



**June 2006**

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### **NCA News**

#### **1. Dates to Remember**

- July 10: NCA Steering Committee Meeting 1:00 -4:00, 707-331 Cooper St.
- July 24: Deadline for submissions for next E-digest (clearly indicate that what you send is for the E-digest)
- July 31: Next E-digest

## **2. Organizational Development Update**

The process of creating a newly re-vitalized ***National Alliance for Children and Youth*** is continuing. Larry Gemmel has been out meeting with current members in Toronto and Ottawa and following up on questions and ideas that have been received in response to the Moving Forward paper. Of 18 formal responses received so far from members, 16 have indicated support and a desire to join the new incorporated organization. (If you haven't yet responded, the Member Reply form is available from the Members section of our website at <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.com/members/>)

Next steps include filing our formal application for incorporation with Industry Canada as a not-for-profit corporation, which would include our objects and initial bylaws. We will invite members of the Steering Committee to act as applicants and founding Directors to govern the new organization until the first Annual General Meeting, at which time the members will nominate and elect a Board of Directors. We will also be creating draft governance policies for the new organization and applying for charitable status in order to be able to receive grants from corporations and foundations. The first AGM is being planned for this fall in conjunction with a celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **3. New Online Communities**

In order to enhance our communications and information sharing around our key activities such as the Middle Childhood Initiative and Organizational Development, we will be establishing several new online communities available exclusively to our members through a secure user name and password. Online Communities are interactive websites which act as repositories for documents and allow users to post their own materials, make comments, or participate in online discussions. We are using a product known widely as "CommunityZero" from Ottawa based Ramius Corporation. Users receive an email update whenever new or updated content has been added, and can click on links to view any specific items that are of interest. The website is easy to navigate, and also contains such features as a calendar of events and meetings and links to external resources such as other websites. You can visit the online communities any time from any computer using any internet browser, and you can take advantage of a "Remember me" feature so that you don't have to re-enter your user name and password each time. Active member contacts will receive an invitation to join one or more online communities by email next week.

### **3. Middle Childhood Update**

#### **Key Priorities**

**Policy Briefs** – *“Production, within the overall comprehensive policy framework, of a series of policy briefs on identified strategic issues unique to children aged 6 to 12 including such issues as: poverty, mental health, aboriginal, children with disabilities, literacy and learning disabilities, and recreation”* – While work has been done to identify issues, formal policy briefs should now be created to be used in upcoming consultations. The briefs will examine specific issues and suggest direction for new policy initiatives. These briefs are not expected to be just a list of issues. These briefs will be 3 to 5 pages in length and be completed by August 31, 2006.

#### **Introduction:**

- Introduction of the issue topic
- Overview of existing policy and legislation regarding this issue

#### **Content:**

- Policy goal, principles
- Identification of policy gaps surrounding the issue
- Evidence to support the need for new policy directions
- Identification of linkages to existing social policy initiatives

#### **Policy Directions:**

- Based on evidence suggestions will be made for new policy directions
- Recommendations and potential strategies
- Expected impact

If any NCA members are interested in submitting a proposal based on the description above please contact [Barbara@nationalchildrensalliance.com](mailto:Barbara@nationalchildrensalliance.com)

**Policy Consultations** – *“Series of comprehensive policy consultations in a regional context to engage national, provincial, regional/local networks in discussing emerging issues and identifying policy initiatives unique to children aged 6 to 12 and their families”* – The NCA has participated in consultations held in Vancouver and Ottawa, and a consultation is scheduled for Calgary on 18 Sept. Additional consultations are currently being planned for Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Montreal, and Halifax.

**Policy Forum** – *“Holding a NCA policy symposium to begin the process of consensus building on a policy framework”* – A forum for up to 20 – 30 participants has been scheduled for November 27/28<sup>th</sup> to bring together experts from the Working Group and others (ensuring representation from the consultations) to work from a draft of our framework to further develop our

findings from the initiative, building on the significant work and initiatives from other organizations across the country.

## **Member News**

### **1. Dates to Remember**

- July 11 – 14: National Association of Friendship Centres Annual General Meeting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- August 14 – 20: YOUCAN Train-the-Trainer Camp
- September 28 – 29: Family Service Canada Conference, Winnipeg Manitoba
- November 19 – 22: worldforum 2006, Vancouver, B.C.

### **2. Helping Canadian Kids Thrive! 2006 Conference Report**

The Conference Report is now on-line and has a detailed account of all of the events, keynotes, and learning sessions presented. Contact information for the presenters and copies of presentations and handouts from 2006 are available by visiting [www.thrivecanada.ca](http://www.thrivecanada.ca) and clicking the 'Helping Canadian Kids Thrive! 2006 Conference Report' under the 'What's New' section.

Plans are well underway for next year's Conference which will be held in Miramichi, New Brunswick on May 10th & 11th, 2007. More details are available on-line under the 'What's New' section the website. This year Thrive! is opening the application process for Learning Sessions up to all who are interested and the Request for Proposals information is also available on-line.

### **3. Early Learning Knowledge Centre**

*The Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre (ECLKC)* is one of five knowledge centres created by the Canadian Council on Learning. The ECLKC is composed of a consortium of organizations led by the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development. The Canadian Child Care Federation is coordinating the knowledge exchange component of the Centre's work. For more information visit [www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning)

*The Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre* has just released its first paper (Lessons in Learning) on the link between quality child care and early learning: <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/20060530LinL.htm>.

