

# Peel Children & Youth Initiative



Committees  
in the LOOP

The quarterly newsletter of the Peel Children & Youth Initiative

Spring 2011

## PCYI Update: Forging ahead with our Strategic Plan

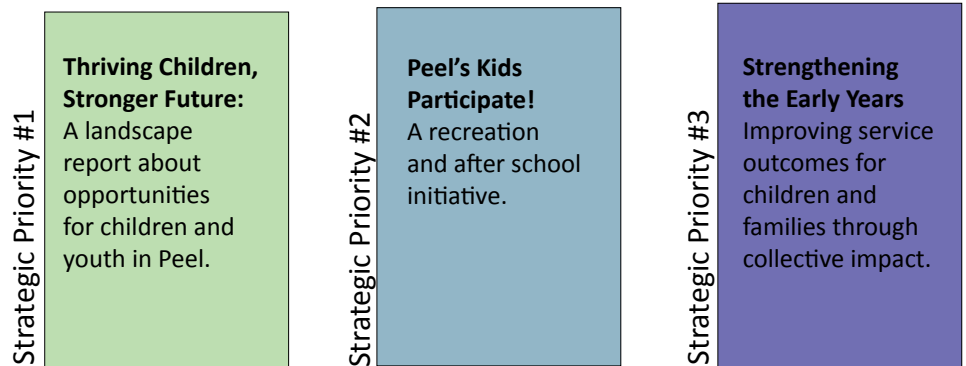
As a back-bone organization, PCYI will coordinate the collective efforts of non-profit, government and community organizations to improve services for children and youth (0-24) in Peel. Establishing and collaborating on a common agenda is vital to the success of our work.

We have seen first-hand how collaborating with community partners on a common agenda can produce positive, sustainable outcomes for children through the work of Success By 6 Peel; the Peel Post-partum Mood Disorder program; the Learning in Our Neighbourhood program, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Assessment program, and the St. John Fisher Neighbourhood Learning Place. These programs have literally changed the way children and families receive service. PCYI will continue to build on these existing partnerships to coordinate a high-level strategy to improve the services offered to children and youth (0-24) in Peel.

Community consultations are critical to our work. Since 2007, PCYI has held several community forums where we heard from you about the gaps in services and areas that need more attention. Each of the forums contributed valuable information that drove the conversation at our strategic planning table where eight priorities were identified and compared within the context of the Results-based Accountability Model and Peel Children Charter of Rights and Youth Charter of Rights, all of which help to align our work.

### Strategic Plan: Three Priorities

On March 1st, PCYI announced its strategic plan and three priorities at a community forum of youth and partners. The three point plan will focus on a landscape report that identifies opportunities for children and youth, a recreation and after-school initiative, and an early years strategy focused on integrated services.



Based on the Results-based Accountability Framework and Peel population goals.

**The first strategic initiative entitled: Thriving Children- Stronger Future: Opportunities for Children and Youth in Peel** will focus on the development of a comprehensive community planning and research project that will identify the current state of program, supports and results for children and youth (0-24) in Peel, and it will identify opportunities where changes to existing practices, policies and systems could improve services and outcomes.

This will include consolidating the information on circumstances and current outcomes for children and youth in an accessible format. We will directly engage children and youth in the preparation of the report and presentation of key findings. This report will inform PCYI's strategic plan for 2012 and 2013, and be shared widely with other groups across the Region.

**The second strategy: Peels Kids Participate!** A recreation and after-school initiative will focus on a strategy to increase the percentages of children and youth who are engaged in healthy recreational, skill building and after-school opportunities. Through the support of a working group comprised of interested partners, we will identify neighbourhoods and schools where after-school programs might be feasible with some support and resources.

PCYI will also identify potential funding opportunities and other sources of support for the development of after-school programs.

**Our third initiative – Strengthening the Early Years** will focus on a strategy that will improve service outcomes for children and families through collective impact. This is where PCYI will continue to build on the good work of Success By 6 Peel and its collaboratives to improve the quality of services to support parenting and early child development. Part of this work includes building on and revitalizing the Community Advisory, Management and Executive Committees to support and facilitate this strategy.

*We recognize that these are ambitious goals!* The success of our strategies are reliant upon our community partnerships and their continued commitment to participating in these collaborative initiatives.

