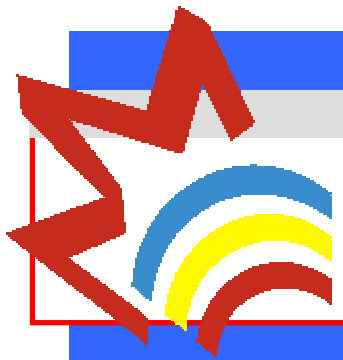


Newsletter



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Spotlight on Monitoring

The Children's Alliance fall roundtable (November 27 and 28) will focus on monitoring the health and well-being of children. Some of the "thinking":

- Governments have commitments to monitor the National Children's Agenda, the Social Union Framework Agreement, the Early Childhood Development Agreement, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the National Plan of Action.
- The federal government should fund third party monitoring of these agreements to promote more inclusive and responsive programs and services, more fully engaged governments and citizens, and healthier outcomes for children and their families.
- Progress reports of child well-being produced by voluntary sector organizations are threatened due to inadequate funding and restricted and delayed access to Statistics Canada data sets.
- We need to develop 20 to 30 broadly accepted indicators of child health and well-being that will be rich enough to present a complex story for third party monitoring.

- We need to develop a holistic and integrated consensus framework that will recognize the multi-faceted, multi-dimensional stages of development as a template for broad usage.

Monitoring Roundtable Working Group Members

Dianne Bascombe, *Canadian Institute of Child Health*
 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*

Spotlight on Aboriginal Children

A working group has been struck to consider collaborative efforts between Aboriginal agencies and non-Aboriginal voluntary organizations with the goal of changing the situation for Aboriginal children and youth in Canada. This is an outcome of the spring symposium where the health and well-being of Aboriginal children was identified as a policy priority. At the symposium, Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society led off the discussion with the presentation of her paper on Aboriginal

Aboriginal Children Working Group Members

Cindy Blackstock/Samantha Nadjiwan/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, *Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations*
 Susan Sullivan, *Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare*
 Sylvia Fanjoy/ Stephanie Pearce/
 Elisabeth King, *National Children's Alliance Secretariat*

children that had been commissioned by the Children's Alliance.

The working group is planning a one-day national workshop for October 29, 2003.

The objective will be to develop relationships so that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups can work more effectively together to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal children. Discussions will centre on:

What we know: Grounding the discussion through research

Honest conversations: What is stopping us?

What has been tried and what did we learn?

How can we move forward?

Excerpt from Cindy Blackstock's paper

In contrast to the lives experienced by other Canadian children and youth, Aboriginal children are more likely to be born into poverty, to suffer health problems, maltreatment, incarceration, and placement in the child welfare system. Although provincial data collection systems vary, best estimates are that there are currently over 25,000 Aboriginal children in the child welfare system – three times the highest enrollment figures of residential school in the 1940s. In terms of First Nations children on-reserve, the numbers of children entering into care are tragically rising. Department of Indian and Northern Development data confirms that between the years of 1995 and 2001 the number of Status Indian children entering into care rose an astonishing 71.5% nationally (McKenzie, 2002).

The National Children's Alliance is well-positioned to offer the advocacy required to ensure that the next generation of Aboriginal children and youth do not face the substantive socio-economic risks arising from colonization. Accomplishing this will mean ensuring all members have adequate access to information on Aboriginal peoples and nations in Canada, as well as the relationship between the needs of Aboriginal peoples and mandates of the respective member organizations. (The full paper can be found at www.nationalchildrensalliance.com)

Advocating for a Community Infrastructure Fund

The Children's Alliance will be advocating for a federal fund that would invest in communities and human infrastructure, in particular, in initiatives that use an integrated and coordinated community health approach in addressing children's health and well-being. The fund would be similar to the National Homelessness Initiative which encourages innovative and progressive cooperation to help governments and community organizations come together to alleviate homelessness. The Children's Alliance is commissioning a background paper on this for release in November.

Current Funding

The National Children's Alliance has received funding from Human Resources Development Canada to March 31, 2005 with an anticipated extension to March 31, 2006. With the funding, the Children's Alliance will:

- Continue to build and support pan-Canadian alliances and learning networks to promote a comprehensive and inclusive policy dialogue on children's issues.
- Host national roundtables on important emerging issues, promoting broad participation.

- Strengthen public understanding of issues facing children.
- Participate in ongoing and emerging federal policy initiatives by developing policy positions and submissions for standing and special committees of the House of Commons and the Senate, commissions, task forces and other fora.
- Host national symposiums to enhance policy and mobilization capacity of member organizations and provincial/territorial constituent groups.
- Develop and promote education and skills-building materials in policy development.
- Produce and distribute newsletters, discussion and research papers, and proceedings from symposiums and roundtables.
- Begin the process of monitoring the status of children's health and well-being by developing indicators and a consensus framework.

National Plan of Action

In May 2002, at the United Nations Special Session on Children, the Canadian government joined world leaders in committing to a better world for children. In fulfilling this commitment, each participating country agreed to develop a National Plan of Action for Children by the end of 2003.

In Canada, consultation activities have been carried out by Senator Landon Pearson, the Prime Minister's personal representative, and the federal departments that co-lead the initiative, Health Canada and HRDC.

The Children's Alliance wrote to the Prime Minister in February with concerns about the limited resources that were allocated to this process, stating that they were insufficient to permit a broad, inclusive consultation that recognizes the diversity of

children and their needs. Concerns were also expressed about the restrictive timelines.

The Children's Alliance submitted its recommendation for Canada's National Plan of Action for Children at the end of June following meetings on process and content.

Highlights of the submission:

- In order to meet the needs of children who face disability and disadvantage, we must act decisively by setting goals with targets to eliminate existing inequalities.
- The Child Tax Benefit must continue to be increased and not be "clawed back" by provincial and territorial governments.
- A non-refundable tax credit for families with children should be reintroduced and coordinated with the National Child Benefit.
- We must improve tax policies for families caring for children with a disability.
- We need to make changes in parental leave, in particular the conditions of entitlement, benefit duration, replacement rate, and maximum insurable earning level.
- We must make better investments in social services and affordable housing.
- The Prime Minister should appoint a Minister for Children and Youth to ensure that children's health and well-being is "top-of-mind" at the Cabinet table.
- Federal/provincial/territorial and Aboriginal governments should consider striking a First Ministers' Council on Children and Youth to clearly demonstrate their commitment to the health and well-being of children.

National Plan of Action Cont'd...

- The federal government should coordinate its monitoring commitments and work with the provinces and territories to develop consensus on monitoring processes, targets and action. The model should be transparent and encourage Canadians to participate in setting priorities and reviewing outcomes.
- The federal government should fund third party monitoring of these agreements.
- Canada should strengthen its national statistical capacity to collect, analyse and disaggregate data and support a wide range of child-focused research. This research should be grounded through the involvement of the voluntary/NGO sector and its impact evaluated.
- Services and programs for children and families should be jointly funded by federal and provincial governments, delivered locally through municipalities and band councils according to community needs and priorities, and supported by sufficient resources and mechanisms to promote the sharing of effective best practices and encourage innovation where needed.

The National Children's Alliance Recommendations on Canada's National Plan of Action for Children is available online on the National Children's Alliance website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com.



Above: Hon. Ethel Blondin-Anderson M.P. and Secretary of State (Children and Youth) addresses Roundtable participants, indicating that children with disabilities is a priority area for the Government of Canada as well as for herself.

National Roundtables

The National Children's Alliance has recently held two national roundtables.

ANNUAL NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: MARCH 29 - 30, 2003

Over sixty representatives of the National Children's Alliance and provincial and territorial affiliates gathered in Ottawa on March 29th and 30th. Over the two-day period, participants discussed advocacy and mobilization priorities for the coming year.

Participants considered the Alliance mission, policy positions and achievements to date, aided by the Symposium paper, "Telling the Story: National Children's Alliance" by Louise Harvey. Alliance participants also heard about issues in the areas of Aboriginal children; work and families; children in care; and the education system. These issues were considered within the current context: the Federal Budget, Health Canada's Pan-Canadian Healthy Living Strategy, the Canadian Learning Institute, the Canada Health and Social Transfer, and upcoming federal, provincial and territorial elections.

Through the two days of discussions the following themes emerged as areas of convergence for future action. The priorities identified were subsequently considered by the Children's Alliance Steering Committee and by the NCA membership.

Priorities:

Federal - Regional Coordination: There is a need to improve federal/provincial/territorial and local coordination. By transferring knowledge and expertise of the National Children's Alliance to the regional levels, provincial and territorial groups will be better able to can start forming similar coalitions, and federal successes can be realized regionally.

Aboriginal Children: The Alliance should begin a dialogue on Aboriginal children to support Aboriginal peoples, without taking on the Aboriginal agenda.

Supporting parents/economic security: We should support parents in their capacity to care for their children, including advocating for economic security for families. In particular, we should continue work on the National Child Benefit, advocate for better social housing, and focus on labour market issues, such as the family/life balance.

Monitoring/Accountability: We should continue and expand work on monitoring. Because of federal/provincial/territorial jurisdictional issues, there are discrepancies between programs and standards from region to region. National standards are needed to ensure uniform access to comparable services for all children and families in Canada. We need to develop national standards for care of children. *Continued on page 4...*

March 2003 Roundtable Working Group Members

Michelle Brownrigg, *Foundation for Active Healthy Kids*
 Janet Davies, *Canadian Nurses Association*
 Sandra Griffin, *Canadian Child Care Federation*
 Alla Ivask, *FRP Canada*
 Pam Jolliffe, *Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada*
 Perpetua Quigley, *Canadian Public Health Association*
 Sylvia Fanjoy, *National Children's Alliance Secretariat*

Below: Roundtable participants engage in a small group discussion to help develop collaborative strategies for change.



Disabilities Roundtable Working Group Members

Pauline Mantha, *Learning Disabilities Association of Canada*
 Janis Douglas, *Canadian Association of Community Living*
 Deb Stewart, *Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists*
 Deb Cameron, *Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists*
 Sylvia Fanjoy/Randi Goddard, *National Children's Alliance secretariat*

National Roundtables Cont'd...

Inclusion: It is important that the Alliance advocate on behalf of all children and youth. There is a need to focus on vulnerable groups including Aboriginal children, children with disabilities, immigrant and refugee children, children belonging to religious, linguistic and ethnic minority groups, and children of same sex and bi-sexual orientation.

National Plan of Action: The Alliance needs to respond to the consultation process on the National Plan of Action for Children.

disabilities. The meeting was an opportunity to further knowledge and understanding, engage in open dialogue, provide opportunities for networking, and identify next steps. Funding for the roundtable was provided by the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, Human Resources Development Canada, and Health Canada.

A discussion paper was commissioned for the conference entitled "Children with Disabilities and their Families in Canada". Presentations and discussions took place through the lenses of the child and family, research and practice, and community supports. The conference program included addresses by Senator Landon Pearson (on "A World Fit for Children") and Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth).

The 140 participants identified actions and outcomes to advance policies for children with disabilities and their families, including raising awareness, advocating and mobilizing, building a network, and improving research.

Generally, children with disabilities and their families are not enjoying full citizenship in the communities in which they live. Compared to other children, they are more likely to live in poverty, live in difficult housing situations, and to be physically and sexually abused. They face various barriers to participating

fully in their communities. Speaker Heather-Jane Robertson said that "inclusion cannot depend on the heroism of teachers, the persistence of parents, or the determination of students." Creating inclusive community environments must be the goal of the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments.

