

**Opening Doors in Abbotsford
For Families and Children 0 to 6**

**Summary and Comparative Analysis
2003 and 2006 Capacity Research**

Providing Evidence for Celebration

**Produced on behalf of the
Abbotsford Early Childhood Committee**

October 2006

Research, Analysis, and Writing Team

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Introduction

The report *Opening Doors in Abbotsford for Children 0 to 6 and their Families* was published in February 2004. Section Four of the document revealed our community's capacity to meet the needs of families with young children based on data collection for the year 2003. This capacity research focused on two National Children's Agenda goals: childhood learning opportunities and, strengthening parenting and family support. One of our deliverables for 2006, as part of the Understanding the Early Years federal research initiative, was an update of our capacity data. The following is a summary and comparative analysis of our most recent findings. This report is divided into seven sections: data limitations and challenges, childhood learning opportunities 2006 charts, analysis of childhood learning opportunities charts, strengthening parenting and family support 2006 charts, analysis of strengthening parenting and family support charts, measuring the change – comparative analysis, and recommendations for future capacity research and questions about measurement.

One of the questions we continue to ask ourselves is “how is our research making a difference in the lives of children in our community?” This updated research provides evidence of the impact of knowledge on our community. Although it can be difficult to determine what caused the change, it is our belief that the results of our 2003 capacity research were a catalyst in creating awareness of the very limited opportunities for children and families in Abbotsford. What is truly worth celebrating is our community service providers, including the school district and city, who demonstrated their ability and willingness to change what was and the results in this report are evidence of that!

We also wish to recognize a significant increase in partnerships between community service agencies, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, School District No 34, and the City of Abbotsford. This increase in partnerships demonstrates our community's willingness to move towards collaborative endeavours which in turn have made for substantial changes in program and service hour availability for our families with young children.

Thank you for increasing opportunities for all young children and families to participate, regardless of their socio economic status.

It takes a community to raise a child...AND TOGETHER...WE DO make a difference!

Data Limitations and Challenges

Inherent to all data collection and research are the limitations of the sources for information and the challenges in obtaining current population statistics that help put the research into a context that is relevant and meaningful. The following are the limitations and challenges of our capacity data:

- Identifying the number of children of a specific age group in a municipality in any given year is a challenge. The first limitation relates to the largest and most reliable source of data: our Census which is completed every 5 years. Although a Census was recently completed in the spring of 2006 the release of this data will not occur until well into 2007. Therefore, we are still working with 2001 Census data. The second limitation of Census data is the reporting by age categories of 0-4 and 5-9 when our project relates to children up to the age of 6.
- Identifying the number of parents for those children presents its own set of unique challenges. In any given municipality or local health area, one in every five households is randomly selected to receive a longer and more detailed census form. It is from these more detailed questionnaires that parents are identified. The data collected from this 20% sample is then used to represent the entire census population. This relatively small sample combined with the patchwork of socio economic status found in our community provides limitations.
- Several small errors were found in the 2003 calculations of capacity. Changes were made to 2003 data calculations and are reflected in the 2006 charts.
- Comparing 2003 to 2006 capacity data poses several challenges:
 - Although the same capacity templates were utilized to collect data, the 2003 research was completed by two outside contractors with limited knowledge of our community's resources and services. The 2006 research team had increased knowledge of services and we believe this is reflected in our results.
 - The 2003 capacity research did not include some of our larger free community events as it was difficult to identify attendance numbers particular to our age group. With the assistance of event organizers, educated estimates of attendance to these community events have been added to this latest round of data and are reflected in what is identified as increased service hours.
- The data collected in both years represents a snapshot in time and may not be inclusive of all services available in our community.

- As with any research for a specific age group there are challenges in obtaining and accurately representing data. Many service providers, such as the health unit and library, deal with a wide range of age groups. For example, it is impossible to measure the usage of the library for children under the age of 6. Data can be accurately reported for programming specific to this age group such as various story times, parades and magic shows.
- One of our goals was to complete this round of data collection in a timely manner. As a result, some service providers' information is not reflected in the 2006 data.
- As with our 2003 data, programs and services that were open year round were calculated based on 50 weeks of operation per year to reflect holiday closures. Maintaining consistency in our calculations ensures comparative values.
- The total hours reflected on the 2006 charts are rounded to two decimal places for ease of interpretation. These were calculated to 3 decimal places for accuracy in all other supporting documents. The 2003 charts originally contained 2 to 3 decimal places and have been changed to 2 decimal places. This rounding out could be responsible for minor discrepancies when measuring change.
- Many questions were raised when determining whether a program or service was targeted or universal based on varied interpretation for these terms. Although all efforts were made to be consistent with the data presented in 2003 it was necessary to change some programs and services from targeted to universal and vice versa in our 2006 report. There were also some programs and services that were changed from the childhood learning opportunities to the strengthening parents and family support categories.

Childhood Learning Opportunities 2006 Charts

A special run obtained from BC Stats, based on 2001 Census data, reports 9710 children 0 to 5 live in the Abbotsford Local Health Area. The Abbotsford Local Health Area includes: Abbotsford (City), Fraser Valley H (RDA), Upper Sumas 6 (Reserve), and Matsqui Main 2 (Reserve). (Source: table 95F0300XCB01004.ivt, BC Stats, July 2006)

All program and service hours are calculated by using the maximum number of children that could be served, the maximum number of hours of service per week, and the duration of the service or program in a given year. It is important to note that we used the maximum number of spaces available for any given program or service whether or not the program was full or even ran. The same goes with program or service hours: if a program was open .5 to 1.5 hours then 1.5 was used to represent the maximum available hours. The idea is to capture the capacity at its fullest potential. The annual service hours per child were obtained by dividing the total child hours of service per year by 9710.

Unless otherwise stated, the postal codes represent the locations where programs, classes or sessions are delivered, not where they are contracted from.

Abbotsford Childhood Learning Opportunities Hours of Service per Year per Child

Postal Code	Site	Child Hours	Change from 2003
V2S 3M1	New Beginnings	5.75	2.81*
V2S 3S9	Family Centre	1.87	0.92
V2S 1T6	ABC 123 Godson	0.31	0.31
V2T 2R4	ABC 123 Ten-Broeck	0.62	0.62
V2T 6W2	ABC 123 Harry Sayers	0.62	0.52
V2S 5W5	Terry Fox and Centennial Elementary (Hand in Hand Day Camps)	1.36	1.36
V2T 4N6	MRC	2.65	0.08
V3G 1C4	ARC	2.65	0.08
V2T 5A6	AgRec (Various programs, Sports Day, AquaVan, Agrifair & Canada Day)	8.73	8.73
V2T 3J2	MSA Arena	0.78	0.67
V2T 4M5	West Oaks (Intl Children's Day)	0.07	0.07
V2S 2G9	Abbotsford Downtown Business Association (Berry Fest and Christmas Tree)	2.07	2.07
V2T 3N8	Mill Lake (Celebrating Dads)	0.04	0.04
V2S 3W1	Blue Jay Preschool	1.55	1.55
V2T 3N8	Centennial Preschool	2.47	2.47
V2S 6T5	Dave Kandal Preschool	1.70	1.70
V2T 4E1	John Maclure Preschool	1.85	1.85
V2S 6B7	Prince Charles Preschool	1.85	1.85
V2S 5W5	Terry Fox Preschool	1.70	1.70
V2S 3C5	Abbotsford Community School	0.23	0.23
V2S 2B9	MSA Library	0.15	0.12
V2T 2L1	Clearbrook Library	0.18	0.15
VOX 1V0	Mt. Lehman Library	0.01	0.01
V2S 3C6	MSA Museum	0.31	0.28
V2T 4A2	Bakerview School		0.10
V2T 1J6	Dormick School		0.10
V4X 2A8	Mt Lehman School		0.31
Total Child Hours:		36.86	29.60

Green = increase in hours from 2003 Red = decrease in hours from 2003

* Please refer to *Items of Note Since 2003* on page 6 of the report.

