



2004

Children First
Report Card



Martha Musicco
Chantal Carré

October 12, 2005





Mission

The Mayor and Council's "Children First" Roundtable is a committed partnership of elected representatives, local experts, businesses and citizens working together to build a sense of civic responsibility to improve the quality of life of children.





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Functions of the Report Card

- To be a reference document on the welfare of children in the City of Greater Sudbury.
- To measure progress in improving the status of children as stated in the Children First Charter.
- To help raise public awareness and understanding of the needs of children.
- To serve as a planning tool for service providers and elected officials so that they can make decisions about the allocation of resources.
- To act as a stimulus for political and community action to improve the situation of children.



2002 and 2004 Reports



The 2002 Children First Report Card highlighted extreme baseline data from local community organizations, the 2001 Census and the Northern Ontario Perinatal and Child Health Survey. This present report builds upon the previous document and includes a more broad-based statistical overview of the Greater Sudbury community





Greater Sudbury Highlights 2004

- 20.7% of children under six and 18.1% of children under 15 are living in low-income households
- In 2001, 22% of 15 to 19 year olds were not attending school compared to 16% in 1996
- The proportion of families led by a single parent is 16.5%, with 17% being led by males and 83% led by females
- In Sudbury, 27% of the food bank users are under 18 years
- During *The Time 7: Report on Homelessness in Sudbury (July 2003)*, a total of 608 people were identified as being homeless. Of those, 12% were 0-12 and 20% were 13-19 years of age
- Youths charged per 100,000 youth population: 9475.8 (9.5%)

More Highlights...



- The rate of bilingualism is increasing; 49% percent of the youth population is bilingual
- Social Inclusion is promoted through projects such as the Diversity Thrives Here! and the Social Inclusion of Children initiative
- Various community services assist low-income families in need, such as the Community Emergency Fund, the NCB Supplement and the Canadian Red Cross initiatives
- 78% of mothers who had a child in the last 5 years in the SDHU area breastfed or tried to breastfeed their last child
- There is a greater focus on anti-bullying programs through efforts from the Roots of Empathy program and the Anti-Bullying program from the Greater Sudbury Police



Community Efforts

- Relaxed eligibilities for Childcare Subsidies
- Full access to preschool learning opportunities through local Nursery Schools, Early Years Centres and Child Care Centres
- The Best Start initiative is underway in the City of Greater Sudbury
- The Early Development Instrument has been completed in 2002 and 2005





The data in this report provides us with excellent information that we hope community leaders and advocates will use for broad-based community planning and ultimately take action to improve and enhance programs for the benefit of all children in our community.



Questions?