



September 2006

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NCA News

1. Dates to Remember

- October 4: Working Breakfast with Senators
- October 5: Middle Childhood Consultation, Calgary, Alberta
- October 11: Middle Childhood Consultation, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- October 11: Middle Childhood Consultation, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
- October 24: Deadline for E-digest submissions
- October 31: Next E-digest
- November 14: 10th Anniversary Celebration and AGM, 3:00 – 5:30, National Arts Centre, Ottawa

2. National Alliance for Children and Youth (NACY) Annual General Meeting

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of members of the National Alliance for Children and Youth (NACY) – L'Alliance nationale pour l'enfance et la jeunesse is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. The meeting will take place in the Panorama Room at the National Arts Centre at 3:00. Membership application packages have been sent to our current members inviting them to join NACY. Others interested in membership should contact Larry Gemmel, Executive Director at the email below. The business portion of the meeting is open to members and the public.

The meeting will be followed by a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the National Children's Alliance from 4:00 – 5:30. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the Governor General of Canada will be our special guest and speaker at the festivities at which we will celebrate the achievements of the NCA and officially launch the National Alliance for Children and Youth. This will also be an opportunity to recognize the many individuals and organizations that have contributed to the success of the NCA over the past ten years.

If you would like to join us at our celebration please RSVP to larry@nationalchildrensalliance.com

3. Middle Childhood Initiative

A series of policy briefs on middle childhood have been completed by our members and other stakeholders. These nine briefs address a wide range of issues from mental health, housing and physical recreation to Aboriginal and Inuit children. All of the briefs are now posted on the NCA website as are the literature review/research papers on the issues affecting children 6 to 12, recreation and immigrant and refugee children. Thank you to all of the organizations that contributed to this project:

Aboriginal Children, Young People, and Families

Prepared by First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

This paper sets out both a suggested process for engaging respectfully with Aboriginal communities to close the gap in life chances for Aboriginal children, youth, and families, as well as opportunities for the National Children's Alliance (NCA) and its members to actively engage with Aboriginal communities to implement promising policy solutions.

Mental Health in Middle Childhood

Prepared by Wood's Homes

The needs of children with psychological dysfunction are complex. In order to provide children with quality care and appropriate management of mental health problems, it is important to understand some of the contextual issues that underlie a child's diagnosis of a mental disorder.

Child Nutrition

Prepared by Breakfast for Learning

Although nutrition is a fundamental determinant of child development at all ages, several unique nutritional needs and issues affect children in the middle years between ages six and 12.

Poverty and Middle Childhood

Prepared by Campaign 2000

The years of middle childhood are a period that should ideally build on the strong foundations of the early years and prepare for the turbulence of adolescence. Campaign 2000 maintains that the ultimate goal for Canada with regard to children's policy should be to create environments where children of all ages can thrive -not simply survive. This means developing the talents, skills and capacities of children to benefit from and contribute to community life and to assume a range of social responsibilities. Poverty and income inequality are major barriers to the healthy development of children, to the cohesion of our communities, and to the social and economic well-being of the country as a whole.

School-Aged Child Care

Prepared by Canadian Child Care Federation

While, generally, the importance of child care programs for very young children is appreciated, there is a lack of understanding of the role that school-age child care plays in the healthy development of middle-years children... The brief puts forward ideas for consideration on a number of ways to build a strong policy framework, supporting and expanding on existing commitments to quality child care to better meet the needs of school-age children and their families.

Inuit Children

Prepared by Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

...we have chosen three interrelated topics – housing, abuse, early birthing age and FASD, to demonstrate the holistic and all encompassing nature of the challenges facing these (Inuit) children. We hope the paper begins to point out

the urgency of the plight of these children and that it begins to point to some early ideas and suggestions for successful action.

Housing as a Social Determinant of Health

Prepared by United Nations Association Canada, Healthy Children, Healthy Communities Project

Housing affects all aspects of one's development. As a social determinant of health, housing impacts one's ability to achieve optimum health potential in myriad ways. Indeed, the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health recognizes poor housing as one of the main determinants of health¹. Examining housing conditions of 6 - 12 year olds serves the broader family since children are not independent of a family in this age group. In fact, this brief will reference the family as a whole since it is the family that cares for children in the middle childhood range and the two are inseparable. This brief will explore the main components of housing as a social determinant of health.

