

ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008

Centre for Research on Children and Families

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

October 2008



McGill

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1. Director's Message

Building on its mandate to “conduct and disseminate research for effective programs and policies for vulnerable children and youth and their families” the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) is assuming an increasingly important role in promoting research both in the local social service community as well at the provincial and national level. Over the past year the Centre has supported 25 research projects involving a dozen faculty, over 30 students and staff and one and three quarter million dollars in research funds. Studies vary from formative evaluations of local innovative programs to national studies involving research and policy partners from across the country to international academic collaborations. In addition to continuing to host its research seminar series, the Centre is supporting an innovative monthly journal club that brings together faculty and graduate students from McGill and the University of Toronto to systematically review recent child welfare studies and disseminate the most pertinent studies through a cross Canada list serve. To support these activities, funding was obtained to add 10 new workstations including a secure data lab, nearly doubling the Centre's capacity to provide a dynamic working environment for students and research assistants.

Over the next year, in addition to maintaining our current level of activity, I will be engaging members in a strategic planning exercise designed to ensure balanced growth and effective management of the Centre's resources. While the Centre has provided faculty and students with the support needed to develop and exciting array of projects, it is important to ensure sufficient integration across projects to maintain a vibrant academic culture that balances the Centre's research, training and dissemination mandates.

2. Research

Sixteen new research grants or contracts were successfully obtained and run through the Centre in 07-08, with 6 continuing grants or contracts and 3 Centre funded grants or contracts. Funding sources included SSHRC, CIHR, Fondation pour la pédiatrie sociale, Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Government of Québec, and the Government of Manitoba.

New Research Grants & Contracts Run through the Centre

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

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

The CIS is designed to examine the incidence of reported child maltreatment and the characteristics of the children and families investigated by Canadian child welfare services. The next cycle is being planned for 2008. Phase one has been successfully completed and phase two is underway. Phase one (June 2007 to September 2008) has focused on the development of a child welfare database, ethics submission, hiring key personnel, devising a workplan, focus testing the research instrument, sample selection, agency recruitment and information systems' assessments. Phase two (September 2008 to March 2009) will involve finalizing quality control methods, finalizing training manuals, giving training sessions to child welfare workers, data collection, data entry and cleaning. Phase three (March 2009 to January 2010) will involve

data analysis and the drafting of the final report. Phase four (February 2010 to March 2011) will involve the production of the final report, database and related technical documentation delivery, participant focused evaluations and dissemination of the results.

2) CIS 2008: First Nations Oversampling

Co-Principal Investigators: Vandna Sinha & Nico Trocmé,
Co-Investigators: B. Fallon, & B. MacLaurin
Funding Source: Government of Manitoba
Period: 2007–2011
Amount of Award: \$ 200,000

The goal for the CIS-2008 is to increase the sample of First Nations child welfare agencies from eight to twenty. The increased sample size will yield a more detailed understanding of nature of and response to maltreatment of First Nations children. Specifically, it will allow for closer examination of the different forms of neglect that contribute to First Nations' overrepresentation in the child welfare system. As in prior CIS cycles, a key priority will be to ensure First Nations' ownership of, control over, access to and possession of the knowledge produced by CIS-2008. A nationally representative, First Nations advisory committee will assist with recruitment of First Nations service agencies, offer cultural/ethical guidance, help to prioritize secondary analyses and facilitate dissemination of results. Since the fall of 2007, the First Nations component of the CIS has held a series of Advisory Committee meetings. Through the guidance of this committee, twenty-six First Nations child welfare agencies are participating in the study. Training of all participating workers will take place in the fall of 2008 and data collection will ensue from October 1st, 2008 to December 31st, 2008.

3) CIS 2008: Québec Oversampling

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

The Canadian Incidence Study sample is designed to derive national annual estimates only. In the 2008 cycle of the CIS, Quebec is one of the provinces which has provided additional funds for oversampling to produce provincial estimates. The specific objectives of provincial oversampling are: to determine provincial estimates of the incidence of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment and exposure to domestic violence in 2008; to investigate the severity of maltreatment as measured by forms of maltreatment, duration and physical and emotional harm; to examine selected determinants of health that may be associated with maltreatment; to monitor short-term investigation outcomes including substantiation rates, placement in care, use of child welfare court and criminal prosecution, and to provide a baseline for comparison of future cycles of the incidence study or to compare 2003 and 2008 rates for those provinces that oversampled in the previous cycle(s). Planning of the Quebec portion of the CIS has been guided by an advisory committee made up of representatives from Quebec's youth centres, the « Association des Centres jeunesse du Québec », the Ministry of Health and Social Services and SOGIQUE. Since June 2007, the focus has been on enlisting 16 youth centres to participate in the study, hiring key personnel, developing an automated data collection instrument, as well as focus and pilot testing the instrument. In preparation for the data collection period of the study, the research team has given approximately 20 training sessions to the youth protection workers employed at the 16 youth centres across Quebec.

