

ECF makes a statement about Equity

Recently ECF adopted a new Equity Statement aimed at ensuring the work they do is free of barriers. The policy will apply to all daily activities, but will see a particular effect on granting. Craig Stumpf-Allen, director of grants explains, "ECF has always been a progressive funder. This statement takes us a step further and will help start conversations about equity, be a tool for change, keep our organization accountable, and invite others to consider equity in their own work."

One of the recommendations from a 2018 grants audit was to have an Equity Statement for the Foundation as a whole. The statement is a sign of ECF's commitment to equity. "It is also

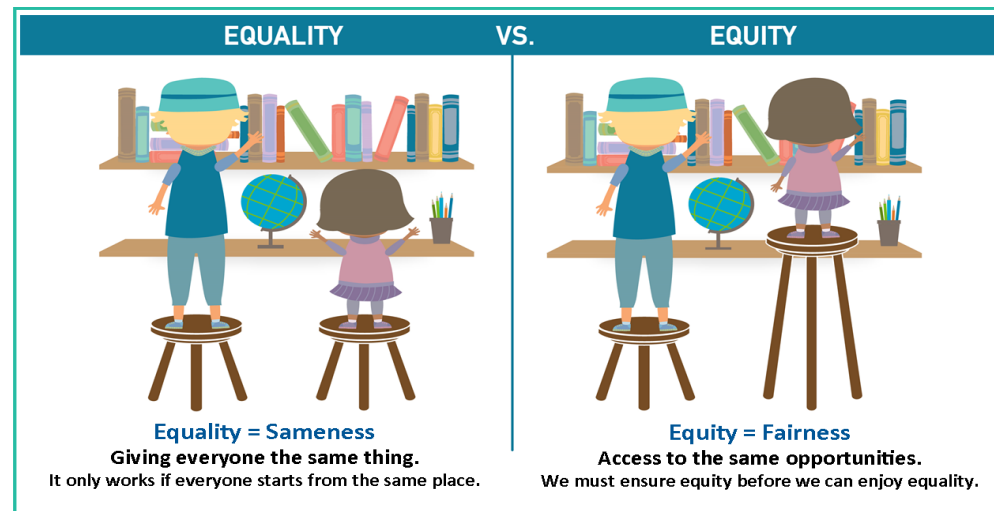
a place to start conversations with the community about how ECF can better support them," said Stumpf-Allen.

What changes will you see?

"We don't know that for sure," says

Stumpf-Allen. "I think it will mean incremental changes to what we already do well."

You can view a copy of the policy at ecfoundation.org.



Perhaps spring is finally here!

In this edition of *InTouch* we are pleased to announce that Jordin Tootoo, the first Inuk player in the NHL, will be our keynote speaker at ECF's 30th Annual Meeting on June 12 at Chateau Lacombe Hotel. Jordin will be speaking about the challenges in his life and career that have led him to be a community builder. With the loss of

his brother Terence to suicide and recovery from alcohol addiction, Jordin began the Team Tootoo Fund in 2011 to help a wide range of charitable causes, including suicide awareness and prevention and supporting youth at risk. We hope you enjoy this excellent speaker and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. {Note the new location - see you at Chateau Lacombe Hotel.}

On pages two and three we focus on Adaptabilities, a local agency assisting individuals with developmental disabilities gain strength, motor skills and the confidence that comes with it. The agency received a community grant for specialized sensory equipment to help them set up an experiential classroom in their new

location at the Orange Hub.

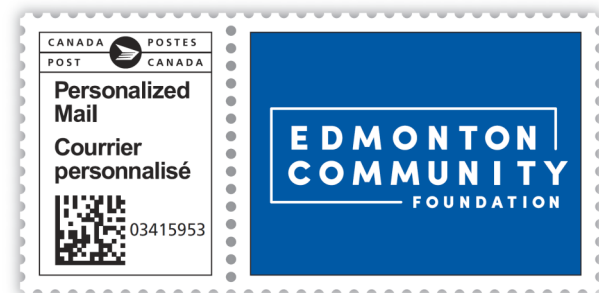
And on page 4 we take a look at ECF's new Equity Policy towards eliminating barriers in our work. Craig Stumpf-Allen discusses the importance of the policy and how it was developed. The Equity Policy is available on our website - ecfoundation.org - for your review and other organizations are welcome to use it in the creation of their own policy.



New to ECF

ECF welcomes **Nicholas Dias** as Student Awards Associate. He will be filling in while **Anna Opryshko** spends time with her new baby, Xavier. *Congratulations!*

For change of address please advise:
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9910-103 Street NW
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HOLD THE DATE!

Jordin Tootoo

The first Inuk player in the NHL.

'Community Building'

ECF Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Chateau Lacombe Hotel - 10111 Bellamy Hill Road.

RSVP:

Annualmeeting@ecfoundation.org or 780.702.7628



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ECF at Work: Grant to increase programming

In the “Orange Hub,” formerly the MacEwan University West Campus, is a space that bursts with every colour — including orange— that is reminiscent of an indoor playground. AdaptAbilities’ Gross Motor & Snoezelen Room is no ordinary playground however, but rather therapy for adults and children.

AdaptAbilities helps individuals with special needs develop essential life skills and assists families who are caregivers. They support more than 200 unique individuals, children and adults, on a monthly basis. During the summer months the numbers increase for camp opportunities.

Recently ECF granted \$78,500 toward creating the Gross Motor and Snoezelen

A Snoezelen room is a controlled multisensory environment (MSE) and is a therapy for people with autism and other developmental disabilities, dementia or brain injury.

Room as part of the organization’s expansion into classrooms in the Orange Hub. A Sensory Room has also been recently added, with assistance from the Children’s Ability Fund.

The 1000-square-foot classroom has equipment including swings, crawl tunnels, slides, rockers, sound steps, a ball pit, ladders, balance toys, climbing

wall, large blocks, and tactile toys to help clients learn about themselves and the physical world. The focus is on “gross motor skills, balance, and the co-ordination that comes with it.”

There is capacity for 24 individuals and 12 caregivers for the room at one time, although some individuals don’t require one-on-one care. “It is not a free-play atmosphere but structured activities. The staff have had specialized training with the equipment,” said Maril Murray, project manager for AdaptAbilities.

The expansion to the Orange Hub was due to the high number of individuals seeking this type of therapy. Their grant application states that

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Written by Elizabeth Bonkink,
communications advisor

“vulnerable individuals are known to be going without the essential services” that AdaptAbilities provides. This in turn affects families caring for a loved one with a disability and complex needs.

When the project was being planned, there was a waiting list of children who needed to access service from Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), the provincial funding body. Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) also had a provincial waiting list of adults wanting programs.

“The grant has enabled us to offer families an opportunity for their kids to have a space that is accessible to all,” said Michelle Hordal, AdaptAbilities

CEO and Founder. The space is the first of its kind in the city that is tailored to individuals with special needs.

“They decide what their environment does. If they need to spin or roll to self-regulate, they can. The room has no limits,” said Hordal. Peers and siblings are also able to use the room, “Unlike when they try to go places where their siblings play,” said Hordal.

The group is hoping to find synergies with other groups in the building. Adult participants will use it during the day and children after school, so there is availability after 6 p.m. for groups who may find it beneficial. “There is a lot of potential to be used by several organizations,” Hordal said. She

mentions that group homes could come and use the space that would be too expensive to recreate in their own environment.

Participants seemed eager to try out the room which includes audio and visual stimulation as well as physical and tactile. An adult group learning to make spaghetti in a room down the hall outfitted with a modern kitchen, offered to explore some of the equipment.

The participants are pictured below.

