



# CDSS NEWS



---

---

January 2012

---

---

- Camrose and District Support Services welcomed the New Year in a solid financial position to continue supporting programs and services that enhance the social and personal well-being of area residents.
- In 2012, CDSS will continue to fund the Boys and Girls Club, Hay Lakes Play School, Service Options for Seniors and The Open Door, all of which operate independently of CDSS.
- CDSS will also fund and operate Camrose and District Pre-School; Home Support/Meals on Wheels; the Family Resource Centre/Parent Link Centre (Indoor Playground, Triple P Parenting, Roots of Empathy, City and Rural Playgroups); the Family Violence Action Society (Anger Management; Changing Ways, Choices, Parenting After Violence, youth programs, individual counselling); OSCAR out-of-school care; and the Rural Communities Program. Call **780-672-0141** for information about internal CDSS programs and services.
- The **2012 CDSS Help Book** will be published and distributed as a *Camrose Canadian* insert towards the end of February. This essential, comprehensive guide to local human services is updated annually and is used extensively by CDSS staff in conjunction with CDSS Information and Referral services. Local agencies wishing copies of the **2012 Help Book** should call us at **780-672-0141** to reserve some for pick-up. The **2012 Help Book** is also available on-line in searchable data base format: [www.camrosefcss.ca](http://www.camrosefcss.ca).
- Also available on-line via the CDSS website: the **Directory of Clubs and Organizations**, a former Volunteer Centre resource. When the Volunteer Centre ended operations in June 2011, CDSS pledged to continue a few of its services. In addition to maintaining the **Directory**, we will post local volunteer opportunities on our website - call us at **672-0141** for more information. Please note that CDSS cannot provide screening, placement and monitoring in relation to specific volunteer opportunities.
- On January 23, CDSS partners with Camrose Interagency to host a **Social Media Workshop** (Facebook and Twitter for agencies) presented by Jason Heise of Vital Effect. Jason's preparation and expertise is offered at no cost, for which the Interagency community is most grateful. The workshop is full - but you may find us on Facebook sometime soon!
- CDSS is the FCSS program for Camrose and District. FCSS stands for Family and Community Support Services. FCSS is a provincial-municipal partnership mandated to provide local preventive social services, with 80% of funding from the province, and 20% (required minimum match) from participating municipalities. CDSS municipal partners include: Camrose County, the City of Camrose, and the Villages of Bawlf, Bittern Lake, Edberg, Fertintosh, Hay Lakes, New Norway and Rosalind.

- The provincial FCSS grant has remained static for the past few years. We are grateful to our municipal partners for the various ways they have helped us meet rising costs. Thanks to the County, the City and the Villages of Edberg, Ferintosh, Hay Lakes, New Norway and Rosalind, for providing us with over-contributions beyond the required municipal match in 2011 and for considering the same in 2012.
- Thanks to the County for funding Bashaw and District Support Services directly in 2012, relieving CDSS of a requirement to direct a portion of our FCSS grant to BDSS. This frees up much needed revenue for Camrose, and increases the County's financial assistance to FCSS programs within the region. Much appreciated!
- Provincially, FCSS is part of the new Ministry of Human Services. The new Ministry is much bigger than the former Children and Youth Services. We are working locally, within the Ministry and through the FCSS Association of Alberta to ensure that FCSS is not lost among the various Human Services streams competing for attention. So far so good - the upcoming spring budget will, we hope, be favourable. And, we hear that FCSS has an identified place within the Ministry's new Early Intervention Framework, which is in final draft stage.
- Also on the provincial front: CDSS is excited to hear that the Government of Alberta plans to develop a Social Policy Framework for Alberta, and that the Poverty Reduction Strategy, begun in fall 2010 as a partnership between the FCSSAA and the Inter-City Forum on Social Policy, may eventually have a contributing role. For more information on the Poverty Reduction Strategy - now called **Action to End Poverty in Alberta**, check the AEPA website: <http://www.actiontoendpovertyinalberta.org/> or consider "liking" the AEPA's Facebook page (access through the website) to receive regular updates.
- Finally, CDSS Director Margaret Holliston has been busy serving on a provincial Steering Committee working on a new FCSS Outcomes Measurement template, complete with a menu of indicators and surveys. (Some people find this work very exciting!) The new template will help local FCSS programs assess client-based outcome achievements without, at the same time, taking too much time away from actual service delivery. It will be launched at the Spring FCSS Directors Network in Lethbridge at the end of March.
- Look for the next CDSS News sometime after March. Meanwhile, keep yourselves warm and your sidewalks cleared!



**CAMROSE AND DISTRICT  
SUPPORT SERVICES**

**For more information, please call 672-0141**