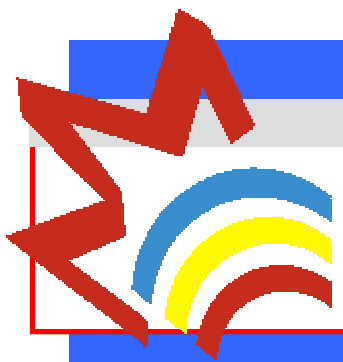


Newsletter



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“Towards Working Together for Aboriginal Children in Canada” – An NCA Workshop October 29th 2003

Over 60 representatives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit assemblies, band councils and service providers, as well as member organizations of the National Children's Alliance gathered in Ottawa on October 29th 2003 to begin a dialogue on past experiences and future explorations of collaboration between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal organizations serving children. The workshop was an important first step in building the relationships needed in order to work together effectively to improve the situation for Aboriginal children in Canada.

Highlights from the day include:
What we know – grounding the discussion through research:

Cindy Blackstock from the First Nations Family and Child Caring Society presented the findings of a recent study of the state of co-operation between First Nations child and family serving agencies providing service on-reserve and voluntary sector organizations providing services to children in Canada. The research suggests that there are concrete opportunities for collaboration between the voluntary sector and First Nations communities and organizations. What this collaboration requires,

however, is information on how to engage with one another respectfully and effectively for the benefit of children.

Honest conversations – what is stopping us from working together:
Discussion centered around 8 themes:
What is your story of collaboration?
This theme focused on what

Aboriginal Children Working Group Members

- Cindy Blackstock/Samantha Nadijwan/Joyce Spence, *First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada*
- Bruce Ferguson, *Hospital for Sick Children*
- Margaret Fietz, *Family Service Canada*
- Sandra Griffin, *Canadian Child Care Federation*
- Pam Hunter, *Assembly of First Nations*
- Mark Maracel, *Aboriginal Voluntary Sector Organizations*
- Beverly Suderman, *NVO*
- Susan Sullivan, *Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare*
- Dianne Bascombe/Sylvia Fanjoy/ Elisabeth King/Tara Ashtakala, *NCA Secretariat*

participants had been able to achieve through cross-cultural collaboration. Respect and trust were seen as key starting points in the formation of any relationship between Aboriginal and voluntary sector actors.

Contacting the “Right” Organization(s).
A well-tuned and well-informed dialogue can make any organization the “right” one to partner with.

Beginning Conversations.
An important step in beginning a conversation is recognizing the

diversity of people, viewpoints and issues.
Getting the Language & Meaning Right
Hearing, but not listening, to the other side is a major barrier to finding the right language and meanings.
Balancing Power – Sharing Knowledge

A history of an imbalance of power is a source of tension for Aboriginal people in collaboration with all mainstream actors, not just government. The recognition of others' obstacles and mutual exchange of knowledge are critical to sustaining collaboration.
Moving Past the Barriers:
Demonstrating a commitment to improve relationships is key to overcoming the difficulties in partnerships.

Building on Opportunities:
Lessons learned from partnerships can be shared within respective organizations and areas for improvement can be seized as opportunities on which build for the future.

Accountability:
Being accountable means telling our stories with full honesty. It depends upon reporting and knowledge sharing, candid evaluation and analysis, and trust.

National Child Day

On November 20th children across Canada and around the world were celebrated to mark the day the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989. In Canada, National Child Day is a day to take stock of the commitments this country has made to children. NCA members undertook a number of activities to mark the day and promote awareness of the convention. Visit http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dca-dea/ncd-jna/main_e.html for the official National Child Day website.

Staffing Changes

The National Children's Alliance has undergone many staffing changes in the past few months. We are happy to report Dianne Bascombe has returned as the Director of the NCA.

Tara Ashtakala has been hired as the Manager of the NCA.

Tara is a lawyer with a background in international law and policy. Tara has worked extensively with the Canadian Red Cross, as the coordinator of international policy, and has advocacy experience in human rights through her contract and volunteer work. Already she has proved to be an invaluable asset to the NCA.

Welcome aboard Tara, and welcome back Dianne!

On another note, Elisabeth King, Program Support and Policy Analysis, will no longer be with the Alliance as of the new year as she continues to pursue her studies at Carleton University. Please forward all future correspondence to either Tara, at tashtakala@nvo-onb.ca, or Dianne at dbascombe@nvo-onb.ca.

