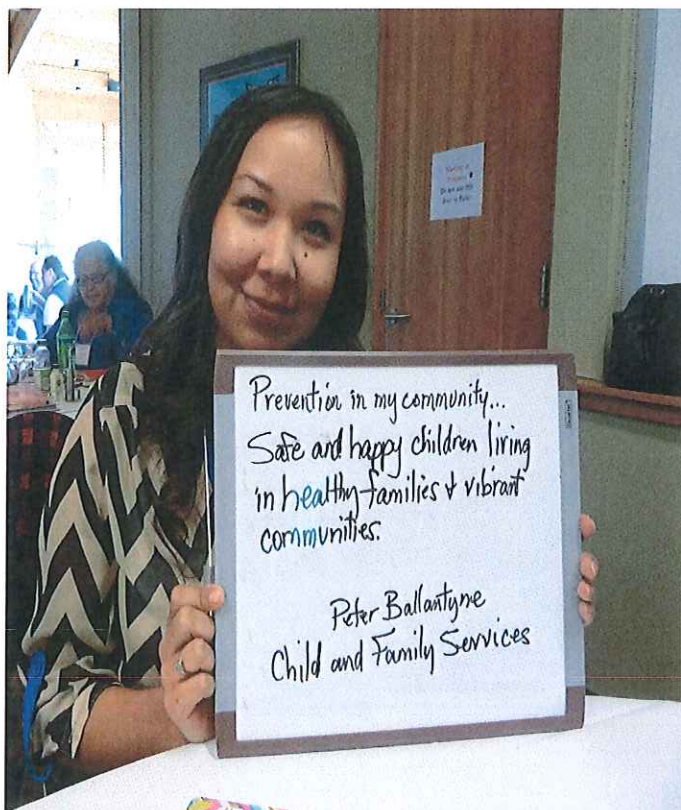




Prevention Knowledge Sharing Event Nov. 26-27, 2014: Roll up Report

HELPING CHANGE THE STORIES OF OUR FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES



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INTRODUCTION

The Saskatchewan First Nations Family & Community Institute Inc. (the Institute) hosted a Prevention Knowledge Sharing Event on Nov. 26-27, 2014 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Fifty prevention workers from sixteen member First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies (FNCFS) attended the event.

The event began with an opening prayer on Nov. 26, and ended with a closing prayer on Nov. 27, 2014. The prayers and good intentions of the Elders, executive directors, and prevention workers started the event with good spirit.

The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for First Nations prevention program staff to come together, network, and learn about each other's program goals, development, activities, and success & challenges. Attendees also had some fun with games, trivia, and door prizes!

Each agency was asked to complete the sentence, "Prevention in my community..." on whiteboards provided by the Institute. Throughout the report are some pictures of the completed statements that demonstrate the power of prevention in action.

The following roll up report provides themes from the agency presentations including a summary of the feedback from attendees and next steps.

FNCFS AGENCY PRESENTATION THEMES

The two day event included fifteen presentations from prevention staff. The Institute supported each agency to send up to three prevention staff to prepare and present a 20 minute presentation with a 10 minute question and answer period. All FNCFS agencies presented with many of them exceeding the total 30 minutes.

The delivery of presentations included: power point presentations, some had handouts, and many included pictures of their various

programming activities. The pictures were a very effective way to share their many program successes.

The following themes summarize: program goals, development, activities, and success & challenges.

The **Program Goals** for all fifteen presentations were very similar. The goals focused on:

- 1) Creating healthy families
- 2) Creating healthy communities
- 3) Strengthening families
- 4) Preventing children from coming into care
- 5) Keeping children with their families and in their community
- 6) Providing programs and services that meet the cultural and community needs.

Each of the agencies shared similar strategies on **Program Development**. Many agencies had partnerships with organizations within and outside their community. These partnerships supported the development and delivery of programs and services that meet the needs of their community. These partnerships included: school, health, Scouts Canada, and Cadets.

Presentations indicated that agencies are



developing programs on a formal basis, some developing needs assessments, as well as documenting the purpose, goals, and objectives. Prevention staff are keeping statistics on activity attendees as part of reporting but also as part of better understanding what is working and what needs improvement.

