will quantitatively compare parenting children with NDD to parenting typically developing children; 3) A clinical study will examine predictors and experiences of parenting children with NDD; 4) A review of the legislation as well as a survey of existing policies and programs will be conducted to document those services available to Canadian parents of children with NDD in the areas of income support, respite/alternative care and case management. This will provide a solid basis against which to develop policy and practice recommendations.

#### **10) Quantitative Methods for Aboriginal Child Welfare Research (216647 & 216652)**

Principal Investigator:	Vandna Sinha
Co-Investigators:	N. Trocmé, B. Fallon, & B. MacLaurin
Funding Source:	National Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research
Period:	2008-2009
Amount of Award:	\$ 20,000
Funding Source:	Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare, Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period:	2008-2009
Amount of Award:	\$ 20,000
Funding Source:	National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health
Period:	2008
Amount of Award:	\$ 10,000
Funding Source:	Jewish General Hospital
Period:	2009
Amount of Award:	\$ 10,000
Funding Source:	McGill School of Social Work
Period:	2008-2009
Amount of Award:	\$ 10,000

On May 19-22nd, 2009, the Centre for Research on Children and Families hosted the 2nd annual workshop on the use of quantitative methods for Aboriginal researchers. Participants from across Canada included child welfare managers, workers, university students and researchers. The Aboriginal component of the 2003 Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect was used to teach participants the possibilities of working with quantitative information about children and families. It also provided support on the design of research projects at local and community levels.

**11) RBC Children's Services Research & Training Program (216954 & 216859)**

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé  
Funding Source: Royal Bank of Canada  
Period: 2008–2018  
Award: \$ 2,000,000 (\$ 152,400 allocated 09-10)

In support of two key initiatives over the next ten years, The Royal Bank of Canada has generously granted \$2 million to create the RBC Children's Services Research & Training Program. These initiatives will provide technical support and research training to assist policy makers and community-based children's mental

Period: 2007–2010  
Total Award: \$ 75,000 (\$ 28,844 allocated 09-10)

This program of research seeks to understand, culturally and socially, what is the "bereaved parent" in Canadian society today, and what are the corresponding implications for the health and well-being of this population. Increasingly, bereavement care is being recognized as an essential component in interdisciplinary palliative care models, the goal being to help the bereaved arrive at a healthy adjustment to their loss. Studies show that while bereavement programs and practices may be clinically and intuitively based, they are rarely theoretically or empirically evidence-based. The clinical models and theories upon which bereavement interventions are designed have not been proven effective. Some evidence suggests that bereaved parents may derive little or no benefit from bereavement counseling, and that further harm may occur from the interventions.

Research Questions: 1. How is "parental bereavement" socially and culturally constructed in our society? 2. thattemer



Funding Sources: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) / Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR)  
Period: 2005–2010  
Amount of Award: \$ 502,590 (PHAC) /\$ 111,000 (CIHR) (\$ 235,504 allocated 09-10)

For the past decade the CECW has been a research and policy network involving three universities and two NGOs. The McGill site at the Centre has taken the lead on four projects: (1) Research Watch uses a monthly journal club format with faculty and graduate students to review research articles published in the leading child welfare journals. The most relevant and well designed international studies as well as all Canadian studies are summarized and disseminated through the CECW's list of approximately 6,700 subscribers. (2) The Centre has been redeveloping the CECW Website into the Child Welfare Research Portal (CWRP) ([www.cecw-cepb.ca](http://www.cecw-cepb.ca)), Canada's national clearinghouse for child welfare research. Since the launch of the new website in May 2009, monthly visits to the new website have consistently increased to over 8,000 visits a month. (3) The Centre coordinated a Federal-Provincial-Territorial outcome data harmonization project, the National Outcome Matrix (NOM). Preliminary data from 8 jurisdictions were shared at a two-day national roundtable event held in Montreal in October 2009. (4) Finally, CECW funds have been used to initiate several data analysis support projects with Aboriginal researchers and service providers, including week-long data workshops (next to be held in February 2011) and an examination of the application of NOM with several First Nation service providers. Funding for the CECW ended on March 31, 2010. Continued support for the CWRP will be provided through the RBC Children's Data Lab as well as a partnership agreement entered into with the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research.

19)



CIS-1998 and the CIS-2003; the other focused on the predictors associated with emotional abuse versus emotional neglect. An Ontario child welfare agency used data from the CIS-2003 study to examine the placement decision by geographic region. A factsheet was developed and published on the CECW website. Student research projects were also supported through these funds involving various topics from the child welfare system's response to investigations involving Asian caregivers to the intersect of the child welfare system with the Youth Criminal Justice system.

