

Little Voices Child and Family Centres

A Framework for the Delivery of Native Children's Services in the City of Toronto



Native Child and Family Services of Toronto



July 2011

NCFST would like to thank our Elder’s Council, our clients and community stakeholders, staff at the City of Toronto - Toronto Children’s Services, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Aboriginal Best Start Network and Laurie Hermiston.

Let us now move forward and bring life to what follows.

Kenn Richard
Executive Director, NCFST

Note:

“Little Voices” was a promising program that lost its funding some years ago. The name is used to honour those who have come before us in this developmental process.

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The purpose of this Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST) framework for a Little Voices Child and Family Centre is to discuss the best possible way to service Aboriginal families in an urban centre, specifically Toronto and the surrounding area. The research and development of this document was completed over a five month period.

To understand the Aboriginal community as a demographic in planning for child and family centered services, an environmental scan of Toronto's Aboriginal Community was completed. Some interesting facts were discovered. While the 2006 Census reports a population of 31,910 Aboriginal people living in the City of Toronto, identifying as being of Aboriginal ancestry (First Nation status and non status, Métis & Inuit), data collected from various Toronto Aboriginal Agencies, state the actual population as being between 60,000 to 80,000. There are a growing number of Aboriginal peoples moving to urban communities. In Ontario for example, 78% of the Aboriginal population lives outside of the reserve communities. This growing move towards urban areas can bring new challenges. As a legacy of colonization, today First Nations people, when compared to non-Indigenous Canadians, live with significant cultural, socio-economic, and health inequities.

Most of the services for Aboriginal peoples in Toronto are located in the downtown core of the City, with a few exceptions, in the east and west end. The western part of the City reaching from High Park to Etobicoke has the highest number of Aboriginal people with the least amount of Aboriginal specific services available to them. It is strongly felt that if Aboriginal specific support services were increased in this area of the City, communities would see healthy development in all areas of psycho-social well being.

Community discussions were also held with a variety of people, from parents and caregivers, to service providers and Elders. These took place in group settings and on an individual basis. Discussions centered on the need for services that are inclusive of all Aboriginal communities and traditional worldview, which respects the entire life spectrum, rather than groupings like 0-12, as intended in the main stream model of a Child and Family Centre. The importance of passing on teachings in an urban centre, and being able to adapt and tolerate change was discussed by both the Elders and the community. It was stressed that the diversity of the Aboriginal nations must be respected, and that Aboriginal Child and Family Programs should keep this at the forefront of all they do. Accepting all families where they are and designing services for them based on this, was an important message, as some will require more than others.

In considering the development of the Little Voices Child and Family Centre Framework, it is important to look back to the report, "With Our Best Future in Mind, Implementing Early Learning in Ontario". In this report, it is stated that, "By merging program functions under a single administration, Best Start Child and Family Centres will be able to offer a one stop opportunity for parents and caregivers to support children's earliest development." Through the research and development of this framework, it is apparent that the most effective model suited to the community is one that is integrated and holistic in nature. This is what the Aboriginal community has done for generations, and can be seen through the use of lodges and gathering places. NCFST has already achieved an integrated approach to working with families through the many programs and services they provide. The community that is served by this programming often achieves success because of the level of integration that the Agency has been able to accomplish. Integration such as discussed in Dr. Charles Pascal's report, can be seen in the development of the new multiservice Child and Family Centre being built in the Scarborough satellite location of NCFST. This site, which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2011, will house programming for youth, families, children and elders, as well as a licensed child care component. The Ontario Early Years Centre will operate programs for parents and children, while the school age care will be offered through the City of Toronto's ARC model in a partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation. This model will offer a holistic, comprehensive menu of programs for children and families in the Scarborough area.

The vision and principles for a Little Voices Child and Family Centre was taken from the consultation discussions with the Elders, community, and current NCFST models which already exist. Medicine wheels were used to communicate the outcomes achieved once the vision is implemented. This is intended to be co-generative in nature, with the City of Toronto Children Services Child and Family Centre outcomes, “braided” together with Aboriginal worldview. This concept came from the discussions with internal NCFST staff when looking at how best to communicate the work that they wanted to do and what they wanted to achieve in that work. In taking the outcomes and placing them on medicine wheels, we ensure that all four elements are being considered when designing programs and services, which will allow for healthy functioning communities to grow around us. The outcomes fall into three areas; Community Outcomes, Child and Family Outcomes, and Service Outcomes.

While there is a need for such centres in the community, it is recognized that there are challenges faced when attempting to access the services related to Little Voices Child and Family Centres and other Child and Family support programs, such as:

- Dependence on subsidy system that is consistently wait listed;
- Subsidy wait list;
- Requirements for approval of subsidy;
- Need for therapeutic spaces for aboriginal children;
- Transportation to access Aboriginal specific services;
- Inability to integrate current services, such as Aboriginal Head Start with Aboriginal Childcare;
- Pending loss of Aboriginal specific childcare spaces;
- Need for Little Voices Child and Family Centre.

Upon completing the research for the framework, it became important to provide recommendations which addressed the challenges faced by the Aboriginal community in the current system, if there was to be a plan to move ahead with the design of Little Voices Child and Family Centre.

Recommendations

The following recommendations address the statements of challenge:

1. That the City of Toronto develop a specific question related to Aboriginal families, which would assist in identifying them in the system. This would ensure that efficient data is available as to the number of families in the system that requires these services.
2. That the City of Toronto give priority for Aboriginal families in the subsidy system to allow for access to culturally specific Aboriginal childcare spaces.
3. That the City of Toronto allow for an agreed upon number of priority “therapeutic” spaces for Aboriginal families in NCFST childcares, to support the development of healthy families within the Aboriginal community in Toronto.
4. That the City of Toronto builds the cost of transportation supports into the development of programs related to Aboriginal children and families, such as Little Voices Child and Family Centres and Childcares.
5. That the City of Toronto enter into discussions with the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government (Health Canada) to look at building a demonstration site where the relationship can be nurtured to include “successful practices” in sharing the resources, relationships between Aboriginal Head Start, Provincial Children and Youth Services and the Cities Children Services.

6. That Toronto Children’s Services re-establish the forty-four (44) childcare spaces currently being held, from the closure of Awashishuck Daycare in Toronto.
7. That the City of Toronto begin to examine the development of Little Voices Child and Family Centres across Toronto, in neighborhoods where there is a high concentration of Aboriginal peoples, with little access to services, such as: Etobicoke, York, High Park, Parkdale, Lawrence, Eglinton and Davenport. Existing NCFST programs can be enhanced to provide services, such as Kiiwednong Aboriginal Head Start and Child Care at Keele Street and Wilson Avenue. Partnerships can also be developed to enhance existing services to create the Centres.

Next Steps

Upon review of the Little Voices Child and Family Centre Framework, and recommendations that have been made, NCFST feels it is important that the partnership to develop Little Voices Child and Family Centre Framework with the City of Toronto be continued.

The following options are possible:

1. It is recognized that innovative opportunities for the design and development of programs for Aboriginal children and families exist in NCFST programs and services. It is suggested that the new NCFST Little Voices Child and Family Centre in Scarborough initiative be considered a best practice site and be supported as such by all stakeholders.

NCFST and the City of Toronto can together determine the relationship and outcomes to be achieved. Relationships would be developed with such initiatives as the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation (Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative) and the Atkinson Foundation to determine the impact on the good and welfare of the children and families involved. Research relationships would be set up with post secondary institutions to assist in the data collection. Such research and data can be used to inform the development of centres across the Province.

2. That the City of Toronto and its partners examine the need in the priority areas based on what is already known. A focus should be placed on the following:
 - The potential to place a Little Voices Child and Family Centre in the dedicated Toronto District School board school site of 90 Croatia Street in the west end of the City.
 - A feasibility study to look at expanding and renovating Kiiwednong Aboriginal Head Start and Childcare at Keele Street and Wilson Avenue, into a full service Little Voices Child and Family Centre.
 - Determine a more suitable location for Gizhaadaawgamik Childcare in the downtown core, which will serve the Aboriginal community, and provide childcare spaces for Aboriginal infants, toddlers and pre-school children.

PREAMBLE

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto strives to provide a life of quality, well-being, caring and healing for children and families in the Toronto Aboriginal Community. This is done by creating a service model that is culture based and respects the values of Native people, the extended family and the right to self-determination. We believe that children are a gift from the creator and have a right to live their lives proudly as Aboriginal peoples, in the lands of their ancestors. Language and culture are of the utmost importance. Mohawk traditional leader and educator Diane Longboat of Six Nations states:

“It is said that in the time of the changing Mother Earth, children would be sent to us with all of the gifts of the ancestors. They would be the visionaries, the leaders and the artists that we read about....they are coming back to us again in the spirits of our children. It is our duty to raise them in the best way possible, bring forward their identities through language culture and spirituality”.