NCA Aboriginal Workshop Cont'd...

What has been tried and what have we learned:

Two cases studies were presented of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal partnerships. The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry's Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI) has completely restructured the child welfare system in Manitoba. AJI-CWI aimed to recognize, province-wide, the authority of First Nations and Métis peoples to have primary control of child welfare services in their communities. The success of this initiative provides valuable guidance to other First Nations in Canada that the tragedies of the past can be avoided and that Aboriginal people have the power to create the kind of world they want for their children and their future.

The second presentation of the afternoon discussed the Custom Adoption Program of the Yellowhead Tribal Services Agency. The program is structured to ensure that linguistic and cultural ties are preserved in the child's life. Local communities provide orientation and additional resources, and band workers are involved throughout the process. The YTSA has placed 30 children under this model so far. There is much interest in whether this program

can be replicated in other communities across Canada.

Moving forward – the role of the NCA:

The challenge in this respect is to find common ground and a process that is right for both parties. The NCA can be a vehicle for promoting dialogue or for collective negotiation. Follow-up activities to this workshop and further knowledge sharing and dissemination activities are key. Difficult tasks and situations need to be dealt with: what has to be kept in mind is the common objective of serving the best interests of children.

Overall, participants enthused that the day was a great success, and left feeling engaged and energized. It was an important first step that needed to happen in order to promote relationship building and open dialogue. Following up the recommendations from the workshop is essential to keep the momentum going.

Partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal NCA member organizations have already begun to flourish since the workshop. The Boys and Girls Club of Canada and the Canadian Association of Family Resource

Programmes both approached the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society about partnering on various initiatives. The Canadian Child Care Federation has also connected with a FNCFC board member who runs a Head-Start program in a First Nations Community.

As an important 'next step', the Working Group on Aboriginal Issues will become an ongoing feature of the NCA. It will focus on the identification of emerging Aboriginal issues relevant to the NCA's mandate, and on the facilitation of partnerships between NCA members and Aboriginal organizations serving children. Follow-up work will continue at the March 2004 Symposium. If you are interested in joining, please email Tara Ashtakala at tashtakala@nvo-onb.ca.

The workshop proceedings and evaluation are available online on the National Children's Alliance website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com.

Community Infrastructure Fund Update:

Louise Hanvey is currently in the process of developing a paper on community infrastructure for the NCA. Clyde Hertzman has agreed to act as a reviewer and collaborator, and a small working group was struck to liaise with Louise through the research and writing process. The paper, expected to be completed in February, will provide background research

that will inform future policy development in the area of service delivery for children and youth, aged 6 to 18. Specifically, the paper will look at:

- The impact of community infrastructure on the well being of school aged children and youth.
- Factors to enable communities to develop the right 'policy mix' that

leads to family friendly communities

- Enabling mechanisms that foster integration and co-ordination of existing services

- Linkages of recreational infrastructure and access to physical activity and health of children and youth

"Keeping the Promise – The Role of Monitoring in the Advocacy of the National Children's Alliance"

NCA Workshop November 27th –28th, 2003

Monitoring and evaluation are fundamental to the key activities undertaken by the NCA: policy and advocacy. Because of the importance of monitoring in the work of both member organizations and as a collective, the NCA felt it was important to convene to discuss how best to continue with the ongoing work in this area, through building on the outcomes of the March 2002 workshop and background paper "Third Party Monitoring of the ECDI" by Katherine Scott, Karen Kidder and Mary-Ann Burke.

The National Children's Alliance hosted a two-day workshop on the role of monitoring in the activities of the NCA on November 27th and 28th, 2003. Karen Kidder prepared a discussion paper for the event, to establish a framework for discussion and provoke questions to guide the dialogue.

The lively and focused discussion over the two-day workshop focused on identifying priorities for the NCA regarding monitoring, the value-added role of the Alliance, what we need, and what we want to achieve as third-party monitors.

The workshop drew over 35 participants and resulted in a clear action plan for moving forward on the issue of monitoring. These final recommendations include finding ways to collaborate on:

- Creating a clearing house to share information with critical analysis and action
- Identifying pertinent data and advocating for available data for NGO's
- Identifying gaps and analysis of data to fill gaps
- Leveraging the credibility of experts
- Revitalizing the Kidswatch model to highlight what is happening in all areas related to monitoring the life condition of children & youth
- Establishing a working group within the Alliance specifically to focus on monitoring
- Securing resources to explore the ability of the NCA to do value added monitoring work

The results from the monitoring workshop will be considered for action by the full Alliance membership over the coming months.