4) CIS Instrument Development

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Funding Source: Public Health Agency of Canada
Period: 2007-2008
Amount of Award: \$ 9,975

This grant was provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop and pilot test two sets of question on the CIS form: one set dealing with the assessment of risk of maltreatment and the second set being a modified typology for classifying cases involving exposure to domestic violence.

5) CFI Leader of Opportunity Funds

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

The Leaders of Opportunity Fund is an application for the creation of a Canadian Child Welfare Data Lab. This lab will provide a timely response to the critical need for knowledge in the area of child abuse and neglect in Canada by building the capacity for researchers to study child welfare service trends over time and to compare policies and impacts between jurisdictions. Over the next three years, the child welfare data lab will be developed to house two types of datasets: (1) the periodic cross-sectional research datasets from the Canadian Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect and (2) administrative datasets that allow for longitudinal study of children's service trajectories and associated outcomes, such as rates of recidivism and academic achievement. Construction of the Lab is being completed in the Fall of 2008.

6) Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale "Le Cercle de l'Enfant" & CRCF Evaluation Project

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: A.-M. Piché, A. Campbell, & E. Fast
Funding Source: Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale
Period: 2008–2011
Total Award: \$ 69,790 (\$17,000 allocated 08-09)

This evaluation study aims to explore and describe the 'Cercle de l'Enfant' model as it is being implemented in Montreal. Using mediation and family group conferencing tools, Le Cercle attempts to actively mobilize all systems (family, social, professional and institutional) that are involved in a child's life. It aims to create and strengthen a partnership around a child to better assess the child's needs and interests, and to encourage a more active participation from his family and close social networks in decision-making processes. Elaborated in Hochelaga and Côte-des-Neiges communities within a social pediatric framework, Le Cercle targets children using services from community clinics (Assistance aux enfants en difficulté and Centre de services préventifs à l'enfance). References to a conference can also be made when Youth Protection Services are involved. The first stage of the evaluation (2008-2010) aims to collect preliminary data from participants to understand how the model functions and evolves, to describe family participation levels in the meetings, decision-making processes, evolution of family situations, perceptions about the program, use and access to resources and sharing of information between partners. The second stage (2010-2011) will

attempt to measure more impacts of the model on participating families, such as problem resolution levels and stability of solutions.

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

Principal Investigator: Lucyna M. Lach
Co-Investigators: D. Nicholas, & T. McNeill
Funding Source: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – Research Development Initiative (SSHRC-RDI)
Period: 2008–2009
Total Award: \$ 39,983 (allocated 07-08) / \$ 5,000 McGill research stipend

Surprisingly little is known about the processes involved in parenting children and adolescents with chronic health conditions and disabilities (CHCD), the extent to which it differs from parenting in general, the difference that it makes to child outcomes, and whether there are ways of understanding parenting that is unique to this population. The main goal of this study is to gain a thorough understanding of the conceptual basis, empirical literature as well as the measures used to study parenting in this population. Using an internationally recognized protocol for conducting a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative research, parenting behavior, cognition and style as well as social, family and child correlates of parenting will be established. This will provide a solid basis against which to develop future research questions.

8) Child Sexual Abuse in First Nations Communities

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Funding Source: Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC), through the Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Problèmes Conjugaux et les Agressions Sexuelles (CRIPCAS)
Period: 2007–2009
Total Award: \$ 4,500 (allocated 07-08)

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

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

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Co-Investigators: J.-Y. Frappier, J. Wilkins, D. Taddeo, O. Jamouille, & D. Meilleur
Funding Source: Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC)
Period: 2008–2009
Total Award: \$ 13,500 (allocated 07-08)

This clinical study, conducted in collaboration with the Sainte-Justine Hospital, aims to identify the psychiatric, psychosocial and biological factors that can help distinguish the different profiles of young

female adolescents (10 to 17 years old) who obtain services at the *Clinique de l'Adolescence* of the Sainte-Justine Hospital after having received a diagnostic of anorexia nervosa (according to the DSM IV TR criteria), as well as to measure the evolution of their symptoms, six months after the beginning of the treatment.

