

ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

Centre for Research on Children and Families

*Research for effective programs
and policies for vulnerable children
and youth and their families*

January 2010



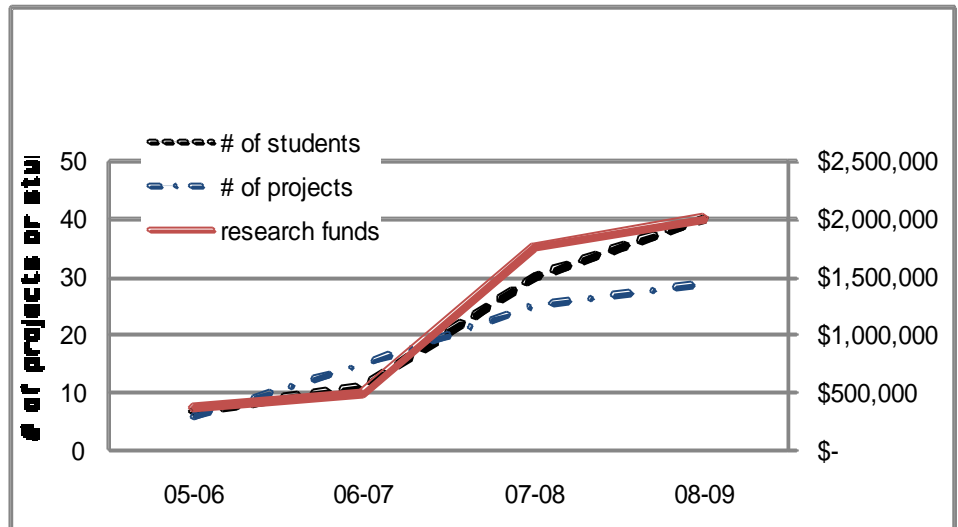
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1. Director's Message

It gives me great pleasure to announce a remarkable gift of two million dollars from the RBC Foundation to support the activities of the Centre for Research on Children and Families. The gift will provide \$150,000 a year over the next 10 years to support the Centre's Children's Services Data Laboratory and a further \$50,000 a year towards an endowed research internship program. This unique initiative will provide technical support and research training to assist policy makers and community-based child and family service providers in developing their research and program evaluation capacity. The RBC Foundation gift will significantly enhance the Centre's mission to "conduct and disseminate research for effective programs and policies for vulnerable children and youth and their families".

In its fourth year of operation the Centre welcomes a growing number of research projects (29 projects receiving over 2 million dollars in funding) ranging from evaluations of interventions for vulnerable children and their families, to a systematic review of interventions for parents of children with neuro-developmental disorders, to data collection for the 2008



cycle of the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect involving over 1,800 social workers in 117 sites across Canada. Thirty four students have been involved in centre research activities. The Centre has continued to host lunchtime research seminars as well as the joint McGill University and the University of Toronto child welfare research journal club, disseminating its reviews to over 2,500 researchers and professionals across Canada. Two data analysis training programs were held at the Centre: a week-long workshop for Aboriginal researchers from across Canada, and an introductory SPSS course for graduate students from the McGill School of Social Work.

In response to continued growth, we have re-organized and expanded the administrative structure of the Centre. During its' first three years of development the Centre provided a significant amount of administrative support to Centre based research projects. We are shifting a number of these functions to the principal investigators and their research assistants in order to free up the Centre's administrative team to focus on further developing the Centre's training and dissemination mandates. In addition, we will use the next year to complete the development of the RBC Training Program and to integrate and sustain research support, training and dissemination activities that had been developed through two previously externally funded projects: the SSHRC funded Evidence Based Management initiative and the Public Health Agency of Canada funded Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare. A new full-time research, training and dissemination coordinator position has been created to help support the Centre's expanded activities.

2. Mission and Mandate

Mission Statement

The Centre conducts and disseminates research on effective programs and policies for vulnerable children and youth and their families.

Vulnerability is broadly defined to include social, family, emotional, cognitive and health related problems that place children and youth at risk of developing serious psycho-social problems and not being able to achieve their full developmental potential. These can include a range of problems such as poverty, family violence, youth violence, mental health problems and disabilities.

Programs and policies include prevention and intervention programs to support vulnerable children and their families that have been developed in a range of settings, including but not limited to child welfare, children's mental health, education, recreation, and health care.

Mandate

The Centre Mandate is to:

- i. **conduct research** on effective prevention and intervention programs for vulnerable children and their families, including (i) research to understand risk and protective factors, (ii) efficacy and cost-effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs, (iii) analysis of administrative datasets to describe services and track outcomes, and (iv) in-depth studies to explore process and contextual factors that effect program implementation;
- ii. **develop partnerships** between researchers, service providers and policy makers, with a specific focus on (i) promoting research in partnership with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and other child and youth health and social service agencies in Montreal and across Québec, particularly organizations serving the Anglophone community, and (ii) providing a bridge between Quebec's extensive network of francophone community-university child and family research groups and other McGill, Canadian and international research groups focusing on vulnerable children and youth;
- iii. **provide research training** for graduate and post-graduate students, as well as supporting the development of research capacity in child and family service agencies;
- iv. **ensure timely dissemination** of Centre-based research in a manner that is accessible and relevant to policy makers and service providers.

3. Research

Six new research grants or contracts were successfully obtained and run through the Centre in 08-09, with 19 continuing grants or contracts and 4 Centre funded grants or contracts. Funding sources included SSHRC, CIHR, RBC, Fondation pour la pédiatrie sociale, Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Government of Québec, and the Government of Manitoba.