We are pleased to report that we have received a tremendously positive response from community partners who have reaffirmed their commitment to our mission by confirming their participation in the development of the strategic priorities and supporting our resource teams. We thank you for continued partnership, and look forward to working with you!

## It's not too late to join us!

**You can get involved by participating in any of the three strategic priorities, or supporting one of our resource groups.**

**For more information about our engagement opportunities, please contact Amanda Bordonaro at [successby6peel@unitedwaypeel.org](mailto:successby6peel@unitedwaypeel.org)**

## Delegation at the Peel Regional Council

**PCYI**

On March 24th, Graham Clyne, Executive Director and Paul Zarnke, Co-chair, PCYI Steering Committee and Executive Director, Peel Children's Aid Society presented PCYI's strategic plan to members of Peel Regional Council.

The feedback received from Members of Council was overwhelmingly positive and supportive with councillors reaffirming their individual commitment to PCYI's mandate to improve services for children and youth in Peel.

PCYI wishes to thank members of Council for its ongoing support, and Regional staff for their contributions to our work.

PCYI looks forward to its continued partnership with the Region of Peel.

## Thank You to our Volunteers!

This year's 68th annual National Volunteer Week - April 10-16 - is Canada's largest celebration of volunteerism, and civic participation.

National Volunteer Week pays tribute to the millions of Canadian volunteers who graciously donate their time and energy. Volunteers are leading positive change in many ways through community health care, sports and recreation, heritage and arts, environmental protection and advocacy, and international development.

PCYI and Success By 6 Peel wishes to thank all of its volunteers for their dedication and contributions to our work. You are essential to the success of our collaborative's mission and mandate.

*Thank you!*

## St. John Fisher Neighbourhood Learning Place Receives Sustainable funding

We are delighted to announce that the St. John Fisher Neighbourhood Learning Place (SJFNLP) will now be a permanent fixture in its neighbourhood.

Thanks to the generous support of the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, SJFNLP has obtained sustainable long-term funding. Over the course of three phases, SJFNLP will receive funding for supervisory support, continued funding for the ECE position and protected space going forward up to 2013, and beyond. We would also like to acknowledge funding support of the United Way of Peel Region and McLean Foundation, and the transitional support of the Region of Peel.

Funding partners have also committed to advocacy work with the Ministry of Education to change practice by providing the ongoing funding needed to expand the concept of Early Years/Parent and Family Literacy. This would include systems changes such as outreach to parents, and multi-agencies on-site to fully integrate services.

“We are delighted about the news. This innovative project has changed practice in the way that children and families receive fully integrated services,” says Marilyn Dumaresq, Director, Success By 6 Peel.

“SJFNLP is an example of what we can achieve when we cultivate collaboration in a focused and meaningful way. Through the support of shared data, pooled resources and a common agenda, this small neighbourhood hub has initiated lasting positive changes to systems and practices that enhance services to children and families,” Graham Clyne, Executive Director, PCYI.



## Mothers Helping Mothers: PPMD Peer Educator Program

Hearing first-hand from someone who has experienced PMD and survived it, is a powerful and hopeful message for those currently affected by the disorder.

The Peel Postpartum Mood Disorder Peer Educator Program offers free workshops in the community for parents to be, new parents and their families, and community service providers. Peer educators who have overcome PMD, facilitate workshops about the signs and symptoms of PMD, and provide information resources and supports available in Peel.

**1 in 5 women  
will experience  
depression  
or anxiety  
during pregnancy  
or after the birth  
or adoption of a  
child.**

PPMD Peer Educator Program will be facilitating workshop for health nurses at Peel Children’s Aid Society as part of their community outreach. Health nurses conduct home visits with moms who have recently given birth.

If your organization is interested in booking a free PMD workshop, contact Philippa Bodolai at 905-791-7800, extension 2650.

For more information about Postpartum Mood Disorder visit: [pmdinpeel.ca](http://pmdinpeel.ca).

**Peel Postpartum Family Support Line: 905-459-8441, Monday-Friday 10am-10pm**

## Celebrating Family Day and Children's Rights with young moms

In honour of Family Day, Success By 6 Peel volunteers delivered gift packages with the Peel Children's Charter, toys and a message about the importance of the children's right to basic needs to young moms at the Brampton Teen's Supper Club.