Excerpt from "Third Party Monitoring of Canada's Promises to Children" by Karen Kidder

Broad monitoring efforts, such as *The Progress of Canada's Children* and *How does Canada Measure Up?*, serve as important resources to the member organizations of the National Children's Alliance. These broad monitoring initiatives are pursued by only a few national organizations. Regional and local monitoring efforts, such as any one organization's efforts to better understand its constituency or the local policy scene, also serve as an important resource. This kind of monitoring is undertaken by virtually all member organizations across the country in one form or another.

National monitoring reports are used across the country to support research, proposal writing, policy, program development and advocacy. Regional and local monitoring information is used directly to improve organizational policies and practices and to inform local and regional advocacy. Through the work of the National Children's Alliance, understanding and knowledge of local and regional monitoring supports the development of national, collective policies, practices and advocacy positions. The organizations of the Alliance share information, learn from each other and reach consensus on important issues.

(The full paper can be found at www.nationalchildrensalliance.com)

Monitoring Roundtable Working Group Members

Dianne Bascombe, NCA
 Nathalie Burlone, *Vanier Institute of the Family*
 Sandra Griffin, *Canadian Child Care Federation*
 Alana Kapell, *Save the Children Canada*
 Laurel Rothman, *Campaign 2000*
 Katherine Scott, *Canadian Council on Social Development*
 Pamela Heneault, *Consultant*

The Monitoring workshop proceedings and discussion document are available online on the National Children's Alliance website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com.

National Plan of Action

In May 2002, at the United Nations Special Session on Children, leaders of the world's governments committed themselves to creating a better world for children. These commitments are enshrined in "A World Fit for Children", the resulting document from the Special Session. To help them fulfill their promises, governments agreed to prepare "national action plans with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets...taking into account the best interest of the

child...and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms." (A World Fit for Children, paragraph 59).

The Government of Canada began the process of developing its National Plan of Action to create a better world for children. More than a thousand individuals and organizations from across the country - including the National Children's Alliance - took part in the civil society engagement process for the NPA, which concluded in June 2003.

The draft National Plan of Action for Children is now ready! The document is available for review and comment on Senator Landon Pearson's website, www.sen.parl.gc.ca/pearson/specialesession/index.htm

The NPA will also be posted on a special page of the NCA website which will allow members to post feedback and view the comments of others. The NCA's collective response to the NPA will also be discussed at the next members' meeting, and the CCRC forum January 29-30.



Feasibility Study in the Works:

The National Children's Alliance Steering Committee met with HRDC officials on October 15 to discuss the potential role of the NCA in third party monitoring as a result of potential funding for collective monitoring activities. The NCA has long been concerned with the monitoring of the progress of Canada's children and youth. At the March 2002 Symposium, Alliance members confirmed that monitoring children's well being and the implementation of government agreements was a high priority. Monitoring is not only about assessing the effectiveness of these government agreements; even more important to the Alliance is monitoring to influence public policy development through evidence and data-based advocacy.

However, a number of possible limitations on the capacity of the organizations in the third sector to perform this function were identified, including a lack of resources to sustain existing and ongoing research and publications, and the

increasing cost and barriers to accessing essential data. It was proposed that a request for an upward amendment be submitted to HRDC to conduct a feasibility study to examine the current situation of data access and collection, and the potential value-added role of the NCA.

This feasibility study, conducted under the guidance of a Working Group, will give a detailed picture of the current state of data and data access at the national level. Key activities for the proposed upward amendment include:

- a survey of Alliance members on capacity to access and use data
- identification of current national data sets on children's health and well-being
- key informant interviews with "data users" to identify access issues
- discussions with "gatekeepers" of the data sets to explore ways of improving access
- an expert roundtable to identify the components and options for a national data strategy and to

identify indicators for monitoring

- consultation with NCA member organizations as to the role of the Alliance in developing and implementing a collaborative data strategy

Members of the NCA, including the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Vanier Institute of the Family, the Canadian Institute of Child Health, Campaign 2000, and the Canadian Coalition on the Rights of the Child, are already involved in monitoring activities at many different levels .