New Centre Based Research Funds

1) Community Capability and Development in Nunavik

Principal Investigator: Wendy Thomson
Co-Investigators: V. Sinha, O. Aitken, N. Ives
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2008–2010
Total Award: \$ 40,000 (\$ 28,500 in 2008-09)

The research studies are overseen by a Steering Group with a majority of members who are Inuit from Nunavik and is funded by the SSHRC Strategic Northern Development program. It involves extensive interviews in Nunavik, and is providing an opportunity to involve students from McGill as well as to train Nunavik residents in research skills (the first workshop was held in Kuujuaq in Sept 2009).

2) Outcome Trajectories in Children with Epilepsy: What Factors are Important? Quebec Subsample of the Canadian Study of Paediatric Epilepsy Health Outcomes

Principal Investigator: Lucyna Lach
Co-Investigators: M. Shevell, L. Carmant, G. Ronen, M. Boyle, C. Cunningham, P. Rosenbaum & D. Streiner
Funding Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Period: 2008–2013
Total Award: \$ 255,820 (\$ 30,000 in 2008-09)

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disorders in childhood and is increasingly understood as a complex, pervasive, neuro-behavioural and social condition. Health policy is shifting away from physician driven disease management to a Chronic Disease Model where the patient and his family act as the day-to-day managers of the health condition while health care professionals are the coach. Outcomes studies conducted in the treatment of epilepsy typically evaluate success of treatment using medical parameters. Not much is known about other outcomes such as quality of life and participation both of which are at the heart of how children, adolescents, and their caregivers define as important to them. Even less is known about the determinants of quality of life and participation in these children. The primary objective of this longitudinal study is to quantify the relative contributions of biomedical and psychosocial factors to the physical health, functional status, and quality of life outcomes among children with epilepsy. This study has both policy and service delivery implications.

3) Parenting Matters! The Biopsychosocial Context of Parenting Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Canada

Nominated Principal Investigator: Peter Rosenbaum
Co-Principal Investigators: L. Lach, D. Kohen
Co-Investigators: R. Birnbaum, J. Brehaut, R. Garner, M. McKenzie, T. McNeill, A. Niccols, D. Nicholas & M. Saini
Funding Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Period: 2009–2010
Total Award: \$ 780,114 (\$ 96,000 in 2008-09)

Surprisingly little is known about the processes involved in parenting children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD) given the complex emotional, behavioral and social problems that are either features or correlates of these conditions. The main goal of these studies are to gain a better understanding of the extent to which parenting children with NDD differs from parenting in general, what makes a difference to parenting, the difference that parenting makes to child outcomes, and whether there are ways of understanding parenting that is unique to this population.

Four multi-method projects address these questions: 1) Using an internationally recognized protocol for conducting a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative research, parenting behavior, cognition and style as well as social, family and child correlates of parenting will be established; 2) Secondary data analyses of the Canadian population-based National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) will quantitatively compare parenting children with NDD to parenting typically developing children; 3) A clinical study will examine predictors and experiences of parenting children with NDD; 4) A review of the legislation as well as a survey of existing policies and programs will be conducted to document those services available to Canadian parents of children with NDD in the areas of income support, respite/alternative care and case management. This will provide a solid basis against which to develop policy and practice recommendations.

4) Quantitative Methods for Aboriginal Child Welfare Research

Principal Investigator: Vandna Sinha
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé, B. Fallon, & B. MacLaurin
Funding Source: NNAMHR, CECW, CRCF
Period: 2009
Amount of Award: \$ 20,000

On May 19-22nd, 2009, the Centre for Research on Children and Families hosted the 2nd annual workshop on the use of quantitative methods for Aboriginal researchers. Participants from across Canada included child welfare managers, workers, university students and researchers. The Aboriginal component of the 2003 Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect was used to teach participants the possibilities of working with quantitative information about children and families. It also provided support on the design of research projects at local and community levels.

5) RBC Children's Services Research & Training Program

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Funding Source: Royal Bank of Canada
Period: 2008–2018

Award: \$ 2,000,000 (\$200,000 allocated 08-09)

In support of two key initiatives over the next ten years, The Royal Bank of Canada has generously granted \$2 million to create the RBC Children's Services Research & Training Program. These initiatives will provide technical support and research training to assist policy makers and community-based children's mental health service providers in developing their research and program evaluation capacity. An annual allocation of \$150,000 for ten years will staff and maintain a data laboratory set up to extract and house administrative children services data from across the country. A \$500,000 endowment supports an RBC Internship Program that allows community professionals and students with research internship and training opportunities to develop their capacity to use research tools to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services.

A portion of the first year's funding is being used sponsor a national child welfare outcomes roundtable in October 2009, which will bring together provincial and territorial Directors of child welfare, policy analysts, Directors of major child welfare agencies, and key international researchers. This two-day forum will help set priorities for the Children's Services Data Laboratory, introduce key stakeholders to the Laboratory, and stimulate a renewed interest and commitment in the collection, analysis, and use of data in social policy development.