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

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Funding Source: Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
Period: 2008–2010
Total Award: \$ 233,444 (\$116,722 allocated 07-08)

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

11) Vulnerabilities of Sexual Abuse in Developing Eating Disorders

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Funding Source: McGill Start-up Fund
Period: 2007–2008
Total Award: \$ 13,500 (allocated 07-08)

This study investigated the relationship between child sexual abuse and eating disorders. While sexual abuse antecedents can influence the emergence of this problem, not all sexual abuse victims develop eating disorders and not all people suffering from eating disorders have a history of sexual abuse. In the midst of this still controversial issue, with some evidence pointing to a weak relation between those two factors, the principal investigator has conducted a thorough literature review to present the current state of data. The conclusion of her work is a book chapter to be published in an edited book on sexual abuse.

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

Principal Investigator: Mary Ellen Macdonald
Co-Investigators: L. Mitchell, P. Stephenson, & S. Cadell
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2007–2010
Total Award: \$ 75,000 (\$ 23,797 allocated 07-08)

This program of research seeks to understand, culturally and socially, what is the "bereaved parent" in Canadian society today, and what are the corresponding implications for the health and well-being of this population. Increasingly, bereavement care is being recognized as an essential component in interdisciplinary palliative care models, the goal being to help the bereaved arrive at a healthy adjustment to their loss. Studies show that while bereavement programs and practices may be clinically and intuitively

based, they are rarely theoretically or empirically evidence-based. The clinical models and theories upon which bereavement interventions are designed have not been proven effective. Some evidence suggests that bereaved parents may derive little or no benefit from bereavement counseling, and that further harm may occur from the interventions. This project will use a literature review, an empirical study, and a participatory symposium to respond to the following questions: 1. How is "parental bereavement" socially and culturally constructed in our society? 2. What are the corresponding implications for the health and well-being of these parents? 3. How do these constructions affect or impact the health and social services available to this population? In so doing, this study will provide an important contribution to the interdisciplinary world of palliative care research and practice.

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

Principal Investigator: Franco Carnevale
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (McGill internal)
Period: 2007–2009
Total Award: \$ 4,000 (allocated 07-08)

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

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

Principal Investigator: Nicole Ives
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (McGill internal)
Period: 2007–2008
Total Award: \$ 4,000 (allocated 07-08)

This SSHRC-funded project adapts the Developing Families Project strategy of bringing together systems, strategies, and curricula sensitive to the educational levels and culture of rural and peri-urban South Africa as a vehicle for community engagement, support, and advocacy for quality education. This grassroots approach will guide development of a research project in Canada focused on academic achievement and retention of Indigenous secondary school students.

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

Principal Investigator: Nicole Ives
Funding Source: McGill Start-Up Fund
Period: 2007–2008
Total Award: \$ 13,500 (allocated 07-08)

This study analyzes data from the Philadelphia Census of Congregations (PCC) in order to understand one provider of social support and facilitator of integration for resettling refugees: the religious congregation.

Specifically, the study seeks to understand the character of congregations that tend to assist refugees, understand the ways in which refugee sponsorship fits into social service provision by faith-based entities, and to the public policy discussion related to refugee resettlement by highlighting salient issues and themes regarding congregational involvement.

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

Principal Investigator: Julia Krane
Co-Investigators: L. Davies, & B. Featherstone
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2007–2010
Total Award: \$ 97,500 (\$ 36,045 allocated 07-08)

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

Continuing Research Grants & Contracts Run through the Centre

17) Evidenced-Based Management in Child Welfare Services

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: W. Thomson, B. MacLaurin, A. Shlonsky, & S. Hélie
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2006–2009
Total Award: \$ 298,872 (\$ 99,624 allocated 07-08)
Matching Funds: \$ 210,000 (McGill, Batshaw, ACJQ - \$70,000 allocated 07-08)

