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## **PPTC Quarterly Update** **December 2008**

This is a 'quarterly report' from the Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant. The intent is that this update will increase awareness amongst stakeholders involved in paediatric therapy services in BC of the activities of this Office. Feel free to contact the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant for further discussion or clarification regarding the content of this update. This is the third quarterly report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

### **Main Initiatives:**

#### **Therapist Assistant Project**

- Five agencies currently utilizing therapist assistants in their service delivery model have provided the Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant with a 'Practice Profile.' These documents provide valuable practical examples outlining the hiring process, duties, effects on service delivery, and challenges during implementation experienced by these agencies. Visit the following link to view the documents:

[http://www.therapybc.ca/ta\\_use.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/ta_use.php)

#### **Promoting Manageable Workloads**

- The Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant has been continuing to build on the foundation provided by phase 1 of the Promoting Manageable Workloads project. With considerable input from stakeholders involved in the delivery of paediatric therapy services, the Office has produced the document 'Preferred Practice Guidelines for BC Paediatric Therapists.' This document should prove to be a useful resource for all stakeholders to assist in promoting manageable workloads for therapists. To view the document visit the following link:

[http://www.therapybc.ca/promoting\\_manageable.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/promoting_manageable.php)

#### **Regional Education Sessions**

- The Vancouver Coastal and Fraser region funding for the regional education session initiative will be directed towards the Paediatric Update Symposium in February 2009. The Vancouver Island funds will be utilized to subsidize travel costs for Island therapists traveling to the Paediatric Update Symposium (funds to be dispersed post Symposium, once final numbers of Island therapists attending the Symposium has been determined). The Interior region is hosting a regional education session on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Kamloops, and the North region hosted a regional education session in Prince George at the end of October.

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### **Paediatric Update Symposium**

- This Symposium will occur February 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Burnaby, BC. Several renowned speakers are participating in this Symposium, and the theme is “Getting to Participation.” The event will also include poster presentations, workshops, resource and equipment dealers, and a Friday afternoon social/networking opportunity. Further details regarding the Symposium are available on the homepage of [www.therapybc.ca](http://www.therapybc.ca). MCFD has provided funding to this initiative to help ensure it will be an affordable continuing education opportunity.

### **Education Grant Awards**

- 30 therapists from across the province have received funding to support attendance at a continuing education opportunity of their choice. Grants vary in amount according to region, and range from \$500 to \$700.

### **eLearning Initiatives**

- Funding is available to support BC therapists and agencies utilizing technology to access continuing education opportunities. Funds to assist in the costs of continuing ed. via videoconferencing, telehealth/tele-CDR, etc. all qualify. Application forms and further details available at: [http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician\\_elearning.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_elearning.php)

### **New Graduate/New to Paediatrics Education Fund**

- This new initiative for 2008-2009 has proven to be very successful. All of the funds for this initiative for the current fiscal year have been allocated, resulting in more than \$11,000 awarded to 38 therapists. Funds will be requested in the 2009-2010 budget for continued support for this initiative.

### **eMentoring Project**

- All four online training modules designed to educate potential eMentors on how to be an effective mentor have been piloted. The author is currently in the process of revising the modules according to the feedback that was received. A formal funding proposal will be submitted in an attempt to secure funds to initiate several eMentor relationships across the province, using the online training modules to help ensure these relationships are an effective component of supporting paediatric therapists.

### **[www.therapybc.ca](http://www.therapybc.ca)**

- The website continues to develop and expand (now gets over 2,000 hits a month!). Job postings submitted to therapybc continue to be forwarded to all therapists signed up as ‘job seekers’, and to all therapy students registered with the site. Website is advertised nationally through the therapy professions’ national associations via their websites and newsletters.

- In an effort to improve communication amongst BC’s paediatric therapists, therapybc has initiated an email registration database. Therapists who have registered their email information with the site and have chosen to receive updates from the PPTC will ensure they are informed of any new initiatives generated by this Office.

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- There is now a 'continuing education/upcoming events' box on the therapybc homepage. Submit details to the PPTC to have your event posted on the site (no charge for this service), and visit the site regularly to keep aware of any upcoming events in your area. Therapists may also select the 'receive email notification' option for upcoming events when registering their email information with the site.

### **Student Initiatives**

- Discussed the benefits of working in paediatrics, and the initiatives the PPTC is working on designed to support new graduates to the UBC SLP graduating class on October 24<sup>th</sup>

- Attended the University of Alberta Health Sciences Career Fair October 18<sup>th</sup>. Spoke with several OTs, PTs, and SLPs currently attending the University of Alberta and keen on moving back to BC after graduation.

### **Other Meetings/Initiatives**

- Participation on the steering committee for the project 'Mapping & Modeling of Services & Providers for Children and Youth with Special Needs'.

- Continued communication with stakeholders involved in a pilot to enhance the delivery of speech therapy services to West Coast aboriginal communities. This pilot involves building capacity within the communities through training a First Nations community member to be a speech aide, and a 'Practice Profile' describing this pilot will be made available on the therapybc site once the pilot is completed next spring.