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1999

Guide to Federal Programs and Services for Children and Youth



Second Edition

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Canada

Our mission is to help the people of Canada
maintain and improve their health.

Health Canada

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It can also be made available upon request in/on computer diskette/
large-print/audio-cassette/braille. Please see the order form at the end of
this publication.

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre *Guide des programmes et services
fédéraux pour les enfants et les jeunes.*

Foreword

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1999 12.2

The *Guide to Federal Programs and Services for Children and Youth* provides parents, families, organizations and those who work with children with information on existing federal programs and services. It contains basic information on the programs administered by the federal government that are relevant to children and young people — persons under 19 years of age.

The Guide is organized thematically: Aboriginal peoples, education, families, health and so on. Within each theme, the programs are listed in alphabetical order. The program descriptions contain information on objectives, target groups and particulars for obtaining further information. An index by subject matter and an index by department/agency name and the programs or services available are included to help you find the information you need.

Information on youth employment programs has been limited to an overview of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy to avoid the duplication of information readily available through other sources. The overview lists the different programs available under the Strategy, participating government departments/agencies and the various sources for additional information on career planning tools as well as work experience and learning opportunities.

The *Guide to Federal Programs and Services for Children and Youth* is also available on the Internet at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>.

To help improve future editions of the Guide, please take a minute to complete and return the feedback form at the back of this publication.

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Aboriginal Peoples

Aboriginal Friendship Centres Program

The Aboriginal Friendship Centres Program is aimed at improving the quality of life of Aboriginal peoples living in an urban environment. Friendship Centres provide services in areas such as housing, education, health, employment, recreation and human resource development. They also work in cooperation with municipal/provincial authorities on crime and violence prevention by sponsoring diversion and community healing/wellness programs for Aboriginal youth.

Many centres provide early child development and family-related services under agreements with the Aboriginal Head Start Initiative.

For more information, contact:

Citizens' Participation Directorate – Native Programs
Citizens' Participation and Multiculturalism Branch
Canadian Heritage
Jules Léger Building, Room 7-A-28
15 Eddy Street
Hull, Quebec K1A 0M5

Telephone: (819) 994-3835
Facsimile: (819) 953-2673
Internet: <http://www.pch.gc.ca>

Aboriginal Head Start Initiative

Aboriginal Head Start is an early intervention program for young Aboriginal children (ages zero to six, with a primary focus on three to five years) and their families. In 1998, the program was expanded to include First Nations children and families on reserve. Each project is designed in consultation with local Aboriginal groups. The program provides funding and involves parents and the Aboriginal community in the design and implementation of preschool projects that include the following components:

- culture and language,
- education,
- health promotion,
- nutrition,
- social support programs, and
- parental involvement.

For more information on the program for *urban or Northern communities*, contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 952-5845
Facsimile: (613) 941-5492
E-mail: ahs-papa@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

For more information on the *on-reserve* component of the program, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 957-1477
Facsimile: (613) 954-8107

Building Healthy Communities

Building Healthy Communities is a community-based program available to First Nations and Inuit communities. It is aimed at increasing community services for First Nations and Inuit people in such areas as mental health, home nursing care and solvent abuse.

The mental health and crisis management component provides support for intervention in crisis situations. It also provides follow-up and rehabilitation services as well as training to improve the way crises are handled within the communities. The home care component serves to coordinate the care provided on reserves to persons leaving the hospital or in the acute phase of an illness. The solvent abuse component is aimed mainly at young people. It focuses on the preparation and carrying out of early intervention activities, the integration of institutional treatment services and the advancement of relevant research.

The Building Healthy Communities program also seeks to support these same communities in learning to manage their health system.

For more information, contact the Medical Services Branch of your nearest Health Canada office or contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 957-1477
Facsimile: (613) 954-8107

Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program – First Nations and Inuit Component

The goal of this community-based program is to improve the health of high-risk pregnant women, the birth outcome and the initiation and duration of breastfeeding. The cornerstone of the program is nutrition education/counselling and provision of food as appropriate. In addition, the program links pregnant women and new mothers to other services as required — such as smoking cessation and other addiction services.

In many communities, this program has superseded the First Nations and Inuit Healthy Babies component of the Brighter Futures Initiative.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 954-7757

Facsimile: (613) 954-8107

Child Development

The Child Development Program provides ongoing support and assistance to First Nations and Inuit communities to assist them in running children's programs that are community based, designed and managed.

Communities are provided with resources for consultation, resource development and distribution, meetings, research and training initiatives. The program promotes optimal health and social development for infants, toddlers and preschoolers by promoting early childhood development opportunities such as family-linked stimulation and after-school re-enforcement.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: **613-957-3388**
Facsimile: **613-954-8107**

Community Mental Health Program

The Community Mental Health Program is a component of the Child Development Initiative (also known as the Brighter Futures Initiative). This program supports First Nations and Inuit communities in establishing and managing their own community mental health programs. The intent is to promote children's development in harmony with their family and community.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: **(613) 957-1477**
Facsimile: **(613) 954-8107**

Cultural/Educational Centres Program

The Cultural/Educational Centres Program advocates conservation, development, promotion and expression of Indian and Inuit culture, language and heritage. These centres are directed by the First Nations and Inuit communities. They provide a variety of programs and services from a Native perspective. For example, the centres have a huge collection of archaeological or other documents, artifacts, original manuscripts and books. They also have recorded legends and traditional tales transmitted orally by the communities' elders.

The cultural/educational centres have also contributed to the delivery of culture-related programs and to the teaching of languages in schools attended by First Nations and Inuit children.

For more information, contact:

**Learning, Employment and Human Development Directorate
Socio-Economic Policy and Programming Branch
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, North Tower, Room 1950
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4**

Telephone: (819) 997-8396

Facsimile: (819) 994-0443

First Nations Child and Family Services Program

The First Nations Child and Family Services Program funds and promotes the development and establishment of organizations dedicated to providing child and family services. The objective of the program is to enable First Nations children and families living on reserve to have access to culturally sensitive child and family services within their communities — services comparable to those available to other provincial residents in similar circumstances.

For more information, contact:

**Community Development Directorate
Social Policy and Programs Branch
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, North Tower, Room 1945C
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4**

Telephone: (819) 994-7242

Facsimile: (819) 953-3321

Indian and Inuit Childhood Injury Prevention Program

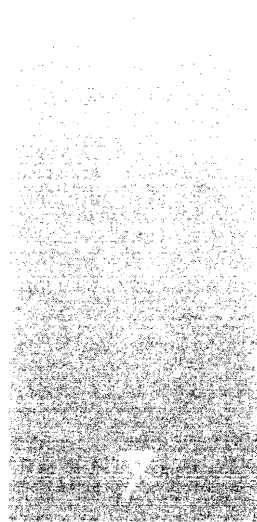
In Canada, injury remains the leading cause of death and disability for First Nations children living on or off reserve and for Inuit children. As a result, a number of activities have been undertaken to reduce the incidence and seriousness of the injuries. The Indian and Inuit Childhood Injury Prevention Program — which is also part of the Child Development Initiative (or Brighter Futures) — encourages the development of community action projects likely to reduce the number of injuries in Native communities.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 957-1477

Facsimile: (613) 954-8107



Indian and Inuit Healthy Babies Program

The Indian and Inuit Healthy Babies Program is another component of the Child Development Initiative (or Brighter Futures). It is aimed at supporting First Nations and Inuit community efforts to ensure the health of babies. Activities under this program include:

- educating pregnant and nursing mothers on appropriate diets for both mother and child,
- promoting breastfeeding, and
- developing culturally appropriate educational resources and training programs for community health professionals.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 957-1477
Facsimile: (613) 954-8107

Parenting Skills

This component of the Brighter Futures Initiative supports First Nations and Inuit community-based efforts to provide culturally appropriate parenting skills training and ongoing support to parents. It also reinforces and promotes positive parenting values and skills — values and skills that are rooted in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 957-3388
Facsimile: (613) 954-8107

Solvent Abuse

The Solvent Abuse component of the Brighter Futures Initiative provides for the establishment of treatment programs for First Nations and Inuit youth who are solvent abusers. This program also provides for early intervention programs for solvent abuse as well as training for existing addiction workers.

For more information, contact:

**Health Programs Support
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

Telephone: (613) 957-3388
Facsimile: (613) 954-8107

Adoption – International

International Adoption and the Immigration Process

By adopting a child from another country, Canadian parents are giving a young person the chance to start a new life in this country. There are, however, several steps that must be taken before such an adoption can take place.

Once you have decided to pursue an international adoption, contact the authorities in your province or territory. Each province has a different system for assessing the ability of prospective parents to provide a suitable and safe family environment for a child. (In many cases, provincial officers will come to the home.)

When provincial requirements for adoption have been met, you can contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to initiate the immigration process. This involves submitting a “sponsorship” application to the CIC Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Mississauga, Ontario. The application is a declaration that the sponsors agree to provide the necessary care and support for the child they wish to adopt or have adopted. The CPC verifies the information on the application and informs the appropriate visa office abroad that the sponsorship has been approved.

