

Launch of Excellence in Parenting Program

SAINT JOHN (CNB) - New Brunswick's Excellence in Parenting Program was launched today at the Saint John Free Public Library.

The Province has provided parenting resources for each library and bookmobile in the New Brunswick Public Library Service. The parenting initiative is an important component of New Brunswick's Early Childhood Agenda and supports the province's Quality Learning Agenda.

"This program helps parents foster the healthy development of their children as well as feel secure and confident in their parenting role," Premier Bernard Lord said. "As a parent myself, I know we can always benefit from more information to help us help our children."

A new collection of parenting information is now available at all public libraries and bookmobiles in New Brunswick. CD-ROMs, videos and printed materials address questions about the social and emotional development of children. These materials also demonstrate ways for parents to respond and effectively problem solve with their children through concrete examples and positive strategies.

"This program provides quality parenting information for everyone but it will be of special interest to parents of young children" Family and Community Services Minister Tony Huntjens said. "I am pleased we have developed this partnership with the Library Service to deliver this important information to New Brunswick parents."

Through this partnership, the New Brunswick Library Service and Family and Community Services have developed and will soon have available for distribution a brochure that highlights the new parenting collection. It includes information on services available at public libraries and bookmobiles and where to reach early childhood social workers for personal assistance.

"The New Brunswick Public Library Service is thrilled to be taking part in this important initiative and invites parents throughout New Brunswick to come in to their local library or bookmobile and give these resources a try," Education Minister Madeleine Dubé said. "This initiative is an important component of our Quality Learning Agenda and we encourage parents to read to their children and see the library as a place that can help parents find answers to their questions."

The Excellence in Parenting Program is based on knowledge and confidence. The more knowledgeable parents are about child development, the more confident they are in their parenting role. They are also more likely to have positive, effective interactions with their children. The Excellence in Parenting Program supports and promotes the wide range of services already available to parents to assist them in their parenting role. These services include parent education, information sessions and home visits by Early Intervention Workers and Public Health Nurses.