It is because of this that programs must be created that honor the way of life of the ancestors. Fostering positive self identity is one of the most important seeds that can be planted in the life of a child. An effort to build generations of Indigenous children who know who they are in eyes of their nation is an important priority. To do this we must ensure that our children understand the connection which they have to the world around them. It is in that connection that they will find strength. These connections are made at home and in the community, so the services we provide to children and families are of the utmost importance.

The development of a Little Voices Child and Family Centre in Toronto will benefit the community and will help to achieve the distinctive services needed to ensure healthy generations of Aboriginal children and families to come. A centre such as this will provide a cultural safety net for the community around it.

Section One

Environmental Scan of Toronto Aboriginal Community



National and Provincial Profile of Aboriginal Peoples

It is important to note that much of the Aboriginal population in Canada is transient and will travel to different communities, for family reasons and employment or educational opportunities. It can be difficult to track the number of Aboriginal peoples in any community for various reasons. For example, data which is collected in the Canadian Census is for individuals living in private homes only and is not collected for those living in collective residences, institutions or who were homeless at the time of collection. This represents a large portion of the Aboriginal community population

From 2001-2006, the Aboriginal population in Canada increased by 196,475. Over this period, Aboriginal population grew by 20.1%, a rate five times that of the non-Aboriginal population. While Aboriginals comprise only 2% of its population, in absolute numbers, Ontario had the largest Aboriginal population of any province or territory. In 2006, there were 242,490 Aboriginal persons living in Ontario, representing 20.7% of the Canadian total. From 2001-2006, the Aboriginal population of Ontario increased by 28.8%, a rate faster than that of Canada as whole. Over this period, the number of Aboriginals living in Ontario grew by 54,175 persons.

Unique Needs of the Aboriginal Community in Toronto

Toronto's Aboriginal community is one of the most diverse in Canada, with many different nations represented at any time. The 2006 Census reports a population of 31,910 Aboriginal people living in the City of Toronto, identifying as being of Aboriginal ancestry (First Nation status and non status, Métis and Inuit). While these numbers represents 3% of the population of Canada and 13% of Aboriginals in Ontario, data collected from various Toronto Aboriginal agencies, state the actual population as being between 60,000 to 80,000. As mentioned above, statistics are notoriously hard to track when dealing with Aboriginal populations in urban centres, as often the community is very transient, travelling from the urban and reserve communities several times in their lives, and some over the period of a year. There is also a mistrust that exists in any type of data collection or tracking within the Aboriginal community, so many people will not participate, therefore affecting the overall results.

Data reported for Toronto's Aboriginal children within the 2006 census states that there are less than 1000 preschool aged Aboriginal children in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). This number is arguably one of the strongest indications that the current stats are not measuring the number of Aboriginal children living within Toronto. This is most certainly a unique situation, when everything is based on data and statistics. When providing services the communities plan for upwards of 80,000 people, with a common understanding that the population is younger than that of any other in Canada. The Aboriginal population of the GTA has a lower median age (31.7 years) then that the non-aboriginal population (37.3 years). The GTA Aboriginal population includes higher proportions of children (22.1% vs. 18.7%) and youth (16% vs. 13.4%). The proportion of Aboriginal seniors, meanwhile, is significantly lower (4.6% vs. 11.4%)

With 78% of Aboriginal peoples in Ontario living in urban communities, it is evident that the needs will be unique when services are designed. This growing move towards urban areas can bring new challenges. As a legacy of colonization, today First Nations people, when compared to non-Indigenous Canadians, live with significant cultural, socio-economic, and health inequities: higher rates of poverty and higher rates of youth suicide; lower levels of incomes and employment; loss of language and cultural traditions; higher rates of school incompleteness; higher rates of child apprehensions; lower levels of life expectancy; higher rates of incarceration and interaction with the criminal justice system; and disproportionately high rates of both chronic and infectious diseases .

A large youth population with high rates of teen pregnancy, low employment rates and educational attainment, are seeking programs and opportunities which can connect them to their community, while also connecting them to their culture. Building integrated services for these community members is a practice that many of the

Aboriginal agencies in the GTA participate in. This is often due to lack of funds and staff to provide the programs and services needed within the community. Collaboration and integration has always been a successful practice within the Aboriginal community because program development often centres on the medicine wheel and holistic practice.

What are the Services?

The following Aboriginal organizations are available to provide Aboriginal specific services to the Aboriginal community in Toronto:

- Aboriginal Housing Support Centre;
- Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto;
- Anduhyaun Inc.;
- Anishnawbe Health Toronto;
- Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training;
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto;
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto;
- Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence);
- Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto;
- Toronto Council Fire - Native Cultural Centre;
- 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations;
- Wigwamen Housing;
- Nishnawbe Homes Inc.

Most of the services for Aboriginal peoples in Toronto are located in the downtown core of the City, with a few exceptions, in the east, west and north. NCFST has locations in Scarborough where there are support services such as the House of Ghesig, and transitional housing. As well, in the Fall of 2011 a new NCFST multi-service site is to open at Kingston Road and Galloway Road, in the Gabriel Dumont Community, where a large community of Aboriginal peoples will be served. In the four directions of east, west, south and north in Toronto, there is an Aboriginal Head Start program, and in two cases an Aboriginal specific childcare. When the new site mentioned above opens in Scarborough, a third Aboriginal childcare will open in the City.

There is an active support network forming in the western part of the City, in the area of St. Clair and Vaughn, as Na-Me-Res, Anishnawbe Health and Epnigishmok Aboriginal Head Start are all in the neighborhood. In the northwest part of the City there is Anduhyaun Inc. and Kiiwednong Aboriginal Head Start and Childcare. Also, both Wigwamen Housing and Nishnawbe Homes have residences spread across the City of Toronto.

Much of the work that NCFST and other Aboriginal agencies in the community does with children and families is related to fostering cultural identity in the family, and in the early years of the child's life, ultimately laying a foundation for their language, culture, worldview and spiritual understanding of who they are. It can often be challenging to connect to language and cultural activities, as well as other Aboriginal peoples in urban centres for families. A variety of services are offered by the above mentioned organizations, such as; Employment and Training, Pre-Post Natal Programs, Parenting Programs, Nutrition and Health, Medical Care, Housing, Mental Health, Childcare, Preschool, Literacy and Basic Skills, Life Skills, Personal Support and Elders Programs, Culture and Language, Community Kitchens, legal assistance and other social related activities.

Transportation to these programs and activities is an issue in many cases, as often they are offered in areas that require transportation funds, or are challenging to get to, from certain parts of the City. When many of the agencies were created 20 to 30 years ago, many of the Aboriginal peoples in Toronto wanted services downtown, as the majority of the population frequented that area. Over time Aboriginal people have begun to move across the City into neighborhoods in all four directions, and so services should now be planned to reflect this.

Neighborhood and City Data –Where do Aboriginal People Live?

Toronto is broken into 140 neighborhoods across the City. Data for Aboriginal peoples living in these neighborhoods can be tracked and mapped using information available through Statistics Canada (see Appendix A).

In assessing current neighborhood mapping for Aboriginal peoples living in the City, and determining the detailed numbers of Aboriginals living in neighborhoods and sections of the City (see Appendix B), one can sufficiently say that neighborhoods 1-20, which covers Etobicoke, has the largest number of Aboriginal peoples with the least amount of access to Aboriginal services. There are currently 2,185 Aboriginal peoples living in this area of the City. This area falls west of another strong concentration of Aboriginal peoples, 3,435 in York, Parkdale, High Park, Lawrence, Eglinton and Davenport, who have little access to services. It is important to note that this data was gathered from the 2006 Census and most likely has grown in numbers since the initial collection was done, as the number of Aboriginal peoples from each census year is expected to grow. Also it is important to keep in the mind the challenges mentioned at the beginning of the section in regards to collecting Aboriginal data. Something else to consider is the distance covered by this population of Aboriginal peoples in the area. A very large geographical space is covered, and so again, one must consider that transportation is vital to any programs created in these communities. Such mapping and data reinforces that there is no one Aboriginal neighborhood in the City.

Other areas of the City like Toronto Centre, The Beach, East York, Toronto Danforth and Scarborough have large proportions of Aboriginal peoples living in the neighborhoods, but also have a number of different services available to Aboriginal peoples through various Aboriginal service providers mentioned previously.

