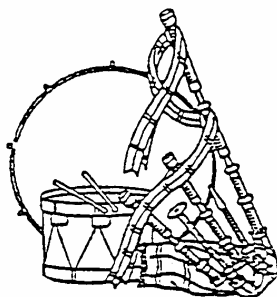


PIPERS' and PIPE BAND SOCIETY of ONTARIO, OTTAWA BRANCH

**** www.ppbsso-ottawa.org ****



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REMINDER: OTTAWA BRANCH ELECTIONS AT THE MARCH KNOCK-OUT FINALS

Elections will be held following the Ottawa Branch Knock-Out Finals the night of Saturday 06 March, before the performance by the Air Command Pipes and Drums. As noted in the January newsletter, we have confirmation that three members of the Executive will not be running in the March elections which will leave the following positions open: **President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer.** This leaves the Second Vice-President and the Secretary as potentially the only returning members of the Executive. The Branch cannot run with just two members on the Executive, no matter how good they are. For the Branch to continue and offer events such as the Indoor Games (Kemptville), Ottawa Branch Open Solo, Work Shops and the Knock-Outs requires that the Executive has all the positions filled with enthusiastic people. With the new decade, it is now time to look at where you want the Branch to go, but to get there the Executive has to be filled. If you have a little time available and an interest in the piping/drumming community in the Ottawa area, give it some serious thought and on or before 06 March 2010. Step up and let it be known that you are interested in helping the Branch. **John Harper, Interim Ottawa Branch President**

*** MARCH MEETING *** KNOCK-OUT FINALS ***

*** Performance: Air Command Pipes and Drums ***

Saturday 06 March 2010. 7:30 pm. Walkley Road Armouries, 2100 Walkley Road.

Tune Requirements: Medley (competitors' choice of tunes, minimum time 2:45)

*** see Page 2 for competitor list ***

***** Cairns Cup Outstanding Success *****

On Saturday 09 January 2010, the ninth annual Cairns Cup was held at the Walkley Armouries Officers' Mess. As it has always been in the past, the contest featured an extremely talented group of young pipers playing off for this very special trophy. With the competitors in this contest comprising those from Grade 4 and below, the tune requirements are a Slow Air and four parts of a 6/8 March, which allows for a nice variety in the tune selection. The winner of this year's contest was Eric Noden. Second place went to John Steele and third place to Adam Campbell. This year's judge was Andrew Hayes who, joined by Ottawa Police lead drummer Rob MacLeod, graciously put on an extremely entertaining 45-minute recital following the contest. For full results and photos see page 2.



Cairns Cup Results (cont'd)



**Piping Results
"A" Division**

- 1st Eric Noden (left)
- 2nd John Steele (right)
- 3rd Adam Campbell (far right)
- 4th Walter McLeish
- 5th Geoffrey McCurdy
- 6th Jim Gendron



**Piping Results
"B" Division**

- 1st Liam Melville

**Drumming Results
"B" Division**

- 1st Tomm MacKenzie
- 2nd Erica Pulling
- 3rd Matthew Yuen

OTTAWA BRANCH KNOCK-OUT FINALISTS FOR 2009/2010

Piping "A" Division
 Ross Davison
 Curtis Leblanc
 MacGregor van de Ven
 Tom Brown

Piping "B" Division
 Liam Melville
 Dave Zarboni
 Kris Bawden
 Jason Séguin

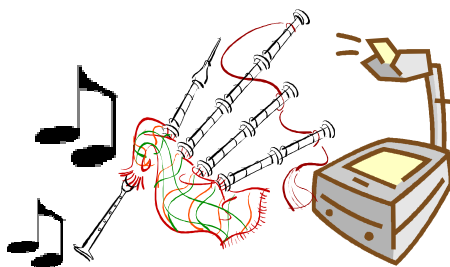
Piping "C" Division
 Eric Noden
 Adam Campbell
 John Steele
 Mark Cornelisse

