

# 2015-2016

## MEASURING IMPACT: ALIGNING OUTPUT WITH OUTCOMES



Touch our future



ALBERTA CENTRE FOR  
**CHILD, FAMILY  
& COMMUNITY**  
RESEARCH



# INTRODUCTION

The Centre manages projects and initiatives that support its four strategic directions. These strategic directions reinforce our core functions and are The Centre’s focus over the next four years.

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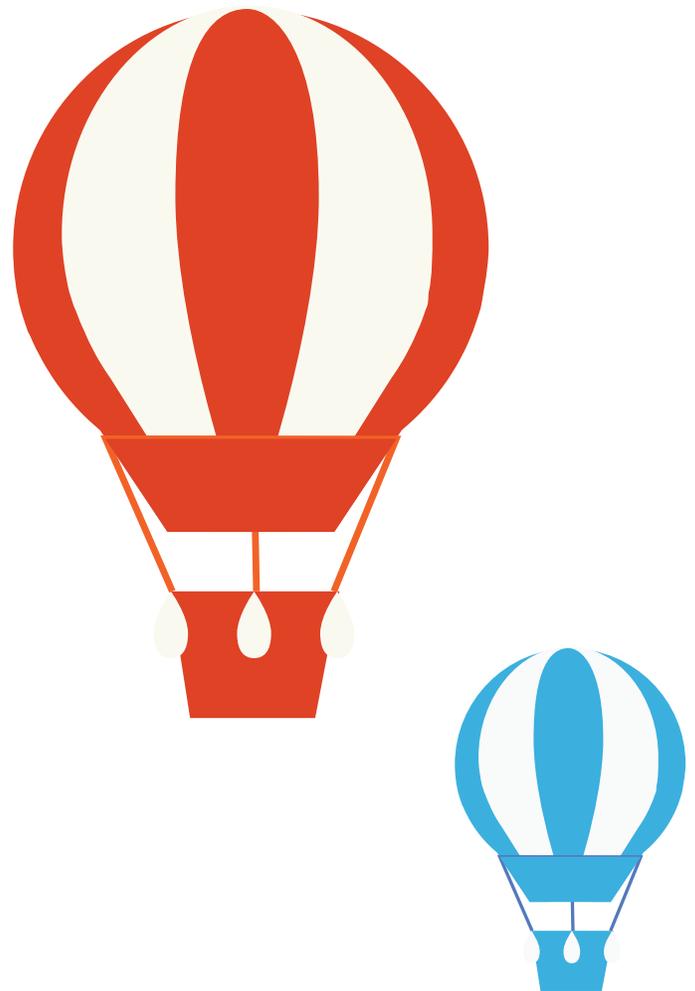
## Strategic Directions

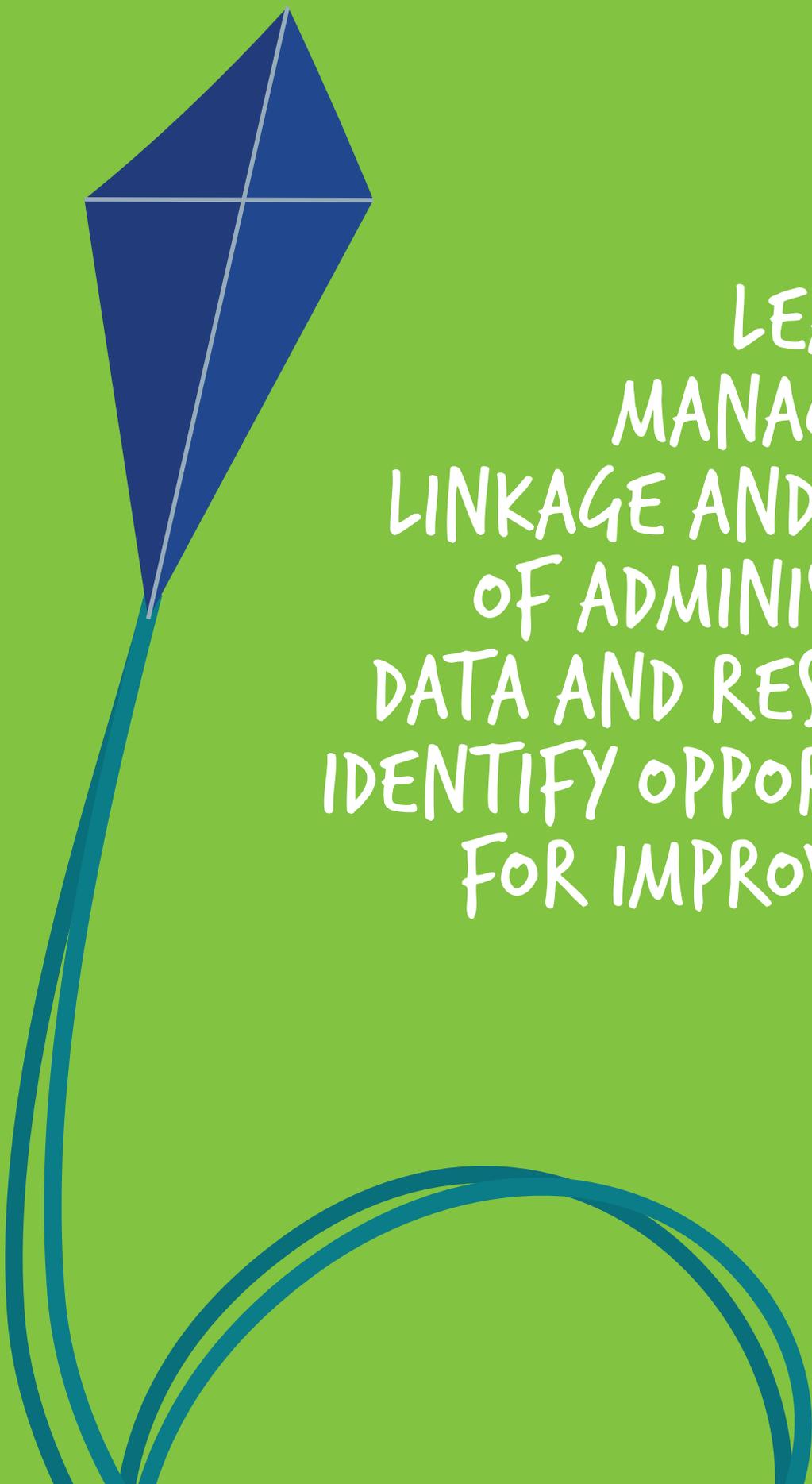
1. Lead in the management, linkage, and analysis of administrative data and research to identify opportunities for improvement.
2. Build capacity for the generation and use of policy relevant, interdisciplinary research in the domains of child, family and community well-being.
3. Mobilize knowledge built on evidence to support cross-sectoral policy and service delivery.
4. Measure the impact of The Centre's initiatives.