Next, you will need to submit an application for permanent residence to the Canadian visa office responsible for the child’s home country. A visa officer will assess whether or not the child can be admitted into Canada as an immigrant. The decision will be based on factors such as age and health. The visa officer will only issue a visa to a child if:

- all the immigration requirements are met,
- a letter is obtained from the provincial child welfare authority, and
- the foreign government allows the transfer of the child to the adoptive parents.

For more information about this process, visit the CIC Web site at <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca> or obtain a copy of the booklet *International Adoption and the Immigration Process* from your local CIC office.

National Adoption Desk

The National Adoption Desk was established in 1975 at the request of all provinces and territories (except Quebec) to represent provincial adoption authorities abroad. The province of Quebec manages its own relations with other provinces and foreign countries through the Secrétariat à l'adoption internationale du Québec.

The National Adoption Desk fulfils the following roles:

- represents the provinces and territories abroad in matters of intercountry adoptions;
- develops arrangements to provide safeguards for the best interests of the children being adopted from other countries by Canadians;
- processes intercountry adoption applications between provincial/territorial adoption authorities and foreign adoption authorities; and
- coordinates intercountry adoption issues and information among the provinces/territories, other federal departments, foreign authorities and non-governmental organizations.

There are no fees associated with the services offered by the Desk.

For more information, contact:

**National Adoption Desk
Human Resources Development Canada
5th Floor, Phase IV
Place du Portage
140 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Quebec K1A 0J9**

Telephone: (819) 953-8000

Facsimile: (819) 953-1115

Children's Rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Canadian Heritage's Human Rights Program promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The program aims at creating an environment conducive to the full development of children's potential. It does so by increasing awareness of the rights and responsibilities stated in the Convention among children, parents and those who work with families.

For more information, contact:

**Human Rights Program
Citizens' Participation Directorate
Canadian Heritage
15 Eddy Street, 7th Floor, 15-7-B
Hull, Quebec K1A 0M5**

Telephone: (819) 997-9886
Facsimile: (819) 994-5252
E-mail: rights-droits@pch.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/ddp-hrd>

(See also **National Child Day** under **Families – Parents** [p. 20].)

Education/Learning Opportunities

Canada's SchoolNet

Canada's SchoolNet is an Industry Canada initiative with a mandate of encouraging all of Canada's 16 500 schools to get connected to the Internet. SchoolNet fulfils this mandate by working with partners — including provincial/territorial ministries of education, private sector organizations and members of the learning community.

SchoolNet is also a set of Internet-based educational services and resources that stimulate learning and put creativity directly into the hands of its users. Through its Web site, SchoolNet provides teachers and learners alike with an easy-to-use, single platform from which to reach the Information Highway. The broad reach of SchoolNet's resources saves teachers, school boards and others in the education community time, effort and resources.

For more information, call our toll-free number or visit the SchoolNet Web site:

Telephone: **1-800-268-6608**

Internet: **<http://www.schoolnet.ca>**

Comprehensive School Health (CSH) Initiative

The CSH Initiative is a school-based health promotion approach that involves a range of programs, activities and services taking place in the school and surrounding community. Such actions are designed not only to support the health of individual students but also to change the environment in which they live and learn.

To promote this framework, Health Canada has initiated a Comprehensive School Health Web site that can be accessed through SchoolNet and Health Canada servers. It has also developed health-related data with Statistics Canada on the E-STAT program. In addition, resource materials and tools for implementing the CSH Initiative are available.

For more information, contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 957-0657
Facsimile: (613) 946-2324
E-mail: policy@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth

National Literacy Secretariat (NLS)

The objective of the NLS is to promote a variety of opportunities for Canadians who have difficulties in improving their reading, writing and communications skills. Provided through Human Resources Development Canada, the Secretariat reaches out to help adult and youth learners who are limited in their participation as citizens and workers because they do not have basic reading and writing skills. The NLS does this by forging cooperative relationships with a variety of literacy partners — including all the provinces and territories, voluntary organizations, business and labour.

Literacy Corps Program

Through the Literacy Corps, the NLS works in partnership with community-based organizations to develop initiatives to address the literacy needs of out-of-school youth.

Family Literacy

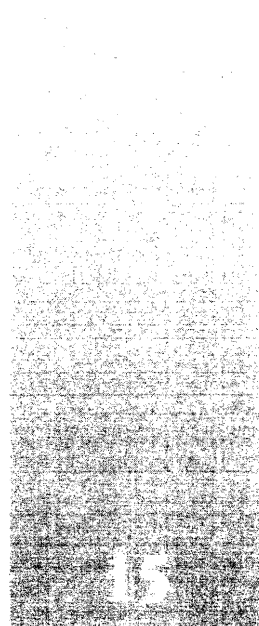
Family Literacy encourages adults and children to develop and strengthen their literacy skills together. Family Literacy initiatives address cycles of low literacy that are perpetuated across generations in families, in isolated communities and neighbourhoods, and, in particular, within areas that have experienced little economic opportunity over many years. The NLS emphasis on family literacy includes support to community and literacy organizations to develop:

- family literacy activities for low-literacy adults,
- research into family literacy models and materials, and
- promotion of awareness about the importance of reading with children and creating a learning environment in the home.

For more information, contact:

**National Literacy Secretariat
Human Resources Development Canada
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
15 Eddy Street, 10-F-1
Hull, Quebec K1A 1K5**

Telephone: (819) 953-5280
Facsimile: (819) 953-8076
E-mail: nls@fox.nstn.ca
Internet: <http://www.nald.ca/nls.htm>



Videos and Other Resources

A federal cultural institution since 1939, the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada creates audiovisual productions to inform, educate and entertain audiences young and old in Canada and around the world. Productions of interest to children and youth include:

- films for the cinema,
- programs for television,
- videos — some accompanied by teachers' and/or parents' guides,
- CD-ROMs, and
- Internet Web sites.

Recent releases in all these media explore such subjects as literacy, rights of children, Canadian history, media awareness, the Internet, dating violence, racism and multiculturalism, wildlife, protecting the environment, science and conflict resolution. The NFB is also renowned world-wide for its entertaining and enlightening animation shorts. Children and youth alike delight in fantastic fables, wacky musical tales, legends, stories of bygone days, etc. All recent NFB videos are closed-captioned for viewers who are hearing-impaired.

For more information or to order or purchase a product, contact:

National Film Board of Canada
C. P. 6100, Station Centre-ville
Montréal, Quebec H3C 3H5

Telephone: **(514) 283-9000**

Toll Free: **1-800-267-7710**

Facsimile: **(514) 283-7564**

Internet: **<http://www.nfb.ca> (NFB Web site)**

<http://www.nfb.ca/Kids> (NFB Kids Web site)

Families – Parents

Child Care Visions (CCV)

Child Care Visions (CCV) was created April 1, 1995 as a national child care research and development contributions program. The program is administered by Human Resources Development Canada. The primary objective of CCV is to support innovative research and evaluation projects that will study the adequacy, outcomes and cost-effectiveness of current best child care practices and service delivery models.

CCV will solicit projects that are innovative and national in scope throughout the year. The program targets non-profit organizations and community groups, including:

- educational institutions,
- professional associations,
- First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations,
- municipal organizations, and
- provincial and territorial governments.

For more information, visit our Web site or contact:

Child Care Visions

Employability and Social Partnerships Division

Human Resources Development Canada

Place du Portage, Phase IV, 4th Floor

Hull, Quebec K1A 0J9

Telephone: **(819) 997-1647**

Facsimile: **(819) 997-1359**

Internet: **<http://www.globalx.net/esp-eps/>**

Child Support Initiative

In May 1997, new child support laws came into effect. These laws include guidelines for determining child support amounts, changes in the tax treatment of child support and additional federal enforcement measures to assist the provinces and territories.

The *Federal Child Support Guidelines* include a set of rules and tables for calculating the amount of support that paying parents should contribute toward the care of their children.

For information on the Guidelines and federal enforcement laws, please contact the Child Support Team, Department of Justice Canada, or visit the Child Support Team's Web site:

Telephone: **(613) 946-2222** (National Capital Region)
1-888-373-2222 (toll free)

Internet: **<http://canada.justice.gc.ca>**

For information on the tax rules for child support, please contact your local Revenue Canada office or:

Telephone: **(613) 598-2275** (National Capital Region)

Toll Free: **1-800-959-8281**

1-800-267-1267 (toll-free number for the
visually impaired)

TTY: **1-800-665-0354** (toll free)

Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)

The CAPC provides long-term funding to community groups to establish and deliver services that respond to the developmental needs of children from birth to six years of age who are living in conditions of risk. CAPC funded prevention and early intervention activities help children get a better start in life, prepare them for school and improve their chances of growing into healthy adults.