Section Two

Community Consultations



Methods Used

A series of discussions were held with various members of the Aboriginal community of Toronto to gain a broader understanding of the needs and desires of the urban Aboriginal population in the development of a framework for a Little Voices Child and Family Centre.

A variety of people from the Aboriginal community took place in the discussions, which were done in group settings and on an individual basis. Questions were designed based on the ORID (objective, reflective, interpretive, and decisional) method, so that the most relevant information was shared at all times, and the participants had an opportunity to talk about their experiences with children and families

For example, by asking a front line worker, such as Early Childhood Educator to, “Discuss a child/family you are working with right now”, we learned objective information about the type of families accessing the services being provided.

In asking, “What are the challenges facing this family in accessing services?” we are asking them to reflect on what they see and how it affects the family, what works and what doesn’t work and their ability to provide services.

We then ask, “What does this Family need to be successful, what is your vision?” which allows them to then interpret the family’s needs and build a plan of action for them.

The final question asked them to make a decision, like “What changes would you make to ensure that the family is being served?”

This information was used to design the vision and principles of the early year’s model.

Elder’s Discussions

What did we learn?

- All programs for Aboriginal children and families must be based on the kinship system as it is of the utmost importance to understanding roles and responsibilities of communities.
- Programs must be inclusive of all people in the community, there can be no focus on one area of life, such as 0-12 years. We do not stop at 12 years old.
- Traditional teachings and ceremonies must be at the centre of everything, but must be adapted to suit new generations. Change is alright, it is the only way to ensure that teachings pass from one place to the next.
- The importance of connecting to Aboriginal rites of passage in urban centres is very important, as it translates into real examples of Aboriginal worldview, language and culture, ceremonies and legends. For example how do we pass on the importance of the first kill in an urban model? Understanding Clans as integrated teachings encourages understanding of roles and responsibilities, community governance and acceptance. These teachings can be passed into everyday life.
- Tolerance, acceptance and understanding of all nations are extremely important, knowledge is meant to be passed on. We must teach to other nations, as our communities are so mixed right now, there are children that come from many nations, and it is important for them to understand all sides of who they are and feel proud. They must have space to do this.

- Any space that we create must reflect the diversity of the urban centre and the community within it. Spaces that honor all nations will help to create communities that understand varied and integrated teachings.

Parents, Families and Caregivers

What did we learn?

- It is important to understand all families are different, we are all re-learning our path as Aboriginal peoples. Often we depend on agencies in our communities to help with this.
- Every nation should feel welcome when they come into the doors of a Child and Family Centre.
- There is a desire to have a place to gather that accepts families where they are, and integrates them, rather than separates them according to their level of economic status or emotional and mental well being.
- We need something that is not only focused on social service models and support services but the celebration of excellence as well, in all areas that we want to achieve. This will push Aboriginal peoples forward, as it is time to move away from what is seen as a legacy of dysfunction and retribution in our community.
- Always look at the Medicine Wheel as a way of working with the community, it always works. Any service must consider the four elements of the wheel.
- Services should reflect the needs of the community within it. It is important to have visible Aboriginal people (where possible) working in the programs; it creates mentors and role models where they are most needed. If Aboriginal people cannot be hired, make sure that the people working in the job understand the community.
- Families want a variety of services to access in one place, like a modern day “lodge”, where everything is happening for the entire community. We do not separate into age groups. There is an increased need for support workers in high priority areas, like Scarborough as clients do not always feel as though their immediate needs are being met. This could be because the workers case loads are too high; there is too much staff turnover due to funding. In the case of funding being an ongoing issue, it can become hard for families and communities to build trust when the staff changes frequently.

Front Line Workers, Supervisors and Managers

What did we learn?

It is very important to remember that the lifespan runs from birth to the western doorway (death) and not just from birth to 12 years old.

- The Aboriginal community has always been holistic in nature and it has been natural to integrate services for the community. We see this historically in our “lodges”, which are now being referred to as “hubs” in the mainstream model.
- Community member’s basic safety needs should always be met, so looking at what is in each community is important, things like dental screening, vision, hearing and rapid diabetes testing should not only be available to children, but should be available to all levels of the community.
- Fair, equitable access to services is of the utmost importance, children and families should feel welcome no matter where they come from, should be accepted as who they are and should be able to get what they need from their community.

- Sharing resources, like childcare and food, parenting, are traditional ways of life. It is not right when some have so much and some have so little. Teaching children these concepts will allow them to understand their place; we can do this through programs we provide in the community.
- Importance of youth teaching youth and children is being lost, we need to revitalize this, but policies make it hard at times.
- Child and Family Centres are an excellent way to bring in multidisciplinary teams to service the community. Protection was always a way of life for us, it happened in the lodges. We need to remove the stigma from it.

Internal Native Child and Family Working Group

What did we learn?

- It is vital that childcare is at the centre of everything that is created. This brings us to a traditional place, where children were always present.
- We must not provide services based on age groupings, the concept of 0-12 only is foreign to us as Aboriginal peoples. There are things that every person must do at different stages in their life, but we do not segregate the different generations from each other.
- Kinship is so important when you are working to heal a community or family, often this model becomes the “family”. Attachment can happen in so many ways, having this present is vital.
- We have to start to look at protection as part of the lodge approach we are striving for. We were always protected in the lodge, and this should not change.
- It would be helpful to connect with outside sources of support, introduce the world to what we do and why we are good at it.
- Everything that we need to build a framework for families and the overall Aboriginal community already exists in the current environment; we are already doing so much of what the mainstream is trying to do.

Section Three

Little Voices Child and Family Centre
Model Best Suited to the Community



Service Delivery Model for a Little Voices Child and Family Centre

Integrated and Holistic

In the report, “With Our Best Future in Mind, Implementing Early Learning in Ontario”, it is stated that, “By merging program functions under a single administration, Best Start Child and Family Centres will be able to offer a one stop opportunity for parents and caregivers to support children’s earliest development.” It is apparent that the most effective model suited to the community is one that is integrated and holistic in nature. This is what the Aboriginal community has done for generations, and can be seen through the use of lodges and gathering places. NCFST has already achieved an integrated approach to working with families through the many programs and services they provide. The community that is served by NCFST programming often achieves success because of the level of integration that the Agency has been able to accomplish.

At the heart of all service delivery within NCFST is culture. This model is multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and addresses all aspects of community well-being and safety involving the complete life span. It includes spiritual, cultural, psychosocial, treatment and healing, recreation, and economic development. This approach focuses on community capacity building in visioning, developing, planning and implementation of programs. It targets the community at a grass roots level through the design of community councils, which serves to identify needs and guide program development.

This is realized in day-to-day services, interactions and ways of dealing with clients. Cultural activities are held in different places in the community, and include sweat lodge ceremonies, monthly full moon ceremonies, naming ceremonies, rites of passage and various ceremonies for death and dying. There is a well established visiting Elders Program, an Ojibwa language program and mentorship for youth to learn traditional ways. In addition to this, there is also women’s hand drumming for community women and girls, and men and boy’s big drum program, and traditional dance troupe.

The Scarborough Model

Integration such as discussed in Pascal’s report, can be seen in the development of the satellite office of NCFST in Scarborough. The Scarborough Initiative is relatively new, established only in 2005. A medicine wheel approach to community functioning and well-being has been the vision guiding service delivery.

Another example of successful service integration can be seen in the development of the new multiservice Child and Family Centre being built in the Scarborough location. This site, which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2011, will house programming for youth, families, children and elders, as well as a licensed child care component which will serve 10 infants, 10 toddlers, 16 pre-school and 20 jk/sk, with the option of providing full day learning (KG). The Ontario Early Years Centre will operate programs for parents and children, while the School age care will be offered through the City of Toronto’s ARC model in a partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation. This model will offer a holistic, comprehensive menu of programs for children and families in the Scarborough area.

The NCFST model has proven to be successful in providing programming for children and families in an integrated fashion. This history of success would most certainly benefit the development of an Aboriginal Child and Family and Centre in the City. In fact this concept for the development of the new program in Scarborough was brought forward well before the Province of Ontario commissioned the report on the Early Years Framework in Ontario from Dr. Pascal. It is from this experience that the following components of service delivery are taken.

It is important to note that each Aboriginal community has its specific needs with promising practices for addressing them. What follows however, is a framework that has broad application across Toronto and indeed across the Province.