6) Understanding Meta Analysis: a subjective interpretation of an 'objective' analysis

Principal Investigator: Mary Ellen Macdonald
Co-Investigators: J. Boivin, J. Brophy, F. Carnevale, A. Furlan, R. Kakuma, R. Platt, M. Rossignol & R. Steele
Funding Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Period: 2008–2010
Award: \$ 38,033

This project is designed to better understand how meta-analysts interpret meta-analyses, and in so doing, to characterize convergences and divergences in how meta-analysts believe they interpret meta-analyses and how they actually interpret meta-analyses. Using a three phase design, we will: a) capture the frameworks and reasoning processes meta-analysts believe they use when interpreting meta-analysis; b) assist meta-analysts to make explicit the frameworks and reasoning processes they actually employ in doing such a review; and ultimately c) bring meta-analysts together to reflect as a group on discrepancies in the review processes vis-a-vis current research standards.

Continuing Centre Based Research Funds

7) ACDPN Strengthening Families Program & CRCF Evaluation Project

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: A.-M. Piché, V.Sinha
Funding Source: Health Canada
Period: 2006–2008
Total Award: \$ 20,000 (\$0 allocated in 08-09)

This evaluation study aims to describe the Strengthening Families Program (SFP), which is one of the many existing activities within the African Community Development Prevention Network (ACDPN). As a result of the first phase of evaluation (2006-2008), five Montreal communities have now received funding from Health

Canada to be offered on a continuous basis over the next three years. The second phase of this study will collect information on the children and families in the five participating communities, which will allow for an expected overall sample size of 400 families over the course of three years.

8) Adaptation of the 'Developing families project': Recreating home, school, community partnership for First Nations and Inuit academic achievement

Principal Investigator: Nicole Ives
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (McGill internal)
Period: 2007–2008
Total Award: \$ 4,000

SSHRC funding enabled the Principal Investigator to participate in the data collection phase of the Developing Families Project, a strategy of bringing together systems, strategies, and curricula sensitive to the educational levels and culture of rural and peri-urban South Africa as a vehicle for community engagement, support, and advocacy for quality education. The grassroots approach guided the development of a proposal in Canada focused on academic achievement and retention of Inuit secondary school students. In September, 2009, the Principal Investigator submitted an application for a SSHRC-funded Aboriginal Research Development, entitled "Community partnerships for educational success: Exploring Inuit conceptualizations of parent/family involvement in Nunavik."

9) An Anthropology of Bereavement: A sociocultural analysis of parental grief and mourning

Principal Investigator: Mary Ellen Macdonald
Co-Investigators: L. Mitchell, P. Stephenson, & S. Cadell
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2007–2010
Total Award: \$ 75,000 (\$ 22,359 allocated 08-09)

This program of research seeks to understand, culturally and socially, what is the "bereaved parent" in Canadian society today, and what are the corresponding implications for the health and well-being of this population. Increasingly, bereavement care is being recognized as an essential component in interdisciplinary palliative care models, the goal being to help the bereaved arrive at a healthy adjustment to their loss. Studies show that while bereavement programs and practices may be clinically and intuitively based, they are rarely theoretically or empirically evidence-based. The clinical models and theories upon which bereavement interventions are designed have not been proven effective. Some evidence suggests that bereaved parents may derive little or no benefit from bereavement counseling, and that further harm may occur from the interventions.

Research Questions: 1. How is "parental bereavement" socially and culturally constructed in our society? 2. What are the corresponding implications for the health and well-being of these parents? 3. How do these constructions affect or impact the health and social services available to this population? This study will provide an important contribution to the interdisciplinary world of palliative care research and practice. Phase one (complete): A literature review was completed from which an orienting frame was constructed. Phase two (ongoing): An empirical project is being conducted, which includes interviewing bereaved parents and health care providers in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. Phase three (future): A participatory symposium will be held to advance clinical practice guidelines around parental bereavement.

10) Anorexia Nervosa in Young Female Adolescents: Risk and Protection Factors, Concomitant Disorders, and Symptoms' Evolution Following Clinical Management

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Co-Investigators: J.-Y. Frappier, J. Wilkins, D. Taddeo, O. Jamoulle, & D. Meilleur
Funding Source: Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC)
Period: 2008–2009
Total Award: \$ 13,500

This clinical study, conducted in collaboration with the Sainte-Justine Hospital, aims to identify the psychiatric, psychosocial and biological factors that can help distinguish the different profiles of young female adolescents (10 to 17 years old) who obtain services at the *Clinique de l'Adolescence* of the Sainte-Justine Hospital after having received a diagnostic of anorexia nervosa (according to the DSM IV TR criteria), as well as to measure the evolution of their symptoms, six months after the beginning of the treatment. Participants were recruited and the first phase of data collection has been completed. The follow-up collection will be underway in the fall of 2009.

11) Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS) 2008

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: B. Fallon, B. MacLaurin & V. Sinha
Funding Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
Period: 2007–2011
Amount of Award: \$ 1,200,000 (\$400,000 allocated 08-09)

The CIS is designed to examine the incidence of reported child maltreatment and the characteristics of the children and families investigated by Canadian child welfare services. Phase two of this project (September 2008 to August 2009) has involved finalizing quality control methods, producing training manuals, giving training sessions to child welfare workers, data collection, data entry and data cleaning. Phase three (August 2009 to April 2010) involves data cleaning, data analysis and the drafting of the final report. Phase four (April 2010 to January 2011) will involve the production of the final report, database and related technical documentation delivery, participant focused evaluations and dissemination of the results.