CAPC is for children who:

- live in low-income families;
- live in teenage-parent families;
- are at risk of or are experiencing developmental delays or social, emotional or behavioural problems; and
- are abused or neglected.

Special consideration is given to Métis, Inuit and off-reserve Aboriginal children, children of recent immigrants and refugees, and children who live in remote or isolated communities.

Examples of services offered by CAPC projects include family resource centres, parent education, home visiting, play groups and child development activities.

Health Canada manages CAPC through Joint Management Committees, which include representatives from Health Canada's regional offices as well as from provincial and territorial governments and community organizations, as appropriate.

For more information, contact your nearest Health Canada office or:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

E-mail: **capc-cpnp@www.hc-sc.gc.ca**
Internet: **<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>**

(See also **CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund** under **Funding, Grants and Contributions** [p. 31].)

National Child Day – November 20

On March 19, 1993, the Government of Canada designated November 20 as National Child Day. November 20 was chosen because it is the anniversary of two historic events for children: the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the United Nations adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

National Child Day celebrates children — for just being themselves. It provides us with the opportunity to remember that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential. It is a day to listen to children and to marvel at their uniqueness and all they have to offer.

Each year, to assist you in promoting National Child Day and organizing events, Health Canada produces the *Celebrate National Child Day Activity Guide*. This user-friendly resource offers families, schools, daycare centres and organizations helpful hints and ideas for celebrating the day.

Visit the National Child Day Web site to get more information or contact:

Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Telephone: (613) 952-1220
Facsimile: (613) 952-1556
E-mail: children@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/child-day>

Nobody's Perfect

Nobody's Perfect is a parent support and education program for parents of children from birth to age five. It is designed for parents who are young, single, with low income or limited education or who may be geographically, culturally or socially isolated. The program gives parents access to accurate parenting information and provides a supportive group network. There is a training program for facilitators and a range of excellent resources for parents.

Nobody's Perfect was developed jointly by Health Canada and the four provincial health departments in Atlantic Canada. Currently, the program is being implemented in all provinces and territories. The provinces and territories are responsible for ongoing implementation of the program. A national focal point for the program is provided by the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs and the Canadian Institute of Child Health. Health Canada continues to ensure that the program resources are accurate and up to date.

For more information, contact:

**Nobody's Perfect Canada
National Office
120 Holland Avenue, Room 205
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0X6**

Telephone: (613) 728-3307
Facsimile: (613) 729-5421
E-mail: np-yapp@frp.ca

or

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 941-0970
Facsimile: (613) 952-1556
E-mail: familychild@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Family Violence/Child Abuse or Neglect

Family Violence Prevention Program

Through its Family Violence Prevention Unit (FVPU), Health Canada is responsible for coordinating the federal Family Violence Initiative. The Initiative encompasses all activity carried out by federal departments and agencies that address any of the forms of family violence — particularly violence against women and their children. Specific Initiative activity, including research and resource development, is devoted to child abuse and neglect as well as forms of abuse committed by and against youth. The goal is to enhance public awareness of the issue and help service providers and community organizations in their prevention, protection and treatment efforts.

On behalf of the Initiative, Health Canada operates the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence — a national resource centre for all Canadians seeking information and solutions regarding all forms of family violence. The Clearinghouse gathers and organizes information from existing sources and also develops new resource materials for distribution across Canada. In 1998, for example, new publications added to the Clearinghouse collection included a fact sheet outlining myths and facts on the issue of youth and violence and two bibliographies for professionals on national and international research on child maltreatment.

For more information on family violence prevention, the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, our resources and national activities concerning children and youth, contact:

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence

Health Promotion and Programs Branch

Health Canada

Address Locator: 1918C2

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Telephone: **(613) 957-2938**

Toll Free: **1-800-267-1291**

Facsimile: **(613) 941-8930**

FaxLink: **(613) 941-7285** or **1-888-267-1233** (toll free)

TTY: **(613) 952-6396** or **1-800-561-5643** (toll free)

Internet: **<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/nc-cn>**

(See also **Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect** under **Information/Research** [p. 53].)

Financial Assistance

(See also **Child Support Initiative** under **Families – Parents**.
[p. 18].)

Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)

The CCTB is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under 18. The benefit is paid to the parent who is primarily responsible for the care of the child(ren). CCTB payments are targeted according to income and are gradually phased out at higher income levels. The CCTB includes a basic annual benefit of \$1,020 for each child and an additional benefit called the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) for lower-income families.

The NCBS replaced the federal Working Income Supplement, which was only available to low-income families with working income. The new supplement is available to all low-income families, regardless of their source of income. The maximum yearly amounts of the supplement are \$605 for families with one child, \$1,010 for families with two children, plus a further \$330 for each additional child. Qualifying families whose net income is under \$20,921 will get the full amount.

To receive benefits, parents have to apply to Revenue Canada after the birth or adoption of a child. Parents also have to file income tax returns each year to continue receiving their benefits. They should complete the marital status area of their return to ensure they receive the proper benefit amount. The CCTB is calculated using information from income tax returns filed by the parent who is the child's primary caregiver and, if applicable, by the spouse.

For more information, call toll free or visit our Web site:

Telephone: **1-800-387-1193**

Internet: **<http://www.rc.gc.ca/cctb-gstc>**

Canada Pension Plan Children's Benefits

If you are under 18 years of age or between 18 and 25 and in full-time attendance at a recognized educational institution, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) may have something for you. CPP is a contributory, earnings-related social insurance program. With very few exceptions, anyone over the age of 18 and working contributes to the CPP.

There are two kinds of CPP benefits available to young Canadians. The disability benefit includes a benefit for children of CPP disability benefit recipients. The survivor benefit also has a children's benefit that you may become eligible for when one of your parents, who qualified for CPP benefits, dies.

Children can receive a maximum of two benefits. If you are under 18, a parent or guardian must apply for you. If you are between 18 and 25 years of age, you can apply yourself, but you must reconfirm your attendance at school annually to continue receiving your benefit(s).

For more information, call toll free or visit our Web site:

Telephone: **1-800-277-9914**

TDD/TTY: **1-800-255-4786**

Internet: **<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/isp>**

Children's Special Allowances Program

The Children's Special Allowances Program makes payments to approximately 274 federal and provincial agencies and institutions (e.g. children's aid societies and individual foster parents) that care for about 44 600 children. These payments replace ones that Revenue Canada would otherwise make to parents under the Canada Child Tax Benefit Program.

Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) Credit

The GST/HST credit is a federal program that provides for tax-free payments to low and modest income families to help offset part or all of the sales tax on their purchases of goods and services. To be eligible, you must be 19 years of age or married or a parent. To apply for this credit, you must complete an income tax return.

The GST/HST credit is the total of the following:

- \$199 for an eligible client,
- \$199 for an eligible spouse or an equivalent-to-spouse claim, and
- \$105 for each eligible child.

The total amount may be reduced depending on your family net income.

For more information, refer to your income tax guide or call **1-800-959-1953** (toll free).

Food and Fitness

Fitness/Active Living Program

The Fitness/Active Living Program is a centre of expertise within the federal government for issues, activities and programs concerning physical activity. Its mandate is to promote active living in Canada, thereby improving the overall fitness, health, well-being and quality of life of Canadians. In addition to promoting active living, the program's roles include providing strategic leadership, developing policy, increasing knowledge, sharing information and establishing partnerships and alliances.

The program works with partners to develop and implement national physical activity strategies and to develop practical resources. Resources relevant to children and youth include such publications as *Active Children*, *Healthy Children*; *The Playground Safety Initiative*; and *Active and Safe Routes to Schools*.

For more information on the Fitness/Active Living Program, our resources and national activities concerning children and youth, contact:

**Health Issues Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1917C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: **(613) 941-3109**
Facsimile: **(613) 941-6666**
Internet: **<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/fitness>**

Nutrition/Healthy Eating Program

The Nutrition/Healthy Eating Program promotes and supports the ability of Canadians to strengthen and maintain their healthy eating practices. It does so by fostering supportive environments and providing leadership in areas of policy, programs, knowledge development, education and public awareness.

The program has specific initiatives and resources aimed at promoting healthy eating patterns among children. These include *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating* and its related materials, including *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating: Focus on Preschoolers* and *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating: Focus on Children Six to Twelve Years of Age*. These publications are widely used in the promotion of nutrition for children.

The Nutrition/Healthy Eating Unit has also worked with external partners to develop a number of resources relevant to children and youth. For example, *Anaphylaxis: A Handbook for School Boards* was produced with the Canadian School Boards Association to help school boards develop policies to prevent and manage issues around serious allergic reactions to food. Similarly, *Nutrition for Healthy Term Infants* is a statement developed to help health care professionals communicate consistent messages about infant nutrition to parents and caregivers across Canada.

