

## Treatment centre opens in temporary location

By Bill Tremblay

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### **Minister of Children and Youth Services Marie Bountrogianni greets children at the official opening of One Kids Place.**

One Kids Place centre is a dream come true for parents of children with disabilities.

The centre, previously known as the Northern Shores Children's Treatment Centre, officially opened its temporary location on Stockdale Road Monday morning.

One Kids place will provide approximately 3000 children with special needs a range of rehabilitation services. Previously, parents of special needs children would have to travel to numerous facilities for the services that are offered at One Kids Place.

"We used to have to go to several agencies depending on age," Tania Dubeau, whose son requires special services, said.

"We would go to one door and they would send us to another door."

Dubeau said that providing all the services under one roof will properly address special needs within the community.

Minister of Children and Youth Services Marie Bountrogianni explained that making these services more accessible has been the goal of every one in the Provincial government.

"I think that anything to do with children needs to be a non-partisan issue," she said.

"I don't think anyone goes into politics for anything for good reasons."

On Bountrogianni's last visit to North Bay in July, 2004, she announced \$7.4 million in funding for the permanent home of One Kids Place, which will be located at the North Bay Regional Health Centre once it is built.

Bountrogianni explained that children with special needs "constantly amaze us" when they are given the right services and attention.

"They will be getting that right here at One Kids Place," Bountrogianni said.

She explained that as a former child psychologist, she knows how important centres like One Kids Place are to the progress and education of children.

"When we help our children become contributing members of society," she said.

"It comes back to all of us."

One Kids Place has been operational for three weeks and is already impressing parents.

"The comments we are getting about it are terrific," Marg Hughes, Chair of the board of One Kids Place said.

"Everyone is really, really pleased about it."



(L-R) Monique Smith, Marie Bountrogianni and Marg Hughes.



Bountrogianni waves to children during her speech.