#### 4. CCCF 2006/07 Publication Guide

Now available! Download the Canadian Child Care Federation's 2006/07 Publication Guide, hot off the press and full of helpful resources, activities and tools that support and promote excellence in early learning and child care.

English: [http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pdf/catalogue\\_en.pdf](http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pdf/catalogue_en.pdf)

French: <http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/pdf/cataloguefre.pdf>

#### 5. NAFC Annual General Meeting

The National Association of Friendship Centres Annual General Meeting will be held July 11 - 14 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Further information can be found at [www.nafc.ca](http://www.nafc.ca).

#### 6. Family Service Canada Conference

Family Service Canada and The Family Centre of Winnipeg invite you to register for: **Celebrating the Power of Families and Communities** September 28 – 29, 2006, The Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Experience two full days of professional development and learning about the power for positive change inherent in all families and communities! Learn first-hand about family-centred community development initiatives, innovative agency programs and leading-edge research that look at the strengths and power of families and communities.



FSC Conference  
Program.pdf

#### 7. worldforum 2006

Sponsored by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (BC), International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW), Ministry of Children's Services (AB) and the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC), the worldforum 2006 international conference (November 19 – 22, Vancouver BC) will explore and share knowledge, information and data on promising practices and innovative approaches to prevention and response to child maltreatment.

New trends and developments in child welfare practice, research, and networking will be emphasized. The presentations will highlight practical and innovative solutions, cutting-edge research and evidence-based practice. Presentations include youth issues and those addressing Aboriginal approaches to issues. Information: [www.worldforum2006.ca](http://www.worldforum2006.ca). Registration will begin in July 2006.

## Youth

### 1. YOUCAN Train-the Trainer Camp

YOUCAN (Youth Canada Association), a non-profit conflict resolution organization which is run for youth, by youth, is holding a Train-the-Trainers Camp this summer from Monday August 14th to Sunday August 20th, 2006 inclusively for a group of approximately 60 high school students from around the Ottawa area aged 14 and up. This camp is part of the Peacebuilders Pilot which is designed to incorporate conflict resolution training into high school curriculum on a peer based model. In order to do so, YOUCAN is training high school students as well as chaperones (if they desire to participate in the trainings on top of their chaperone duties) in YOUCAN's conflict resolution curriculum. For this event to take place both female and male chaperones are required for the duration of the training camp to assist in the supervision of the youth. In return for your services YOUCAN will provide free accommodation, food and travel to and from the camp. During the camp chaperones will also have the option of either enjoying some of what Bark Lake (<http://www.barklake.com>) has to offer or get certified training from our YOUCAN trainers in conflict resolution.

If any of the above sounds appealing to you and you'd like to help us out with the camp please contact Paulo Lobo (Peacebuilders Project Coordinator, paulo.lobo@youcan.ca or 613.230.1903 ext. 222).

## Other

### 1. Healthy Children, Healthy Communities Website

The United Nations Association of Canada's Healthy Children, Healthy Communities website is officially up! Please visit [www.unac.org/hchc](http://www.unac.org/hchc). A children's version of the site will soon be up. NCA is a member of the Advisory Board and will be holding a joint consultation in Calgary this fall on middle childhood.

### 2. United Way of Lower Mainland Learning Summit Results

A Learning Summit on Middle Childhood was held in May to bring together service providers, researchers, funders and policy makers to focus on middle childhood. It also marked preliminary findings of Dr. Kimberly Schonert-Reichl's research on children's experiences outside of school. To see the conference results and research findings visit <http://www.uwlm.ca/Media+and+Events/Events/Middle+Childhood+Presentations.htm>

### **3. Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)**

June 8th 2006, HIPPY Canada celebrated the official opening of the HIPPY Toronto site located near Jane and Finch. Managed through a partnership with Working Woman's Community Centre this site will help immigrant families give their children (ages 3 to 5) the tools to teach their children basic learning and literacy skills at home.

Additional HIPPY achievements this year include coordinators' pre-service training hosted by HIPPY Montreal on June 5-7 2006. The 3rd annual coordinators conference held in Vancouver on April 27-29 2006

#### **HIPPY Year End Celebrations**

Congratulations to all HIPPY families for successfully completing another HIPPY year! Graduation celebrations are taking place as follows:

Aboriginal HIPPY Consortium - June 3, 2006 at Tsawwassen Nation HIPPY  
Victoria - June 10, 2006 at Pearkes Recreation Centre, Tillicum HIPPY Montreal -  
June 21, 2006 at Salvation Army, Montreal HIPPY Vancouver - July 22, 2006, at  
Britannia Community Services Centre HIPPY Toronto - November 2006

To learn more about HIPPY please visit our website at:

[www.hippycanada.com](http://www.hippycanada.com)

### **4. *Their Future is Now: Healthy Choices for Canada's Children and Youth***

The Health Council of Canada released the *Their Future is Now* report earlier this month. The report looks at the health status of Canada's children and youth, reviews government commitments to child health, highlights programs across the country that are helping kids, identifies why they worked, and offers advice for future action.

English: [http://healthcouncilcanada.ca/docs/rpts/2006/HCC\\_ChildHealth\\_EN.pdf](http://healthcouncilcanada.ca/docs/rpts/2006/HCC_ChildHealth_EN.pdf)

French: [http://healthcouncilcanada.ca/docs/rpts/2006/HCC\\_ChildHealth\\_FR.pdf](http://healthcouncilcanada.ca/docs/rpts/2006/HCC_ChildHealth_FR.pdf)