

# A Movement for Change

*one community at a time*



# 2005-2006



CASA , the CSSS and Community Partners held a healthcare forum to determine the gaps in service that were taking a toll on the well-being of the English-speaking population in the Gaspésie region and to come up with solution-based recommendations.

# POST-FORUM

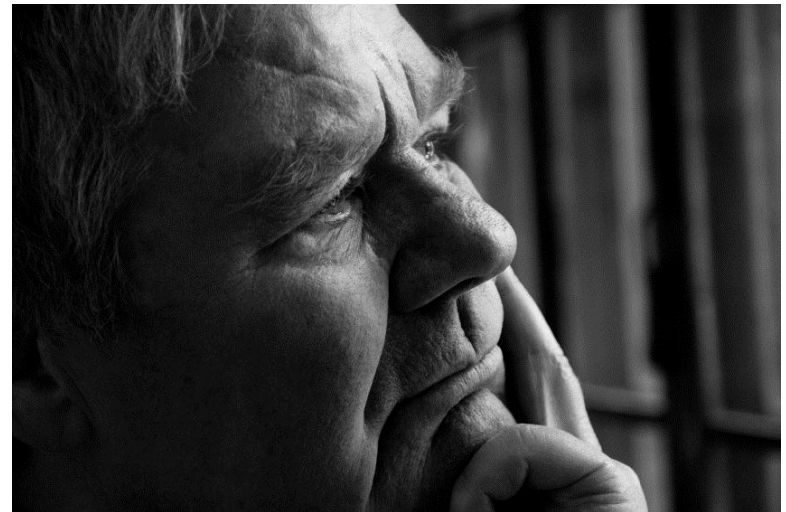
- \* Community members, organizations and Health and Social Service providers IMMEDIATELY initiated first-steps according to the recommendations equal to a holistic outlook for a healthier community.



# Our citizens

who were in vulnerable need of health assistance were not aware of a majority of services existed in their community or region, and are hesitant to use those they were familiar with.

- 56% of Anglophones reported to have had difficulty understanding a discussion with a health-care professional
- 67% admitted they never take a bilingual relative/friend/volunteer with them
- 77% call on family members for help when they are ill



# Observation



Lack of Early Childhood Development was alarming due significantly to:

- A high unemployment rate
- Low education levels
- Single parent families
- High number of families living on government transfers
- Social exclusion



A plan was put into place to target the root problems and promote a culture shift in the community. Family Ties, the Municipality, CASA and the CSSS collectively took a pro-active approach.



Funding from the FASSP program 2006-2007 allowed these recommendations to come to life. It was agreed by all partners that the Family Ties building would become the official hub for early childhood development and effectively serve as the introductory service point for all CSSS Health and Social Service programming!

...Not only did the building transform, but the entire clientele expanded quickly to include the community at-large, regardless of socio-economic status.





# Change is good...



A long-time stigma began to dissolve that once portrayed Family Ties resources exclusive to underprivileged families in the community. Therefore, a refurbished outlet and outlook played a major role in breaking down isolation barriers.

**Family Ties** resources that were amplified during this transition that are directly related to successful Early Childhood Development suggests an important conclusion:

**LITERACY must take a predominant identity as a health determinant linked to HEALTH ACCESS AND COMPREHENSION. Thus leading to action: effective use of services and programming by English-speakers.**



# According to Health Canada...

A **KEY** health determinant is Education and Literacy. **Education** is closely tied to **socio-economic status**, and effective education for children and lifelong learning for adults are key contributors to **health** and prosperity for individuals, and for the country.

**\* People with higher levels of education have better access to healthy physical environments and are better able to prepare their children for school than people with low levels of education. They also tend to smoke less, to be more physically active and to have access to healthier foods.** \*Second Report on the Health of Canadians, Health Canada



# Literacy and Social Development

Partners in the New Carlisle community were motivated to promote literacy in situations where social relations and Activities required the use of reading and writing. Several groups participate in the shaping of their community's development.



Prepared by the Committee for Anglophone Social Action



## Who's On Board now..?

- The Municipality of New Carlisle endorse a "Drop in" centre
- The creation of NCYC New Carlisle Youth Committee
- A library takes shape in the Family Ties Building
- New Carlisle High School is in its first stages of being a CLC: Community Learning Centre
- The development of Family and Seniors Policies are underway
- A community is better educated about Ville et Villages en Santé (VVS)
- Support and acknowledgement from Eastern Shores School Board

**In conclusion** the community of New Carlisle and their partner base created through a common goal for a healthier community, has permitted a new focus on urgent and critical issues that families and seniors are challenged by. More importantly, we are able to embrace a global view and together look at the overall well-being of English-speaking Gaspesians while improving one region's ability to access and understand information to help keep them healthy.