12) CIS 2008: First Nations Oversampling

Co-Principal Investigator: Vandna Sinha & Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: B. Fallon, & B. MacLaurin
Funding Source: CECW, PHAC, INAC & Provincial contributions
Period: 2007–2011
Amount of Award: \$ 450,000 (\$112,500 allocated 08-09)

The goal for the CIS-2008 was to increase the sample of First Nations child welfare agencies from eight to twenty. In total, twenty-two First Nations agencies participated in the CIS-2008. The increased sample size will yield a more detailed understanding of the nature of and response to maltreatment of First Nations children. Specifically, it will allow for closer examination of the different forms of neglect that contribute to First Nations' overrepresentation in the child welfare system. As in prior CIS cycles, a key priority has been to ensure First Nations' ownership of, control over, access to and possession of the knowledge produced by CIS-2008. A nationally representative, First Nations advisory committee has assisted with recruitment of

First Nations service agencies, offered cultural/ethical guidance, to prioritize secondary analyses and to facilitate dissemination of results.

13) CIS 2008: Québec Oversampling

Principal Investigator:	Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators:	D. Turcotte, & S. Hélie
Funding Source:	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
Period:	2007–2011
Total Award:	\$ 200,000 (\$67,000 allocated in 08-09)

The Canadian Incidence Study sample is designed to derive national annual estimates only. In the 2008 cycle of the CIS, Quebec is one of the provinces which provided additional funds for oversampling to produce provincial estimates. The specific objectives of provincial oversampling are: to determine provincial estimates of the incidence of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment and exposure to domestic violence in 2008; to investigate the severity of maltreatment as measured by forms of maltreatment, duration and physical and emotional harm; to examine selected determinants of health that may be associated with maltreatment; to monitor short-term investigation outcomes including substantiation rates, placement in care, use of child welfare court and criminal prosecution, and to provide a baseline for comparison of future cycles of the incidence study or to compare 2003 and 2008 rates for those provinces that oversampled in the previous cycle(s).

16 youth centres in Quebec participated in the study with cases being randomly sampled by the client information system which prompted the youth protection worker to complete the electronic form at the conclusion of the investigation. This procedure generated a final sample of approximately 3000 investigations.

14) Centre for Excellence on Child Welfare: McGill Site

Principal Investigator:	Nico Trocmé
Funding Sources:	Public Health Agency of Canada / Canadian Institute for Health Research
Period:	2005–2009
Amount of Award:	\$ 502,590 (PHAC) /\$ 111,000 (CIHR) (\$ 172,504 allocated 08/09)

The CECW is a research and policy network involving three universities and two NGOs. The McGill site at the Centre has taken the lead on four projects. (1) *Research Watch* uses a monthly journal club format with faculty and graduate students to review research articles published in the leading child welfare journals. The most relevant and well designed studies are summarized and disseminated through the CECW's list of approximately 2,500 subscribers. (2) The Centre has been redeveloping the CECW Website (www.cecw-cepb.ca), Canada's national clearinghouse for child welfare research. Since the launch of the new website in May 2009, monthly visits to the new website have consistently increased to over 8,000 visits a month. (3) The Centre is also coordinating a Federal Provincial Territorial outcome data harmonization project, the *National Outcome Matrix* (NOM). Preliminary data from 8 jurisdictions will be shared at a two-day national roundtable event held in Montreal in October. (4) Finally, CECW funds have been used to initiate several data analysis support projects with Aboriginal researchers and service providers, including a week-long summer data workshop and examination of the application of NOM with several First Nation service providers.

15) CFI Leader of Opportunity Funds

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Funding Source: Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
Period: 2008–2011
Amount of Award: \$ 172,773
Matching Funds: \$ 259,160 (Government of Quebec, McGill Faculty of Arts, CRCF)

The 3-year Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant of \$431,933 awarded to Dr. Trocmé in 2007 will be coming to a close in January 2010. A portion of the fund was used last year to complete major renovations and set up an infrastructure for a secure data lab. The balance has supported on-going researcher training, salaries for a database developer and a database editor, as well as on-going software and equipment upgrades.

16) Child Sexual Abuse in First Nations Communities

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Funding Source: Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC), through the Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Problèmes Conjugaux et les Agressions Sexuelles (CRIPCAS)
Period: 2007–2009
Total Award: \$ 4,500

Using the current literature on child sexual abuse in First Nations communities, from both academic databases and organizations involved with these communities, a comprehensive and critical review of the current state of data will be undertaken. Variations in reported rates and methodological issues are to be specifically targeted to organize the data in a consistent and systematic way, with the ultimate purpose of providing grounds for future interventions, research and policy development.

17) Engaging mothers and fathers: Challenges for social service practices with parents

Principal Investigator: Julia Krane
Co-Investigators: L. Davies, & B. Featherstone
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2007–2010
Total Award: \$ 97,500 (\$ 38,106 allocated 08-09)

This research investigates social work relationships with mothers and fathers in response to their children's difficulties by undertaking qualitative case studies of three distinct social service settings that respond to the needs of families during times of difficulty with a child: a hospital social service department, a community-based family service agency, and child welfare agency. This project has direct appeal to social workers and allied professionals who will be invited to rethink policies, procedures and practices that often unwittingly reproduce both mother blame and the invisibility of fathers in relation to their children's well-being. The results of this research will be disseminated to include training materials and workshop presentations to professionals dealing with children and their families.

