

**ANNUAL REPORT**

JUNE 1, 2005 TO MAY 31, 2006

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**Center for Research  
on Children and Families**  
(Centre for Applied Family Studies)

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*Research for effective programs  
and policies for vulnerable children  
and youth and their families*

July 10, 2006



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## 1. Director's message

My first year as the Centre Director has focused on rebuilding the Centre's administrative, financial and research infrastructure, refocusing its mission and mandate, and developing linkages with McGill faculty, external research groups, and community service providers. Thanks to financial investments from the Faculty of Arts, structural deficits were eliminated and the Centre's offices were renovated to make room for an expanded research team. Over \$380,000 in research grants and contracts were run through the Centre in 2005-2006, allowing the Centre to set aside some of its own operating funds to re-finance the research support fund that had been part of the original endowment. A core administration and research team has been established with demonstrated capacity to support successful multi-site grant applications, effectively manage a range of research projects and coordinate public events. Six faculty members from the School of Social are actively engaged in the Centre and linkages with a number of other departments and faculties are being established. Joint projects are being run with several community agencies and with research groups from other universities in Quebec and across Canada.

Building on these successes, the objectives for 2006-2007 include (1) formalizing the governance infrastructure for the Centre (name change, board and by-laws), (2) recruiting a new faculty position and expanding membership, (3) establishing a student fellowship program, (5) formalizing a community research grant program, (6) expanding the research infrastructure of the Centre, and (7) developing a research seminar program.

## 2. Description

### 2.1 Mission & Mandate

The **Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF)**, formerly the Centre for Applied Family Studies (name change pending final university approval), conducts and disseminates research for effective programs and policies for vulnerable children and youth and their families.

Vulnerability is broadly defined to include social, family, emotional, cognitive and health related problems that place children and youth at risk of developing serious psycho-social problems and not being able to achieve their full developmental potential. These can include a range of problems such as poverty, family violence, peer violence, mental health and chronic health problems.

Programs and policies include prevention and intervention programs to support vulnerable children and their families that have been developed in a range of settings, including child welfare, children's mental health, education, recreation, and health care.

The Centre's mandate is to:

1. conduct research on effective prevention and intervention programs for vulnerable children and their families, including (i) research to understand risk and protective factors, (ii) efficacy and cost-effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs, (iii) analysis of administrative datasets to describe services and track outcomes, and (iv) in-depth studies to explore process and contextual factors that effect program implementation;
2. develop partnerships between researchers, service providers and policy makers, with a specific focus on (i) promoting research in partnership with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and other child and youth health and social service agencies in Montreal and across Quebec, particularly organizations serving the anglophone community, and (ii) providing a bridge between Quebec's extensive network of francophone community-university child and family research groups and other McGill, Canadian and international research groups focusing on vulnerable children and youth;
3. provide research training for graduate and post-graduate students, as well as supporting the development of research capacity in child and family service agencies;
4. ensure timely dissemination of Centre-based research in a manner that is accessible and relevant to policy makers and service providers.

## **2.2 Members and Staff**

In addition to the Director, Dr. Nico Trocmé, the Centre currently includes six faculty members, four Centre staff, two doctoral students, one post-doctoral and six research assistants.

While a formal faculty membership process has not yet been established, a number of teaching faculty at the school of social work have been actively participating in Centre activities and sit on the Centre's Research Committee. These include:

Dr. Wendy Thomson, Director of the School of Social Work

Dr. Lucy Lach, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work

Dr. Robin Wright, Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Dr. Julia Krane, Professor, School of Social Work

Dr. Sharon Bond, Professional Associate, School of Social Work

Dr. Sydney Duder, Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Over the next academic year the Centre will be seeking to broaden faculty involvement beyond the school of social work. To this end, connections have been made with faculty in a number of departments including medicine, psychology, education, and anthropology.

The Centre operates with support from four core staff positions:

Heather Fewtrell, Administrative Coordinator

Dr. Catherine Roy, Research Coordinator

Jules Lajoie, Communications Coordinator

Kelly Finnerty, Administrative Assistant

Staff and students who have been working on projects located at the Centre include:

Stephanie Belanger, MSW, Evidence Based Management (SSHRC)

Tara Black, MSW, Canadian Incidence Study (Public Health Agency/CIHR)

Barbara Fallon, PhD, Canadian Incidence Study (Public Health Agency/CIHR)

Martin Chabot, M.A., Evidence Based Management (SSHRC)

Julia Sheel, BSc., National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project (Canadian Heritage & Crime Prevention )

Seven graduate and post-graduate students received training at the Centre in 2005-2006 (see Student Training for details)

### **2.3 New Centre Faculty Position**

The Centre was assigned a Tier II CRC from the Faculty of Arts complement for a new tenure stream position based in the School of Social Work. A very strong candidate from the joint Child Development and Social Work program at Michigan was recruited, unfortunately in the final stage of negotiations Columbia made an offer that simply could not be matched. We will advertise again for the position in the early Fall.