Over the next 6 months, the NCA will be collaborating with these member organizations on how best to engage in monitoring together. The NCA workshop (Nov 27-28) and background paper will inform this process. A comprehensive report on the findings of these activities will be produced, and results will be considered at the March Symposium.

The Upward Amendment has not yet been approved, but the NCA is hopeful that it will receive word of its status soon.

Call for Volunteers!

Interested in joining a Working Group to foster collaboration between the National Children's Alliance and the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child, and develop a rights-based approach to our advocacy in general? This Working Group will identify current and emerging issues that have implications for the rights of children in both Canada and internationally. If this sounds like something you would like to get involved in, please email Tara Ashtakala at tashtakala@nvo-onb.ca.

Brief to the Standing Committee on Finance

For the fifth year in a row, the National Children's Alliance appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance on October 7, 2003, to present its views on future directions for child and family policy in Canada.

The NCA has been actively involved in encouraging and improving some very practical initiatives on the part of the Government to improve the lives of children. This year, the Alliance focused its recommendations on three priority areas:

sustaining families through income support programs, building healthy children, family and communities through services; and ensuring accountability in the implementation of commitments made to Canada's children through international and domestic agreements.

Among the NCA recommendations were to:

- Increase the Nation Child Tax Benefit as a means of investing in child welfare, and exempting families on social assistance from having this amount clawed back
- Extend the Parental Leave Benefits through the Employment Insurance Program to part-time workers and those who are self-employed
- Develop a national strategy on child care to meet the increasing demand for care of young children and inequalities in access to quality care
- Establish a Children's Infrastructure Fund to increase access to play and recreation for those children who lack opportunities for fresh air and physical activity

The complete text of the submission and minutes from the brief can be found on the National Children's Alliance website, www.nationalchildre nsalliance.com

Brief to Finance Committee Cont'd...

NCA Recommendations
Cont'd...

- Revise the current government funding formula to ensure services for Aboriginal children and families receive adequate support
- And finally, support the development of a sustainable NGO sector

to monitor and evaluate how Canada is fulfilling its international and national promises with regard to the health and well-being of children.

The question period that followed was a lively and interesting discussion, and by all accounts, the presentation was a success.

NCA MEMBERS

The Children's Alliance membership has grown at a remarkable pace and now includes 57 national organizations committed to improving the health and well-being of children and youth in Canada. While the Children's Alliance's policy agenda has developed and been enhanced over the years, it has always encompassed three core components: sustaining families; building healthy children, families and communities; and accountability to Canadians and the world. Inherent in all of these components has been the element of building capacity in the voluntary sector and enhancing the participation of the voluntary sector in policy development.

The Children's Alliance has been extremely successful, with high levels of engagement and participation of its member organizations. The Children's Alliance uses creative ways of working. It remains light, nimble and responsive. It consistently builds on the strengths, expertise and resources of member organizations and maximizes limited resources and staffing to benefit the collective.

If you are not already a member, consider this your standing invitation to join the team and make things happen.

China Delegation Visit

The Chinese Early Development Delegation met with the National Children's Alliance on November 11th during their recent visit to Canada. The nine-member delegation of officials, representing officials from all levels of Chinese government, China Centres for Disease Control, and hospitals came to Canada to study early childhood development programs in this country and to explore possibilities for partnerships.

Dianne Bascombe gave the visitors a brief overview of the National Children's Alliance and of the state of early childhood development programs in Canada. The government has invested \$5 billion dollars so far and provided additional funding for Aboriginal children, but many children in this country still live in poverty and services for them are not integrated. Child care services are another concern for Canadian parents; the lack of space in publicly regulated

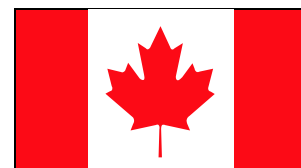
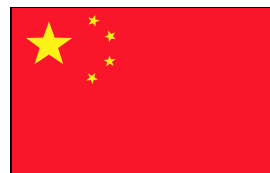
programs leaves many working parents to fend for themselves. Models and initiatives were presented from Alliance members such as the Canadian Teachers Federation, the Canadian Public Health Association, and Family Resource Programs of Canada as ongoing efforts to improve the situation for Canada's children.

The delegation had many questions about the cost of health care services for mothers and children; about the hospital system in Canada; about family resource programs and about the kind of supports provided to low-income families. In the end, there was no time for the Alliance and its members to ask questions of the visitors!