## Core Functions

- Engage in research, evaluation, communication and knowledge mobilization
- Conduct, fund and build capacity in applied research
- Link, analyze and manage data
- Manage resources and strategic relationships
- Measure and communicate our impact and value

The activities listed in this document have been undertaken by *The Centre* in support of our four strategic directions.



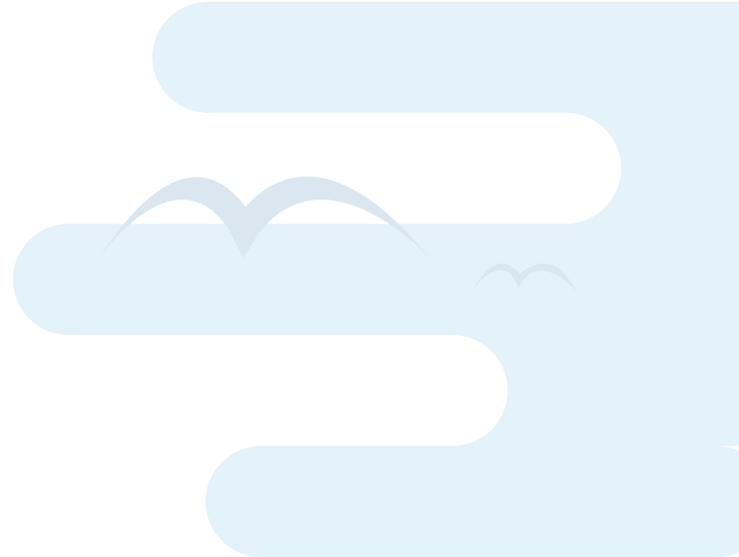


LEAD IN THE  
MANAGEMENT,  
LINKAGE AND ANALYSIS  
OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
DATA AND RESEARCH TO  
IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR IMPROVEMENT.

## **Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL) Longitudinal Study: Experiences of Albertan Children and Youth over Time, 2005/06 to 2010/11**

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The CYDL Longitudinal Project focuses on understanding the experiences of 0 to 30 year-old Albertans over a six-year period. The project looks at service use within and across ministries, as it is related to key indicators and to the passage of time. Several major research themes were developed as a result of extensive consultations with participating ministries. These include transitions, resilience, early childhood, and advantage/disadvantage. These themes are being studied in the context of key indicators such as age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, and health service use. Analysis has begun on these key policy issues. The first deliverable consists of overlap rates between the government programs in the project, and includes an interactive visualization of the rates. Profiles of various populations within the project will be released this fall. Later deliverables will include topic-based reports within the research themes; topics include autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, injuries, chronic diseases, gifted and talented students, justice system diversions, apprentices, homelessness, and many more. (Xinjie Cui, Leslie Twilley, Christine Werk, Navjot Lamba, Ozlem Cankaya, Hitesh Bhatt, Hesam Izakian, Robert Jagodzinski, Ruiting Jia, Adam Easterbrook, Jason Lau)



## **Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL) Longitudinal Study: *Knowledge Mobilization Plan for the project Experiences of Albertan Children and Youth over Time, 2005/06 to 2010/11***

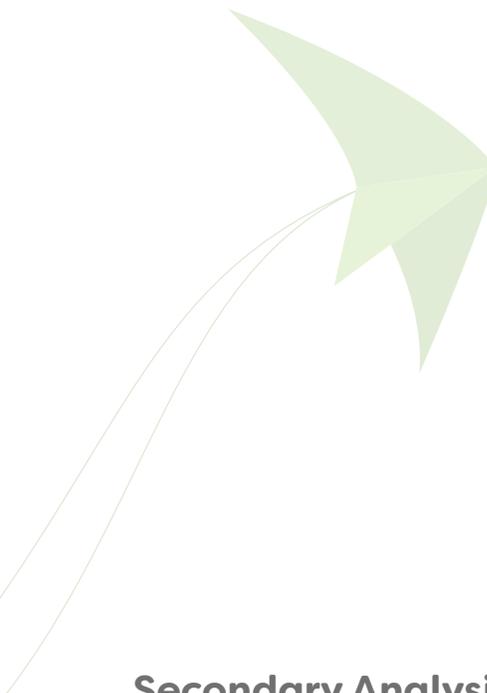
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The Centre's CYDL, in collaboration with its partnering ministries, has developed a knowledge mobilization plan for the longitudinal project, *Experiences of Albertan Children and Youth over Time, 2005/06 to 2010/11*. This plan provides a strategy for release and mobilization of findings from the Longitudinal Project. Two phases of activities are taking place. Phase One (pre-release of data) focuses on increasing the awareness of the CYDL and the longitudinal project. Phase Two (post-release of data) focuses on communicating findings and incorporates both "active" and "passive" knowledge mobilization elements. (Leslie Twilley, Aimee Caster)

## FASD Knowledge and Capacity Development

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The FASD Cross Ministry Committee requested The Centre develop a framework to recommend a data system to support decisions about FASD programs and policies. The project team conducted nearly 50 interviews with data keepers in government and service agencies to create the first-ever FASD data inventory. The framework will identify and prioritize data needs, recommend parameters for future data collection and management, propose a common template for cross ministry reporting, and describe elements necessary for data integration. (Tara Hanson, Leslie Twilley, Christine Werk)



## Homeless Supports Data Strategy

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The Centre supports research, data and knowledge mobilization priorities of the Interagency Council on Homelessness (IAC) and Human Services. We are working with partners to maximize the potential of data from three systems (Housing First, adult emergency shelters and youth emergency shelters). The Centre will assess content, quality and linkage potential. We will collaborate with key stakeholders to prioritize analytical questions and develop a coordinated data strategy to inform decision making. (Roxanne Felix-Mah, Tara Hanson)

## Secondary Analysis to Generate Evidence

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Secondary Analysis to Generate Evidence (or SAGE), formerly known as the Child Data Centre initiative, is a data repository created by The Centre to collect, document, manage and provide secure access to research, community service and administrative data to secondary users. SAGE is now in its final phase of development. Having created governance processes and data transfer and access protocols, SAGE has now transferred several research datasets to its repository and created comprehensive metadata for each dataset. A virtual research platform environment has been built in order to provide secure access to the data. As well, a grant has been developed to incentivize SAGE data re-use.

SAGE is actively building relationships and agreements with research teams and community service organizations to discover existing data in Alberta and negotiate the transfer and re-use opportunities for it. We are also in discussions with government agencies to negotiate approaches for SAGE to house administrative data for research use. SAGE will build unprecedented secondary research infrastructure and child health and development-related content expertise, improving outcomes for Alberta's children, youth, families and communities. (Xinjie Cui, Jason Lau, Amanda Lau, Lucie Richard, Hesam Izakian, Robert Jagodzinski)