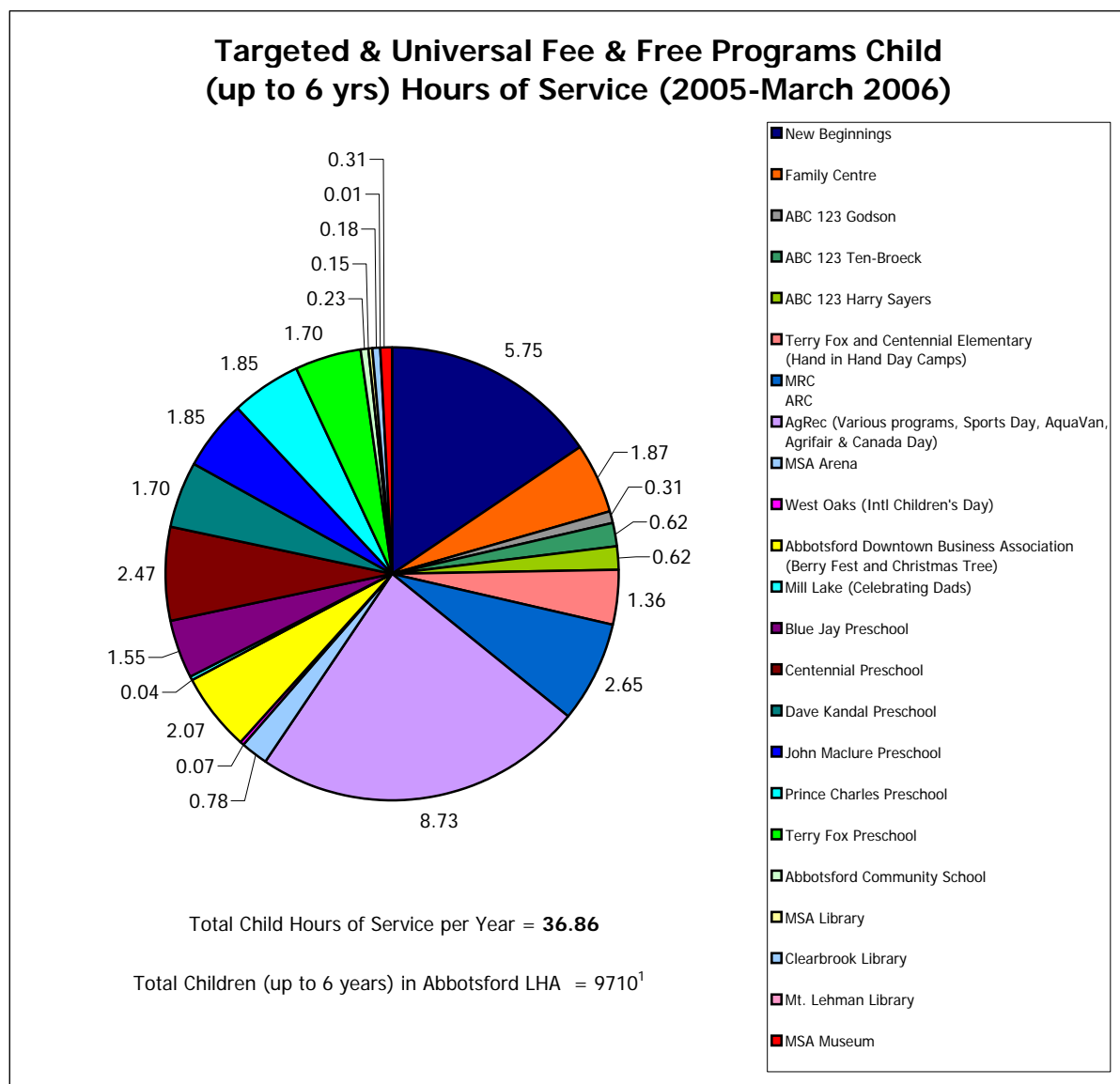
Criteria - Includes programs that have some public funding. Omit 'Special Needs' as this was omitted from the EDI.

Unable to measure capacity of licensed/license not required daycares, age range is beyond preschool, license not required difficult to locate and lack of formal funding (subsidy not universally available).

Preschools omitted due to fee for service/lack of formal funding. **Subsidy research is currently in progress.**

¹ LHA refers to Local Health Area and includes: Abbotsford (City), Fraser Valley H (RDA), Upper Sumas 6 (Reserve), and Matsqui Main 2 (Reserve).

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0300XCB01004.ivt Prepared by: BC Stats, July 2006



Updated by: Amy Rossa, AECC, July 2006

Abbotsford Childhood Learning Opportunities Hours of Service per Year per Child

Postal Code	Site	Child Hours	Change from 2003
V2S 3M1	New Beginnings	1.06	1.06*
V2S 3S9	Family Centre	1.87	0.92
V2S 1T6	ABC 123 Godson	0.31	0.31
V2T 2R4	ABC 123 Ten-Broeck	0.62	0.62
V2T 6W2	ABC 123 Harry Sayers	0.62	0.52
V2S 5W5	Terry Fox and Centennial Elementary	1.36	1.36
V2T 3N8	(Hand in Hand Day Camps)		
V2T 4N6	MRC	2.65	0.08
V3G 1C4	ARC		
V2T 5A6	AgRec (Various programs, Sports Day, AquaVan, Agrifair & Canada Day)	8.73	8.73
V2T 3J2	MSA Arena	0.78	0.67
V2T 4M5	West Oaks (Intl Children's Day)	0.07	0.07
V2S 2G9	Abbotsford Downtown Business Association (Berry Fest and Christmas Tree)	2.07	2.07
V2T 3N8	Mill Lake (Celebrating Dads)	0.04	0.04
V2S 3W1	Blue Jay Preschool	1.55	1.55
V2T 3N8	Centennial Preschool	2.47	2.47
V2S 6T5	Dave Kandal Preschool	1.70	1.70
V2T 4E1	John Maclure Preschool	1.85	1.85
V2S 6B7	Prince Charles Preschool	1.85	1.85
V2S 5W5	Terry Fox Preschool	1.70	1.70
V2S 3C5	Abbotsford Community School	0.23	0.23
V2S 2B9	MSA Library	0.15	0.12
V2T 2L1	Clearbrook Library	0.18	0.15
V0X 1V0	Mt. Lehman Library	0.01	0.01
V2S 3C6	MSA Museum	0.31	0.28
V2T 4A2	Bakerview School		0.10
V2T 1J6	Dormick School		0.10
V4X 2A8	Mt Lehman School		0.31
Total Child Hours:		32.16	27.83

Green = increase in hours from 2003 Red = decrease in hours from 2003

* Please refer to *Items of Note Since 2003* on page 6 of the report.