LITTLE VOICES CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE SERVICE MODEL

Components

Child Care

- The foundation of the service delivery model will be a child care centre which will have a licensed child care component for ten (10) infants, ten (10) toddlers, sixteen (16) pre-school aged, head start and twenty (20) jk/sk, with the option of providing full day learning (KG). Child care centers are the place to bring families together and not only provide services to children but to whole families. This follows the traditional cultural way of being and interaction. The belief that “it takes a community to raise a child” is embedded in a multi-service centre that enhances and strengthens family relationships and involves all ages and stages of human development. The community will utilize this centre as a gathering place for many stages of learning and development.

After School Programming will run on a daily basis for children aged 6-12, and may host up to twenty (20) children at a time. The Day Care Supervisor will oversee this program, and would be staffed through a variety of available funding envelopes.

Cultural Programs and Programming

- The Little Voices Child and Family Centre will be rooted in Aboriginal language, culture and worldview. The Building itself is designed to incorporate elements of the Aboriginal culture in that it is built to resemble the traditional long house. The playgrounds have Native plants and gardens in a beautiful naturalized environment.

Culture is realized in day-to-day services, interaction and ways of dealing with the children attending the centre and their families. Cultural activities will include weekly Culture nights including ceremonies, teachings and specific programming to enhance pride in Native heritage and ancestry. There will be a strong visiting Elders Program to learn traditional ways, language and values. In addition the Centre will host bi-weekly women’s hand drumming for community women and girls, men and boy’s big drum program and dance troupes.

Early Years Programming

- An Early Years Program will be available to mothers and children 0-6 years to learn about positive interaction, reading readiness, budgeting, cooking etc. Through this program, relationships will be strengthened between mothers and their children, among group participants and with workers.

Youth Programming

- Due to the very high incidence of gang involvement, high rates of crime, dropout rates and addiction problems among Aboriginal youth, numerous programs have focused on targeting this age group. Through the establishment of such things as Youth Councils, programs can be designed based on need and interest. Success has occurred in the past with things such as strong youth mentorship and leadership Programs, which were established to recruit, hire and train local Youth to develop leadership, employment and programming skills. Upon completion of these programs, they can work in after school programs, and various other recreational type programs. Many of these Youth work in NCFST Summer Camp Program

Youth Programs can include weekly youth groups, a young warriors group, camping trips, social outings and various recreation programs. A Youth Drop-In will host activities with two targeted age groups, 12-15 and 16-24. Youth Staff assist with programming in particular camping, youth recreational activities and youth justice.

Native Learning Centre

- Over the last ten years the dropout rate of Youth has been astounding and in response to this a Native Learning Centre will be established for students between the ages of 14-20 who have a history of attendance problems, have been formally assessed or IPRCED, and or deemed behavioral, LD., MID. ADHD or have other exceptionalities.

Adult Educational Opportunities

- The opportunity for the entire community to learn together is a valuable one, as it creates natural situations for mentorship and Kinship. Having adult educational opportunities on site at a Little Voices Child and Family Centre, where there is also child care creates ideal environments for parents to learn, free from the stresses of worrying about their children's care.
- An example of such opportunity is in the Scarborough Satellite location of NCFST:
 - In September of 2011 ten individuals will have an opportunity to take a two semester Community Services Foundation Program through the sponsorship of Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Training and Employment. The program will be offered both onsite and at Centennial College. Teachers will be hired by the college and NCFST will employ a Student Success Worker.
 - There is an active G.E.D. Program for community members and a host of employment driven initiatives through Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Training and Employment, Investing in Neighborhoods and Centennial's Child and Youth Apprenticeship Program

Case Management

- Three workers, including a Student Success worker will provide case Management. This is to ensure individuals and families who are struggling receive supportive counseling, parenting skills, advocacy, referrals and mediation. Specialized workers from our downtown location will provide services in children's mental health, drug and alcohol addiction and more in depth counseling.

There will be three workers with a case management function on site including the Case Manger from Family Well Being, The Student Success Worker and the Family and Community Outreach Worker (Head Start). These individuals will report to the Supervisor of the Centre on a day-to-day basis but report clinically to the Supervisor of Family Well-Being who will attend the Centre one day per week.

It is intended that relationships will be set up to support families in need of speech and language services, vision, dental and hearing screening. Relationships which currently exist through programs such as Aboriginal Head Start with various support services in the City can be further enhanced to support clients that may not have had access in the past.

Governance Structure

- Community councils would be present, made up parents, youth, elders and mentors, to guide the programs and services of the Little Voices Child and Family Centre. These councils will inform planning and policy and would be an active part of the design of the centre.

Section Four

Vision and Outcomes of a Little Voices Child and Family Centre



Vision, Principles and Outcomes of a Little Voices Child and Family Centre

The vision and principles for a Little Voices Child and Family Centre were taken from the consultation discussions with the Elders, community, and current research and NCFST models which already exist.

Medicine wheels were used to communicate the outcomes achieved once the vision is implemented. This is intended to be co-generative in nature, with the City of Toronto Children Services Child and Family Centre outcomes, “braided” together with Aboriginal worldview. This concept came from the discussions with internal NCFST staff when looking at how best to communicate the work that they wanted to do and what they wanted to achieve in that work.

The Service Delivery Model is the mechanism for which the vision and outcomes will be reached. When the model is fully implemented, working through the vision and principles, the outcomes will naturally be achieved. Measuring the outcomes and looking back to the vision, principles and service delivery model, to ensure that the community is receiving the best possible experiences is an important part of this work, always ensuring that there is accountability. Staff will be able to also measure their experiences based on the vision and principles of the centre, allowing them to evolve with the community needs.

Principles

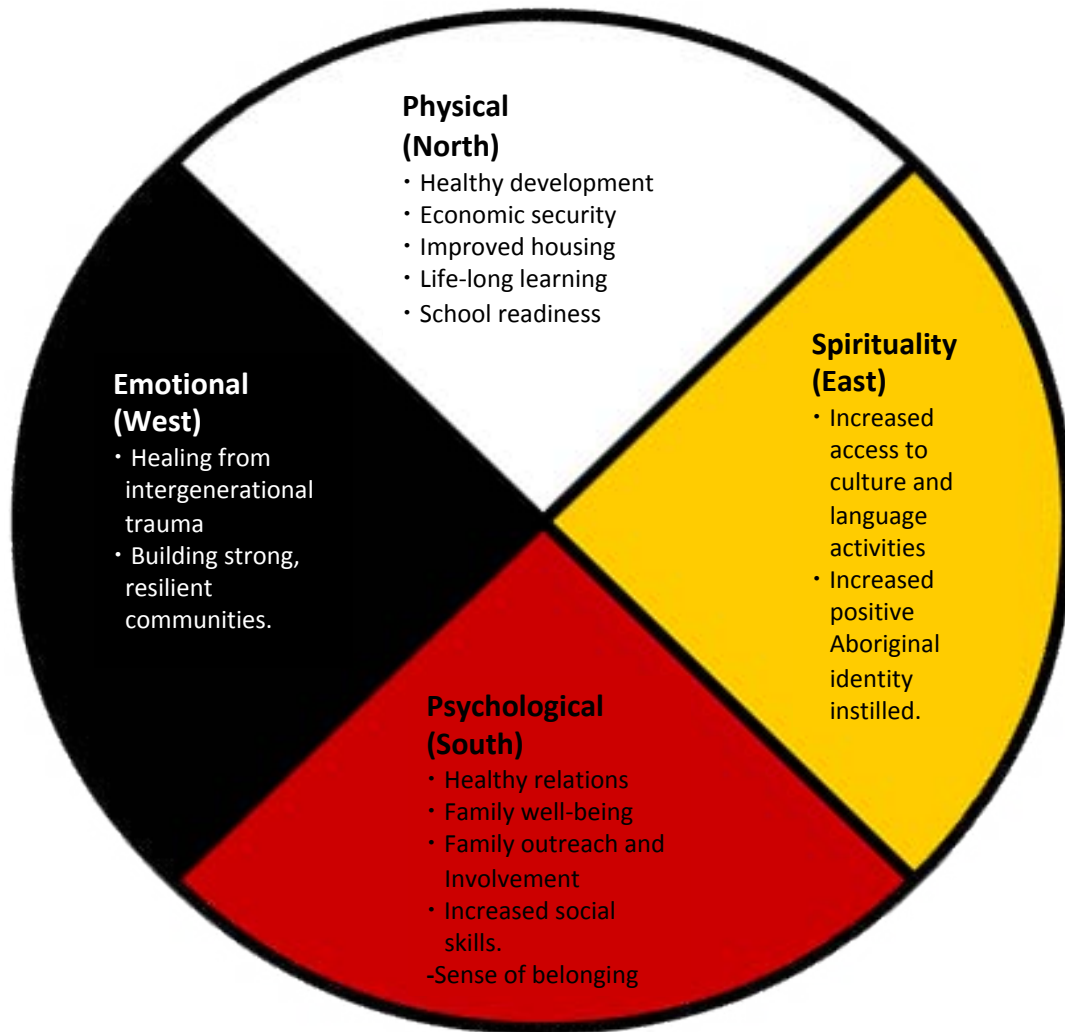
- Children and families are at the centre of all circles;
- There is self-determination and capacity for the community;
- Programs and services will be rooted in Aboriginal worldviews, culture and language;
- Work is done from a holistic and strengths based approach;
- Programs and services are culturally safe, integrated & equitable;
- Relationships are collaborative and respectful;
- Shared accountability is present in everything.

