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Child and Family Services plans new child care spaces across region

Work will focus on collaboration with communities to determine needs and maximize resources

Viking... The East Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) - Region 5 has begun work on an aggressive plan to create more than 300 new child care spaces in East Central Alberta - Region 5. These new child care spaces in licensed day care centres and approved family day homes are expected to be available to parents between now and March 31, 2009.

Highlights of the CFSA's action plan include: hosting four "town hall meetings" in our communities to determine child care needs, and begin working with communities to meet the identified needs; collaborate with communities that have had success in establishing child care centres, and share these development models with other communities; consult with regional school districts to identify potential locations of new modular buildings for child care; explore training opportunities via video-conferencing for child care centre staff; provide support and/or resources for a training program on small business management; and provide funds to family day homes, day care centres and out-of-school care centres to access Aboriginal Awareness Teaching and related program resources.

"We are able to be ambitious in the goals of our action plan thanks to the great work completed by our Early Learning and Child Care team in the past few years," said Brian Holden, Acting CEO for the CFSA. "Through the team's work involving Project ABC, the CFSA has laid a foundation of effective collaboration between us, child care professionals, communities and our partners. This foundation will serve us well as we create new child care spaces – and new choices – for parents and children."

The CFSA's action plan supports the Creating Child Care Choices (CCCC) initiative of Alberta Children and Youth Services. The CCCC initiative is a province-wide plan to support families through the creation of 14,000 new child care spaces over the next three years, and the attraction and retention of qualified staff in child care programs.

The East Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority is one of 10 regional authorities in Alberta that works on behalf of Alberta Children and Youth Services, in partnership with the communities served, to plan and deliver a range of services to children, youth and families. The CFSA ensures provincial standards are met and oversees the delivery of the programs and services available through Alberta Children and Youth Services in east central Alberta communities.

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