18) Evidenced-Based Management in Child Welfare Services

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: W. Thomson, B. MacLaurin, A. Shlonsky, & S. Hélie
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2006–2009
Total Award: \$ 298,872 (\$99,624 allocated 08-09)
Matching Funds: \$ 210,000 (McGill, Batshaw, ACJQ; \$70,000 allocated 08-09)

The Evidence-Based Management project is a three-year (2006-2009) knowledge-mobilization initiative designed to develop and evaluate a model for supporting greater use of research as a management tool in child welfare organizations. During its third year of implementation the project has focused on 7 key activities. First, client and service outcome data from Batshaw Youth and Family Centres' information system continue to be retrieved and analyzed with respect to 6 out of the 10 indicators from the Canadian Child Welfare Outcome Indicator Matrix. Second, the initiative is serving as a pilot site for a 1-year ACJQ-led project using these outcome indicators with three youth protection agencies, in order to demonstrate their feasibility and utility at the provincial level. Third, the systematic use of clinical expertise at Batshaw has been further supported through a pilot clinical trends consultation held with a group of senior clinicians, two surveys with Batshaw staff and clients, as well as in the formation of two Clinical Integration Groups in the areas of Sexual Abuse and Conjugal Violence. Fourth, Knowledge brokers continue to work with 10 Batshaw Management teams and committees. Fifth, Research Seminars are held on a regular basis to provide an opportunity for researchers to share and discuss their research with Batshaw clinicians among other participants. Sixth, a publication has been developed in partnership with Batshaw for clinical staff as a knowledge dissemination vehicle to report on research and other EBM activities. Finally, the EBM portion of the CRCF website has been updated to provide current information on all aspects of the project.

19) Follow-up analysis of the second cycle of the CIS

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Funding Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
Period: 2006–2010
Total Award: \$ 17,500 (\$0 allocated 08-09)

CIS secondary analyses funds were used to assist with several research initiatives. Dr. Claire Chamberland was supported in two papers: one explored the increase in reports of emotional maltreatment between the CIS-1998 and the CIS-2003; the other focused on the predictors associated with emotional abuse versus emotional neglect. An Ontario child welfare agency used data from the CIS-2003 study to examine the placement decision by geographic region. A factsheet was developed and published on the CECW website. Student research projects were also supported through these funds involving various topics from the child welfare system's response to investigations involving Asian caregivers to the intersect of the child welfare system with the Youth Criminal Justice system.

20) Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale “Le Cercle de l’Enfant” & CRCF Evaluation Project

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: A.-M. Piché, A. Campbell, & E. Fast
Funding Source: Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale
Period: 2008–2011

Total Award: \$ 69,790 (\$17,000 allocated 08-09)

'The Child's Protective Circle (Le Cercle de l'Enfant)' is a preventive model aimed at lowering the state of vulnerability of a child experiencing various family, health or social difficulties. The Circle targets children using services from social paediatrics centres established in two socially disadvantaged communities of Montréal, Québec. The model is based on aboriginal decision-making philosophy and family group conferencing, and uses mediation tools to create and strengthen a partnership among families, communities and institutions. Le Cercle advocates for a more active participation of families and their informal networks in determining the best course of actions to protect the child and support his development.

The Circle model is presently the object of an evaluation study in partnership between McGill University's Centre for Research on Children and Families and Montreal based Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale. In 2008-2009, the evaluation has started to explore and describe the model during its implementation by collecting participants' viewpoints on their involvement in the decision-making process following the Circle. It also tracked the progress of situations involving referred children and families. The project was presented at an international conference and described in a documentary film.

21) Invisible Victims of Sexual Abuse: Study of clinical and at risk children and adolescent Canadian populations

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Funding Source: Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
Period: 2008–2010
Total Award: \$ 291,811 (\$116,722 allocated 08-09)

This fund ensures the development of the LAB-DASE, a data lab on child sexual abuse. Renovations are planned for the summer and fall of 2009. The goal of this lab will be to access a representative population of abused children and adolescents. A unique Canadian dataset will be created through data collection from various locations, such as the Montreal Children's Hospital and Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, and collaborations with the Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, in order to target First Nations communities. In addition, data from CIS (1998, 2003 and 2008) will be analyzed to grasp the extent of child sexual abuse incidence in Canada.

22) National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project: Phase II

Principal Investigator: Robin Wright
Co-Investigators: G. Burgos
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2007–2010
Amount of Award: \$ 140,000 (\$ 38,290 allocated 08-09)

The main objective of the present study is to explore the long-term impact of a structured after-school arts program on the psychosocial functioning of youth residing in low-income, multicultural, and Aboriginal communities in five sites across Canada. The proposed study will conduct a follow-up of 183 (between 30-35 youth per site) participants, now 14-20 years of age, 4 ½ years after the end of the after-school arts programs. Phase II of the study will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the five original sites that delivered the arts program in Montreal, Toronto, Tillsonburg, Manitoba, and Vancouver.

23) Parenting Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions and Disabilities: A Synthesis of the Research

Principal Investigator: Lucyna M. Lach
Co-Investigators: D. Nicholas, & T. McNeill
Funding Source: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – Research Development Initiative (SSHRC-RDI)
Period: 2008–2009
Total Award: \$ 39,983 / \$ 5,000 McGill research stipend

Mothers and fathers are instrumental in facilitating the growth and happiness of children and adolescents with chronic health conditions and disabilities (CHCD). In practice, there is an implicit understanding that the type and quality of parenting plays a significant role in the emotional, behavioural, social and quality of life outcomes of this vulnerable population. Although studies in general child health literature increasingly demonstrate the difference that parenting behaviors, cognitions and styles make to child health, they do little to help us to understand what constitutes parenting and what it is about the context within which parenting takes place that facilitates or hinders how effective and supportive their parenting is.