Drumming
 Tomm MacKenzie
 Erica Pulling
 Bill Creber
 Matthew Yuen

Future Ottawa Branch Dates



27 March 2010 **Ottawa Branch Piping Workshop with Alasdair Gillies**
 27 March 2010 **Ottawa Branch Open Solo Piping Contest (Glengarry Cup)**
 17 April 2010 **Smiths Fall Spring Fling**
 08 May 2010 **Ottawa Branch In-Door Highland Games (Kemptville)**
 29 May 2010 **Kingston Celfest Highland Games**



Ottawa Branch Workshop with Alasdair Gillies

Saturday 27 March 2010
 Place: tbd
 Registration starts at 12:00 pm.
 Sessions begin at 12:30 pm.
 Admission: \$20.00



Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies served 17 years as piper and Pipe Major with the Queen's Own Highlanders. He has had an astounding number of successes at piping competitions, winning more Highland bagpiping championships than anyone in recent history. He won the Inverness Former Winners MSR eleven times between 1986 to 2005. In 2002, he won the Glenfiddich Championship MSR for the sixth time. Readers of Piper & Drummer magazine named Alasdair as the best piper of the 20th century. Alasdair is also in demand as a teacher and piping competition judge. For more than twelve years, he was director of the piping program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Spirit of Scotland, an all star Grade 1 pipe band comprised of the world's top solo players for competing at the 2008 World Pipe Band Championships. For more information on this world champion piper, go to <http://alasdairgillies.com/bio.htm>. You won't want to miss this afternoon of excellence. Put it on your calendar now!!

Events

5th Annual Smiths Falls Spring Fling Indoor Pipe and Drum Contest

The Smiths Falls Gordon Pipe Band are pleased to announce the return of the Smiths Falls Spring Fling Pipe and Drum Contest on Saturday 17 April 2010 at the Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute. We have the same venue and will run the same contests as last year. Bands: Grade 3 to Grade 5; Solos: Grade 3 to Grade 5; Open, Practice Chanter, Practice Pad, Adult Novice Pipes; Open Drum Corps; Open Hornpipe/Jig Trio.

Cash prizes for top three bands in each Grade. Trophy for 1st place band and 1st place open drum corps. Medals for top three solos in each contest. Medals for top three open hornpipe/jig trios.

Again we have on-line registration for band and solo. Please register your band as soon as possible and note the number of band members so that we can reserve an appropriately sized warm up room for you.

The judges will be: Brian Williamson, Jack Coghil Jr, Robert Waugh.

Details are available at www.gordonpipeband.com/spring_fling.htm

Pipefest 2010

We wanted to share the exciting news with you all that our band will be involved in the planning and execution of Pipefest 2010 in Ottawa next August. This is a wonderful charity march, and a global piping event which will involve bands people from all over the world! We will have information on the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band site at www.sospb.com as we get into the planning stages, and there is info on the Pipefest site at www.pipefest.com . Sons of Scotland Pipe Band.

2009 National Tartan Day Celebration

On Sunday 04 April 2010 the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band will host the **National Tartan Day Celebration** at 12 noon on Parliament Hill, Ottawa. All tartans are welcome. There will be speeches, highland and step dancing demonstrations and a massed band with an invitation to all area pipers and drummers. There will be an after-party at D'arcy McGee's Irish Pub. All information on the event is available on the Sons of Scotland band site at www.sospb.com.



VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHLAND GAMES (Spencerville)

Cancelled for 2010. This is hopefully a short sabbatical; the VMHG Games Committee is hoping to bring back the Games in 2011.

For Sale

Bagpipes for Sale

1. Set of **Hardie** bagpipes (early 1980's); half-mounted imitation ivory with nickel furrells; original pipe chanter with Elliott pipe reed; MG drone reeds; cords, cover and case; choice of pipe bag.

2. Set of **Robertson** bagpipes (1920's); wood-mounted projection mounts with nickel furrells; casein ring caps; recently refurbished; MG drone reeds; Gibson pipe chanter with Elliott reed; cords, cover and case; choice of pipe bag.
3. Set of **Grainger** bagpipes (early 1970's); half-mounted imitation ivory with nickel furrells; polypenco drone stocks with nickel furrells; Dunbar pipe chanter with Elliott reed; MG drone reeds; cords, cover and case; choice of pipe bag.
4. Set of **Robertson** bagpipes (1930's); button-mounted projection mounts with nickel furrells; polypenco drone stocks with imitation ivory furrells; polypenco pipe chanter with Elliott reed; Henderson drone reeds with carbon-fibre tongues; cords, cover and case; L & M hide bag.
5. Set of **Sinclair** bagpipes, full-mounted unicorn ivory (imitation); MG drone reeds; wood Nail solo chanter with MacLellan chanter reed; cords, cover and leather case; L & M hide bag or Canmore bag supplied.