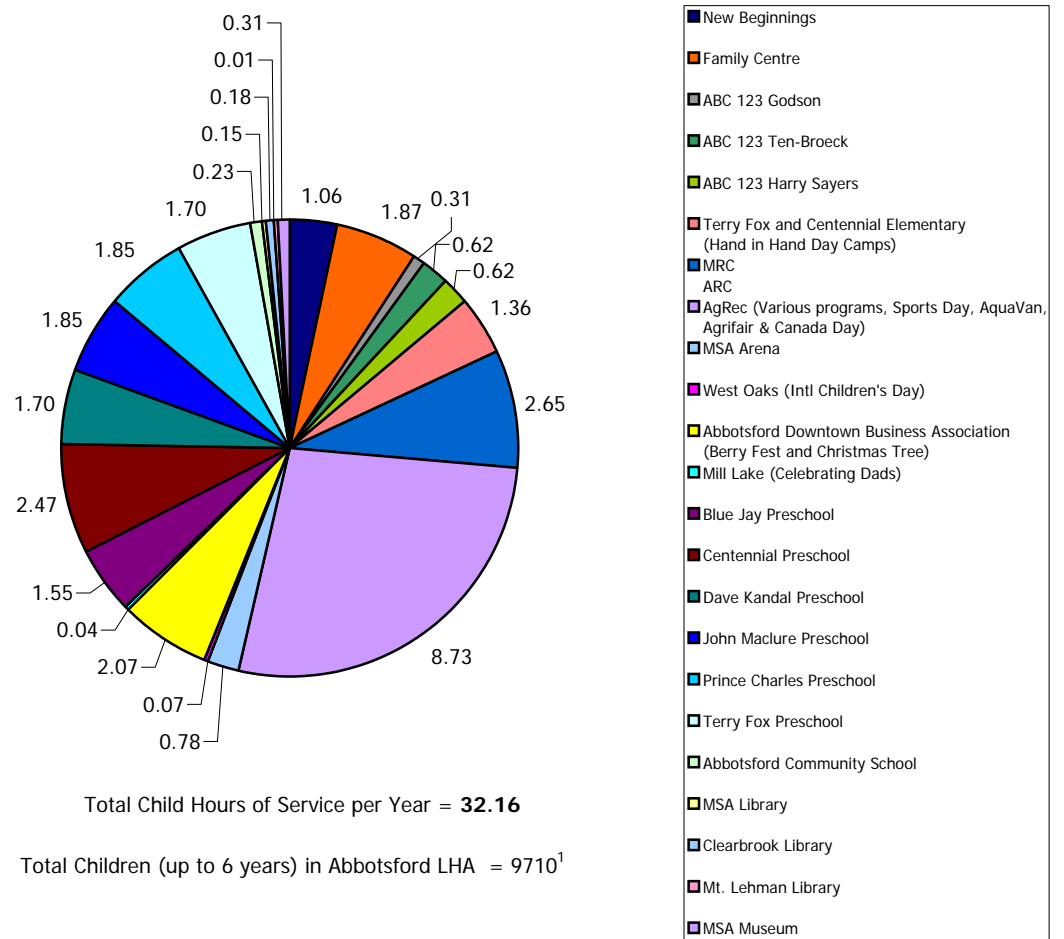
Criteria - Includes programs that have some public funding. Omit 'Special Needs' as this was omitted from the EDI.

Unable to measure capacity of licensed/license not required daycares, age range is beyond preschool, license not required difficult to locate and lack of formal funding (subsidy not universally available).

Preschools omitted due to fee for service/lack of formal funding. **Subsidy research is currently in progress.**

¹ LHA refers to Local Health Area and includes: Abbotsford (City), Fraser Valley H (RDA), Upper Sumas 6 (Reserve), and Matsqui Main 2 (Reserve).
Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0300XCB01004.ivt Prepared by: BC Stats, July 2006

Universal Fee & Free Programs Child (up to 6 yrs) Hours of Service (2005-March 2006)