Conference participants called for the development of a national network for families of children with disabilities. Through this network, advocacy activities could be coordinated across sectors and jurisdictions, with a shared vision being advocated to all levels of government. Speaker Danny Soucy presented information on such networks, their value and importance. The independent website, *Family Voice*, serves as a communication vehicle to enable families to link and share information with each other (www.family-voice.com).

Research on children with disabilities is severely lacking. Ongoing research and improved data collection is needed to tell us how these children are doing and if their conditions are improving. Moreover, research on these children needs to be meaningful to communities and link with policy development.

According to Louise Hanvey, author of the background paper that informed the event, "the ground work is done, the commitment is stated, and it is time to take action."

The roundtable discussion paper, "Telling the Story", proceedings, and issue papers are available on the National Children's Alliance website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com.

1ST NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, DECEMBER 9 – 10, 2002

This roundtable was held in Ottawa to identify key policy issues relating to children with

The roundtable discussion paper and proceedings are available on the National Children's Alliance website, www.nationalchildrensalliance.com.

NCA MEMBERS

The Children's Alliance membership has grown at a remarkable pace and now includes 54 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.

We also called for increased transparency in the implementation of SUFA and the ECD agreements by opening the processes to the voluntary/NGO sector.

Presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance,

For the fourth consecutive year, The National Children's Alliance prepared a brief for submission to the Standing Committee on Finance. Dianne Bascombe and Dawn Walker presented this brief to the Committee on behalf of the NCA on October 24, 2002. The brief outlined Alliance priority areas for policy development and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year and focused on NCA's three broad priority areas: sustaining families; building healthy children, families and communities; and accountability to Canada and the world.

We called on the Government of Canada to ensure that families are economically secure, and have access to appropriate supportive services

that are necessary to care for, nurture and guide children and youth through their various stages of development. Specifically, we recommended an increase to the National Child Benefit, improved tax policy for families with children with a disability and expanded employment insurance eligibility. The brief also made recommendations around the accessibility and availability of appropriate services for families, including the implementation of a national housing plan, the improvement of access to recreation opportunities for children, and the allocation of funding to develop integrated systems of health, education and social program services at the community level. The importance of the Government of Canada in keeping the promises it has made to children through national and international agreements was emphasized, and it was recommended that these promises be coordinated and the third party monitoring of such agreements be funded.

Advocacy Activities

Budget meeting with Jane Stewart

Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development Canada, met with NCA groups on February 29, 2003 to discuss some of the announcements contained in the 2003 federal budget. Participants told Minister Stewart that they were heartened by her continual commitment to child, youth and family issues.

variability in the mix and quality of social services available across jurisdictions, in particular to programs available under the ECD agreement. With the change in federal funding mechanisms through the introduction of the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), social services have been losing out in the competition with post-secondary education and health care for public funding. Also, the nature of the ECD agreement provides governments with a "menu"



Minister Jane Stewart meets with the National Children's Alliance

Review on the Social Union Framework Agreement

The National Children's Alliance was invited to review the Social Union Framework Agreement (SUFA) as part of the three year review process. A brief was prepared and submitted to the Honourable Stephane Dion, Minister of Privy Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in October 2002.

In this brief, the National Children's Alliance indicated support for the principles of the SUFA, while expressing strong concerns about the mechanisms of implementation. Our brief focused on issues of accessibility, accountability and transparency. There was concern about the

of services allowing provinces and territories to choose among the four areas in the agreement. We recommended that federal, provincial and territorial governments review the impact of funding mechanisms, including the CHST, on the delivery of social programs in the context of their commitment to comparable social services in Canada.

In the area of accountability, the lack of comparability in provincial reporting on the ECD agreement was highlighted. We recommended that federal, provincial and territorial governments should work together to develop a coordinated framework for the monitoring of the ECD agreement.