## **3. Past year's activities**

Although 2005-2006 was primarily designed to be an infrastructure development year, we spent more time than anticipated on research opportunities while centre infrastructure development took longer than anticipated. As a result, finalizing the governance structure for the Centre has been pushed back to 2006-2007.

## 3.1 Centre Development

### Renovation

Thanks to funding from the Faculty of Arts, we have completed a major renovation of the Centre's offices. Two sets of walls were taken down, inner office windows were added, all walls were repainted and floors re-carpeted and five new workstations were installed. As a result we have gained room for two additional workstations, have better air circulation and light for research assistants, and have gained a common room with a meeting table, library and kitchenette. The Centre currently has 10 fully installed workstation in suite 106, with room for up to 3 temporary overflow workstations. In addition, we have access to two faculty offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (faculty who have temporarily located themselves in the Centre), allowing for up to four additional workstations.

### Governance

The Centre's Management Committee met three times over the last year. The committee reviewed Centre activities, reviewed the Centre faculty hire, finalized changes to the mission and mandate, and discussed the longer-term governance structure. Management Committee members for 05-06 included:

Dr. Nico Trocmé (Centre Director)

Dr. John Galaty (Dean of Arts)

Dr. Wendy Thomson (Director of the SSW)

Michael Udy (Executive Director, Batshaw)

Dr. Celine Le Bourdais

Dr. Lucy Lach

Dr. Robin Wright

The Centre has also established a Research Committee that will meet on a monthly basis to review new research opportunities, proposals in development, coordinate resources and keep members informed about each other's research.

### 3.2 Externally Funded Research

Six new research grants or contracts were successfully obtained and run through the Centre in 05-06 with \$383,406 in funding allocated to 05-06. Funding sources included SSHRC, CIHR, VRQ, National Crime Prevention Centre and Public Health Agency of Canada. In addition, three proposals are still under review and two other submissions (both to SSHRC) were unsuccessful.

#### Research Grants & Contracts Run through the Centre

##### Evidenced-Based Management in Child Welfare Services

Principal Investigator: **Nico Trocmé**  
Co-Investigators: W. Thomson, B. MacLaurin, A. Shlonsky & S. Hélie  
Funding Source: Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Period: 2006–2009  
Amount of Award: \$ 600,000

##### Variations des taux de mauvais traitements envers les enfants: réalité épidémiologique ou changements de normes?

Principal Investigator: **Nico Trocmé**  
Funding Source: Public Health Agency of Canada / ACFAS  
Period: 2006–2007  
Amount of Award: \$ 10,000

##### La judiciarisation des mauvais traitements envers les enfants

Principal Investigators: **Nico Trocmé**  
Co-Investigators: Catherine Roy  
Funding Source: Plate-forme informationnelle pour le bien-être de l'enfant / Valorisation Recherche Québec  
Period: 2006–2007  
Amount of Award: \$ 25,000

##### CIS Cycle II: Ontario Oversampling

Principal Investigator: **Nico Trocmé**  
Funding Source: Ontario Ministry of Child, Family and Community Services  
Period: 2003–2006  
Amount of Award: \$ 105,000

**Follow-up analysis of the second cycle of the Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect**

Principal Investigator: **Nico Trocmé**  
Funding Source: Public Health Agency Canada  
Period: 2005–2006  
Amount of Award: \$ 129,000

**Latency age children with epilepsy and their peers :  
Perceptions of peer relationships and social support**

Principal Investigator: **Lucyna M. Lach**  
Co-Investigators: Beverley Antle, Janice Hansen, Catherine Frazee and Karen Yoshida  
Funding Source: Réseau Santé Mentale et Neurosciences, Fonds de Recherche en Santé du Québec  
Period: 2005–2006  
Amount of Award: \$ 16,000

**National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project:  
Removing Barriers to Participation for Visible Minority and Aboriginal Youth**

Principal Investigator: **Robin Wright**, Ph.D., School of Social Work, McGill University  
Funding Source: Strategic Joint Initiative of SSHRC and Multiculturalism Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage  
Period: February 28, 2006–February 27, 2006  
Amount of Award: \$ 49,691

**Research Grants and Contract Proposals under review and submitted through the Centre**

Five research proposals for projects that will be run, or partially run, through the Centre are currently under review. In addition to the proposals listed here, two additional SSHRC proposals submitted in 2005-2006 were not funded (two others, as noted above, were successfully funded).

