



July 2006

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NCA News

1. Dates to Remember

- August 25: Deadline for submissions to next E-digest
- August 31: Next E-digest

2. Organizational Development Update

An application to create a not-for-profit Canadian corporation to be called the ***National Alliance for Children and Youth / L'Alliance nationale pour l'enfance et la jeunesse*** was filed on 18 July with Industry Canada. Five members of the current Steering Committee agreed to act as applicants and will become "first directors" of the corporation until the Members of the Corporation elect a Board of Directors at the inaugural AGM.

The proposed objects of the new corporation are:

*The purpose of the **National Alliance for Children and Youth – L'Alliance nationale pour l'enfance et la jeunesse** is to promote the health and well-being of children and youth in Canada in ways that are beneficial to the community, by means of the following:*

- a. Facilitating the active participation and collaboration of its members and others in the development of consensus on policies, programs and practices that improve outcomes for children and youth;
- b. Promoting public awareness and understanding on issues relating to the health and well-being of children and youth;
- c. Providing public education regarding children, youth, and families;
- d. Conducting and disseminating research into trends and issues affecting children, youth and families;
- e. Developing, encouraging, and improving opportunities for national and international skill development and knowledge transfer among individuals, organizations, and groups in support of children and youth;
- f. Developing and promoting a public policy agenda in support of these objects.

Upon incorporation, a formal invitation to become a member of the new organization will be sent to all current members of the Alliance to invite your participation. Our current work on the Middle Childhood Initiative would continue under the auspices of Imagine Canada through to completion of our current funding agreement early next year. In the meantime, the new organization will be seeking diverse funding sources for 2007 and beyond.

An Online Community has been created to share information about our organizational re-vitalization with NCA Members. If you would like a user name and password to access this new resource, please send an email with your contact information to Barbara@nationalchildrensalliance.com

3. Middle Childhood Update

Seven new proposals have been accepted to prepare policy briefs on issues affecting children aged 6-12 from a variety of perspectives. A number of other members are considering preparing briefs as well. A research paper on Recreation and Middle Childhood has also been completed. Community Consultations have been confirmed for Calgary (5 October) and Halifax (11 October) and are also being planned for Prince Albert, Winnipeg, and Montréal.

An Online Community has been created to share information about the Middle Childhood Initiative with NCA Members. If you would like a user name and password to access this new resource, please send an email with your contact information to Barbara@nationalchildrensalliance.com Completed reports and

event information will continue to be added to our public website in an updated section featuring the Middle Childhood Initiative.

Member News

1. Dates to Remember

- September 28 – 29: Family Service Canada Conference, Winnipeg Manitoba
- November 19 – 22: worldforum 2006, Vancouver, B.C.

2. CWLC and UNICEF Canada Call for Children's Budget

The Child Welfare League of Canada and UNICEF Canada are jointly calling upon the federal government to create Canada's first children's budget. Canada would be following the lead of many other countries that have adopted children's budgets.

CWLC and UNICEF are asking that the budget outline the funds dedicated to services for children as well as indicate the impact of other public expenditures on children. A pdf version of the letter is available at www.cwlc.ca

3. FRP Survey on Parenting Education Practices

FRP Canada and the BC Council for Families in partnership with provincial organizations from across Canada, are conducting a survey on parenting education practices. It aims to capture the knowledge of those working in the field in Canada as well as identifying the obstacles practitioners encounter.

Your input will contribute to the development of a resource of promising practices which will be widely disseminated across Canada. Please visit <http://research.frp.ca/BestPractices> to fill out the survey.

Youth

1. Mind Your Mind

www.mindyourmind.ca is an award winning site for youth by youth. This is a site where you can get information, resources and the tools needed to help manage stress, crisis and mental health problems. It provides an opportunity to share what you live and what you know with other youth.

2. Play Works: The Ontario Partnership for Active Youth

The Play Works Partnership has released its report: Youth Friendly Communities - Good Practices. This report identifies the 8 good practices that are common to Youth Friendly Communities. Based on research involving many of the communities participating in the Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program (2005), this report shares the success stories of communities that support youth development through play. Visit <http://www.playworkspartnership.ca/> to download a copy.

Other

1. Offord Centre for Child Studies

A new website has been developed by the Offord Centre for Child Studies to provide parents, teachers, physicians and others with the latest and best information on how to identify, prevent and treat social, emotional, behavioural and learning problems that impede the healthy development of children. The Centre of Knowledge on healthy Child Development – www.knowledge.offord.com – publishes plain language summaries of current and relevant research from around the world along with expert opinion on what works and what doesn't to improve children's mental health.