The main goal of this study is to gain a thorough understanding of the conceptual basis, empirical literature as well as the measures used to study parenting in this population. Using an internationally recognized protocol for conducting a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative research, parenting behavior, cognition and style as well as social, family and child correlates of parenting will be established. This will provide a solid basis against which to develop future research questions.

24) Pediatric Life-Support Decisions by Physicians and Nurses in France and Quebec: An experiential and socio-cultural examination

Principal Investigator: Franco Carnevale
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (McGill internal)
Period: 2007–2009
Total Award: \$ 4,000

This is a study of ethical dilemmas surrounding life-support decisions for critically ill children in France and Quebec. The study involves focus groups interviews with physicians and nurses. This is a follow-up to a prior (published) study of parental perspectives.

25) Who is welcoming the stranger? Exploring faith-based service provision to refugees in Philadelphia

Principal Investigator: Nicole Ives
Co-Investigator: J. W. Sinha
Funding Source: McGill Start-Up Fund
Period: 2007–2008
Total Award: \$ 13,500

This study analyzed data from the Philadelphia Census of Congregations (PCC) in order to understand one provider of social support and facilitator of integration for resettling refugees: the religious congregation. Specifically, the study sought to understand the character of congregations that tend to assist refugees,

understand the ways in which refugee sponsorship fits into social service provision by faith-based entities, and to the public policy discussion related to refugee resettlement by highlighting salient issues and themes regarding congregational involvement. Two conference presentations and a peer reviewed journal article were produced.

Centre Funded Research

In addition to continuing to support a community-based evaluation (Family Ties) the Centre is supporting three new data-collection and data-analysis projects to build the capacity of the Data Lab through the new RBC funding program.

26) Explanations for the Child Sexual Abuse Rate Decline in Canada

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé, M. Chabot, & B. Fallon
Funding Source: Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period: 2007–2009
Amount of Award: \$ 10,000 total

The Centre has committed to supporting data analysis of sexual abuse cases from CIS datasets. Rates of sexual abuse (SA) reported to and substantiated by Child Protection Services (CPS) have dropped by nearly a third in Canada between 1998 and 2003. Although we would hope that this decline reflects a true diminution of SA perpetrated on children in the population, it is also possible that victims and non-offending parents are less likely than before to disclose abuse to authorities, and/or that changes in the management of SA cases by CPS could explain this decline. The present study seeks to explore various potential sources of explanations for the decline in SA investigations by CPS in Canada, including: (1) stricter measures to retain SA cases reported to CPS, (2) a reduction in CPS involvement when the perpetrator is not a family member, and (3) increasing parental reserve to report their own child to authorities.

27) Evaluation of the Family TIES program

Principal Investigator: Stephen Ellenbogen
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé, C. Laurendeau, N. Pare, & R. Calame
Funding Source: Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period: 2006–2009
Amount of Award: \$ 10,000

The Family TIES program at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres is a unique family-centered approach to treating problems of youth aggression and family dysfunction. A study is currently underway to test feasibility and track change in the participants. Measures were administered to youth and parents both immediately before and a few weeks after the program. The ultimate goal is to identify problems that might threaten the validity of an eventual outcome study, and evaluate whether the youth and parents improve in areas targeted by this intervention. The CRCF had committed \$10,000 to supporting pilot research; Batshaw provided \$10,000 in matching funds, and is contributing additional funds as required. A funding proposal will be submitted to the Department of Justice in early 2010.

28) La Poly-Victimization des Jeunes au Québec

Principal Investigator: Claire Chamberland
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé, D. Collin-Vézina, M.-E. Clément, D. Damant et al.
Funding Source: Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period: 2006–2008
Amount of Award: \$ 5,000

The Centre has committed \$5,000 to translate to French the Finkelhor et al. questionnaires on «Juvenile Victimization». A consortium of researchers from across Québec is pilot testing the questionnaire to determine the feasibility of conducting a Québec-wide youth victimization survey. Batshaw Youth & Family Centres as well as other Youth Centres from Quebec City and Montreal are involved in this project.

29) Observatoire sur les mauvais traitements envers les enfants

Principal Investigator: Sonia Hélie
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé & D. Collin-Vézina
Funding Source: Royal Bank of Canada
Period: 2009–2011
Award: \$ 10,000

The Observatoire includes administrative data from public registries and populational studies. Currently, the data comes from 1) the youth protection system, 2) the Coroner's office, 3) the police and justice systems and 4) the health care system. This combination of data and their comparison allow for a more complete and better understanding of child maltreatment. It also allows for a more complete understanding of its distribution across time and space, independent of the social lens (or system) through which it is studied. This past year has focused on redeveloping the Observatoire and establishing partnerships with supporting organizations such as the CRCF's RBC data laboratory.

4. Dissemination & Training

Research Seminars

The 2008-2009 series of research seminars provided an opportunity for faculty, visiting scholars and graduate students to share and discuss their research. One presentation was scheduled for each meeting. Presenters used the seminar to discuss preliminary results, data interpretation issues and methodological questions arising from their research. The following is a chronological list of the 08-09 seminars:

Nico Trocmé & Tony Esposito, *Practice to research: An evidence-based management initiative tracking child and family outcomes using administrative data*

David Este, *Conflict and disdain: Child welfare and Calgary's Sudanese community*

Stephen Ellenbogen, *Victim or perpetrator? Aggressive youth in child protection*

Vandna Sinha & Anne-Marie Piché, *Implementing the Strengthening Families Program in Montréal's black communities: Integrating community development with prevention programming*

Elaine Farmer, Richard Gray & Derek Montour, *Kinship and customary care in First Nations communities: Implications for permanency planning*