National Children's Alliance Members' Webpage Launched

In March 2003, the National Children's Alliance launched its Member's Only Webpage at www.nationalchildrensalliance.com/members. This area now contains:

- An online library of meeting minutes, financial reports, correspondence, and works in progress
- Post – it! An interactive bulletin board for member's comments, questions and announcements
- Upcoming events
- Meeting announcements
- Working group members
- Initiatives undertaken by members
- ...and more.

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

Dianne Bascombe Awarded Golden Jubilee Medal

Dianne Bascombe was awarded the Golden Jubilee medal to recognize her contribution to the Ottawa and the Canadian community and in particular her leadership in the childcare field and in the voluntary sector. Dianne has been a key player in the creation and development of the National Children's Alliance.

Correspondence

July 21, 2003
Letter to Honourable Minister Sheila Copps re: under-funding of Voluntary Sector Organizations.

June 10, 2003
Letter to Honourable Minister A. Anne McLellan, Honourable Minister Jane Stewart and President of the Treasury Board Secretariat Lucienne Robillard re: under-funding of Voluntary Sector Organizations.

June 9, 2003
Letter to Honourable Minister Jane Stewart in

support of Canadian Learning Institute

June 9, 2003
Letter to Honourable Minister A. Anne McLellan re: Health Canada's Healthy Living Strategy

February 3, 2003
Letter to Prime Minister re: the National Plan of Action for Children

January 28, 2003
Letter to Honourable Minister John Manley re: the National Child Benefit

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

Health Canada's Food Guide Review
August, 2003
Completed by: Janet Davies, Canadian Nurses Association and Michelle Brownrigg, Foundation for Active Healthy Kids

Healthy Living Symposium, Toronto
June 17, 2003
Representative: Rita Mezei, Safe Kids Canada

Federal Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development Public Reporting
June 25, 2003
Representative: Sylvia Fanjoy, Director, National Children's Alliance

Social Welfare Policy Conference
June 15-17, 2003
Representatives: Sylvia Fanjoy and Stephanie Pearce, National Children's Alliance

First Nations Child and Family Service Agency Collaboration with the Voluntary Sector Survey
May, 2003

Completed by: Stephanie Pearce, National Children's Alliance Secretariat

Consultative Committee of the National Action Plan for Children
March 31, 2003
Representative: Peter Dudding, Child Welfare League of Canada

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health and Health Security
March 12, 2003
Representative: Donna Klaiman, Canadian Association of Occupation Therapists

Alberta Teacher's Association Meeting "Well-Being of Children and Youth"
February 25, 2003
Representative: Harvey Weiner, Canadian Teachers' Federation

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Consultation Reference Group on Healthy Living

Media Releases

February, 19, 2003,
Federal Budget a Breakthrough for the National Children's Agenda

September 30, 2002,
Responding to the Speech from the Throne

February 17, 2003
Representative: Donna Klaiman, Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

Consultation on the Canadian Learning Institute
January 28, 2003
Representative: Harvey Weiner, Canadian Teachers' Federation

International Meeting on Data Based Advocacy, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore
September 25-28, 2002
Representative: Dianne Bascombe, Director, National Children's Alliance

Meeting with Federation of Canadian Municipalities
August 12, 2002
Representative: Dianne Bascombe, Director, National Children's Alliance

National Children's Alliance Member Groups

Upcoming Events:

Making Gains: Research, Recovery and Renewal in Mental Health and Addictions
September 28-October 1, 2003

Niagara Falls, Ontario.
Annual Mental Health and Addictions Conference of the Canadian Mental Health Association.
For more information visit www.makinggains.ca.

Light the Spirit Within: 14th National Conference on Learning Disabilities

October 2 - 4, 2003
The Hyatt Regency Calgary and Telus Convention Centre, Calgary, Alberta.
Sponsored by the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada and the Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta.
For more information contact information@ldac-taac.ca or visit the website at www.ldac-taac.ca

Investing in Canada's Social Capital: Family by Family,

October 23 - 25, 2003
Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa,

Ontario
Family Service Canada's National Conference
For more information visit the www.familyservicecanada.org.