The Evidence-Based Management project is a three-year (2006-2009) knowledge-mobilization initiative designed to develop and evaluate a model for supporting greater use of research as a management tool in child welfare organizations. During its second year of implementation the project has focused on 7 key activities. First, client and service outcome data from Batshaw Youth and Family Centres' information system continue to be retrieved and analyzed with respect to six out of the 10 indicators from the Canadian Child Welfare Outcome Indicator Matrix. Second, the systematic use of clinical expertise at Batshaw has been further supported through a pilot clinical trends consultation that was held with a group of senior clinicians, as well as in the formation of two Clinical Integration Groups in the areas of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence. Third, Knowledge brokers continue to work with three Batshaw Management Committees. Fourth, Research Seminars are held on a regular basis to provide an opportunity for researchers to share and discuss their research with Batshaw clinicians among other participants. Fifth, a Journal Watch program has been developed whereby recent research is analyzed, summarized and evaluated with respect to methodology and saliency. Sixth, a semi-publication is being developed in partnership with Batshaw for clinical staff as a knowledge dissemination vehicle to report on research and

other EBM activities. Seventh, the EBM portion of the CRCF website is being further developed to provide current information on all aspects of the project.

18) Centre for Excellence on Child Welfare: McGill Site

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Funding Sources: Public Health Agency of Canada / Canadian Institute for Health Research
Period: 2005–2009
Amount of Award: \$ 330,086 (PHAC) /\$ 111,000 (CIHR) (\$ 213,504 allocated 07/08)

The CECW is a research and policy network involving three universities and two NGOs. The McGill site at the Centre has taken the lead on four projects. *Research Watch* uses a monthly journal club format with faculty and graduate students to review research articles published in the leading child welfare journals. The most relevant and well designed studies are summarized and disseminated through the CECW's list of over 1800 subscribers. The Centre is also leading the redevelopment of the *CECW Website* (www.cecw-cepb.ca/) as a national clearinghouse for child welfare research. The website received approximately 33,000 visits in 07-08. In addition, a *quantitative data workshop* for Aboriginal members/agencies has been held at McGill University. Finally, the Centre is coordinating a Federal Provincial Territorial outcome data harmonization project, the *National Outcome Matrix* (NOM). In 2007-2008 a draft update of the 1999 NOM was developed, as were ancillary documents including a summary measure of each indicator, a thesaurus, and a province/territory-specific service flow-through chart. Available provincial and territorial data was aggregated for each indicator, and explored at two FPT meetings hosted by the CRCF. A national conference is being planned for 2009 to bring together the Canadian Directors of Child Welfare and leading child welfare outcomes researchers in order to discuss the progress and future directions of national child welfare outcome measures. Additionally, NOM research staff is collaborating with Aboriginal child welfare agencies to develop culturally relevant indicators, and with a Montreal child welfare agency to explore agency-specific indicators.

19) Plate-forme informationnelle pour le bien-être des enfants (PIBE): Analysis of judicialization rates

Principal Investigator: Angela Campbell
Co-Investigators: Nico Trocmé
Funding Source: Validation Recherche Québec
Period: 2006–2008
Amount of Award: \$ 37,500 (\$ 12,500 allocated 07-08)

Using data from PIBE and related provincial datasets, this project examines rates of court use for child welfare matters in three provinces (Quebec, Ontario, Alberta) and considers whether judicialization in each location is affected by the structure and language within the applicable provincial child welfare statute. Over the past year, a paper emerging from this research was developed and it concluded that legislation does not have a decisive effect on child welfare workers vis-à-vis the referral of cases to the courts. The paper calls for a broader investigation into the other normative factors and policy influences that might prompt particular cases involving children, youth and families to proceed through formal judicial processes.

20) Making Gender Visible in Child Welfare: An International initiative

Principal Investigator: Linda Davies

Co-Investigators: J. Krane, B., D. Damant, B. Featherstone, J. Scourfield, & C.A. Hooper
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2006–2007
Amount of Award: \$ 74,977 (no funds allocated for 07/08)

A new Canadian initiative has been funded by SSHRC to develop Canadian Gender & Child Welfare Network with a commitment to examining the impact of gender on child welfare. While child welfare policy and practice is most commonly thought of as ensuring the best interests and needs of children, the scholars in this Network make visible the differential impacts of child welfare policies and practices on mothers, fathers, and their children. In early April, the Canadian and Quebec chapter of the Gender and Child Welfare Network held an International Workshop: *Why Does Gender Matter in Child Welfare?* At the same time a website was launched (www.mcgill.ca/gender-child-welfare) which has details of the April International Conference and upcoming events. Students have been incorporated into Network activities, providing them with an opportunity for international research exposure and exchange with foreign researchers.

