

## Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

*Success By 6* recognizes the importance of self-determination, self-government, culture, language and traditions to Aboriginal people, and is committed to engaging in a manner that respects the protocols and diversity of Aboriginal communities in BC.

The Aboriginal Engagement Strategy was developed in the Fall of 2006 and outlines 4 key priorities:

- Increase Aboriginal participation and representation in the initiative
- Work with Aboriginal communities to strengthen community capacity building
- Increase cultural awareness within the context of Aboriginal ECD
- Promote and increase awareness of the importance of ECD

The strategy is designed to support Aboriginal-identified priorities through the development of partnerships and relationships intended to promote collaboration across sectors and across cultures as communities strive to support young Aboriginal children and their families.

The overall approach is neither to impose *Success By 6* on Aboriginal communities, nor get “buy in”, but rather to work with Aboriginal communities to determine if *Success By 6* is relevant to their own priorities for supporting children and families

Each initiative, in consultation with area Aboriginal communities, determines where and how the funds will be used; therefore, how Aboriginal community agencies can access the dollars varies and depends on the initiative. The underlying approach for use of the funds is to promote greater collaboration across sectors and across communities. In some areas, initiatives have invested the Aboriginal ECD funding to create Aboriginal coordinator positions or to support Aboriginal ECD tables; in other areas, there is a call for proposals to support ECD projects.

## Aboriginal Framework

This illustration is intended to reflect a holistic understanding of Aboriginal perspectives of building communities – these are the key elements that Aboriginal communities strive for, within the context of Aboriginal children and families, including Aboriginal ECD; there is recognition that each of these elements are interconnected in many ways but all are linked back to respect for and value for. The language chosen in each of the circles was intended to reflect Aboriginal understandings that encompass the Aboriginal world view (e.g. working together rather than collaboration).