For more information on the Nutrition/Healthy Eating Program, our resources and national activities concerning children and youth, contact:

Health Issues Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1917C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Telephone: (613) 957-8329
Facsimile: (613) 941-2432
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/nutrition>

Safety of Foods

As part of its role of helping ensure the safety of our food supply, Health Canada's Food Directorate is responsible for researching and evaluating contaminants in food and for setting standards. The primary objective is to minimize health risks related to the consumption of contaminated products.

The Directorate studies the safety of foods in relation to infectious and toxigenic organisms and recommends measures of control. It also:

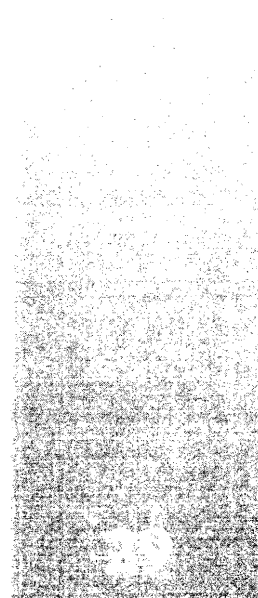
- assesses potential health risks posed by certain foodborne pathogens and extraneous material;
- determines areas of food processing and food handling that require improved operating practices;
- establishes standards and guidelines for the production and sale of food in Canada and proposes amendments to regulations when appropriate;
- provides standardized methods for use by government laboratories and other organizations; and
- provides guidance and direction for the National Food Program.

The Microbiology Research Division of the Bureau of Microbial Hazards identifies and characterizes micro-organisms in foods that pose a threat to human health. These include pathogenic bacteria, viruses and parasites. The Division also heads up teams to conduct specific risk assessments for pathogens in foods in collaboration with the Microbiology Evaluation Division and Canadian Food Inspection Agency staff. Many of these organisms affect children and youth, who are actually more susceptible to many of the foodborne disease agents.

For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Microbial Hazards
Health Protection Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 2203G3
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: **(613) 957-0880**
Facsimile: **(613) 954-1198**



Youth-Related Nutrition Research

Health Canada's Food Directorate is working with the Province of Quebec — and possibly other provincial governments — to update current data on the food and nutrient intake of Canadian youth. The last national survey, Nutrition Canada, was completed in 1974. Up-to-date information is needed in order to develop nutrition programs that are based on identified needs. It is also crucial to conducting health risk assessments to test the safety of the food supply.

Dietary assessment instruments to be used by school-aged youth are being developed by members of the Research Division of the Bureau of Nutritional Sciences and the Bureau of Biostatistics and Computer Applications. The Food Directorate will ensure that these instruments are appropriate for the various age groups by conducting focus groups with Canadian youth and completing a pilot test within Quebec. These tested instruments will then be used in provincial or national surveys to collect data on the food and nutrient intakes of Canadian children and youth.

Reporting the nutrient intakes of youth is one of the ultimate goals identified by the Food Directorate. In order to report the nutrient intakes of a population, it is necessary to have access to a nutrient database that reports the nutrient composition of each food. In addition to planning and conducting surveys, the Nutrition Research Division is responsible for maintaining and updating Canada's official food composition database, the Canadian Nutrient File.

For more information, contact:

**Nutrition Research Division
Health Protection Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 2203C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 957-0928
Facsimile: (613) 941-6182
E-mail: danielle_brule@hc-sc.gc.ca

(See also the **Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program** under **Health – Prenatal and Infant** [p. 42] and **Foodborne and Enteric Diseases** under **Health Surveillance** [p. 50].)

Funding, Grants and Contributions

Community Action Program for Children/ Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CAPC/CPNP) National Projects Fund

The CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund provides financial assistance to initiatives that support the objectives of the CAPC and CPNP programs and directly benefit CAPC and CPNP projects across Canada. (See *Families – Parents* for more information on CAPC, and *Health – Prenatal and Infant* for more information on CPNP.)

The fund is designed to support time-limited projects that have national impact and application and result in the strengthening of CAPC/CPNP projects. The intent is to respond to common and emerging issues identified by the CAPC/CPNP Joint Management Committees and/or specific projects and to play a national coordination, information-sharing and dissemination role.

The CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund objectives include:

- supporting and strengthening CAPC/CPNP projects through training, resource development and sharing as well as disseminating information;
- encouraging and stimulating the development of a national network of community-based children's programs; and
- sharing CAPC and CPNP related learning among CAPC and CPNP projects and with communities, including other children's services, researchers, educators and policy makers.

Although under the auspices of the Population Health Fund, the National Projects Fund is a distinct and separate initiative.

For more information, visit the Childhood and Youth Division Web site or contact:

Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

E-mail: **capc-cpnp@www.hc-sc.gc.ca**
Internet: **<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>**

Department of Justice Grants and Contributions Fund

The Department of Justice administers a grants and contributions program designed to promote and implement selected reforms in the justice system — including reforms related to children and youth. Funding is available to individuals, Canadian or international non-profit organizations, provincial or territorial governments, regional or municipal governments, universities, bands and tribal councils.

To receive funding under the Department of Justice Grants and Contributions Fund, it is essential that a project meet at least one of the following overall objectives of the Fund:

- to enhance knowledge, promote development and inform Canadians and the legal community about public law areas within federal jurisdiction;
- to promote access to justice, equality and human rights in Canada;
- to promote a safer society by supporting the development and implementation of legislative and socio-legal reforms;
- to support efforts that make the justice system more efficient and effective and less costly; and
- to foster a justice system that is more responsive, fair and effective in meeting the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people.

Project activities must be distinct from — but must complement — the ongoing work of the organization. Projects can offer innovative programs, services, training or public legal education, or assist in research on possible reforms to the justice system.

For more information, contact:

**Innovations, Analysis and Integration
Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8**

Telephone: (613) 957-3538
Facsimile: (613) 941-2269

Population Health Fund

Health Canada has adopted a population health approach to further its continuing mandate to maintain and improve the health of Canadians. This approach looks at all the factors that affect health. The goal of the Population Health Fund is to increase community capacity for action on the determinants of health. To this end, the fund supports projects that facilitate joint planning and coordinated action among voluntary organizations, service providers, governments and the private sector to improve population health.

The fund seeks to achieve three objectives through project funding:

- develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate models for applying the population health approach;
- increase the knowledge base for future program and policy development; and
- increase partnerships and promote intersectoral collaboration.

There is a specific allocation within the fund for projects that address issues relating to children and youth.

For more information, contact:

**Population Health Development Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1908C1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 957-3507

Facsimile: (613) 952-5310

Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/phdd>

(See also the following:

- **Aboriginal Head Start Initiative** under **Aboriginal Peoples**
- **AIDS Community Action Program** under **Health – General**
- **Child Care Visions** under **Families – Parents**
- **Community Action Program for Children** under **Families – Parents**
- **First Nations Child and Family Services Program** under **Aboriginal Peoples**
- **Indian and Inuit Childhood Injury Prevention Program** under **Aboriginal Peoples**
- **Multiculturalism Program** under **Multiculturalism**
- **National Literacy Secretariat** under **Education/Learning Opportunities**
- **Open House Canada** under **Youth Participation/Development)**

Health – General

(See also **Comprehensive School Health Initiative** under **Education**, **Safe and Supportive Environments** under **Safety** and other listings under **Aboriginal Peoples**, **Health – Prenatal and Infant** and **Health Surveillance**.)

AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP)

The ACAP is a national Health Canada program that provides funding to community-based organizations working with HIV/AIDS issues. Activities funded by ACAP include initiatives related to:

- prevention,
- creation of supportive environments,
- health promotion for people living with HIV/AIDS, and
- strengthening of community-based organizations.

This funding program is designed to address the programming needs of people at various stages of the life cycle. An example of a youth initiative funded by this program is the Canadian AIDS Society's Youth Issues Project, which operated during the fiscal years 1996-97 and 1997-98. A National Youth Working Group guided the project, which analyzed youth HIV/AIDS programming in Canada. The result is a manual entitled *Bright Red Hair...and Sliced Bread: Models of HIV/AIDS Youth Programs in Canada*. This manual is a guide to HIV/AIDS programming with youth.

For more information about ACAP, contact:

**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Community Action Programs
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada**

**Address Locator: 1918B1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 954-5157
Facsimile: (613) 941-2399
Internet: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hiv_aids

For more information about the Canadian AIDS Society, contact:

Canadian AIDS Society
900-130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4

Telephone: (613) 230-3580
Facsimile: (613) 563-4998
E-mail: casinfo@web.net
Internet: <http://www.cdnails.ca>

To obtain a copy of *Bright Red Hair...and Sliced Bread* or other publications, contact:

Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse
Canadian Public Health Association
400-1565 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 8R1

Telephone: (613) 725-3434
Facsimile: (613) 725-1205
E-mail: aids/sida@cpha.ca
Internet: <http://www.cpha.ca>

Child Development – Mental and Physical Health

Investing in conditions that maintain or enhance optimal child development is more effective, has greater impact and is less costly than absorbing the inevitable costs of remedial interventions later. The Childhood and Youth Division addresses both mental and physical health issues related to child, youth and family health. Information, projects and initiatives are developed in such areas as:

- prevention of preterm birth,
- prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome,
- promotion of breastfeeding and infant nutrition,
- parent support,
- resiliency,
- prevention of suicide,
- learning disabilities, and
- youth participation.