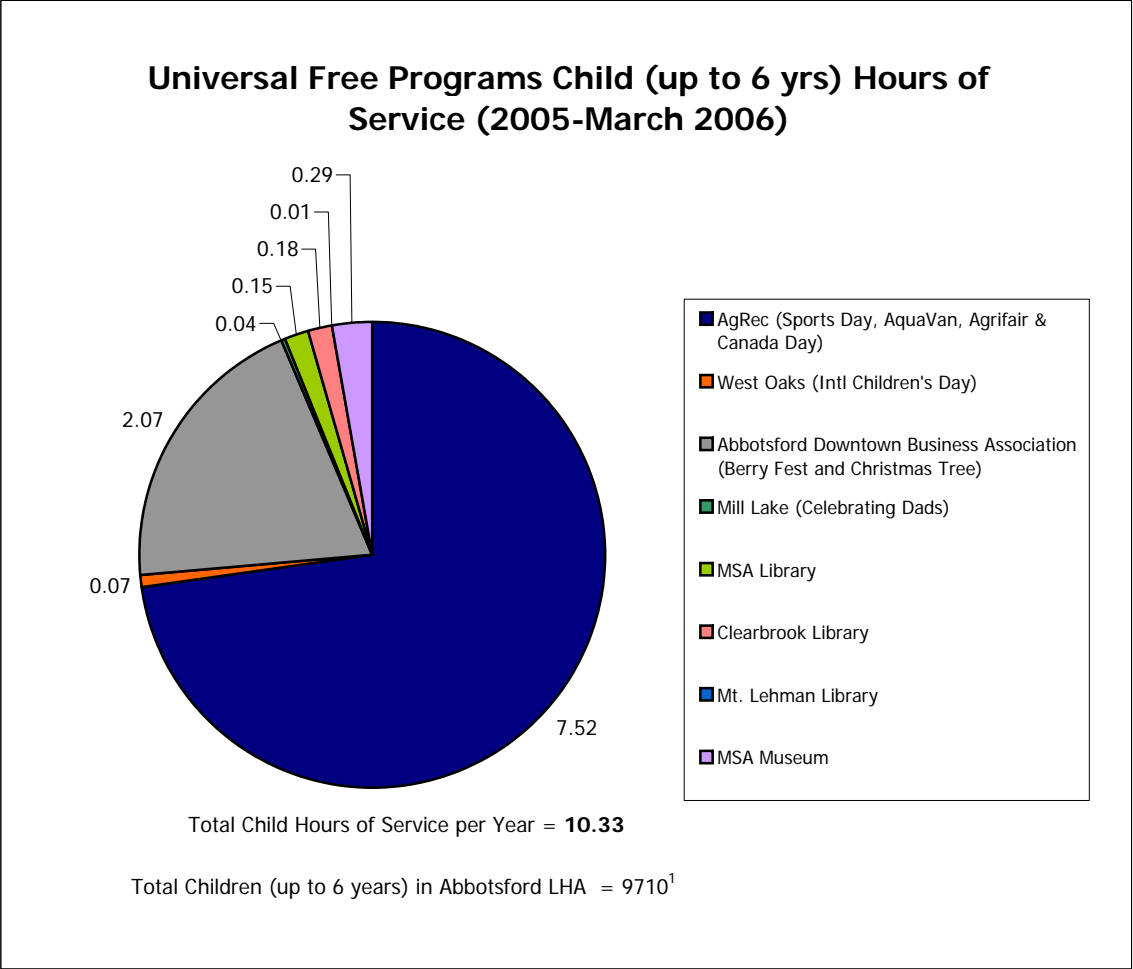


Abbotsford Childhood Learning Opportunities Hours of Service per Year per Child

Postal Code	Site	Child Hours	Change from 2003
V2T 5A6	AgRec (Sports Day, AquaVan, Agrifair & Canada Day)	7.52	7.52
V2T 4M5	West Oaks (Intl Children's Day)	0.07	0.07
V2S 2G9	Abbotsford Downtown Business Association (Berry Fest and Christmas Tree)	2.07	2.07
V2T 3N8	Mill Lake (Celebrating Dads)	0.04	0.04
V2S 2B9	MSA Library	0.15	0.12
V2T 2L1	Clearbrook Library	0.18	0.15
VOX 1V0	Mt. Lehman Library	0.01	0.01
V2S 3C6	MSA Museum	0.29	0.29
V2S 3S9	Family Centre		0.16*
Total Child Hours:		10.33	10.11

Green = increase in hours from 2003 Red = decrease in hours from 2003

* In 2003, due to one time MCFD funding, Family Centre was able to offer a portion of preschool programing free of charge. This funding is no longer available.



Criteria - Includes programs that have some public funding. Omit 'Special Needs' as this was omitted from the EDI.

Unable to measure capacity of licensed/license not required daycares, age range is beyond preschool, license not required difficult to locate and lack of formal funding (subsidy not universally available).

Preschools omitted due to fee for service/lack of formal funding. **Subsidy research is currently in progress.**

¹ LHA refers to Local Health Area and includes: Abbotsford (City), Fraser Valley H (RDA), Upper Sumas 6 (Reserve), and Matsqui Main 2 (Reserve).
Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0300XCB01004.ivt Prepared by: BC Stats, July 2006

Analysis of Childhood Learning Opportunities Charts

Items of Note Since 2003

- In 2003 the number of children 0-5 in Abbotsford was based on the 1996 Census. The number of children 0-4 was added to 40% of the number of children 5-9. For 2006 we received detailed numbers of children per age group based on the 2001 Census.
- In 2003 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) was included with Abbotsford Community Service (ACS). In 2006, CCRR has been recorded as its own entity as they moved to a new location with a different postal code V2S 2A6.
- Preschools offered at Family Centre from 2003 are all included in the fee-for-service year long preschools for 2006.
- In 2003 a large portion of New Beginnings' hours were allocated to both childhood learning opportunities and strengthening parenting and family support. The total childhood learning hours were recorded as 6.82 when they should have been reported as 2.94. Using 2.94 for 2003, the program shows an increase of 2.81 hours per child recording a total of 5.75 hours for 2006.
- New Beginnings 1.06 child hours are recorded under targeted free and universal fee for child care under 4 hours (3-5 year olds) and community preschool. There are 16 spaces for which priority is given to the students enrolled in the program and the remainder of the spaces are open to the community for a fee.
- The following calculation corrections from 2003 have been made:
 - Chart 1 MSA Arena hours should be .11 instead of .06
 - Chart 1 and 2 Family Centre hours should be .9547 instead of .995

Chart 1 Analysis – Targeted and Universal Fee and Free Programs

- Based on 9710 children 0 to 5, and making the assumption that every child would access programs and services in Abbotsford, each one would have a total of 36.86 hours of service per year for Targeted and Universal Fee and Free programs and services. ***This is an increase of 29.60 hours or 80.3% from 2003.*** In 2003 each child had access to 7.275¹ hours of service. One of the most prominent changes from 2003 is the increase in the variety of programs and services provided. The 2003 data indicates services in 12 locations whereas the 2006 research identified 28 locations for childhood learning opportunities.
- The largest increase is 11.12 hours for the 6 preschools which receive in kind support from the School District in the form of space
- The City of Abbotsford hours increased by 9.80 from 2003 – this increase includes 7.11 hours for community events which were not recorded in 2003

¹Calculation error corrected – 2003 original 11.145
2006 Capacity Research
Abbotsford Early Childhood Committee

- Abbotsford School District hours increased by 2.53.
- Abbotsford Downtown Business Association (ABDA) hours increased by 2.07 based on the Berry Festival and the Christmas Tree Lighting. ABDA community events were not included in 2003.
- Abbotsford Community Services, which includes Family Centre and New Beginnings, increased 1.98 hours.
- MSA Museum increased 0.28 hours.
- West Oaks Mall hours increased 0.07 hours from 2003 for hosting the 2005 International Children's Day

Chart 2 Analysis – Universal Fee and Free Programs

- In Chart 2 the targeted programs have been removed. Again, making the assumption that all of our community's children 0 to 5 would access services and programs, they would have 32.16 hours each year. ***This is an increase of 27.83 hours or 86.5% from 2003.*** In 2003 each child had access to 4.335² hours of service.

Chart 3 Analysis – Universal Free Programs

- In Chart 3 the universal fee programs have been removed leaving the universal free programs. The hours available per child for universal free programs are 10.33 hours per year. ***This is an increase of 10.11 hours or 97.9% from 2003.*** Increasing from .22 hours per child to 10.33 hours represents a substantial increase in opportunities for all children to participate in our community.
- The largest increase in hours is for the City of Abbotsford. The increase of 7.84 hours includes free community events which were not recorded in 2003. Also reflected in the City's hours of service are the Abbotsford Early Childhood Committee's events such as Sports Day, Aquavan visit, and Celebrating Dads.
- The Abbotsford Downtown Business Association increase of 2.07 also represents free community events which were not recorded in 2003.

²Calculation error corrected – 2003 original 4.375
2006 Capacity Research
Abbotsford Early Childhood Committee

Strengthening Parenting and Family Support 2006 Charts

A special run obtained from BC Stats, based on the 2001 Census data, reports 12,200 parents of children under the age of 6 reside in the Abbotsford Local Health Area. The Abbotsford Local Health Area includes: Abbotsford (City), Fraser Valley H (RDA), Upper Sumas 6 (Reserve), and Matsqui Main 2 (Reserve). (Source: table 95F0316XCB01006.ivt, BC Stats, July 2006)

All program and service hours are calculated by the maximum number of parents that could be served, the maximum number of hours of service per week, and the duration of the service or program in a given year. It is important to note that we used the maximum number of spaces available for any given program or service whether or not the program was full or even ran. The idea was to capture the capacity at its fullest potential. The annual service hours per parent were obtained by dividing the number of parent hours of service per year by 12,200.