The **Activities** presented by agencies were numerous. Some agency prevention departments have two staff while others have up to sixteen staff. There was a wide range of activities from cultural camps, domestic violence, grief and loss to traditional parenting. A summary of the activities include:

- Sport programs, In Motion
- Domestic violence, anger management
- Treaty days
- School visits & after school programs
- Counselling
- Family Group conferencing
- Traditional family enhancement model
- Family activities
- Teen activities, youth drum group
- Life skills to youth
- Suicide intervention
- Christmas Hamper
- Men's and Women's wellness
- Movie nights
- AA
- Home visits, office visits, field visits
- Girl/Boy Power
- Moshum and Kokum group
- Parent mentors, Triple P parenting, traditional parenting, parent teen conflict
- Using the land and outdoors for programming
- Appreciation and recognition nights

All agency presentations relayed the importance of client/community driven programs that reflect the culture and language of their community.

Prevention Successes was plentiful throughout the presentations. It has taken prevention programs a bit of time to understand the changing needs of the community and develop an infrastructure of programs and activities to meet those needs.

A summary of successes include:

- Gaining trust with clients and communities
- Building strong relationships with families and communities and referral sources
- Continual increase of participation in programs

- Developing programs that meet the cultural needs of our communities
- People wanting to help themselves through self-referrals
- Accountability and transparency



Prevention Challenges were common among the presenters. Trust was a recurrent theme with agency prevention programs, noting that Prevention work is new to most communities. Protection has been the only program from FNCFS for so long that time is needed to develop a program that builds trust with families and communities. A summary of challenges include:

- Getting more people to attend programs, engaging the population that needs the service most
- Providing incentives to attend programs
- Childcare services
- Developing programs for men and women
- Developing programs with specific needs
- Transportation to attend programs
- Working successfully with protection
- Need professional staff- child therapist
- Cultural case planning
- Filing system
- Common social and addiction issues: alcohol, drug, gambling.
- Language: speak different dialects, practice different culture
- Admin support for programs, capturing data and reporting
- Staff turnover

FEEDBACK

At the end of the second day the Institute handed out a feedback form. The Institute is keenly interested in ensuring we are meeting the needs of our membership and improving the work we do. The feedback form asked questions regarding the purpose of the event including: what was enjoyed most, opportunities to learn and understand FNCFS Prevention programs, key learnings, suggestions for improvement, overall rating, and next steps. Overall, the event was a great start in building and sharing success with FNCFS Prevention. Fifty people participated, however thirty-one feedback forms were collected. The responses have been summarized below.

Enjoyed Most	Opportunity to learn and understand	Key Learnings	Improvements	Overall Rating
meeting people with a shared vision	66% strongly agreed that the event provided an opportunity to learn and understand	agencies share struggles and achievements	more time for presentations	81%, 25/31 of the participants rated the Prevention Event as excellent
networking	44% agreed that the event provided them with opportunities to learn and understand other FNCFS Prevention programs	encouraging community and youth participation	more space for presentations	19%, 6/31 of the participants rated the overall event as good
new ideas		strong networking and relationships are important to prevention	more time for networking	
		cultural awareness		

NEXT STEPS

After 2 days of FNCFS Prevention presentations the group was eager to discuss next steps. Many attendees spoke of their appreciation for the opportunity to attend the event and meet people with a shared vision. On the second day all attendees had the opportunity to provide input into a large group discussion on NEXT STEPS. There were 25 next steps identified in the group discussion and feedback forms; the graphic below is a summary of these placed into 14 themes. As a result of the discussion the group suggested that the Institute send an invite to the Agency Executive Directors and the Agency Prevention Representative. The letter would request a Prevention Representative to attend a future meeting to review and prioritize the recommended next steps. The next meeting is scheduled for Wed. Feb. 4, 2015 in Saskatoon.



CONCLUSION

Thank you to all those who attended the Prevention Knowledge Sharing event. It was an incredible opportunity to hear about the amazing work being done by each of the FNCFS Agencies.

All FNCFS agencies are doing incredible work in the Prevention field with their First Nations communities. The similarities of programs, practices, partnerships and activities were evident throughout the 2 day event. The unique features of delivering programs based on community culture, language and location was displayed throughout the power point presentations, youth drumming group, and numerous pictures of cultural and community programs.

Most FNCFS prevention programs are entering their 6th year of service, however, some are just starting. Given the early stages of development, those in attendance indicated the enormous amount of learning they have gathered from preparing their own presentations, networking, and listening to the other 15 FNCFS agencies share their prevention goals, development, programs, and success and challenges.

Prevention is helping our First Nations families and communities tell a different story. The programs, activities and services provided by FNCFS Prevention were all community driven and all shared the similar theme: building healthy families and communities and keeping children with their families in their communities.

The Institute is excited to review this event roll up report and explore next steps and opportunities to support FNCFS prevention programs.

