

**National Children's Alliance (NCA)**  
E-mail Digest, week of 8 – 12 March, 2004



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**NCA ACTIVITIES:**

1. **Reminder:** Ottawa-area members' meeting of NCA on 10 March
2. **RSVP:** for first meeting of Working Group to plan a Youth Agenda

**NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS:**

1. **Announcement:** new President and CEO of Canadian Centre for Philanthropy
2. **Teleseminar:** Monitoring Children's Rights in Communities
3. **Call for papers:** Promoting Resilient Development in Children Receiving Care
4. **Hello:** to New Executive Director at FRP Canada
5. **Goodbye:** to Longtime NCA Steering Committee member Michael McKnight

**ISSUE ALERT:**

1. **UNICEF report shows indigenous children most marginalized**

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**NCA ACTIVITIES:**

1. **There will be a meeting of the Ottawa-area members of the NCA** on Wednesday 10 March from 9-11 am. The meeting will take place in the boardroom of the **Canadian Council on Social Development**, 309 Cooper Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, telephone: (613) 236-8977. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.
3. **Following the NCA meeting will be a session to explore the creation of a National Youth Strategy.** A discussion of current issues of importance to youth and messaging in the context of the upcoming federal election will be held and a Working Group will be put together to carry this strategy forward. A number of Toronto-area members will be participating by teleconference. Ottawa-area members planning to participate in both the preceding members' meeting and the Youth Strategy Session are asked to please RSVP to [tashtakala@nvo-onb.ca](mailto:tashtakala@nvo-onb.ca),

as lunch and refreshments will be catered. This meeting will take place from 11am - 1pm, also at the CCSD Boardroom.

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#### **NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS:**

- 1. Georgina Steinsky Schwartz is the new CEO** chosen to lead the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and to head the new organization that emerges from the alliance of the CCP and the NVO. Ms Schwartz has had a distinguished career with the government, the private sector and nonprofit organizations. Her commitment to the voluntary sector has been demonstrated in a number of roles, having served on several Boards, including Arts for Children, Altruest (a charity that focuses on capacity-building and performance improvement in the nonprofit sector) and, most recently, the Public Policy Forum. She is extremely enthusiastic about her new role and has already been to visit us to learn more about the NCA.
- 2. Senator Landon Pearson will be a guest speaker during a teleseminar on 30 March 2004, from 1:00 – 2: 30pm EST.** Organized by the **Canadian Child Care Federation** and the **Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children**, the event will create a virtual town hall meeting for participants from across Canada to voice their view on the topic of “Toward a Common Vision: The Importance of Monitoring Children’s Rights in Communities”. Alana Kapell of **Save the Children Canada** will introduce a new Toolkit that has been developed to facilitate community-based monitoring. Participants will be able to call in at no cost, so feel free to use your cell phone or gather a group around a speaker phone! However, there are only 50 lines available, so save your place ahead of time by completing the registration form attached below by 24 March.
- 3. A joint conference of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Looking After Children Conference and the 5<sup>th</sup> National Child Welfare Symposium** will take place in Ottawa, from 16-19 August, 2004. Started in the UK almost two decades ago, the Looking After Children instruments have become an important vehicle for promoting resilience in young people. The conference will provide an opportunity to take stock of the accomplishments of the instruments and explore how to strengthen the emerging resilience theory and research. The conference will also represent the fifth in a series of National Child Welfare symposia, developed by the **Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare** and the **Child Welfare League of Canada**, to contribute to the development of research and practice with children and families. Submissions for proposed workshops/papers/posters are now being accepted, by e-mail or regular mail, up until Friday 2 April 5:00pm. For more information, visit the website of the

CWLC ([www.cwlc.ca](http://www.cwlc.ca)) or contact Elizabeth Waite, (613) 235-4412 ext. 29, [LAC2004@cwlc.ca](mailto:LAC2004@cwlc.ca).

4. Please join us in welcoming the new Executive Director of Family Resource Programmes of Canada to Ottawa. David Young comes to FRP Canada from the BC government. The NCA looks forward to working with David and the FRP.
5. The NCA would like to extend a fond farewell and best wishes to our longtime Steering Committee member and friend, Michael McKnight. Mike will be leaving his post as President and CEO of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada to take up a new post as President and CEO of the United Way of the Lower Mainland of BC. He has been with the Alliance since almost its inception and has always been the voice of practicality around the table of our meetings! We wish him all the best in Vancouver and hope that he will remain a friend of the NCA!

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**ISSUE ALERT:**

1.. A research study released on 25 February by UNICEF shows that the odds are stacked against indigenous children and that their rights are frequently denied or violated. Higher mortality rates, lower immunization rates, lower school enrolment, higher drop-out rates, and inadequate protection in formal justice systems are the findings of the report. Aboriginal children are also more at risk of being trafficked or suffering from sexual exploitation. The study said practical initiatives should focus on four areas: health and nutrition, protection and support, education and participation in decision-making.

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