The Division also works with partners and community groups to value and promote the health of children and their families.

For more information, visit the Childhood and Youth Division Web site or contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Facsimile: (613) 954-3358

Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Mental Health Component

Telephone: (613) 954-8612

E-mail: famchimen@www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Physical Health Component

Telephone: (613) 957-8099

E-mail: familychild@www.hc-sc.gc.ca

(See also **Child Development** under **Aboriginal Peoples** [p. 4].)

National Asthma Control Strategy

The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC) launched the National Asthma Control Task Force in 1995, with representation from the major health organizations concerned with asthma in Canada. The Task Force's mandate is to implement, review and evaluate the national asthma control strategy it has developed.

The Task Force has set objectives and targets for measuring and reducing mortality, morbidity and disability caused by asthma. Children have been designated as a population of special concern — given the recent trends in hospitalizations for asthma as well as the exposure of children to tobacco smoke and indoor allergens.

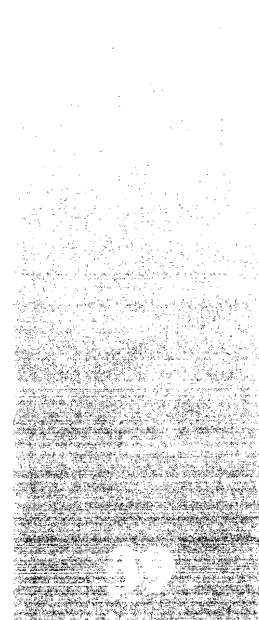
The LCDC has also conducted two major surveys of individuals with asthma. The first survey focussed on childhood asthma and was done in collaboration with nine Sentinel Health Units across Canada. The second survey was the first Asthma Supplement to Statistics Canada's 1996/97 National Population Health Survey. The results of these two surveys will be useful in planning and evaluating interventions to reduce the health impact of asthma in children.

The LCDC is also working toward enhancing childhood asthma control by improving asthma management practices. This is being done by surveying physicians across Canada on their asthma management practices and disseminating consensus asthma management guidelines developed by health professional groups.

For more information, visit our Web site or contact:

**Bureau of Cardio-Respiratory Diseases and Diabetes
Health Protection Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1918C3
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9**

Telephone: (613) 957-7898
Facsimile: (613) 954-8286
E-mail: bcrdd@hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/bcrdd>



National Child Health Goals

The development of National Child Health Goals represents a government commitment to improve child health in Canada through goal setting, outcome-oriented planning and evaluation. It provides the basis for partnerships among governments as well as private and non-government organizations and helps define future action plans.

Additional information on National Child Health Goals is available in *Turning Points: Canadians from coast to coast set a new course for healthy child and youth development*. This report was developed by Health Canada following extensive consultation with provincial and territorial governments and non-government organizations.

For more information or to obtain a copy of *Turning Points*, contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 957-8342
Facsimile: (613) 954-3358
E-mail: policy@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Radiation Protection

The Radiation Protection Bureau of Health Canada's Health Protection Branch has initiatives under way to reduce the exposure of children to different types of radiation — such as ultraviolet radiation, X-rays and sound — and to reduce the exposure of Arctic children to radioactive materials. Children are vulnerable to the adverse effects of radiation because their rapidly growing cells are particularly susceptible to damage from radiation exposure. They also rely on others for protection.

For more information, contact:

**Radiation Protection Bureau
Health Protection Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 6302A
775 Brookfield Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1C1**

Telephone: **(613) 954-6647**

Facsimile: **(613) 952-9071**

Internet: **<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/ehd/rpb/index.htm>**

Health – Prenatal and Infant

(See also listings under **Aboriginal Peoples, Health – General** and **Health Surveillance**.)

Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)

The CPNP is a Red Book initiative announced in July 1994. Funded by Health Canada and co-managed with the provinces and territories, the CPNP helps communities develop or enhance programs for at-risk pregnant women in order to improve birth outcomes. The CPNP is a comprehensive program and provides resources for community-based projects to offer food supplementation, nutrition counselling, support, education, referral and counselling on such lifestyle issues as alcohol abuse, stress and family violence.

The program is aimed at helping pregnant women who:

- are living in poverty;
- are teenagers;
- drink alcohol or use other drugs;
- are living in an abusive situation;
- are Métis, Inuit and First Nations individuals;
- are refugees;
- are living in isolation or do not have access to services; or
- have been diagnosed with gestational diabetes.

For more information, contact your nearest Health Canada office or:

Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

or

**Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program
Medical Services Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1920A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L3**

**E-mail: capc-cpnp@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>**

(See also the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program – First Nations and Inuit Component [p. 4] under Aboriginal Peoples and CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund [p. 31] under Funding, Grants and Contributions.)

Postpartum Parent Support Program

The Postpartum Parent Support Program provides consistent parenting information to families of newborn children and ensures liaison and referral between hospital and community health centres. Implemented in over 600 hospitals and community health centres in Canada, the program promotes continuity of care for the families served by these health organizations.

The program focusses on helping parents and family members:

- develop feelings of competence about the postpartum period,
- identify and use available support systems, and,
- set realistic expectations about coping with family relationships.

For more information, visit the Childhood and Youth Division Web site or contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 957-3437

Facsimile: (613) 954-3358

E-mail: familychild@www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Promotion of Breastfeeding Program

The Promotion of Breastfeeding Program increases awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and the superiority of breastmilk for the health of infants. As part of its ongoing efforts to promote and make breastfeeding more accepted and supported in communities, Health Canada and its partners have created an awareness campaign, "Anywhere, Anytime." Designed to encourage mothers to breastfeed and to continue breastfeeding for a longer period of time, the campaign includes:

- a series of posters depicting breastfeeding mothers in a variety of public settings;
- a Breastfeeding Friendly sticker and information sheets to make restaurants, retail outlets and malls more aware and supportive of breastfeeding; and,
- a public service announcement.

For more information, visit the Childhood and Youth Division Web site or contact:

Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Telephone: (613) 957-8099
Facsimile: (613) 954-3358
E-mail: familychild@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

SIDS refers to the sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant, less than one year of age, that remains unexplained even after a full investigation. Health Canada, the Canadian Institute of Child Health, the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths have developed a number of resources to raise awareness and inform parents, health professionals, Aboriginal communities and media about reducing the risk of SIDS. These resources include a print statement, a brochure, a poster and a public service announcement.

These organizations are working as partners with Aboriginal representatives to address this significant health risk to Aboriginal infants.

For more information, visit the Childhood and Youth Division Web site or contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 957-3437
Facsimile: (613) 954-3358
E-mail: familychild@hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Health Surveillance

Canadian Childhood Cancer Surveillance and Control Program

The Canadian Childhood Cancer Surveillance and Control Program seeks to reduce the burden of cancer among Canadian children. The surveillance aspect of the program examines trends in the incidence, mortality and survival rates of childhood cancer.

There are three basic components of the program. The Etiology Component seeks to identify factors that place children at an increased risk of developing cancer. The Late Effects Component obtains medical and psychosocial information from Canadian childhood cancer survivors and compares this information to that of a group of subjects from the general population. The use of various modes of treatment in relation to patient clinical outcomes is monitored by the Treatment and Outcome Surveillance Component.

For more information, contact:

**Cancer Bureau
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0602E2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 941-1286
Facsimile: (613) 941-1732

Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP)

CHIRPP is a computerized information system. It collects and analyzes data on injuries and poisonings from the emergency departments of six general and the ten pediatric hospitals across Canada. The aim of the program is to help reduce the number and severity of injuries in Canada by identifying hazards and high-risk situations. The collected data are provided to interested parties who use it to set priorities and to develop and evaluate targeted injury prevention strategies.

The Child Injury Division publishes *CHIRPP News* three times a year to report on the activities of the program. This publication is also available on the Internet.

For more information, contact:

**Child Injury Division
Health Protection Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0601E2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 957-0356
Facsimile: (613) 941-9927
E-mail: CHIRPP@hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/publicat/chirpp/>

Canadian Pediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP)

The CPSP has been developed to monitor and investigate rare diseases and conditions that affect our children and youth. Established in 1996, the CPSP was identified as a priority project by Health Canada and the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in partnership with the Canadian Paediatric Society. It is currently supported by more than 2 000 pediatricians across Canada who contribute to a monthly reporting scheme.

The work within CPSP is essential to our efforts to investigate and improve the diagnosis and treatment of uncommon childhood diseases and conditions. It also helps promote physician awareness of uncommon conditions. In addition, information received from this program will help us to better anticipate and respond to public health emergencies stemming from these illnesses.