**Parenting children and adolescents with chronic health conditions and disabilities**

Principal Investigator: **Lach, L.M.**  
Co-Investigators: Antle, B., Franceour, E., Ghosh, S., McNeill, T., Nicholas, D., Rosenbaum, P., & **Trocmé, N.**  
Funding Source: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council—Research Development Initiative  
Period: Submitted in March, 2006



### **The Community Arts & Youth Project:**

#### **Youth Crime Prevention through Community After-school Arts Programs**

Principal Investigator: **Robin Wright**, Ph.D., School of Social Work, McGill University  
Funding Source: National Crime Prevention Centre: Research and Knowledge Development Fund  
Period: September 2006 to May 2007

### **Laurentian Region School Arts Project**

Principal Investigators: **Robin Wright**, Ph.D., School of Social Work, McGill University  
Boyd White, Ph.D., Faculty of Education, McGill University  
Co-Investigators: Lindsay John, Ph.D. School of Social Work, McGill University  
David Pariser, Department of Art Education and Art Therapy, Concordia University  
Funding Source: Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture (FQRSC)—  
Persévérance et réussite scolaires  
Period: January 2007–December 2009  
Status: Letter of Intent accepted. Full proposal to be submitted in September 2006.

### **Labrador/Innu Reported Child Maltreatment Study**

Principal Investigators: **Nico Trocmé**, Ph.D., School of Social Work, McGill University  
Funding Source: Ministry of Social Services for Newfoundland and Labrador and Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs  
Period: September 2007–December 2008  
Status: Proposal accepted in principle, funding to be finalized in July 2006

### **Le développement d'outils d'intervention et de recherches visant la préparation à la vie autonome et le soutien à la sortie des jeunes recevant des services des centres jeunesse du Québec**

Principal Investigators: Martin Goyett, Association des Centres Jeunesse du Québec  
Co-Investigators: Daniel Turcotte, Université de Laval,  
**Nico Trocmé**, McGill University; Varda Mann-Feder (Concordia);  
Stéphane Grenier (UQAT).  
Funding Source: Centre National de Prévention du Crime  
Period: 2006–2008  
Status: Letter of Intent accepted, final decision in Fall of 2006

### 3.3 Centre Funded Research

The Centre has engaged in two community evaluation partnerships partially funded with Centre funds. Although a formal funding program has not yet been established, these opportunities were selected as potential models for developing such a program. The objective of this program will be to allow the Centre to respond in a timely manner to community requests for research assistance.

#### Evaluation of the Family Aggression Replacement Therapy program

The Centre has committed \$10,000 to supporting pilot research to evaluate a family treatment program being run at Batshaw Youth and Family Services. Batshaw is providing \$10,000 in matching funds. Proposals for external funding are also being developed.

#### Black Family Support Program

The Centre has also agreed to assist the Cote-des-Neiges Black Community Association (CDNBCA) in evaluating a Health Canada funded family support program. The Health Canada grant includes a \$10,000 per year evaluation fund (for a maximum of 3 years). The Centre's contribution to the project has not yet been finalized.

### 3.4 Dissemination & Training

#### Conferences & Workshops

Three conferences or workshops were run by the Centre in 2005-2006.

***Attachment Theory and Change Processes in Foster Care.*** The Centre hosted a public lecture where Michael MacKenzie, University of Michigan, presented emerging findings from his research. The public lecture took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and approximately 30 people attended, including faculty, graduate students and community professionals.

***CIS Secondary Analysis Workshop.*** On February 27<sup>th</sup> 25 researchers from across Canada attended a one-day workshop data-analysis held at the Quebec Inter-University Centre for Social Statistics.

***Variations des taux de mauvais traitements envers les enfants : réalité épidémiologique ou changements de normes?*** On May 17<sup>th</sup> the Centre hosted an international colloquium examining variations in rates of child maltreatment. Approximately 75 academics and community professionals attended.

## Website

The Centre has started to redevelop its website ([www.mcgill.ca/crcf/](http://www.mcgill.ca/crcf/)). The primary objective of the site is to describe Centre activities, announce upcoming events and disseminate research results. The Centre also has been playing a central role in developing the website for the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare ([www.cecw-cepb.ca/](http://www.cecw-cepb.ca/)), which serves as a clearinghouse for child welfare research across Canada.

