Community Connect is a Local Area Network which came out of the CPEF work. Its' area of focus is the Edmonton city centre. Here are a couple of highlights of their work which I have been personally involved in.

Youth Subcommittee

Bridging the Gaps Project:

Utilizing the software program Sharepoint a group of service providers working with high risk youth created a pilot that allows access to a range of services at a single point of entry. An intake can be received and shared with the most appropriate service providers, without the youth needing to go to another point of intake or share his/her story again. This project will help youth from falling through the cracks.

Downtown Library:
The community librarian reports that there are many youth who go to the library during the day as they are not in school or other programs. The subcommittee is now working with the library to build a resource centre for youth and service providers and hire a worker to support these youth within the library itself. In the meantime while awaiting funding several agencies are having staff go to the library on a regular basis to meet with the youth.

Another project I have been involved in which utilized CPEF funds is SAAIRCY (Strategic Alliance for Advancement of Immigrant and Refugee Children and Youth).
CPEF provided funds to support the work of this group. Utilizing the funds, a forum was held in January 2008. A great deal of work evolved from this forum and this April at a follow up forum communities, agencies and government departments will report on how they have changed to better serve Ethnocultural families. This upcoming forum will be paid for by City of Edmonton and both school districts. It is great to see other funders recognizing the value of promoting collaboration. CPEF funding has been able to demonstrate that time spent in collaboration has a very positive impact on service delivery.

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