Vision

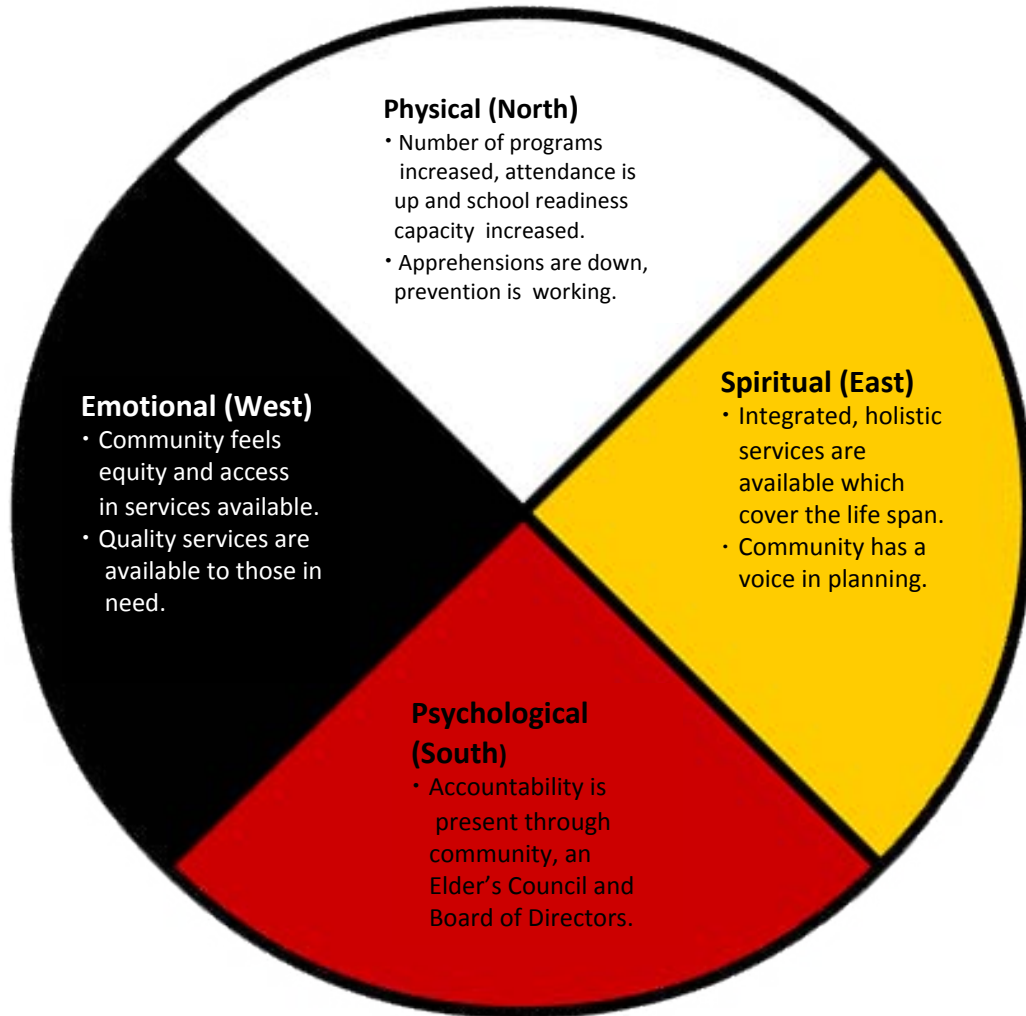
Our vision flows from the central vision statement by NCFST.

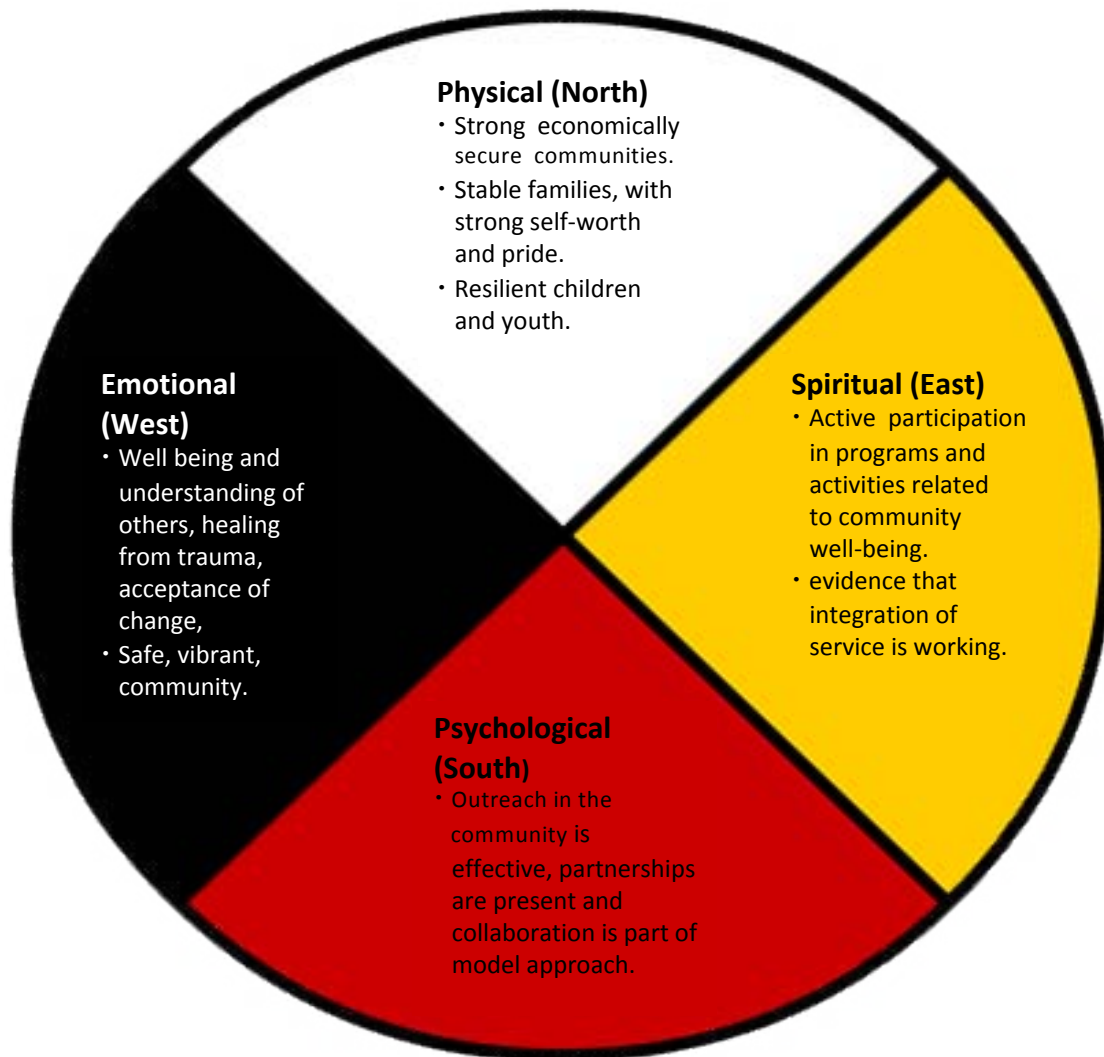
“Native Child and Family Services of Toronto strive to provide for a life of quality, well being, caring and healing for our children and families in the Toronto Native Community. It does this by creating a services model that is culture-based, respecting the values of Native peoples, the extended family, and the right to self-determination.”

The Little Voices Child and Family Centre will create a tangible expression of this vision and will be a cornerstone of our early years work, work that we see as critical in launching our next generation in a good way.



In taking the outcomes and placing them on medicine wheels, we ensure that all four elements are being considered when designing programs and services, which will allow for healthy functioning communities to grow around us. The outcomes fall into three areas; Community Outcomes, Child and Family Outcomes, and Service Outcomes.