### **23) Implementation evaluation of “Le Cercle de l’Enfant” (216114)**

Principal Investigator:	Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators:	A.-M. Piché, A. Campbell, & E. Fast
Funding Source:	Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale
Period:	2008–2010
Total Award:	\$ 69,790 (\$ 5,340 allocated 09-10)
Funding Source:	Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period:	2009–2010
Total Award:	\$ 3,350

'The Child's Protective Circle (Le Cercle de l'Enfant)' is a preventive model aimed at lowering the state of vulnerability of a child experiencing various family, health or social difficulties. The Circle targets children using services from social paediatrics centres established in two socially disadvantaged communities of Montréal, Québec. The model is based on aboriginal decision-making philosophy and family group conferencing, and uses mediation tools to

Hospital and Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, and collabo



This is a study of ethical dilemmas surrounding life-support decisions for critically ill children in France and Quebec. The study involves focus groups interviews with physicians and nurses. This is a follow-up to a prior (published) study of parental perspectives.

## **Centre Funded Research**

### **28) Understanding emotional maltreatment in the CIS**

Research Coordinator: Claire Chamberland  
Period: 2009-2010  
Total Award:



threaten the validity of an eventual outcome study, and evaluate whether the youth and parents improve in areas targeted by this intervention. The CRCF had committed \$10,000 to supporting pilot research; Batshaw provided \$10,000 in matching funds, and is contributing additional funds as required. From a preliminary examination of the results, there is some evidence of positive change in parents and youth. However, the coordination data collection remains a challenge, and efforts are underway to streamline procedures. A final round of testing is scheduled for the Fall of 2010, and a final report will be submitted in the Spring of 2011. External funding for a full outcome study (with comparison group) will then be sought.

### **34) Observatoire sur les mauvais traitements envers les enfants**

Principal Investigator: Sonia Hélie  
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé & D. Collin-Vézina  
Period: 2009–2011  
Total Award: \$ 10,000

The Observatoire includes administrative data from public registries and populational studies. Currently, the data comes from 1) the youth protection system, 2) the Coroner's office, 3) the police and justice systems and 4) the health care system. This combination of data and their comparison allow for a more complete and better understanding of child maltreatment. It also allows for a more complete understanding of its distribution across time and space, independent of the social lens (or system) through which it is studied. This past year has focused on redeveloping the Observatoire and establishing partnerships with supporting organizations such as the CRCF's RBC data laboratory

## **4. Dissemination & Training**

### **Research Seminars**

The 2009-2010 series of research seminars provided an opportunity for faculty, visiting scholars and graduate students to share and discuss their research. One presentation was scheduled for each meeting. Presenters used the seminar to discuss preliminary results, data interpretation issues and methodological questions arising from their research. The following is a chronological list of the 09-10 seminars:

Delphine Collin-Vézina & Mireille De La Sablonnière, University-Organization collaboration for enhanced access to mental health services for First Nations peoples

Bruce MacLaurin, Examining factors leading to placement in child welfare: The impact of organizational variables

Christine Wekerle, Are females doing worse in child welfare? Considerations from the Maltreatment and Adolescent Pathways (MAP) longitudinal study 10

Mónica Ruiz-Casares, Children home alone or inadequately supervised in Montreal and across Canada

John Eckenrode, The Nurse Family Partnership Program: Adolescent outcomes in the Elmira Randomized Controlled Trial

Claude Laurendeau, Steven Abrams & Susan Gallo, An Evidence-Based Approach to Program Development in Neglect at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and



**Trocmé, N.** (2009). Avant-propos. In S. Dufour. & C. Lavergne (eds.) La violence et la maltraitance envers les enfants en milieu familial. Montréal, QC : Edition CEC.

## **Student Training**

The Centre provided research training to approximately 35 students through a variety of programs including external graduate scholarships (FQRSC & SSHRC), research assistantships, the Faculty of Arts Work Study program, participation in Journal Watch, thesis research support and statistical consultation. Two data analysis seminars were held during 08-09: (1) Quantitative Methods for Aboriginal Child Welfare Research (see project # 10) and (2) a summer seminar series on data analysis for graduate social work students. A data-base is being developed that will allow for more systematic tracking of students supported by the Centre.

## **5. Centre Development**

### **Governance**

The Centre's CnMCID o/P #G#07 aP()j5o5enle

## **Faculty**

Sharon Bond, McGill Social Work  
Angela Campbell, McGill Law  
Franco Carnevale, McGill Nursing  
Delphine Collin-Vézina, McGill Social Work  
Linda Davies, McGill Social Work  
Myriam Denov, McGill Social Work  
Sydney Duder, McGill Social Work  
Stephen Ellenbogen, Memorial, Social Work  
Barbara Fallon, Toronto, Social Work  
Nicole Ives, McGill Social Work  
Julia Krane, McGill Social Work  
Lucyna Lach, McGill Social Work  
Jo Ann Levesque, McGill Arts  
Mary Ellen Macdonald, McGill Dentistry  
David Rothwell, McGill Social Work  
Aron Shlonsky, Toronto, Social Work  
Vandna Sinha, McGill Social Work  
Wendy Thomson, McGill Social Work  
Nico Trocmé (Director), McGill Social Work