The CPSP is one of 10 national surveillance programs now operating around the globe. This world-wide effort provides us with a remarkable opportunity for international collaboration and comparison in the evaluation and investigation of rare and uncommon childhood diseases.

For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Infectious Diseases
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0603E1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: **(613) 941-1288**

Facsimile: **(613) 998-6413**

Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System (CPSS)

The Bureau of Reproductive and Child Health is developing CPSS with the purpose of contributing to improved health for pregnant women, mothers and babies in Canada. Specifically, the goal of the CPSS is to establish a timely national surveillance system that allows for data collection, analysis and response on various perinatal health determinants and outcomes.

The short-term objective is to use existing data sources and to analyze them according to an analytical framework. Over the longer term, the intent is to increase the amount of information available. This strategy will ensure the building of a well-grounded national system for perinatal health monitoring — a system that provides a strategic framework for data analysis, interpretation, communication and other responses.

For more information, contact:

**Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0601E2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 954-5493
Facsimile: (613) 941-9927
E-mail: CPSS@hc-sc.gc.ca

Foodborne and Enteric Diseases

Children are the most affected by foodborne, waterborne and enteric diseases. Surveillance is being conducted to reduce the burden of these illnesses in children and the population at large. Severe rotavirus infection is being monitored to determine the incidence of this infection in children admitted to Canadian pediatric hospitals and to determine its direct and indirect costs. This information will be used in subsequent cost-benefit analyses supporting the introduction of rotavirus vaccines when they are licensed.

Specific studies are also being done to help identify better ways to decrease the burden of E. coli 0157:H7 infections (“hamburger disease”) in children.

For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Infectious Diseases
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0603E1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 957-0322
Facsimile: (613) 941-7708

Respiratory Diseases of Children

Surveillance is being conducted for antibiotic-resistant bacteria that affect our ability to treat ear infections and pneumonia in children. Special studies to determine the burden of disease caused by these bacteria are also being done. The information obtained from these activities will be used in cost-benefit analyses for vaccines that are currently under development for these conditions.

For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Infectious Diseases
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0603E1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 957-0322
Facsimile: (613) 941-7708

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases of Infants and Children

National surveillance and risk assessments are being conducted to reduce or eliminate the burden of illness from vaccine-preventable diseases of infants and children. New strategies are being identified to improve vaccine coverage, evaluate vaccine effectiveness and minimize vaccine-associated adverse events. In collaboration with provinces/territories, outbreak investigations are carried out and recommendations are developed for infectious disease control.

Recent initiatives of this program have included a national strategy for the elimination of measles and the certification of Canada as being polio free.

For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Infectious Diseases
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0603E1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 957-1340

Facsimile: (613) 952-7948

Information/Research/ Knowledge Development

Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect

The Child Maltreatment Division of the Bureau of Reproductive and Child Health is developing this ongoing study with the purpose of contributing to a better understanding of the extent and dynamics of child abuse and neglect in Canada. The child maltreatment surveillance activities will be undertaken collaboratively with a wide range of partners — federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial governments, health professionals, child welfare administrators and advocates, and academic and non-government communities.

The objectives of the project include:

- developing national estimates of the incidence of reported abuse and neglect,
- creating a better understanding of the typologies and severity of reported child maltreatment,
- establishing baseline data to guide the development of policies and programs for children and youth at risk of maltreatment, and
- collecting empirical evidence to better plan the allocation of resources to address the issue of child abuse.

For more information, contact:

**Bureau of Reproductive and Child Health
Laboratory Centre for Disease Control
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0601E2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2**

Telephone: (613) 954-5493
Facsimile: (613) 941-9927
E-mail: child_maltreatment@hc-sc.gc.ca

(See also **Family Violence Prevention Program** [p. 22] under **Family Violence/Child Abuse or Neglect**.)

Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being

The development of the Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being is part of the federal government's contribution to the National Children's Agenda. The Centres, announced in the September 1997 Speech from the Throne, will contribute to federal leadership in knowledge generation and dissemination on children's issues. It will ensure that advanced knowledge is disseminated more broadly among families, community-based organizations, educators, health professionals, and government decision-makers and improve our understanding of children and what they need to develop in healthy ways.

Over a five year time frame, the Centres of Excellence will carry out five main functions:

- collect and analyse information and data on children's health and well-being;
- conduct focussed research on key child health and development issues;
- provide policy advice to governments and health and social services organizations;
- generate information and communicate it to a wide range of audiences; and
- strengthen and expand local, national, and international networks of individuals and groups involved in children's health and well-being.

For more information, contact:

**Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Telephone: (613) 946-2060
Facsimile: (613) 952-7046
E-mail: policy@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)

The NLSCY is a long-term survey designed to enhance our knowledge of human development in Canada. It follows individuals from birth to adulthood, painting an integrated picture of all major aspects of well-being, including health, family, community, education and work. The first such survey in Canada, the NLSCY is a partnership effort between Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and Statistics Canada. HRDC also has a program of directed research to support policy.

The main body of new research from the first data collection was presented in the fall of 1998 at "Investing in Children: A National Research Conference, 1998." The results of further analysis is to be published in early 1999 in a book entitled *Vulnerable Children*. This book identifies the main aspects of family, school and community life that contribute to healthy child development. It also examines the number and location of vulnerable children in Canada. An earlier publication, *Growing Up in Canada*, is still available from Statistics Canada.

For more information, visit our conference Web site or contact:

**Applied Research Branch
Human Resources Development Canada
360 Laurier Avenue West
Narono Building, 7th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J9**

Telephone: (613) 946-5716
Facsimile: (613) 946-5283
E-mail: susan.mckellar@spg.org
Internet: <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/arb/conferences/nlscyconf/>

To order copies of *Growing Up in Canada*, contact:

**Statistics Canada
Operations and Integration Division
Circulation Management
120 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6**

Telephone: (613) 951-7277
Toll Free: 1-800-267-6677
Facsimile: (613) 951-1584
E-mail: order@statcan.ca

Justice

National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention

The National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention is aimed at developing community-based responses to crime, with a particular emphasis on children and youth, Aboriginal people and women. The objectives of the national strategy are to:

- promote the integrated action of key governmental and non-governmental partners to reduce crime and victimization;
- help communities develop and implement community-based solutions to problems that contribute to crime and victimization, particularly as they affect children, youth, women and Aboriginal people; and
- increase public awareness of, and support for, effective approaches to crime prevention.

The strategy comprises three main components: a safer communities initiative (with a community mobilization program, an investment fund and a partnership program), a promotion and public education program and a private sector strategy on crime prevention. The newly created National Crime Prevention Centre within the Department of Justice is responsible for implementing the national strategy — in partnership with the Solicitor General Canada.

For more information, contact:

**National Strategy on Community Safety and
Crime Prevention
National Crime Prevention Centre
5th Floor, St. Andrews Tower
Department of Justice
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8**

Telephone: (613) 941-9306
Toll Free: 1-877-302-NCPC
Facsimile: (613) 952-3515
E-mail: ncpc@web.net
Internet: <http://www.crime-prevention.org>

“our missing children” Program

The objective of this program is to locate and return missing children to their proper guardian. This office coordinates the investigation of cases of missing children nationally and internationally. It also provides a number of other services to facilitate the early detection and return of children wrongfully removed from their homes.

While the offices of the program are located at the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa, three other government departments — Revenue Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade — are also involved in the program.

For more information, contact:

**“our missing children”
Information and Identification Services Directorate
RCMP
NPS Building, Room 300
P.O. Box 8885
1200 Vanier Parkway
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3M8**

Telephone: (613) 993-3653/ 993-1525

Facsimile: (613) 993-5430

Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism Program

The Multiculturalism Program funds projects that strengthen Canada by fostering an inclusive society — one in which people of all backgrounds find a sense of belonging and attachment and participate fully in Canadian society. Youth and children are an important target group for Multiculturalism Program activities. For example, each year the Multiculturalism Program delivers a campaign against racism that is targeted at youth. The campaign provides posters, stickers and teachers' guides for use in classrooms. A key part of the campaign is the Stop Racism National Video Competition, which focusses on youth aged 12 to 18.

For more information on the Program, contact:

**Multiculturalism Program
Canadian Heritage
Jules Léger Building, 11th Floor
15 Eddy Street
Hull, Quebec K1A 0M5**

Telephone: **(819) 953-1970**

Facsimile: **(819) 953-9228**

Internet: **<http://www.pch.gc.ca/multi/>**

To get more information on the campaign, call or visit the Web site:

Telephone: **1-888-MARCH21 (toll free)**

Internet: **<http://www.march21.com>**

Safety

(See also **Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program** under **Health Surveillance** and **National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention** and/or “**our missing children**” Program under **Justice**.)

Child Restraint Safety Network – Canadian Automobile Association

Under contract to Transport Canada, the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) administers the Child Restraint Safety Network. Through this network, which includes 130 offices and 4 million members across Canada, the CAA:

- makes child restraint information available to all Canadians, whether or not they are members of the CAA;
- disseminates child restraint information, including notices of defective child restraints (car seats);
- participates with other groups on child safety initiatives;
- responds to inquiries on child restraints from special interest groups as well as individuals;
- participates in child safety seat installation checks across Canada; and
- prepares news releases on defective child restraints and writes articles on safety issues relating to child seats for the media.