## Prevention and Early Intervention – Home Visitation and Parent Link Centres

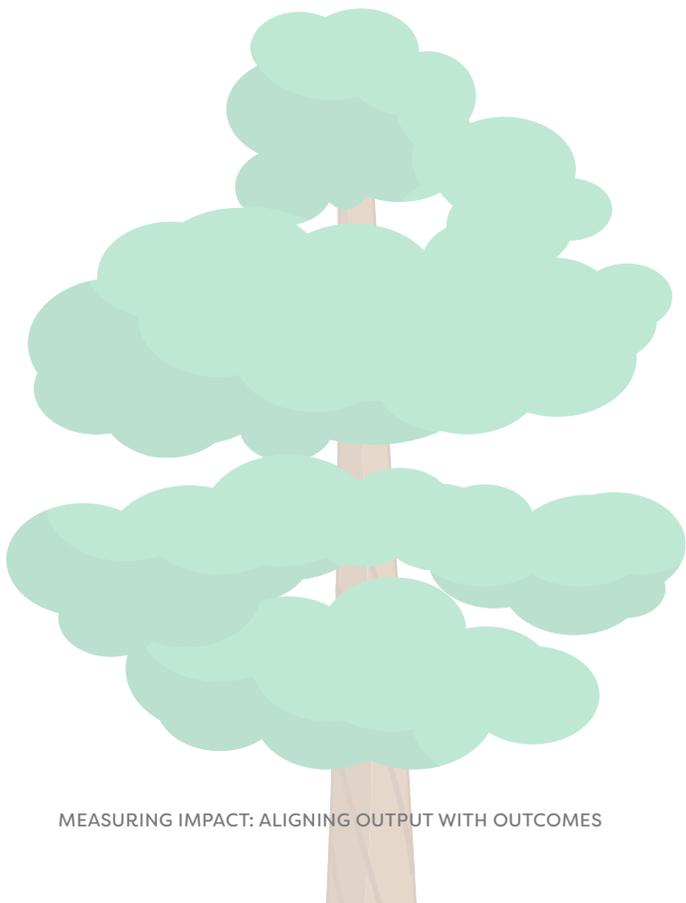
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Human Services has engaged The Centre to conduct current Prevention and Early Intervention Early Childhood Development program evaluation framework for the Alberta context. This project is comprised of: a literature review of evidence-informed Home Visitation services; a current state assessment of Home Visitation and Parent Link Centres in Alberta; a review of the Standards and Guidelines for both Home Visitation and Parent Link Centres; and, the development of a community capacity building framework to support the work. This work will increase capacity of Prevention and Early Intervention programs and services to support eligible children and families by outlining the critical components of an evidence-informed Prevention and Early Intervention programs, identify areas for potential improvement and investment and to develop a framework for PEI community capacity building. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)

## Alberta Home Visitation Network Association – Reflective Supervision and Parent Coaching Trainings Evaluation

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The Centre is developing a framework to support The Alberta Home Visitation Network Association in the implementation of the pilot training sessions of *Reflective Supervision and Parent Coaching*. A developmental evaluation approach is being used to evaluate the training sessions, in combination with an Implementation Science framework and knowledge mobilization support. Included in this work is consideration and recommendations to inform the broader Community Capacity Framework described in the previous project, *Prevention and Early Intervention – Home Visitation and Parent Link Centres*. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)



## Pilot Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND) Implementation Evaluation

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FIND uses video coaching as a tool to enhance and support positive parent/child interactions and engagement. The Centre is leading the evaluation of the implementation of FIND with families (receiving home visitation, child care or early childhood development services) in Edmonton and Calgary. This project is examining factors that would influence a scaling up of this intervention, should it be considered for implementation in Alberta. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)

Evaluation of the Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) Training Program  
Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) is a disaster-related psychosocial support that was implemented following the 2013 Southern Alberta flood. In spring 2014, Alberta Health funded a two-year Developmental Evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation was to: document how SPR has been implemented in Southern Alberta; identify the infrastructure, capacities and resources required for SPR to be effectively implemented and sustained across the province; and, assess whether SPR should be scaled up and implemented as part of a broader approach to disaster-related psychosocial support in Alberta. Integral to achieving these goals was a study of the bigger picture of disaster-related psychosocial support and an understanding of where SPR fit within the broader range of supports required to promote recovery and resilience after a disaster. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)

## IMPACT (Innovative Models Promoting Access-to-Care Transformation)

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IMPACT is a five-year research program that will provide an opportunity to build upon Local Innovation Partnerships and research to co-create models of care that enhance access for vulnerable populations. Local Innovation Partnerships represent communities with complex challenges to the delivery of Primary Health Care (PHC). Set in three Australian states (New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria) and three Canadian provinces (Alberta, Ontario and Québec), IMPACT will begin by creating learning networks of decision makers, researchers, clinicians and members of the vulnerable communities in the six local health regions. A LIP is a community of stakeholders who share a common concern around vulnerable populations that are at increased risk due to limited access-to-care. (Cathie Scott, Courtney Lundy)

## Prenatal Outreach Support Team (POST) Project Developmental Evaluation

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The Prenatal Outreach Support Team (POST) is a collaborative partnership between the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre, Alberta Health Services Public Health and the Calgary Police Service to identify and provide specialized intervention and referral services to vulnerable pregnant persons in high-risk situations. The Developmental Evaluation of the implementation of and the outcomes from the POST Project can assist in building stronger evidence about understanding how integrated practice teams can work together to better serve vulnerable pregnant persons and the overall effectiveness of the program. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)

## Foundations of Caregiver Supports: Models of Care Literature Review

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The purpose of the Foundations of Caregiver Support is to provide a base from which to develop caregivers' capacity to improve positive outcomes for infants, children and youth. It builds upon Child Youth Services' Child Intervention Practice Framework, Signs of Safety, and the Prevention and Early Intervention Framework. It also recognizes and builds on the abilities and strengths, including cultural and family strengths, of infants, children and youth. This project will focus on identifying and describing evidence on leading and promising models of care that use trauma-informed approaches including the pillars of knowledge and practice described above to enable caregivers to support the safety and well-being of infants, children and youth. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)





BUILD CAPACITY FOR THE  
GENERATION AND USE  
OF POLICY-RELEVANT,  
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH  
IN THE DOMAINS OF CHILD,  
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WELL-BEING.