National Child Day November 20, 2003
National Child Day is a day to remember that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential. It's a day to marvel at their uniqueness and all they have to offer. The Canadian Child Care Federation is pleased to be a member of the Working Group and Steering Committee of the National Child Day initiative facilitated by Health Canada.
For more information visit www.childday.healthcanada.ca.

YouthWave: The Ripple Effect

November 13 - 16, 2003
Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta.
YouCAN!'s Fourth International Youth Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution. Last year the conference hosted 589 delegates from across Canada and around the world.
Please visit www.youcan.ca/youthwave for more information.

Canadian Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference 2003

November 23 - 25th, 2003
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario
National Conference, Safe Communities Foundation, Safe Kids Canada and SMARTRISK
For more information visit www.safekidscanada.ca.

Boys and Girls Club of Canada National Conference 2004

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

Social Work: Meeting the Challenge and Making the Difference

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

National Children's Alliance Upcoming Events

September

NCA Monthly Members' Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Alliance will be held on Monday, September 8th, 2003 from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. at CICH, 384 Bank Street, Suite 300.

October

Workshop on Aboriginal Children Health and Well-being

Wednesday October 29th, 2003
Volunteer Canada
330 Gilmour Street, Ottawa ON
9a.m to 5 p.m.
Look for registration information coming soon!

November

NCA Fall Roundtable:

"Telling the Story"
November 27 to 28th, 2003
Venue and agenda TBD.
Look for details coming soon!

Recently Released Papers

Funding Matters: The Impact of Canada's New Funding Regime on Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations by Katherine Scott (June 2003)

The Canadian Council on Social Development, in partnership with the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations, undertook this project as part of the Voluntary Sector Initiative's Capacity Joint Table. This paper examines the changing funding environment that Canadian voluntary sector organizations face and the challenges this brings for the financial capacity and long-term sustainability of these organizations. The report details how divergent funding practices, increased reporting requirements, and the prevalence of short-term, project-based funding intended to increase accountability, self-sufficiency, and competition is actually eroding the ability of many voluntary organizations to carry out their work. The findings of this paper are based on a series of focus groups and roundtable discussions, research reviews, key informant interviews, survey responses, and in-depth case studies. The report is available at <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2003/fm/>

Continued on page 8...

Recently Released Papers Cont'd...

Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) Child Welfare Project: Creating Conditions for Good Practice (April 2003)

This is a report of the CASW Child Welfare Project that was initiated in 2000. The project was launched to provide front line social workers with a channel to express their views about their practice, with the goal of defining conditions that optimize the contribution of professional social workers to the well-being of vulnerable children and families.

CASW and its member organizations have long been aware that social work practice in child welfare has become increasingly complex and demanding. From many parts of the country, we hear that practitioners in child welfare settings are hampered not only by resource deficiencies but also by the inability of many organizations to support optimal social work practice. This project evolved out of CASW's efforts to provide leadership in the areas of professional support and advocacy, particularly with respect to conditions that support good practice. Social workers in child welfare settings across the country were asked to contribute to this project by sharing their experiences. Participation was enlisted by means of a survey questionnaire (1,118 respondents) and provincial focus group discussions (30), coordinated by a project coordinator in each member organization. The report is available at <http://www.casw-acts.ca>.

Joint Statement on the Physical Punishment of Children

The Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth was developed by a national partnership of organizations concerned with the well-being of children and their families. Coalition partners include: Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Child Welfare League of Canada, Family Service Canada, Canadian Child Care Federation, Canadian Institute of Child Health, Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian Association for Young Children. It has been formally endorsed by many Canadian organizations and individuals involved in a broad range of issues related to children and youth.