The NCA emphasized that its advocacy on child issues was on behalf of all children in Canada, including indigenous and minority children. The guests said that ECD programs in China would serve the needs of all Chinese children.

However, it was interesting that no mention was made of Tibet, where the indigenous population is the largest ethnic minority on the territory of the PRC, and whose children are reported to be suffering from severe malnutrition, inadequate health care facilities and prohibitive costs for medical treatment.

The meeting ended with a pledge to pursue possibilities for cooperation with the individual NCA members present, as well as to maintain contact with the Alliance as a whole. The full minutes from the meeting are available on the National Children's Alliance Member's Only website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com.



National Children's Alliance Upcoming Events

Member's Meetings:

January 8th 2004: Ottawa
February 11th 2004: Meeting to be held in the Toronto area. Location TBD.

Steering Committee Meetings:

January 15th 2004: Ottawa
February 19th 2004: Meeting to be held out of town. Location TBD.

The NCA Annual National Symposium

March 24th, 25th & 26th 2004
Kananaskis Resort Hotel, Alberta

The 2004 NCA Annual Spring Symposium has been booked for March 24-26 in beautiful Kananaskis, Alberta. The theme of the Symposium will be Advocacy, with two main streams of discussion: 1) Aboriginal children and 2) Monitoring of commitments to children. There will be a special one-day training session on the 24th on "Caring Across the Boundaries: Creating Collaborative Relationships between the Philanthropic Organizations and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada". This pilot course is being offered to member organizations of the NCA before it is tested out across the country. Space in the course is limited to 30 participants and one representative per member organization; seats will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Certificates of completion will be awarded to participating organizations at the end of the training. Registration information for the Symposium will be sent out before the Christmas holidays.

Reserve these dates on your calendars!

Meeting with Minister Stewart

On October 20th, 2003 the National Children's Alliance had the opportunity to meet with Minister Stewart to discuss some current issues of concern to the NCA, receive advice on how to continue the NCA advocacy work in the face of leadership changes, and to thank Minister Stewart for her continued hard work and dedication to children's issues in Canada. The Minister shared some invaluable advice and insight with the NCA members in attendance on a number of issue areas.

Aboriginal Issues:

The Minister was pleased to hear of the work that the NCA and other organizations, such as FNCFCs, are doing in this respect. She considered these pilots as perfect linkages to the Voluntary Sector Initiative, to connect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and spoke of the need to continue building momentum on these issues.

National Plan of Action:

Minister Stewart admitted that timing is tight and that it appeared uncertain how extensive consultations on the draft NPA are going to be. She commended Senator Pearson for her work and explained the delay in terms of internal bureaucratic processes. However, the process has highlighted the larger issue of how government consults with civil society, and how long the consultation process should continue for.

Third Party Monitoring:

The Minister has been a strong proponent of including third-party monitoring in agreements with the voluntary sector. She believes in strengthening the existing capacity of the sector and letting the sector itself designate who within it should monitor/analyze specific aspects of the issue of children's health and well-being. The emphasis should be on collaboration, not competition, within the sector.

Political Strategy:

The Minister suggested that our angle in advocating on children's issues with the next administration should be to focus on building on initiatives that have proved successful. We should keep moving forward on issues of importance and produce good third party analyses. In Minister Stewart's view, there will be continued support for the Children's Agenda, as the incoming leadership was an integral part of building the structures that are currently in place for children in Canada.

Voluntary Sector Funding Issues:

The Minister agreed that the interruptions in the core funding of voluntary organizations hurt the sector. However, with the large increase in the number of organizations, it is increasingly difficult to decide to whom money should be granted.

Perhaps it is time for the government to accord as much importance to the idea of a public-voluntary sector partnership as it does to private-public partnerships.

Canadian Learning Institute:

Minister Stewart confirmed that the government is very committed to the CLI as a foundation for life-long learning; the money has been set aside and a blueprint of the project is expected to be complete in the very near future.

Community Infrastructure Fund:

This initiative will provide a framework for investment strategies for children aged 6-18, with the primary goal to ensure recreation and development spaces for families and children. Minister Stewart was very supportive of this idea and suggested that the NCA continue to move forward.

