



February 11, 2015

To the CIAAP Selection Committee,

As the Golden Early Childhood Development Coalition (ECDC) coordinator it is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Golden Community Resource Society's (GCRS) Community Team Prototyping project.

Golden is very active community with many organizations trying to allocate resources to organizations, projects and initiatives that make the greatest impact in our resident's quality of life. Many individuals and organizations work very hard understand our community's performance on issues areas, statistics, and initiatives. While we have Golden & Area A's Vital Signs 2014 Report to help understand the priorities of community, we collectively struggle implementing these learnings into meaningful project design, effective funding decisions and productive activities.

Other small communities have come up with their own versions of community development (Jasper's Community Team, Revelstoke's Social Development Coordinator, Castlegar's Social Planning Society and the Constellation Model of Collaborative Governance), and GCRS has spent the last few years listening, engaging and researching what could work in Golden & Area A. The Banff Centre consultants are world-renowned for helping corporate and community leaders manage complex change. Now is the time to build this momentum into a Golden Community Team.

Over the past five years as coordinator for the ECDC, I have witnessed first hand the value of collaborative efforts in community development and capacity building. As we aim to build a stronger future for Golden and Area 'A' we must invest time and money in coordinating strategic partnerships with cross sector collaboration at the core. The Community Team Prototyping project is a great, neutral way of engaging organizations and individuals into a sustainable and ever-evolving collaborative and holistic decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Joanne McCullough

ECDC and ELCSAG Coordinator

goldenecdc@gmail.com

(250)439-8388

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" – Frederick Douglass