Section Five

Challenges and Recommendations And Next Steps



Background

For many Aboriginal families, places such as Aboriginal schools, child cares and community centres are integral to the development of their identities as Aboriginal peoples living in urban settings. These places offer a variety of cultural teachings, ceremonies, language classes and access to important resources which are provided to families. It can be difficult to find cultural opportunities in cities for many Aboriginal peoples, as issues such as transportation costs, distance to travel, childcare, and many other things come into play for a family. This is why places such as Child and Family Centres are so important to the community.

It is in these classrooms that parents will often receive supports and community links specific to their families' needs, while also having the comfort of their children being immersed in Aboriginal worldview and pedagogy. We know that Aboriginal children will attach to language, worldview and culture once they are exposed to it. They learn that they are part of a larger network, which is exemplified in the daily routines of such a place as an Aboriginal childcare centre. They will see such things as clan systems, kinship models and teachings related to many other Aboriginal nations. In these settings they become part of a "community" and begin to understand themselves as Aboriginal children. We have learned through experience and discussions with elders, community members and children themselves that this is the key to building healthy and vibrant communities of Aboriginal peoples.

While there is a need for such centres in the community, there are challenges faced by the community in accessing the services.

Statements of Challenge

1. Dependence on Subsidy System

A large component of Aboriginal families, who require Aboriginal specific child care spaces, will depend on the municipal subsidy system for support. Costs related to child care can be difficult for any family, often rising into the thousands if there are multiple children that require care. These challenges are felt by the Aboriginal community especially, as the majority of these families are being led by single parent households, who are dependent on such things as the subsidy system to attend training and employment opportunities, as well as much needed programming relevant to their well being as parents.

2. Subsidy Wait List

Within the current municipal system, there is no opportunity to identify Aboriginal families on the subsidy waiting list. Without knowing where these families are in the system, it becomes impossible to ensure that Aboriginal children will be placed in Aboriginal child care centres when spaces become available. There are currently 17,000 children on the wait list for child care subsidy in the City. The current system is set up so that when spaces become available in child care centres, priority goes to the next family on the list. While this process ensures a fair equitable opportunity to each family on the list, it does nothing to allow for Aboriginal families to access spaces intended for their children. To have the system work such that Native kids are excluded with non-Native kids given preference, is something nobody wants. Once the spaces open for the community to access, they will go to families in that community waiting on the list for childcare subsidy. Given that this is a priority neighborhood in the city and the need for subsidy is quite high, these in demand spaces will most certainly be accessed. There is no policy in place at this time that gives priority to Aboriginal families in accessing these specific childcare spaces so there is no guarantee that the families accessing them

are of Aboriginal decent. The purpose of providing Aboriginal specific childcare spaces to the community is then defeated by the system not allowing them to identify or giving priority to families requiring the Aboriginal spaces.

3. Requirements for Approval of Subsidy

In order to access child care subsidy in the current system, parents must be either employed or attending a training opportunity at least 25 hours per week. This poses a major challenge for families wanting to access childcare spaces, as many of them do not meet the requirements for subsidy. Many of these families have multiple children that would require placement in the system, prior to them accessing any opportunities for training or employment. With the system being overloaded with 17,000 families on the subsidy list, many of our parents are discouraged by the system before they even reach it. There is a fear of dealing with large institutional approaches, such as the Cities Children Services system, so many will avoid this all together. This does not mean however that they do not require the services a parent can access at a childcare centre, or that their children require the early learning opportunities any less. They in fact often need these opportunities as a way of healing as a family. A large youth population with high rates of teen pregnancy, low employment rates and educational attainment, are seeking programs and opportunities which can connect them to their community, while also connecting them to their culture. Accessing child care is often the key to building a healthy vibrant life for them and their family.

4. Need for Therapeutic Spaces

We believe that many of our families require priority spaces in NCFST Little Voices Child and Family Centres, which would allow them to access the spaces, based on needs related to mental health, child welfare, special needs, therapeutic requirements, etc. For many of these families, accessing early learning opportunities for their children can mean the difference between apprehension and prevention. While parents are attending programming to build their self esteem and identity as providers for their children, it is vital they have accessible care for their children. In other cases, children simply will require the extra opportunities provided in these childcares, simply because their care giver is not able to provide them with what they need at the time.

5. Transportation

The Aboriginal community in the GTA is spread across 140 neighborhoods, with Aboriginal families living in each area of the City. More than often, families will not access services that are greatly needed, because of the distance that they must travel. Cost of travel is also an issue, as many of the families are living on limited incomes, and have multiple children that they must travel with. Programs such as Aboriginal Head Start and Aboriginal Child Care are much needed programs that require transportation components to be truly successful in terms of Aboriginal community access. While there is transportation to access certain support programs within NCFST model, it is extremely challenging to support the financial costs related to running this much needed program support.

6. Inability to Integrate Services

The new Child and Family system being proposed in the Province of Ontario assumes that all services will integrate and build an effective model for communities to access. There is a plan to combine resources wherever possible, collaborate and work as teams in the community to build services for children and families, eliminating duplication, while also saving on costs. One issue is our inability to integrate Head Start with any other Early Years Programs that we provide. To be able to leverage

staff and resources is not only cost effective, but enables our holistic preventative and culture based approach to thrive. We do not wish to replicate the expensive service “silos” that exist within the current system.

7. Loss of Aboriginal Specific Childcare Spaces

In the winter of 2010, Awashishuck Daycare in Toronto was closed, and forty-four (44) spaces allocated for Aboriginal children were no longer available for use by the community. These are much needed spaces, and were providing services to families living in the north-western part of the City. There is concern that the spaces be held for use by the Aboriginal community of Toronto, rather than be absorbed into the main stream system. There is also a major gap in the area of the City that was being serviced by Awashishuk Childcare.

8. Need for Little Voices Child and Family Centres in Toronto

Upon examining the neighborhood data of Aboriginal peoples for the City of Toronto, and also understanding the need that exists across the City for Aboriginal specific programming, it becomes imperative that more services are made available to the community. As mentioned throughout this document, the Aboriginal community is facing challenges in areas of education, economic and health status, family and child development, and youth issues. When programming is made available to a community in need, it will have very real and positive benefits. This can be seen in the community of Kingston Road and Galloway Road, where the NCFST Scarborough satellite location currently exists. Since the development of services in that area, there has been a definite change in the dynamic of the community, with more community members achieving and maintaining healthy lifestyles. We think that duplication of this is possible throughout the City with similar and positive results.

Recommendations

The following recommendations address the statements of challenge:

1. That the City of Toronto develop a specific question related to Aboriginal families, which would assist in identifying them in the system. This would ensure that efficient data is available as to the number of families in the system that requires these services.
2. That the City of Toronto give priority for Aboriginal families in the subsidy system to allow for access to culturally specific Aboriginal childcare spaces.
3. That the City of Toronto allow for an agreed upon number of priority “therapeutic” spaces for Aboriginal families in NCFST childcares, to support the development of healthy families within the Aboriginal community in Toronto.
4. That the City of Toronto builds the cost of transportation supports into the development of programs related to Aboriginal children and families, such as Little Voices Child and Family Centres and Childcares.
5. That the City of Toronto enter into discussions with the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government (Health Canada) to look at building a demonstration site where the relationship can be nurtured to include “successful practices” in sharing the resources, relationships between Aboriginal Head Start, Provincial Children and Youth Services and the Cities Children Services.
6. That Toronto Children’s Services re-establish the forty-four (44) childcare spaces currently being held, from the closure of Awashishuck Daycare in Toronto.
7. That the City of Toronto begin to examine the development of Little Voices Child and Family Centres across Toronto, in neighborhoods where there is a high concentration of Aboriginal peoples, with little access to services, such as: Etobicoke, York, High Park, Parkdale, Lawrence, Eglinton and Davenport. Existing NCFST programs can be enhanced to provide services, such as Kiiwednong Aboriginal Head Start and Child Care at Keele Street and Wilson Avenue. Partnerships can also be developed to enhance existing services to create the Centres.

Next Steps

Upon review of the Little Voices Child and Family Centre Framework, and recommendations that have been made, NCFST feels it is important that the partnership to develop Little Voices Child and Family Centre Framework with the City of Toronto be continued.

The following options are possible:

1. It is recognized that innovative opportunities for the design and development of programs for Aboriginal children and families exist in NCFST programs and services. It is suggested that the new NCFST Little Voices Child and Family Centre in Scarborough initiative be considered a best practice site and be supported as such by all stakeholders.