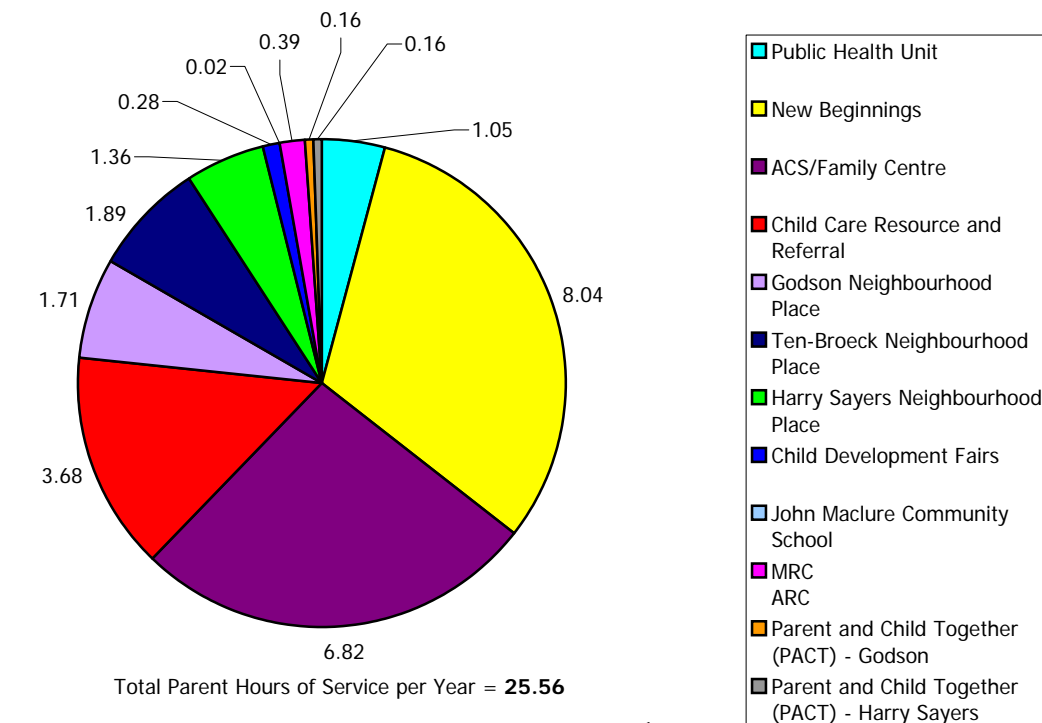
Unless otherwise stated, the postal codes represent the locations where programs, classes or sessions are delivered, not where they are contracted from.

Abbotsford Strengthening Parenting and Family Support Hours of Service per Year per Parent

Postal Code	Site	Child Hours	Change from 2003
V2S 5E4	Public Health Unit	1.05	0.76
V2S 3M1	New Beginnings	8.04	2.90
V2S 3S9	ACS/Family Centre	6.82	2.47
V2S 2A6	Child Care Resource and Referral	3.68	3.68
V2S 1T6	Godson Neighbourhood Place	1.71	1.71
V2T 2R4	Ten-Broeck Neighbourhood Place	1.89	1.89
V2T 6W2	Harry Sayers Neighbourhood Place	1.36	1.36
V2T 4M7	Child Development Fairs	0.28	0.28
V2T 4E1	John Maclure Community School	0.02	0.07
V2T 4N6	MRC	0.39	0.10
V3G 1C4	ARC	0.39	0.10
V2S 1T6	Parent and Child Together (PACT) - Godson	0.16	0.16
V2T 6W2	Parent and Child Together (PACT) - Harry Sayers	0.16	0.16
V2T 3J2	MSA Arena		0.05
Total Parent Hours:		25.56	15.34

Green = increase in hours from 2003 Red = decrease in hours from 2003

Targeted and Universal Fee and Free Programs Parent Hours of Service (2005-March 2006)



Note: Chart does not include immeasurable data listed below.

Programs and Services Not Included:

Women's Resource Society - Women's Support, Outreach, Children Who Witness Abuse, and Transition House.

Public Health Unit - Dental, Audiology Program (offered at Chilliwack Health Unit), Speech Language Program, Post Partum Depression Support Group and phone duty.

Note that the Health Unit is a significant universal resource to children 0-6 and their parents and caregivers.

In 2005 there were 1700 live births, 2104 phone calls and 1511 home visits by the Health Unit.

Family Centre - Precious Babies Drop in is included with Family Centre various drop in hours.

New Beginnings - One on One Fathering Support available 52 weeks a year when needed.

ACS - Nobody's Perfect in Punjabi did not run in 2005.

Note that 2003 Child Care Resource and Referral service hours were included in ACS/Family Centre hours.

Criteria - Includes programs that have some public funding. Omit 'Special Needs' as this was omitted from the EDI.

Unable to measure capacity of licensed/license not required daycares, age range is beyond preschool, license not required difficult to locate and lack of formal funding (subsidy not universally available).

Preschools omitted due to fee for service/lack of formal funding. **Subsidy research is currently in progress.**

¹ LHA refers to Local Health Area and includes: Abbotsford (City), Fraser Valley H (RDA), Upper Sumas 6 (Reserve), and Matsqui Main 2 (Reserve).

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0316XCB01006.ivt Prepared by: BC Stats, July 2006