For more information, contact:

**Child Restraint Safety Network
Canadian Automobile Association
1145 Hunt Club Road, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0Y3**

Telephone: **(613) 247-0117**
Facsimile: **(613) 247-0118**
E-mail: **rweisbrod@caa.ca**

Child Restraint Systems

Transport Canada's Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation Directorate is responsible for setting safety standards on vehicle child restraint systems and ensuring that manufacturers comply with those standards. It also investigates public complaints regarding possible safety defects in child restraints and ensures that manufacturers inform the public of any defective child restraints.

Transport Canada publishes various safety-related publications, including a booklet entitled *Keep Them Safe — A Guide to Children's Car Seats*, which describes:

- Transport Canada's responsibilities regarding the establishment of safety standards on child restraint systems;
- responsibilities of the provinces and territories regarding the regulation and enforcement of the use of child restraint systems;
- responsibilities of the manufacturers regarding defective child restraint systems;
- different types of child restraint systems, depending on the weight and height of the child; and
- what to do if a safety-related defect is suspected.

The booklet also provides a list of telephone numbers for people requiring more information on child restraint systems.

For more information, contact the Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation Directorate at:

Telephone: **(613) 998-8616**
Toll Free: **1-800-333-0371**
Facsimile: **(613) 993-4831**
Internet: **<http://www.tc.gc.ca>**

Operation Lifesaver

Operation Lifesaver is sponsored by Transport Canada and the Railway Association of Canada and works in cooperation with the Canada Safety Council and provincial safety councils/leagues. This active and ongoing public education program is designed to increase awareness of the potential hazards of rail/highway grade crossings and to urge caution by drivers and pedestrians — including children — when in their vicinity. The program also seeks to inform the public of the dangers associated with trespassing on railway property. The goal is to reduce the number of incidents that result in fatalities and injuries.

To reach its objectives, Operation Lifesaver gives presentations to community organizations and schools. The program has special audiovisual programs and printed material available to help parents and teachers warn children of the dangers.

For more information, contact:

Operation Lifesaver
800 René Levesque Boulevard West
Suite 1105
Montréal, Quebec H3B 1X9

Telephone: (514) 879-8558
Facsimile: (514) 879-1522
E-mail: Benlevs@railcan.ca
Internet: <http://www.railcan.ca>

Product Safety Program

The Product Safety Program protects consumers and workers from the risks associated with hazardous and potentially hazardous consumer products covered by the *Hazardous Products Act*. The program also regulates cosmetics under the *Food and Drugs Act*.

In addition to ensuring the safety of products through legislation, the program works in partnership with health professionals, educators and caregivers to raise public awareness about the safe use and maintenance of products. This is done through public information and education networks established among parents and community service providers.

The program's resources — such as the booklet *Is Your Child Safe?* and other public education bulletins on product safety — are available to consumers and partners interested in preventing injuries and death associated with consumer products.

For more information, write, call or visit our Web site:

**Product Safety Bureau
Health Protection Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 0301B2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9**

Telephone: (613) 952-1014
Facsimile: (613) 952-1994
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/psb>

Safe and Supportive Environments

Both the physical and the social environments of children have an impact on their health. Children are too often injured as a result of hazards in their environment, and unintentional injury continues to be the leading cause of death and disability for children and youth in Canada. Respiratory conditions are the leading cause of hospitalization for children, and asthma rates are showing a steady increase.

The Childhood and Youth Division is working to decrease the incidence of death and hospitalizations among children and youth in Canada through the development of resources for stakeholders. Activities include:

- developing safe and healthy media images (e.g. Safe Seasons Calendar, Healthy Images Clip Art and photos);
- addressing relevant physical and natural environmental issues in an integrated way (e.g. sun safety, playgrounds, environmental concerns); and,
- synthesizing relevant research to mobilize communities and develop priorities for injury prevention and emerging environmental issues (e.g. economic costs study and community assessment tool, analysis of longitudinal surveys).

For more information, visit the Childhood and Youth Division Web site or contact:

Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1909C2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Telephone: (613) 954-8836
Facsimile: (613) 954-3358
E-mail: familychild@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth>

Substance Abuse

(See also **Solvent Abuse** [p. 9] under **Aboriginal Peoples**.)

Canada's Drug Strategy

The goal of Canada's Drug Strategy is to reduce the harm associated with alcohol and other drugs to individuals, families and communities. As substance abuse is considered to be primarily a health issue, Health Canada plays a lead role, providing leadership and national coordination on substance abuse issues. The Department works closely with nine other federal departments, provincial/territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and a variety of diverse stakeholders to:

- prevent the use of drugs by those not currently using them,
- reduce the harm to those who do use them,
- enhance treatment and rehabilitation for those affected by substance abuse, and
- cooperate at the international level to address the global drug problem.

The needs of youth have been identified as a priority. Special emphasis is therefore placed on prevention, research, identification of innovative approaches to treatment and rehabilitation, and collection and sharing of best practices. A number of resources are available to help those who work with youth understand youth needs and issues and to develop and implement more effective programs and policies. For example, a series of resources entitled *Meeting the Needs of Youth-at-Risk* provides information on developing and sustaining community youth projects and involving youth in the process.

For more information on Canada's Drug Strategy, our resources and national activities concerning youth, contact:

Office of Alcohol, Drugs, and Dependency Issues
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1907B1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Quit4Life

Due to the success achieved by the widely distributed Quit4Life anti-smoking kit, the Partnerships and Marketing Division of Health Canada has developed a Quit4Life Web site. It is Health Canada's first fully interactive smoking cessation Web site. Targeting youth aged 13 to 19, the site allows users to follow along as four cyber-teens experience the obstacles encountered while trying to quit smoking.

Recognizing the importance of communication, this site offers teens the opportunity to chat about their concerns on-line. It also offers positive, supportive and realistic advice and does not attempt to minimize the difficulties of quitting.

If you have any comments or suggestions about Quit4Life or any other marketing activities we are involved in, contact:

**Partnerships and Marketing Division
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada**

**Address Locator: 1910A1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4**

Facsimile: **(613) 952-6032**
E-mail: **Quit4Life@hc-sc.gc.ca**
Internet: **<http://www.quit4life.com>**

RCMP Drug Awareness Program

Seventy-one percent of teenagers feel that alcohol/drugs is the most important issue facing them today. According to the last national health survey, 24% of our children under 20 years of age use marijuana, 1.8% use cocaine, 7% use heroin, LSD and/or speed and 25% report use of any five illegal drugs in the past year. The health, social and economic consequences of drug use and abuse in Canada — especially among our youth — are of serious concern.

As Canada's national police force, our role in Canadian society is to contribute to the overall social health and cohesion of Canadian communities. The RCMP Drug Awareness Program works cooperatively with a number of public and private partners. Our priorities of health and youth are aligned with the goals stated in Canada's Drug Strategy. Program priorities include youth, schools, parents, community and social groups, and private enterprise. Through presentations, pamphlets, community initiatives and other efforts, our program fulfils its mandate to:

- reduce demand for drugs through education,
- encourage all citizens to participate in the solutions as substance abuse is everyone's concern,
- assist and act as a resource to community action, and
- assist in creating a positive attitude change in the community.

For more information, visit our Web site, contact your local RCMP Provincial Drug Awareness Coordinator or contact:

RCMP Drug Awareness Program
RCMP Headquarters
1200 Vanier Parkway
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2

Telephone: (613) 993-2501
Facsimile: (613) 993-5454
E-mail: narc@fox.nstn.ca
Internet: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca (with links to other RCMP provincial drug awareness sites)

Tobacco Reduction Program

The Office of Tobacco Reduction Programs — working in close collaboration with provinces, territories and non-government organizations — helps Canadians work toward the ultimate goal of a tobacco-free Canada. With an emphasis on youth, our efforts aim at improving the overall health, well-being and quality of life of Canadians by reducing tobacco-caused illness and death. This is done through a balance of prevention, protection and cessation initiatives for the entire population.

Youth programs are aimed at preventing smoking, encouraging and helping those who wish to quit smoking to do so and reducing the harmful effects of tobacco smoke. They include features such as promoting healthy lifestyles, enhancing media literacy, increasing parental awareness and involvement, and establishing school smoking policies and peer counselling programs.

The Office of Tobacco Reduction Programs has a wealth of youth-oriented tobacco resources available on the Health Canada Web site. These include *Quit4Life*, *Improving the Odds*, *Back Talk* and *Smoke gets in your eyes, ears, nose and lungs*. Also available is a *Catalogue of Selected Resources for Youth Produced through the Tobacco Demand Reduction Strategy*, which is available for distribution by contacting the Office.

