

## ECE graduates help parents to make child care choice

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Parents today must face many decisions when determining the proper child care for their children. The following is an article written by Angela Bergwerff, Nai Ridges, and Rocky Singh. All three are second year students of the Early Childhood Education program of Sheridan College's Brampton campus. The article is designed to inform parents of the expertise ECE graduates bring to the child care profession, and the resources they can provide.

Today's society is changing. This is because the world is advancing in technology, and therefore people must change to suit those advances. Families are decreasing in size and both parents are becoming more career-oriented. That leaves us with an important issue: Who is looking after the children?

There are many choices that parents have to make. If they are lucky enough, Grandma and Grandpa may be willing to look after the children every day. Some people may have a good friend who does not work, so the children can stay with a babysitter. There are also a large number and variety of day-care centres, nursery schools and parent co-ops. Parents are choosing the more acceptable method of child care services for the daily care of their children. Day-care centres are becoming more widely accepted by society. Therefore, the role of the Early Childhood Educator gets more intensified all the time. The responsibility of meeting the licensing standards required by the Ministry of Community and Social Services for day-care centres is highly demanding.

The first and foremost requirement to be found in child care centres is well-trained, qualified teachers. An Early Childhood Educator in Ontario is required to have a two-year diploma, or equivalent, from a community college. Within this two-year time

frame, an Early Childhood Educator learns about child development, planning curriculum for preschoolers, exceptional children and their needs, nutrition and human relation, to name just a few facets. As you can see, there is a broad range of subjects studied to create a well-informed professional.

An Early Childhood Educator's objective is to establish positive experiences and interpersonal relationships with the children. This can be achieved by implementing the following:

1. Developing a healthy body through a safe and supervised environment.
2. Providing positive reinforcement and encouraging a sense of trust.
3. Providing the opportunity for children to expand their imagination.
4. Designing curriculum areas that will encourage social, intellectual, physical and cognitive development.
5. Encouraging language development.
6. Providing a social preparation for kindergarten and school.
7. Assessing behavioral problems and exceptionalities.

To parents, an Early Childhood Educator provides care and nurturing for their child. They can be supportive in offering advice to parents and educating them in areas of child development. Early Childhood Educators can work with parents to help children reach their fullest potential through sharing observations and discussing the child's progression in the program. Support is also given to parents who are in stressful situations, such as those who are the head of a single parent family.

Early Childhood Educators believe that quality care is essential to foster healthy growth and development in young children.

## Cookbook available

"Smart Cooking," a cookbook based on the Canadian Cancer Society's dietary recommendations, is now available from your local Canadian Cancer Society office.

The soft cover, four-color book, costs \$14.95 and includes quick, easy and tasty recipes that comply with the Society's nutritional guidelines recommending a high fibre, low fat diet. All recipes in "Smart Cooking" have been analyzed for nutritional content. The book also contains

detailed information on the link between diet and cancer and on the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

Proceeds from the sales of copies of "Smart Cooking" sold by Society volunteers will help support the Society's ongoing work in preventing cancer through education, serving people living with cancer, and research. Contact your local Canadian Cancer Society Unit to purchase "Smart Cooking" or for more information call 877-1124.

## Workers' compensation reform

On June 20, the government of Ontario introduced legislation to reform the workers' compensation system. The reforms were introduced in order that the system do what it is supposed to do: provide compensation for the income lost as a result of a workplace injury and assist workers in returning to work when they are able to do so.

From obligating employers to reinstate injured workers in the jobs they performed prior to their injury, to finding new ways of enhancing their re-employment opportunities, the Ontario government is adding both fairness and efficiency into the Workers' Compensation system.

Referring to the reforms, Minister of Labour Gregory Sorbara said: "The culmination of close to a decade of exhaustive study and debate, it (the reforms) creates greater fairness, more effective protection of the rights of injured workers, and broader opportunity for people to return to work that they are capable of doing."

**Greater Benefits to Workers Who Suffer Wage Loss as a Result of Their Injury**

Legislative reforms to the Workers' Compensation system represent a major increase in benefits to injured workers.

The reforms create a "dual award" system for workers with partial, permanent disabilities. This new approach will compensate

workers for loss of earnings suffered as a result of an injury at work. It will also recognize, for the first time, the impact of the impairment to the injured worker on his life away from the workplace.

Furthermore, the reforms will raise the wage coverage ceiling from the current \$35,000 to an estimated \$44,000. The result will be that more than 95 per cent of all Ontario workers will have their wages fully covered by workers' compensation.

Legislative reforms will require employers to maintain pension, health and life insurance benefits for up to one year from the date of the injury.

The benefits of approximately 120,000 injured workers who now receive permanent, partial disability pensions will be fully maintained. The pensions of about 20,000 of these injured workers are particularly inadequate in terms of their lost wages. These workers will receive an additional pension of up to \$320 a month. All of these new benefits will continue to be tax free and will increase with the cost of living.