Katie Cyr & Delphine Collin-Vézina, *Youth Polyvictimization in Québec*

Stephen Ellenbogen & Robert Calame, *Preventing violence by strengthening vulnerable families: Evaluation of a family-centred intervention for aggressive youth in child protection*

Gale Burford, *Engaging the family group in child welfare decision making: Developing strategies for research reviews that 'work'*

Delphine Collin-Vézina & Kim Coleman, *Traumatic symptoms of youth in care*

For more information and all of the presentation slides, visit the www.mcgill.ca/crcf/seminar/

Website

The Centre has actively maintained its website (www.mcgill.ca/crcf) while developing new sections and features. The primary objective of the site is to describe Centre activities, announce upcoming events and disseminate research results. There have been a total of 880,545 hits (533,446 last year) and 168,056 downloads (36,186 last year) from June 1st 2008 to May 31st 2009. The Centre also has been leading the redevelopment of Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare website (www.cecw-cepb.ca), which now serves as a clearinghouse for child welfare research across Canada.

Student Training

The Centre provided research training to over 40 students through a variety of programs including external graduate scholarships (FQRSC & SSHRC), research assistantships, the Faculty of Arts Works Study program, participation in Journal Watch, thesis research support and statistical consultation.

5. Centre Development

Governance

The Centre's Board met twice in 2008-2009, in the Fall to review and ratify the Centre's financial statement and receive the Director's Annual Report and in the Spring to review the planned activities and budget for 2009-2010. The Board includes:

Christopher Manfredi (CRCF Board Chair, Dean of Arts)
Nico Trocmé (Centre Director)
Rima Rozen (Rep for Vice President of Research)
Wendy Thomson (Director of the SSW)
Margaret Doueck (Executive Director, Batshaw)
Lucyna Lach (Faculty Rep)
Sydney Duder (Faculty Rep)
Tony Esposito (Graduate Student Rep)

Infrastructure

CFI Infrastructure Funds

A final set of renovations is being completed over 2008 and 2009 with funds from two Canadian Foundation for Innovation grants: Dr. Collin-Vézina's Data Lab on Child Sexual Abuse and Dr. Trocmé's Canadian Child

Welfare Data Lab. The Centre is now equipped with 25 workstations, a video-conferencing meeting room and a secure data lab.

New Centre Staff

Pamela Weightman has been recruited as the Centre's Research, Training and Dissemination Coordinator, a full-time Centre staff position. In addition to having extensive experience in child welfare practice, Pamela was the coordinator for the Québec portion of the 2008 cycle of the Canadian Incidence Study.

Membership

The Centre's membership includes over 60 faculty, students, staff and community members who are actively involved in the Centre's activities. These include:

Faculty

Angela Campbell, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law
Aron Shlonsky, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work (University of Toronto)
Barbara Fallon, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work (University of Toronto)
Delphine Collin-Vézina, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Franco Carnevale, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
Jo Ann Levesque, Research Office Director, Office of Research Opportunities, Faculty of Arts
Julia Krane, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Linda Davies, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Lucyna Lach, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Mary Ellen Macdonald, Assistant Professor, Department of Oncology
Myriam Denov, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Nico Trocmé, Philip Fisher Chair in Social Work
Nicole Ives, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Robin Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work (University of Windsor)
Sharon Bond, Professional Associate, School of Social Work
Stephen Ellenbogen, Assistant Professor (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
Sydney Duder, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Vandna Sinha, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Wendy Thomson, Director of the School of Social Work

Community

Claude Laurendeau, Director of Professional Services, Batshaw
Lorry Coughlin, Manager Clinical Information Systems
Margaret Douek, Executive Director, Batshaw Youth and Family Services
Michael Udy, Child Welfare Consultant

Postdocs

Catherine Roy, EBM Knowledge Broker
Claudia Lahaie, Institute for Health and Social Policy, McGill University
Mónica Ruiz-Casares, Transcultural Research and Intervention Team

Students

Aline Boggosian, MSW student

Alpana Das, MSW student
Anne-Marie Piché, PhD student
Denise Keiko Thomas, PhD student
Elizabeth Fast, PhD student
Fannie Martel-Latendresse, MSW student
Geneviève Pagé, PhD student
Gina Glidden, BSW student
Heather Mah, MSW student
Jessica Mitchel, MSW student
Kate Mechan, MSW student
Kim Coleman, PhD student
Kristin Gionfriddo, MSW student
Leigh Garland, MSW student
Lianne Charron, MSW student
Lise Milne, MSW student
Mairi Springate, Bachelor's student in Law
Meghan Mulcahy, MSW student
Michelle Sullivan, MSW student
Mireille de la Sablonnière-Griffin, BSW student
Pamela Weightman, MSW student
Riel Dupuis Rossi, MSW student
Rosemary Carlton, PhD student
Sacha Bailey, PhD student
Shirley Wallace, MSW student
Tara Black, PhD student
Tonino Esposito, PhD student
Traci Cimino, MSW student
Ugochi Nnadozie, Master's student in Law
William Affleck, PhD student
Ye Ri Choi, PhD student

Research and Administrative Staff

The Centre also operates with support from the following research and administrative staff:

Heather Fewtrell, Administrative Coordinator
Jules Lajoie, CECW & CRCF Webmaster
Kelly Finnerty, Administrative Assistant
Lise Milne, Project Manager – Evidence-Based Management
Martin Chabot, Data Analyst
Pamela Weightman, Research, Dissemination & Training Coordinator
Michelle Sullivan, Administrative Consultant

6. Financial Report

The Centre receives funds from three sources: an Endowed Income Fund, an Endowed Social Work Fellowship Fund and Research Project funds (including RBC funds). Annual financial reports for the two endowed funds and a summary of research funds are included in the attached Appendices. Detailed financial reports specific to externally funded research projects are filed separately with each funding agency.