## Aboriginal Women's Economic Security

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In partnership with the Government of Alberta, The Centre is supporting University nuhelot'jine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills to lead a community based research study. The investigative team held several community research circles and interviewed over 100 participants about the needs of Indigenous women related to economic security. They explored Indigenous definitions of economy, economic participation and well-being. A Gathering was held in April 2016 to share results and discuss next steps with participants from across Northeastern Alberta. A final report is expected to be completed by September 2016. The findings will be informative for policy makers to understand worldviews. (Tara Hanson)

## Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention

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With support from Human Services, The Centre initiated reviews of the scientific and gray literature to examine the state of knowledge on Aboriginal youth suicide in Alberta and Canada. The project will include a focus on promising practices to support resiliency, prevention, intervention, and post-vention. (Tara Hanson)

## Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Program - Scaling up the Intervention

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Researchers led by Dr. Jon McGavock have found a school-based peer mentoring approach tested in Manitoba to be an effective population level intervention to prevent weight gain and improve knowledge of healthy living in youth. Through a CIHR grant, the team is expanding the program into Alberta schools and applying an implementation science lens to evaluate the initiative. The Centre is contributing funding to support a research student to participate. (Tara Hanson)

## Canada FASD Research Network Diagnostic Assessment Data

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Researchers with the Canada FASD Research Network designed a common diagnostic assessment form for FASD clinics across Canada. The Centre analyzed data and collaborated with the original research team from the FASD Network to summarize the findings. They found individuals with FASD had different patterns of impairments but received similar treatment recommendations. These results were published in late 2015, *Consistent Collection and Reporting of FASD Data from Across Canada: A Feasibility Study*, and helped to inform the new Canadian diagnostic guidelines. (Christine Werk)



## FASD Council Support

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The Centre continued to support FASD Councils by facilitating the generation of evidence and evaluative resources to support goals in alignment with the GOA FASD 10-Year Strategic Plan. These four Councils include those focused on research and evaluation, education and training, awareness and prevention, and assessment and diagnosis. (Tara Hanson, Julie Tremblay)

McDaniel FASD Youth Mentoring Program Evaluation  
The FASD Cross Ministry Committee requested The Centre to facilitate the evaluation of this community-based mentorship program. It works with youth aged 14 to 19 years affected by FASD and assists them in accessing supports and making successful transitions into adulthood. The evaluation report was completed in August 2016. (Tara Hanson)



## Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) in First Nations Evaluation

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Human Services provided funding to FASD Service Networks to establish this FASD prevention program on six First Nation reserves in Alberta. The Centre is supporting Dr. Jacquie Pei in leading an evaluation to explore cultural adaptations to the PCAP model. (Tara Hanson)

## Paul First Nation Partnership Project

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Human Services, Mitacs, and Paul First Nation School began working together on a community-based research project to identify and support promising interventions to build youth resilience and reduce the suicide rate in the community. (Tara Hanson)

## Housing and Homelessness Knowledge Generation

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With support from Human Services, The Centre funded two studies related to housing and homelessness as it relates to domestic violence. One study, undertaken by The Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta, focused on the development of a program for socio-legal research on survivors of domestic violence who have navigated the justice system. It is a follow up from their 2014 study, *The Hidden Homeless: Residential Tenancies Issues of Victims of Domestic Violence*. A second project is supporting the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. They are conducting applied research on second-stage shelter outcomes and assessment and developing a Domestic Violence Acuity Assessment Index. (Roxanne Felix-Mah, Tara Hanson)

## Indigenous Women Fleeing Domestic Violence and Issues related to Housing and Homelessness Scoping Review

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The Interagency Council on Homelessness (IAC) and Human Services identified Indigenous women fleeing domestic violence as a top research priority. The Centre initiated a scoping review of relevant policy recommendations from academic, government, and community-based research. The Centre hosted community consultations to validate findings and prioritize public policy options to better support housing outcomes for Indigenous women. The Centre continues to work with the project sponsors to mobilize the results. (Roxanne Felix-Mah, Tara Hanson)