21) National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project: Phase II

Principal Investigator: Robin Wright
Co-Investigators: G. Burgos
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada
Period: 2007–2010
Amount of Award: \$ 140,000 (\$ 38,290 allocated 07-08)

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

22) ACDPN Strengthening Families Program & CRCF Evaluation Project

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: A.-M. Piché, V. Sinha
Funding Source: Health Canada
Period: 2006–2008
Total Award: \$ 30,000 (\$ 10,000 allocated 07-08)

This evaluation study aims to describe the Strengthening Families Program (SFP), which is one of the many existing activities within the African Community Development Prevention Network (ACDPN). The study has examined the process and impact of introducing a standardized family support program on the participating communities' service networks. During its first year (2006-2007) of implementation in the community, families from 3 communities (Côte-des-Neiges, Lasalle, NDG) participated in the program. The first round of pilot evaluations of child and family functioning have just been completed by Black Community Association (BCA) trainers, with the support of CRCF staff. Process evaluation of the program during its implementation stage was also started in the community evaluation component of this study. In the last year of this evaluation study partnership, we were able to describe the first picture of families participating in the SFP, as well as its impact on various levels of family functioning outcomes. The community component of the study was also presented in a preliminary report to the network and program stakeholders and discussed impacts around the implementation of the program on Montreal Black communities. A final report will come

out in October of this year to present the findings obtained from both community and impacts components of this study, covering the Fall 2006 to Fall 2008 period.

Centre Funded Research

The Centre has engaged in two community evaluation partnerships partially funded with Centre funds. Although a formal funding program has not yet been established, these opportunities were selected as potential models for developing such a program. The objective of this program will be to allow the Centre to respond in a timely manner to community requests for research assistance.

23) Evaluation of the Family Aggression Replacement Therapy program

Principal Investigator: Nico Trocmé
Co-Investigators: S. Ellenbogen, M-J Letarte, D. Lafortune, C. Laurendeau, & R. Calame
Funding Source: Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period: 2006–2009
Amount of Award: \$ 10,000

The Centre has committed \$10,000 to supporting pilot research to evaluate a family treatment program being run at Batshaw Youth and Family Services. Batshaw is providing \$10,000 in matching funds. Proposals for external funding are also being developed. A retrospective analysis of Family ART participants has been completed and the design of baseline data collection is being finalized.

24) La Poly-Victimization des Jeunes au Québec

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

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

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

Principal Investigator: Delphine Collin-Vézina
Co-Investigators: N. Trocmé, M. Chabot, & B. Fallon
Funding Source: Centre for Research on Children and Families
Period: 2007–2009
Amount of Award: \$ 10,000 total (allocated 07-08)

The Centre has committed to supporting data analysis of sexual abuse cases from CIS datasets. Rates of sexual abuse (SA) reported to and substantiated by Child Protection Services (CPS) have dropped by nearly a third in Canada between 1998 and 2003. Although we would hope that this decline reflects a true diminution of SA perpetrated on children in the population, it is also possible that victims and non-offending

parents are less likely than before to disclose abuse to authorities, and/or that changes in the management of SA cases by CPS could explain this decline. The present study seeks to explore various potential sources of explanations for the decline in SA investigations by CPS in Canada, including: (1) stricter measures to retain SA cases reported to CPS, (2) a reduction in CPS involvement when the perpetrator is not a family member, and (3) increasing parental reserve to report their own child to authorities.

3. Dissemination & Training

Research Seminars

The 2007-2008 series of research seminars provided an opportunity for faculty, visiting scholars and graduate students to share and discuss their research. One presentation was scheduled for each meeting. Presenters used the seminar to discuss preliminary results, data interpretation issues and methodological questions arising from their research. The following is a chronological list of the 07-08 seminars:

Tara Black, University of Toronto, *Canadian Response to Exposure to Domestic Violence*
Nico Trocmé, McGill University, *Increasing Rates of Maltreatment from 1998 to 2003*
Della Knoke, University of Toronto, *Unravelling Physical Abuse*
Barbara Fallon, University of Toronto, *Factors Driving Case Decisions in CW Services*
Delphine Collin-Vézina, McGill University, *Interpreting Sexual Abuse Decline in Canada*
Nicole Ives, McGill University, *Rethinking Social Work Education for Indigenous Students*
Aron Shlonsky, University of Toronto, *Designing and Testing Risk Assessment Tools*
Michael MacKenzie, Columbia University, *Model of Foster Care Placement Instability*
Myriam Denov, McGill University, *Girls in Conflict Zones: Discourses & Representations*
Stephen Ellenbogen, McGill University, *Cognitions of Aggressive Adolescents*
Claire Chamberland, Université de Montréal, *Emotional Maltreatment in Canada (CIS)*

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

Website

The Centre has redeveloped its website (www.mcgill.ca/crcf/). The primary objective of the site is to describe Centre activities, announce upcoming events and disseminate research results. There have been a total of 533,446 hits (198,689 last year) and 36,186 downloads (21,792 last year) from June 1st 2007 to May 31st 2008. The Centre also has been playing a central role in redeveloping the website for the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare (www.cecw-cepb.ca/), which serves as a clearinghouse for child welfare research across Canada.

Student Training

The Centre provided research training for 25 graduate, post-graduate and undergraduate students through a variety of programs including external graduate scholarships (FQRSC & SSHRC), research assistantships, the Faculty of Arts Works Study program, participation in Journal Watch and thesis research support.

4. Centre Development

Governance

By-Laws and the Centre's name were approved by the Senate on September 19, 2007 and by the Board of Governors on October 30, 2007. An Annual General Meeting of Centre members was held on October 25, 2007 and the Centre's new Board was voted in:

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

Infrastructure

CFI Canadian Child Welfare Data Lab

With funds from a Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant awarded to Dr. Trocmé (CFI Canadian Child Welfare Data Lab, Leaders Opportunity Fund, \$ 431,933) three rooms were renovated and equipped to house up to 9 research assistants and one room was equipped to serve as secure data management and storage facility. In addition, Centre funds were used to add a lunch room for CRCF staff.

The Centre is now equipped with 22 workstations.

New Centre Faculty Position

Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina who was recruited to the Centre and the School of Social Work last year, was awarded a Tier II Canada Research Chair. Her research and clinical practice include understanding the prevalence, characteristics and consequences of child sexual abuse and designing therapeutic and preventative interventions for traumatized children.

Membership

Over the past year the Centre's membership has expanded to include over 56 members and staff who are actively involved in the Centre's activities. These include:

Faculty

Sharon Bond, Professional Associate, School of Social Work
Angela Campbell, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law
Franco Carnevale, Associate Professor, School of Nursing
Delphine Collin-Vézina, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Linda Davies, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Myriam Denov, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Sydney Duder, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Barbara Fallon, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work (University of Toronto)

Nicole Ives, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Julia Krane, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
Lucy Lach, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Mary Ellen Macdonald, Assistant Professor, Department of Oncology
Aron Shlonsky, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work (University of Toronto)
Nico Trocmé, Philip Fisher Chair in Social Work
Wendy Thomson, Director of the School of Social Work
Robin Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work (University of Windsor)

Community

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

Postdocs

Claudia Lahaie, Institute for Health and Social Policy, McGill University
Vandna Sinha, Centre for Research on Children and Families

Students

Tara Black, PhD Student
Ye Ri Choi, PhD Student
Stephen Ellenbogen, PhD Student
Tonino Esposito, PhD Student
Della Knoke, PhD Student
Geneviève Pagé, PhD Student
Anne-Marie Piché, PhD student
Denise Keiko Thomas, PhD Student
Lianne Charron, MSW student
Traci Cimino, MSW student
Alpana Das, MSW student
Elizabeth Fast, MSW student
Leigh Garland, MSW student
Kate Mechan, MSW student
Rebecca Miller, MSW student
Jessica Mitchel, MSW student
Meghan Mulcahy, MSW student
Ugochi Nnadozie, Master's student in Law
Linda Shamus, MSW student
Shirley Wallace, MSW student
Kelti Cameron, BSW student
Sandra Lasry, BSW student
Fannie Martel-Latendresse, BSW student
Mireille de la Sablonnière-Griffin, BSW student
Mairi Springate, Bachelor's student in Law

Research and Administrative Staff

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

Heather Fewtrell, Administrative Coordinator

Catherine Roy, Research Coordinator
Jules Lajoie, Communications Coordinator
Kelly Finnerty, Administrative Assistant
Jodi Nimigon, Parenting Children Chronic Health Conditions and Disabilities (SSHRC)
Pamela Weightman, Canadian Incidence Study (CIS-2008)
Michelle Sullivan, Canadian Incidence Study (CIS-2008)
Martin Chabot, Evidence Based Management (SSHRC)
Kelti Cameron, Quality of life projects (MUHC)
Julia Sheel, National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project

5. Financial Report

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

5.1 Endowed Income Fund

The Endowed Income Fund (see Appendix A) supports the Centre's administration and its research and dissemination infrastructure. Sixty-six percent of the \$ 123,902.11 spent by the Centre in 2007-2008 supported staff salaries, including an Administrative Coordinator, an Administrative Assistant and a Research and Dissemination Coordinator. Non-salary expenditures include Centre materials and supplies, travel costs including invited speakers for the research seminar series, and the centre's telecommunication infrastructure.

5.2 Social Work Fellowship Fund

The fund produced \$ 3,262.46 in income in 2007-2008 which has been added to the unused income from 2006-2007, leaving a balance of \$ 9,765.60. A travel fellowship program is being finalized for this fund.

5.3 Research Project Funds

The total amount of research project funds run through the Centre for 2007-2008 was \$1.75 million, a three fold increase over the 2006-2007 funds. This appears to be a sustainable level of funding given the available space and infrastructure, although care should be taken to ensure balanced growth with respect to the Centre's training and dissemination mandates. As noted earlier, a strategic plan will be developed to ensure sustainable and balanced expansion.

APPENDIX A

Endowment Income Fund (227581) June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008

INCOME

Income from Endowment	\$ 128,367.37
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EXPENDITURES

Salaries

Administrative Coordinator	29,292.84
Administrative Assistant	38,121.52
Research & Dissemination Coordinator	<u>14,580.44</u>
	81,944.80

Other

Materials & Supplies	3,099.54
Computer Equipment	2,111.08
Computer Software	1,702.17
Furniture	1,340.39
Printing/Photocopying/Postage	5,334.67
Books/Manuals/Subscriptions	1,095.43
Miscellaneous	3,740.81
Stationery	3,616.56
Telephones/Fax/Cell/LAN	12,237.27
Receptions/Special Events	1,719.41
Travel	<u>5,959.98</u>
	41,957.31

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$ 123,902.11

APPENDIX B

Social Work Fellowship (222589) June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008

BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2007	\$ 6,503.14
INCOME	
Income from Endowment	3,262.46
EXPENDITURES	
2007-2008 Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>
BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2008	\$ 9,765.60

APPENDIX C

Project Income June 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008

Granting Agency	Project Title	Amount
PHAC	Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS) 2008	\$400,000 (year 1)
Gov of Manitoba	CIS 2008: First Nations Oversampling	\$67,000 (year 1)
MSSS	CIS 2008: Québec Oversampling	\$67,000 (year 1)
PHAC	CIS Instrument Development	\$9,975 (year 1)
CFI	CFI Leader of Opportunity Funds	\$431,933 (year 1)
FPPS	Le cercle de l'enfant	\$17,000 (year 1)
SSHRC	Parenting Children & Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions & Disabilities	\$44,983 (year 1)
FQRSC	Child Sexual Abuse in First Nations Communities	\$4,500 (year 1)
FQRSC	Anorexia Nervosa in Young Female Adolescents	\$13,500 (year 1)
CFI	Invisible Victims of Sexual Abuse	\$116,722 (year 1)
McGill	Vulnerabilities of Sexual Abuse in Developing Eating Disorders	\$13,500 (year 1)
SSHRC	An Anthropology of Bereavement	\$23,797 (year 1)
SSHRC	Pediatric Life-Support Decisions by Physicians and Nurses in France & Québec	\$4,000 (year 1)
SSHRC	Adaptation of the "Developing families project"	\$4,000 (year 1)
McGill	Exploring Faith-based Service Provision to Refugees in Philadelphia	\$13,500 (year 1)
SSHRC	Engaging Mothers & Fathers: Challenges for Social Service Practices with Parents	\$36,045 (year 1)
SSHRC	Evidence-Based Management in Child Welfare Services McGill and ACJQ Contribution	\$99,624 (year 3) \$70,000 (year 3)
PHAC – U of T	Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare	\$213,504 (year 8)
VRQ	PIBE: Analysis of Judicialization Rates	\$12,500 (year 2)
SSHRC	Making Gender Visible in Child Welfare: An International Initiative	\$47,782 (year 2)
SSHRC	National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project: Phase II	\$38,290 (year 2)
Health Canada	ACDPN Strengthening Families Program & CRCF Evaluation Project	\$10,000 (year 2)
TOTAL		\$ 1,759,155