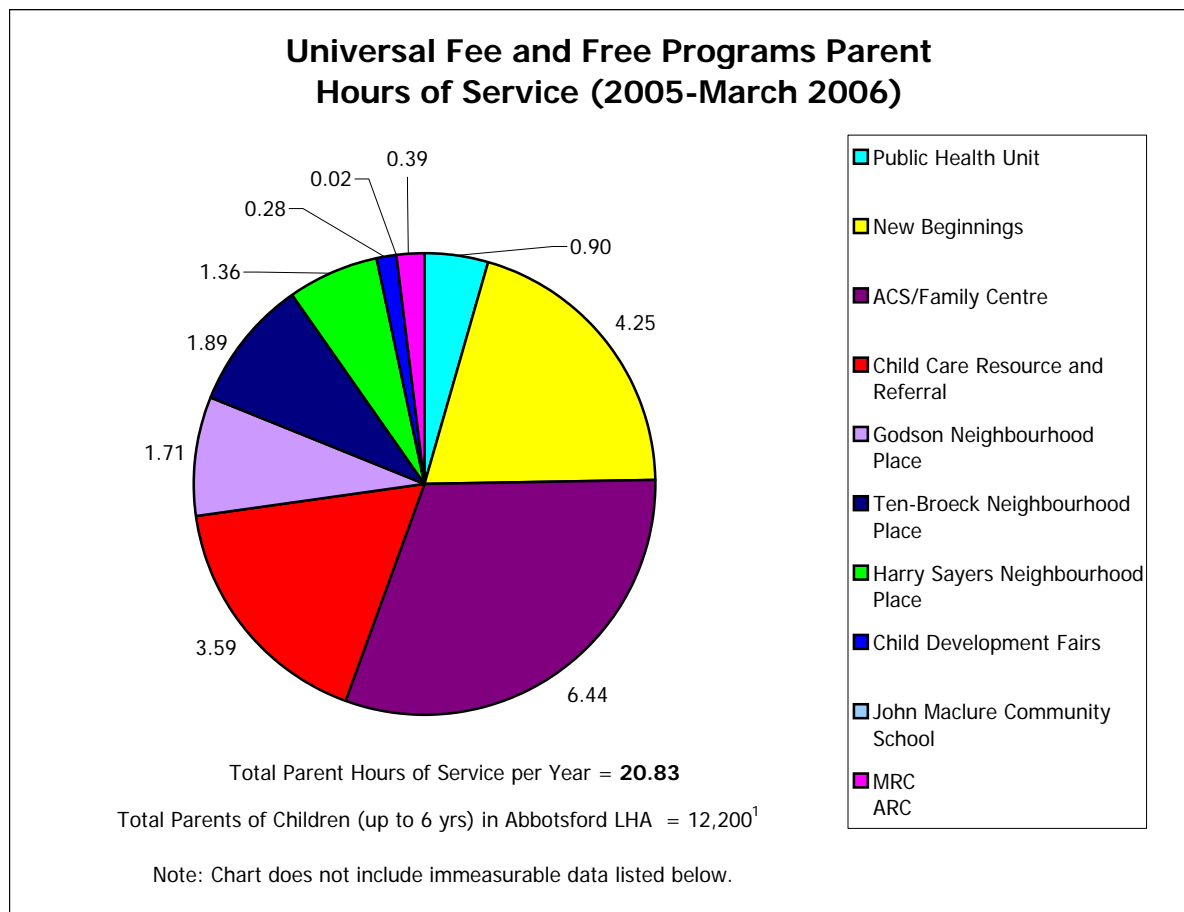
Updated by: Amy Rossa, AECC,
July 2006

Abbotsford Strengthening Parenting and Family Support Hours of Service per Year per Parent

Postal Code	Site	Child Hours	Change from 2003
V2S 5E4	Public Health Unit	0.90	0.61
V2S 3M1	New Beginnings	4.25	1.65
V2S 3S9	ACS/Family Centre	6.44	2.39
V2S 2A6	Child Care Resource and Referral	3.59	3.59
V2S 1T6	Godson Neighbourhood Place	1.71	1.71
V2T 2R4	Ten-Broeck Neighbourhood Place	1.89	1.89
V2T 6W2	Harry Sayers Neighbourhood Place	1.36	1.36
V2T 4M7	Child Development Fairs	0.28	0.28
V2T 4E1	John Maclure Community School	0.02	0.07
V2T 4N6	MRC	0.39	0.10
V3G 1C4	ARC		
V2T 3J2	MSA Arena		0.05

Total Parent Hours: 20.83 13.45

Green = increase in hours from 2003 Red = decrease in hours from 2003



Programs and Services Not Included:

Public Health Unit - Dental, Audiology Program (offered at Chilliwack Health Unit), and Speech Language Program. Note that the Health Unit is a significant universal resource to children 0-6 and their parents and caregivers. In 2005 there were 1700 live births, 2104 phone calls and 1511 home visits by the Health Unit.

Family Centre - Precious Babies Drop in is included with Family Centre various drop in hours.

Note that 2003 Child Care Resource and Referral service hours were included in ACS/Family Centre hours.

Criteria - Includes programs that have some public funding. Omit 'Special Needs' as this was omitted from the EDI.

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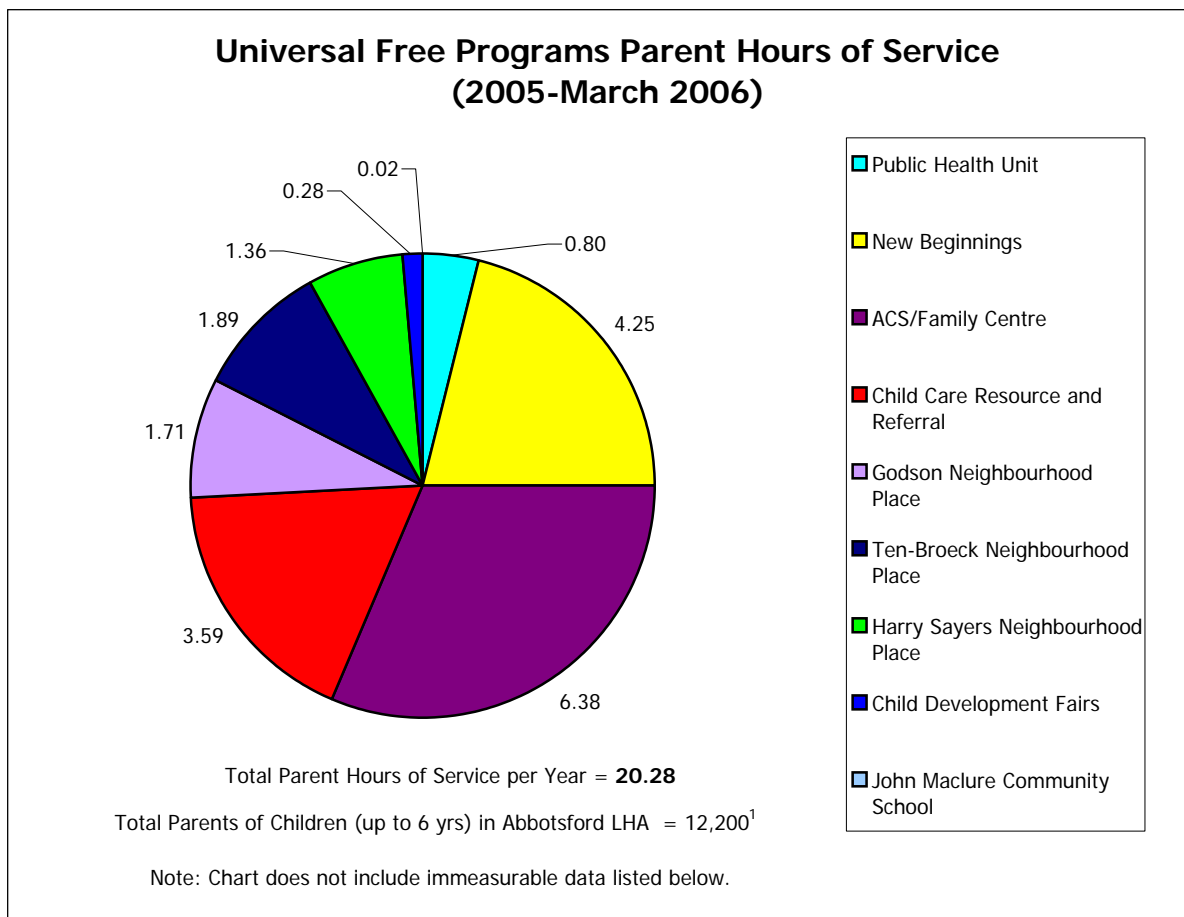
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Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0316XCB01006.ivt Prepared by: BC Stats, July 2006

Abbotsford Strengthening Parenting and Family Support Hours of Service per Year per Parent

<u>Postal Code</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Child Hours</u>	<u>Change from 2003</u>
V2S 5E4	Public Health Unit	0.80	0.51
V2S 3M1	New Beginnings	4.25	1.65
V2S 3S9	ACS/Family Centre	6.38	2.47
V2S 2A6	Child Care Resource and Referral	3.59	3.59
V2S 1T6	Godson Neighbourhood Place	1.71	1.71
V2T 2R4	Ten-Broeck Neighbourhood Place	1.89	1.89
V2T 6W2	Harry Sayers Neighbourhood Place	1.36	1.36
V2T 4M7	Child Development Fairs	0.28	0.28
V2T 4E1	John Maclure Community School	0.02	0.02
Total Parent Hours:		20.28	13.47

Green = increase in hours from 2003 Red = decrease in hours from 2003



Programs and Services Not Included:

Public Health Unit - Dental, Audiology Program (offered at Chilliwack Health Unit), and Speech Language Program.