The meeting was a great opportunity to receive valuable advice from the Minister and show our appreciation for the work she has done. The full minutes of the meeting are available on the National Children's Alliance website:

The full minutes of the meeting are available on the National Children's Alliance Website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com

National Children's Alliance Member News:

Upcoming Events:

Forum on Public Policy and the UN Rights of the Child

January 29th - 30th 2004
Ottawa ON
Hosted by the Society for Children and Youth of British Columbia, the National Children's Alliance and the Canadian Coalition on the Rights of the Child. For more information contact the CCRC at (613) 729-5289.

Child Welfare League of Canada 4th Children's Service Leadership Institute

Jan. 31st – Feb. 7th 2004
Cuba
Participation in this study tour is limited to 15-20 individuals interested in children's services leaders. For more information, please contact Michael Kerman at 1-888-291-1133 or mkerman@rogers.com, or Nanci Morrison at (613) 235-4412 ext. 23 or nanci@clwc.ca.

2004 National Conference, Boys and Girls Club of Canada

April 28 – May 1, 2004
The Grand Okanagan Hotel, Kelowna, B.C.
For more information visit www.bgccan.com or contact Eric Burton, by e-mail at eburton@bgccan.com or phone at (905) 477-7272 ext. 224.

Bell Walk for Kids in Support of Kids Help Phone

May 2nd 2004
Visit www.bellwalkforkids.com for more information on this event.

Moving from a culture of testing to a culture of professional accountability

May 13-15th 2004
Marriot Hotel, Ottawa ON
The Canadian Teacher's Federation is hosting their 2004 national conference from May 13 to May 15th here in Ottawa. For more information visit www.ctc-fce.ca.

Youth Summit on Sustainable Urban Transportation

May 26-31, 2004
Ottawa, Ontario
The 2004 International Youth Summit on Sustainable Urban Transportation will bring together 80 Canadian youth, ages 17 – 24, with participants from around the globe to discuss the importance of sustainable transportation in our communities. Visit www.pollutionprobe.org for more information.

Social Work: Meeting the Challenge and Making the Difference

June 5 – 8, 2004
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
The 2004 Canadian Association of Social Workers national conference. For more information visit www.casw-acts.ca or e-mail sasw2004conference@accesscomm.ca

Canadian Psychological Association 2004 Annual Convention

June 10-12th, 2004
St. John's, Newfoundland
Click on www.cpa.ca to find out more.

Population Health in Our Communities

June 13-16th, 2004
St. John's, Newfoundland
The Canadian Public Health Association is holding its 95th Annual Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. Please visit www.cpha.ca for more information, or look for details in upcoming CPHA digests.

81st CPS Annual Conference

June 16-20, 2004.
Montreal, Quebec
The Canadian Paediatric Society is hosting its 81st CPS Annual Conference in Montreal, June 16-20, 2004. Visit www.cps.ca for more information.

Bridging Health and Occupation

June 24th-26th 2004
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists 2004 Annual Conference. The deadline for early bird registration is April 16, 2004; visit www.caot.ca for more info.

Facing Current Realities: New Knowledge in the Canadian Voluntary Sector

July 10th, 2004
Ryerson University, Toronto ON
The Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Community of Inquiry is hosting its 3rd National Symposium, *Facing Current Realities: New Knowledge in the Canadian Voluntary Sector*. Please visit www.cvsrd.org for more information.

National Children's Alliance Member's Only Website

The NCA Member's Webpage is updated often, so be sure to check it out regularly for up to date information of importance to all NCA members. For instance:

- A complete contact list of all NCA members, including emails and phone numbers
- An online library of meeting minutes, financial reports, correspondence, and works in progress
- Post – it! An interactive bulletin board for comments, questions and announcements
- Upcoming events
- Working group members
- Initiatives undertaken by members
- ...and more.

To obtain a user name and password e-mail nca@nvo-onb.ca.

Fostering Peace in Individuals, Families and Communities...Imagine!

October 20th-23rd, 2004
Sydney, Nova Scotia.
Family Service Canada is holding their 2004 national conference in Sydney, Nova Scotia from October 20th to 23rd. Click on www.familyservicecanada.org to find out more.