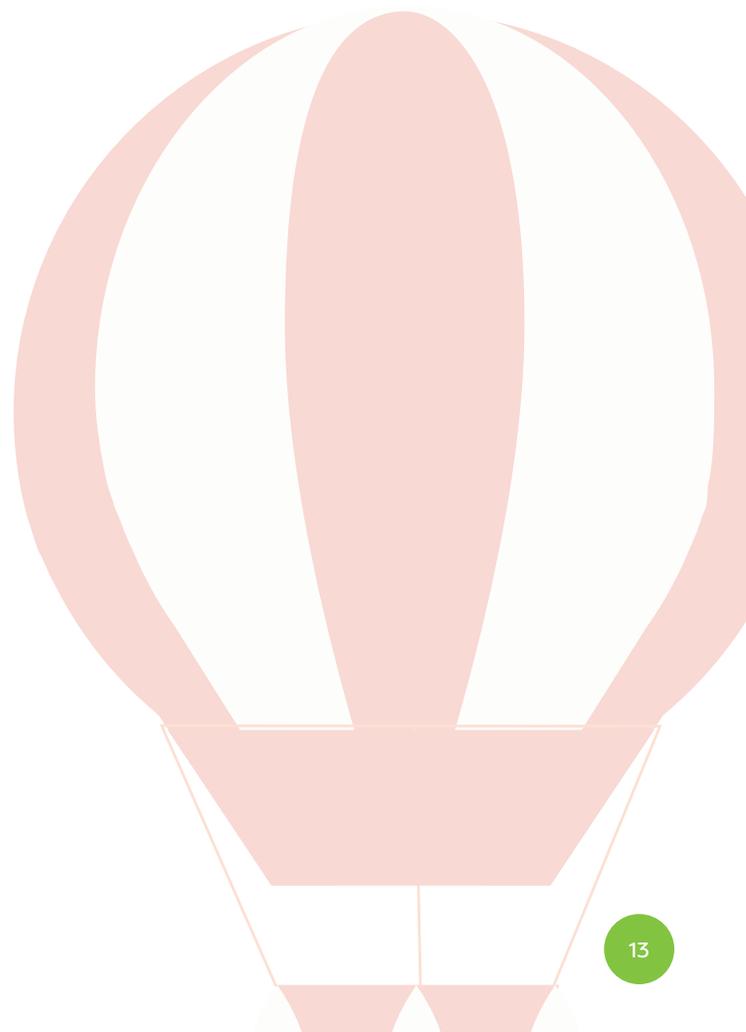
## Youth Mental Health Community Support Program Evaluation

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Alberta Health, Human Services and Alberta Health Services are implementing new community-based programs for children and youth with complex needs in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. The Centre is facilitating the developmental evaluation of these programs designed for youth who continually access tertiary services without achieving a stable resolution. The project is in year one of a four year pilot. The Centre is also supporting the Institute of Health Economics to collect data for an economic analysis. (Tara Hanson)

Child Intervention Practice Framework Evaluation Plan

The Centre worked with Human Services to develop an evaluation framework for the Child Intervention Service Practice Framework. The framework recommends an evaluation approach to determine if the principles, practice strategies and tools are being implemented and contributing to intended outcomes. (Roxanne-Felix Mah, Ruiting Jia, Tara Hanson)



## The Effects of Trauma, Grief and Loss on Child Development

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With support from Human Services, The Centre will be facilitating research about the effects of trauma, grief and loss on child development with a focus on Aboriginal Communities. The goal is to help inform service providers and caregivers in the development and implementation of evidence-informed guidelines and practices that have the potential to enhance outcomes. (Tara Hanson)

## PracticeWise Pilot Project Evaluation

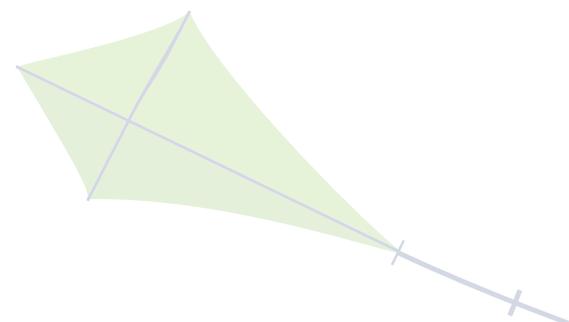
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The PracticeWise evidence based resource to support professionals working with children and youth experiencing mental health challenges was piloted with service providers at CASA in Edmonton, and Hull Family Services in Calgary. The Centre facilitated and completed the evaluation of the pilot projects for Human Services. (Tara Hanson)

## PAX/Triple P Randomized Control Trial

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Prior studies show that variations of PAX and parenting supports resembling Triple P have had powerful preventive effects for risks of mental, emotional, behavioral and related health disorders in children. The Centre is testing the effectiveness of combining Triple P (home-based) and PAX (school-based) interventions in 24 school communities in nine Alberta cities and towns. The third wave of data collection began in the spring of 2016. This data is complex and gathered at many levels, including teachers, students and classrooms. The project is in its fourth year of operation and will be completed by March 2018. (Tara Hanson, Suzanne Tough)



## Contributing to the Mental Health Review – Youth Focus Groups

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Alberta Health requested The Centre to convene a diverse group of youth and facilitate a focus group to discuss addiction and mental health issues in Alberta. They were interested in learning about the challenges faced by youth in the system and their ideas for making service improvements. The youth focus groups were held in October, 2015. (Roxanne Felix Mah, Tara Hanson)