Note that the Health Unit is a significant universal resource to children 0-6 and their parents and caregivers.

In 2005 there were 1700 live births, 2104 phone calls and 1511 home visits by the Health Unit.

Family Centre - Precious Babies Drop in is included with Family Centre various drop in hours.

Note that 2003 Child Care Resource and Referral service hours were included in ACS/Family Centre hours.

Criteria - Includes programs that have some public funding. Omit 'Special Needs' as this was omitted from the EDI.

Unable to measure capacity of licensed/license not required daycares, age range is beyond preschool, license not required difficult to locate and lack of formal funding (subsidy not universally available).

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Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census, Table 95F0316XCB01006.iwt Prepared by: BC Stats, July 2006

Analysis of Strengthening Parenting and Family Support Charts

Items of Note Since 2003

- In 2003, the number of parents of children under the age of 6 was most likely derived from the Local Health Area based on the 1996 Census data. There is the possibility that the number of parents used in the 2003 capacity research is from the city of Abbotsford Census data which would make a difference. For the 2006 research a special run was obtained from BC Stats for the Local Health Area based on 2001 Census data.
- In 2003 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) was included with Abbotsford Community Service (ACS). In 2006, CCRR has been recorded as its own entity as they moved to a new location with a different postal code V2S 2A6.
- All Family Centre drop-ins are located in this section. In 2003 some of the drop-ins were included in Childhood Learning Opportunities. Drop-ins are parent and child together therefore they were moved to family support.
- In 2003, the postal code for the Health Unit was V2S 3M1. The most current postal code is V2S 5E4 and was used for 2006.
- Prenatal Courses contracted by ACS and delivered at the Health Unit are fee for service. Subsidies are available for participants with low income levels.
- Prenatal sessions vary therefore it was impossible to measure a weekly total number of spaces.

Chart A Analysis – Targeted and Universal Fee and Free Programs

- Based on 12,200 parents and making the assumption that every parent would access programs and services in Abbotsford, each one would have access to 25.56 hours of service per year for targeted and universal fee and free programs and services. ***This represents an increase of 15.34 hours or 60.0% from 2003.*** In 2003 each parent had access to 10.217 hours of service.
- If more of the programs and services provided by the Public Health Unit and Women's Resource Society were able to be measured the amount of service hours per parent would likely increase.
- The most substantial increase in service to parents is from Abbotsford Community Services (ACS) through Family Centre, the Neighbourhood Places, New Beginnings and Child Care Resource and Referral. Their hours of service towards strengthening parenting and family support increased by 14.01 hours.

Chart B Analysis – Universal Fee and Free Programs

- In Chart B the targeted programs have been removed. Again, making the assumption that all of our community's parents would access these services, they would have 20.83 hours per year. ***This is an increase of 13.45 hours or 64.6% from 2003.*** In 2003 each parent had access to 7.38 hours per year.

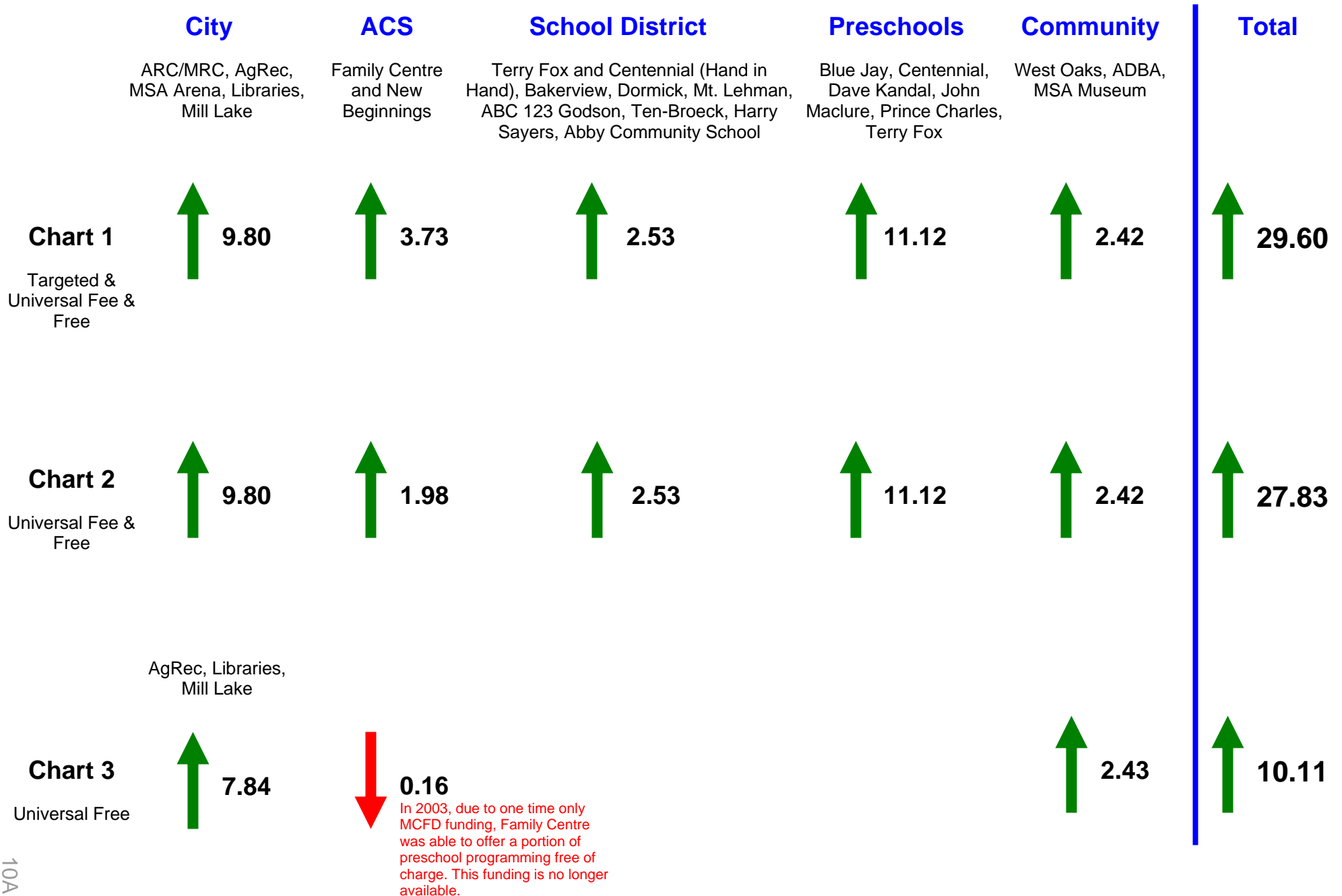
Chart C Analysis – Universal Free Programs

- In Chart C the universal fee programs have been removed. The hours available per parent for universal free programs are 20.28 hours per year. ***This is an increase of 13.47 hours or 66.4% from 2003.*** Increasing from 6.81 hours per parent to 20.28 hours is a substantial increase in opportunities which are free of charge.
- The largest increase in hours is 12.67 for Abbotsford Community Services various programs and services.
- Another significant change from 2003 is the increase in the variety of programs and services providers. In 2003 there were only 4 locations and in 2006 there were 9 different locations for parenting and family support.