For more information on our Tobacco Reduction Program, our resources and national activities concerning children and youth, contact:

Office of Tobacco Reduction Programs
Health Promotion and Programs Branch
Health Canada
Address Locator: 1907A2
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Telephone: **(613) 957-8333**

Facsimile: **(613) 952-5188**

Internet: **<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/tobaccoreduction>**

Travel

Passports and Children

Any child under 16 years of age can be issued his or her own passport or the child's name can be added to the passport of a parent — at the time the parent's passport is issued or at a later date. A child's name can be added to the passport of only one parent, however, and the child can only travel in the company of that parent. If the parent who includes the child's name on his/her passport cannot travel back to Canada for whatever reason, the child has to remain with that parent.

To add your child's name to your current passport, you must fill out Form B1, Addition of a Child's Name to an Existing Passport. A passport can be issued to a child within five working days, provided that the parent applies for the passport in person. All mailed applications take 10 days and are processed in Ottawa-Hull only.

For more information or to get a copy of the application form, contact the Passport Office at one of the following numbers:

Across Canada:	1-800-567-6868 (toll free)
Montréal:	(514) 283-2152
Toronto:	(416) 973-3251
Ottawa-Hull:	(819) 994-3500
Vancouver:	(604) 586-2500

(See also **Child Restraint Systems** [p. 59] under **Safety**.)

Youth Employment

Social Insurance Registration

All youths should have a social insurance number (SINs). The SIN is a nine-digit number by which the federal government identifies individuals for the purposes of taxation, employment insurance and pensions. The SIN also acts as an important form of identification, particularly if you are applying for a job or for entrance at a university or college.

To apply for a SIN, you must complete an application form and provide an original or true certified copy of a document that proves your identity and status in Canada. This is called a primary document. If the name on your primary document is different from the one you now use, you must also provide a supporting document.

Application forms may be picked up at your Human Resources Centre of Canada (HRCC). Human Resources Development Canada encourages you to apply for your SIN in person at an HRCC. This process is faster and more convenient, as it does not require you to part with your valuable identity documents or pay for getting photocopies of documents notarized. You may also apply by mail. There is no fee for an initial application for a SIN card.

To find out what types of documents are needed in your particular case, contact your local HRCC or visit the SIN Web site. To apply by mail, send your completed application form and identity document(s) to:

Social Insurance Registration

P.O. Box 7000

Bathurst, New Brunswick

E2A 4T1

Internet: **<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/sin/>**

Your document(s) will be returned with your SIN card.

Youth Employment Strategy

The Youth Employment Strategy is the Government of Canada's action plan to help young Canadians access learning opportunities, career information and work experience. The Strategy brings together a number of existing programs and services for youth. It also creates new youth programs and services through partnerships with business, labour, industry, non-profit groups, communities and other levels of government. In addition, the Youth Employment Strategy assists employers who hire youth.

The Strategy offers:

- Youth Internship Canada and Youth Service Canada programs — to help young people develop the life-skills and work experience they need to get a job or continue learning;
- internships in science and technology, international trade and development and for First Nations and Inuit youth — to give young people work opportunities and help growing industries find talented young workers;
- Student Summer Job Action programs — to give students summer work experience that will help them get a job when they graduate;
- ready access to information on career planning tools, work experience and learning opportunities via the Youth Resource Network of Canada Web site, a Youth Info Line, Youth Info Fairs and publication of *Youth Link*, a guide to Government of Canada programs, services and resources for youth; and
- the Canadian Opportunities Strategy — to reduce financial obstacles and help Canadians access learning opportunities. This initiative includes
 - changes to the Canada Student Loans Program to help borrowers repay their loans,
 - new programs such as the Canada Education Savings Grant and the Canada Study Grant for students with dependents,
 - incentives to help part-time students and mature learners continue their education, and
 - Canada Millennium Scholarships for full- and part-time students.

Government of Canada departments and agencies offering programs under the Youth Employment Strategy include:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
- Industry Canada
- National Defence
- National Research Council of Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Treasury Board Secretariat

You can find out more about Canada's Youth Employment Strategy by contacting your local Human Resources Development Canada office, calling the toll-free Youth Info Line or visiting the Youth Resource Network of Canada Web site. *Youth Link* is available by contacting the sources listed above.

Youth Info Line: **1-800-935-5555**

Internet: **<http://www.youth.gc.ca>**
(Youth Resource Network of Canada)
<http://youth.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ythlink/ythlink.shtml> (Youth Link)

Youth Participation/ Development

Canadian Cadet Organizations

The Canadian Cadet Organizations is the largest federally sponsored youth program in Canada. The Cadet Programme is open to all young people in Canada between 12 and 18 years of age. Approximately 56 000 youth in urban and rural locations all across Canada currently participate in this dynamic and popular youth initiative.

Membership in the Canadian Cadet Organizations provides thousands of Canadian youths with unique opportunities they might not otherwise experience. Youths learn valuable life and work skills — like teamwork, leadership, public speaking and time management. They also reap the personal benefits of increased self-confidence and learning how to take initiative and make decisions. Cadets further benefit from exposure to both Canadian and foreign cultures and develop a better sense of what it means to be Canadian. Cadets gain all of this while participating in a physically challenging, mentally stimulating, structured environment that promotes community and environmental responsibility as well as personal health and well-being.

Although not members of the Canadian Forces, Cadets participate in a wide variety of activities reflective of the Canadian Forces, such as flying, sailing, navigating and outdoor survival. Other unique opportunities include participating in international exchanges, earning financial scholarships for post-secondary education and receiving a summer training bonus. All activities and uniforms are provided free of charge by National Defence and its civilian counterparts — the Navy, Army and Air Cadet Leagues of Canada.

For more information, contact:

Directorate General Reserves and Cadets
National Defence Headquarters
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

Telephone: **(613) 992-3390**
Facsimile: **(613) 992-8956**
Internet: **<http://www.vcds.dnd.ca/cadets>**

Toll Free: Navy League of Canada
1-800-375-6289 (375-NAVY)
Army Cadet League of Canada
1-877-276-9223 (ARMYCAD)
Call Collect: Air Cadet League of Canada **(613) 991-4349**

Junior Canadian Rangers (JCR)

The Junior Canadian Rangers (JCR) Programme is a national community-based program composed of patrols in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Northern Quebec and Ontario. Open to all youth between 12 and 18 years of age, the Programme fosters good citizenship, community responsibility, personal health and welfare, and self-esteem in youth — thereby building a stronger, healthier community for all.

The JCR Programme is attentive to the special needs and requirements of Northern youth. It promotes a better understanding of and pride in the local communities and traditional values. With an emphasis on local culture and disciplines as well as life skills, many of the unique skills of the adult Canadian Rangers are passed on to participating youth. Participants enjoy a variety of activities, including hunting, fishing, living off the land, learning about Native spirituality, local dialects, traditional music, singing and dancing.

The JCR Programme is offered free of charge to all participants and is sponsored by National Defence and Human Resources Development Canada as well as other federal, provincial/territorial and local government organizations or agencies.

For more information, contact:

**Captain Claudia Ferland
Junior Canadian Rangers Project Officer
Directorate General of Reserves and Cadets
National Defence Headquarters
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2**

Telephone: (613) 992-2403
Facsimile: (613) 992-8956
E-mail: ae020@issc.debbs.ndhq.dnd.ca

Katimavik

Funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Katimavik is a national youth volunteer service. It allows bilingual groups of Canadians aged 17 to 21 to experience their country, serve the community, learn to work together as a group and develop leadership and communication skills.

Katimavik participants spend 36 weeks living in groups of about 11 and working on community projects in three different locations — two predominantly Anglophone and one predominantly Francophone. They take part in a wide variety of skills-development activities, such as environmental projects, volunteer work, community living, learning about computers and second-language learning. Participants receive room and board, a daily stipend of \$3 and a \$1,000 honorarium upon completion of the program.

For more information, please contact:

Katimavik
Port of Montréal Building
Wing 2, Suite 3020
Cité du Havre
Montréal, Quebec H3C 3R5

Telephone: **1-888-525-1503** (toll free)
Fax: **(514) 868-0901**
E-mail: **katimavik@camitel.com**
Internet: **<http://www.katimavik.org>**

Open House Canada

Open House Canada is a federal program administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage. The program is aimed at Canadian youth between the ages of 14 and 19. Its objective is to increase young Canadians' sense of belonging to Canada and their understanding of its values and cultural diversity. The program provides funding to national non-profit organizations managing reciprocal group exchange programs and national youth forums. The funds allocated are to be used exclusively to cover part of the transportation costs of eligible participants.

For more information, contact:

**Open House Canada
Youth Participation Program
Canadian Heritage
15 Eddy Street, 15-7-F
Hull, Quebec K1A 0M5**

Telephone: **(819) 994-1544**

Facsimile: **(819) 994-1314**

Internet: **<http://www.pch.gc.ca/csy-ecj>**

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Notes