

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - 2006
Annual General Meeting – March 19, 2007

The year 2006 marked the 15th anniversary of Catholic Family Services of the Battlefords. To date, we have provided professional counselling, group programming and in home support to more than 9,000 individuals and families. This year 275 individuals received counselling, 421 individuals attended Family Life Education Programs, Support Groups or other presentations and 178 families were served in the Family Support Services Program.

We have managed requests for counselling with minimal wait listing this year. The client need for programming and other community requests has been significantly more than we have been able to respond to given our current staff. Although the Family Support Services Program has had a wait list in the Diversion side of the program on and off through the year, service has been in place within weeks.

Family Group Conferencing has been added to the services we provide. Funded by the Department of Community Resources, all referrals must go through the Department. Although we have provided Mediation services in the past we were without a staff person for the majority of the year. Mediation services have been resumed effective December 2006.

This year we have maintained service levels within the North West Catholic School Division #16 and have added service in the Living Sky School Division #202, facilitating a grief support group at the North Battleford Comprehensive High School. These successful partnerships along with others formed over the years have contributed to a quality service that is effective and truly community based.

The Family Service Canada National Conference was held in September of this year. Because of the location being in close proximity, funding support from the Department of Community Resources and bursaries from the Muttart Foundation, eight staff members had the opportunity to attend.

In September of 2006 we moved into our new office space which offers the families we serve a warm, safe and welcoming environment. Our counselling space is much more adequate and we now have a private waiting area for clients. The space maintained upstairs accommodates group programming, mediation, family group conferencing and any overflow counselling or large family counselling sessions.

In the year 2006 we have been faced with increases in expenditures as a result of building occupancy and slight increase in counselling hours. On the revenue side of the budget we were about eight percent over our original projections. This increase came from program contracts with the Department of Community Resources and Saskatchewan Justice. These dollars are designated specifically to the programs they fund.

Catholic Family Services has again been generously supported by individual donors, volunteers, the business community, churches, service clubs and many other departments and organizations. These partnerships and generous supporters have made all the difference to the families we have served. On behalf of Catholic Family Services I extend heartfelt thanks to all of you who have given of your time, your talents and your treasures.

I would like to thank the staff of Catholic Family Services. You are a competent group of people who are very dedicated to the work you do and the families you serve. In addition I want to thank the Board of Directors for your continued support and guidance.

Looking to the future and the challenges facing families only reinforces the importance of continuing to work together. If we believe families are the foundation of our communities, we must offer as much support as we can. Catholic Family Services continues to be one of the organizations committed to providing this support.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard