



# British Columbia Early Childhood Development Evaluation Project

## Results of the Project 2005 - 2013

- An ECD Evaluation framework, with 4 long-term child outcomes, has been developed and adopted by many key stakeholders in BC. Shared measurement tools and technology have been developed and tested for two of the outcomes:
  1. Communities support the development of all children and families.
  2. Parents are empowered to nurture and care for their children.
- A system for evaluating ECD community capacity building initiatives in BC (outcome 1 above) has been developed. The evaluation has been implemented province-wide 5 times since 2008 and each time improvements have been made. The system consists of tools and technology. The tools are a coordinator's survey to assess outputs and a stakeholders' survey to provide evidence of outcomes. The technology consists of the BC ECD Evaluation website on Fluid Surveys, to input data and to easily produce reports.
- The responsibility for the ongoing management and implementation of the community capacity building evaluation rests with Success by 6.
- A system for evaluating ECD parent education and support programs has been developed and refined over the years. The system consists of a tool (the Parent Survey) and Fluid Surveys technology to input data and produce reports.
- The responsibility for the ongoing governance of the parent education and support evaluation rests with a governance body composed of government and community stakeholders. The responsibility for the ongoing implementation has now been taken on by government -- the Early Years team in the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

## Lessons Learned

- Shared measurement evaluation – using a common tool for a range of different programs with similar goals, is quite different than evaluation of a single program or numerous programs of the same kind. Our work is unique in Canada. While we know of no other group in Canada that has attempted this, we have since learned of a few groups in the US.
- Creating shared measurement evaluation systems requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders, committed funders, sufficient resources and a longer-term approach.
- A key to user commitment is simplicity, a solid tool(s), user engagement and ensuring that individual programs / communities are able to easily access their own results. Funder commitment rests, among other things, on the ability to obtain overall results.
- While customized technology initially seemed to be the best option, it was not sustainable. A Canadian survey company (FluidSurveys) was able to provide us with most of what we need and the ability to adapt over time.
- The role of Max Bell Foundation in providing seed funding and support over the years has been essential. The project would have never happened without this support and without the commitment of the partners over time.