Based on extensive research evidence, the statement provides an overview of the developmental outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment on children and youth. Scenarios depicting disciplinary situations ground the document in the realities well known to parents and caregivers. The statement will also be of interest to professionals, policy and program planners, many members of the public, and children and youth themselves. Resources are identified for those interested in learning more about effective discipline and parenting. To read more about the Joint Statement, visit

www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pressroom/JointStatementonPhysicalPunishmentofChildrenandYouth.htm.

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society is a national non-profit organization that provides research, policy and professional development services to First Nations child and family service agencies in Canada. With the support of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society has received funding from the Voluntary Sector Initiative (Sectoral Involvement in Departmental Policy Development Initiative) to determine the current nature and extent of collaboration between First Nations child and family service and the voluntary sector. Findings of this research project will inform the development of meaningful professional development resources to promote effective collaboration between FNCFS and the voluntary sector in order to build on the assets of First Nations communities to ensure peace, harmony and safety for First Nations children, youth and families.

The project consists of four phases: 1) literature review; 2) surveys of FNCFS, the voluntary sector, and governments to determine engagement patterns and develop suggestions to promote collaboration; 3) key informant interviews; and 4) completing the final research report and developing professional development tools and programs based on research findings. The literature review and annotated bibliography are available online at www.fncfcs.com.

Children's Rights: How Does Canada Measure Up

Although children's rights in Canada have improved over the past five years, there is still work to be done, according to a report by the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC).

On June 10, the CCRC presented the report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to inform on the progress Canada is making in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Canada ratified in 1991. The CCRC is the official Canadian non-governmental organization responsible for reporting to the UN Committee. The information from the NGO report will inform the September 17 meeting between the Committee and Canadian government officials, when they will discuss the state of children in Canada and the country's progress in living up to its domestic and international obligations. The report is available at www.rightsofchildren.ca.

Core Competencies for Leadership in the Voluntary Sector Report

The National Learning Initiative for the Voluntary Sector's research report outlining the process and results of the investigation into required core competencies for leadership in the voluntary sector is now available on-line at www.nvo-onb.ca/projects_initiatives/nationallearning_e.shtml.

Links of Interest

Caring for Kids:

www.caringforkids.cps.ca or www.soinsdenosenfants.cps.ca Child Health Website by the Canadian Paediatric Society, which represents 2000 Canadian paediatricians. The bilingual site has more than 100 plain-language documents on subjects such as infant care, immunization, safety and injury prevention, nutrition, and behaviour and development. The site also contains links to help parents find a physician for their child. Paediatricians have reviewed all information on the site.

Kids Protect :

www.kidsprotect.ca
This website includes information on "Kids Protect" a program under the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation and provides life-saving information on how to keep kids safe and secure.

Mentoring Canada:

www.mentoringcanada.ca
This website, designed for not-for-profit organizations, contains over 500 downloadable resources, along with two comprehensive interactive training modules

(one on Board development and the other on mentoring). This resource is provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

Senator Landon Pearson's Website on Canada's National Plan of Action for Children:

<http://sen.parl.gc.ca/lpearson/specialesession/index.htm>.

This website provides information and documentation on the consultative process of developing the National Plan of Action for Children as well as background information and links to A World Fit For Children.

National Child Day Websites

Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
www.rightsofchildren.ca

United Nations Association in Canada
www.unac.org

Save the Children Canada
www.savethechildren.ca

Child & Family Canada: Ideas for Celebrating National Child Day
www.cfc-efc.ca/docs/cccf/rs037_en.htm

Health Canada's official website for National Child Day
www.childday.gc.ca

National Children's Alliance Steering Committee Members:

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

Dianne Bascombe, Canadian Institute of Child Health
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
Lori Harrop, 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 Secretariat

Sylvia Fanjoy, Director

Stephanie Pearce/Elisabeth King, Program Support and Policy Analysis

Suite 800, 280 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G8

E-mail: nca@nvo-onb.ca Tel: (613) 238-1591 Fax: (613) 238-5257