

1990's

The Delta Association for the Handicapped now serves approximately 200 families through its 4 programs; The Delta Child Development Centre preschool; Penny Sunshine Preschool; the Infant Development Program and the Respite Program. These programs are housed in various locations throughout Ladner. The volunteer Board of Directors, led by President Debbie Foggo, work towards finding a home for the associations programs in one location: the Variety Farm Training Centre, which is now underutilized with residents having moved into community group homes. The expected date of completion of renovations and preschool playground is July 1990.

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Archived press clippings:

1989 Association prepares for move

1990: Delta Association for the Handicapped moves into its current location at #3 3800 72nd street in East Ladner.

1991: Delta Association for the Handicapped starts new special sitter program training youth to become sitters for children with mental and physical special needs.

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Archived press clippings:

1991 DAH trains special sitters

1992: The Delta Association for the Handicapped opens LEAP Preschool. LEAP, which stands for Learning Experiences- An Alternate Program for Preschoolers and Parents, is an early intervention program modeled after the program and school developed by Dr. Phillip Strain in Pittsburgh in the early 1980's. LEAP's guiding principles state that "All children can benefit from an integrated early childhood environment; young children with autism benefit most from early intervention when intervention efforts are conducted across school, home and community environments; young children with autism can learn important skills such as social skills, language skills, and appropriate behaviour from their typical same-aged peers; young children with autism benefit most from early intervention when intervention efforts are planned, systematic, and individualized; both children with and without disabilities benefit from curricular activities that reflect developmentally appropriate practices." The LEAP program in Delta is comprised one classroom that supports six children within the autism spectrum and a maximum of thirty-six children who are typically developing. At any one time, there are three children within the autism spectrum and nine children who are typically developing. The children within the autism spectrum attend preschool everyday either in the morning or afternoon for two hours and forty-five minutes. Children also are assessed for and are provided with speech language therapy and physiotherapy supports. In addition to the preschool program, LEAP provides a family support component. The range of services and intensity of involvement is driven by family requests. These supports include resource information both from the resource library and other sources, parent-to-parent support, and home support around specific concerns such as toileting, eating, sleeping, and challenging behaviour and transitions. Originally, LEAP served the communities of Delta

and Richmond. In 1995, the boundaries changed so that LEAP served only Delta.

November 24th, 1995: The Delta Association for the Handicapped changes its name to The Delta Association for Child Development.

1997: The Delta Association for Child Development opens a Supported Child Development Program , and a Therapies Program that provides Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physiotherapy to children with special needs.

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Archived press clippings:

1997 Support comes in many forms at DACD

1997 Integration is guiding principle at DACD

1998: The BC government province-wide attempt at streamlining 12,000 contracts worth \$800 million annually from Health, Women's Equality, Education, Skills and Training, Attorney General and Social Services Ministry. The claim is that restructuring will be more efficient and eliminate overhead, administration and duplication. The Ministry for Children and Families terminates contracts of about 80 % of agencies across B.C. that provide special services and programs to children, families and adults with disabilities. The municipality of Delta is a big loser in the government's restructuring with Delta Association for Child Development (loss of \$750,000), Deltassist and Delta Family Services (who later amalgamate) and Delta Hospice Society all receiving cuts and being forced to the brink of closures. The contention by the government was that services would be 'streamlined' by shifting the administration of programs to a small group of agencies. The community is up in arms, and families organize marches, letter writing campaigns and rallies. Delta Association for Child Development is at risk of shutting down its programs: parents of children in its programs, most specifically in the LEAP preschool take action to stop the cuts and closures…

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Archived press clippings:

1998 Groups rally against cuts

Letters to the editor:

1997 Letter to the editor: Government cuts where help needed most

1997 Letter to the editor: Spreading of dollars misguided

1998 Letter to the editor : school funding cut is sad

1998 Letter to the editor: Boy took big Leap at preschool

1998 Letter to the editor: EI needed to give children chance

1998 Letter to the editor: Kids hurt most by cutbacks

1998 Letter to the editor: LEAP desperately needed

1998 Letter to the editor: Ministry focusing on what's best

1998 Letter to the editor: Ministry made bad decision

1998 Letter to the editor: Parents can't get answer from government

1998 Letter to the editor: Steep price for regionalization

1998 Letter to the editor: Wrong to take funds from Delta

1998 Letters to the Editor: Councillors thanked for helping children

Mayor steps in to Try to help local agencies Feb 21

1998: In March of 1998 the Ministry announces six-month extension of service contracts and a 60-day review of the restructuring process.

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Archived press clippings:

Closer to Home plan actually further away March 14 1998 \LTE: Why Does Ministry rely on methods which are proven not to work? Mar 18 1998

1998 Victoria puts gag on social service group

1998: Parents begin litigation against the BC government demanding that children with autism receive publicly funded treatment. Delta Association for Child Development starts a new Special Sitters program: training program for teens 15 years and older to learn babysitting skills for children with special needs.

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Archived press clippings:

1998 Program teaches special sitters

1998 Special training available for sitters

1999: Delta Association for Child Development parents and board take action and stand up against education cuts. Eight special education assistants, a resource room and Seaquam high school alternate program will be cut from Delta's 1999/2000 budget to save approximately \$378,000. The school board makes 1.7 million in cuts in total. "Without adequate support in the classroom our special needs children cannot learn" stated the 1999 DACD Board president Renie "Aquila" Delta Optimist. She along with other parents of children with special needs make an appeal to the school board to reverse its decision. Read about the issues in the press clippings below.

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Archived press clippings:

1999 Several groups looking for funding at School Board meeting

1999 Parents rally against special ed cuts

1999 Trustees face crowd of angry parents