Prices available upon request. Contact Jack Yourt at Ph/Fx: 613.774.3622 or Email: jcyourt@gmail.com

Thoughts on Learning - Dr Angus MacDonald

One of the world's best pipers, Dr Angus MacDonald is one of three piping brothers from Glenuig in Moidart. His brothers Allan and Iain are also well known in piping circles. Angus MacDonald's musical influences were formed growing up in Glenuig in Moidart and from visits to his mother's people in South Uist where the piping tradition was especially strong. While at university in Glasgow he played with the British Caledonian Airways pipe band and was in the forefront of developing the playing of pipes with other instruments and made many television appearances in the early days of folk bands. His brother Iain has continued this with membership of bands such as Ossian and the Battlefield Band. Angus MacDonald has won most of the major competitions including the gold medals at Oban, Inverness and in Canada; the Inverness clasp and Senior Piobaireachd at Oban; and the Silver Chanter. In the light music he has, among other prizes, won the March, Strathspey and Reel competitions at Oban and Inverness. Since 1993, Angus MacDonald has practiced as a medical doctor in Skye, moving back from Cape Breton where he had lived and worked for eleven years in the small community of St Peters. Dr Angus recorded A' Sireadh Spòrs for Temple Records in 1990, an entirely solo piping recording. He has recently come out with a second solo album called Maidean Dubh' an Donais (The Black Stick of the Devil) in which he has added accompaniment to some tracks. The repertoire is largely traditional with several entirely new compositions of his own and of his brothers, Allan and Iain.



The following is a repeat of an article from the National Piping Centre web-site (May 1999), compiled by Mike Paterson. It provides an interesting look at some thoughts on the learning of traditional bagpipe music and the passing of this music from generation to generation.

Dr Angus Macdonald's pipes lie beside him on the table; in his hands is the fiddle. Increasingly, says this eminent piper, he finds himself reaching for the fiddle when he wants to have fun with music. "I always wanted to play the fiddle but, until I was about thirty, it didn't occur that it was possible. The thinking was that you played one instrument and, if you tried to play two, you'd spoil yourself for the other," he says "... absolute nonsense."

In the Moidart-Lochailart area where he was brought up, Dr MacDonald recalls that there used to be a number of fiddlers. Few remain, or still play. "I wish now I'd picked it up from them," he says. Instead, he began learning the fiddle during the eleven years he spent as a General Practitioner in Cape Breton. He found that the pipe tradition there was in a decline. "At a concert, people would tend to go for a smoke or a pee if you got up to play the pipes because they were used to a bit of howling and squealing and poor musicianship. The way to get in among the scene and learn the tunes was to get the fiddle out and get at it."

He took several formal lessons but, he says, "quickly realised that was the wrong way to go about it." Instead, he invited local fiddlers to get together every Tuesday night – "and, although there were nights I thought 'I just can't, I don't have the time', I'd go down and we'd play the tunes and it was a great experience."

Dr MacDonald believes that, in the case of any of the traditional instruments, the tradition is best served when musicians learn, first of all, by ear. "I'm totally convinced about that now", he says. "When I was young, people who were known as 'ear players' were often seen as second rate because they didn't have the right technique, yet they often had far more music to present to people to make up for the deficiencies in technique. But being an ear player doesn't have to make you deficient in technique," he says. "The important thing with the ear player is that you hear far more forever; you're far better trained to pick up what you should be playing and you hear how to play a tune rather than just to move your fingers in the right way."

He says an academic study of fiddling in Cape Breton found that traditional fiddlers who had been taught at home or in their own communities, usually by a friend, neighbour or close relative – and who had learned first by ear – were the musicians most likely to pass the music on to the next generation. They were also more likely than formally taught musicians to compose successfully.