Work Carried Out By Members on Behalf of the National Children's Alliance

Developing a Canadian Injury Prevention Strategy

September 22, 2003

Representative: Donna Klaiman,
Canadian Association of
Occupational Therapists

Roundtable on Human Resources in the Voluntary Sector – CPRN

September 19, 2003

Representative: Peter Dudding, Child
Welfare League Canada

Upcoming:

The Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion of Health Canada is holding a meeting on January 20, 2004, to share findings from the on-going review of Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating and discuss next steps with stakeholders. The NCA will send a representative from one member organization to attend this consultation on behalf of the Alliance, and 'Report Back' on the results. The work will then be posted on the Member's Only page of the NCA website.

The National Children's Alliance has now grown to 57 members! We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members, including:

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society: www.fncfcs.com

FNCFCS promotes the well-being of all First Nations children, youth, families and communities with a particular focus on the prevention of, and response to, child maltreatment.

Save the Children Canada: www.savethechildren.ca

Save the Children Canada is a non-political, non-religious organization that provides both emergency relief and long-term development assistance through partnership with local communities, government bodies and international organizations.

Canadian Association of Food Banks:

www.cafb-acba.ca

The Canadian Association of Food Banks represents food banks in every province. While the organization provides member food banks with groceries for people in need day-to-day, it is ultimately working towards a hunger-free Canada.

Links of Interest

Best Early Childhood Development Research in 2002:

www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca/documents/BulletinVol2No3Nov03ANG.pdf

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) compiled a document listing 10 of the top scientific papers published in 2002 by Canadian researchers who focus on early childhood development.

"Kids' Take on the Media":

The Canadian Teachers Federation conducted a national survey of children's perceptions of the media. Kids' Take on the Media questioned over 5000 elementary and secondary students across the country about viewing habits

and the influence of violence in the media. A summary of the findings is available at www.ctf-fce.ca, and www.erinresearch.com

Senator Landon Pearson's Website:

www.sen.parl.gc.ca/lpearson/specialsession/index.htm

The National Plan of Action for Children draft version is now available for review and comment.

Developing Human Resources in the Voluntary Sector:

www.hrvs-rhsbc.ca

The HRVS project aims to help voluntary sector organizations attract, support and keep skilled and committed employees.

This useful website provides practical HR tools and information for voluntary sector organizations.

The National Learning Initiative: Bringing the Voluntary Sector Leadership Competencies to Life

www.nvo-onb.ca

Two new documents are available from the NLI:

1. Leadership in the Voluntary Sector: Human Resources Tools
2. Voluntary Sector Leadership Competencies: Examples, Current Challenges, Complexities and Learning Outcomes: Discussion Document

National Children's Alliance Steering Committee Members:

The Steering Committee is open to all Children's Alliance members.

Janet Davies, Canadian Nurses Association
 Janis Douglas, Canadian Association of Community Living
 Peter Dudding, Child Welfare League of Canada
 Bruce Ferguson, Hospital for Sick Children Foundation
 Maggie Fietz, Family Service Canada
 Sandra Griffin, Canadian Childcare Federation
 Katherine Scott, Canadian Council on Social Development
 Mike McKnight, Big Brothers Big Sisters Canada
 Marie Pierce, Canadian School Boards Association
 Harvey Weiner, Canadian Teacher's Federation

National Children's Alliance Member Organizations:

- Allergy Asthma Information Association
- Adoption Council of Canada
- Big Brothers and Sisters of Canada
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada
- Canadian Association for Community Living
- Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs
- Canadian Association of Food Banks
- Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Child Care Federation
- Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Canadian Institute of Child Health
- Canadian Living Foundation
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Canadian Nurses Association
- Canadian Paediatric Society
- Canadian Parents for French
- Canadian Parks & Recreation Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Canadian School Boards Association
- Canadian Teachers' Federation
- Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
- Child Welfare League of Canada
- Children's Aid Society
- Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations
- Commission nationale des parents francophone
- Family Service Canada
- Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada
- First Nations Child and Family Caring Society
- Foundation for Active Healthy Kids
- Frontier College
- Hospital for Sick Children Foundation
- Kids Help Phone
- La Commission nationale des parents francophone
- Laidlaw Foundation
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada
- National Anti-Poverty Organization
- National Early Intervention Network
- National Youth In Care Network
- Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada
- Pollution Probe
- Safe Kids Canada
- Save the Children Canada
- Scouts Canada
- SOS Children's Villages Canada
- SpecialLink: The National Centre for Child Care Inclusion
- UNICEF Canada
- United Way of Canada - Centraide Canada
- Vanier Institute of the Family
- YouCAN
- YMCA Canada
- YWCA of Canada

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