## **Students**

Bree Akesson, PhD student  
Sacha Bailey, PhD student  
Tara Black, PhD student  
Aline Bogossian, MSW student  
Ye Ri Choi, PhD student  
Kim Coleman, PhD student  
Mireille De La Sablonnière-Griffin, MSW student  
Toni Esposito, PhD student  
Elizabeth Fast, PhD student  
Kristin Gionfriddo, MSW student  
Gina Glidden, MSW student  
Anna Kozlowski, MSW student  
Lise Milne, MSW student  
Anne-Marie Piché, PhD student  
Mónica Ruiz-Casares Post-Doc  
Pamela Weightman, MSW student

## **Community**

Stephen Abrams, BYFC  
Lorry Coughlin, BYFC  
Margaret Doueck, BYFC  
Sue Gallo, BYFC  
Claude Laurendeau, BYFC  
Michael Udy, Consultant

## **Research and Administrative Staff**

The Centre also operates with support from the following research and administrative staff:

Martin Chabot, Data Analyst

Heather Fewtrell, Senior Administrative Coordinator

Kelly Finnerty, Administrative Coordinator

Jules Lajoie, CWRP Webmaster

Abu Sayem, Research and Technology Assistant & CRCF Webmaster

Michelle Sullivan, Administrative Consultant

Pamela Weightman, Research, Dissemination & Training Coordinator



## 6. Financial Report

The Centre receives funds from three sources: an Endowed Income Fund, an Endowed Social Work Fellowship Fund and Research Project funds (including RBC funds). Annual financial reports for the two endowed funds and a summary of research funds are included in the attached Appendices. Detailed financial reports specific to externally funded research projects are filed separately with each funding agency.

### Endowed Income Fund

The Endowed Income Fund (see Appendix A) supports the Centre's administration and its research and dissemination infrastructure. It should also be noted that printing, photocopying and telephone/LAN costs have more than doubled over the past two fiscal years (average of \$8,000 from 05 to 07 to an average of close to \$17,000 from 07 to 09). We now have procedures in place that allow us monitor these costs more closely and charge back a larger portion to research projects. RBC funds supported a large portion of the Centre's maintenance costs. With the growing volume of students & staff the Centre's yearly costs have increased, even without the salary costs that have transferred to RBC. The endowment fund continues to support the general maintenance of the Centre.

### Social Work Fellowship Fund (CRCF Travel Grant)

The Fellowship Fund (see Appendix B) produced \$ 2,661.04 in income in 2009-2010 which was added to carry-forward from 2008-2009. Students involved with the Centre are eligible to apply to the fund for travel support to present at academic conferences. Two travel fsTd[cu\*e)-12(l)-9( )jpl e

# APPENDIX A

## Endowment Income Fund (227581)

June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010

### INCOME

Income from Endowment **\$ 104,701.88**

### EXPENDITURES

#### Salaries

Administrative Coordinator	3,525.25
Administrative Assistant	14,547.92
Research & Dissemination Coordinator	16,544.00
Benefits	<u>3,415.11</u>
	<b>38,032.28</b>

#### Other

Materials & Supplies	2,795.68
Printing/Photocopying/Postage/Courier	7,418.30
Miscellaneous**	2,207.73
Stationery	894.02
Telephones/Fax/Cell/LAN	10,112.09
Travel/Transportation	3,926.72
Project Support	15,051.00
Office Equipment	738.31
Non-Travel Related Meal Expenses	2,342.23
Translation	2,375.39
Repairs/Maintenance	<u>6,518.31</u>
	<b>54,379.78</b>

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**\$ 92,412.06**

\*Miscellaneous also includes Books, Software, Special Events

## APPENDIX B

### Social Work Fellowship (CRCF Travel Grant) (222589) June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009

**BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2008** **\$ 11,579.94**

#### INCOME

Income from Endowment 2,661.04

#### EXPENDITURES

##### Travel awards

William Affleck	749.50
Anne-Marie Piché	750.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** 1499.50

**BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2009** **\$ 12, 741.48**

## APPENDIX C

### Project Funds

June 1, 2009-May 31, 2010

Project	Source	Amount
RBC Children's Services Research & Training Program	RBC	\$152,400 (year 2)
Children's Services Data Lab Infrastructure Development	CFI/Govt. Quebec/Fac. Arts/CRCF	\$0.00 (year 3)
Canadian Child Welfare Data Lab	CFI	\$0.00 (year 2)
Évaluation des initiatives actuelles et émergentes en pédiatrie sociale	FPPS	\$39,402 (year 1)
Community Capability and Development in Nunavik: Mobilizing knowledge in the transition to self government	SSHRC	\$147,458 (year 2)
Community-University Alliance for Aboriginal Child Welfare Research	SSHRC	\$20,000 (year 2)
Decline in Sexual Abuse Cases		\$69,359 (year 1)
Canadian Research Chair Support Fund	CRC	

Understanding Meta Analysis: a subjective interpretation of an “objective” analysis CIHR

\$0.00 (year 2)