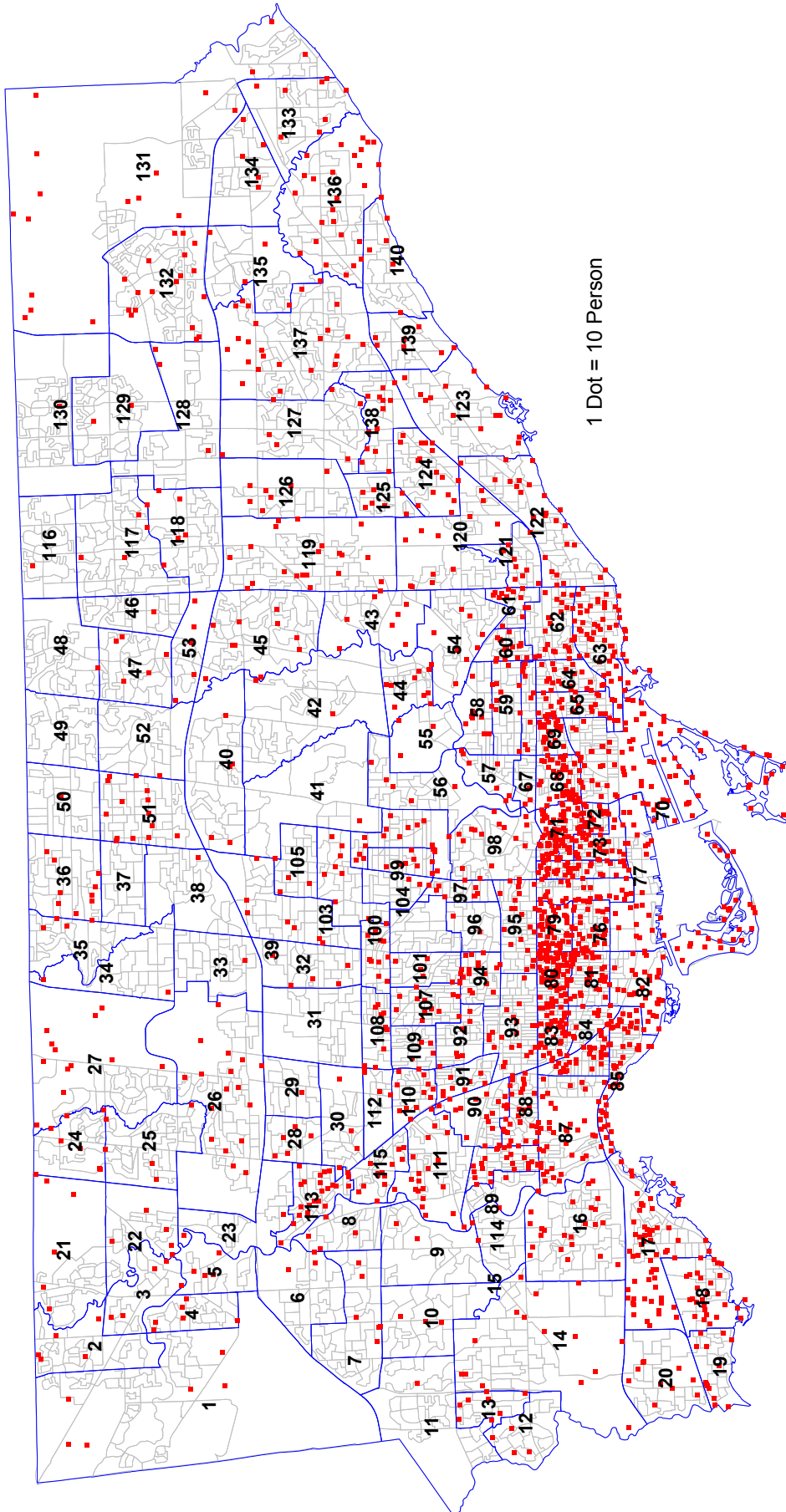
NCFST and the City of Toronto can together determine the relationship and outcomes to be achieved. Relationships would be developed with such initiatives as the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation (Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative) and the Atkinson Foundation to determine the impact on the good and welfare of the children and families involved. Research relationships would be set up with post secondary institutions to assist in the data collection. Such research and data can be used to inform the development of centres across the Province.

2. That the City of Toronto and its partners examine the need in the priority areas based on what is already known. A focus should be placed on the following:
 - The potential to place a Little Voices Child and Family Centre in the dedicated Toronto District School board school site of 90 Croatia Street in the west end of the City.
 - A feasibility study to look at expanding and renovating Kiiwednong Aboriginal Head Start and Childcare at Keele Street and Wilson Avenue, into a full service Little Voices Child and Family Centre.
 - Determine a more suitable location for Gizhaadaawgamik Childcare in the downtown core, which will serve the Aboriginal community, and provide childcare spaces for Aboriginal infants, toddlers and pre-school children.

Appendices



**PERSONS OF ABORIGINAL IDENTITY
CITY OF TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOODS, 2006**



PERSONS OF ABORIGINAL IDENTITY TYPE BY NEIGHBOURHOOD, 2006								
NEIGHBOURHOOD NUMBER	NEIGHBOURHOOD NAME	TOTAL POPULATION	ABORIGINALS	NA INDIAN	METIS	INUIT	MULTIPLE	REGISTER
1	West Humber-Clairville	31390	65	40	20	0	0	10
2	Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown	32105	50	35	0	0	0	10
3	Thistletown-Beaumont Heights	9755	50	30	20	10	0	10
4	Rexdale-Kipling	10445	65	10	40	0	0	15
5	Elms-Old Rexdale	9440	45	10	35	0	0	15
6	Kingsview Village-The Westway	21395	35	30	10	0	0	0
7	Willowridge-Martingrove-Richview	20900	65	55	0	10	0	35
8	Humber Heights-Westmount	10065	55	40	0	0	0	30
9	Edenbridge-Humber Valley	14450	30	25	10	0	0	0
10	Princess-Rosethorn	14635	35	35	0	10	0	0
11	Eringate-Centennial-West Deane	18485	25	35	10	0	0	20
12	Markland Wood	16140	45	30	10	0	0	20
13	Etobicoke West Mall	10295	70	20	45	0	0	0
14	Islington-City Centre West	38300	155	100	60	0	0	20
15	Kingsway South	8675	10	0	10	0	0	0
16	Stonegate-Queensway	41610	245	135	80	10	0	85
17	Mimico	55765	605	365	180	0	0	150
18	New Toronto	26790	305	160	125	0	0	115
19	Long Branch	9610	130	70	50	0	0	20
20	Alderwood	16025	100	45	45	0	0	40
21	Humber Summit	12755	65	35	20	0	0	40
22	Humbermede	14765	50	45	10	0	0	30
23	Pelmo Park-Humberlea	8720	20	0	20	0	0	20
24	Black Creek	21565	90	50	30	0	0	40
25	Glenfield-Jane Heights	30720	35	15	15	0	0	10
26	Downsview-Roding-CFB	31960	170	70	65	0	10	30
27	York University Heights	25975	125	55	80	0	10	20
28	Rustic	9860	50	30	15	0	0	30
29	Maple Leaf	10175	10	10	10	0	0	15
30	Brookhaven-Amesbury	17310	50	20	25	0	0	25
31	Yorkdale-Glen Park	14430	0	10	0	0	0	0
32	Englemount-Lawrence	20510	60	15	35	0	0	10
33	Clanton Park	13690	15	10	0	0	10	15
34	Bathurst Manor	14610	20	20	0	0	0	10
35	Westminster-Branson	24410	45	20	10	0	0	35
36	Newtonbrook West	20305	95	75	20	0	0	25
37	Willowdale West	12480	15	15	0	0	0	10
38	Lansing-Westgate	14440	15	0	10	0	0	10
39	Bedford Park-Nortown	21875	75	30	35	0	0	25
40	St.Andrew-Windfields	17540	55	30	25	0	0	10
41	Bridle Path-Sunnybrook-York Mills	7660	10	10	0	0	0	0
42	Banbury-Don Mills	25025	25	20	20	0	0	20
43	Victoria Village	16725	85	75	10	0	0	25
44	Flemingdon Park	21285	90	35	35	0	0	30
45	Parkwoods-Donalda	33735	115	60	35	0	0	40
46	Pleasant View	16610	10	0	10	0	10	0
47	Don Valley Village	26400	55	30	10	0	0	15
48	Hillcrest Village	18345	10	0	0	0	0	0
49	Bayview Woods-Steeles	13040	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Newtonbrook East	15150	10	10	10	0	0	20
51	Willowdale East	43110	145	50	80	0	10	35
52	Bayview Village	15360	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	Henry Farm	11285	50	30	10	0	0	0
54	O'Connor-Parkview	17745	85	70	10	0	0	35
55	Thornclyffe Park	17750	40	10	30	0	0	10