**Re-Employment Obligations Placed on Employers**

Reforms to the workers' compensation system require an employer to re-hire an injured worker in his previous job or a similar one at the same wages in cases where the injured worker is able to perform



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those functions. Where the worker is unable to perform the same job, the obligation is to offer the worker the first suitable job that comes open.

Once re-employed, the worker is subject to the same terms of employment, job protection and benefits as any other worker.

In addition, the legislation provides the workers' Compensation Board with the power to penalize employers who have not lived up to their re-employment obligations.

Excluded from these re-employment obligations are small businesses with fewer than 20 employees, and industries, such as construction, where work patterns

make the re-instatement obligations impractical.

**Injured Workers to Gain More Control Over Their Lives**

With the reforms introduced by the government, the maximum term for a temporary award will be 12 months. At that time, the Board will have to make an interim award which will run for two years. The Board will not alter this award during its term - even if the worker is able to return to his previous work full time.

This new approach lessens the potential interference and uncertainty in an injured worker's life.

Furthermore, the reforms provide injured workers with the right to participate in the design of their vocational rehabilitation. This will give workers considerably more control over their own affairs.

In order to answer questions concerning the proposed reforms to the workers' compensation system, The Ministry of Labour has set up an information line, which can be called collect, at (416) 966-5958.

## Local 4-H members garner high honors

Six 4-H members from Halton entered their dairy calves in the Scotiabank Contact Hays Classic show at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and came away with top honors. They were named Premier Club and brought home the Bill Edelstein Trophy as top club for the third time in four years.

This year's show attracted 234 4-H members from 40 counties and seven provinces. It is the largest 4-H event of its kind in Canada. Contestants are evaluated on Dairy Showmanship, Calf Conformation and Herdsmanship. It is jointly sponsored by Scotiabank, Dairy Contact Magazine and Hays Farms International of Oakville.

The members, Jim Bursey, Marvin Ella, Jennifer Livock, Lisandro Luzzo, Kelly Stewart and James Woods won numerous honors, on their way to top club distinction. They were ably guided along the way by 4-H Leader, Bertram Stewart.

In the Showmanship Competition Halton was the only club in which six out of six were called back to the finals for each of their divisions. Jim

Bursey was top Senior Showman and over all Grand Champion Showman. Marvin Ella placed first in Intermediate Showmanship and was Honorable Mention in the Grand Champion Class. Kelly Stewart was fourth and Jennifer Livock was sixth in Intermediate Showmanship.

Halton's results in the calf conformation classes was equally impressive. Marvin Ella showed the Champion and Jennifer Livock the Reserve Champion in the Jersey class. Kelly Stewart had the Champion Summer Yearling Holstein calf and Lisandro Luzzo's calf was ninth in the same class. The team also placed fourth with their group of three calves.

The 4-H is a program for young people aged 12 to 21 years and is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. It gives youth a chance to grow by gaining self-confidence, working with others, taking on responsibility, and developing leadership skills. Members choose projects that range from cooking to computers to livestock.

## Repression of peoples not far from home

By CHERYL LIGHTOWLERS  
Member of HAND

Meyer Brownstone, Chairman of Oxfam-Canada, recently wrote to the Globe and Mail expressing concern that Canadian arms and military equipment are increasingly involved in the repression of indigenous peoples. He was referring to the impact of target practice, low-level military flight training and a planned \$500 million NATO fighter weapons training centre.

The indigenous peoples hunt and fish the land near a military base. But now, daily, the adults and the children and the animals that are hunted are frightened by the screaming jets that fly 100 feet above their heads.

The culture, health and environment on the people are at risk for they are being denied control over their land and, therefore, their livelihood. Since 1980 the people have been protesting against what they see as illegal use of their land.

The International Federation of Human Rights has concluded that "internationally recognized natural legal rights of the (people) are being violated." This, in land that has never been ceded by treaty to the government that is using it for target practice.

Recently the people have taken drastic steps to halt the bombing practice. Last September, six people with their priest occupied a bombing range. The British, Dutch and West Germans suspended their bombing practice.

## PEACE BEAT

By October, many local residents moved into a protest tent camp on a runway. The Catholic Bishop visited and called on the national government to recognize the rights of the people. Rather than negotiate with the protesters the government jailed them. Five people plus their priest are still in jail waiting until the government's ministers agree to meet them.

In what country are these legitimate claims of indigenous people being ignored? Is it some remote, isolated land where the population does not hear of such injustice or is too intimidated to speak out? NO! The Innu of Labrador are demanding that the Canadian government give them back their land and that the militarization of their homeland be halted.

They are now requesting our help. Groups like Oxfam-Canada have heard this plea and are now urging the Indian Affairs Minister and the Defence Minister to meet with Innu leaders. As with all issues that you feel concerned with, you can add your voice by writing to: The House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

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