

# 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."*



Ontario Coalition of CAPC & CPNP Projects, 2009  
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**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!.