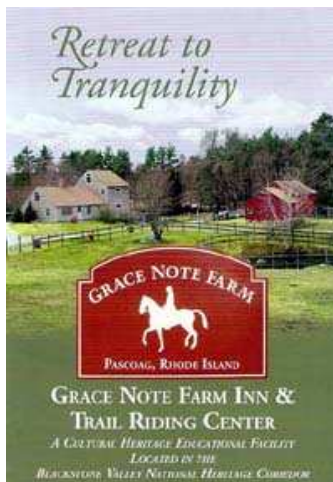
Dr MacDonald sees what he is doing with the fiddle usefully feeding back into his piping. "It gives me access to a lot of new tunes that can be put on the pipes, tunes that were once on the pipes and put the wildness and naturalness back into them. You can put on the fiddle what you hear in Gaelic song, you can do what the human voice does without being restricted by holes in a piece of wood; you can slide up as a voice would do naturally in a song. Sometimes this gives you a bit of understanding to take back to the pipes in a different way, to get a more musical interpretation. In the case of the pipes, what I play often doesn't belong to my culture."

"Piping can be far too much competition. If I tried to play reels as I hear reels being played (and sung for that matter) in the Gaelic tradition – in that round fashion – I'd get condemned in piping competition circles and told that it was wrong. You get fed up with that until you almost want to put the pipes aside and get on with the music you feel belongs to you. When I heard older musicians in Cape Breton – playing tunes like Cabar Feidh, and the likes of that – they followed the words that I'd heard my father singing. I could hear the words going through my head. That was important to me. I know that gave me a passion for trying to play the fiddle and to try to put that feeling back on the pipes."

Dr MacDonald sees problems with the piping world itself. "A lot of times, when the pipes are presented to the public, it's competition. The piper is not there to entertain, he's there to prove to the judges that he's technically able and sounds good."

"When – it was probably technology as much as anything which allowed pipes to be played in a folk scene and along with other instruments – when that started to happen, the snobbishness in the conservative piping world condemned it. And it's only lately that that is changing. But the established piping scene is not concerned with teaching people, or encouraging people, to be good at entertaining with the pipes."

"We have lost the method of transmission in the home, but we've now got recordings that people can refer to. A lot of it is still locked away in places like the School of Scottish Studies and hasn't been accessed, but that will come," says Dr MacDonald. "There'll be far greater access to some of the older recordings and the ability to keep some of the tradition – depending on how we choose to teach it."



Located on the Benjamin Smith homestead farm (c. 1730), **Grace Note Farm** and Equestrian Inn is nestled in the northwest corner of Rhode Island. You can enjoy over six hours of riding on wide, mostly sand trails that connect Connecticut and Massachusetts, but as the name suggests it is the only known retreat dedicated to those who need some quality time away to concentrate on those pesky little embellishments called grace notes. For those of you who have difficulty with the G-D-E's in the traditional jigs, or who have been told you simply have difficulty playing grace notes on the beat, this is the place for you; an opportunity to combine a little quiet time with the family and a chance work on those tiny little notes that Pipe Majors (and judges) are so adamant must show up correctly in all tunes played on the great highland bagpipe. So go visit the Grace Note Farm of Pascoag, Rhode Island. I'm sure you'd enjoy the time away from the hustle and bustle of the daily life, and at the same time it would be of great benefit to your contest on the solo boards or the overall performance of your band. A win-win!!! More information is available at <http://www.gracenotefarmweb.com/>.

8 Wing (Trenton) Pipes and Drums under New Management



P/M Jim Douglas began taking bagpipe lessons from Gail Brown at age eight in his hometown of Milton, Ontario. He won his first gold medal at age nine and embarked on a successful solo competition career that includes being named Ontario Grade 2 Light Music Champion Supreme for 1995. He attended the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia for a number of summers while a young player, and was privileged to receive instruction there from the likes of Bruce Gandy, Michael Grey, John Walsh, Finlay MacNeil, and Bob Worrall, who in 1993 became P/M Douglas' full time instructor.

