

Understanding the Early Years

Building knowledge, mobilizing community & inspiring action to help children & communities thrive.

KAMLOOPS, BC

Volume 1

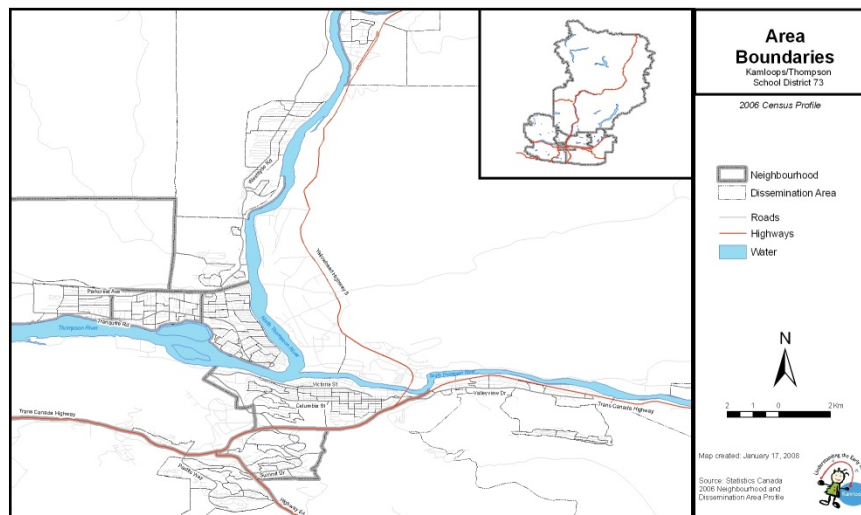
January 2008

Early Childhood Development Research in Kamloops

In May 2007, Make Children First Kamloops announced they were the recipient of Federal Government funding under the initiative Understanding the Early Years (UEY). This three year project is a national initiative funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada that enables members of communities across Canada to better understand the needs of their young children and families so they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs.

UEY provides our community with quality information on how children are developing in the early years before they get to school; family and community factors that influence children's development; and the availability of local resources to support young children and their families. Parents, teachers, key decision-makers, and others interested in the well-being of children can then work together to address issues identified by this information.

The geographic extent of this project is the Kamloops/Thompson School District 73 area extending north to Clearwater, south to Logan Lake, west to Savona, and east to Chase.



In December a mapping committee was formed to provide research topics and ideas that will influence how the mapping project evolves into tangible research that will affect policy decisions and inform the community. The committee is comprised of key decision-makers from the community and meet bi-monthly.

Over the last 8 months, Research and Mapping Consultants – Jennifer Casorso and Dave Whiting, have examined the Kamloops/Thompson community demographics and resources. Recently, Dave completed maps that identify where licensed childcare facilities are in Kamloops. He also worked with Thompson Rivers University nursing students and created a database and maps of all the food retail outlets in Kamloops. Currently, Jennifer is working on mapping where early childhood development service assets are within the Kamloops/Thompson community area.

In addition to the service inventories, Statistics Canada Census data is used to identify various populations with respect to their age, sex, education, income, occupation, and mobility. These maps are under construction and will be available in a Community Mapping Report in late spring/early summer 2008.

All above-noted maps will be available in late spring 2008 via the Make Children First Kamloops website for print. For additional information on the UEY initiative please contact Val Janz @ 250-554-3134 or for research related inquiries contact Jennifer Casorso @ jcasorso@gmail.com.



research brief