## Family Violence Framework Evaluation

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The Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta was developed by five provincial ministries: Indigenous Relations, Education, Health, Human Services, Justice and Solicitor General and Alberta Health Services. The emphasis is on preventing intimate partner violence; stopping the transmission of violence to children, youth and young adults; and, building healthy relationships across the lifespan. The Centre initiated work with the Cross Ministry group to develop an integrated outcomes-based management and accountability framework. A phased approach to evaluation will be implemented to ensure a strategic, intentional focus on priority areas. (Tara Hanson, Roxanne Felix-Mah)



MEASURING IMPACT:  
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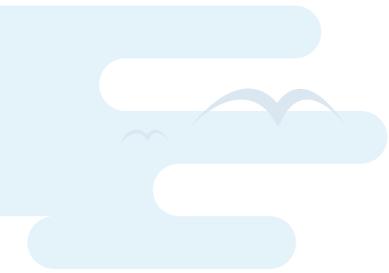
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## Child Intervention Service Quality Framework (SQF)

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In keeping with Human Services' commitment to provide the best social programs possible, the Child Intervention Service Quality Framework (SQF) was developed to improve the client's experience when in need of supports and services. The SQF was created by the Child and Youth Services Council for Quality Assurance through a partnership with Human Services and The Centre. The development of the SQF was guided by research and direct input from Albertans to enhance the validity of the framework. The model provides a perspective that can promote and assess quality assurance, system enhancement and quality improvement initiatives. (Tara Hanson)

## Housing and Homelessness Knowledge Mobilization

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The Centre webcast a number of knowledge mobilization events in partnership with their hosts, including: *Making Data Meaningful: Research Exchange and Collaboration on Homelessness in Alberta* (Calgary Homelessness Foundation and the School of Public Policy, April 2015); *Creating Rural Connections* (Alberta Rural Development Network, May 2015); *Edmonton Homelessness Research Symposium: Mobilizing Data and Research for Action* (Edmonton Homeward Trust, February 2016). The Centre continues to maintain an area on the national Homeless Hub website ([www.homelesshub.ca](http://www.homelesshub.ca)) for Alberta-based research and produce a list-serv newsletter with updates on local research and events. In May 2016 The Centre partnered with Human Services staff to plan a two-part webcast to share key learnings presented at the National Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference. (Roxanne Felix-Mah)

## Youth Mental Health Website

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With support from Bell Canada, the Government of Alberta is introducing [www.help4me.ca](http://www.help4me.ca), a website hosted on MyHealth.Alberta.ca. It serves as a gateway to mental health resources and information to support youth, families and caregivers. The Centre has been engaged to facilitate the youth engagement, marketing strategy and evaluation components of this project. (Tara Hanson)

## Supporting Every Student Learning Series

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The Supporting Every Student Learning Series, managed by The Centre, supports Bill 10 and Alberta Education's *Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe Learning Environments initiative* (mental health, social and behaviour support, inclusion, character and citizenship, bullying prevention). The initiative supports creating the environments necessary for students to feel safe and secure and able to learn (and complete high school). There are 25, 20-minute sessions in the series that focuses on topics related to evidence-based strategies in supporting all students at being successful. The project is focused on knowledge mobilization through recorded presentations and conversation guides. The identified target audience is school authorities' leaders and their partners. The series also addresses the outcomes of the cross-ministry work of Human Services, Health, and Education to build system capacity for learning environments that are welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe and collaborative systems. (Aimee Caster)

## Creating Rural Connections: Rural Homelessness is Real: What can we do about it?

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The Alberta Rural Development Network hosted the *Creating Rural Connections 2015 (CRC 2015)* conference with support for the webcast from The Centre. This event focused on issues surrounding rural homelessness and its relevance to Albertans, and provided opportunities for participants and presenters to learn, network, share expertise, and collaborate on innovative approaches that contribute to the quality of life in rural Alberta. Exploring and addressing the challenges facing Alberta's rural homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless is an important step toward developing a better understanding of homelessness in rural Alberta communities and enhancing the quality of life of all rural Albertans. (Aimee Caster)

## Children's Mental Health Learning Series

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Spearheaded and sponsored by Alberta Human Services, this series created a lasting resource targeted to the learning needs of front-line staff, service providers, families and caregivers working with and within Alberta Human Services. The sessions provide tools that can be used to enable effective responses to and support of children and youth experiencing mental health challenges. Three sessions were hosted in 2015/16. A total of 18 sessions were part of this series with an average viewing audience of 1,500 to 2,000. More than 90% of survey respondents indicated that learning goals were met, the content was relevant and they could apply what they learned to their work. All sessions were recorded and are available on both The Centre's and Alberta Human Services' websites. (Aimee Caster)

## Making Data Meaningful: Research Exchange and Collaboration on Homelessness

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The Calgary Homeless Foundation hosted its third research symposium with webcasting provided by The Centre. As communities around the province continue to explore quantitative data analyses, and as data quality continues to improve and give us new insights into programmatic and individual outcomes, this event was a valuable opportunity to brainstorm and share methods, findings, and implications of collective work. The event created space to network with colleagues, exchange ideas and brainstorm new ones, and hear unique perspectives on the practical implications of research. (Roxanne Felix-Mah, Aimee Caster)

## Homeward Trust Edmonton Research Symposium

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This event promoted the available research to practitioners, service providers, community stakeholders, policy-makers and researchers. The goal of event was to encourage stakeholders to use data to shape their efforts and use community engaged research to drive system changes towards ending homelessness. (Roxanne Felix-Mah, Aimee Caster)

## Alberta Early Years

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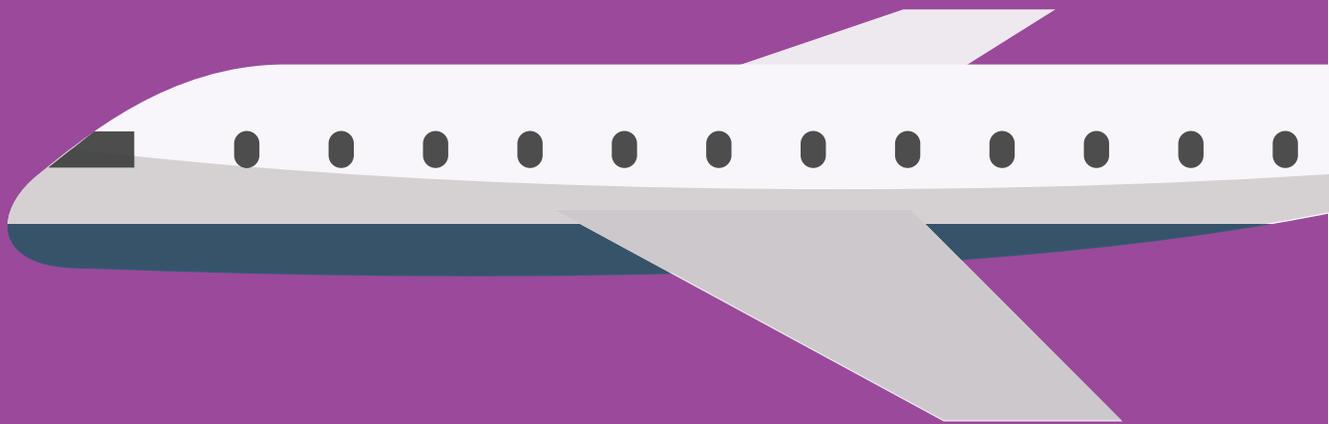
In collaboration with the Alberta Early Years Conference Committee, The Centre managed their three-part learning series focusing on brain development. Participants attended from across Canada and at the first session, *Brain Development and The Benefits of Risky Play*, discussed how to provide children with “riskier” environments while maintaining child care licensing regulations. The second session, *Brain Development and the Significance of Trauma*, provided participants with an opportunity to learn practical skills to support children who have experienced trauma and influence future brain development. (Aimee Caster)

## Alberta Adverse Childhood Experiences' Presentation

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Implications of the Alberta Adverse Childhood Experiences' project were discussed at this event hosted by The Centre. Until this project, there had been no research done in Alberta on Adverse Childhood Experiences and there is limited Canadian data. The Alberta Adverse Childhood Experiences Study was a random-digit dialing telephone survey of Albertan adults (n=1207) that was conducted in 2013. The original Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) checklist was modified to be appropriate for interviewing people about sensitive issues over the telephone and covered two main areas of childhood trauma: childhood abuse and growing up in a household where there was family dysfunction. Results from the Alberta ACE study demonstrated that ACEs were common and there were strong associations between childhood trauma and increased risk for poor health outcomes in adulthood. Almost 1/3 of Albertan adults experienced abuse and almost 1/2 experienced family dysfunction. Children who experienced more ACEs were more likely to be diagnosed with mental health conditions, substance dependence, and physical health conditions with an inflammatory component in adulthood. The association between ACEs and poor health remained strong even when other risk factors for poor adult health outcomes, such as poverty, were taken into consideration. Children who experienced both abuse and family dysfunction had the highest risk for negative health outcomes in adulthood. (Suzanne Tough, Aimee Caster)

# MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE CENTRE'S ACTIVITIES.



## Evaluation Quality Assurance Framework Development

The Centre's Evaluation Quality Assurance Framework is being developed to guide assessment of all evaluation projects submitted to and managed by The Centre. The Framework will be completed in the fall of 2016 and will ensure that all evaluation projects submitted to and managed by the Centre meet quality standards with respect to clarity, transparency, consistency, learning and engagement. (Tara Hanson, Roxanne-Felix Mah, Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)

## Measuring our Impact and Strategic Clarity

The Centre's Impact Assessment framework is designed with multi-sector, interdisciplinary input including front-line service providers, community agencies, policy makers, caregivers and researchers. Understanding our intended impact and theory of change will inform business decisions and align core business strategies allowing The Centre to demonstrate long-term value, transparency and accountability. (Cathie Scott, Naomi Parker)

