

CAPC improves the social development of vulnerable children and their families by providing prevention, early intervention and school readiness programs for children

Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)

CAPC, Thunder Bay ON

In Thunder Bay, Our Kids Count CAPC partnered with other organizations to bring wrap-around services to a housing unit for 24 young single parents. Risk factors included addictions, mental health issues, low income, relationship issues, and school drop-out.

Our Kids Count, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Family Preservation Program, Children's Aid Society, and Thunder Bay District Housing together provide intensive individual and group supports. Group supports include a community kitchen, Triple P parenting programs, an addictions education/support group, a dad's program/men's kitchen. There is also a drop-in staffed by Early Childhood Educators who focus on parenting, support, child development and school readiness.

Other services are also available for children and parents. CAPC has 2 staff who can work with children on individualized plans. Likewise if a young mom needs counselling she can receive it on-site through Dilico.

Our Kids Count has seen many positive changes over the 5 years they've been involved. Several young women worked together to set up a tenants' safety committee; connected with neighbourhood police and participated in self-defence training. There has been decreased drug use and an increasing number of tenants going to school regularly.

As one woman put it *"I was at my wit's end and couldn't possibly afford to borrow any more money from people. There was a chance that I was going to have my child apprehended for lack of food and necessary supplies in my home... without OKC, I may not be sitting here today."*



National Network of CAPC & CPNP Projects, 2009
www.healthycanadianchildren.com

The total economic cost (private and social) of child poverty Ontario is \$4.6 to 5.9 billion annually.

An Analysis of the Economic Cost of Poverty in Ontario, November 2008



Lack of school readiness has been shown to be linked to increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and/or having to receive special education services, and/or leaving before completing school. C. Mang, Nipissing University, Ontario estimated that the total tangible costs per dropout in 2008 were \$10,782, with an aggregate cost to Canada of \$12.8 billion!.