P/M Douglas was a founding member of the Milton Optimist Youth Pipe Band, and from there progressed to the Toronto Police organization playing with the Grade 2 band, the Grade 1 band and the parade band. In

his first season with the Toronto Police Grade 1 band under P/M Jake Watson, the band won the Canadian, Eastern US, North American and Ontario Championships, and placed 15th out of 32 bands at the World Pipe Band Championships.

Pte Douglas joined the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve in December 1996, where he completed his Basic training with the Lorne Scots before transferring into the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada. There he served in the Pipes & Drums under P/M (CWO) John Terence MMM, CD and then P/M (CWO) Tom Lee CD, as a rifleman, piper and regular instructor of military, civilian and cadet personnel. While a member of the Argylls, he was privileged to participate in shows and tattoos all over the world, including the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and three appearances at the Hamburg Polizei Show in Germany.

Cpl Douglas was for three summers a member of the Pipers of the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa, and in 2001 was appointed Pipe Sergeant under P/M (M/Cpl) Jeff Donnelly of the 2nd Bn Royal Canadian Regiment. While with the Ceremonial Guard, he was privileged to arrange pipe music to be played with the finest military band in the country. On Canada Day 2001, Cpl Douglas was tasked to play solo at a State Dinner at Rideau Hall.

During the summers of 1998 and 2002, Cpl Douglas was sought as an instructor by the Borden Air Cadet Summer Training Center at CFB Borden, Ontario. While so employed, he was responsible for training the senior piping cadets, the pipe band and combined bands.

From May through June 2002, Cpl Douglas was a student at Music Training Company, part of the Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics, at CFB Borden Ontario, where he studied under P/M (Sgt) Al Clark, P/M (CWO) Sandy Dewar, and P/M (MWO) John Langille. There he obtained his QL4, QL6A and QL6B Piper qualifications.

In 2005, Cpl Douglas was attach-posted from the Argylls to the 2nd Bn Royal Canadian Regiment, where he served for four months as a rifleman and instructor in the Battalion Pipes & Drums.

In 2008, Cpl Douglas accepted an offer to join the Regular Army as a full-time musician and was posted to the Royal Canadian Artillery Band at the Edmonton Garrison, as the first ever piper posted to a Regular Force brass and reed band. While a member of the RCA Band, Sgt Douglas represented his unit and the CF at numerous international events, such as the 2009 Nijmegen March, and the 2008 ceremonies in France and Belgium celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice. In January 2010, Sgt Douglas was posted to 8 Wing Trenton as Pipe Major.

P/M Douglas has performed as a soloist at numerous tattoos around the world, and was a featured guest soloist with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra in 2006. Distinguished audiences of P/M Douglas' solo performances include Prime Ministers, four Governor Generals, numerous Lieutenant-Governors, Royalty, and Hollywood personalities.

WO Joe Kiah began his drumming career at the tender age of six, following in his father's footsteps. Growing up in Brockville, Ontario, Joe joined the local City of Brockville Pipe Band. It was there he received professional instruction from former Canadian Guards drummer, Gary Allen. During the following four summers, Joe was fortunate to receive instruction from former World Pipe Band Drumming Champion Alex Duthart.

Early on in his life, Joe knew he wanted to join the military and set his sights on that. He enrolled in the Canadian Forces Reserves in April 1985 with the Brockville Rifles. Upon graduating High School he did a component transfer to the Regular Force in January 1987. After graduation from the recruit school at CFB Cornwallis and Battle School CFB Petawawa, he became a member of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment.

Pte Kiah was promoted to the rank of Master Corporal in May of 1989 after placing second on the Infantry Section Commanders Course. Along with a couple of top candidate placings on QL 4 courses, M/Cpl Kiah was awarded the Special Service Force Soldier of the Year for 1988-89. In September of 1989 M/Cpl Kiah completed a UN tour in Cyprus as a Detachment 2/ic with Recce Platoon.

While a member of the 1st Bn The Royal Canadian Regiment, M/Cpl Kiah was the leading drummer with the Battalions Corps of Drums.

In September 1994, M/Cpl Kiah was posted to the 2nd Battalion The RCR at CFB Gagetown, NB. There he became a member of the Pipes and Drums and his military music career started to take form. After participating in Tattoos and band tours to Europe, M/Cpl Kiah was posted to CFB Borden on the CF Pipe Band Drum Instructor's course in September 1996. Returning to 2 RCR the following year on completion of the course, he rejoined the Pipes and Drums.

