

2005-06

ALBERTA CHILDREN'S SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



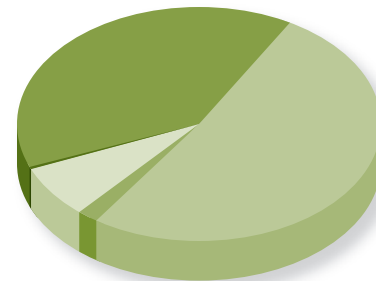
At Children's Services, we work hard to help build strong children, families and communities.

In 2005-06, the ministry invested approximately \$819 million to promote the development and well-being of children, youth and families, keep them safe and protected and promote healthy communities.

2005-06 Expenses*

(IN THOUSANDS)

- Promoting the development and well-being of children, youth and families | \$319,815
- Keeping children, youth and families safe and protected | \$420,184
- Promoting healthy communities for children, youth and families | \$14,348
- Support services | \$60,212
- Other | \$4,026



*Excludes \$4 million in inventory and equipment purchases

Key accomplishments

Promoting the development and well-being of children, youth and families

- Implemented a Five-Point Child Care Investment Plan based on consultations with Albertans. The plan:
 - helps low and middle-income families afford child care;
 - provides new supports to stay-at-home parents;
 - helps families of children with disabilities access specialized care;
 - increases wages and training opportunities for child care professionals; and
 - provides parents with more information, resources and early intervention opportunities.
- Amended the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* to better protect stalking victims and vulnerable family members, such as seniors and individuals with disabilities from further family violence.

- Awarded 484 youth between the ages of 16 and 22 who had been, or continued to be, in the care of Children's Services with Advancing Futures bursaries to help further their education.
- Established 14 new Parent Link Centres, two of which have an Aboriginal focus, for a total of 36. These centres connect parents to resources, community supports and training to help their children develop and reach their potential.

Keeping children, youth and families safe and protected

- Passed the *Drug Endangered Children Act*, the first legislation in Canada to recognize that children exposed to an adult's drug activity, such as manufacturing and trafficking, are victims of abuse and need our protection.

- Facilitated the adoption of 324 children who were in Children's Services permanent care; 103 more than 2004-05.
- Developed strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth through prostitution, Internet luring and pornography. Initiatives included sponsoring the television special *Children, Sex and the 'Net – What every Parent Should Know* and creating the www.getwebwise.ca website to educate parents, youth and children about online safety.
- Implemented public awareness and education strategies to prevent family violence and bullying, including the S-Team Heroes bullying prevention campaign for children between ages three to 11.

Promoting healthy communities for children, youth and families

- Hosted the first ever World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence where more than 1,200 participants from 30 countries created an international understanding of family violence and a platform for action.
- Continued to fund Alberta's Promise, which established 177 new partnerships for a total of 423 partners working together to direct more resources to help children and youth
- Worked with Aboriginal partners to address Aboriginal youth suicide, permanency planning for Aboriginal children and early intervention funding.
- Continued to address family needs through family enhancement services so that 82.1% of children receiving these services did not require more intense protective services.

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