The Need for Quality Physical Education Programs in Canadian School

Prepared by the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Children and youth are less active and less healthy today than ever before. Evidence published daily shows how our changing family culture's and our society's obsession with technology has significantly eroded traditional activity levels. Today, many Canadian children in middle childhood lead inactive lifestyles and follow poor dietary eating habits.

Education and Middle Childhood – Teaching for Deep Understanding

Prepared by Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

*What happens in the early years of school has implications that can last a lifetime. For example, research conducted in Tennessee has revealed that students in **small classes** in grades one to three are more likely to stay in school in later grades, more likely to take advanced courses, more likely to take college entry exams, and are less likely to have behavioural difficulties.¹ If we want older children and adults to be independent, healthy, inquisitive, and contributing citizens, we need to begin in grade one to establish the practices and expectations needed for such development.*

Please visit www.nationalchildrensalliance.com to download these papers.

Member News

1. Dates to Remember

- November 19-22, 2006: worldforum 2006, Vancouver, B.C.
- March 7-11, 2007: YOUCAN Resolve It! Conference, Ottawa, Ontario
- May 10-11, 2007: Thrive! National Conference, Miramichi, New Brunswick

2. Thrive National Conference

Building on the success of the 2006 national conference on positive youth development, Thrive! is proud to be hosting the third national conference devoted solely to the concept of Positive Youth Development in Canada. The conference will take place May 10-11, 2007 in Miramichi, New Brunswick. The goals are:

1. Connecting Canadians of all ages involved in strengths-based youth development
2. Investigating how communities can prevent crime through social development, awareness and engagement
3. Educating and exciting participants about what is available to support your Positive Youth Development efforts through Asset Building, Community Development, Youth Engagement, Youth Entrepreneurship and other effective approaches.

Contact Kay Stranz for more information kay@thrivecanada.ca



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3. worldforum 2006: Future Directions in Child Welfare Update

Stephen Lewis the UN Secretary General's Special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa has been confirmed as the keynote speaker. He will address the conference on Monday, November 20. worldforum 2006 will take place in Vancouver November 19-22. For more information or to register visit:

<http://www.worldforum2006.ca/registration.html>

4. 25th Annual "Protecting our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society is working with the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare, NICWA and the Child Welfare League of America to support this event which is a follow-up to the 2005 Reconciliation in Child

Welfare Conference in Niagara Falls. This conference will take place April 15-18, 2007 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It will be dedicated to sharing and exploring the *Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families* and will highlight successful strategies for advancing reconciliation in child welfare.

For more information visit www.nicwa.org/services

Youth

1. YOUCAN 'Resolve It' Conference 2007

Resolve It! 2007 will take place March 7–11, 2007 in Ottawa at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. As a participant you will meet other youth from across Canada; have four days of activities and exciting speakers; become certified in Nationally recognized peace training; and receive discounted travel to and hotel accommodation in the Nation's Capital!

For more information call 1-888-496-8226. Watch for information at www.youcan.ca

Other

1. International Conference on the Rights of the Child

The International Conference on the Rights of the Child to be held at the Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, of the University of Ottawa, is interested in leading an academic dialogue about the different issues regulated by this legal instrument. In addition, this conference attempts to become an 'open forum' to discuss the strengths and address the weaknesses of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Finally, this three day meeting is interested in exploring how Canada and other state-parties have implemented this legal text within their national legal systems, and whether those experiences have proven to be effective in promoting the best interests of the child.

The conference will take place from March 15-17, 2007. There is also a call for proposals due December 1, 2006. For more information contact Verónica Pinero at confcdp@uottawa.ca

2. CCL Proposal Writing Workshop

The Canadian Council on Learning is hosting a series of free grant writing workshops across the country. The regional contacts are provided in the attached document.



CCL Workshops.doc