In September 1998, M/Cpl Kiah left the Pipes and Drums to go to Golf Company in order to prepare for an up-coming NATO tour to Bosnia. Following that tour, in September 1999 M/Cpl Kiah was sent over to India Company to take the position of CQ stores 2/ic and subsequently promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In June of 2000 Sgt Kiah was posted as an instructor to the Regimental Battle School in Meaford, Ontario.

Although he graduated in 1997, it would be five years before Sgt Kiah received the call that there was Drum Instructor position open in the Musician trade. He accepted the occupational transfer in 2002 and was then posted to 14 Wing Greenwood, Nova Scotia as the new Drum Instructor. After his first year in Greenwood, Joe joined the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Grade 1 Pipes and Drums and competed in the World Pipe Band Championships in 2007. In 2005 he was posted to the Drum Instructor position at 12 Wing Shearwater, Nova Scotia, where he spent four years. He was promoted to his present rank of Warrant Officer in July 2009 and is now sharing his many years of experience with the 8 Wing Pipes and Drums at CFB Trenton.

WO Kiah is also a member of the Grade 1 Toronto Police Pipe Band.



8 Wing Pipes and Drums Looking for New Members



The 8 Wing Pipes & Drums of Trenton, Ontario are looking for new members!! Pipers and drummers of all levels and ages (beginners included) are welcome. We seek dedicated players who are interested in playing in a high-energy, friendly, and fun atmosphere. Lots of local gigs are assured and options to travel always being pursued. Members of the 8 Wing pipe band receive professional, full-time instruction, on an extremely flexible schedule.



If you are interested, or have questions, please contact the Pipe Major, Sergeant Jim Douglas, at 613-392-2811 ext 7282, or at jim.douglas@forces.gc.ca.

CF Music Branch Auditions



The Music Branch provides support to all elements of the Canadian Forces (CF) and as such, our musicians can be seen in Navy, Army or Air Force dress. In keeping with the rich heritage of Canadian military music, we provide services from both the brass/reed as well as the pipes & drums disciplines. Services are provided by six full-time regular force bands, 52 part-time reserve force bands and seventeen volunteer support bands. The Music Branch performs a wide array of domestic and international engagements including government and military parades and ceremonies, public concerts, shows and festivals, public events, school concerts, military and state dinners, award ceremonies and community events. Groups and soloists may perform to add ambiance at a social function, embellish the significance of a ceremony, or may be headliners to a captive audience at an international concert event. CF music performances are often broadcast on radio and television, and bands from the branch regularly release recordings. Given the diversity of audiences and engagements involved towards attaining its mandate, the Music Branch deploys numerous ensemble configurations drawn from both brass/reed and pipes & drums cadres that perform a wide variety of music styles. Ensembles range from parade and concert bands through stage and show bands to jazz combos, rock bands, and chamber groups. Though military music is a mainstay, the various groups also perform a vast array of other music styles including traditional and folk music, pop, rock, jazz, classical and wind ensemble repertoire.

The Canadian Forces Music Branch

Announces auditions for the following Regular Force musician positions:

Trumpet	Euphonium
Saxophone	Percussion (Drum Set Specialty)
Tenor Trombone	Bass Trombone
Piano/Keyboard*	Electric Guitar*
Pop Vocal*	Bagpipes*
Pipe Band Drums*	



*Secondary instrumental skills would be considered an asset

Applicants must be Canadian citizens

For more information about the application process, the submission of recordings, or the audition procedure, please contact us at:

1-866-991-0422

DHHMusic@forces.gc.ca

www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/musi/ar/index-eng.asp

Important dates:

Recordings for preliminary round must be received by June 30, 2010.

Final live auditions will be held September 20 to October 1, 2010. The Canadian Forces will assume travel, meal and accommodation costs for candidates invited to the final auditions.

- Starting salary of \$53,000
- Full benefits including paid vacation, extensive health and dental coverage, exceptional pension plan, group insurance, family support services and parental leave.