The Peel Children's Charter of Rights was created in 2007 by more than 4,000 children in Peel, in collaboration with education, government, child care, mental health agencies, social service agencies, parents and caregivers, to give children a voice and raise awareness about the importance of children and their fundamental rights. The first of those Rights is the Right to Basic Needs: Each child has the right to have clean water, good food, proper clothes, a home and be happy.

"The education, support and free, healthy meals that the Brampton Teen Supper Club provides is a wonderful way of ensuring that babies receive this basic right before they are born," says Shelagh Karstoff, Success By 6 Peel Children's Charter Committee Chair. "Proper nutrition for moms during the pre-and-post-natal periods give babies the vitamins and minerals they need to be healthy and strong – **a basic and fundamental right of all children!**"

"Putting the needs of children first on Family Day, and everyday, is the right thing to do," says Councillor Elaine Moore. "We know there are many challenges facing young children and families in Peel, and so it's gratifying to see Success By 6 and the Region of Peel working together to improve services that meet our children's basic need for adequate food, shelter and clothing."



Charter Committee Members, Lynda Graham and Shelagh Karstoff with a group of young moms and their children.



A participant of the Brampton Teen Supper Club holds her baby as she listens to the Charter presentation.

## Charter Ambassador, Naomi Ishmael Presents at St. Brigid School



Our Charter Ambassador, Naomi Ishmael continues her community awareness work at a recent presentation of the Peel Children's Charter of Rights to the general assembly at her own school- St. Brigid's Elementary.

Naomi talked to kids about the importance of knowing their rights, and how they can advocate for themselves. Following her presentation, the Reel Stages Choir performed "We Got Rights," a song dedicated to Peel's Children Charter of Rights.

To learn more about the Charter visit [successby6peel.ca](http://successby6peel.ca)

## SLLI Conference: A Collaborative State of Mind

Collaboration amongst service providers for children and youth was the theme of the day at the Student Support Leadership (SSLI) Conference held on April 6th.

Participants learned how community agencies, mental health and youth justice services can work more effectively with educators and professionals in school boards.

Dr. Alan Brown highlighted the importance of communication and collaboration through case conferences that help identify solutions for youth affected by mental health.

Barry Shainbaum, motivational speaker, shared his own personal story of struggle and triumph with mental illness.

Congratulations to SSLI for a successful conference.

PCYI looks forward to our continued work with this group!

## You have mail!

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Our partnership is as wide and extensive as our email distribution list. Keeping our distribution lists up to date is a continuing challenge, as individuals move to new opportunities.

We recognize that many community partners may be receiving multiple messages, or perhaps none at all. We apologize for the inconvenience and oversight.

To ensure that our partners receive our communiqués efficiently, we will be creating a new online sign-up feature on the Success By 6 and PCYI websites over the next month. **Please stay tuned for an email within the next few weeks with details on sign-up instructions.**

Please feel free to forward this information to any colleagues or community partners whom you think might benefit from receiving our e-newsletter.

If you have any questions, contact Suset Silva, Communications Manager at 416-721-5273.

## Community Updates

### Region of Peel launches new Early Years Data and Resources Website!

This website was established by the Data Analysis Coordinators (DACs) in Peel region as a medium to share information about the DAC program, as well as to share products developed by the DACs.

- Information on how to make data and mapping requests to the DACs.
- Early Years Data, such as the results of the Early Development Instrument and links to Census data by SDAs
- Reports and newsletters
- Links to other useful resources related to the early years.

The website URL is: <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/resources/early-years-data/>

### Transforming Peel’s services for children and families

The Human Services Department at the Region of Peel will be looking at the re-design of Peel’s early learning and child care system and will aim to develop and implement integrated services that meet the unique needs of our community. Over the next few months, the Region of Peel will be:

- Working with Peel Children and Youth Initiative/ Success By 6 Peel to engage community partners in developing an integrated Prenatal-to-12 Child and Family Service System plan that both responds to emerging short-term needs and proactively addresses the longer term needs of our community
- Undertaking a review of the services provided through the Children Services Operation’s division, including the Learn.Play.Care. Child Care Centres. The outcome of the review will guide the response to the changes within the system. As part of the research, a number of external partners will be invited to share their perspectives on the Region’s services for children and families.

For more information visit: <http://www.peelregion.ca/children/>