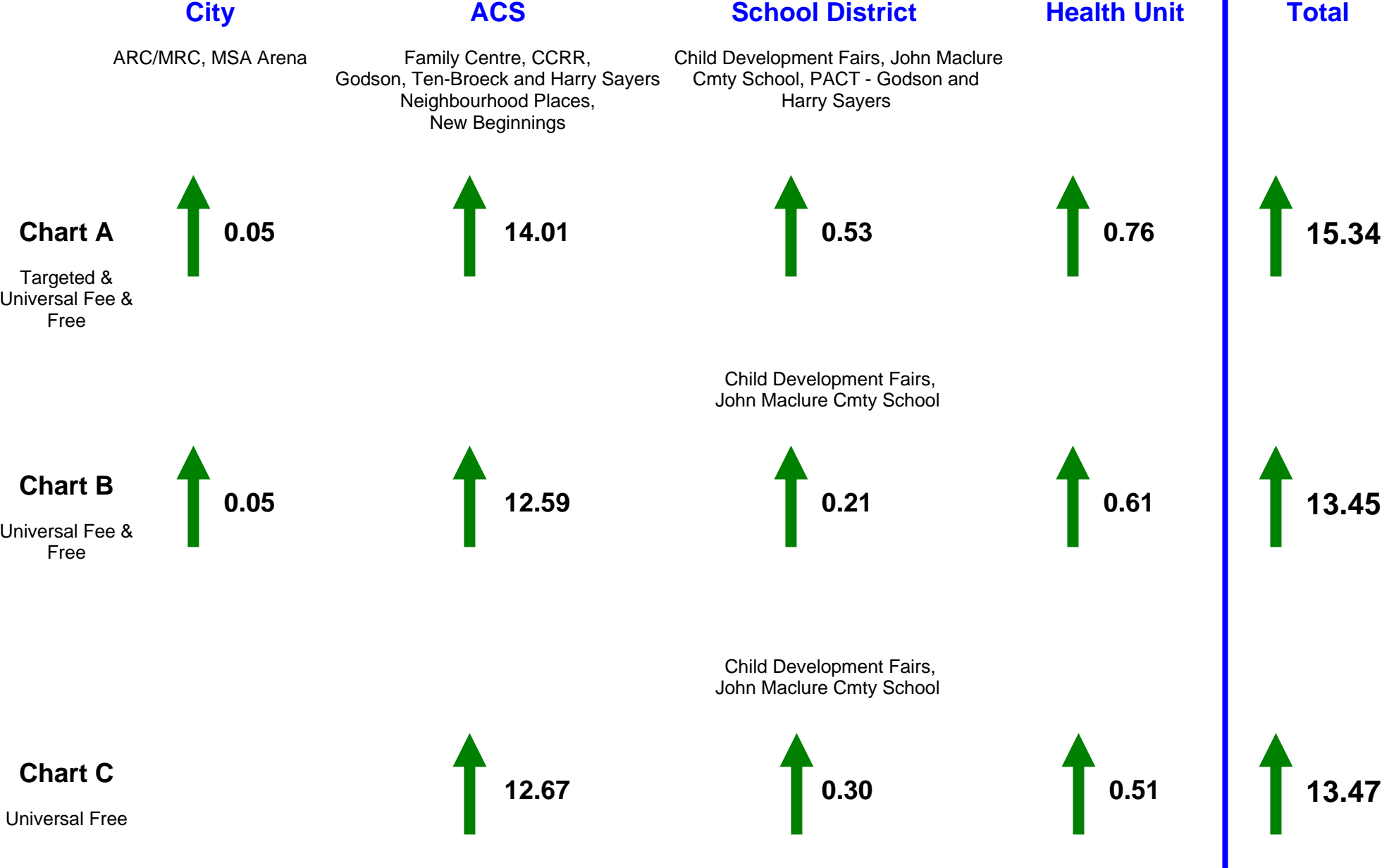
Measuring the Change – Comparative Analysis

- The charts found on the following page offer a visual of the change in our community's capacity. For the most part, Abbotsford experienced increases in services and programs for families with young children.

Childhood Learning Opportunities Changes in Hours



Strengthening Parenting and Family Support Changes in Hours



Recommendations and Questions

Many questions arose during the data collection and analysis of the 2006 capacity research. As much as possible, our goal was to have data which could be compared to the 2003 capacity research and at the same time accurately represented services and programs available in Abbotsford. The challenges and limitations section of this report articulates many of the difficulties we encountered in completing this update in capacity research. The following are additional questions for future research:

- There is a need to clearly define what is meant by targeted and universal programs and services. Many questions came up around the specific language programs – most programs and services directed at the Indo-Canadian community are delivered in the Punjabi language but English speaking individuals would still be welcomed to attend – do these then become targeted?
- In the 2006 report we have added community events – these have been added under the childhood learning opportunities whereas drop-ins have been moved to the strengthening parent and family support as they are child and parent. Most of the community events are also child and parent – where do these belong?
- In addition, community events have been added to the free universal childhood learning as children are admitted free of charge. For events such as Agrifair, which has an admission cost for the adult accompanying the child, should they be considered fee for service?
- Although this is a good problem to have, the increasing number of partnerships for programs and services does cause challenges when aggregating totals to show change. For 2006, we have aggregated all preschools and assigned them to the School District regardless of who was running them. We have also added New Beginnings to the School District. We included the Neighbourhood Place family drop-ins with Family Centre and ACS. What would be the best way to aggregate programming and show the change in capacity?
- Something that came to mind while completing the analysis, and based on the increases in services and programs, it would be interesting to track funding changes between 2003 and 2006 and see if they coincide.
- Although we used the same spreadsheet for data collection for both years, service providers collect data in a variety of other ways which didn't necessarily coincide with our spreadsheet. It might be a valuable exercise to design a spreadsheet that would be beneficial to all service providers for their data collection and ensure there is less room for interpretation of their data on our side.

- We are currently awaiting some responses from Ministries regarding subsidies for preschool and child care – it would be of interest to find a way to incorporate these in our capacity information as private care and service providers would then be in receipt of public funding – in this case provincial government.

Overall, the 2006 capacity research update provides evidence that knowledge has been put into action. For the most part, programs and services have increased service hours for families with young children providing for one of Abbotsford's most vulnerable populations. It is our hope that Abbotsford's parent and child service hours will continue to increase to provide for our rapidly growing community.

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