Endowed Income Fund

The Endowed Income Fund (see Appendix A) supports the Centre's administration and its research and dissemination infrastructure. While in previous years we have managed to under-spend the fund, a number of unusual expenses in 2008-2009 have required us to use part of the surplus accumulated in the previous three years. These include a \$21,576 contribution towards McGill's share of the Centre's CFI infrastructure fund and hiring an administrative consultant to assist us in reorganizing the Centre's administrative processes. It should also be noted that printing, photocopying and telephone/LAN costs have more than doubled over the past two fiscal years (average of \$8,000 from 05 to 07 to an average of close to \$17,000 from 07 to 09). We now have procedures in place that allow us monitor these costs more closely and charge back a larger portion to research projects

Social Work Fellowship Fund

The fund produced \$ 3,324.48 in income in 2008-2009 which was added to carry-forward from 2007-2008. Two travel fellowships were awarded for a total of \$1,510 during the 08-09 year leaving a balance of 11,579.94. While this fund continues to be under-spent, we will be in a better position to further develop the program with the help of the new Research, Training and Dissemination Coordinator. The Fellowship Fund will also be reviewed to ensure that it effectively complements the new RBC Internship program.

Research Project Funds

The total amount of research project funds run through the Centre for 2008-2009 was over \$2 million, a 15% increase over the previous year and a five-fold increase over 2004-2005. Despite the renovations that have allowed for a more efficient use of space, the Centre does not have the capacity to house more activity. It should be noted, however, that we anticipate a decrease in funded research in the next two fiscal years given that several large funds are entering their final year (CECW, CIS data collection, EBM & the Trocmé & Vézina CFIs).

APPENDIX A

Endowment Income Fund (227581) June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009

INCOME

Income from Endowment	\$ 130,805.64
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EXPENDITURES

Salaries

Administrative Coordinator	36,700.48
Administrative Assistant	38,111.30
Research & Dissemination Coordinator ¹	0.00
Administrative Consultant ²	<u>13,637.90</u>
	88,449.68

Other

Materials & Supplies	1,924.92
Computer Equipment	2,693.66
Furniture	2,240.40
Printing/Photocopying/Postage	6,224.81
Books/Manuals/Subscriptions/Memberships	1,566.82
Miscellaneous	1,417.46
Stationery	1,630.50
Telephones/Fax/Cell/LAN	10,126.13
Travel	2,594.37
Contribution to CFI fund	21,576.00
CRC course release	<u>5,000.00</u>
	56,995.07

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$ 145,444.75

¹ Salary covered by RBC and EIQ funds

² Salary covered in art by RBC funds

APPENDIX B

Social Work Fellowship (222589) June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009

BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2008 **\$ 9,765.60**

INCOME

Income from Endowment 3,324.48

EXPENDITURES

Travel awards

Elizabeth Fast	761.55
Meghan Mulcahy	748.59

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1,510.14

BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2009 **\$ 11,579.94**

APPENDIX C

Project Funds

June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009

Source	Project	Amount
SSHRC	Community Capability and Development in Nunavik	\$28,500 (year 1)
CIHR	Outcome Trajectories in Children with Epilepsy	\$30,000 (year 1)
CIHR	Parenting Matters!	\$96,000 (year 1)
NAMHR,CECW & CRCF	Quantitative Methods for Aboriginal Child Welfare Research	\$20,000 (year 1)
CIHR	Understanding Meta Analysis	\$38,033 (year 1)
RBC	RBC Children's Services Research & Training Program	\$200,000 (year 1)
CFI	CFI Leader of Opportunity Fund: Data Lab	\$431,933 (year 2)
PHAC	Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS) 2008	\$400,000 (year 2)
Gov of Manitoba	CIS 2008: First Nations Oversampling	\$112,500 (year 2)
MSSS	CIS 2008: Québec Oversampling	\$67,000 (year 2)
FPPS	Le cercle de l'enfant	\$17,000 (year 2)
SSHRC	Parenting Children & Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions & Disabilities	\$44,983 (year 2)
FQRSC	Child Sexual Abuse in First Nations Communities	\$4,500 (year 2)
FQRSC	Anorexia Nervosa in Young Female Adolescents	\$13,500 (year 2)
CFI	Invisible Victims of Sexual Abuse	\$116,722 (year 2)
SSHRC	An Anthropology of Bereavement	\$22,359 (year 2)

Source	Project	Amount
SSHRC	Pediatric Life-Support Decisions by Physicians and Nurses in France & Québec	\$4,000 (year 2)
SSHRC	Adaptation of the “Developing families project”	\$4,000 (year 2)
McGill	Exploring Faith-based Service Provision to Refugees in Philadelphia	\$13,500 (year 2)
SSHRC	Engaging Mothers & Fathers:Challenges for Social Service Practices with Parents	\$38,106 (year 2)
SSHRC, McGill & ACJQ	Evidence-Based Management in Child Welfare Services	\$99,624 (year4) \$70,000 (year 4)
PHAC	Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare	\$172,504 (year 9)
SSHRC	National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project: Phase II	\$38,290 (year 3)
TOTAL		\$ 2,083,054