



**For Immediate Release**

**June 19, 2015**

## **OSNS “Learning and Sharing Garden” Officially Opens**

PENTICTON, BC – The OSNS Child & Youth Development Centre has officially opened its latest therapeutic learning facility. What started as a visionary brainstorming session during a staff retreat in March, has come to life - a vibrant, green, growing type of life, in the form of a new community "Learning and Sharing Garden". Envisioned as a way of taking therapies outside, teaching kids about healthy eating, teaching parents about food preparation, and providing countless opportunities for learning and growing, the OSNS have been working towards putting a 'community garden' in place for several months.

On Thursday, June 18, staff officially opened the new space, with local media on hand to help share the news. Community sponsors **Home Hardware** and **GardenWorks** are the reason that this space exists today: Home Hardware Penticton provided the six raised beds, and GardenWorks provided a truckload of soil and fertilizer, as well as veggies and berries galore. For the grand opening event, we were thrilled to welcome Joe Chwachka, General Manager of Home Hardware, along with Leanne Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of GardenWorks, and Scott Austin, Nursery Manager of GardenWorks Penticton, to witness the bounty of the garden beds.



A number of OSNS therapist staff members, as well as the supervisor of KinderPlace Developmental Preschool were all on hand, and spoke about how they will utilize the garden with their children. Enthusiasm ran high, and near the end of the presentation, a number of children from KinderPlace joined in the fun to explore the garden and get their hands dirty. Once the summer bounty has been picked, GardenWorks has generously offered to provide a second planting of fall-hardy vegetables, for the next season's crop of KinderPlace children to learn from.

The OSNS depends on the generosity of community sponsors like GardenWorks and Home Hardware, to help provide our children with first class equipment and facilities for our therapeutic programs.

### **About OSNS**

The Okanagan Similkameen Neurological Society (OSNS) Child & Youth Development Centre is an integrated pediatric therapy centre, focusing on providing early intervention developmental therapies and Autism treatment programs to children from birth to school aged. In addition to the therapy programs, the Centre also runs KinderPlace, a developmental preschool.

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