56	Leaside-Bennington	15950	65	60	10	0	0	10
57	Broadview North	11370	60	30	25	0	10	15
58	Old East York	9015	100	80	20	0	0	30
59	Danforth Village - East York	16460	115	80	25	0	10	70
60	Woodbine-Lumsden	8035	135	90	25	15	0	85
61	Crescent Town	14985	125	85	25	0	10	55
62	East End-Danforth	22135	275	175	60	10	10	95
63	The Beaches	38580	480	320	130	10	10	165
64	Woodbine Corridor	14280	215	170	35	0	0	115
65	Greenwood-Coxwell	14665	270	195	45	0	20	115
66	Danforth Village - Toronto	11385	90	20	50	0	0	50
67	Playter Estates-Danforth	7545	30	30	0	0	0	20
68	North Riverdale	21265	460	340	90	0	25	200
69	Blake-Jones	18400	235	165	75	0	0	110
70	South Riverdale	40350	830	565	245	0	10	390
71	Cabbagetown-South St. James Town	18760	525	395	90	10	0	195
72	Regent Park	16655	180	160	10	0	0	100
73	Moss Park	15125	280	225	30	0	0	110
74	North St. James Town	21010	310	235	70	10	0	195
75	Church-Yonge Corridor	30335	425	315	90	10	0	220
76	Bay Street Corridor	24900	235	155	85	0	0	125
77	Waterfront Communities-The Island	52740	515	310	190	0	0	170
78	Kensington-Chinatown	27875	315	255	55	0	0	165
79	University	14480	530	505	35	0	0	205
80	Palmerston-Little Italy	25705	820	655	105	10	10	365
81	Trinity-Bellwoods	26585	365	235	75	0	0	155
82	Niagara	17180	320	225	75	0	0	110
83	Dufferin Grove	17730	445	295	140	0	0	200
84	Little Portugal	22755	95	75	30	0	0	50
85	South Parkdale	32175	480	365	115	10	0	180
86	Roncesvalles	22560	370	300	75	0	0	90
87	High Park-Swansea	25955	350	280	60	0	0	165
88	High Park North	31715	280	175	60	30	0	130
89	Runnymede-Bloor West Village	13760	290	265	35	0	0	205
90	Junction Area	28290	195	135	45	0	0	80
91	Weston-Pellam Park	12095	95	30	0	50	0	30
92	Corso Italia-Davenport	14330	60	30	35	0	0	15
93	Dovercourt-Wallace Emerson-Junctio	34610	210	125	65	0	0	70
94	Wychwood	13420	150	125	10	10	0	70
95	Annex	26440	235	160	35	10	0	150
96	Casa Loma	9785	25	15	0	0	0	10
97	Yonge-St.Clair	19985	85	55	20	10	0	30
98	Rosedale-Moore Park	30305	150	55	60	0	20	50
99	Mount Pleasant East	15210	150	105	35	0	0	40
100	Yonge-Eglinton	10490	35	30	0	0	0	10
101	Forest Hill South	15345	15	25	0	0	0	10
102	Forest Hill North	24070	135	70	65	0	0	0
103	Lawrence Park South	14820	75	30	10	0	10	10
104	Mount Pleasant West	15000	110	50	60	0	0	45
105	Lawrence Park North	13685	35	20	10	0	0	15
106	Humewood-Cedarvale	13855	60	45	20	0	10	20
107	Oakwood-Vaughan	21430	150	120	10	0	0	115
108	Briar Hill-Belgravia	14200	85	50	10	0	0	65
109	Caledonia-Fairbank	10255	40	40	0	0	0	25
110	Keelesdale-Eglinton West	11205	120	110	0	15	0	50
111	Rockcliffe-Smythe	22385	215	165	10	0	20	140
112	Beechborough-Greenbrook	6290	45	35	10	0	0	20
113	Weston	16245	230	215	10	0	0	110
114	Lambton Baby Point	7780	35	0	35	0	0	0
115	Mount Dennis	12625	125	110	20	0	0	75

116	Steeles	24450	10	10	0	0	0	20
117	L'Amoreaux	45825	65	30	20	0	0	25
118	Tam O'Shanter-Sullivan	26825	45	45	10	0	0	0
119	Wexford/Maryvale	26430	190	110	55	0	15	50
120	Clairlea-Birchmount	19555	125	105	20	0	0	35
121	Oakridge	13360	95	45	35	0	0	20
122	Birchcliffe-Cliffside	21320	230	175	45	0	0	95
123	Cliffcrest	14500	145	95	50	0	0	50
124	Kennedy Park	16925	160	125	25	0	0	25
125	Ionview	13010	95	95	10	0	0	30
126	Dorset Park	23740	70	60	30	0	0	10
127	Bendale	24815	85	55	10	0	10	10
128	Agincourt South-Malvern West	21475	20	10	20	0	0	10
129	Agincourt North	19950	30	30	0	0	0	15
130	Milliken	26145	10	10	0	0	0	0
131	Rouge	42815	180	110	50	0	0	60
132	Malvern	44285	195	165	35	0	0	105
133	Centennial Scarborough	12325	80	50	40	0	0	30
134	Highland Creek	12835	50	45	0	0	0	30
135	Morningside	16935	40	35	10	0	0	20
136	West Hill	25340	265	225	25	0	0	105
137	Woburn	40710	245	190	65	10	0	70
138	Eglinton East	22195	110	70	45	0	0	10
139	Scarborough Village	15460	75	55	10	0	0	35
140	Guildwood	9770	50	35	15	0	0	30

Consultation Information

- External Aboriginal Child and Family Centre Committee
February and June 2011 Meetings
- Internal Native Child and Family Centre Committee
March and April 2011 Meetings
- NCFST Elder's Council Discussion
February 2011
- Scarborough Consultations
March 2011
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
March 2011
- Shaawanong Aboriginal Head Start
April 2011
- Epnigishmok, Aboriginal Head Start
April 2011
- Kiiwednong Aboriginal Head Start and Child Care
May 2011
- Toronto Aboriginal Care Team
May 2011

Conversations were also held with various community members from academic backgrounds, Aboriginal and non Aboriginal agencies, students, mothers, grandmothers and youth. These conversations were held in a non formal fashion and were done in response to the need for a more personal and individual approach to questions related to NCFST.

The following survey was also distributed to the community, but the response was not positive. This questionnaire was based on the one being used by the Province in its consultation process.

We Need Your Input

To respond to the questions below, please think about an Aboriginal child and family with whom you are personally connected as a parent or caregiver, extended family member or friend, expert, service provider or other professional. The child should be:

- one month to 12 years old (please indicate the age)
- in your opinion, is in need of support or receiving support for developmental, health, physical, learning and/or other reasons

Examples of supports for children and families:

Basic health and safety

- home-visiting
- pre- and post-natal support
- family planning
- nutrition
- health and dental care
- mental health services

Nurturing relationships/community involvement

- parent/child attachment and bonding
- parent participation
- information resources
- links to community agencies

Early intervention services

- special needs support for children

Universal opportunities for healthy child development

- parent support
- play-based learning
- child care
- language & literacy
- early identification
- physical activity and recreation

Please record your answers to the questions in the sections below.

1. I am a:

- parent or caregiver
- extended family member or friend
- clinician/service provider (e.g. nurse, social worker)
- program administrator
- expert/researcher
- teacher
- Early Childhood Educator
- system administrator (e.g. municipal, school board)

other:

2. Please indicate the child's age:

3. Describe why you think the child needs support or why she or he is receiving support.

4. What kind of support is she or he currently receiving? (see examples above)

5. Are there other kinds of support that you think she or he needs? If yes, please describe

6. Is the child getting support in a timely way? Please explain and indicate what you consider timely (for example, 6 months or less).

7. How did you, as the parent/caregiver, find out about the services that were available? How did you access them? If you are not the parent or caregiver, how did the child's parent or caregiver find out about the services available, and how did they access them?

8. Describe what you think it would look like if effective support was available to this child in a timely manner.

9. What do you think stands in the way of getting effective and timely support

10. What are your ideas and thoughts on the best ways to improve this child's situation and their family's experience in your community?

11. What other suggestions do you have to improve or to integrate services for families in your community? Please provide examples, if possible.