## Student Training

The Centre provided research training to one post-doctoral student, two PhD students and four BSW students through a variety of programs including external graduate scholarships (FQRSC & SSHRC), research assistantships, and the Faculty of Arts Works Study program.

Catherine Roy, PhD, Use of courts in child welfare

Stephen Ellenbogen, MA, The role of youth worldview on treatment engagement and evaluation of Aggression Replacement Therapy (Batshaw & CRCF)

Anne-Marie Piché, MSW, Trajectories of resilience for families who adopt internationally and evaluation of the Strengthening Families Program (Health Canada)

Linda Shamus, BSW, Dual diagnosis youth in the CIS

Kelti Cameron, BSW, SSHRC Lach RDI proposal

Amanda Caron, BSW, Peer Study Project (FRSQ & Work Study Program)

Alana Maloney, BSW, CIS & Disabilities (Work Study Program)

To expand student training the Centre will develop a student fellowship program in 2006-2007.

## 4. Financial report

The Centre receives funds from three sources: an Endowed Income Fund, an Endowed Social Work Fellowship fund and Research Project Funds. Annual financial reports for the two endowed funds are included below, detailed reports specific to the research project funds are provided separately to the respective funders.

#### **4.1 Endowed Income Fund**

The Endowed Income Fund (see Appendix A) went from a deficit \$18,632.69 to a surplus of \$89,940.85. This was possible thanks to \$18,323.00 contribution from the Faculty of Arts, \$129,563.93 in income from the Centre's Income Fund Endowment, and a portion of operating expenses being covered by research grants and contracts. Only \$13,940.49 in salary expenditures were billed to the Centre Fund, in addition to another \$25,372.90 to cover computer, office, telecommunication and travel expenses.

The relatively low Centre expenditures reflect the fact that the Centre is engaged in a period of redevelopment and has not yet finalized Centre funded research support and dissemination. The surplus for 2005-2006 will allow the Centre to re-build the research support fund that had been part of the original Centre endowment.

#### **4.2 Social Work Fellowship Fund**

The structural deficit for the Fellowship Fund was eliminated through a \$75,441.49 contribution from the faculty of Arts (see Appendix B). The fund produced \$3,304.43 in income, which will be the basis for an annual student fellowship program that is being developed by the Centre. The income from the fund will be entirely dedicated to direct student support.

#### **4.3 Research Project Funds**

The total amount of research project funds run through the Centre for 2005-2006 was \$383,406, approximately 10 times the of infrastructure support provided by the Endowed Income Fund (see Appendix C). Over the next five years we anticipate maintaining or expanding this level of external research funding.

## APPENDIX A

### Endowment Income Fund (227581)

June 1, 2005–May 31, 2006

BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2005		<b>\$ (14,683.99)</b>
Outstanding expenses from 04-05		-3,948.70
BALANCE		<b>(18,632.69)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Income from Endowment		129,563.93
Transfer from Faculty of Arts		18,323.00
TOTAL INCOME		<u>147,886.93</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>Salaries</b>		
Research Assistants	3,375.85	
Students	270.52	
Clerical	7,332.56	
Miscellaneous Payroll	132.00	
Fringe Benefits	<u>2,829.56</u>	
	13,940.49	
<b>Other</b>		
Materials & Supplies	6,040.79	
Computer Equipment	8,978.05	
Printing/Photocopying	2,027.62	
Postage/Courier	150.85	
Miscellaneous	1,836.19	
Telephones/Fax/Cell/LAN	5,695.12	
Travel	<u>644.28</u>	
	25,372.90	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>39,313.39</u>
BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2006		<b><u>\$ 89,940.85</u></b>

## APPENDIX B

### Social Work Fellowship (222589)

June 1, 2005 - May 31, 2006

<b>BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2005</b>	<b>\$ (75,441.49)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Income from Endowment	3,304.43
Transfer from Faculty of Arts	<u>75,441.49</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	 <u>78,745.92</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>0.00</u>
 <b>BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2006</b>	 <b>\$ 3,304.43</b>

## APPENDIX C

### Project Income

June 1, 2005 - May 31, 2006

<b>Granting Agency</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
SSHRC	Evidence-Based Management in Child Welfare Services	\$ 99,624 (year 1)
	McGill Contribution	60,000 (year 1)
PHAC	The CIS of reported Child Abuse and Neglect	129,950
PHAC - U of T	Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare	34,832 (year 6)
PHAC	ACFAS Conference	10,000
CIHR - U of T	Partnership—Secondary Data Analysis	24,000 (year 5)
VRQ	PIBE	25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 383,406</b>